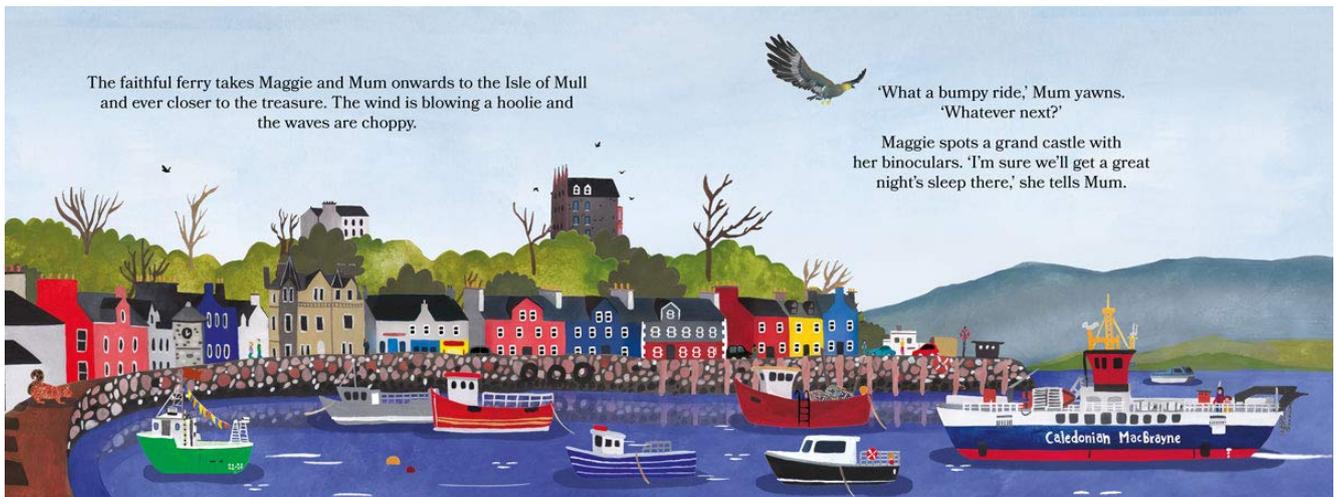


# Children's Books: Maggie's Magical Islands by Coo Clayton and Alison Soye

## Are you staying in Scotland for your holidays this year?

Do your children think that's going to be boring?

In Coo Clayton and Alison Soye's delightful *Maggie's Magical Islands*, young children can join in a whirlwind trip around the Hebrides and find out just how much fun they can have right here in their own country.



The faithful ferry takes Maggie and Mum onwards to the Isle of Mull and ever closer to the treasure. The wind is blowing a hoolie and the waves are choppy.

'What a bumpy ride,' Mum yawns.  
'Whatever next?'

Maggie spots a grand castle with her binoculars. 'I'm sure we'll get a great night's sleep there,' she tells Mum.

Maggie and her Mum are up in the attic packing for their holidays when they find a map of the Highlands and Islands. They were both hoping for an adventure – and now they've found one! One of the islands is marked with a cross – what treasure will they find when they get to Lewis?

Mum decides to take Maggie island hopping, and so they set off on the ferry.

*Maggie's Magical Islands* is magical in many ways; there's a

camper van sitting waiting for the intrepid travellers in Arran, and when that develops engine trouble, up pop two bicycles. A tent appears for them to try camping on Islay, a creepy castle greets them on Mull, and after a swim in Skye's fairy pools they find a handy (if somewhat luxurious...) bothy in which to spend the night. Along the way they see lots of 'magical' things, and best of all, when they finally get to Lewis, they're invited to stay in a lighthouse.

But the real treasure is only revealed to Maggie as darkness falls, and the sky is filled with waves of light.



Now Maggie and Mum are on the Isle of Skye.

'My legs are SO tired,' Maggie grumbles.  
'When will these glens ever end?'

'Here,' Mum says. 'At the magical fairy pools –'

'Look at me!' Maggie cries, splashing in the clear water.  
She wades in a little, looking for fairies.  
'It's f-f-f-freezing,' she gasps, as she jumps out again.

We all know sunshine isn't guaranteed in Scotland, and *Maggie's Magical Islands* doesn't shy away from that fact – the tent almost gets blown away in a storm, and those fairy pools are *freezing* – but instead of sunbathing, what Maggie and her Mum have is a great time exploring all that the islands have to offer. Alison Soye's illustrations are full of detail and bursting with colour – they really help to bring the story alive.

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alive.

If you're thinking of taking your children to the islands this year, *Maggie's Magical Islands* could be a great way to fire their enthusiasm. And even if you're not, they'll still enjoy Maggie's adventures; there's even a squirrel for them to spot on every page.

*Maggie's Magical Islands* by Coo Clayton and Alison Soye is published by [Black and White Publishing Ltd](#), Edinburgh and costs £9.99.

Coo and Alison's previous books include *Maggie's Mittens* and *Maggie's Monsters*, both published by Black and White Publishing Ltd.

