



## Christmas **books**



Nicolette Jones  
finds thrilling  
journeys — with a  
cast of monkeys,  
penguins and ogres — in the  
year's best children's books

A curiosity of the year is **Justin Thyme** by Panama Oxridge (Inside Pocket £12.99), the chattily written mystery story of a rich boy obsessed with time travel, and living in a Scottish castle full of colourful characters, who receives a watch with a difference on his 13th birthday. The story is remarkable for the ingenious clues and puzzles and the fact that the title can be read whichever way you turn the book.