

An artistic illustration of a park scene. In the foreground, three children are playing: a boy in a blue sweater and shorts running on the left, a girl in blue overalls running in the center, and a girl in a brown jacket and purple skirt riding a green bicycle on the right. A large dove is flying in the upper right corner. In the background, there is a house with a chimney and trees. The scene is framed by a large, stylized tree on the left and a large, stylized wheel on the bottom right. The text is overlaid on the central part of the illustration.

Children's Trade
Bonnier Books UK

Rights Guide 2022

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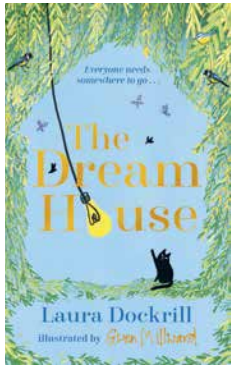
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Publication:
September 2021

World Rights

Age range:
12+

Key themes:
family, grief, friendship

Extent:
128pp, b/w illustrations

The Dream House

Laura Dockrill
Illustrated by Gwen Millward

Everyone needs somewhere to dream.

Rex has gone to stay with his godfather, Sparky. Rex doesn't say much but that's OK because Sparky understands him. Rex has his sketchbook, and he draws how he feels even if he doesn't talk about it. And in Sparky's garden, hidden under the canopy of the willow tree, is the Dream House: a space for Rex to dream, to play, to think, to be. A place he's loved all his childhood. But to go inside now Rex must summon his strength for revisiting the ghosts of his past . . .

An evocative sketchbook novella revealing a boy's inner world and his way of reconnecting with the people who love him after loss.

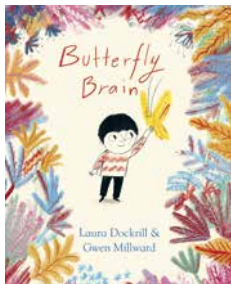
LAURA DOCKRILL is the author of *LORALI*, *BIG BONES* and the *DARCY BURDOCK* series. She has been nominated and shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

GWEN MILLWARD has illustrated *FLAT CAT* by Hiawyn Oram (Walker), and written and illustrated *TIGER LILY* (Egmont).

'Little gem . . . Grief and joy in abundance, I found it incredibly moving.'

KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE

'So beautiful, so powerfully moving, the ever-inventive Laura Dockrill has done it again.'
SCHOOL READING LIST



Publication:
September 2020

World Rights

Age range:
5–9

Key themes:
family, grief, imagination

Extent:
80pp, full-colour illustrations

Butterfly Brain

Laura Dockrill
Illustrated by Gwen Millward

Roald Dahl meets A MONSTER CALLS in this delightful and moving exploration of grief and the joy of all that makes us human.

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 that makes us human, from the effervescent voice of Laura Dockrill, with heartwarming full-colour illustrations from Gwen Millward.

LAURA DOCKRILL is the author of *LORALI*, *BIG BONES* and the *DARCY BURDOCK* series. She has been nominated and shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

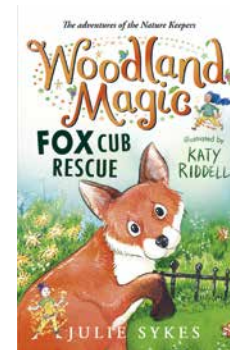
GWEN MILLWARD has illustrated *FLAT CAT* by Hiawyn Oram (Walker), and written and illustrated *TIGER LILY* (Egmont).

'Powerful, overwhelmingly comforting, and sensitive.'

READING ZONE

'An important little book.'

LAUREN CHILD



Publication:
March 2022 / September 2022 / March 2023 / September 2023

World Rights

Age range:
6–8

Key themes:
animal rescue, conservation, adventure

Extent:
128pp, b/w illustrations

The Woodland Magic Series

Fox Cub Rescue

Julie Sykes
Illustrated by Katy Riddell

Join the adventures of the Nature Keepers in this enchanting world of magic . . .

The Keepers are a secretive tribe of little people who live in the middle of Whispering Woods, sneaking out at night to care for the countryside and rewind it when humans (or Ruffins as they know them) are careless with it.

Young Keepers Cora and Jax have just finished school and are embarking on a trial, with several friends, to become fully fledged Keepers. But their first venture out on their own ends in disaster when they become distracted with playing in the Ruffin children's playground instead of concentrating on the task they've been given. Can they ever be trusted to be Keepers in their own right?

From the bestselling author of *The Unicorn Academy* comes a brilliant, adventure-filled, magical series for 6–8 year-olds combining animal rescue, nature conservation and the power of cooperation.

As a child, **JULIE SYKES** was always telling tales. Not the 'she ate all the cake, not me' kind, but wildly exaggerated tales of everyday events. Julie still loves telling stories. She's written 90 books for children of all ages and is published around the world.

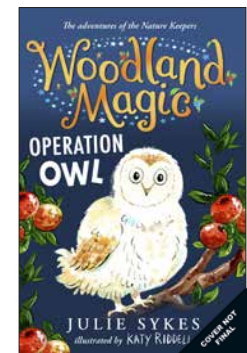
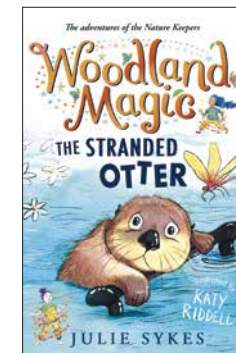
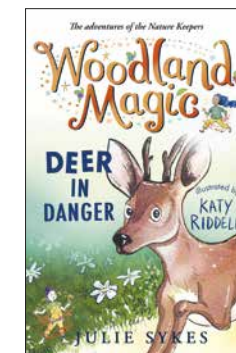
KATY RIDDELL grew up in Brighton and was obsessed with drawing from a young age. She rediscovered her love for illustrating children's books after graduating with a BA Hons in Illustration and Animation. She has worked on a variety of commissions including *PONGWIFFY* and *MIDNIGHT FEASTS*.

Also available:

Deer in Danger

Coming soon:

The Stranded Otter Owl





Publication:
July 2021 / March 2022 /
January 2023

World Rights

Age range:
7-9

Key themes:
mystery, adventure,
friendship

Extent:
176pp, two-colour
illustrations

Kate on the Case

The Call of the Silver Wibbler

The Headline Hoax

Hannah Peck

Follow the super sleuthing of intrepid reporter-in-training, Kate and her mouse Rupert!

A witty three-book series about Kate's adventures as a special correspondent in training, as she encounters a colourful cast of suspects in settings worthy of Agatha Christie.

Young detective Kate and her mouse-accomplice Rupert are on board a train, to visit Kate's mum in the Arctic. But as soon as the train departs, mysterious things start happening.

A packet of ginger nuts goes missing . . .
A collection of gymnastics trophies is stolen . . .
And some ancient scrolls disappear . . .

Fellow passenger Madame Maude seems the most likely culprit, until a surprising – and delicious – twist turns the whole investigation on its head.

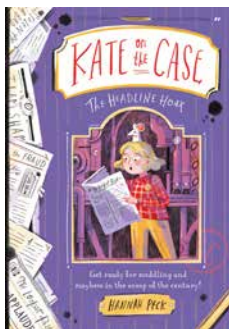
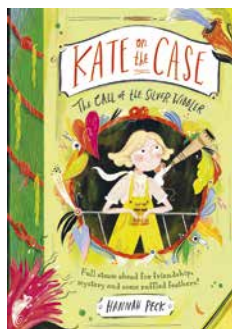
HANNAH PECK is an author and illustrator based in East London. Her love of books took her to study English at university, where she stocked up on Gothic stories and mythical poems that would later inspire her narrative illustrations. Using anything from tapestries to costume, Hannah researches around her subjects to create detailed and immersive illustrations. She has also worked as a children's bookseller – where she read as much as possible and gathered ideas for her debut, *KATE ON THE CASE*.

'Brimming with mystery, comedy, an inspirational heroine, some wonderful wordplay and brilliant orange-themed illustrations.'

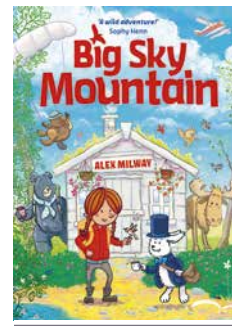
LANCASTER GUARDIAN

'Surprising and somewhat delicious twist . . . Cleverly woven and illustrated with a cast of brilliant characters.'

ARMADILLO MAGAZINE



'Hannah Peck's super-creative joy of a book has mystery, humour, brilliant illustrations and a smorgasbord of puns and wordplay.'
BOOK TRUST



Publication:
June 2021 / January 2022 /
June 2022 / June 2023

World Rights

Age range:
5-8

Key themes:
adventure, friendship,
teamwork, caring for our
world

Extent:
192pp, two-colour
illustrations

Big Sky Mountain

The Forest Wolves

The Beach Otters

The Sky Eagles

Alex Milway

A love letter to the wild!

When young Rosa Wild leaves the city to go and live with her eccentric Grandma Nan in a cabin in the wilderness of Big Sky Mountain, she is not quite prepared for how much her life will change! There's no TV, no phone signal, and definitely no shops.

Grandma Nan seems to live in total isolation too – until Rosa meets her rather unusual companion, Albert the Moose. And before Rosa knows it, a whole host of other eclectic animal inhabitants begin to make themselves known. Let the adventures on Big Sky Mountain begin!

A little Wild Robot, a little bit Moomins, with a dash of Pippi Longstocking, this is a four-book series spanning four different natural environments, from river to forest to coast to sky, all told with Alex Milway's trademark humour and charm.

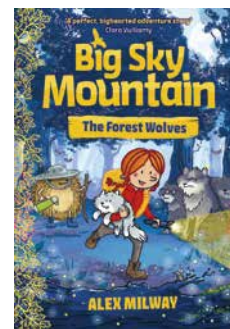
ALEX MILWAY is a full-time children's books author-illustrator and screenwriter. His books include *Pigsticks* and *Harold* (Walker Books) and, most recently, the *Hotel Flamingo* series (Piccadilly).

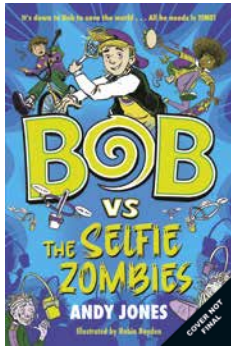
'Funny and charming; Alex Milway has made me want to fly right into Big Sky Mountain myself.'
ANDY SHEPHERD

'A wild adventure with an important message, bravo!'
SOPHY HENN

'The perfect adventure to rewild young readers.'
BENJI DAVIES

'This is a perfect, big-hearted adventure story, with pictures and laughs on every page and an environmental message delivered with the lightest touch.'
CLARA VULLIAMY





Publication:
February 2023

World Rights

Age range:
9+

Key themes:
the future, family,
friendship

Extent:
256pp tbc

Bob vs the Selfie Zombies

Andy Jones

The hilarious and unforgettable story of Bob, accidental time traveller!

IT'S DOWN TO BOB TO SAVE THE WORLD . . . ALL HE NEEDS IS TIME!

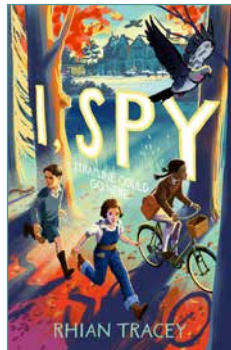
For Bob and his best friend Malcolm, winning the school talent competition with their band the Tentacles of Time is really important. And that's before they realise the future of the world depends on it . . .

Bob travels through time to meet his future self and finds himself faced with a disastrous future reality. It's up to him to set things on course in the present to save future him, future Malcolm AND the whole world. Yikes!

Perfect for fans of DAVID BADDIEL and GREG JAMES & CHRIS SMITH.

ANDY JONES began his career as an author writing novels for adults. Grown-up stuff about falling in love, falling out of love, falling in love again and having babies. All of which he has experienced in his own life. More recently, he has been writing books for children. Crazy stuff about genies, monsters, time travel and zombies. None of which he has experienced in his own life. Andy's books are funny, dramatic and unpredictable. They might even make you think. Andy lives on the outskirts of London (the best part in his opinion) with his wife, daughters and an assortment of other creatures.

Coming soon: BOB book 2!



Publication:
February 2023

World Rights

Age range:
9+

Key themes:
code breaking, friendship,
bravery

Extent:
320pp tbc

I, Spy Rhian Tracey

A thrilling mystery adventure set in Bletchley Park at the start of World War II, based on true historical events.

A thrilling mystery adventure set in Bletchley Park at the start of World War II, based on true historical events.

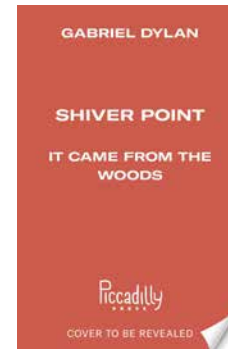
Twelve-year-old Robyn has grown up in Bletchley Park, where her father works as a driver. When she's not at school, there's nothing she likes more than helping her dad in the garages.

Then the war begins and everything at Bletchley changes.

Robyn is assigned to help with the carrier pigeons that take messages to the Allies. But first, she must sign the Official Secrets Act and is ordered not to leave the grounds of the park. While Bletchley is buzzing with people recruited for the war effort and all eyes are on the skies, Robyn becomes convinced that there's something sinister going on within Bletchley Park itself.

Together with her friends Mary and Ned, Robyn resolves to uncover the enemy in their midst . . .

RHIAN TRACEY was born in Swansea and grew up on the Welsh borders. She got her first publishing deal at 26. Rhian teaches several days a week in a SEN department, working with students who have dyslexia, dyspraxia, autism, ADD and other additional learning needs. She also volunteers with Medical Detection Dogs, helping to train puppies who will go on to be assistance dogs. Rhian lives in Northamptonshire with her children and dog.



Publication:
September 2023

World Rights

Age range:
9+

Key themes:
Spooks, screams and
small-town horror

Extent:
224pp tbc

Shiver Point

Gabriel Dylan

**Welcome to Shiver Point, home of spooks, screams and small-town horror!
Enter if you dare....**

Shiver Point is boring. Nothing interesting ever happens there and there's never anything fun to do. At least that's what Zach's always thought. Until one night, in the dead dark, he spots what looks like a comet plummeting into Howlmoor Forest.

Intrigued, Zach goes to investigate. But little does he know, four other kids have also spotted the strange streak in the sky: 'troublemaker' Oli, studious Sophia, curious Mo and budding engineer Riley. What they discover is far beyond their wildest dreams - in fact it belongs in their nightmares. Can the gang work together to save the town from the bloodthirsty bodysnatcher that's arrived with the comet before it's too late?

One thing's for sure: Shiver Point will never be the same again.

GABRIEL DYLAN is a surfer, snowboarder, secondary-school teacher and children's author. He's a huge horror fan, having grown up on a diet of King, Herbert, and Laymon. He is the author of YA horror novel WHITEOUT and middle grade horror series SHIVER POINT. He lives in the South West of England with his wife and three kids. You can find him on Twitter @GabrielDylanYA

SHIVER POINT

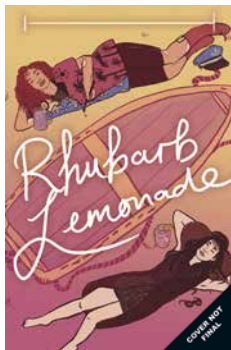
Shiver Point titles coming soon:

Book 2: A Tap at the Window

Book 3: Under A Howling Moon

Book 4: Title TBC





Publication:
June 2024

World English Language

Age range:
11+

Key themes:
family, first love, summer

Extent:
224pp tbc

Rhubarb Lemonade

Oskar Kroon

A prize-winning novel about family old and new, friendship growing into more, the beauty of the sea and a hot summer on a Swedish island.

Vinga dreams of the sea. She's going to be a sailor when she grows up, sailing to distant lands and maybe finding a shipwreck or two. At home, back in the city, Mum is sad and Dad has left for good. But at least it's summer, here with Granddad on the island, and all her problems feel far away. Granddad has given Vinga an old boat that she is going to make seaworthy. On the island, the days go on as usual, with porridge for breakfast, drinking rhubarb lemonade under the lilac tree and watching the sunset from 'her' cliff.

But things are different now too. The heat vibrates during the day, and a girl with a black hat has started appearing in Vinga's workshop. Her name is Ruth. The only thing they seem to have in common is their age and that they are both on the island for the summer. But spending time together, their friendship soon turns out to be something much more.

RHUBARB LEMONADE is story filled with empathy and heart about an unusual summer when childhood comes to an end. Vinga must learn to hold her course during the storm of farewells, newfound friendship and a stranded whale.

OSKAR KROON was a journalist who retrained as a baker. Now he bakes part-time so he can spend time with his family as well as write. *RHUBARB LEMONADE* was published in Sweden in 2019 as *WAITING FOR WIND* and won the August Prize for the best Swedish children's book in 2019. It has been published in 11 other languages.

Winner of 2019 August Prize for Sweden's best children's book of the year

Winner of 2021 Dutch VLAG EN WIMPLE award for children 12-15



Publication:
February 2023

World English Language

Age range:
13v-16

Key themes:
friendship, crushes, self-love

Extent:
352pp tbc

Glow up, Lara Bloom

Dee Benson

The must-read teen novel of the year. This is the diary of LARA BLOOM - clumsy, chaotic and totally crushing on Caiden!

MY NAME IS LARA BLOOM AND THIS IS MY LIFE . . .

Meet Lara Bloom - the best friend you never knew you needed. This is her diary . . .

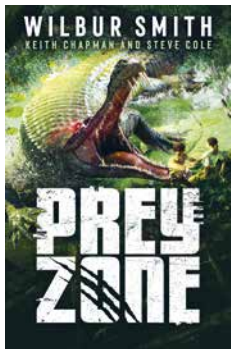
When Lara meets super-cute new boy Caiden, she begins to think that the way to his heart is to give herself a glow up. But her friends are not impressed. You should never glow up for a boy, only for yourself!

As Lara and her friends embark on their project of empowerment and self-love, Lara shares all of her innermost thoughts with her online journal. How can she keep her hair under control when she's playing football? Why is she so fast on the pitch yet so uncoordinated off it? And how will she ever convince Caiden to take an interest in her?

Then Lara's journal is leaked for everyone at school to see. She is so mortified she decides she'll never leave her bedroom again!

Can her friends help her to uncover the truth and set Lara back on track?

DEE BENSON has loved books since childhood. Exploring Narnia, adventuring with the Famous Five, and indulging in all things girly with the Sweet Valley Twins sparked her love for reading. She finds it surreal that she now gets to create her own worlds and characters in books of her own. At university, she studied Molecular Biology with Genetics and only survived it by writing fiction during lectures. When she isn't writing, Dee enjoys long walks, good food, and music that makes her wish she could sing. She lives in Liverpool with her husband and two daughters.



Publication:
14 March 2022

World Rights

Age range:
11+

Key themes:
thriller, action adventure,
apex predators, genetic
engineering, technology,
evil villains

Extent:
336pp tbc

Prey Zone

Wilbur Smith, Keith Chapman
and Steve Cole

A thrilling new Wilbur Smith series for teen readers with high action and high stakes - starring Ralph and Robyn Ballantyne

Ralph and Robyn live at Crocodile Lodge, their family ranch in South Africa, where they help with the animals, aid the conservation effort and learn the land. That is, until a mysterious predator starts terrorising the reserve.

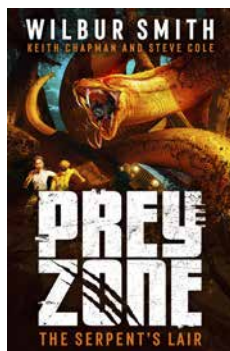
On the trail for answers, the siblings discover the fearsome culprit: the largest crocodile they've ever seen, uncannily similar to the long-extinct *Sarcosuchus* Ralph recognises from his favourite game, *Predasaur*. And when a nearby village is ravaged by a deadly disease, seemingly stemming from a millennia-old animal, the stakes are higher than ever.

As Ralph and Robyn follow the clues, all roads lead to Crocodile Lodge's infamous neighbour: millionaire tech giant and hunting enthusiast Josef Gerhard. Could it really be that Gerhard is bringing the beastly creatures of *Predasaur* to life – and at what cost?

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. Wilbur died in 2021, leaving behind him a treasure-trove of stories that will delight readers for years to come. This is his second children's series.

KEITH CHAPMAN is a television writer and producer, best known as the creator of children's television programmes *Bob the Builder* and *PAW Patrol*. Keith originates from Norfolk, East Anglia, and currently resides in Monaco.

STEVE COLE is the bestselling author of over 150 books, of which sales exceed three million copies. His works include the hugely successful *ASTROSAURS* series, original fiction titles for *DOCTOR WHO*, the *YOUNG BOND* series and *SWARM RISING* co-authored with astronaut Tim Peake. Steve lives and works in Buckinghamshire.



Publication:
August 2022 / July 2023 /
July 2024

World Rights

Age range:
11+

Key themes:
feminist vampires,
friendship, coming of age,
romance, funny

Extent:
352pp/ 352pp tbc / 352pp
tbc

The Reluctant Vampire Queen

The Reluctant Vampire Queen
Bites Back

The Reluctant Vampire Queen: Return
of the Undead

Jo Simmons

Meet Mo, schoolgirl by day, vampire queen by night. It can't be that difficult to do both . . . can it?

Fifteen-year-old Mo Merrydrew isn't exactly expecting to be asked to be Vampire Queen of Great Britain when she's cycling home from school one wet Tuesday evening. Apparently, she is 'the Chosen One'.

Aside from being uncomfortable with the idea of unelected power (not very democratic), patriarchal vampiric traditions (Mo is a feminist), there's the blood drinking to consider (Mo is a vegetarian), and frankly it's just not really the sort of role Mo's looking for (she wants to aim for a real job in international politics).

But – if you're Vampire Queen, you probably don't have to do PE any more, and when the dreamy Luca, a vampire familiar, turns up, it all suddenly starts to look a bit more appealing . . .

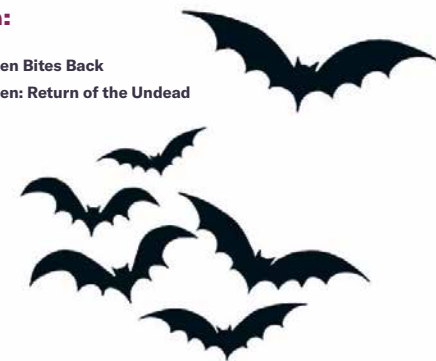
GEEK GIRL meets BUFFY in a brilliantly funny new teen three-book series from bestselling author Jo Simmons!

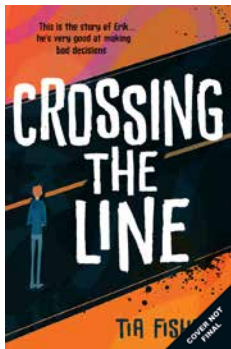
JO SIMMONS, the bestselling author of *I SWAPPED MY BROTHER ON THE INTERNET*, began her working life as a sub-editor on magazines in London and later became a freelance journalist. She started writing for children when her two boys were young and hungry for daft and silly stories to make bedtime more fun. *THE RELUCTANT VAMPIRE QUEEN* is her first novel for teenagers.

Coming soon:

The Reluctant Vampire Queen Bites Back

The Reluctant Vampire Queen: Return of the Undead





Publication:
April 2023

World Rights

Age range:
13-16

Key themes:
drug running, tests of
teenage friendship, family
bonds

Extent:
256pp tbc

Crossing the Line

Tia Fisher

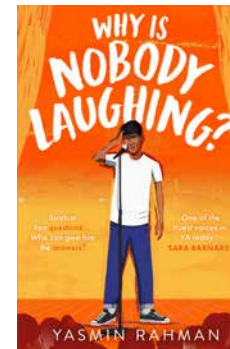
A powerful, immersive novel that deals realistically and openly with how vulnerable teenage boys can be swept up into drug-running. For fans of *PUNCHING THE AIR* and *SPLINTERS OF SUNSHINE*.

Both these factors Erik's mum is juggling the challenge of two small babies, plus the recent death of her husband due to COVID-19. Both these factors affect Erik too, struggling with homework as the babies continually cry at home – as well as needing to support his mum. When the difficulties at home affect Erik's behaviour at school and he is pushed into the company of the 'bad boys', Erik is tempted to earn some easy money. .

But this kind of money is never truly easy to earn and comes with a terrible cost.

The author does not have direct experience of drug-running herself but has spoken extensively with a teenage boy who has, who vouches for its authenticity. The UK Children's Society charity is authenticity-reading the script. Written as a verse novel, the writing is immediately accessible.

TIA FISHER is a librarian in South London and is also taking her Masters in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University. She has published poems in *The Rialto*, and a YA novel was long-listed for the Mslexia Children's Novel Award. Tia lives with her husband and teenage children, who resist her attempts to use them as source material. This is her debut novel.



Publication:
July 2022

World Rights

Age range:
14+

Key themes:
mental health, male
friendship, panic attacks

Extent:
352pp tbc

Why Is Nobody Laughing?

Yasmin Rahman

A powerful contemporary novel tackling teenage mental health in boys.

Ibrahim and Dexter have been best friends forever. While Dexter is always cool and confident, Ibrahim... well, Ibrahim's dealing with a lot. Hiding his passion for comedy from his family, dealing with the pressure of being the oldest child in an immigrant family, and now he's started having episodes he soon realises are panic attacks.

When Ibrahim has a panic attack on stage at a local stand up competition, he runs off to a deserted room. There he finds Sura.

Sura is kind and helps him come to terms with his anxiety. He can open up to her in a way he's never been able to with Dexter. But there's also something strange about her – how much she knows about Ibrahim, and how she seems to disappear in an instant.

Will Ibrahim crumble under the pressure, or will Sura's words be enough to help him? And what will happen when he no longer has her help?

From the runner-up for the inaugural YA Diversity Book Awards.

Teenage mental health in boys is an important subject that needs to be aired widely.

YASMIN RAHMAN is a British Muslim born and raised in Hertfordshire. She has an MA in Creative Writing and an MA in Writing for Young People, both with Distinction. Her short story 'Fortune Favours the Bold' was published in the Stripes anthology *A CHANGE IS GONNA COME* in 2017, with *THE BOOKSELLER* awarding the contributors a YA Book Prize Special Achievement Award 2018 for commitment to making YA publishing more inclusive.

This Is My Truth

Yasmin Rahman

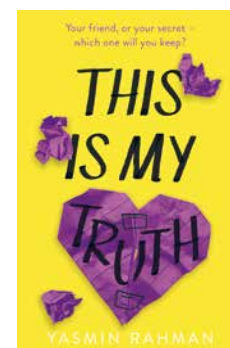
Your friend or your secret . . . which one will you keep?

Best friends Amani and Huda are getting nervous about their school exams – and their future beyond school, which they're both wildly unprepared for. Shy, quiet Amani has an outwardly picture-perfect family – a father who is a successful TV presenter, a loving mother and an adorable younger brother – while confident and impulsive Huda has grown up with over-affectionate foster parents who are now expecting a baby of their own.

Both girls are jealous of each other's seemingly easy life, without realising the darkness or worries that lie underneath. Then Huda witnesses Amani's father hitting her mother, and Amani's biggest secret is suddenly out.

As Amani convinces Huda to keep quiet by helping her with her own problems, a prank blog starts up at school, revealing students' secrets one by one. Will this anonymous blogger get hold of Amani's secret too? Will Huda keep quiet?

**Runner-Up for the 2020
Diverse Book Awards**



Publication:
July 2021

World Rights

Age range:
14+

Key themes:
family, domestic abuse,
adoption and fostering,
blackmail, friendship

Extent:
416pp





Publication:
February 2023

World Rights

Age range:
14–16

Key themes:
romance, fake dating,
friends to lovers, love
triangle, high school,
coming of age

Extent:
336pp tbc

This Is How You Fall In Love

Anika Hussain

A hilarious and heartfelt YA fake dating romcom from an exciting debut author.

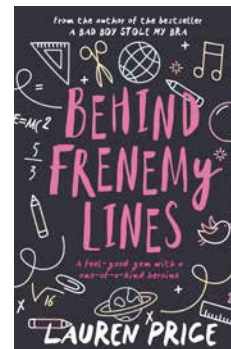
Zara and Adnan are just friends. Always have been, always will be. Even if they have to pretend to be girlfriend and boyfriend. . .

Zara loves love in all forms and she's desperate to have her own great love story. Crucially, a real one. So when her best friend Adnan begs her to pretend to date him to cover up his new top-secret relationship, Zara is hesitant. This isn't the kind of thing she had in mind. But there's something in it for Zara too: making her parents, who love Adnan, happy might just stop them arguing for a while. She may not be getting her own love story, but she could save theirs.

So Zara agrees and the act begins: after all, how different can pretending to be in a relationship with your best friend be to just hanging around with them like usual? Turns out, a lot. With fake dating comes fake hand-holding and fake kissing and real feelings. . . And when a new boy turns up in Zara's life, things get more confusing than ever.

The course of true love never did run smooth, but Zara's love story is messier than most. . .

ANIKA HUSSAIN is a debut author who was born in Stockholm and now lives in Bath. She is a graduate of Bath Spa Masters in Writing for Young People. Not having seen herself in the books she read as a teenager, Anika writes YA novels with South Asian characters at the heart of the story. Anika often returns to Sweden where she has made TV and radio appearances, speaking about the impact writing has had on her life, and her work with the Ministry of Storytelling.



Publication:
May 2022

World Rights

Age group:
YA

Extent:
256pp

Behind Frenemy Lines

Lauren Price

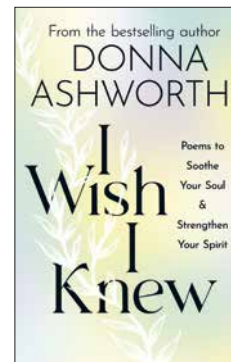
An authentic, sharp-eyed take on the twists and turns of teenage life. Funny and heart-warming, *BEHIND FRENEMY LINES* is perfect for lovers of quirky, laugh-out-loud rom-coms.

First day back at high school and a new principal is in post, determined to stamp his authority on a handful of kids who are running wild, bringing his reputation and that of the school into disrepute.

Meanwhile star student Erica Monroe is equally determined – her heart's set on a place at Stanford. That fantasy of her mom actually being proud of her is strong . . . and Erica will do whatever it takes to prove her worth to her family, her friends and most of all herself.

Featuring some of the seriously cute characters and at least as much warmth, wit and teenage heart as her hit debut *A BAD BOY STOLE MY BRA*, Lauren Price can't fail to delight with this hilarious, fun-filled and offbeat high-school comedy.

LAUREN PRICE is 22 years old, and began writing her first book, *A BAD BOY STOLE MY BRA*, at the age of 14. Lauren spent her childhood with her nose in a book or writing short stories and, as a self-confessed book lover, studies English at university.



Publication:
April 2022

World Rights

Age group:
YA

Extent:
192pp, b/w illustrations

I Wish I Knew

Donna Ashworth

A brilliant collection of poems for young people addressing contemporary issues.

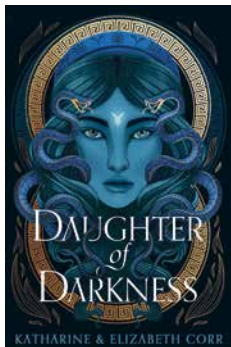
Donna Ashworth is the wordsmith behind the social media phenomenon LADIES PASS IT ON, and she has more than 600,000 followers across two platforms, a following that's growing by 10,000 every month. *I WISH I KNEW* is a very personal collection of poems, for young women in particular who are navigating their bodies, emotions, mental health and growth in this fast-paced world.

Having struggled in her teenage years with perfectionism, eating disorders and depression, for Donna this a very personal passion project. *I WISH I KNEW* is a book that will bring comfort, confidence, sisterhood and acceptance into the hearts of young women, and is also relevant for young men.

Many of Donna's poems have gone viral, travelled round the world and been viewed millions of times. Her work has been turned into songs, videos and been read by celebrities and she was recently featured in both *GRAZIA* and *GLAMOUR* magazines as one of the most celebrated female poets. This new collection of 60 poems, covering body image, self-esteem, depression, pressure, acceptance, growth and relationships, is published at a perfect time and will resonate with young people and adults everywhere.

Wattpad sensation with over 100 million reads and no. 3 in 'Wattpad Most Viral'

DONNA ASHWORTH has self-published three poetry books, and each one has been an online bestseller. Many of Donna's recent poems have been printed in yearbooks, school newsletters and even now appear as part of the curriculum. Her work has featured in over a hundred magazines and blogs and Donna regularly speaks at events, on TV shows, on radio and more, where she loves to read her work aloud.



Publication:
August 2022 / August 2023

World Rights

Age range:
13+

Key themes:
freedom, betrayal, the Underworld

Extent:
448pp tbc

Daughter of Darkness Queen of Gods

Katharine and Elizabeth Corr

Enter the Underworld in an epic new fantasy duology, HOUSE OF SHADOWS, where the Gods of ancient Greece rule everything but fate.

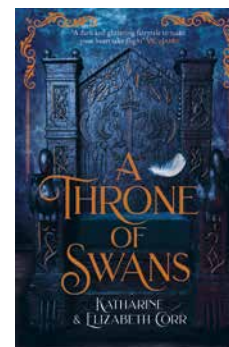
Deina is trapped. As one of the Soul Severers serving the god Hades on earth, her future is tied to the task of shepherding the dying on from the mortal world – unless she can earn or steal enough to buy her way out.

Then the tyrant ruler Orpheus offers both fortune and freedom to whoever can retrieve his dead wife, Eurydice, from the Underworld. Deina jumps at the chance. But to win, she must enter an uneasy alliance with a group of fellow Severers she neither likes nor trusts.

So begins their perilous journey into the realm of Hades . . . The prize of freedom is before her – but what will it take to reach it?

From the authors of *A THRONE OF SWANS* and *A CROWN OF TALONS* comes an evocative and thrilling fantasy set in an alternative Ancient Athens, where humans are marked by Gods and Athens is ruled by the sorcerer-king Orpheus.

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.



Publication:
January 2020 / January 2021

World Rights

Age range:
13+

Key themes:
shapeshifting, power, intrigue

Extent:
352pp / 400pp

A Throne of Swans A Crown of Talons

Katharine and Elizabeth Corr

Birds of the sky. Rulers of the land.

When her father dies just before her birthday, seventeen-year-old Aderyn inherits the role of Protector of Atratys, a dominion in a kingdom where nobles can transform at will into the bird that represents their family bloodline. Aderyn'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, Aderyn 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.

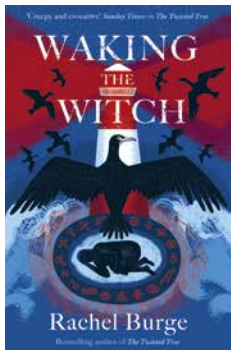
**35,000 copies sold
across the duology.**

A BOOK TRUST Great Book Guide Pick

'A dark and glittering fairytale to make your heart take flight.'
VIC JAMES

'Tons of intrigue, mystery, family drama, glamorous gowns and hidden swords . . .'
BOOK TRUST





Publication:
August 2022

World Rights

Age range:
13+

Key themes:
identity, female
empowerment, revenge,
transformation, Welsh &
Arthurian legend

Extent:
288pp tbc

Waking the Witch

Rachel Burge

Her destiny lies buried deep within her . . .

Seventeen-year-old Ivy has spent years looking for her birth mother. Growing up in care, all she has of her mother is the note that was left with her when she was a baby:

'I'm so sorry. I tried to keep you safe, but I see now that I can't. They won't stop until they have you, but I can't let that happen . . .'

When Ivy finally finds her mother on the remote Bardsey Island, off the coast of Wales, rumoured to be the site of Avalon and Merlin's last resting place, she is not prepared for what greets her. Her mother abandoned her as a baby to keep her safe from witches who wanted to steal her away – the eight witches of Arthurian legend, who have long sought the ninth.

What Ivy discovers about herself will shake her to the core – she is the reincarnation of a long-ago witch, and her sisters need her, if they are to exact revenge on Merlin for wrongs done to them all those centuries ago.

As the powers within Ivy grow and the witch within her begins to awaken, can she find the strength to fulfil her magical destiny while staying true to who she believes herself to be?

A highly atmospheric contemporary fantasy, steeped in Welsh mythology and Arthurian legend, for YA/crossover readers. For fans of Melinda Salisbury (*HOLD BACK THE TIDE*), Menna Van Praag (*THE SISTERS GRIMM*), Finbarr Hawkins (*WITCH*) and Krystal Sutherland (*HOUSE OF HOLLOW*).

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.



Publication:
January 2019 / January
2021

World Rights

Age range:
12+

Key themes:
Norse myth, ghosts,
mystery

Extent:
272pp / 288pp

The Twisted Tree The Crooked Mask

Rachel Burge

Part ghost story, part Nordic mystery – a creepy and chilling tale steeped in Norse myth, perfect for fans of Neil Gaiman, and Michelle Paver's *DARK MATTER*.

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.

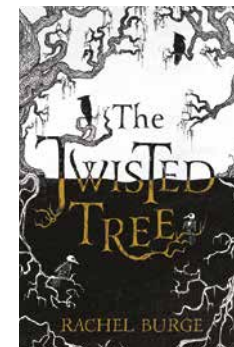
Determined to understand her strange ability, Martha sets off to visit her grandmother, Mormor – only to discover Mormor is dead, a peculiar boy is in her cabin and a terrifying creature is on the loose.

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.

**SUNDAY TIMES Children's
Book of the Week**

'A creepy and evocative fantasy.'
SUNDAY TIMES





Publication:
September 2022

World Rights

Age range:
14+

Key themes:
hauntings, trauma, sisters,
memory

Extent:
368pp tbc

Wise Creatures

Deirdre Sullivan

I always thought that hauntings began with houses. They don't, of course. It's people, isn't it? It starts with people.

Former child psychic Daisy hasn't thought about her past for a long time. She was only six, after all. The 'wise creatures' in the walls of the house, whispering secrets to her, are long gone. Her parents, dead in a mysterious accident, are forgotten. Some surfaces are better left unscratched. Daisy has left those things behind.

And now, ten years on, she has a happy, normal life. But she does wonder, sometimes, about the blank spaces in her memories. The fear when she encounters certain textures, scents. It can be hard to feel safe in a world that's full of fears you can't explain. Thank God for Nina, her trusting, sweet foster sister and best friend. So when something seems to shift in Nina's life Daisy is shaken. Nina has some secret she is guarding, that she won't share with Daisy. And then Nina begins to speak of murmurs in the walls, of cold spots. She claims it isn't her. It's something else. A malevolent force.

And Daisy knows that something's up. And that the wise creatures, locked away for so long, are back. And this time they want both Nina, and Daisy

A darkly thrilling contemporary supernatural horror novel from award-winning author Deirdre Sullivan.

DEIRDRE SULLIVAN is a writer from Galway. Her 2016 novel *NEEDLEWORK* was awarded a White Raven and the CBI Honour Award for fiction. *TANGLEWEED AND BRINE*, a collection of dark fairy-tale retellings, won an Irish Book Award in 2017, as did the sequel, *SAVAGE HER REPLY*. Her novels for Hot Key Books are *PERFECTLY PREVENTABLE DEATHS* (shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards) and *PRECIOUS CATASTROPHE*.



Publication:
July 2021

World Rights

Age range:
14+

Key themes:
apocalypse, lies, betrayal,
dark humour

Extent:
356pp

The Forevers

Chris Whitaker

The debut YA novel from the adult New York Times bestselling author.

They knew the end was coming. They saw it ten years back, when it was far enough away in space and time and meaning.

The changes were gradual, and then sudden.

For Mae and her friends, it means navigating a life where action and consequence are no longer related. Where the popular are both trophies and targets. And where petty grudges turn deadlier with each passing day. So, did Abi Manton jump off the cliff or was she pushed? Her death is just the beginning of the end.

With teachers losing control of their students and themselves, and the end rushing towards all of them, everyone is facing the answer to one, simple question . . .

What would you do if you could get away with anything?

With echoes of *THIRTEEN REASONS WHY*, *LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE* and *SEX EDUCATION*, *THE FOREVERS* is part thriller, part coming-of-age novel, shining a light on the best and worst of humanity in a world without consequences.

CHRIS WHITAKER has won several awards, including the 2021 CWA Gold Dagger Award, the Theakstone Award and the Ned Kelly Award. His *NEW YORK TIMES* bestselling novel *WE BEGIN AT THE END* has been translated into 22 languages and has sold almost 200,000 copies. The title was featured as Thriller of the Year by *THE GUARDIAN* and Waterstones, and TV Rights have been optioned by Disney Television Studios. *THE FOREVERS* is his first YA novel.

'Incredibly moving and beautifully written.'

'A thought-provoking, highly quotable, soul-searching appreciation of life in an end of the world tale.'

'Whitaker's themes of young people being robbed of their chances to grow up, of the opportunities lost to them and the hopelessness that brings feel very close to home just now.'

'Thought-provoking page-turner founded on a killer concept. Masterfully evoked in all its heart-stopping starkness.'

LOVEREADING4KIDS – STAFF PICKS



Publication:
May 2022

World Rights

Age range:
13+

Key themes:
sex, relationships, bodies, honesty

Extent:
272pp, b/w illustrations

Honest

Everything They Didn't Tell You About Sex, Relationships and Bodies

Milly Evans

Illustrated by Lucia Picerno

Let's talk about sex.

Reading the above will probably conjure up embarrassing memories of awkward sex-education lessons, the dreaded cringey 'talk' with Mum and Dad. Even worse, those confusing tales of the experiences of your more adventurous friends . . .

But happily, journalist and campaigner Milly Evans, has got it all covered – from sexuality to sexting, masturbation to sexual consent – she lets us in to her number-one secret: grown-ups have NO idea what they're doing. Sex education doesn't need to be embarrassing, scary and only about what you need to be aware of. *HONEST* is a positive guide to sex, relationships and bodies, full of all the secrets that parents are too scared to talk to their teens about.

In addition to Milly's own views and advice, we meet some brilliant sex-positive activists and inspirational people along the way. LGBTQ+ perspectives are integrated throughout the book, so that every reader can see their experiences reflected and know that sex-and-relationship education doesn't have to be from a hetero-normative perspective.

So, enough foreplay. Let's talk about sex, and spark open and honest conversations through the voice of a young woman who is steeped in the subject and knows how to broach it.

MILLY EVANS is a journalist and sex-education advocate who has been campaigning for a more inclusive and comprehensive sex-education curriculum since 2016. She has worked with Brook and the Terrence Higgins Trust as well as being involved with Stonewall and UNESCO.

LUCIA PICERNO is an award-winning designer and illustrator from Uruguay, living in London. She aims to spread thought-provoking messages that inspire women to be seen and heard. Her clients include Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, Honda, Bodyform, Palmer's and Danone among many others.



Publication:
July 2022

World Rights

Age range:
12+

Key themes:
creative writing, adolescence, wellbeing

Extent:
352pp, b/w illustrations

You Are a Story

Laura Dockrill

Tell your story. A guide and companion for using creative writing to speak your own truth.

When you are a teenager, everything changes – including you. How do you find your way back to yourself when it can feel like teachers, parents, friends, the rest of the world, all want you to be something else? It can be fun to try on different ways of being but the best way to steer yourself through crazy, brilliant adolescence is to hold onto your sense of you.

Laura's stress-free invitations to creative writing encourage you to find your voice, celebrate it and use it.

Everybody can write. You don't need a fancy desk; you don't need a posh expensive pen. You don't need a degree or to be the smartest cookie in the cookie jar. All you need is a brain and a heart.

LAURA DOCKRILL, a graduate of the Brit School of Performing Arts, is a poet, writer and illustrator. At the age of 22 she was named by *THE TIMES* as a 'Top Ten Literary Star'. She is the author of the *DARCY BURDOCK* series and the YA novels *LORALI*, *AURABEL* and *BIG BONES*. Her adult book, *WHAT HAVE I DONE*, is an honest memoir about suffering from post-natal mental illness. Find her on Twitter and Instagram @LauraDockrill



Publication:
July 2021

World Rights

Extent:
192pp

Easy Peasy Awesome Pawsome Dog Training for Kids

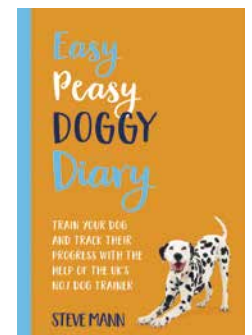
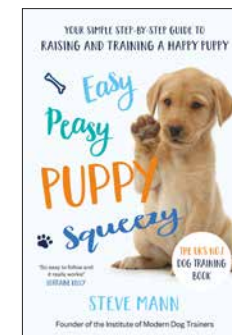
Steve Mann

There is nothing more exciting than having a dog: your own best friend to play with. In this guide, Steve Mann shares the passion he had when he was a child growing up with dogs and fires up that same passion in a new generation of children.

It is packed with facts, fun and bow-wow know-how, including essential exercises, the history of dogs and dog safety – not to mention lots of tricks, quizzes and fun games for kids and their dogs!

From the author of *EASY PEASY PUPPY SQUEEZY* (over 250,000 copies sold), this is THE must-have book for any family with a dog and kids living under the same woof – ahem – roof.

'Dog Training Genius!'
EMILIA CLARKE



HOT
KEY BOOKS



Piccadilly
PRESS

