

Piccadilly
PRESS

HOT
KEY
BOOKS

Rights Guide

Spring 2019





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Katharine and Elizabeth Corr
THRONE OF SWANS



Publication: Spring 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: Rogers, Coleridge and White

Extent: 352pp tbc

KATHARINE and ELIZABETH CORR are sisters and writers. When they both decided to write novels – on account of fictional people being much easier to deal with than real ones – it was obvious they should do it together. They can sometimes be found in one of their local coffee shops, arguing over which character to kill off next. Katharine and Elizabeth are authors of the spell-binding series THE WITCH'S KISS.

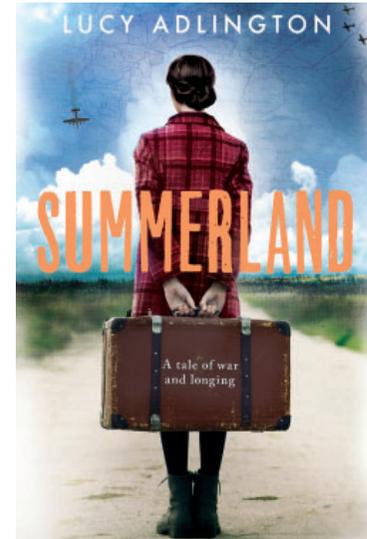
In a world where the flightless are ruled by those who can fly . . .

When her father dies just before her birthday, seventeen-year-old Odile inherits the role of Protector of Atratys, a dominion in a kingdom where nobles are able to transform at will into the bird that represents their family bloodline. Odile's ancestral bird is a swan. But she has not transformed for years, not since witnessing the death of her mother – ripped apart by hawks that have supposedly been extinct since the long-ago War of the Raptors.

With the benevolent shelter of her mother and her father now lost, Odile is at the mercy of her brutal uncle, the king, and his royal court. Driven by revenge and love, she must venture into the malevolent heart of the Citadel in order to seek the truth about the attack that so nearly destroyed her, to fight for the only home she has ever known and for the land she has vowed to protect.

Loosely inspired by SWAN LAKE, and written in rich detail and evocative language, this is the start of an irresistible, soaring duology about courage, broken loyalties and fighting for your place in the world.

Lucy Adlington
SUMMERLAND



Publication: September 2019

US RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: The Viney Agency

Extent: 320pp tbc

LUCY ADLINGTON is a writer, actress and costume historian. Her novels for teenagers, include THE DIARY OF PELLY-D and BURNING MOUNTAIN. THE RED RIBBON, published by Hot Key Books in 2018, was nominated and shortlisted for the Carnegie Prize 2018, the Manchester Book Prize, the Leeds Book Prize and the Rotherham Book Award.

A powerful tale of bravery, tolerance and identity set in the aftermath of World War Two.

Brigid is one of a group of child refugees being escorted to England by the Red Cross in October 1946. She is a serious, silent figure, with worn clothes and shoes and a small cardboard suitcase containing all her belongings. On arrival at Waterloo station however, Brigid breaks from the group and runs . . .

Brigid has a secret which she has buried deep inside her. She also has an ulterior motive: she needs to get to a place called Summerland Hall, where she hopes she will find the one person left alive who is deeply important to her.

An extraordinary tale, with some events inspired by history, that encompasses truth, tolerance, racism and forgiveness.

Praise for THE RED RIBBON:

'Captivates, inspires and ultimately enriches'

HEATHER MORRIS, AUTHOR OF THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ

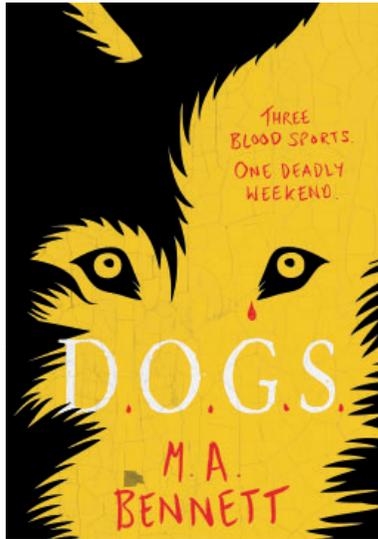
'Gritty historical fiction with a symbol of hope'

TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

M. A. Bennett

D.O.G.S.

S.T.A.G.S. / D.O.G.S. / F.O.X.E.S. / H.A.W.K.S. / T.I.G.E.R.S.



Publication: August 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: Teresa Chris Agency
Options in: Germany, Poland, Russia, USA & Canada
Extent: 304pp tbc

M. A. BENNETT is half Venetian and was born in Manchester, England. She is a history graduate of Oxford University and the University of Venice, where she specialised in the study of Shakespeare's plays as a historical source. After university she studied art and has since worked as an illustrator, an actress and a film reviewer. She also designed tour visuals for rock bands, including U2 and the Rolling Stones.

The explosive sequel to S.T.A.G.S.

A few weeks after the dramatic events that led to the death of Henry de Warlencourt, Greer Macdonald is back at S.T.A.G.S., trying to concentrate on her studies. She is struggling with a play she has to direct for her drama exam, when she gets help from an unexpected quarter . . .

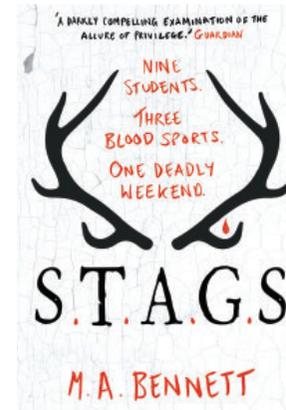
A priceless lost play, buried by time, is pushed under her door. It is Ben Jonson's *The Isle of Dogs*, a play considered so dangerous in Elizabethan times that every copy was burned . . . except one. As the students begin to rehearse it, events become increasingly dark and strange, and they lead Greer back to where she never thought she would return – Longcross Hall.

There she discovers that not only is the Order of the Stag alive and well, but that a ghost from the past might be too . . .

Atmospheric, chilling and impossible to second-guess, the much-anticipated sequel to S.T.A.G.S. continues to explore the twisted nature of privilege as Greer fights her obsession with Henry de Warlencourt.

The series continues with the unmissable F.O.X.E.S., H.A.W.K.S. and T.I.G.E.R.S.

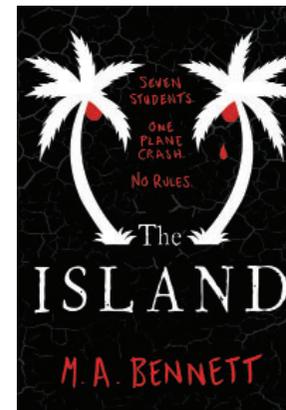
M.A. Bennett

S.T.A.G.S.

Publication: August 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Belgium, Brazil, Catalan, Canada, China, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, USA
Television & Film Rights: Teresa Chris Agency
Extent: 304pp

THE ISLAND

Publication: August 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Germany, Poland, Russia, USA & Canada (under offer)
Extent: 304pp

THE FIRST IN A FIVE-BOOK SERIES ABOUT THE ALLURING, SINISTER WORLD OF S.T.A.G.S.

SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

SCREENPLAY BY HUNGER GAMES WRITER PETER CRAIG

RIGHTS SOLD IN 15 TERRITORIES

'Darkly compelling'

GUARDIAN

'A cracking debut psychological thriller'

IRISH SUNDAY TIMES

'Good and twisty and definitely unique . . .'

THE COSY READER

A clever and absorbing castaway tale with echoes of LORD OF THE FLIES.

After three years of relentless bullying at the prestigious Osney School, Link is given the chance to take revenge when his school trip plane crashes and he is stranded on a desert island with six other students.

Link is the only one with the necessary knowledge to survive, and it is now his turn to give orders, delegate and punish. Will he be a righteous leader?

When oppressive heat, hunger and thirst start to bite, everyone's true colours will be revealed.

Yasmin Rahman

ALL THE THINGS WE NEVER SAID

Publication: July 2019

WORLD RIGHTSRights sold: Czech Republic, Italy, Poland
Television & Film Rights: Janklow and Nesbit
Extent: 448pp

YASMIN RAHMAN is a British Muslim born and raised in Hertfordshire. Her short story 'Fortune Favours the Bold' was published in the award-winning anthology *A CHANGE IS GONNA COME* (Stripes, 2017). When she is not writing, Yasmin makes bookish fan art; her designs are sold worldwide on behalf of John Green. *ALL THE THINGS WE NEVER SAID* is her first novel.

A pact is a pact, after all.

Sixteen-year-old Mehreen Miah has been fighting anxiety and depression – her 'Chaos' – for as long as she can remember.

When she discovers MementoMori.com she sees a solution: the website matches people with partners and allocates them a date and method of death: 'the pact'. Mehreen is paired with Cara Saunders and Olivia Castleton: each dealing with profound issues of their own.

The girls quickly develop a strong bond; having people who understand what you're going through really helps, and how could they have forgotten how fun and happy life can be? It's not long before all three want out of the pact. But in a terrifying twist of fate, the website won't let them stop. An increasingly sinister game begins as the girls are set against each other, sliding closer and closer to the edge of the abyss.

A heart-stopping, poignant debut written from three points of view, drawing on the author's own experiences of teenage depression and mental illness.

ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES meets *LOOKING FOR ALASKA*, in this unforgettable celebration of being alive and the life-saving power of friendship.

Kerry Drewery

THE LAST PAPER CRANE

Publication: April 2020

WORLD RIGHTSRights sold: Italy
Television & Film Rights: United Agents
Extent: 224pp tbc

KERRY DREWERY is the author of the literary YA novels *A BRIGHTER FEAR* and *A DREAM OF LIGHTS* (both shortlisted for several awards), and the thought-provoking *CELL 7* trilogy, which has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

NATSKO SEKI is a Japanese illustrator, whose work has been featured in many magazines including *THE FINANCIAL TIMES MAGAZINE*. Her published books include *ARCHITECTURE ACCORDING TO PIGEONS* (Phaidon Press) and *ON A DOUBLE DECKER BUS*.

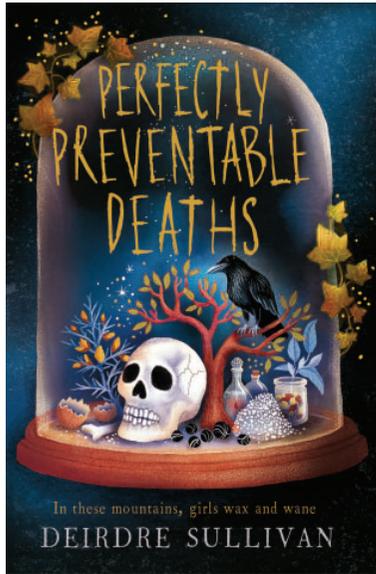
One thousand paper cranes to achieve your heart's desire.

1945, Hiroshima: Ichiro is a teenage boy relaxing at home with his friend Hiro. Moments later there is a blinding flash as the horrific nuclear bomb is dropped. With great bravery the two boys find Hiro's five-year-old sister Keiko in the devastated and blasted landscape. With Hiro succumbing to his wounds, Ichiro is now the only one who can take care of Keiko. But in the chaos Ichiro loses her when he sets off to find help.

Seventy years later, the loss of Keiko and his broken promise to his dying friend are haunting the old man's fading years. Mizuki, his granddaughter, is determined to help him. As the Japanese legend goes, if you have the patience to fold 1,000 paper cranes, you will find your heart's desire; and it turns out her grandfather has only one more origami crane to fold . . .

Narrated in a compelling mix of straight narrative, free verse and haiku poems, this is a haunting and powerful novel of courage and survival, with full-page illustrations by Natsko Seki.

Deirdre Sullivan

PERFECTLY PREVENTABLE DEATHS

Publication: June 2019

WORLD RIGHTSTelevision & Film Rights: Darley Anderson
Extent: 368pp

DEIRDRE SULLIVAN is a writer from Galway. Her books include the PRIMROSE LEARY trilogy, NEEDLEWORK (winner of the CBI Honour Award for Fiction) and TANGLEWEED AND BRINE, a collection of dark fairy-tale retellings, which won an Irish Book Award for Best YA Book of the Year 2017.

**An isolated town. Generations of dark secrets . . .**

Fifteen-year-old twins Madeline and Catlin move to a new life in Ballyfrann, a strange isolated Irish town, a place where the earth is littered with small corpses and unspoken truths. A place where, for the last sixty years, teenage girls have gone missing in the surrounding mountains.

As distance grows between the twins – as Catlin falls in love, and Madeline begins to understand her own nascent witchcraft – Madeline discovers that Ballyfrann is a place full of predators. When Catlin falls into the gravest danger of all, Madeline must ask herself who she really is, and who she wants to be – or rather, who she might have to become to save her sister.

Dark and savage, this is a highly lyrical coming-of-age thriller, about the bond between twins, witchcraft and the sacrifices we make for those we care about the most. For fans of Frances Hardinge and Laure Eve.

'Deirdre Sullivan handles darkness in a way that instills addictive dread, but also, somehow, hope . . . this tale of rural horror, family and peril, is the Irish Gothic we deserve.'

SARA MARIA GRIFFIN, AUTHOR OF SPARE AND FOUND PARTS

'A thrilling, eerie exploration of sisterhood, first love and dark powers. PERFECTLY PREVENTABLE DEATHS lures you in with wit and compassion before hitting with horror and twists worthy of Stephen King or Shirley Jackson. Nobody writes teenagers or witches like Deirdre and this is her best novel yet.'

DAVE RUDDEN, AUTHOR OF KNIGHTS OF THE BORROWED DARK

Matthew Reilly

THE SECRET RUNNERS OF NEW YORK

Publication: March 2019

WORLD RIGHTSRights sold: China (under offer), USA
Television & Film Rights: Furniss Lawton
Extent: 352pp

MATT REILLY is the NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of over a dozen books, including CONTEST, SCARECROW, HOVER CAR RACER (optioned by Walt Disney Pictures) and SEVEN ANCIENT WONDERS. His books have sold over 7.5 million copies worldwide and have been published in over twenty countries. SCARECROW AND THE ARMY OF THIEVES was the biggest-selling fiction title in Australia in 2011.

TWELVE MONKEYS meets GOSSIP GIRL in this YA standalone by the NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author.

When super-wealthy Skye Rogers and her twin brother Red move to Manhattan, rumours of a coming global apocalypse are building. But this does not stop the young elite of New York from partying without a care.

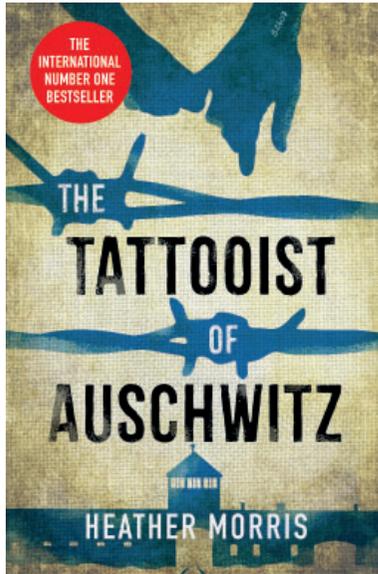
Initially an outsider, Skye finds herself joining an exclusive clique at school, the Secret Runners, only to discover that they have found an underground portal that can transport them into the future. The revelation is horrifying: the rumours are true and the apocalypse is coming.

As society crumbles around them, Skye and Red race to figure out how to use their knowledge to survive the impending annihilation. But they soon discover that the chaotic end of the world is a fine time for revenge . . .

Filmic, highly commercial, break-neck pacy, THE SECRET RUNNERS OF NEW YORK takes the reader on a rollercoaster of a journey into a post-apocalyptic future while cleverly inviting reflections on economic disparities and injustice in our current society.



Heather Morris

THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ

Publication: May 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Albania, Azerbaijan, Basque, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Catalan, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Galicia, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam
Extent: 304pp

Born in New Zealand, **HEATHER MORRIS** lives and works in Melbourne, Australia. In 2003 she met Lale Sokolov, on a day that changed both their lives. As their friendship grew, he entrusted her with the task of telling the world the innermost details of his life during the Holocaust.

SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER****OVER A MILLION COPIES SOLD****RIGHTS SOLD IN 46 TERRITORIES****#1 BESTSELLER IN UK, USA, IRELAND, CHILE, PORTUGAL, HUNGARY, POLAND****SOON TO BE A MAJOR TV SERIES**

In April 1942, Lale Sokolov was imprisoned at Auschwitz-Birkenau, as were millions of others, for being born Jewish. He was given the task of tattooing numbers onto his fellow victims' arms to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

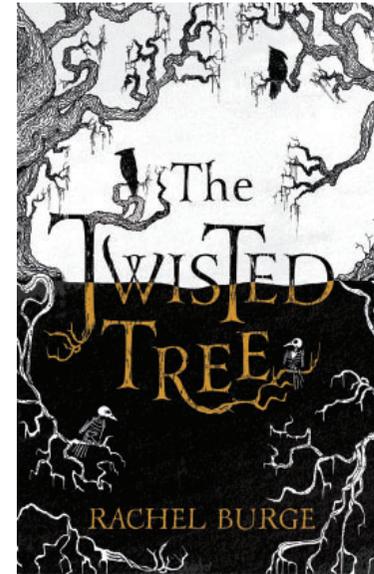
Waiting in line, shaking with terror, was a young woman called Gita. For Lale – full of life, even in this place of death – it was love at first sight. And he was determined that not only would he survive, but that Gita would too.

Based on real events, **THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ** is one of the most life-affirming, courageous, unforgettable and human stories of the Holocaust.

Now in a YA edition, including a foreword and Q&A by the author, information about the Holocaust and points for discussion.

'A phenomenon'**THE TIMES****'An immensely satisfying book'****THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Rachel Burge

THE TWISTED TREE

Publication: January 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Russia
Television & Film Rights: Soloson
Extent: 256pp

RACHEL BURGE works as a freelance feature writer and has written for a variety of websites, including BBC Worldwide, Cosmo and MTV. She is fascinated by Norse mythology and swears she once saw a ghost.

When the fog comes . . . dead men rise with the mist.

Martha can tell things about a person just by touching their clothes, as if their emotions and memories have been absorbed into the material. It started the day she fell from the tree at her grandma's cabin and became blind in one eye. Determined to understand her strange ability, Martha sets off to visit her grandmother, Mormor – only to discover she is dead, a peculiar boy is in her cabin and a terrifying creature is on the loose.

Then the spinning wheel starts creaking, books move around and terror creeps in . . .

Martha's sinister adventures continue in the sequel, **THREAD OF LIES**, due to be published in 2020.

SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF THE WEEK**SOUTH WALES EVENING POST BOOK OF THE WEEK**

'Evocative and scary, Burge's debut is perfect for spooky nights.'

MAIL ON SUNDAY

'Creepy and evocative . . . with unconventional characters and an unusual sense of place.'

SUNDAY TIMES

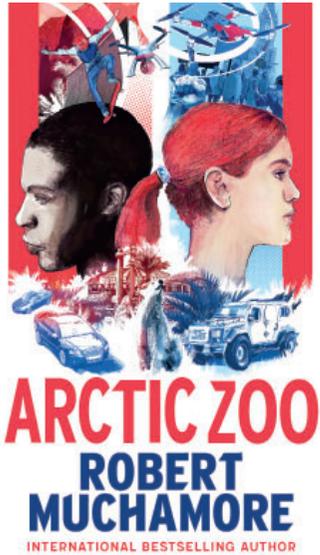
'The mixture of Norse mythology and horror creates an atmosphere of Stephen King intensity.'

IRISH EXAMINER

'Dark, eerie and wonderfully creepy, [it] has everything a Nordic horror story should have.'

CULTURE FLY

Robert Muchamore

ARCTIC ZOO

Publication: July 2019

WORLD RIGHTSRights sold in KILLER T: France, Poland
Television & Film Rights: The Artists
Partnership

Extent: 480pp

ROBERT MUCHAMORE worked as a private investigator before becoming a full-time writer. He has written the global bestselling series CHERUB and YA series HENDERSON'S BOYS and ROCK WARS. His books have sold over 14 million copies worldwide and have been translated into 24 languages. In 2018 he published KILLER T (Hot Key Books), a YA standalone about two teenagers falling in love in the tumultuous reality of a genetically modified world.

Skateboarding, drone-racing, political protest – and what it really means to grow up in a flawed world.

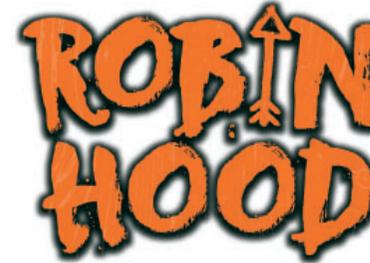
London teenager Georgia gets straight As at her school, writes essays for fun, has been placed first in twenty-six drone races and has a serious addiction to buying Japanese stationery. She plans to follow her older sister Sophie and become a doctor, but her worldview is shattered when Sophie commits suicide.

Julius lives in Ondo, a Nigerian state where half the population lives on less than a dollar a day, but he isn't one of them. His uncle has been governor of Ondo for more than a decade and his mother is the power behind that throne. He finds refuge in a derelict zoo with best friend Duke, but as the two of them grow close, the world outside becomes more and more hostile.

Worlds apart, but on the same desperate search for happiness, Georgia and Julius' stories come together in this arresting contemporary novel about protest, sexuality, mental health and leadership, from the bestselling author of CHERUB.

Praise for KILLER T:**'A fast-paced dystopian epic'****GUARDIAN TEACHERS****'A pulsating rollercoaster read'****DAILY EXPRESS****'Intriguing concept and high-stakes action'****IRISH TIMES**

Robert Muchamore

ROBIN HOOD**HACKING HEISTS & FLAMING ARROWS / REVOLT, BETRAYAL & BANANAS / DRONES, DEMOCRACY & HARD LABOUR / RAIN, RATS & LIFE RAFTS****Robin Hood in the roaring 2020s.**Publication: April 2020 / February 2021 /
August 2021 / February 2022**WORLD RIGHTS**Television & Film Rights: The Artists
Partnership

Extent: 256pp tbc

Pint-sized and fast on his feet, twelve-year-old Robin can shoot arrows into a bullseye from fifty metres, pull off daring parkour moves and hack the ATM at your local gas station.

You can't go far without a quick brain and some rule-bending in a place like Locksley. After its vast car plants shut down, the prosperous town has become a wasteland of empty homes, toxic land and families on the brink. And it doesn't help that the authorities are in the clutches of the profit-obsessed Sheriff of Nottingham, in cahoots with underworld boss Guy Gisborne.

When his dad is framed for a robbery, Robin and his brother Little John are hounded out of Locksley and must learn to survive in the infamous Sherwood Forest. But Robin is determined to do more than survive. Small, fast and deadly with a crossbow, he hatches a plan to join forces with Marion Maid, harness his inimitable tech skills and strike a blow against Gisborne and the Sheriff.

Breathtaking heists, genius hacking and corrupt business dealings that only a young hero of our times can bring down, this is the start of a truly compelling and timely four-book series for 10+ which will have a new generation of reluctant readers running for the bookshelves.

'Muchamore's done something I'd failed to do; he's turned my son into a reader.'**THE TIMES**

Chris Ryan

SPECIAL FORCES CADETS**SIEGE / MISSING / JUSTICE / RUTHLESS / HIJACK / ASSASSIN**

Publication: February / May / August 2019
WORLD RIGHTS
 Television & Film Rights: Barbara Levy Agency
 Extent: 224pp / 208pp / tbc

CHRIS RYAN served as a young man in the SAS between 1984 and 1994. During the Gulf War, he was the only member of the Bravo Two Zero team to escape from Iraq. It was the longest escape and evasion in the history of the SAS. Chris has written more than fifty bestselling novels for adults and children.

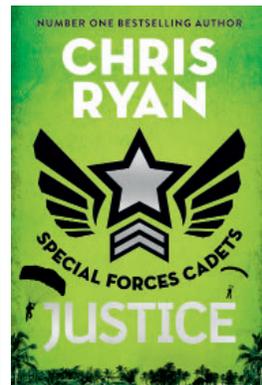
Tough, smart and alone in the world . . .

The Special Forces Cadets are a select squadron of highly talented teenage undercover agents trained to help the adult forces.

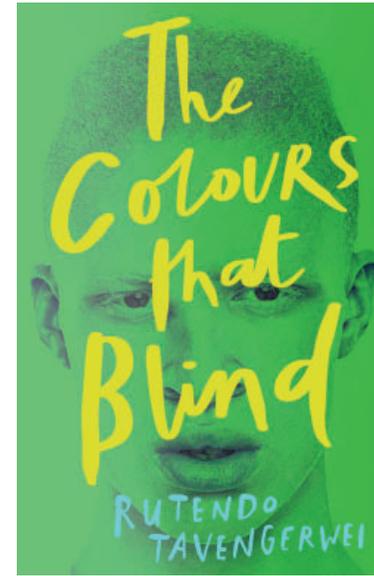
When orphan Max is given the opportunity to join the SFC, he is desperate to pass the selection. And so are American Lukas, son of two murdered gang members; Abby Asher, daughter of a convicted Northern Irish terrorist; and Sami Hakim, a Syrian war survivor.

After their first mission at a local school held hostage by terrorists, they will travel as far as North Korea and Central Africa, right to the heart of the most dangerous zones in the world.

An all-action series for teen boys and girls from the bestselling author and SAS hero.



Rutendo Tavengerwei

THE COLOURS THAT BLIND

Publication: June 2019
WORLD RIGHTS
 Rights sold in HOPE IS OUR ONLY WING: Brazil, USA
 Television & Film Rights: Soloson
 Extent: 208pp tbc

RUTENDO NOMSA TAVENGERWEI lived and studied in Zimbabwe until the age of eighteen. She then continued her studies in South Africa and Switzerland, where she has worked as a trade lawyer for the UN. Her first novel, HOPE IS OUR ONLY WING, was published by Hot Key Books in 2018.

What do you see when you look in the mirror?

Fifteen-year-old Tumirai lives with his older brother, Mkoma, in Harare, Zimbabwe. Tumirai dreams of one day winning an Olympic medal for Zimbabwe's national team. Swimming is his escape – a way to fit in at school and stop the other students noticing that he's albino.

When his brother moves away for work, Tumirai has to go and live with grandmother Ambuya. This means returning to the town where his uncle tried to kidnap him and sell him when he was a child.

When Tumirai discovers that his uncle is going to be released from prison he flies into a panic and holds Ambuya responsible for his release. He feels his past catching up with him as the nightmares all come flooding back.

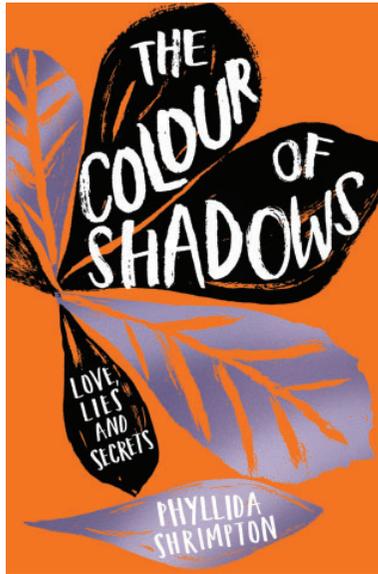
But the power of stories is greater than he could anticipate, and as Ambuya begins to share her own story for the first time, Tumirai cannot help but listen.

A delicate, unforgettable coming-of-age tale about facing fears and holding on and the healing power of storytelling.

**Praise for HOPE IS OUR ONLY WING:
 NOMINATED FOR THE 2019 CARNEGIE PRIZE
 'I can't recommend it enough!'**

BOOKSELLER**'Much to admire'****BOOKS FOR KEEPS**

Phyllida Shrimpton

THE COLOUR OF SHADOWS

Publication: February 2019

WORLD RIGHTSRights sold in **SUNFLOWERS IN FEBRUARY**:

Iran

Television & Film Rights: Broo Doherty

Extent: 304pp

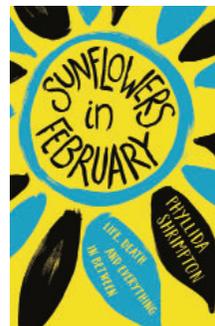
PHYLLIDA SHRIMPTON is the author of SUNFLOWERS IN FEBRUARY, a beautiful, bittersweet novel about teen Lily who dies in a car accident but is not at all sure she wants to 'move on'. It was published by Hot Key Books in 2018 and received critical acclaim.

Love, lies and secrets.

Seventeen-year-old Saffron is looking for family photos in the attic when she finds a secret that's been kept from her for ten years, a secret that blows apart everything she thought she knew about her family.

Furious with her father, she leaves home. But when Saffron's friends fail her it turns out she has nowhere to go. As bit by bit her life falls away, Saffron must uncover what's important to her – but can she find a way to forgive her parents?

Narrated with warmth and a superbly empathetic voice, this is a poignant story that hurts and comforts, bringing to the fore the many faces of homelessness and eventually reminding us that no matter how deeply we are lost, and for how long, we can always be found.

Praise for *SUNFLOWERS IN FEBRUARY*:**'Powerful with beautiful imagery'****BOOKBAG****'Fascinating and thought-provoking'****JUNO MAGAZINE****'A bittersweet, sparkling and life-affirming book'****TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT**

Bear Grylls | Illustrated by Emma McCann

BEAR GRYLLS SERIES

An extensive and exciting publishing programme of fiction and non-fiction featuring survival and outdoor adventure TV celebrity BEAR GRYLLS (estimated global TV audience of 1.2 billion).

Nearly half a million copies sold

Publication: March 2017–2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: China, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Russia, Turkey, USA

FICTION**BG ADVENTURE SERIES**

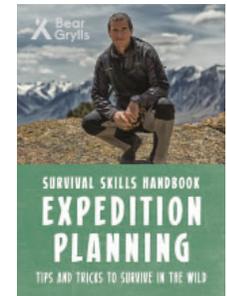
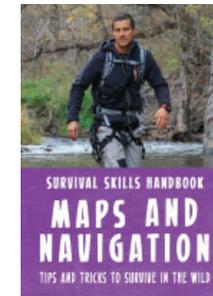
7–9 years old – 128pp

**NON-FICTION****BG SURVIVAL SKILLS HANDBOOKS**

9–12 years old – 48pp

EXTREME PLANET & SURVIVAL CAMP

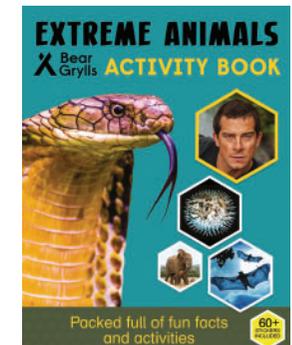
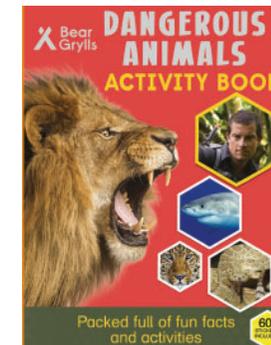
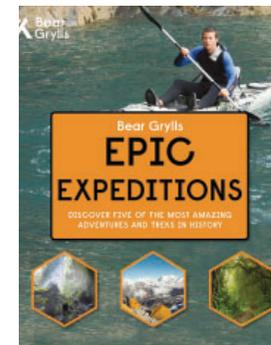
9–12 years old – 128pp

**EPIC ADVENTURE SERIES**

5–7 years old – 112pp

ACTIVITY / COLOURING BOOKS

5–7 years old – 32pp



Wilbur Smith and Chris Wakling

THE JACK COURTNEY ADVENTURES: CLOUDBURST



Publication: February 2020 / October 2020 / February 2021

WORLD RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: Tibor Jones

Extent: 240pp tbc

WILBUR SMITH was born in Central Africa in 1933. He became a full-time writer in 1964 after the publication of *WHEN THE LION FEEDS*, and has since written over thirty novels. His books are translated into twenty-six languages. This is his first children's series.

CHRISTOPHER WAKLING is a novelist and travel writer whose previous books include *ON CAPE THREE POINTS* and *TOWARDS THE SUN*. He is also a lifelong fan of Wilbur!

Adventure runs in the blood

Jack Courtney has lived in London his whole life. But this summer his parents are travelling to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a conference, and they've promised to take Jack and his friends with them.

When his parents go missing in the rainforest, abducted by mercenaries, nobody seems to have any answers. Jack is pretty sure that it has to do with the nearby tantalum mines, but he needs to prove it. Along with Amelia and Xander, Jack must brave the jungle to save his parents. Standing in his way is a member of his own family – Caleb Courtney.

There are western gorillas, forest elephants and hippos, but also bandits, mercenaries and hostile tribes. The three friends will need their wits about them if they are to save Jack's parents, and their own lives too.

A brand-new three-book series for readers aged 10+ from the one and only master of adventure, starring a young modern-day descendant of the beloved Courtney family.

Praise for the author:

'No one does adventure quite like Smith.'

DAILY MIRROR

'A master storyteller.'

SUNDAY TIMES

'Smith will take you on an exciting, taut and thrilling journey you will never forget.'

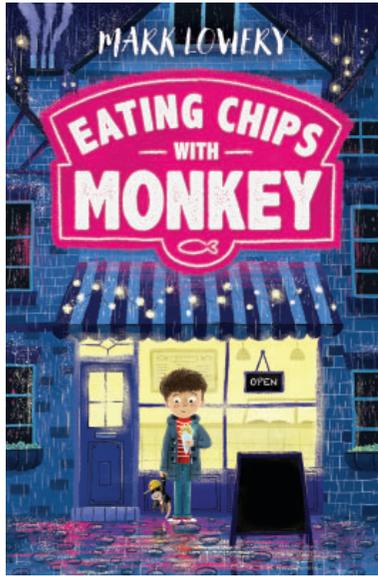
THE SUN

A WORLD OF ADVENTURE OPENS TO A NEW GENERATION

WILBUR SMITH

OVER 160 MILLION COPIES GLOBALLY

Mark Lowery

EATING CHIPS WITH MONKEY

Publication: August 2019

US RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: Aitken Alexander

Extent: 240pp tbc

MARK LOWERY is a primary school teacher, a writer and a father. His first two books, *SOCKS ARE NOT ENOUGH* and *PANTS ARE EVERYTHING*, were both shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize. Mark is also the author of the *ROMAN GARSTANG* series (Piccadilly Press) and of the poignant middle-grade standalone *CHARLIE AND ME*, which earned high praise and has been translated into several languages.

Laughter and tears to find yourself again.

Ten-year-old Daniel is never happier than when he is eating chips. Especially during his family's annual Chip Shop Championships, the highlight of his year. And especially when he can also eat chips with Monkey, his beloved soft toy and trusty companion. But one terrible November day, the lives of Daniel and his family are changed forever when an accident renders Daniel a shadow of his former self. As Daniel retreats into himself, his family slowly begins to fall apart, without this bright boy at the heart of their lives.

When an impromptu trip to a chip shop seems to briefly engage Daniel with the real world, the family decides to revisit their Chip Shop Championships, on a quest to find the best chip shop in the country. Along the way, as they attempt to rebuild their family and regain Daniel, they must contend with hungry giraffes, nouvelle cuisine, the loss of Monkey, the theft of Grandma, and lots of chips.

A bittersweet and wryly funny story of a family piecing themselves back together and learning to live again.

Praise for CHARLIE AND ME:**NOMINATED FOR THE 2019 CARNEGIE PRIZE****'A marvellous novel'****SUNDAY TIMES****'A very special story. Readers will cry with laughter and sadness in equal measure.'****BOOKS FOR KEEPS****'In turns, light and deep, this is an inspiring read.'****MINERVA READS**

Bannie McPartlin

THE FEARLESS FIVE

Publication: May 2019

US RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: Curtis Brown

Extent: 368pp

BANNIE MCPARTLIN lives in an ancient city once inhabited by Vikings and now Dublin people. Bannie has written fiction for adults for over ten years under the name Anna, but the kids in her life call her Bannie so the name change is for them. Her bestselling adult novels include *PACK UP THE MOON* and *THE LAST DAYS OF RABBIT HAYES*.

RODDY DOYLE meets MILLIONS

'We didn't know what we were doing. We had no idea what we were up against. And we made a really big mess . . . And it was the saddest, scariest, weirdest time in my life but it was also the best fun I ever had. And it started here . . .'

Jeremy, Johnny J., Walker, Sumo and Charlie are about to have the best summer of their lives. They've all just finished primary school and are looking forward to weeks of holiday freedom before they head off to their new schools. But they soon realise it's not all going to be riding their bikes, making rope swings in the woods and climbing trees. Johnny's mum is ill, really ill – and Jeremy decides there is only one way to save her. A way that might just involve a robbery . . . And by the end of it all – or perhaps somewhere in the middle – they will be the Fearless Five. And this will be a summer they will never, ever forget . . .

Written with a candid, finely tuned, compelling voice, this is a big-hearted, madcap heist story that lingers in the memory like the most unforgettable childhood summer adventure.

William Goldsmith | Illustrated by William Goldsmith

MARK ANCHOVY: PIZZA DETECTIVE



Publication: April 2020 / September 2020 / April 2021

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Germany
Television & Film Rights: PFD
Extent: 288pp tbc

WILLIAM GOLDSMITH is a British writer and illustrator. Published by Jonathan Cape, his graphic novels *VIGNETTES OF YSTOV* and *THE BIND* were nominated for a Newton First Book Award and British Book Design Award respectively. His illustration clients include *THE INDEPENDENT*, Goethe Institut, Royal Opera House and the Turner Prize winning collective, Assemble. This is his first book for children.

When in Rome . . . pizza, code-cracking, fun and shenanigans.

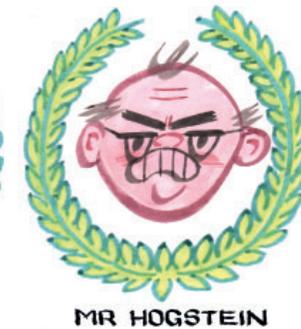
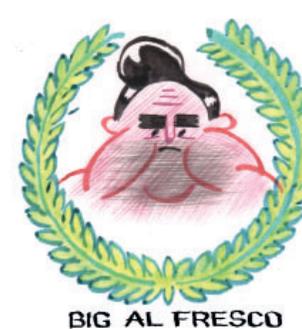
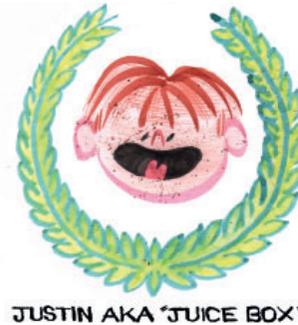
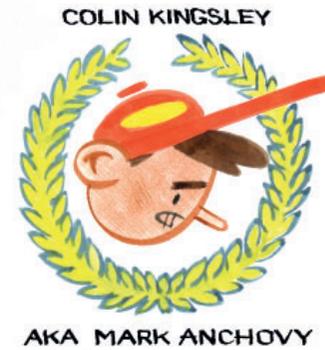
Colin Kingsley is a pizza delivery boy with a twist. He’s actually an aspiring private detective.

He’s desperate for an interesting case to solve – that is, until the Golden Spatula League come calling, the greatest of all detective agencies, who recruit only children and have been hugely impressed by Colin’s amazing memory skills.

To join their ranks, Colin – codenamed ‘Mark Anchovy’ – must fly to Rome to track the movements of known art forger Mr Big Al Fresco – who is suspected of stealing the valuable painting, *Girl with a Squirrel*, worth something in the region of 20 million US dollars.

Using only his wits and memory, while working undercover at Mr Fresco’s favourite pizzeria, Mark Anchovy must crack the code and solve the greatest mystery the Golden Spatula League has ever encountered. And all while escaping the beady eye of his crusty history teacher, Mr Hogstein . . .

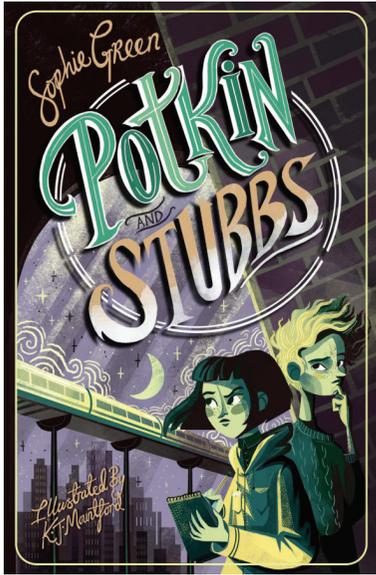
A hilarious three-book detective series with an unforgettable cast and stylish full-page illustrations that will change the way you look at those Friday-night pizzas . . .



Sophie Green | Illustrated by Karl Mountford

POTKIN AND STUBBS

THE HAUNTING OF PELIGAN CITY / THE DEAD AND THE DEADLIER



Publication: March 2019 / September 2019 / March 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Russia, Romania

Television & Film Rights: The Agency

Extent: 384pp with b&w illustrations

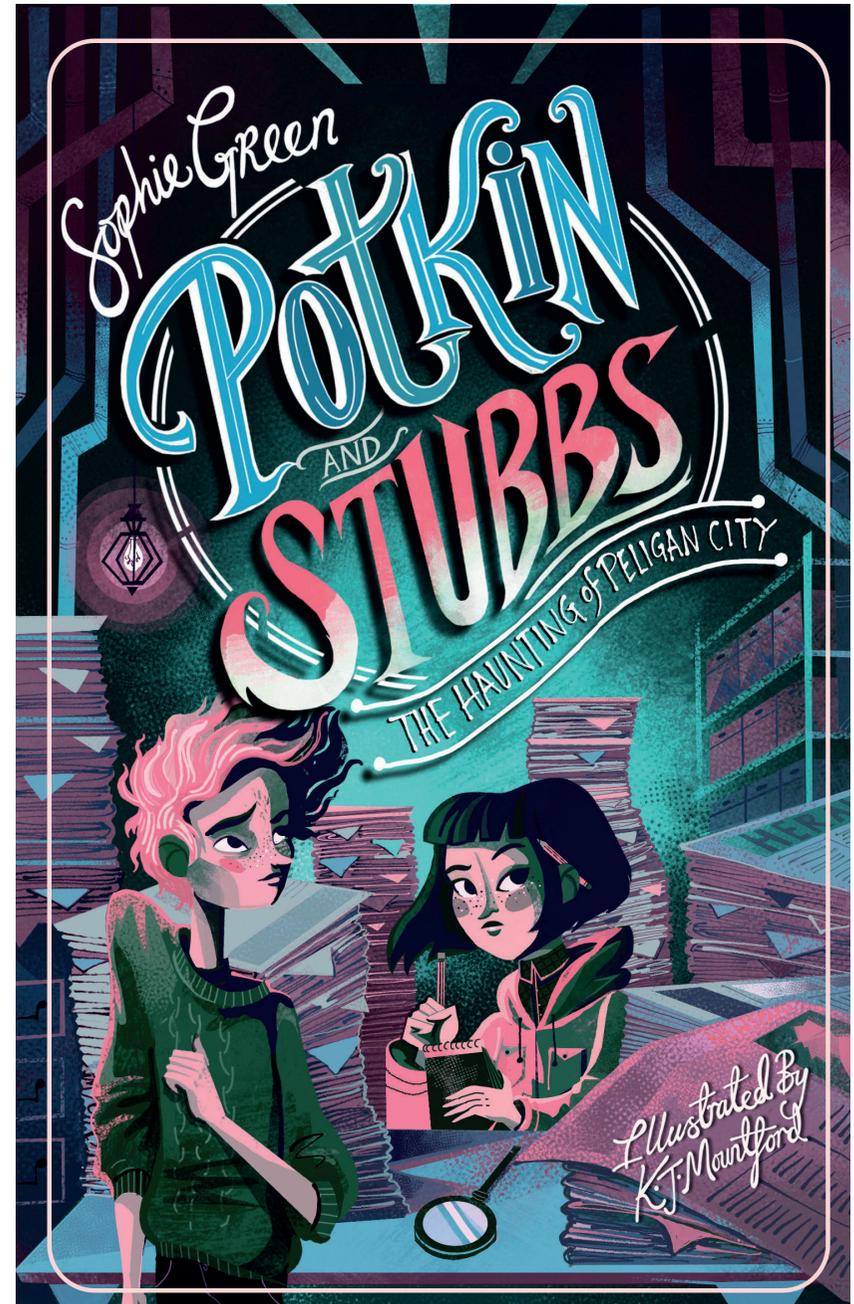
SOPHIE GREEN has a degree in zoology and is a librarian. Her first novel, *THE LAST GIANT*, was shortlisted for the Times/Chicken House Fiction Competition in 2011. *Potkin and Stubbs* was initially a short story which was shortlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award. Most importantly, *Sophie* lives in a haunted house and her ghost stories are all clearly based on authentic real-life experiences!

Scooby Doo meets Casper in Gotham City.

Aspiring journalist Lil Potkin roams bleak Peligan City in her bright yellow raincoat, investigating unsolved stories. One rainy evening, at the bus station, she meets a sad-looking boy who no one else seems to see. He doesn't want to admit it, but he is actually a ghost; and when he finally remembers his name (Nedly . . . possibly) he explains that he needs Lil's help to find out what happened to him after he disappeared from his orphanage a year ago. So Lil and Nedly – aka Potkin and Stubbs – team up to solve their mystery, soon joined by once-famous detective Abe Mandrel. With Lil's Sherlockian intuition, Abe's experience and Nedly's convenient invisibility, Peligan City's most vicious secrets will soon be exposed.

Atmospheric, spooky, warm at heart, *POTKIN AND STUBBS* is the first in an irresistible young detective trilogy for boys and girls aged 9+.

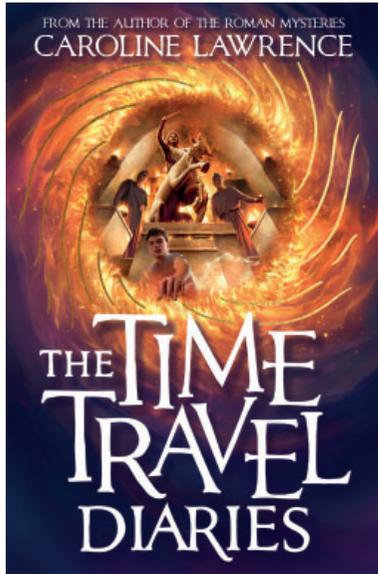
Perfect for fans of Lemony Snicket, Neil Gaiman and Eva Ibbotson.



Caroline Lawrence

THE TIME TRAVEL DIARIES

TIME TRAVEL DIARIES: JOURNEY TO ATHENS



Publication: April 2019 / January 2020
WORLD RIGHTS
 Television & Film Rights: Eddison Pearson
 Extent: 272pp tbc

CAROLINE LAWRENCE is the author of the ROMAN MYSTERIES books, first published in 2001, which have sold over a million copies in the UK and been translated into fourteen languages. The series was televised by the BBC in 2007 and 2008 with ten half-hour episodes per season. Filmed in Tunisia, Bulgaria and Malta, it was the most expensive BBC children's TV series to date.

The temple of Mithras – where past meets present.

Billionaire Solomon Daisy is obsessed with the skeleton of a blue-eyed African girl from Roman London. He has managed to invent a time machine so that he can go and find her, but it is estimated that for each hour spent in the past, an adult time traveller's life will be shortened by months, a child's only by seconds. Solomon decides to recruit a child time traveller, Alex Papas, a twelve-year-old boy who knows a smattering of Greek and Latin.

Alex's mission is to go back to Londinium through a portal in London's Mithraeum to find out all he can about the blue-eyed girl. There are just three rules: naked you go and naked you must return; drink, don't eat; as little interaction as possible.

But time travel is no picnic – and Roman London is far more dangerous than anyone could have known.

The first in a two-book, nail-biting, time-travel series for readers 9+ from the bestselling author of the THE ROMAN MYSTERIES.

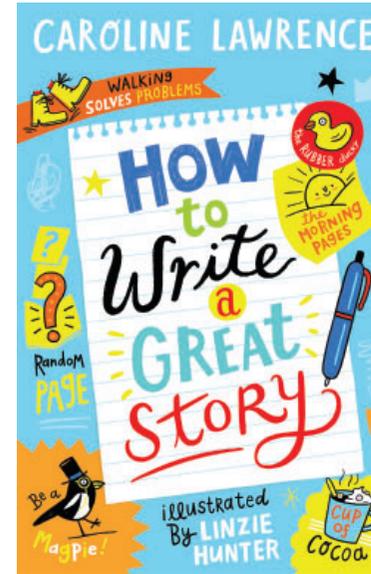
The adventure continues with JOURNEY TO ATHENS, where Alex travels to ancient Athens to meet Socrates.

'A mad time travel romp with a realistic historical edge'

BEN AARONOVITCH

Caroline Lawrence | Illustrated by Linzie Hunter

HOW TO WRITE A GREAT STORY



Publication: August 2019
WORLD RIGHTS
 Extent: 208pp tbc

A book can change the world.

Writing a story is about letting your imagination run wild . . . but it is also about tricks and devices that make it compelling and stand on its feet.

Bestselling author Caroline Lawrence shares her best tips from her twenty-year experience as a writer, with examples from all kind of books and films.

For example have you ever heard of the Save the Cat trick?

At the beginning of a story the main character often does something nice, like save a cat stuck up a tree. This is to make the reader like them and present them straightaway as our heroes, the good guys. At the beginning of THE WIZARD OF OZ, Dorothy risks her life to save her dog Toto. In RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, Indiana Jones (twice) saves a guide even though he knows he was probably going to betray him . . . You can do a fun twist called Kill the Dog to show the hero is maybe not so nice.

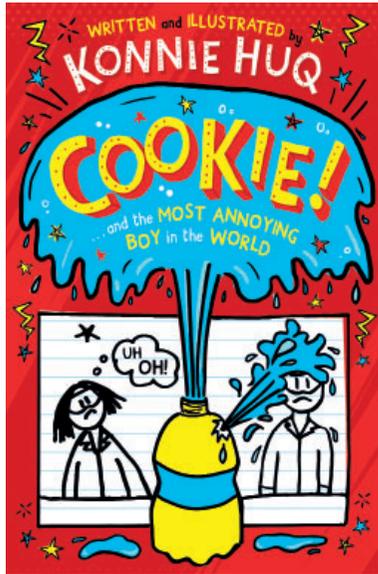
Discover the many secrets of storytelling in this fun guide to creative writing for budding writers 9+, illustrated with Linzie Hunter's lively black-and-white artwork on every page.

'Caroline captures the children's imaginations and makes them feel like they CAN write.'

CHRISTINA WEERASEKERA, SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Konnie Huq | Illustrated by Konnie Huq

COOKIE AND THE MOST ANNOYING BOY IN THE WORLD



Publication: August 2019 / February 2020 / August 2020
WORLD RIGHTS
 Television & Film Rights: United Agents
 Extent: 320pp tbc

KONNIE HUQ has been the longest-serving female presenter of popular BBC children's programme BLUE PETER. She is currently an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and the British Asian Trust. This is her first foray into children's books.

Pets, science projects and a bit of chaos. Welcome to Cookie's world!

Bubbly and smart ten-year-old Cookie has had a lot on her mind lately. She is desperate for a pet and has practically adopted the sweetest kitten in the pet shop, naming it Bluey. She just needs to convince her parents, but that's no easy task . . . Also her best friend Keziah is going to be moving away and Cookie is really upset. And THEN, when she is introduced to the snooty new boy Jake at school, not only she is asked to look after him, but she finds out that his parents have just bought Bluey from the pet shop for him. HER BLUEY!

ANYWAY, what Cookie should really focus on is the chance to be on *BRAINBUSTERS*, the TV quiz show! She just needs to win the science competition to earn a place representing the school! It's up to Cookie to keep her head and not get over-excited. Which is not Cookie's strong point! Keep calm, Cookie!

A laugh-out-loud, dynamic three-book series for readers 8+ about madcap science projects in a contemporary Bangladeshi London setting, with black-and-white illustrations throughout.



Konnie Huq & James Kay | Illustrated by Rikin Parekh

FEARLESS FAIRYTALES



Publication: October 2019
WORLD RIGHTS
 Television & Film Rights: United Agents
 Extent: 160pp

Fairy tales for 'rebel' readers

Meet Trumplestiltskin, the furious, gold-obsessed angry little man who kidnaps the president's daughter to spin gold for him.

And Sleeping Brainy, the princess whose only dream is to become Chancellor of the Exchequer. Then the Gingerbread Kid, who uses his baking skills to befriend his new classmates when his family flees from the wolf and fox dangers of Fairy Tale Land.

There's Rap-Unzel, who seeks fame with her rapping skills – but not if it means cutting off her glorious long hair; Mouldysocks, who upsets three bears by being the messiest little boy in the world; and upcoming fashion designer Lil' Red, whose riding hoodies are the most-wanted in town.

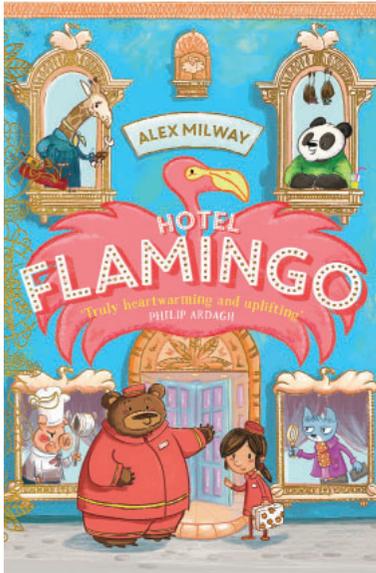
Delivered with the vibrant, fresh voice of Blue Peter's Konnie Huq, writing with James Kay, this brilliant anarchic collection shakes up tired old misogynist fairy tales, redressing the balance for the twenty-first century!



Alex Milway | Illustrations by Alex Milway

HOTEL FLAMINGO

HOLIDAY HEATWAVE / CARNIVAL CAPER / FABULOUS FEAST



Publication: February 2019 / June 2019 /
October 2019 / February 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: France, Germany, Russia
Television & Film Rights: David Higham
Extent: 192pp with two-colour illustrations

*ALEX MILWAY is a full-time children's
author-illustrator and screenwriter
(PIGSTICKS AND HAROLD – Walker Books).
He also runs children's workshops around
the UK and in China and the USA.*

Everyone is welcome at Hotel Flamingo!

When young Anna inherits a dilapidated once-grand hotel from her great-aunt Mathilde, she's determined to restore it to its former glory. But this is no ordinary hotel – all of her staff and guests are animals! Anna soon rises to the challenge. Whether it's a flamingo, a penguin or a hippo knocking at the door, Anna is ready to welcome them all – with the help of her trusty sidekicks, T. Bear the doorman, Squeak the friendly elevator mouse, and Lemmy the lemur receptionist . . . As she soon finds out, though, running an animal hotel is no easy task. Can Anna make Hotel Flamingo a success once more?

OTTOLINE meets THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL in this enchanting four-book illustrated series.

'A total joy'

PIERS TORDAY

'A heartwarming tale of friends pulling together to make a dream come true. May I please stay at this hotel?'

SARAH MCINTYRE

'A charming, funny story with an important message: everyone is welcome here.'

ABIE LONGSTAFF, AUTHOR OF THE FAIRYTALE
HAIRDRESSER

'Alex Milway just brought the sunshine back to bookshelves.'

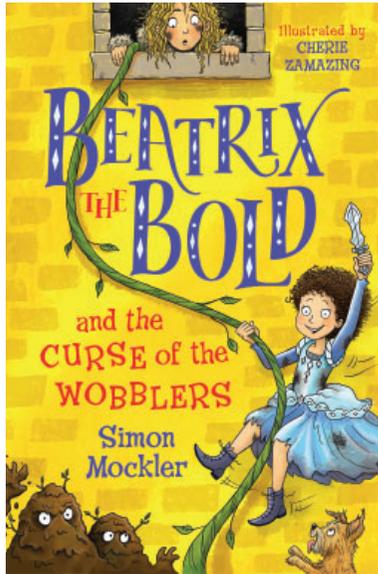
MICHELLE ROBINSON, AUTHOR OF GOODNIGHT
SPACEMAN



Simon Mockler | Illustrated by Cherie Zamazing

BEATRIX THE BOLD: THE CURSE OF THE WOBLERS

THE RIDDLETOWN DRAGON / THE BALLOON OF DOOM



Publication: March 2019 / September 2019 / February 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Netherlands

Television & Film Rights: Northbank Talent

Extent: 256pp with b&w illustrations

SIMON MOCKLER studied art at Camberwell Art College and Modern Languages at Cambridge. He has done many jobs, including artist, musician and teacher. He lives in South London with his wife and two children, who keep asking him what he wants to be when he grows up. BEATRIX THE BOLD is his debut novel.

MR GUM meets SHREK and THE PRINCESS BRIDE

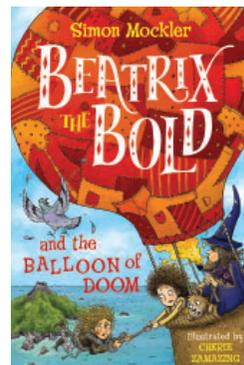
Bright, quick-witted Beatrix is a queen . . . except she doesn't know that yet. And that's because her parents pretended she had died and sent her away to keep her safe. And that's because of the Evil Army who want her dead. And that's because of the Curse of the Wobblers, the rumour that the child born under a falling star (which Beatrix was) would have power over all the Wobblers and lead them to take over the world. And the Evil Army won't have that.

Beatrix has never been allowed out of the palace she lives in with Aunt Esmerelda the Terrible and Uncle Ivan the Vicious – she's always been told there is no world outside it. But finally the curtain of lies is falling. Beatrix knows she needs to be bold; she needs to go out there and look for answers. And she's jolly well going to get them!

A fun-packed trilogy with wit, charm and unending shenanigans.

'A rollicking olden days adventure with a heroine who is a bright-as-a-button bundle of bravery'

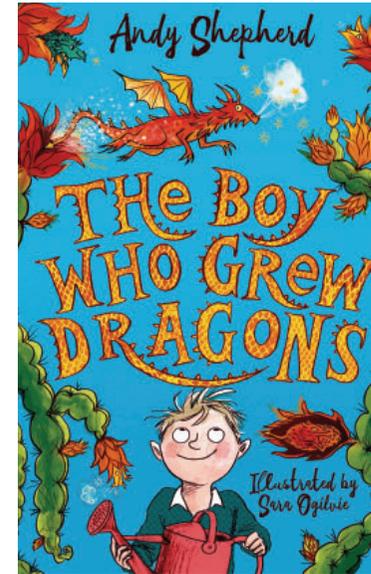
JOANNE OWEN



Andy Shepherd | Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie

THE BOY WHO GREW DRAGONS

THE BOY WHO LIVED WITH DRAGONS / THE BOY WHO FLEW WITH DRAGONS



Publication: June 2018 / September 2018 / January 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Catalan, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Turkey, USA

Television & Film Rights: Antony Harwood

Extent: 224pp / 240pp / 256pp

ANDY SHEPHERD is a children's writer, and an absolute expert on dragons. This is her debut series.

SARA OGILVIE has illustrated many books, including THE DETECTIVE DOG by Julia Donaldson, THE WORST PRINCESS by Anna Kemp, IZZY GIZMO by Pip Jones and Phil Earle's DEMOLITION DAD.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE

LONGLISTED FOR THE BLUE PETER BOOK AWARDS

OVER 45,000 COPIES SOLD

When Tomas brings home a dragon fruit picked from his grandpa's garden and a tiny dragon hatches, he can't believe it. He has the coolest pet in town, because who wouldn't want to grow a dragon? But soon he finds out it is not always easy to tame the fiery little creatures.

The series continues with two brand-new books to come in 2020 and 2021.

'Irresistible . . . A modern classic'

GUARDIAN

'A warm-hearted debut . . . lovely, expressive, characterful'

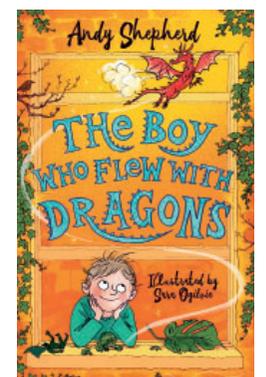
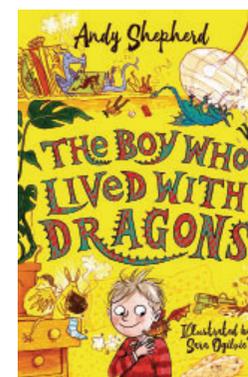
SUNDAY TIMES

'A spectacular start to a new series'

THE SUN

'The book's heartfelt message is one of care and friendship.'

LITERARY REVIEW



Sally Gardner | Illustrated by Rovina Cai

THE WIND IN THE WALL



Publication: September 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: Felicity Bryan Agency
Extent: 32pp

SALLY GARDNER has sold over two million books in the UK and won several book awards, including the Costa Children's Book Prize and the Carnegie Prize for *MAGGOT MOON* (translated into two dozen languages). Her latest YA book, *MY SIDE OF THE DIAMOND*, was published by Hot Key Books in 2017.

A dark new fairy tale with a twist

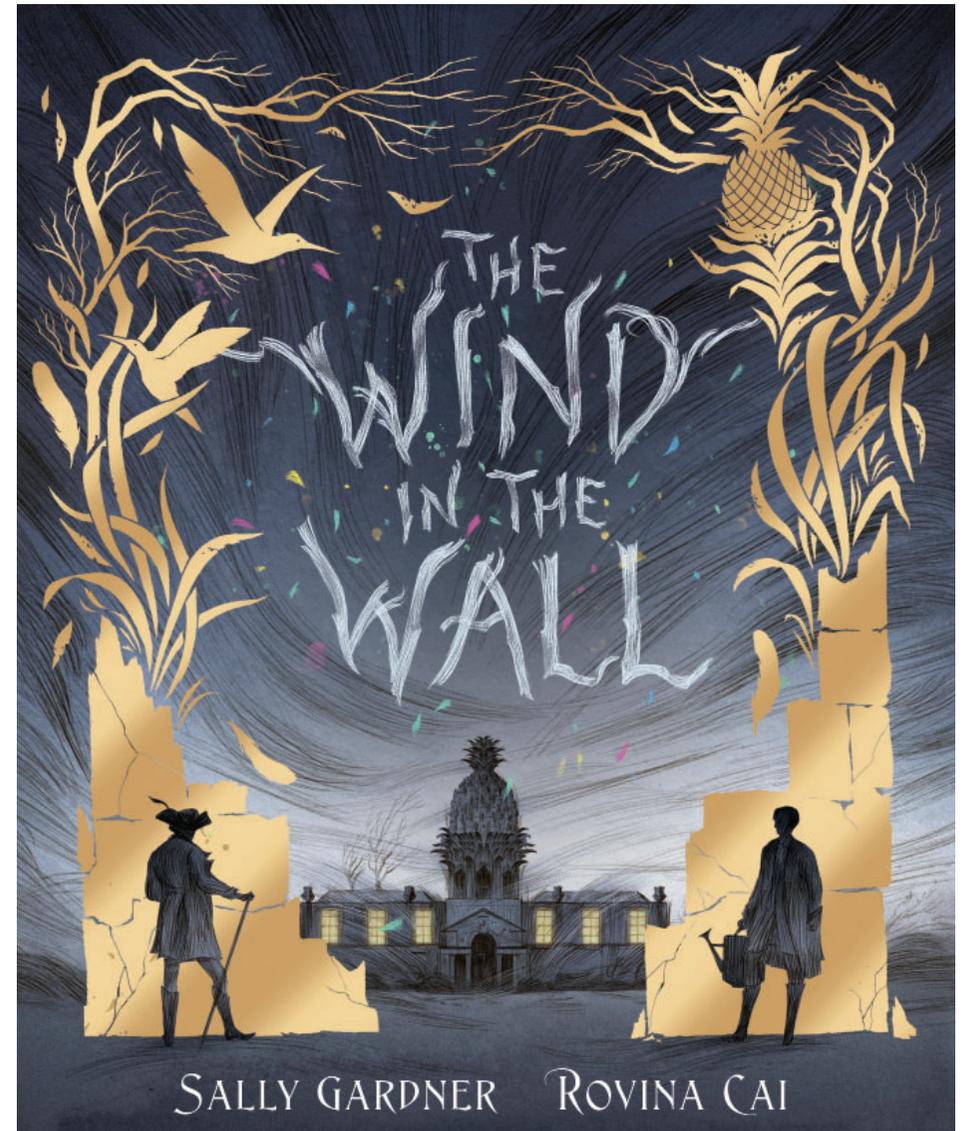
'I have no idea how long I have been incarcerated in these ancient walls . . . Let me explain how I find myself in this predicament . . .'

Set in the greenhouses of a stately home in eighteenth-century England, a gardener falls from grace when the duke sets him the impossible task of growing prize pineapples fit to show off in high society.

The gardener's star falls further when he is replaced by Mr Amicus, a pineapple 'specialist', whom he believes to be a charlatan and a trickster – but who, nevertheless miraculously produces fruit to delight the duke.

Determined to discover Mr Amicus's tricks, the gardener sneaks into the pineapple house to uncover the mysterious shrouded birdcage Mr Amicus carries with him. And what he finds changes his life forever . . .

A cautionary tale with echoes of myth and fairy tale, this bewitching fable will make you careful what you wish for.



Laura Dockrill | Illustrated by Gwen Millward

BUTTERFLY BRAIN



Publication: September 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Television & Film Rights: United Agents

Extent: 80pp

LAURA DOCKRILL is a performance poet and novelist whose inventive and vibrant approach to life is reflected in the rich and vividly imagined worlds she creates. She is author of *LORALI*, *BIG BONES* and the *DARCY BURDOCK* series and has been nominated and shortlisted for the Carnegie and Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

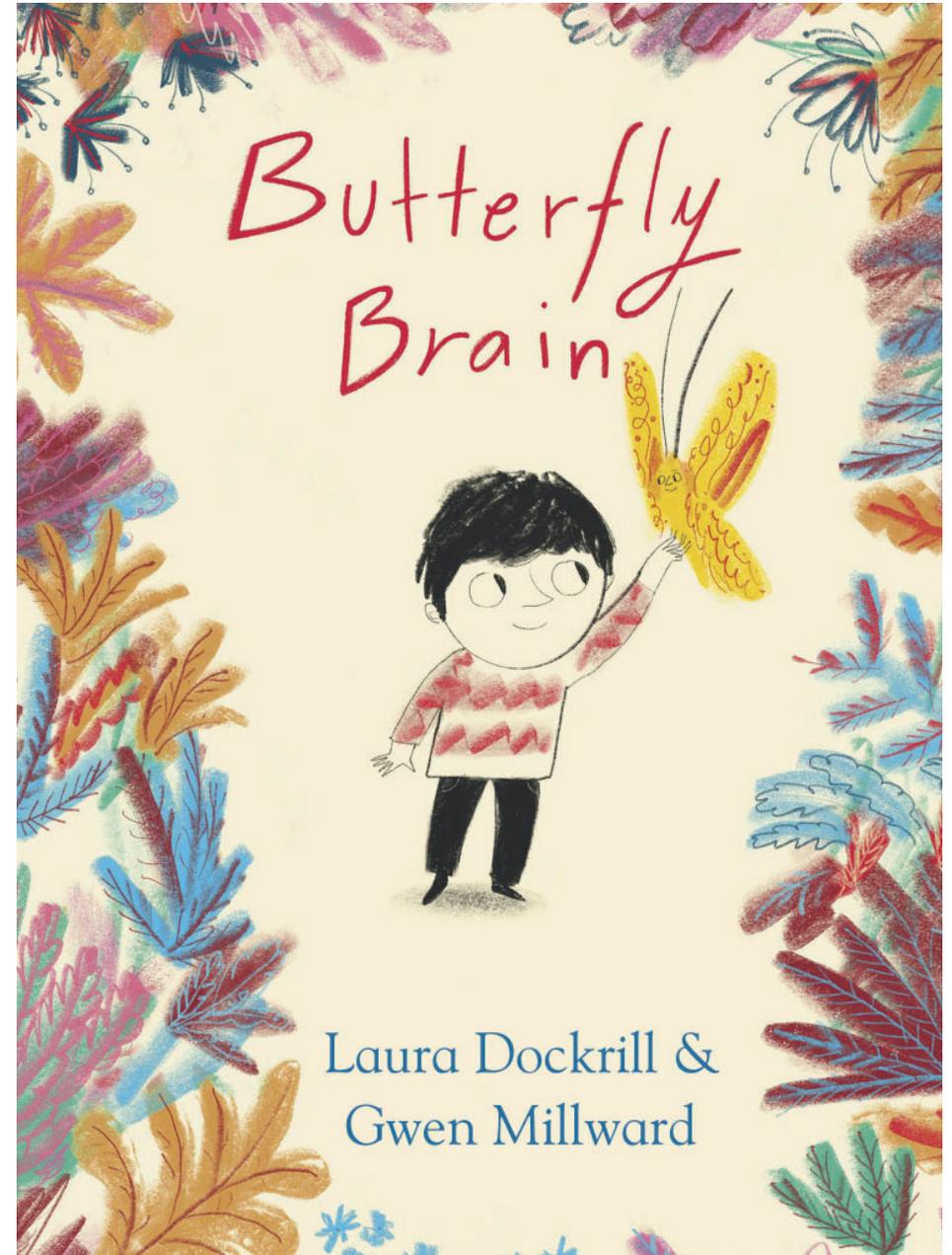
GWEN MILLWARD has illustrated *GUESS WHAT I FOUND IN DRAGON WOOD* (Puffin), *THE BOG BABY* by Jeanne Willis and the *CHARMSEEKERS* series by Amy Tree (Orion).

If Roald Dahl had written *A MONSTER CALLS* . . .

Everyone is always shouting at Gus to stop leaning back in his chair – but does he care? No way! Then sure enough, the chair falls, he cracks his head and has to spend all summer in bed. Out of the crack escape his memories, dreams and imagination . . . and a beautiful little butterfly guide. Gus must follow the butterfly to recapture all he's lost – including that locked box he doesn't seem to want to touch . . .

Together they remember fish fingers, snapping bubble wrap, cracked pink soap and the leaky tap; they go wild, stomping around in the joy of imagination and happy dreams – but they can't go any further if Gus won't gather *all* of his memories. His butterfly will die unless Gus is ready to hear about his mum . . .

A delightful and moving exploration of grief and the joy of all that makes us human, from the sparkling voice of Laura Dockrill, with heartwarming full-colour illustrations from Gwen Millward.



THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THE CHERRY TREE



Paola Peretti | Translated by Denise Muir

Publication: August 2018
Rights sold in 25 territories

NOMINATED FOR THE CARNEGIE PRIZE 2019

'Resonantly explores what matters in life'

SUNDAY TIMES

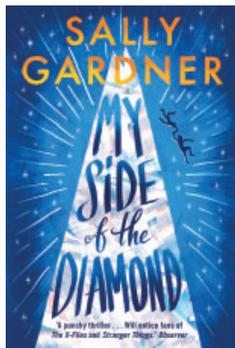
'A captivating, wise children's novel'

GUARDIAN

'A little gem'

IRISH INDEPENDENT

MY SIDE OF THE DIAMOND



Sally Gardner

Publication: August 2018
Rights sold: Turkey

LONGLISTED FOR THE CARNEGIE PRIZE 2019

'A unique and complex reading experience about the search for love'

BOOKSELLER

'Bizarre and brilliant'

KIRAN MILLWOOD-HARGRAVE

'It's an incredibly satisfying read.'

IRISH TIMES

MY HEART GOES BANG



Keris Stainton

Publication: June 2018
Rights sold: Poland

'An honest, realistic and funny look at female friendships, sexuality and university life'

CULTUREFLY

'A brilliant YA read . . . I loved every page of their story and would love more.'

THE OVERFLOWING LIBRARY

SPELLSLINGER SERIES

SPELLSLINGER / SHADOWBLACK / CHARMCASTER / SOULBINDER / QUEENSLAYER / CROWNBREAKER

Sebastien de Castell

Over 50,000 copies sold

'Gloriously escapist fantasy' *OBSERVER*



GRACIE DART SERIES

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE / TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST / BY POPULAR DEMAND

Jess Vallance

Publication: 2018/2019



'Hilarious'

HOLLY BOURNE

'Funny and touching'

THE BOOK BAG

BOOKSHOP GIRL

BOOKSHOP GIRL / LIFE'S A BEACH / BOOKSHOP GIRL IN PARIS

Chloe Coles

Publication: 2018/2019
Rights sold: Korea, Italy



'A funny, feisty, feminist heroine'

SUNDAY EXPRESS

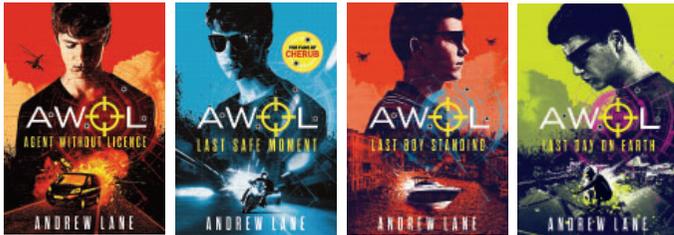
'Hilarious . . . great fun'

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

AWOL

AGENT WITHOUT LICENCE / LAST SAFE MOMENT / LAST BOY STANDING / LAST DAY ON EARTH

Andrew Lane



Publication: 2018/2019
Rights sold: Germany, Greece

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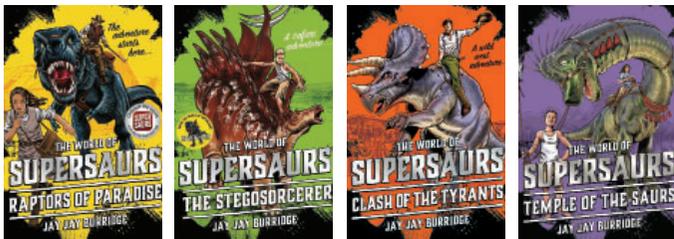
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