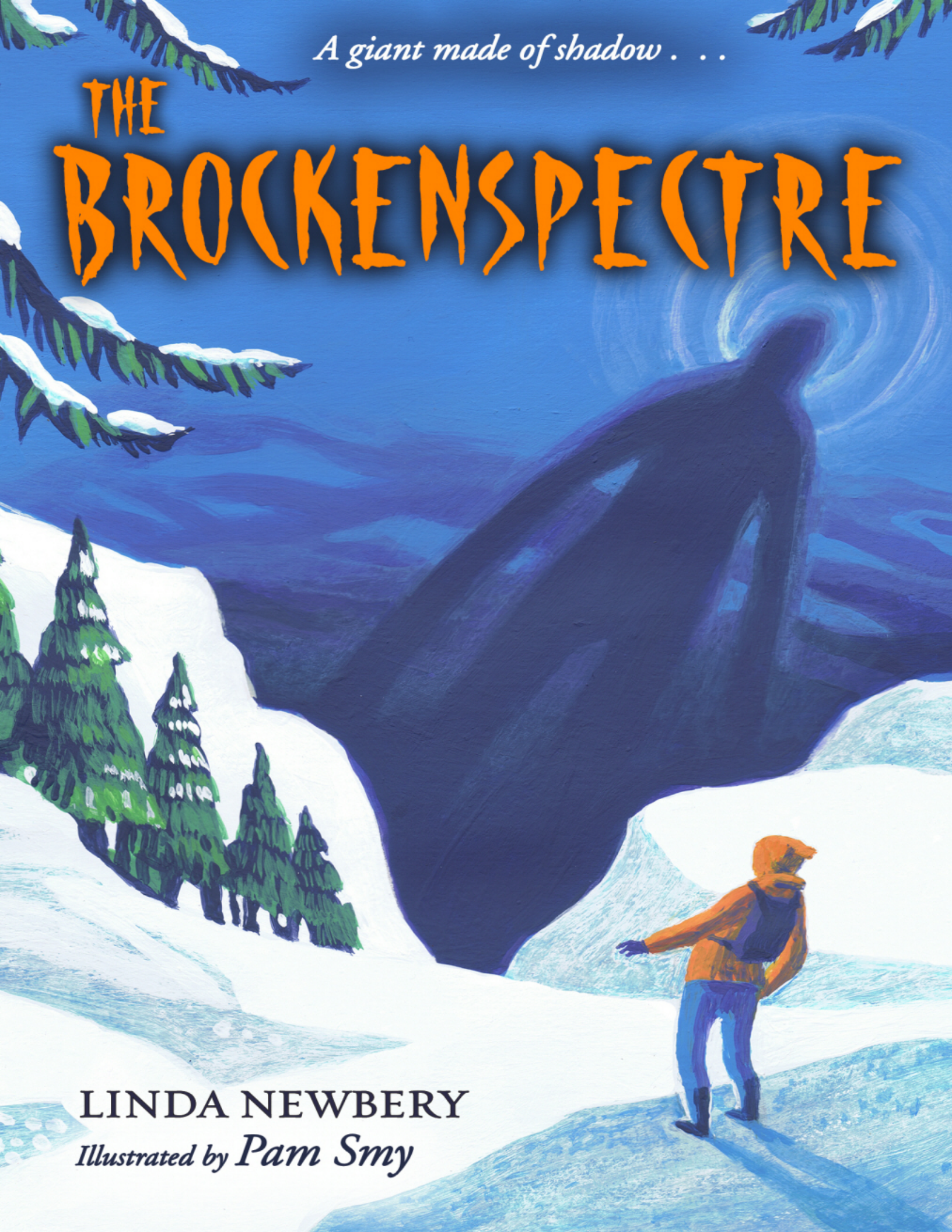


*A giant made of shadow . . .*

# THE BROCKENSPECTRE

LINDA NEWBERY

*Illustrated by Pam Smy*



# CONTENTS

Cover

About the Book

About the Author

Title Page

Dedication

## PART ONE

*Pappi*

1. Niklas Rust

2. Johanna's Birthday

3. Together

4. Gone

## PART TWO

*Talk*

5. The Schritterhorn

6. Man of the House

*Glacier*

7. Johanna's Bedtime Story

8. The Son of Niklas Rust

## PART THREE

*Mountain*

9. Busy Bustlers, Sleeping Dog

10. Sleepwalking

11. Hut

*Old Woman*

## PART FOUR

12. Rant

13. Never Ever

*Monastery*

14. Above the Cloud

*Brockenspectre*

15. Home

Author's Note

Also by Linda Newbery

Copyright

## About the Book

Tomas wants to be like his father – strong, brave and fearless. Pappi is a mountain guide, often away from home. He has taught Tomas to love the mountains, but also to fear their dangers – the winds and blizzards, the treacherous paths, the giddy slopes.

Above all, Tomas fears the Brockenspectre – a huge, shadowy creature that lives alone in the heights, waiting for unwary climbers. Its looming figure haunts his thoughts and his dreams.

When Pappi goes out one day and fails to return, Tomas knows it's up to him to search – up on the high mountain passes, where dangers await. Even if it means facing the Brockenspectre himself.

Will Tomas find his father . . . or will the Brockenspectre find him?

## About the Authors

As a child **Linda Newbery** was a secret writer, filling exercise books with stories which she hid in her wardrobe. Now she is a published author of over forty books, mainly children's and teenage fiction. She has been shortlisted for many prestigious literary prizes and has won the Costa children's book award. Linda lives in an Oxfordshire village and enjoys yoga, gardening, walking and the cinema.

**Pam Smy** lives in Cambridge with her partner, Dave, her daughter, Mila, a cat, and an excitable dog called Wilma. She has illustrated books by Julia Donaldson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, among others, and is a Lecturer in Illustration at Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University.

# THE BROCKENSPECTRE



Linda Newbery  
*Illustrated by Pam Smy*

RHCP DIGITAL

*For Dad, who told me about them many years ago, and for  
Pam, the most gifted and generous of illustrators*

# THE BROCKENSPECTRE





# PART ONE



# Pappi

*Oh yes, boy, I've seen the Brockenspectre. When I'm up high, and alone. He waits. He chooses his moment.*

*No, it's no use running away. He goes with you. You might think you only imagined him, but you didn't. He's there, waiting. And you keep going back, because you have to. The mountains won't let you go, once you're under their spell.*

*The mountains are a dream you have to follow, or spend your life regretting it.*

*What's he like? Oh - huge. Dark. A giant made of shadow.*

*Am I frightened? No. I don't talk about fear, boy. Don't even think of it. Fear is no use to a mountain climber. Fear can freeze your blood and numb your mind. Fear everything, and you'll do nothing.*



## Chapter One: Niklas Rust

Tomas's father was a big, handsome man. His fair hair grew thick and straight, and his blond beard was neatly trimmed. His eyes were blue – a clear, startling blue – and his face was tanned by the sun and the wind. His strong legs could carry him all day long without tiring. With his fairness and the blue of his eyes, Mamma said he was like bright sunshine in May.



He was Niklas Rust. Mamma said that she'd fallen in love the very first time she saw him striding down the hillside, one afternoon in autumn with low sun behind him.

Tomas was like him, people said, but when Tomas looked in the mirror he saw that his eyes weren't as blue nor his hair as fair as his father's. Still, there was *something* of Pappi in the face that gazed back. It made him proud to think so.

Pappi was a mountain guide. The peaks and valleys of the Alps drew people from far away, to walk, climb and explore. They came by railway train to the city down by the lake, and up the winding road to the village by pony trap. They