

# Boxes and Bubbles

*By Steve Heron*

A picture book for 5 to 9-year-olds.

Word Count: 317

*It's impossible to stay gloomy when you blow bubbles.*

Like any other child, Bea loves to blow bubbles.

Bea also lives inside a bubble. A big, bold bubble that protects her.

Other people sometimes try to pop her bubble, but it is strong. Not even tears can break it.

Bea didn't always live in a bubble. Once, Bea lived in a dark box. Something terrible happened to her and she felt trapped. Afraid to tell anyone about the terrible thing, she pushed the unwanted secret into the gloomy corners of the box where it stayed hidden.

The fearsome shadows inside the box smothered Bea. She couldn't breathe a word, yet a torrent of tears flowed.

Bea hated the box, hated the shadows, hated the dark secret. She wanted to escape.

One day, in the pages of a book, Bea discovered words of hope.

*Dark secrets fear light. It takes their power, and they weaken.*

With a burst of courage Bea tells someone she trusts about the dark secret.

Little by little the shadowy corners grow fainter.

In time, the unwanted secrets are conquered, and the gloomy box disappears.

A bubble now replaces the box. Bea's safe bubble.

For now, Bea likes being in her bubble. As the light comes in, the colours wrap her in a secure blanket.

Some days Bea dares to venture beyond her bubble where it can be scary.

When she's outside her bubble, Bea likes to blow bubbles and watch their gentle drifting in the breeze. The splash of brilliant colours warms Bea's heart as the bubbles breathe in the sunlight.

Blowing bubbles eases Bea's troubles. It has a kind of magic that returns a smile to her gloomy face. The bubbles open a world of wonder as they float through the air and invite others into Bea's friendship circle.

Bea enjoys life outside, but when the shadows try to claw their way back, Bea returns to the safety of her bubble.

The end.