

Rights Guide

Spring 2018

Piccadilly
PRESS

HOT
KEY
BOOKS





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Paola Peretti | Illustrator: Carolina Rabei
**THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ME
AND THE CHERRY TREE**

Translated from the Italian by Denise Muir



Publication: September 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Catalan, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland (under offer), Portugal, Spain, Serbia, Taiwan, Turkey, USA (under offer).

Extent: 256pp with b&w illustrations

Film rights: Marianne Gunn O'Connor

PAOLA PERETTI lives in Verona and teaches immigrant children. She studied Philosophy and Literature and graduated in 2011. Fifteen years ago she was diagnosed with a rare genetic illness called Stargardt disease which causes progressive vision loss, and eventually blindness. There is no known cure.

CAROLINA RABEI is the illustrator of SNOW (Faber & Faber) and CRUNCH! (Child's Play).

There's always a light in the darkness.

Mafalda is nine and there is one thing she knows with absolute certainty: sometime in the next six months she will lose her sight. She will have to give up doing some of the things she loves the most, and she will have to move house and perhaps not be able to take her beloved wayward cat with her. If only she could find a way to avoid all this. She could just climb up the cherry tree at school, like her favourite character in a book, and not come down until everything is over. But Mafalda is not a character in a book and the challenge life has dealt her will not go away. Can she find a way to face her darkening future and maybe discover new possibilities that are invisible to the eye?

A story of heartbreaking courage as a young girl negotiates her new life in an ever-darkening world.

With evocative references to *THE LITTLE PRINCE* and Italo Calvino's *THE BARON IN THE TREES*, this gently powerful and richly textured novel speaks to all – from 9 to 99 years – with an innocence and spontaneity that has universal resonance.

'And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.'

THE LITTLE PRINCE



Rachel Burge

THE TWISTED TREE

Publication: December 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 304pp

RACHEL BURGE works as a freelance feature writer and has written for a variety of websites, including BBC Worldwide, Cosmo, and MTV. She lives in East Sussex with her partner, son and black Labrador, Biff. She is fascinated by Norse myth and swears she once saw a ghost. As part of her research for **THE TWISTED TREE**, she went to visit a shaman who follows a Norse path, and went on a shamanic journey where she met the Norns at the well.

The perfect spooky story for a winter's night.

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 that Mormor 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 ...

Set in the remote snows of contemporary Norway, **THE TWISTED TREE** is a ghost story that twists and turns – and never takes you quite where you'd expect.

'Romantic, creepy, hugely atmospheric story. I really enjoyed it.' – **L.A. WEATHERLY** author of the **ANGEL TRILOGY**



Robert Muchamore
KILLER T

Publication: September 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: France, Portugal

Extent: 416pp

Film rights: The Artists Partnership

ROBERT MUCHAMORE worked as a private investigator for thirteen years before becoming a full-time writer. He has written the global bestselling series *CHERUB* and *YA* series *HENDERSON'S BOYS* and *ROCK WARS*. *KILLER T* is his first stand-alone novel.



FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS meets **HUNGER GAMES**.

Our world is about to change in ways we can barely imagine. Two teenagers will have to be ready for anything in order to survive

Charlie (Charlotte) is a geeky science genius from the dregs of society who is unfairly sent to jail for designing a bomb. Harry is a talented aspiring journalist, whose ambition and morals don't always run on the same track. Misfits of society in their own ways, the two are dangerously and irresistibly drawn together at a time when gene-editing technology is starting to explode.

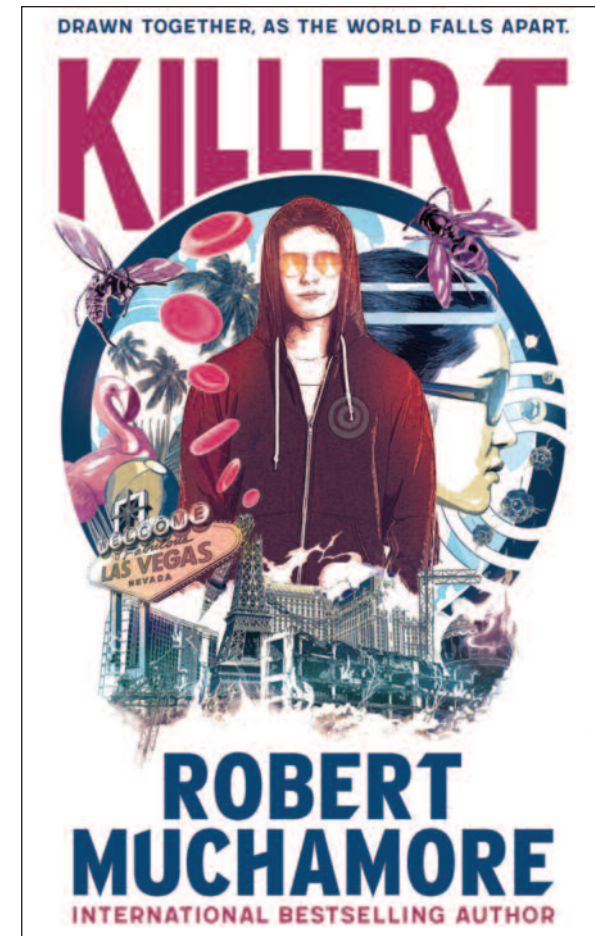
Now, with a lab in the garage, anyone can beat cancer, enhance their brain to pass exams, or tweak a few genes for a year-round tan and perfect beach body. But in the wrong hands gene editing is the most deadly weapon in history.

Killer T is a synthetic virus with a ninety-per-cent mortality rate, and the terrorists who created it want a king's ransom before they'll release an antidote . . .

Spanning ten years and asking profound (often terrifying) questions, *KILLER T* is an unsentimental love story, a rollercoaster tale of human resilience, and most of all a novel for our times.

Epic, bold, uncompromising, this is master storyteller Muchamore as you have never seen him before.

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



CHERUB series:
13.5 million copies sold worldwide
Translated into 24 languages
#1 bestseller in 8 countries

Deirdre Sullivan

PERFECTLY PREVENTABLE DEATHS

Publication: June 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 304pp

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.

Everyone in Ballyfran has a secret, and that is what binds them together ...

Fifteen-year-old twins Madeline and Catlin move to a new life in Ballyfran, a strange isolated town; 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 Ballyfran is a place full of predators. Not only foxes, owls and crows, but also supernatural beings who for many generations have congregated here to escape persecution. 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 otherworldly, this is an enthralling story about the bond between sisters and the sacrifices we make for those we care about the most. For fans of Frances Hardinge and Laure Eve.

Praise for Deirdre Sullivan:

‘[...] beguiling, bewitching and poetic. Her prose is almost dreamlike, reminiscent of Angela Carter.’

– **JUNO DAWSON**

‘Witchy, eerie and beautiful’ – **CLAIRE HENNESSY**, author of *LIKE OTHER GIRLS*

‘Sullivan confronts a difficult subject matter head-on, yet with subtlety and grace ... *NEEDLEWORK* is a powerful novel that deserves to be read.’

– **SARAH CROSSMAN**, author of *ONE*

Matt Reilly

SECRET RUNNERS OF NEW YORK

Publication: April 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 356pp

MATT REILLY is the 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 20 countries. *SCARECROW AND THE ARMY OF THIEVES* was the biggest-selling fiction title in Australia in 2011.

If you knew the world was coming to an end, what would YOU do?

As Sky Rodgers and her brother Red move to Manhattan's gilded Upper East Side, terrifying rumours of a global apocalypse are building. But even this does not stop the young elite of New York from partying without a care in the world.

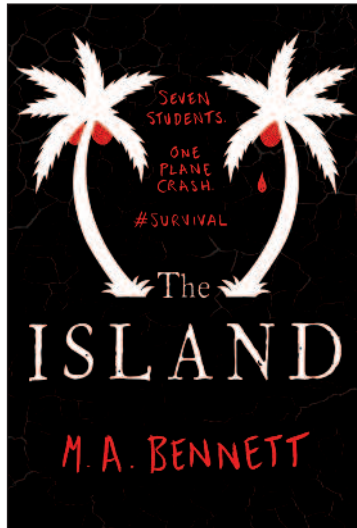
Initially an outsider, Sky finds herself joining an exclusive clique at school, only to discover that the clique, known as The Secret Runners, has found a portal that can transport them into the future. The revelation is horrifying: the rumours are true and the apocalypse is coming.

The pressure is on for Sky and Red to work out how to make use of their knowledge and survive the inevitable destruction of the world as they know it ...

An epic, filmic and fast-paced narrative depicts a polarised society where the gap between rich and poor becomes painfully clear when it comes to a race for survival. Reilly has captured the anxiety and fears of a fractured world in this zeitgeist novel.

12 MONKEYS meets *GOSSIP GIRL*.

M. A. Bennett
THE ISLAND



Publication: August 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Options in: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, USA

Extent: 384pp

M. A. BENNETT is half Venetian and was raised in the Yorkshire Dales. 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. She has worked as an illustrator, actress and film reviewer. She has also designed tour visuals for rock bands including U2 and the Rolling Stones.

LORD OF THE FLIES meets THE BREAKFAST CLUB.

Three years of relentless bullying and nerdy Link finally has the chance to take revenge on his tormentors . . . Should he do it? And how far will he go . . . ?

Link is a new boy at the venerable and prestigious Osney School. There are so many strange traditions to understand. And what kind of school ranks its students by how fast they can run round the school quad – on day one. When Link runs the slowest time for years, he immediately becomes the butt of every school joke. And some students are determined to make his life more miserable than others . . .

When a school summer trip is offered, Link can think of nothing worse than spending voluntary time with his worst tormentors. But when his parents say he can only leave Osney School if he goes on the trip, Link decides to endure it for the ultimate prize. But this particular trip will require a very special sort of endurance. The saying goes 'No man is an island' – but what if on that island is a group of teenagers, none of whom particularly like each other? When oppressive heat, hunger and thirst start to bite, everyone's true colours will be revealed. Let the battle commence . . .

From the bestselling author of sensational debut *S.T.A.G.S.*, comes another breathtaking thriller.

M. A. Bennett
S.T.A.G.S.

Soon to be a major motion picture with Fox 2000/Chernin Entertainment

Screenplay by **HUNGER GAMES** writer Peter Craig

Over 15,000 copies and rights sold in 15 territories

Sequel to *S.T.A.G.S.* to be published in June 2019



Publication: August 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, USA

Extent: 304pp



'A darkly compelling examination of the allure of privilege, and the unscrupulous means by which it preserves itself.' – *GUARDIAN*

'A cracking debut psychological thriller... Think Enid Blyton meets *THE HUNGER GAMES!*' – *IRISH SUNDAYTIMES*

'Bennett creates a chilling atmosphere on every page . . . a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle or an Agatha Christie mystery for modern teens.' – *SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL*

'A gorgeous and compelling romp' – *IRISHTIMES*

Keris Stainton

MY HEART GOES BANG

Publication: June 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 272pp

KERIS STAINTON was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, but moved to the UK when she was four months old. She has been writing stories for as long as she can remember, but she didn't write a novel until 2004 when she took part in National Novel Writing Month. She hasn't quite finished that one yet, but she has published a few others, including ONE ITALIAN SUMMER, COUNTING STARS, JESSIE HEARTS NYC, DELLA SAYS: OMG!, and EMMA HEARTS LA.

Keeping your heart in one piece isn't easy.

Gemma, Lou, Issey, Liane and Paige are determined to make the most of this second year at uni. They want to have fun, but they want to focus on work. There's no time for relationships. Except with each other. And even that's not guaranteed. Gemma and Lou have always been close, but there's tension between Issey and Liane, and none of them even knows Paige all that well.

But when Gemma finds a magazine article with a list of men they should date before they're twenty-one (someone who's been on telly? check; someone who's got tattoos? check) they vow to complete the list before finishing university and set about it with a lot more enthusiasm than they do their studies ... but will any of them end up with a full house – and where will their friendships be at the end of it all?

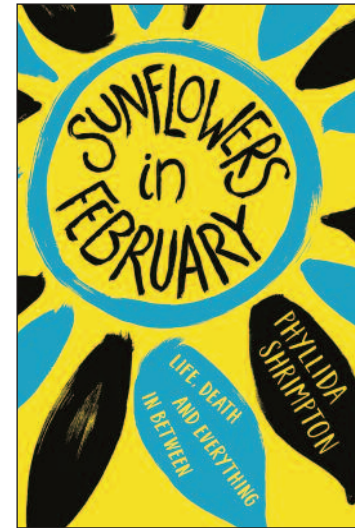
MY HEART GOES BANG is about lectures, essays, hangovers and flatmates; it's about found families, finding yourself and falling in love with people you never expected to fall in love with.

Praise for *ONE ITALIAN SUMMER*:
'Gentle and romantic. A holiday in itself.'
– **RAINBOW ROWELL**

'A perfect summer read with a gorgeous setting and warm characters...Keris is one of my favourite YA authors' – **SOPHIA BENNETT**, author of *LOVE SONG*



Phyllida Shrimpton

SUNFLOWERS IN FEBRUARY

Publication: February 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Iran, Turkey

Extent: 352pp

PHYLLIDA SHRIMPTON is a teacher and an artist.

Life, death and everything in between.

Sixteen-year-old Lily wakes up one crisp Sunday morning to discover she's dead, killed instantly in a hit-and-run car accident. So why is she still hanging around? Why hasn't she gone to the light? Why is she drawn to whoever is thinking about her?

From her vantage point she can see her grieving family, her boyfriend, her twin brother Ben and even the person who killed her ... it's all becoming a bit too much. Then one night Ben gives her a once in a deathtime opportunity – to extend her time in the world of the living by using his body. But are a few weeks enough to prepare you for the final goodbye?

Fresh and original and beautifully written, this is full of raw emotion and heart, perfect for fans of John Green and *THE LOVELY BONES*.

'I'd call it a triumph absolutely ... Lily's voice carries through more than one life, and leaps from the page fully formed. Funny, tough, smart and infuriating; her voice demands to be heard even from beyond the grave ...' – **MATTHEW CROW**, author of *IN BLOOM*

From Readers First:

'What can I say? This book was incredible in every single way, I couldn't stop reading it.'

'This book is a gift to the world of teen fiction.'

'A truly breathtaking read from start to finish.'

'I would give this book 10 stars if I could.'



Julie Mayhew

THE ELECTRICAL VENUS



Publication: April 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 304pp

JULIE MAYHEW is the author of critically acclaimed novels *RED INK*, *THE BIG LIE*, set in an imagined contemporary Nazi England, and *MOTHER TONGUE*. One day, while stuck on the motorway, she heard on the radio how eighteenth-century scientists demonstrated static electricity through the *Electrical Venus*, a lady who was charged up and would kiss volunteers from the astonished audience so that they could feel the shock. And this is how her latest book was born.

A spark ... a kiss ... but is it love?

In a lowly side-show fair in eighteenth-century England, teenager Mim is struggling to find her worth as an act. Not white, but not black enough to be truly exotic, her pet parrot who recites lewd poetry is a bigger draw than her. But Alex, the one-armed boxer boy, sees her differently. And she, too, feels newly interested in him.

But then Dr Fox arrives with his scientific kit for producing 'electricity' – feats of electrical magic these bawdy audiences have never seen before. To complete his act, Fox chooses Mim to play the 'Electrical Venus'. Her popularity – and the electric-shocking kisses she can provide for a penny – mean takings are up, slop is off the menu and this spark between her and Fox must surely be love.

But is this starring role her true worth, or is love worth more than a penny for an electrifying kiss?

THE MINIATURIST meets *THE MERMAID AND MRS HANCOCK* in this intoxicating and atmospheric coming-of-age story about romance and science and succeeding against all odds.

'A magical book, with magical characters ... Mayhew's language zips and sparkles on the page like the *Electrical Venus*'s own "electricity".'
– **MARIA McCANN**

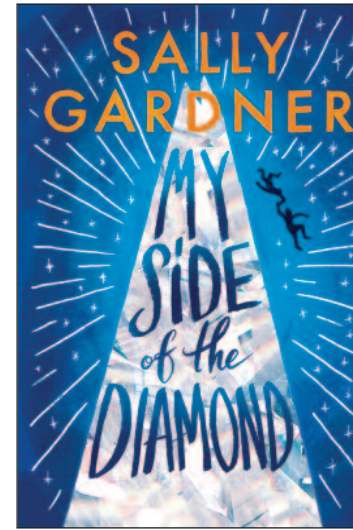
Praise for *THE BIG LIE*:
'A genius idea, executed flawlessly.' – **RED**

'A thought-provoking and chilling coming-of-age novel exploring loyalty, love and morals.'
– **BOOKSELLER**



Sally Gardner

MY SIDE OF THE DIAMOND



Publication: October 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Turkey

Extent: 224pp

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 Medal* for *MAGGOT MOON* (translated into two dozen languages).

An extraordinary tale about the search for love from the acclaimed Costa- and Carnegie-winning novelist Sally Gardner.

Jazmin has been shunned ever since her best friend Becky disappeared. But Becky didn't just disappear – she jumped off a tall building and seemingly never reached the ground. It was as if she simply vanished into thin air. Did Jazmin have something to do with her disappearance? Or was it more to do with Icarus, so beguiling and strangely ever youthful, with whom Becky became suddenly besotted ...

'Told from multiple viewpoints and scattered with intriguing illustrations, Gardner's novel is a unique and complex reading experience about the search for love, surprising the reader at every turn.' – **BOOKSELLER**

'Bizarre and brilliant, Gardner demonstrates her narrative dexterity as she shuffles and reshuffles the cards that hold up her thrilling story without bringing it tumbling down. I haven't read anything else quite like it.'
– **KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE**, author of *THE GIRL OF INK AND STARS*

'*MY SIDE OF THE DIAMOND* is a fascinating book – part science fiction, part social commentary – an unlikely blend that works in an enthralling way, making this a book I couldn't put down!'
– **TRICIA ADAMS**, Director of the School Library Association



Sebastien de Castell

SPELLSLINGER**SPELLSLINGER, SHADOWBLACK, CHARMCASTER,
SOULBINDER, QUEENSLAYER, CROWNBREAKER**

Publication: May 2017–October 2019

WORLD RIGHTSRights sold: Canada, Czech Republic,
Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy,
Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Turkey,
USA

Extent: 416pp / 432pp

*SEBASTIEN DE CASTELL is smart
and funny and Canadian. He also
happens to be a bit of a whizz with a
fencing foil.***Magic, mayhem, myth and intrigue
... and a cocky talking squirrel cat.**

Fifteen-year-old Kellen is moments away from facing his first mage's duel. There's just one problem: he doesn't have any magic. Will Kellen find his path in life after realising he is not the chosen one? Will the help of intriguing Ferius and a squirrel cat be enough when he leaves his family behind? And what will happen when the Shadowblack plague starts to creep up on him?

Follow bright and beautifully flawed Kellen in this compelling, darkly humorous six-book series charting his life as he ventures into the world with only his wit and his heart to guide him.

'Exotic, original and gripping from the get-go, a must-read.' – **JONATHAN STROUD**

'Magic with a wild west flavour, served with flair ...' – **FINANCIAL TIMES**

'A bucket-load of tension is offset with humour, power struggles, lots of magic and some great characters. Fantasy junkies will devour with relish.' – **GUARDIAN**

'It has cliffhangers, pace, humour, life lessons, and a memorably feisty squirrel cat ...' – **SUNDAY TIMES**

'This is one of the best young-adult novels I've seen in a long time – larky, clever and slick.' – **LITERARY REVIEW**

'Gloriously escapist fantasy' – **OBSERVER**

'Compelling, filmic storytelling in the first of a new fantasy series ...' – **BOOKSELLER**

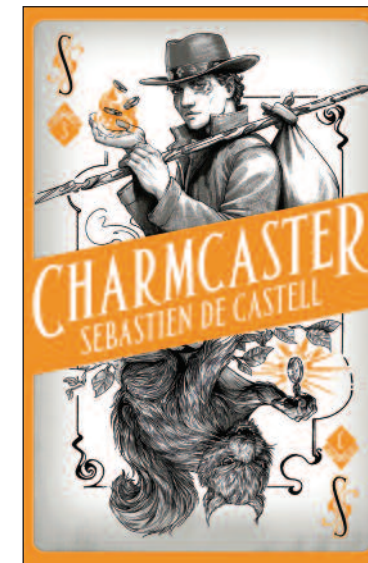
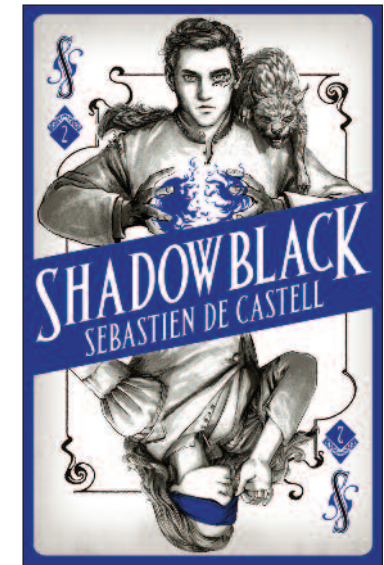
'A peach of a summer read ...' – **NEW STATESMAN**

'We can confidently say that de Castell's new series has hit the ground running'. – **STARBURST MAGAZINE**

'Hugely enjoyable – fast-paced, compassionate, wise and with terrific characters ... I love the humour and the thoughtfulness as well as the plot' – **AMANDA CRAIG**

'I just could not put this book down. I forgot the world around me, my world was immersed in Spellslinger's world.' – **Hetlevanveenboekenworm.nl**

Critically acclaimed and beautifully packaged
Over 20,000 HB copies sold and a Waterstones favourite



Chris Ryan
SPECIAL FORCES CADETS
 SIX-BOOK SERIES



Publication: BOOK 1 TO 6 – 2018/2020
 WORLD RIGHTS

CHRIS RYAN was born in 1961 and he joined the SAS in 1984. During his ten years in the Regiment, he was involved in overt and covert operations and was also Sniper team commander of the anti-terrorist team. During the Gulf War, Chris was the only member of an eight-man team to escape from Iraq. It was the longest escape and evasion in the history of the SAS. Chris Ryan has written fiction books for adults (four million copies sold worldwide) and children (half a million copies sold).

Tough, smart and fearless? Max Silver will need this and more for the Special Forces Cadets.

When Max Silver endures two days of extreme survival in the French Alps after getting separated from his school cadets training expedition, he is surprised to be confronted by two secretive, grim faced figures. They are 'Watchers': highly trained military personnel tasked with finding talented recruits to join a secret squadron of young military personnel – the Special Forces Cadets.

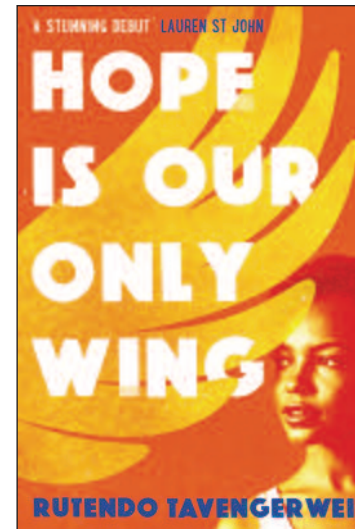
The SFC recruits are boys and girls from all over the world, estranged from their parents, with remarkable levels of determination, endurance and fitness. And they are all under sixteen. Their quick thinking and fast action will be used in missions where adult forces would be compromised but children go unnoticed.

Besides Max, there is Irish Abby, American Lukas and Syrian Sami, and Chinese student Lili joins them after the first mission. From an armed siege in a school in the UK, to North Korea, to facing international child-slave traffickers, the Colombian ghettos and gangsters, the Special Forces Cadets will require all their skills to succeed in their missions, and very often just to stay alive.

An edge-of-the-seat, whirlwind of a series for teen boys and girls who cannot get enough of adventure and are ready to take things into their own hands to right the wrongs of the world.

Rutendo Tavengerwei
HOPE IS OUR ONLY WING

'A stunning debut from an unforgettable voice, as epic and full of hope as an African thunderstorm.'
 – Lauren St John



Publication: May 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Brazil

Extent: 208pp

RUTENDO NOMSA TAVENGERWEI lived and studied in Zimbabwe until the age of eighteen. She then continued her studies in South Africa and Switzerland. She is currently carrying out an internship at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

For fifteen-year-old Shamiso, struggling with grief and bewilderment following her father's death, hope is nothing but a leap into darkness. For Tanyaradzwa, whose life has been turned upside down by a fearful diagnosis, hope is the only reason to keep fighting.

As the two of them form an unlikely friendship, Shamiso begins to confront her terrible fear of loss. In getting close to another person, particularly someone who's ill, isn't she just opening herself up to more pain? And underpinning it all – what did happen to her father, the night of the fateful car crash?

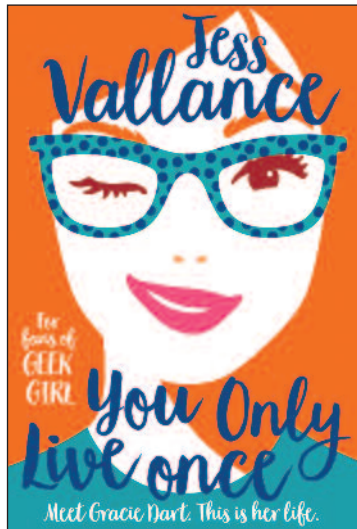
Delicately weaving themes of corruption in contemporary Zimbabwe and bringing to life its sights, smells and faraway beauty, this is an extraordinary debut novel about hope – and its power to heal a family, a friendship or even a nation.



Jess Vallance

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST / BOOK 3 TITLE TBC



Publication: August 2018 / January 2019 / August 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 192pp

JESS VALLANCE works as a freelance writer and lives near Brighton. Her YA novels for Hot Key Books are BIRDY and THE YELLOW ROOM. BIRDY has been optioned for film by Loop.

Cringe and blush . . . but never hide.

Gracie Dart is your classically studious, responsible, clearheaded, career-focused girl. The sort of person whose exam revision timetable is fully colour-coded and always triple-checked. But now GCSEs are behind her – and suddenly Gracie starts thinking WHAT IS THE POINT? And then she mistakenly thinks she is dying of some terminal illness (the perils of believing all you read on Google).

One super-embarrassing A&E visit later (no, Gracie, you are not dying of some fatal skin disease, you've simply overdone it with the fake-bake lotion), Gracie starts to rethink her life. And when she decides to do something, just as with her revision timetable, Gracie does not do it by half measures. Gracie Dart is about to live it large . . .

A thoughtful exploration of the meaning of life? Well, no . . . It's actually an exuberant, witty, hilarious three-book series about the trials and embarrassing tribulations of an unforgettable teenager.

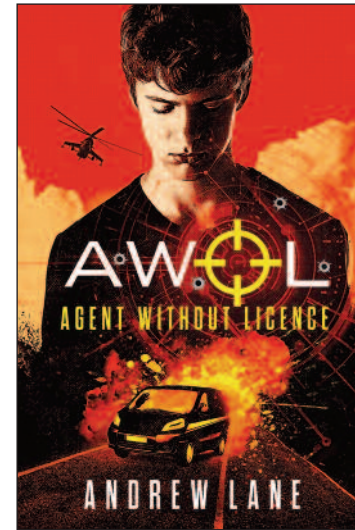
For fans of GEEK GIRL and SUPER AWKWARD.



Andy Lane

A.W.O.L.

AGENT WITHOUT LICENCE / LAST SAFE MOMENT / LAST BOY STANDING / BOOK 4 TITLE TBC



Publication: July 2018–July 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Germany, Greece

Extent: 288pp

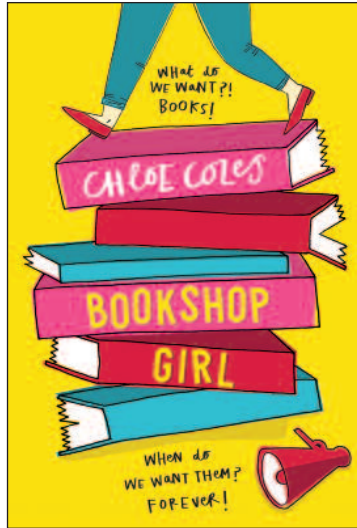
ANDREW LANE is the author of the YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, which has been published in forty-four countries, and three adult crime novels. Before becoming a writer, Andrew worked for twenty-seven years for the Ministry of Defence on the fringes of the intelligence and counter-terrorism communities. He has also worked on the popular BBC TV programme DOCTOR WHO.

A rollicking four-book series for boys and girls aged 10+, with high-octane adventure, great James Bond settings, mind-blowing gadgets and lots of action and explosions . . .

When teenagers Kieron and Sam pick up some odd-looking glasses and an earpiece left behind by a man who's just been roughly dragged out of a milkshake parlour in a shopping centre, little do they know what they are letting themselves in for. As Kieron puts the glasses on he realises he sees not what is in front of him, but a busy tourist city, somewhere very hot – Mumbai . . . and suddenly a flustered voice is screaming for his help from the earpiece.

Kieron has just accidentally stumbled upon the undercover world of Rebecca 'Bex' Wilson – a freelance agent working for the British Secret Intelligence Service. And without her handler Bradley (the man who has left the glasses behind and has actually been kidnapped), Bex is in trouble. She doesn't know which of her usual contacts she can trust, and, like it or not, she is going to have to use teenage Kieron to get her out of danger. Before Kieron and Sam know it, they are part of a mission to stop a Weapon of Mass Destruction from falling into the wrong hands . . .

Chloe Coles
BOOKSHOP GIRL
 BOOKS 1 AND 2



Publication: June 2018 / September 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Korea

Extent: 224pp

CHLOE COLES studied Illustration at Cambridge School of Art before moving to London. She has worked in bookselling since the age of sixteen and she is now a Children's Specialist and Assistant Buyer at Foyles Charing Cross Road. All of her hair is her own. People ask her about that. A lot.



Sparky, bookish and with a cause to fight for . . . meet Paige Turner.

Bennett's Bookshop has always been a haven for sixteen-year-old Paige Turner. It's a place where she can escape from her sleepy hometown, hang out with her best friend, Holly, and also earn some money. But, like so many bookshops, Bennett's has become a 'casualty of the high street' – it's strapped for cash and going to be torn down. Paige is determined to save it, but mobilising a small town like Greysworth is no mean feat. Time is ticking – but that's not the only problem Paige faces. There's also Blaine Henderson. Art-school anarchist heart-throb. Could his wild ways make or break Paige's bookshop campaign?

Louise Rennison meets Holly Bourne in this sassy and laugh-out-loud two-book series which will make you rush out and take shelter in your nearest bookshop!



Debi Gliori
NIGHT SHIFT



Publication: PB May 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 32pp

Rights sold: Japan, Netherlands, Taiwan, USA

DEBI GLIORI is a children's books writer and illustrator who has been shortlisted for all the major prizes (including the Kate Greenaway Award – twice) and the Scottish Arts Council Award.

LONGLISTED FOR THE 2018 KATE GREENAWAY MEDAL

A powerful, moving picture book for all ages offering an insight into depression that words often struggle to reach.

'Debi Gliori is amazing . . . She makes visible the invisible. And I for one want to thank her for that' – **MATT HAIG**

'Beautiful, brave and poetic . . . books like this are immensely important, so that children, teenagers and adults going through similar night journeys through the fog of illness can feel they are not alone in their struggles. The spread where "something shifted" and the depression lifts, is moving beyond words.' – **CRESSIDA COWELL**

'I cannot recommend this beautiful picture book about depression highly enough. It's a masterpiece' – **DAVID WALLIAMS**

'It's uniquely personal, but equally, speaks to all – whether or not they've ever found themselves in thrall to this terrible illness' – **JILL R. BENNETT, RED READING HUB**

'The most empathetically written and illustrated book on depression. Everyone should read it, whether depression has a grasp on you, or not!' – **PICTURE BOOKS BLOGGER**

'An instantly relatable picture book' – **STYLIST**

Jay Jay Burridge
SUPERSAURS

RAPTORS OF PARADISE / THE STEGOSORCERER / CLASH OF THE TYRANTS / SECRET OF THE SAURS / THE LAST SPINOSAURI / THE STYRACO CIRCUS

Publication: September 2017–February 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 352pp with b&w illustrations
 Rights sold: Catalonia, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Turkey

JAY JAY BURRIDGE studied Fine Art Sculpture and for his degree show he made a 40-foot, self-assembled dinosaur skeleton out of MDF, which he exhibited in 2010 in a one-man show in Beverly Hills, LA. He is a huge fan of and expert in dinosaurs and among other things he created the Dinersaur Diner pop-up, in Piccadilly Circus, along with chef Jamie Oliver. Jay Jay lives in Oxfordshire with his family.

What if dinosaurs had never died out and lived alongside humans? Welcome to the world of SUPERSAURS.

This is the world that Bea Kingsley lives in. She is the daughter of explorer parents who went missing when she was just a baby. So when her grandmother suddenly takes her on a trip to the remote Indonesian islands of Aru, Bea starts asking some big questions. But the more questions Bea asks, the more trouble she and her grandmother find themselves in. Was the journey to the islands a big mistake?

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE ...

RAPTORS OF PARADISE is the launch of a major six-book series for readers aged 8+, illustrated throughout with **black-and-white artwork** and with an **interactive free app** that will bring each image to life.

‘Dynamic black-and-white illustrations bring the dinosaurs to life and add to the tension of a dramatic, historical thriller.’
 – **BOOKTRUST**

‘This is a really, really good book, with a lovely approach to world building.’
 – **THE BOOKBAG**

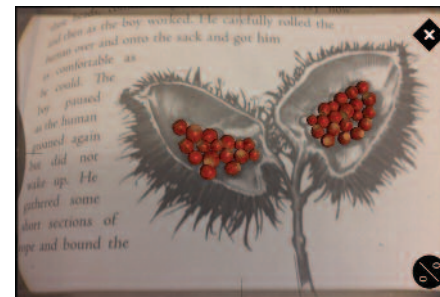
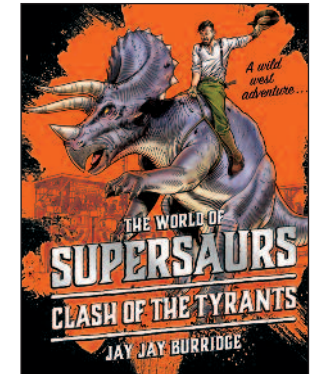
‘A great adventure story.’
 – **GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**

‘The story is enchanting and the app that accompanies it is a real thrill.’
 – **GRAZIA MAGAZINE**

‘Fantastic.’
 – **THE WEEK JUNIOR**

‘Truly fascinating. The narration is entertaining and the illustrations are great. An extraordinary novel for boys and girls aged 10 and over.’ – **NDR.de**

FILM RIGHTS SOLD TO WORKING TITLE



Bear Grylls | Illustrator: Emma McCann
BEAR GRYLLS SERIES

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

Over 80,000 copies sold

Publication: March 2017–2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: China, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, 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

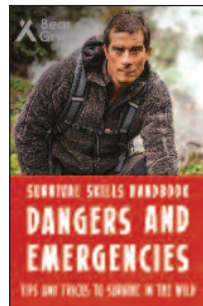
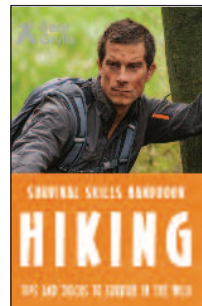
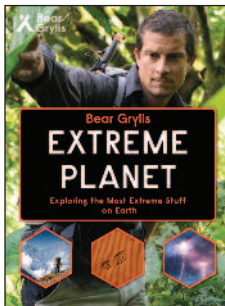
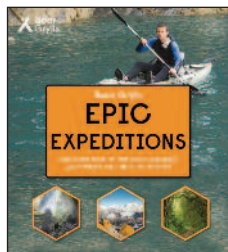
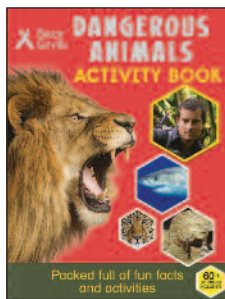
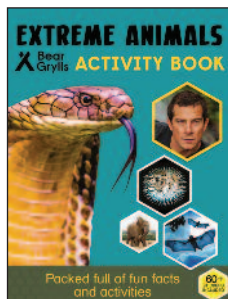
9–12 years old – 128pp

EPIC ADVENTURE SERIES

5–7 years old – 112pp

ACTIVITIES / COLOURING BOOKS

5–7 years old – 32pp



John Bellairs
THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS
Lewis Barnavelt Mysteries (12 BOOKS)

Film tie-in out in September 2018

Produced by Amblin Entertainment (aka Steven Spielberg)

Starring Cate Blanchett and Jack Black

Publication: September 2018

(originally published in 1973)

UK/COMM rights in BOOK 1

WORLD ENGLISH rights in BOOKS 2–12

Translation rights: Baror International

Rights sold: Italy, Spain

When orphan Lewis Barnavelt comes to stay with his uncle Jonathan, he expects to meet an ordinary person. But he is wrong. Uncle Jonathan and his next-door neighbour, Mrs Zimmermann, are both witches!

Lewis is thrilled ... at first. Then Lewis experiments with magic and unknowingly resurrects the former owner of the house: a woman named Serenna Izard. It seems that evil Serenna and her husband built a timepiece into the walls – a clock that could obliterate humankind ... a haunting ticking can be heard in the house all the time – sometimes louder, sometimes quieter, sometimes faster, sometimes slower.

It is up to the Barnavelts to find where this clock is hidden in the walls – and stop it. A true race against time ...

A classic gothic middle-grade series that has haunted children for decades.

'THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS will cast its spell for a long time.' – *THE NEWYORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

JOHN BELLAIRS (1938–1991) was an award-winning American author of many gothic mystery novels for children and young adults, including THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS (New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year, American Library Association Children's Books of International Interest Award), THE LAMP FROM THE WARLOCK'S TOMB (Edgar Award), and THE SPECTER FROM THE MAGICIAN'S MUSEUM (New York Public Library 'Best Books for the Teen Age' Award).

Sophie Green | Illustrator: Karl Mountford

POTKIN AND STUBBS TRILOGY

Publication: Spring 2019–Spring 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 256pp with b&w illustrations

SOPHIE GREEN has a degree in Zoology and works in a public library. Her children's short stories have been highly commended and 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 she lives in a haunted house and her ghost stories are all clearly based on authentic real-life experiences!

A rainy Gotham-like city, a wannabe investigator and a ghost boy ...

Lil Potkin is an aspiring young reporter who cannot resist a good, unusual story. One rainy afternoon at the bus station, she meets a boy no one else can see: a ghost called Nedly who is desperate for someone to believe in him. He is an orphan who disappeared over a year ago but the police investigation has gone cold. As Lil and Nedly realise that his death might be connected to a series of mysterious murders, they set off to expose the brutes responsible for the sinister web of crime that is engulfing Peligan City. But not before they team up with a hardboiled, somewhat-down-on-his-luck private investigator who might just hold the truth to Lil's hidden past.

Atmospheric, spooky, warm at heart, *POTKIN AND STUBBS* is the first in an irresistible young-detective trilogy for boys and girls aged 9+. Think *LEMONY SNICKET* with the exciting who-done-it plot of Neil Gaiman's *GRAVEYARD BOOK* and the charm of Eva Ibbotson's classic adventures and add a dash of humour.

**Potkin
& Stubbs**



Jon Claydon and Tim Lawler

THE STIG

THE STIG PLAYS A DANGEROUS GAME / THE STIG DRIVES AGAIN / THE STIG AND THE SILVER GHOST / BOOK 4 TITLE TBC



Publication: March 2018 – March 2019

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Czech Republic

Extent: 272pp

JON CLAYDON and **TIM**

LAWLER's collaboration began at university in Edinburgh where they wrote sell-out shows. They then embarked on different successful careers in the UK and abroad until one day they were both mysteriously summoned by *The Stig*. He non-verbally communicated that it was high time someone wrote a book for his many younger fans, and it is thus that they went back to the career they'd always thought they should have had.

An enigmatic racing driver. A bunch of kids. One hell of a ride.

Sam Wheeler is the new boy in town. And it's a pretty weird sort of place. No one seems bothered that a kid recently went missing. Everyone is glued to a mysterious computer game. And the town appears to be in thrall to a dastardly billionaire living in a mansion on the hill. Things look up when Sam meets friends Buster Mustang, Ford Harrison and Minnie Cooper – but danger has a habit of showing up wherever they do. Soon all that stands between our heroes and disaster is ... a silent man in a white suit.

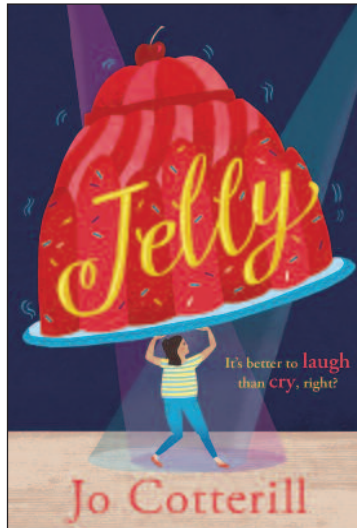
The first in a funny, thrill-of-a-read four-book series about a cool gang of friends and *The Stig*, the legendary and much-loved racing driver from the TV series *Top Gear*.

TOP GEAR HAS AN ESTIMATED GLOBAL AUDIENCE OF 250 MILLION VIEWERS

B/W FULL-PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS BY MISSION ALERT ILLUSTRATORS KANAKO AND YUZURU



Jo Cotterill
JELLY



Publication: June 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Options in China and USA
Rights sold in *A LIBRARY OF LEMONS*:
China, Finland, France, Germany, Japan,
Korea, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Taiwan,
Turkey

Extent: 256pp

JO COTTERILL's first book, *A LIBRARY OF LEMONS*, was short-listed for the Leeds Book Award and nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal. It was sold in 11 foreign territories. Her second book is the touching, empathetic *A STORM OF STRAWBERRIES*, about twelve-year-old Darby with Down's syndrome, her sister Kaydee and a family doing their best to weather all kinds of storms.

'Honest, powerful, funny – and totally unforgettable' Cathy Cassidy.

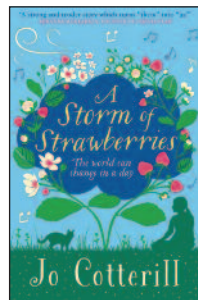
Angelica (nicknamed Jelly) is the comedy queen of the classroom. She has a personality as big as her size, and everyone loves her impressions. But Jelly isn't as confident as she pretends to be. No one knows her deepest thoughts and feelings, hidden in a secret notebook. Then Lennon, Mum's new boyfriend, arrives. He's kind and perceptive – and the first person to realise Jelly is playing a part. Can Jelly risk letting people see the real version of her? What if it all goes wrong...?

A warm, feel-good story about taking a leap of faith when life feels wobbly.

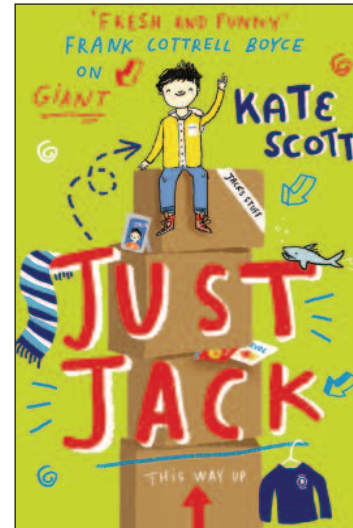
Praise for *A LIBRARY OF LEMONS* and *A STORM OF STRAWBERRIES*:

'A gorgeously written and profound story about books, grief and friendship.' – *GUARDIAN*

'A big, warm heart, this is a story as delicate and delicious as a bowl of freshly-picked strawberries.' – *LANCASHIRE EVENING POST*



Kate Scott
JUST JACK



Publication: April 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 240pp with b&w illustrations
Rights sold in *GIANT*: Hungary, Korea,
Vietnam

KATE SCOTT has lived in Hong Kong, Paris, Scotland and two tiny villages in France, but now lives in Dorset. Her first published children's novel was *BOY IN TIGHTS* which developed into the three-book series, *SPIES IN DISGUISE*. She also published the standalone novel *GIANT* in 2016.



A warm and funny story about making new friends and being yourself.

It's not easy fitting in at a new school. It's even harder to be yourself.

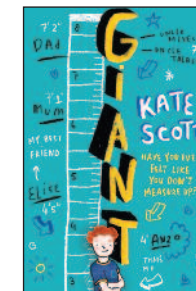
Jack knows LOTS about starting a new school. Since Dad left, he and his mum have moved house five times.

He also knows all about fitting in. The trick is to act exactly like everyone else and make sure no one ever notices him. But it's hard work trying to be something he isn't, and Jack doesn't have any good friends. That is, until Tyler comes along.

Tyler is funny and different and might be the key to getting Jack to realise that although he is brilliant at pretending to be other people, the very best thing he can be is ... JUST JACK.

Praise for *GIANT*:

'*GIANT* is a fresh and funny meditation on the fickleness of peer pressure, and the pointlessness of trying to conform to its demands ... It's a book that celebrates friendship and the power of being true to yourself.' – *FRANK COTTRELL BOYCE*



Simon Mockler | Illustrator: Cherie Zamazing

BEATRIX THE BOLD**THE CURSE OF THE WOBBLERS / THE REVENGE OF THE EVIL OVERLORD / THE SIEGE OF THE ANCIENT CASTLE**

Publication: March 2019 / September 2019 / February 2020

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 240pp with b&w illustrations

SIMON MOCKLER studied art and modern languages. He has worked as an artist, musician, teacher, civil servant and currently as an advertising specialist. 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

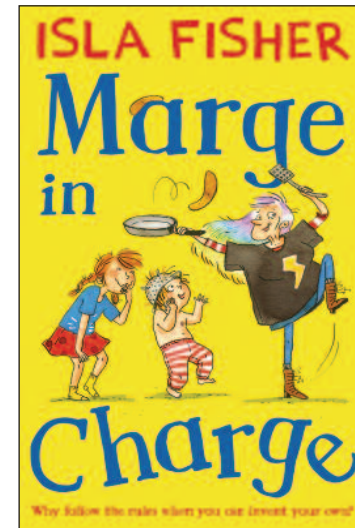
Bright, quick-witted Beatrix is a queen ... except she doesn't know. And that's because her parents pretended she had died and sent her away to keep her safe. And that's because of the Evil Army who want her dead. And that's because of the Curse of the Wobblers – the rumour goes that the child born under 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 enormous golden 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 veil Beatrix has been living under is starting to slip. Beatrix knows she needs to be bold. Beatrix knows she needs to look for answers. And she's about to get them.

A fun-packed trilogy with wit, charm and shenanigans for the rebel girls of our time.



Isla Fisher | Illustrator: Eglantine Ceulemans

MARGE IN CHARGE**MARGE AND THE PIRATE BABY / MARGE AND THE GREAT TRAIN RESCUE / MARGE AND THE SECRET TUNNEL**

Publication: July 2016 / January 2017 / August 2017 / May 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: China, France, Israel, Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Turkey, USA

Extent: 176pp / 176pp / 144pp / 144pp

BZ's kids No. 1 BESTSELLER
OVER 150,000 COPIES SOLD
A BRAND-NEW BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2018

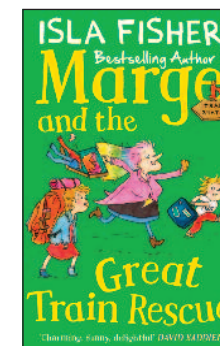
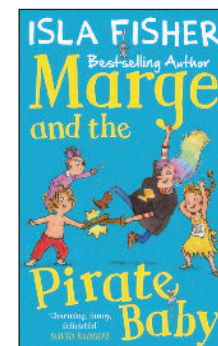
When Jemina and Jake meet their new babysitter Marge for the first time, they are not impressed. But as soon as their parents leave the house, Marge reveals her rainbow hair and how much she loves to make a mess and bend the rules ... just like them.

'Isla Fisher is hilarious!' – **DAVID WALLIAMS**

'Charming, funny, delightful: Marge is the babysitter all children would wish for' – **DAVID BADDIEL**

'Warm, funny stories of Saturnalian mischief' – **GUARDIAN**

Mother of three, **ISLA FISHER** is a renowned actress (CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC, GREAT GATSBY, etc.) and together with her husband Sacha Baron-Cohen (Mr Ali G) forms the funniest couple in Hollywood. Like Marge, she enjoys bending the rules and a bit of healthy chaos.



Alex Milway (author and illustrator)
HOTEL FLAMINGO

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

WORLD RIGHTS

Extent: 160pp with two-colour illustrations

ALEX MILWAY is an internationally published children's book author, illustrator and TV screenwriter. His most recent book series PIGSTICKS AND HAROLD (Walker Books) was optioned for TV by Jam Media. Alex is also the founder of the This Book Is Funny! children's book scheme and runs children's workshops around the UK, in China and in the USA.

Praise for *PIGSTICKS AND HAROLD*:
 'Alex Milway's book is a treat ... more please! – *FINANCIAL TIMES*

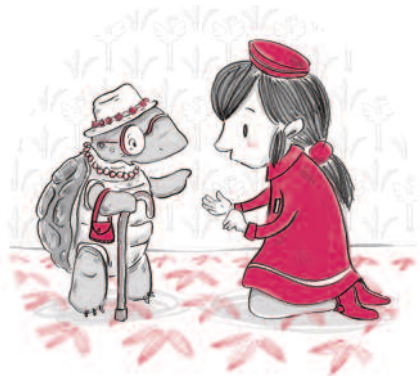
'Fabulously funny' – *BookTrust*

An enchanting four-book series featuring the adventures of Anna and her array of animal friends 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! No panic – Anna is up 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 Mr 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* with plenty of animals ...



Andy Shepherd | Illustrator: 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: Czech Republic (under offer),
Germany, Netherlands, Turkey
Extent: 224 pp

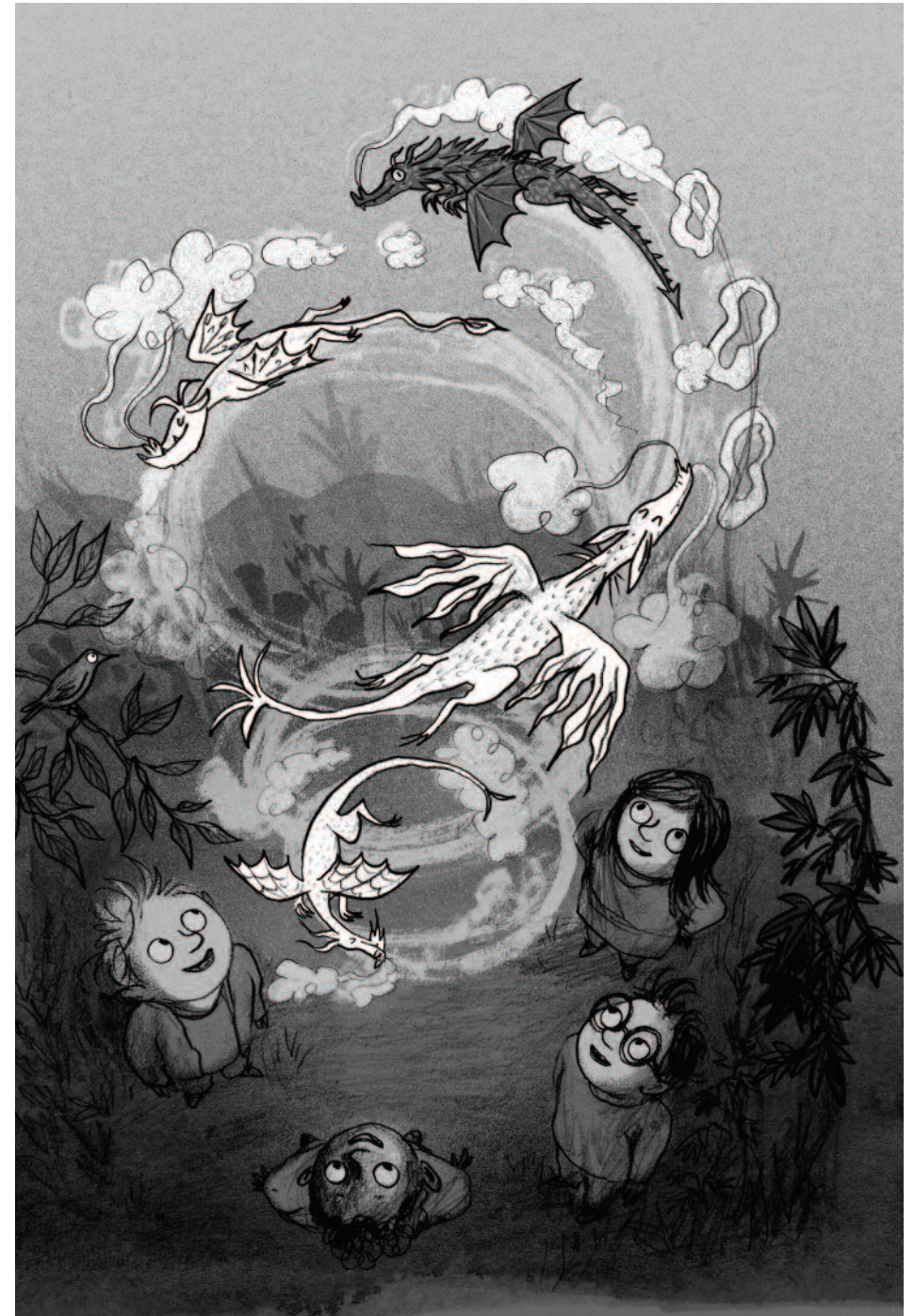
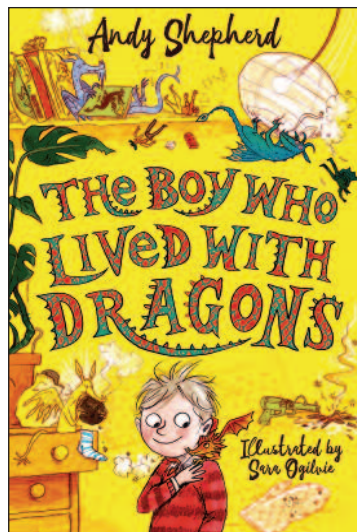
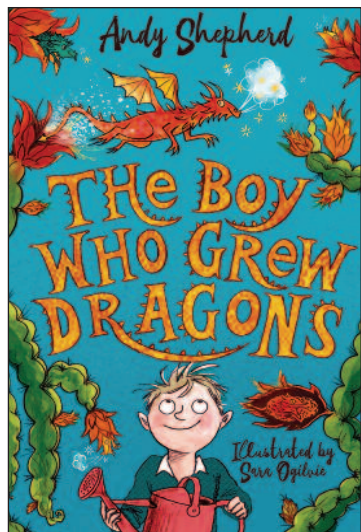


Who wants to grow dragons?

When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandpa's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes one of the funny fruits back into the house – and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! The tree is a dragon-fruit tree – and Tomas has got his very own dragon. But life with Flicker doesn't prove easy – there are the flames and the flammable poo to deal with – and how long can Tomas keep his dragon secret from everyone? And what about all the other dragon fruits on the tree ... what could be hiding inside those?

The series has been optioned by the independent TV company Adastral (GRANDPA IN MY POCKET – CBEEBIES).

ANDY SHEPHERD and SARA OGILVIE are huge fans of dragons.



Joanne Owen | Illustrator: Tony Ross / Mark Beech
**MARTHA MAYHEM AND THE WITCH
 FROM THE DITCH**

**MARTHA MAYHEM GOES NUTS! / MARTHA MAYHEM AND THE
 BARMY BIRTHDAY**

Publication: July 2017 / January 2018 /
 July 2018

WORLD RIGHTS

Rights sold: Turkey

Extent: 256pp

*JOANNE OWEN has been longlisted
 for both the CILIP Carnegie Medal
 and the Branford Boase Award.*

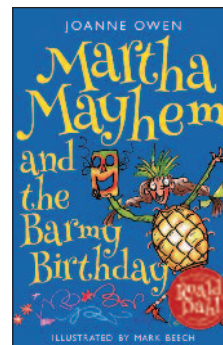
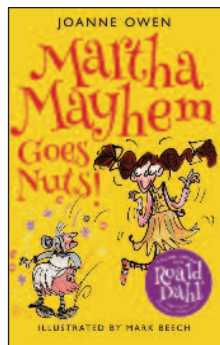
*She has also written older fiction,
 including CIRCUS OF THE
 UNKNOWN, for Hot Key.*

**A magical, laugh-out-loud trilogy full
 of witches and mischief.**

Martha May is a chaos magnet. She can't help it – somehow chaotic things always seem to happen to her, so she has been nicknamed Martha Mayhem! She lives with her eccentric grandfather, Professor Gramps, and her handsome pet hog, just past Raspberry Road in the picturesque village of Cherry Hillsbottom.

One fine day she discovers an enormous pair of purple polka-dot knickers in a ditch, attached to a bedraggled and rather annoyed witch, and that's when life begins to get a bit overexciting. As Halloween looms, Martha must help grumpy Griselda Gritch find her missing grandfather, cheer up a miserable hog and avoid mean Miss Parpwell. All while being chased by a ghastly ghoul!

A wildly chaotic and hilariously imaginative trilogy with a lovable heroine – for fans of PIPPI LONGSTOCKING and PONGWIFFY.



**PHOBOS:
 ASCENSION /
 COLLISION /
 DISTORTION**

Victor Dixen

Over 50,000 copies
 sold in France

Publication: June 2018 /
 October 2018 / March 2019
 US rights



**CELL 7 / DAY 7 /
 FINAL 7**

Kerry Drewery

'A powerful thriller oozing
 with suspense'
 – **BOOKSELLER**

Publication: September 2016 /

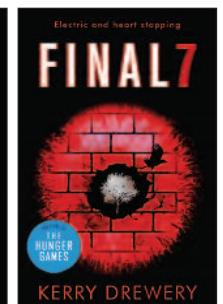
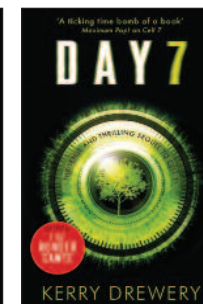
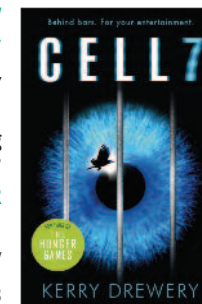
June 2017 / January 2018

Rights sold: Brazil, Bulgaria,

Denmark, France, Germany,

Hungary, Korea, Latvia, Netherlands,

Poland, Romania, Turkey, Taiwan.

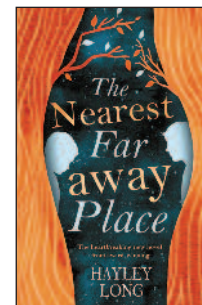


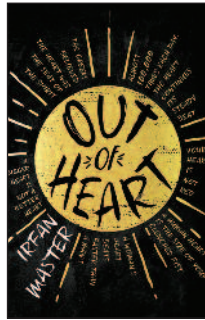
THE NEAREST FARAWAY PLACE

Hayley Long

'Poignant, heart-warming tale of brotherly love ...'
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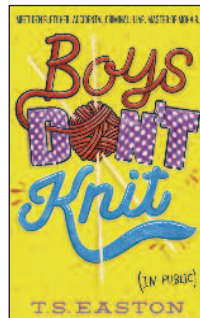
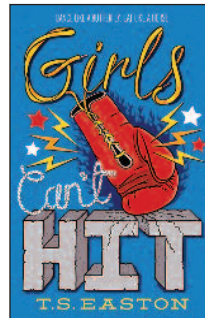
Publication: March 2017

GIRLS CAN'T HIT BOYS DON'T KNIT

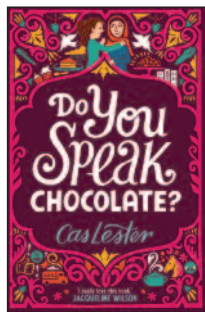
T. S. Easton

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NINE TO TWELVE



DO YOU SPEAK CHOCOLATE?

Cas Lester

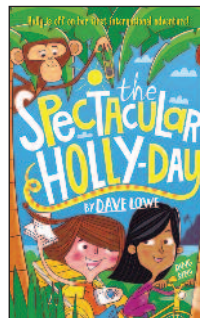
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