



Should you happen to spot **Carron Brown** at a tourist site you're more likely to find her taking a photo of wildlife than anything else. Carron sees small worlds and possibilities everywhere and this, along with the ideas of the creative team at her UK publisher, has led to the wonderful series of *Shine-a-light* books first introduced to US readers by Kane Miller in 2013 with *Secrets of the Apple Tree*. An editorial friend had first conceived of a flashlight book when she'd seen a skeleton on one page showing through an image of a body on the page in front of it. The friend then approached Carron to write a book using this concept.



Carron has always known she wanted to work with books and kept a childhood diary complete with pictures. Growing up in the Highlands with a view of both mountains and the sea from her bedroom window, she tells how she, “wrote and drew my own guidebooks to the wildlife around my house in Inverness, Scotland, and spent a lot of time in the woods looking for beetles.” She went on to study publishing at a university in Edinburgh and now works several jobs in London, all in books – children’s nonfiction, specifically. Her tasks range from editing to proofreading to project management, but she admits to being, “most enthusiastic about indexing (it’s like a big word game) and writing.”

And when she’s not working? She’s taking photographs, often choosing her vacation destinations based on the wildlife she’ll find there. From her home in southeast London she can see a garden “full of birds, squirrels and the occasional fox.” Carron also spends time volunteering at her local community market – the West Norwood Feast.

With the series now at four (*Secrets of the Seashore*, *Secrets of the Rain Forest* and *On the Train* in addition to *Secrets of the Apple Tree*) and with more titles coming, Carron looks forward to making visits to the US to meet the many fans of the *Shine-a-light* books. Teacher tips for several of the books are available on the Kane Miller website.