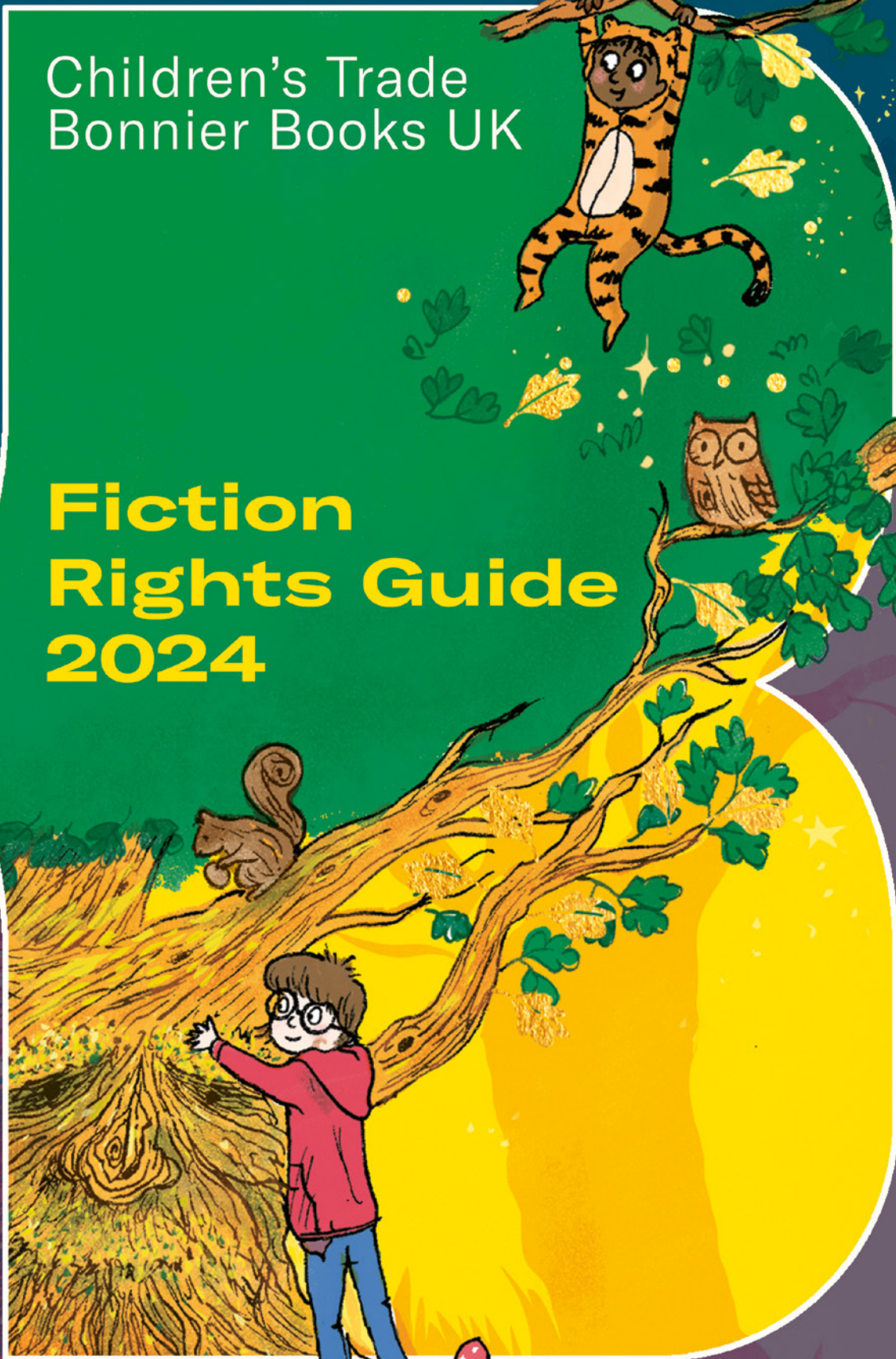


Children's Trade  
Bonnier Books UK

# Fiction Rights Guide 2024



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Cover illustration © Ellie Snowdon

# Highlights



Illustration © Meg McLaren

**The Wood Where Magic Grows**  
From bestselling author Andy Shepherd comes an enchanting new series about finding the magic in the everyday.  
**PAGE 05**

**Dadbot**  
A hilarious new colour graphic novel series. Parenting just got upgraded!  
**PAGE 11**

**Dream Keepers: Secrets of Moon Wood**  
Step into Moon Wood, a magical world beyond your wildest dreams!  
**PAGE 07**

**Damien Ike and the Fall of the House of Draven**  
A pacy urban fantasy for Young Adults, exploring corruption and power in a magic-filled world.  
**PAGE 20**

**Rock the Boat**  
A sexy LGBTQ+ romance with a glorious Mediterranean setting – there are no rules below deck...  
**PAGE 26**

# Young Fiction



# Young Fiction

## The Wood Where Magic Grows

Andy Shepherd

Illustrated by Ellie Snowden

The first book in the enchanting new series from the bestselling and Waterstones Book Prize shortlisted author Andy Shepherd.

'Andy Shepherd is an utter treasure. Magic grows wherever she writes and this is another warm, witty and wondrous adventure' – Maz Evans, author of *Who Let the Gods Out?*

You won't believe what nature gets up to when you pay attention!

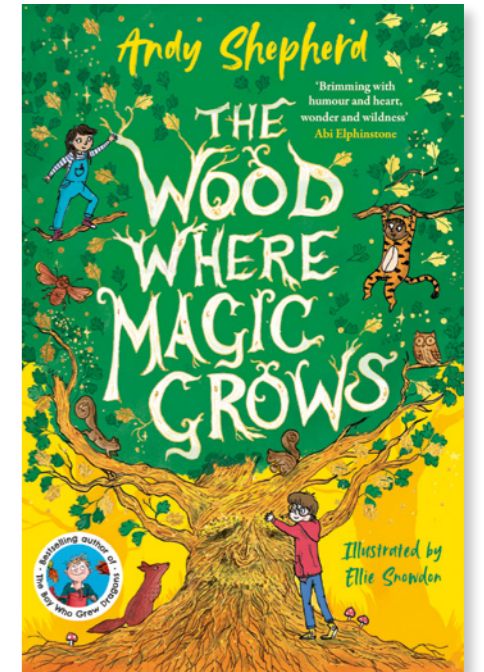
When Iggy and his brother Cal move to the countryside, they don't know what to expect. Green Acre is definitely not like any other house they know. The plants seem to grow in the blink of an eye, the little wooden animal ornaments never stay exactly where they are put, and Iggy can't help but feel that the trees outside seem to be beckoning to him from the wood at the bottom of the garden.

Some say that Wildtop Wood is dangerous; some say it's a place full of wonder and secrets. Iggy, Cal and their new friend Mae decide that the only way to find out which is to venture into the woods themselves – and so begins a wonderful and unexpected adventure . . .

**A charming tale of imagination, friendship and being brave.**

**ANDY SHEPHERD** is the author of the bestselling *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* series, which have now been translated into 24 languages. The first book in the series was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Sheffield Book Award, and longlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award. Andy lives near Cambridge with her husband and two sons.

**ELLIE SNOWDON** is a children's book illustrator living by the sea in South Wales. She is a graduate of the University of the West of England at Bristol and the children's book illustration masters programme at the Cambridge School of Art.



**Publication:**  
June 2025

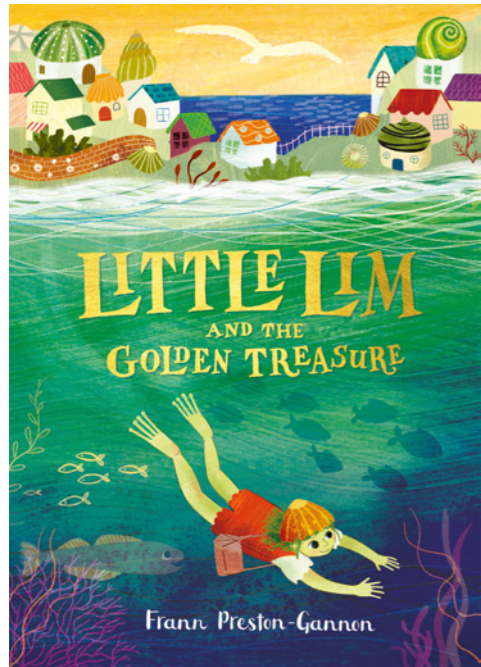
**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
7–9

**Key themes:**  
magic, nature, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**  
272pp / 35,000 words / b+w  
illustrations

**2 books in series**



DRAFT COVER

## Little Lim and the Golden Treasure

**Frann Preston-Gannon**

**A beautiful gift book from award-winning illustrator Frann Preston-Gannon, with colour illustrations.**

A charming and timeless story, written and illustrated by award-winning nature illustrator Frann Preston-Gannon.

Limpet Pebble (Little Lim, to those who know her) is an adventurous Rockpooter who lives in the town of Tidepool with her father. Their small cottage, nestled on the edge of a large rockpool, disappears and reappears with the rising tide.

As the Tidepool Moon Festival approaches, Little Lim dreams of winning the Young Explorers contest. But to do so will mean venturing beyond the rockpool and the world beyond the rockpool can be a big and dangerous place. Will Little Lim's determination to win the prize lead her into troubled waters?

**With beautiful colour illustrations, perfect for readers aged 6 and up, and fans of the Moomins and Hilda.**

**FRANN PRESTON-GANNON** is a London-based illustrator and designer. Her first picture book, *The Journey Home*, was published in October 2012 and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Prize. In April 2011 she became the first UK recipient of the Sendak Fellowship, and in 2018 the poetry collection she illustrated, *I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree*, was the Waterstones Gift Book of the Year. Frann has been widely published, including by Nosy Crow, Vintage Books, Lonely Planet, Walker Books, Powerhouse Publishing, Scholastic US and Chronicle Publishing. For Templar her publications include *In The Swamp By the Light of the Moon*, *The Bad Day*, *Bird's Eye View* and *The Man and the Moon*.

**Publication:**

May 2025

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

7-9

**Key themes:**

nature, bravery, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**

96pp / 10,000 words / colour illustrations

## Dream Keepers: Secrets of Moon Wood

**Rebecca Lewis-Oakes**

**Illustrated by Anastasiya Kanavaliuk**

**Welcome to Moon Wood, a magical world beyond your wildest dreams!**

Bella and her friends live in the sleepy, happy town of Sunny Wood and they're excited about the mysterious apothecary shop that has just opened. Inside, Bella discovers a beautiful pink feather, and her friends find their own unique tokens too. They tuck them under their pillow before bed, hoping for sweet dreams.

To Bella's surprise, she and her friends are whisked away in their sleep to the magical world of Moon Wood, a dream version of Sunny Wood. There Bella meets Skye, a pink-winged pegasus, and the girls discover that they are Dream Keepers!

But their arrival in the dream realm has awakened the Queen of Nightmares. Can they work together to banish her and her shadows in time?

**A fantastical adventure packed with friendship, magic and sweet dreams for readers aged 6+. Perfect for fans of *Star Friends*, *Rescue Princesses* and *Unicorn Academy*.**

**REBECCA LEWIS-OAKES** worked as an editor in publishing for over ten years, creating all kinds of books for children including brands such as *Beatrix Potter* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and with celebrities such as CBeebies' Mr Tumble and YouTube star Louise Pentland. She is now an author, having co-written *The Naughtiest Unicorn* series as Pip Bird, and the upcoming *Dream Keepers* series. She lives in London with her family.

**ANASTASIYA KANAVALIUK** is a Belarusian illustrator based in Poland. She studied Art Design at university and is now working to receive her MA in Graphic Design. When not busy drawing, she loves travelling, spending time with family and friends, and learning Korean.



**Publication:**

February 2025

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

6-9

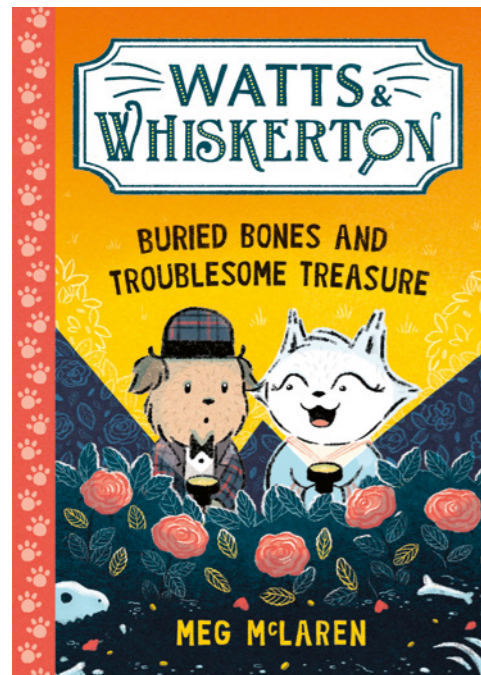
**Key themes:**

dreams, friendship, teamwork

**Extent / Word count:**

176pp/ 18,000 words

**4 books in series**



## Watts & Whiskerton: Buried Bones and Troublesome Treasure

**Meg McLaren**

**An adorable new highly illustrated series bursting with mystery and mischief for readers aged 5+.**

Watts doesn't think he's got what it takes to be a great detective like his parents. So when they jet off on their next case, he decides to take a holiday to Whiskerton Manor instead.

But there Watts befriends Pearl Whiskerton, a curious cat with a nose for mysteries, who persuades him to help her investigate a series of strange goings-on at the manor . . .

Who's been upending the precious rose bushes? And where did the amazing dinosaur bones dug up on the grounds come from?

It looks as if the two things might be connected. But can this dog and cat detective duo solve the mystery?

**From Waterstones Children's Book Prize shortlisted author-illustrator Meg McLaren, *Watts & Whiskerton* is purr-fect for emerging readers and fans of *Claude*, *Hotel Flamingo* and *Rabbit & Bear*.**

**MEG MCLAREN** is an author-illustrator based in Inverness, Scotland. She has published multiple picture books, including *Life Is Magic*, which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2017, and most recently *Wee Unicorn*. *Watts & Whiskerton* is her debut fiction series for young readers. When she's not up to her eyeballs in ink Meg can usually be found on a very long walk, in front of a TV mystery or trying to convince her dog that it's not dinner time yet.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

**Watts & Whiskerton: Sabotage at the Fete Cake Bake**  
**Watts & Whiskerton 3**

**Publication:**

July 2024

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

5-7

**Key themes:**

mysteries, mischief, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**

128pp / 8000 words / two-colour illustrations

**3 books in series**

## Bronte Tempestra and the Lightning Steeds

**Bex Hogan**

**Illustrated by Hannah McCaffery**

**A fun-filled fantasy quest starring an unforgettable new hero: BRONTE TEMPESTRA.**

Bronte Tempestra of the Storm Kingdom is the first ever princess to become a knight!

But knight school isn't the fun-filled adventure Bronte is expecting – the knights don't seem interested in saving . . . anything. And when she discovers that the Lightning Steeds have gone missing, leaving the Thunder Trolls to wreak havoc, it's her moment to prove just how brave a princess can be.

Bronte must face down cloud-stealing gnomes, monstrous *horror* flies and spooky *zom* bits. The future of the entire kingdom is at stake!

*It's time for the princess to rescue the knights!*

**The first book in a new fantasy series, packed with illustrations. Perfect for fans of *Rainbow Grey*, *Witch Wars* and *The Princess in Black*.**

**BEX HOGAN** was raised on a healthy diet of fantasy and fairy tales and has spent much of her life lost in daydreams. Writing her stories down was a natural progression and now she enjoys sharing her time between living in the real world and escaping to her imagination.

**HANNAH MCCAFFERY** has been an illustrator and storyteller from a young age. She went on to study Illustration for Children's Publishing at Glyndwr University and now works as an illustrator and designer.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**

February 2024

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

7-9

**Key themes:**

brave princesses, fearsome beasts, fiendish quests

**Extent / Word count:**

224pp / 22,000 words / b+w illustrations

**4 books in series**

# Middle Grade



## Dadbot

Jack Noel

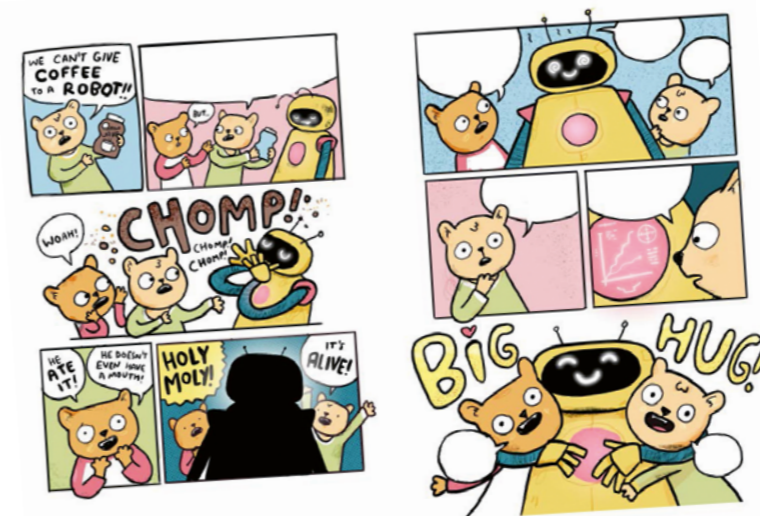
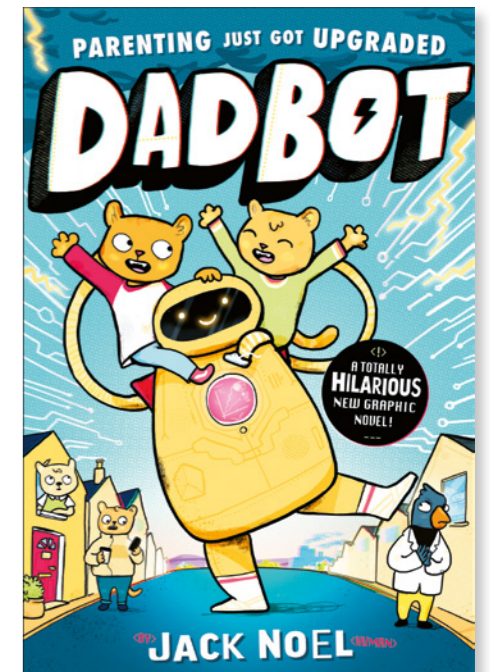
Introducing the first book in a brand-new graphic novel series, in a riot of colour!

What do you get when you mix workaholic parents, a car boot sale and a mad scientist together? DADBOT, that's who! With super-strength, hot chocolate on tap and a printer for a butt, Dadbot might be the most exciting thing Josh and Daisy discover – and he only cost £3!

With this major parenting upgrade, Josh and Daisy's summer holidays just went from dull to dynamite. But the evil Doctor Egg is lurking to steal Dadbot for his own plans of world domination . . . Can Josh and Daisy protect their new robo-parent before it's too late?

Full of robots, egg puns and dastardly dad-knapping, this hilarious new series is perfect for fans of Bunny Vs Monkey and Cat Kid!

**JACK NOEL** is an award-winning author, illustrator and book designer. He lives in South London. He is the creator of *My Headteacher Is an Evil Genius*, *Skater Baby* and the *Comic Classics* series. He has been reading comics and then copying out his favourite bits since 1988. His influences are *The Beano*, *The Simpsons* and *Terminator 2*. He is a dad, but not a robot dad.



**Publication:**  
September 2025

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
7–9

**Key themes:**  
family, inventions, humour

**Extent / Word count:**  
176pp / 2,000 words / panels & speech bubbles

**3 books in series**



DRAFT COVER

## Sword of the Sun

Sinéad O'Hart

From the award-winning author of *The Silver Road* comes a new tale of contemporary Ireland and ancient myth . . .

When Ben and his family have to leave Dublin and move into the remote house where his mother grew up, he's not optimistic about what lies ahead. For him and his brother Fin, it'll mean fitting in to life with his aunts and a cousin he doesn't even know.

But what Ben doesn't expect is that he will be drawn into the mysteries of the wild mystical landscape. He can sense its power, and he can see a light shining from the mountain on the horizon. Even stranger, crows are gathering, watching him and haunting his dreams.

As Ben uncovers the stories of Ireland's mythical heroes and warriors that obsessed his grandfather right up until he died, Ben begins to wonder if there is more to the tales than pure fantasy. It seems like trouble is stirring – and will he have the power to face it?

**A powerful new book for children aged 9 and up, drawing on Celtic folklore. Perfect for fans of Catherine Doyle and Ross Montgomery.**

**SINÉAD O'HART** is a children's author, a children's literature podcaster (she co-hosts *Storyshaped*, available on all podcasting platforms) and a parent, all of which keeps her busy (but not too busy to read).

She's the author of *The Eye of the North*, *The Star-Spun Web*, *Skyborn*, *The Time Tider* and *The Silver Road*, and sometimes she can't quite believe she's lucky enough to do what she loves most (putting fictional people into frankly dangerous situations) as a job!

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
August 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
ancient myths, modern friendships,  
the power of storytelling

**Extent / Word count:**  
320pp / 60,000 words

## Nora and the Map of Mayhem

Joseph Elliott

Illustrated by Nici Gregory

An outrageously funny new children's book from award-winning author Joseph Elliott, star of CBeebies' *Swashbuckle* and CBBC's *Big Fat Like*.

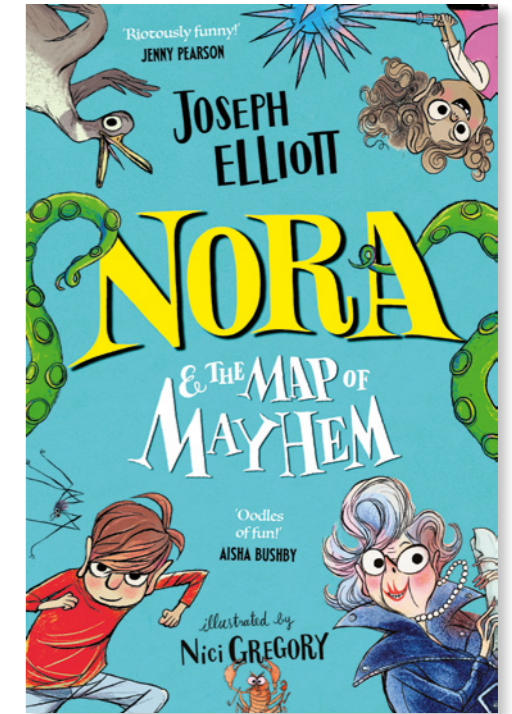
When Atticus and Autumn's dads leave them with their eccentric great-grandmother Nora for the weekend, they're hoping for a few days scoffing biscuits and playing video games. But when Nora's around, nothing ever goes quite to plan . . .

After a stranger from Nora's past leaves a menacing note pinned to her front door, Atticus and Autumn are swept away on a hair-raising adventure, dodging snot-flinging sea monsters, battling thunderous electrosquibs and trying to escape from a very flappy goose!

**Complete with wild and joyful illustrations from Nici Gregory, this rip-roaring tale is perfect for readers aged 8 and up!**

**JOSEPH ELLIOTT** is the author of the award-winning *Shadow Skye* trilogy, composed of *The Good Hawk*, *The Broken Raven* and *The Burning Swift*. For the last fourteen years he has worked as an actor, predominantly in comedy and children's television.

**NICI GREGORY** is an illustrator who specialises in children's books. After studying graphic design in Hamburg, Germany, she worked as an in-house illustrator in a marketing firm. When she realised her work in the margins continued to be her best work, she embarked on a full-time creative illustration career. She lives in Sheffield with her family and their dog.



**Publication:**  
June 2024

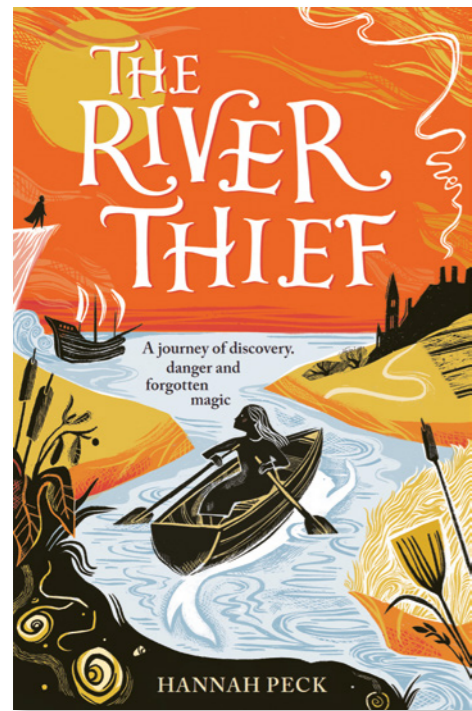
**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
humour, monsters, family

**Extent / Word count:**  
384pp / 45,000 words / b+w  
illustrations

**2 books in series**



## The River Thief

Hannah Peck

**A startlingly original tale of magic, folklore and friendship by award-shortlisted author and illustrator Hannah Peck.**

*Like many rivers, the banks of the Lyde hold a hoard of forgotten things: pottery, trinkets, a shard of glass. They also hold a Memory. In the days of this story, the buried Memories were forgotten by most. But not by all . . .*

When Adderley discovers Ef – a being who seems part human and part fish – in the river by her home, she is drawn into an adventure that challenges everything she’s learnt about the world. Ef is searching for a special stone that they say has been stolen from their people. Could this be the key to the drought that is destroying Adderley’s home? Together, Adderley and Ef resolve to recover the stone and return it to its true home, but the river waters are not always on their side and the journey is filled with danger.

**A remarkable friendship, a close-guarded secret and a quest to the sea. Be swept away by Hannah Peck’s new novel, perfect for fans of Emma Carroll, Kiran Millwood Hargrave and S. F. Said.**

**HANNAH PECK** is an author and illustrator based in East London, UK. She studied English at university before swapping the pen for a pencil. Now she uses both to write and draw at exactly the same time. Hannah uses inks and pencil textures to create elegant illustrations full of magic and fun, and thinks sharing stories is important.

**Publication:**  
October 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
secrets, mystery, betrayal

**Extent / Word count:**  
256pp / 70,000 words

## Beastlands: Race to Frostfall Mountain

Jess French

**Before there were people, there were beasts . . .**

The island of Ramoa was once lush and roamed by mighty beasts. Now though, it is home to barren and tamed cities, where nature is locked out and trouble is brewing.

When Kayla’s beloved animal companion, a rare winged pangron, is stolen, she’s determined to get him back. But to do so, she’ll have to leave her city and journey into the wild and forbidden Beastlands.

There she meets Rustus, an exiled young warrior, and Alethea, a healer desperately seeking a cure for a mysterious disease. As their quests unite them, they’ll adventure across the lands they know so little about, leading them to discoveries both great and terrifying. Not least that the beasts they’ve always been taught to fear might not be so terrifying after all.

**The first instalment in an epic new fantasy adventure series for readers of *Dragon Realm*, *Fireborn* and *Skandar* and *the Unicorn Thief*.**

**JESS FRENCH** is a qualified vet with a first-class degree in zoology, a naturalist and entomologist. She is the author of over 20 books for children and the presenter of hit wildlife show *Minibeast Adventures with Jess*. She has also worked as an animal handler on *Live 'n' Deadly* and a story developer on *Springwatch*.



**Publication:**  
January 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
environment, animals, adventure

**Extent / Word count:**  
352pp / 75,000 words

**3 books in series**

### ALSO AVAILABLE



DRAFT COVER







## Slowcoach

**Bethany Rutter**

**Get your skates on for the sweetest feel-good, body-positive romcom of the summer.**

For sixteen-year-old Ruby, GCSEs are over and summer has just begun, so that means hanging out with her BFFs in the park on their roller skates and having fun. She didn't expect it to mean signing up to run in the Dawson Dash – a 5k race for sporty sixth-formers. Because Ruby is NOT sporty. But she really needs to prove wrong her mean brother and even meaner PE teacher about what a fat girl can do.

When Ruby starts to train, she didn't expect that she would need help – nor that she would find it in the cute boy who has just moved in next door. As the two jog through the long summer evenings in South London's parks together, with Ollie only seeing her at her sweatiest and most vulnerable, the last thing she expected was that he might . . . like her. Or that she could allow herself to like him.

But nothing this summer is working out like she expected . . .

**'Fun and fresh and quietly radical, Ruby is the heroine of dreams! I wish she was real!'** – Elle McNicoll, author of *A Kind of Spark*.

**BETHANY RUTTER** is a writer and podcaster. She writes books about women, bodies and clothes. She lives in Southeast London.

**Publication:**

June 2024

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

12+

**Key themes:**

fitness, fatness, friendship, family

**Extent / Word count:**

288pp / 56,000 words

# Young Adult





DRAFT COVER

## Damien Ike and the Fallen House of Draven

Dee Benson and David Arlo

**Introducing a bold new hero – Damien Ike.**

Damien Ike is fortunate. As the son of the most powerful mage in the land, he should have a bright future ahead of him. But as Damien approaches adulthood, he can't help but worry that there is no sign of his magic developing. And yet to survive beyond a few days old with no magic is unthinkable – the High Commission of Mages does not allow it. There's no way his father, their leader, would have a son who is a Nullborn.

Then Damien stumbles upon a secret his mother has kept from everyone – even him – and everything changes. Could it be that the fortune his future promised is not all it's cracked up to be? As Damien's world is turned upside down, he must discover how to keep their secret safe and get to the heart of the lies on which their world is founded . . .

**A thrilling new YA fantasy exploring fear, prejudice . . . and hope. Perfect for fans of *The Witcher* and *An Ember in the Ashes*.**

**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.

**DAVID ARLO** is a London-born Nigerian multi-hyphenate and the co-founder of TV/film production company No Ordinary. The recording artist, actor and producer has worked with high-profile producers and creatives, and as a versatile, vital and visionary creator, ARLO tells stories through different media. *Damien Ike: The Fallen House of Draven* is his debut work of fiction.

**Publication:**  
October 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
YA

**Key themes:**  
urban fantasy, magic, segregation, conspiracy,

**Extent / Word count:**  
352pp / 80,000 words

## Desi Girl Speaking

A. S. Hussain

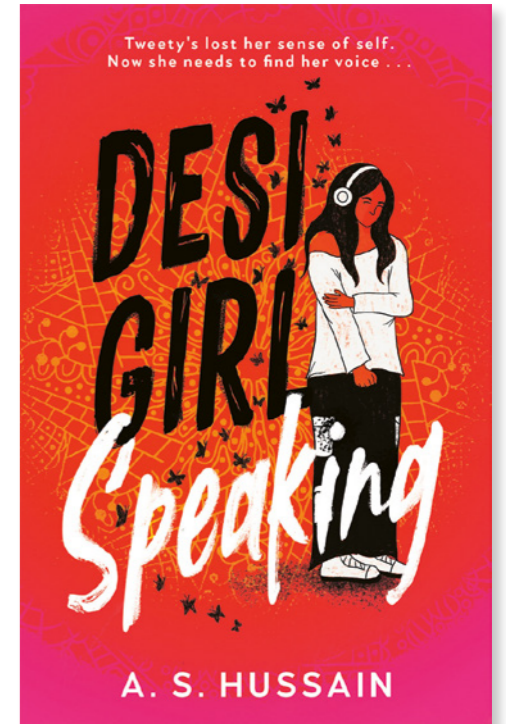
**Tweety is struggling.**

Battling depression and faced with parents who don't fully understand what's happening and friends who dismiss her, sixteen-year-old Tweety feels like no one is listening and there's nowhere to turn. Until she stumbles across *Desi Girl Speaking*, a podcast by someone else who's struggling too.

Through episodes and exchanged emails, Tweety and Desi Girl begin to confide in each other, but as Tweety's depression worsens, she'll have to decide whether to stay silenced or use her voice to speak up.

**A powerful and compassionate novel about mental health and hope, for readers of Yasmin Rahman, Muhammad Khan and Danielle Jawando.**

**A. S. HUSSAIN** was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, but currently lives and writes in Bristol. She is a graduate of the Bath Spa MAWYP. Not having seen herself in the books she read as a teenager, she writes YA novels with South Asian characters at the heart of the story. In her free time, she rewatches *Love Island*, listens to too many true crime podcasts and sings pop-punk songs loudly around her apartment.



**Publication:**  
May 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
YA

**Key themes:**  
mental health, family, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**  
400pp / 68,000 words



## We Have Everything We Need to Start Again

**Koleka Putuma**  
**Illustrated by Adriana Bellet**

**Press both feet to the ground. Place your hand on your heart. You are brave and capable. It will always be your time.**

An empowering and uplifting collection of poems from groundbreaking and award-winning poet Koleka Putuma, about figuring out who you are and embracing it.

With words to affirm, this is the ideal companion to hold your hand while you navigate all the big questions, discoveries and transitions of young adulthood.

**The perfect gift for fans of Rupi Kaur, Nikita Gill and Elizabeth Acevedo.**

**KOLEKA PUTUMA** is a South African multi-award-winning theatre practitioner, writer and poet. Her bestselling debut poetry collection *Collective Amnesia* received the 2018 Glenna Luschei Prize for African Poetry, was named 2017 book of the year by the City Press and one of the best books of 2017 by *The Sunday Times* and *Quartz Africa*.

Her work tackles themes such as sexuality, gender, race and politics. In 2022, Putuma was awarded the Standard Bank Young Artist Award – a first-time award for Poetry.



**Publication:**  
 June 2024

**Rights:**  
 World

**Age range:**  
 YA

**Key themes:**  
 coming of age, mental health, sexuality

**Extent / Word count:**  
 160pp / 6500 words / b+w illustrations

## Within the Heart of Wicked Creatures

**Rima Orië**

**What if the darkest curse was your greatest power?**

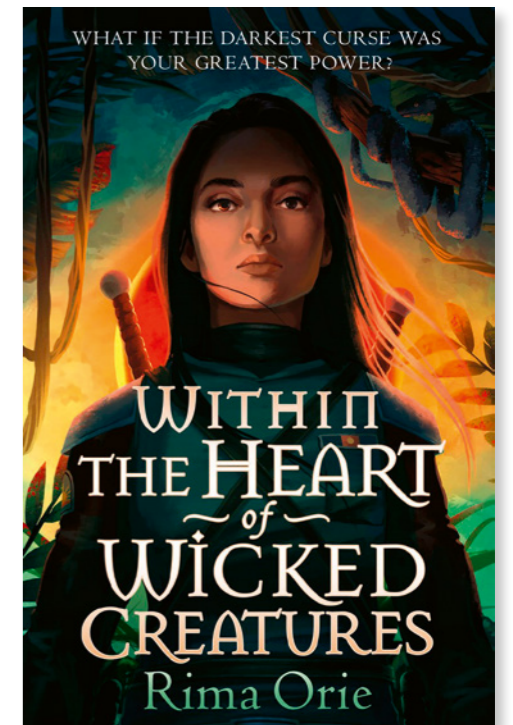
*Within the Heart of Wicked Creatures* follows Priya Chkadhari, a child born during the blood moon and therefore 'cursed' with the ability to manipulate other people's souls. In her quiet rural village, Priya has learned to hide her true nature – blood children are killed if discovered.

When she wins the annual test to attend the country's elite military school in Kuwatta, however, everything changes. During training sessions with other blood children, her curse becomes a gift. But will she survive the guerilla war that has plagued the torn land of Awaran for centuries? And what about the strange danger that lurks in the cursed heart of the Kuwatta fortress?

With new friends – and some enemies too – by her side, Priya will soon need to make a choice between what's expected of her and what's right in her heart.

*'But Awaran was all she knew. The only land whose earth she had trodden, whose air she had breathed and whose water she had tasted. Awaran was the land that had given her life, the land she fought for. She knew nothing else. Why, then, did she still feel like a traveller without a destination?'*

**RIMA ORIE** began writing on Wattpad, where her stories gathered thousands of views, and in 2018 she was selected out of 300 entries as the winner of the Moon Uitgeverij YA competition to publish her first novel, *The Rogue Prince*. This was nominated for the Young Adult Boek van het Jaar, the youth literature prize in Ghent, Belgium (known as De Kleine Cervantes), the Hebban (a Dutch bookseller chain) debut novel prize and the Dutch Book Week for Youth list. Her second novel, *Within the Heart of Wicked Creatures*, published in 2022 and she is working on the follow-up. Alongside her writing career, she works in The Hague for the Ministry of Safety and Justice. @rimaoriebooks on Instagram and @rimaorie on TikTok.



**Publication:**  
 June 2024

**Rights:**  
 World excluding Dutch and German

**Age range:**  
 YA

**Key themes:**  
 colonialism, warfare, found family, coming of age, romance, own-voices fantasy

**Extent / Word count:**  
 448pp / 120,000 words

# Young Adult



## OVEREMOTIONAL

David Fenne

**Sometimes, emotions can be a little too powerful . . .**

Seventeen-year-old Steven has a big problem . . . Whenever he feels intense emotions, weird things happen. Like when he kissed a boy for the first time, and the boy's head literally exploded.

Fleeing to the miserable town of Grunsby-on-Sea, Steven is determined to not hurt anyone else – but he doesn't count on his best friend Freya, her boyfriend Marcus and American friend Troy following him. And when agents from the mysterious DEMA organisation show up talking about 'neutralisation', Steven realises that Grunsby-on-Sea might not be the safe haven he'd hoped for . . .

**The first in an epic queer YA fantasy trilogy packed with magic, loveable characters and big plot twists.**

**A *Sunday Times* Children's Book of the Week.**

**'An epically exciting, utterly unique debut. Not to be missed.' William Hussey, author of *Broken Hearts & Zombie Parts***

**DAVID FENNE** is an author, actor and improv comedian. Originally from a small village in coastal Dorset, he went to London in 2012 for drama school (studying American Theatre Arts at Rose Bruford College). He also trained abroad for half a year at Syracuse University, New York, an experience that inspired a lot of the transatlantic humour in his writing. Currently, he works as a scriptwriter and runs long-form improv theatre company Pinch Punch.

**Publication:**

July 2023

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

YA

**Key themes:**

contemporary fantasy, superpowers, adventure, LGBTQ+, magical

**Extent / Word count:**

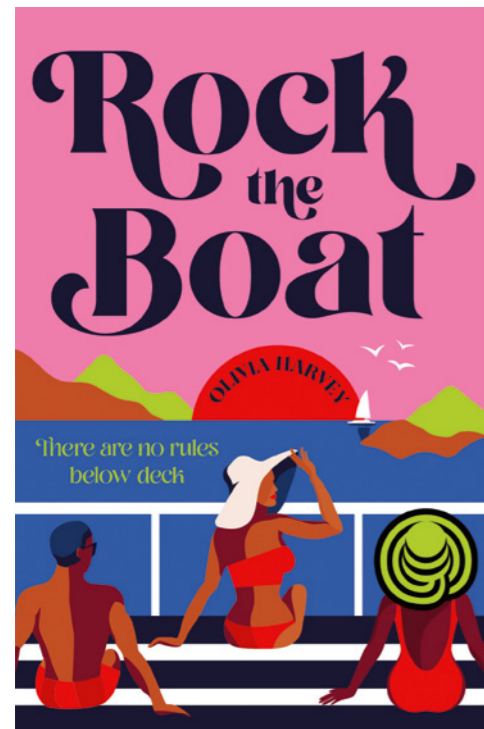
352pp / 89,000 words

### ALSO AVAILABLE



# New Adult





DRAFT COVER

## Rock the Boat

**Olivia Harvey**

Welcome to the messiest, sexiest below-deck love triangle you'll read this summer . . .

Hope and Adam are newbie yachties on board the *Serendipity* out of Mallorca. They soon realise they're going to have to keep their relationship secret – below deck, it's a tight crew, and things could get messy.

It turns out to be pretty sexy though, having to sneak about and keep things secret – until Hope starts to see another side of Adam she's not so keen on, and realises that maybe he's not quite who she thought he was.

And then super-hot stewardess Berry joins the team on board – what was that about 'don't screw the crew' . . . ? Looks like rules are made to be broken . . .

**A sizzling, sexy summer read for all fans of *Below Deck* and *Emily Harvey*.**

**OLIVIA HARVEY** was born in Canada, grew up on the Wirral, lived in London for a while, and along with her two sons, recently moved back to her hometown to live by the sea. She previously worked as a bookseller and a PA in the music industry, and now, when she's not writing, she spends as much time as she can on boats.

**Publication:**

June 2025

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

New Adult

**Key themes:**

romance/summer

**Extent / Word count:**

304pp / 70,000 words

## Hits Different

**Tasha Ghouri & Lizzie Huxley-Jones**

Discover your book of the summer from Tasha Ghouri, *Love Island* star and disability campaigner!

**Cassie needs a change.**

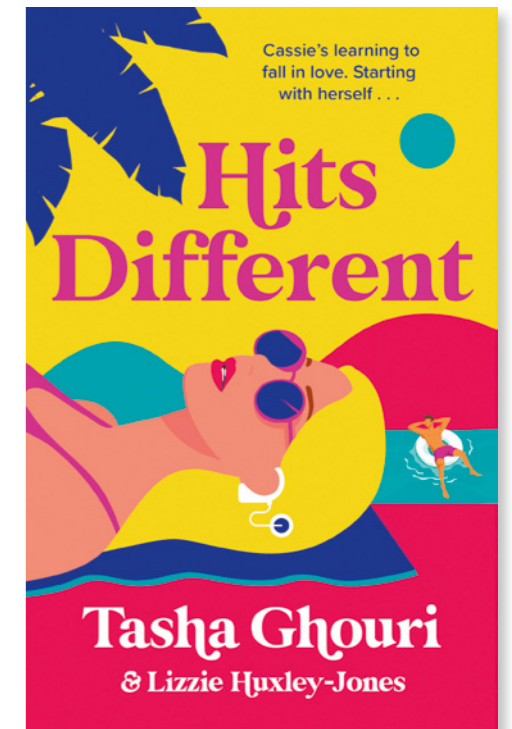
She's in a job she hates, dating a guy who couldn't care less about her, and secretly dreaming of making her dance ambitions a reality. But that's all they are, dreams. Because no way could she actually do it . . . right?

But then an opportunity to dance on tour with a global superstar presents itself and Cassie decides to give it a shot. Jetting off for a hot summer in Ibiza, her dreams seem closer than ever, and so does real love. Levi, the guy she keeps bumping into, sees and uplifts her in a way no one else ever has. If only Cassie could believe in herself like he does, she might find that life hits different when you learn to love yourself first . . .

**A sizzling summer romance, perfect for fans of *Emily Henry* and *Talia Hibbert*!**

**TASHA GHOURI** is a television personality, activist, model and social media influencer. She is a brand ambassador for eBay, Ann Summers and L'Oréal Paris, and recently launched her own podcast, *Superpowers with Tasha Ghouri*, which focuses on normalising disabilities by embracing them as superpowers. As a proud cochlear-implant wearer, she is also a global ambassador for DeafKidsUK and works with the National Deaf Children's Society and RNID to help those with hearing impairments.

**LIZZIE HUXLEY-JONES** is an autistic author and editor based in London. They are the author of the queer holiday romcom *Make You Mine This Christmas* and middle-grade adventure series *Vivi Conway*. They write joyful stories that centre queerness and disability. In their past career lives, they have been a research diver, a children's bookseller and digital-communications specialist.



**'A brilliant and joyful celebration of fierce friendships and unapologetic self-love. With a romance at once tender and steamy, *Hits Different* is a wonderful story about showing up, taking up space and following your dreams.'**

Bea Fitzgerald, author of *Girl, Goddess, Queen*

**Publication:**

June 2024

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

New Adult

**Key themes:**

romance, summer holiday, disability representation

**Extent / Word count:**

368pp / 75,000 words



## Somewhere in the Sunset

**Estelle Maskame**

A brand-new book from Estelle Maskame, the hugely popular author of the successful *Dimily* and *Mila* trilogies, who is breaking fresh ground with her first novel in the New Adult genre.

Gracie's future was set to be a happily ever after . . . or so she thought. An up-and-coming influencer, Gracie's job revolved around her relationship – without it, who is she and what is she supposed to show her viewers now?

Weston is acting the part of the good son, in police officer training because that's what his dad wants, but playing life safe for fear of failing has cost him his relationship. Weston had the woman of his dreams . . . he just realised it far too late.

Dragged out by their friends to forget their heartbreak in San Francisco, Gracie and Weston's worlds collide in a bar fight. Adrift in their shared romantic woes, they gravitate towards one another; after all, if they have to be alone, why not be alone together?

**ESTELLE MASKAME** won the Young Scot Arts Award in 2016 and was shortlisted for the Young Adult award at the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards. Estelle's books have sold over 1 million copies worldwide and in more than 20 territories.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
April 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
New Adult

**Key themes:**  
romance, second-chance love, will-they-won't-they, first jobs

**Extent / Word count:**  
288pp / 80,000 words

# World English





## Peregrine Quinn and the Cosmic Realm

**Ash Bond**

**Discover the portal to an incredible new world in this epic middle-grade adventure. Perfect for fans of Skandar, Percy Jackson and Artemis Fowl.**

Peregrine Quinn has always loved hearing her godfather Daedalus Bloom's stories about his life as an immortal, but that's all they were – stories. That is, until the portals that connect the Terran Realm with the Cosmic Realm mysteriously shut down and Daedalus, the only one who can fix them, is kidnapped.

Peregrine is then swept into a nail-biting adventure, racing through the streets of Oxford, down the riverways of London and into the Under-Underground. She soon realises that not only are the creatures from her godfather's stories real, but they're shooting at her with laser blasters.

Fortunately she has help from dryad librarian Rowan Strong and Olympus Inc. liaison (and faun) Callimachus Thorn. Together they must fix the portals and rescue Daedalus before an ancient evil rises and chaos takes over. Time is running out and the fate of all the realms is now in Peregrine's hands . . .

**Get ready for an edge-of-your-seat race between worlds with Peregrine Quinn!**

**ASH BOND** writes magical stories that have classical myth sprinkled through them like fairy dust. She is now studying for her PhD, focusing on the relationship between mythology and landscape, at the University of Bristol.

When not reading about myths, Ash is also a yoga teacher and loves to move – insisting she gets her best ideas when swimming in rivers, stomping up mountains or doing cartwheels. @ashbwrites

**Publication:**  
April 2024

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**Rights:**  
World English

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**Age range:**  
9–11

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**Key themes:**  
myths, technology, libraries

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**Extent / Word count:**  
336pp / 68,000 words

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**3 books in series**

## The Riddle of the Sea

**Jonne Kramer, translated by  
Laura Watkinson**

**Illustrated by Karl James Mountford**

**A gripping sea adventure featuring a lost father and a cursed ship.**

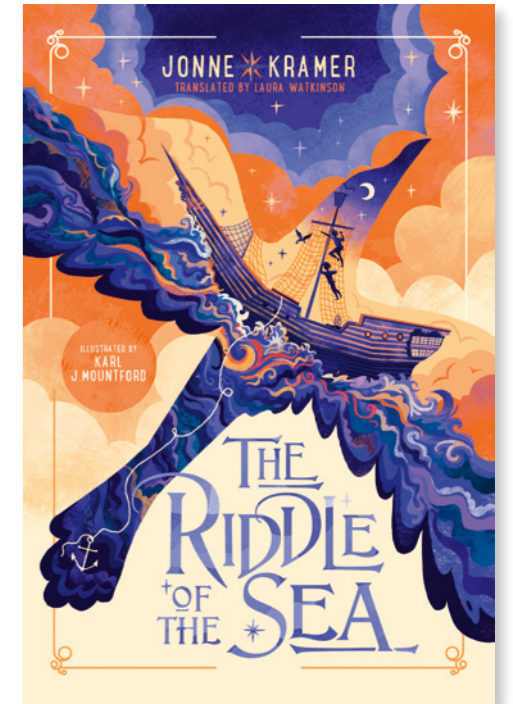
When Ravian's father doesn't return home from sea for his son's birthday, Ravian is certain he must be in danger. Hearing tales of a cursed ship that captures fishermen, Ravian goes in search of his father accompanied by his only friend Marvin the seagull. Before long, the pair find themselves trapped on the ship with a kindly boy and a bad-tempered pirate for company. The ensuing voyage is beset with battles with giant squid and fierce storms, and Ravian despairs of ever finding his father.

Featuring stunning illustrations by acclaimed illustrator Karl James Mountford.

A wonderful story of friendship and overcoming fears, translated from Dutch by Laura Watkinson, Carnegie-Medal 2020 shortlisted translator of *Lampie* by Annet Schaap.

**JONNE KRAMER** studied creative writing at the University of Westminster in London. She currently lives in Amsterdam where she teaches creative writing in primary and secondary schools.

*The Riddle of the Sea* is her debut novel. This heartwarming story was nominated for several prestigious prizes, including the Hotze de Roos-prize (for best Children's Book Debut) and the Dutch Children's Jury Prize.



**Publication:**  
April 2022

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**Rights:**  
World English

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**Age range:**  
9–11

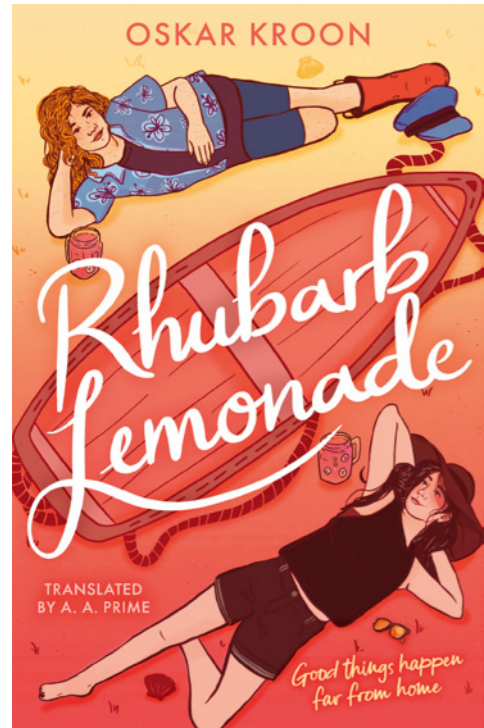
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**Key themes:**  
pirates, monsters, family

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**Extent / Word count:**  
304pp / 46,000 words / b+w illustrations





## Rhubarb Lemonade

Oskar Kroon, translated by A. A. Prime

**An award-winning novel about family old and new, friendship growing into romance, 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. At home, back in the city, Mum is sad and Dad has left for good. But here with Granddad on the island, all her problems feel far away. Summer goes 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. 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.

Translated from the original Swedish by A. A. Prime.

**OSKAR KROON** was a journalist who retrained as a baker. Now he writes full-time so he can spend time with his family.

*Rhubarb Lemonade* was published in Sweden in 2019 as *Waiting for Wind* and won the the August Prize for the best Swedish children's book in 2019. It has been published in 11 other languages.

**Publication:**

June 2023

**Rights:**

World English

**Age range:**

12+

**Key themes:**

family, bereavement, first kiss, summer, LGBTQ+

**Extent / Word count:**

224pp / 40,000 words

## Glow Up, Lara Bloom

Dee Benson

*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!

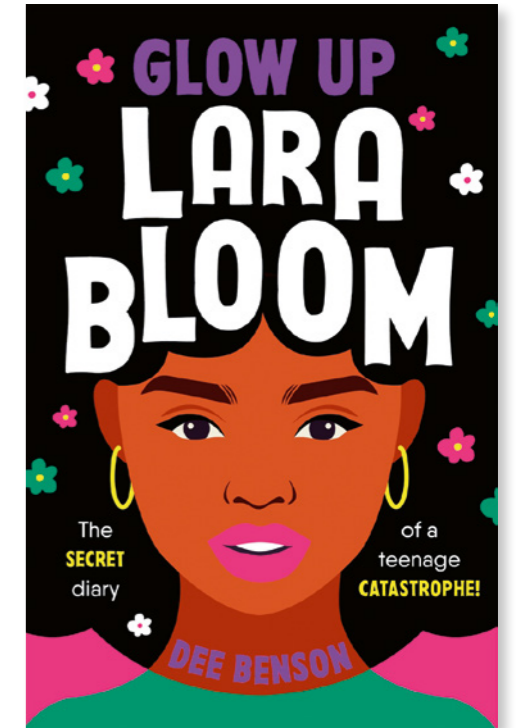
As Lara and her friends embark on their project of empowerment and self-love, Lara shares her innermost thoughts with her online journal. How can she keep her hair under control when she's playing football? Why is she so fast on the pitch yet so uncoordinated off it? And how will she ever convince Caiden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

With her worries safely locked in her top-secret journal, Lara is on track to unlock the glow up of her dreams. Surely nothing could possibly go wrong . . .?!

**A heart-warming story of friendship, crushes and learning to love yourself. Perfect for fans of *Geek Girl*, Louise Rennison and Alesha Dixon.**

**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. 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.

**ALSO AVAILABLE**



**Publication:**

February 2023

**Rights:**

World English

**Age range:**

12+

**Key themes:**

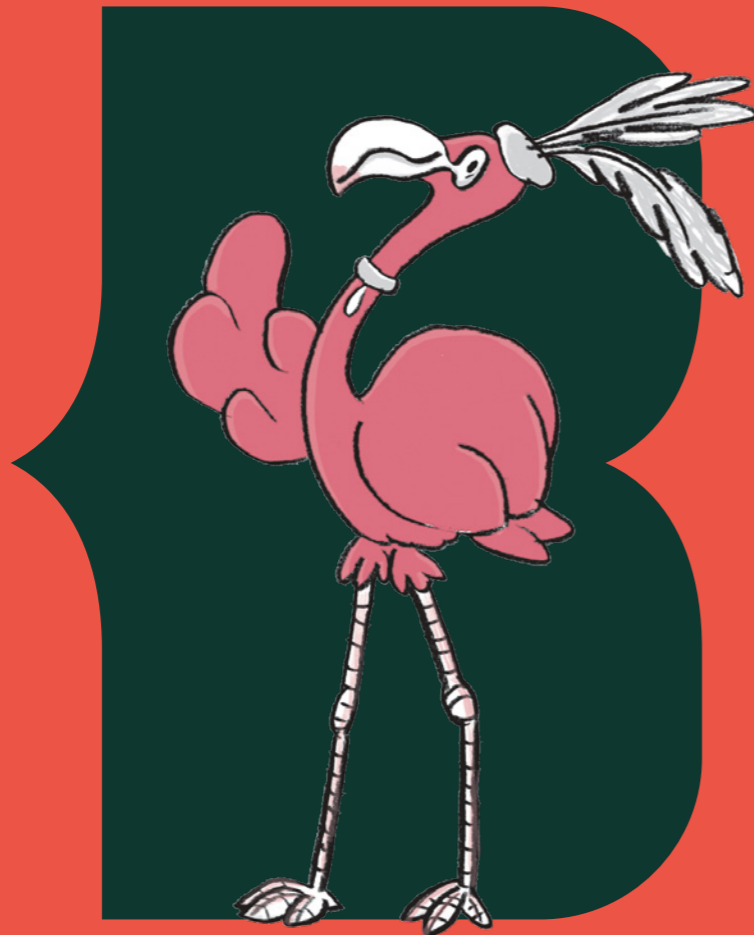
black joy, self-love, crushes

**Extent / Word count:**

368pp / 74,000 words

**2 books in series**

# Backlist



## Butterfly Brain

Laura Dockrill

Illustrated by Gwen Millward

**If Roald Dahl had written *A Monster Calls* . . .  
A very special picture book from two rising stars.**

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 . . .

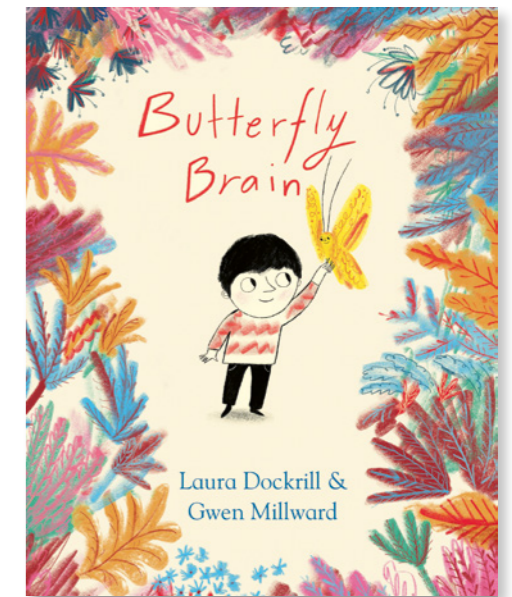
Together they go wild, stomping around in the joy of imagination and happy dreams – but they can't go any further if Gus won't gather *all* of his memories. His butterfly will die unless Gus is ready to hear about his mum . . .

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 a performance poet and novelist. She is author of the Carnegie Medal nominated YA novel *Lorali*, *Aurabel* and *Big Bones*, as well as *You Are a Story*, a creative writing guide for teenagers, *My Mum is Growing Down* (Faber) and her memoir for adults, *What Have I Done*.

**GWEN MILLWARD** was brought up in Wales. Originally she had her heart set on becoming a naturalist as she loved studying insects and drawing them. Her trips abroad when she was young are associated with finding new and strange looking creatures!

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
September 2020

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
5–7

**Key themes:**  
loss of a parent, grief, joy,  
imagination, dreams

**Extent / Word count:**  
80pp / 5,800 words / full-colour  
illustrations



## Kate on the Case

**Hannah Peck**

Discover the first brilliant adventure of reporter-in-training Kate and her mouse Rupert, in this stunning book, filled with colourful illustrations.

‘Exciting’ – *Big Issue*

‘Beautifully illustrated’ – *Teach Primary*

‘Cleverly woven and illustrated, with a cast of brilliant characters’ – *Armadillo*

Young reporter-in-training 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 are 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, UK. She studied English at university before swapping the pen for a pencil. Now she uses both to write and draw at exactly the same time.

Hannah uses inks and pencil textures to create elegant illustrations full of magic and fun, and thinks sharing stories is important.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



#### Publication:

July 2021

#### Rights:

World

#### Age range:

7–9

#### Key themes:

investigations, animals, reporting

#### Extent / Word count:

160pp / 9300 words / two-colour illustrations

3 books in series

## Hotel Flamingo

**Alex Milway**

SHORTLISTED FOR THE ALLIGATOR’S MOUTH AWARD

‘Crammed full of characterful animal illustrations with accents of zinging pink, this flamboyant early chapter book is a splendid, unpreachy testament to the power of hard work.’ – *Guardian*

When young Anna inherits a dilapidated once-grand hotel from her Great Aunt Mathilde, she’s determined to restore it to its former glory. But this is no ordinary hotel – all of her staff and guests are *animals*!

Anna soon rises to the challenge. Whether it’s a flamingo, a penguin or a hippo knocking at the door, Anna is ready to welcome them all . . .

As she soon finds out, though, running an animal hotel is no easy task. Can Anna make Hotel Flamingo a success once more?

If you love *Hotel Flamingo*, try *Big Sky Mountain*, the newest series of animal adventures from Alex Milway!

**ALEX MILWAY** is a full-time children’s books author-illustrator and screenwriter. His books include *Pigsticks and Harold* (Walker Books) and the *Hotel Flamingo* and *Big Sky Mountain* series (Piccadilly).

He is the founder of the This Book Is Funny! children’s book scheme working with schools and libraries and has huge experience running children’s workshops around the UK, in China and the US.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



#### Publication:

February 2019

#### Rights:

World

#### Age range:

5–7

#### Key themes:

teamwork, friendship, animals, sunshine

#### Extent / Word count:

192pp / 10,800 words / two-colour illustrations

4 books in series



## Princess Katie's Kittens

**Julie Sykes**

**Illustrated by Sam Loman**

**Welcome to Starlight Palace!**

Princess Katie's greatest wish is to have a kitten of her own to care for. So when she discovers a litter of kittens in the forest, it's a dream come true! But back at the palace she realises that one of the kittens is missing . . . Can Katie and her best friend Becky find Pixie and bring her to safety?

**Short chapters, black-and-white illustrations and fabulous facts about kitten care make these the perfect choice for newly confident readers.**

**JULIE SYKES** has recently moved to Cornwall with her family and a white wolf – cunningly disguised as a dog. When she's not writing she likes eating cake, reading and walking, often at the same time.

**SAM LOMAN** studied Illustration at the Academy of Arts in Rotterdam in the Netherlands (BDes) and Art, Design and Illustration at the University of Hertfordshire. She works full-time from her home as an illustrator/author for picture books and designs products like stationery, tableware, cards and more.

**Publication:**  
March 2023

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
5–7

**Key themes:**  
kittens, princesses, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**  
144pp / 9000 words / b+w illustrations

**5 books in series**

### ALSO AVAILABLE



## Ballet Besties

**Yasmine Naghdi & Chitra Soundar**

**Illustrated by Paula Franco**

**Pirouette your way into the Shimmer & Shine dance studio, where the ballet besties are ready to put on a show!**

When Yara joins a community dance school, she soon has a group of ballet besties she loves to dance with.

But then Dame Clougston-Wilmott, their grumpy landlady, threatens to close the studio. Suddenly it's up to Yara and her new friends to keep Shimmer & Shine open!

Will putting on a performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* reawaken the Dame's love for dance? Will Yara have the chance to dance her dream role of Aurora? And most importantly of all, can the ballet besties save their studio?

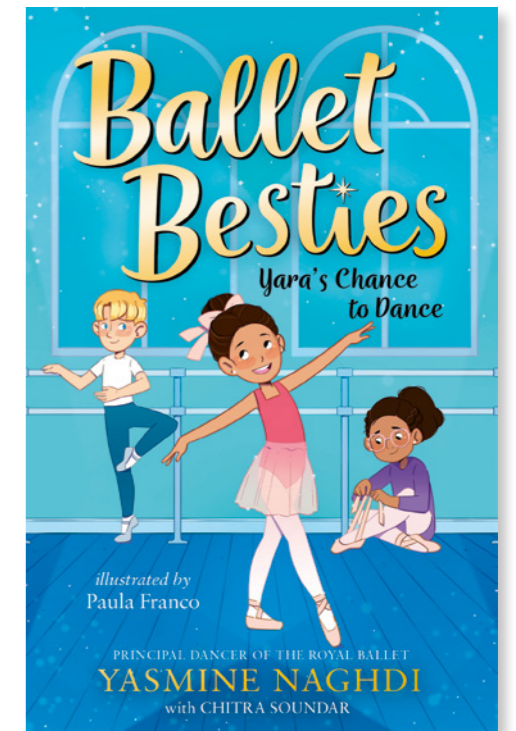
**A fun, inclusive and accessible series that will bring the joy of dance to young readers!**

**YASMINE NAGHDI** is a Principal of the Royal Ballet and has been dancing with the company since 2010. Her many roles with the Royal Ballet include *Odette/Odile (Swan Lake)* and *Princess Aurora (The Sleeping Beauty)*.

**CHITRA SOUNDAR** is a writer and dreamer of many things. Her stories are inspired by her family, her childhood in India, which was filled with epics and folktales, and her travels around the world.

**PAULA FRANCO** is an illustrator living in Rosario, Argentina. She studied Illustration & Graphic Design at Instituto Superior Comunicación Visual.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
March 2024

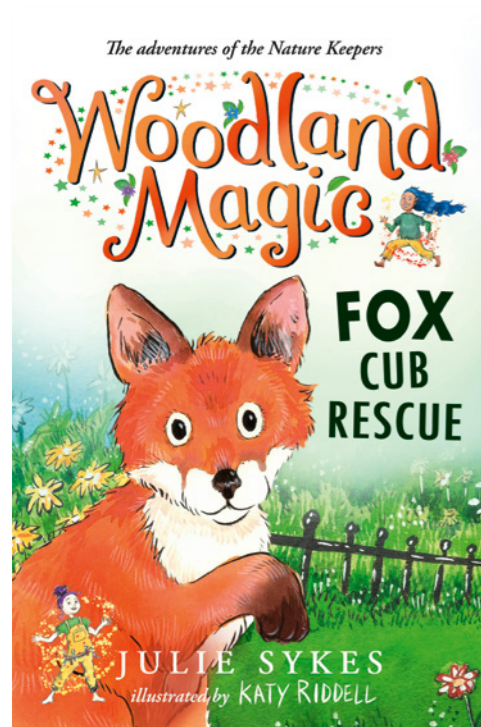
**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
7–9

**Key themes:**  
dance, teamwork, inclusivity

**Extent / Word count:**  
224pp / 26,000 words / b+w illustrations

**4 books in series**



## Woodland Magic

**Julie Sykes**

**Illustrated by Katy Riddell**

**An illustrated magical adventure series from the bestselling author of the *Unicorn Academy* series, brimming with drama and an environmental theme.**

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

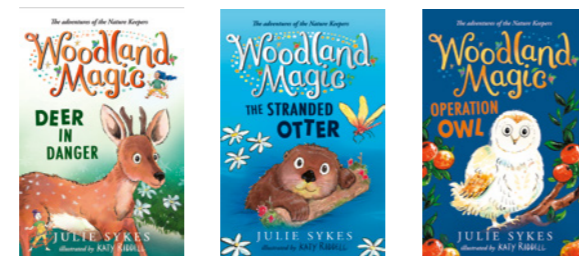
Young Keepers Cora and Jax have just finished school and are embarking on a trial, with several friends, to become fully-fledged Keepers. But their first venture out on their own ends in disaster when they become distracted with playing in the Ruffin children's playground instead of concentrating on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

**JULIE SYKES** As a child, Julie 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 and is now the bestselling author of more than 100 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, spending many hours writing and illustrating her own stories, which her father (award-winning illustrator Chris Riddell) collected.

Katy rediscovered her love for illustrating children's books after graduating with a BA Hons in Illustration and Animation from Manchester Metropolitan University.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



<b>Publication:</b> March 2022
<b>Rights:</b> World
<b>Age range:</b> 7-9
<b>Key themes:</b> protecting nature, adventure, friendship
<b>Extent / Word count:</b> 128pp / 12,000 words / b+w illustrations
<b>4 books in series</b>

## Nell and the Cave Bear

**Martin Brown**

**Delightful and heart-warming debut story from renowned illustrator of the *Horrible History* series.**

A long time ago, there was a little girl whose best friend was a cave bear cub. He had been small and frightened when Nell found him. Now that he was not so small and not so frightened, the grown-ups were not so sure he was a suitable pet. So Nell and Cave Bear set off on a big adventure, searching for a way to stay together . . .

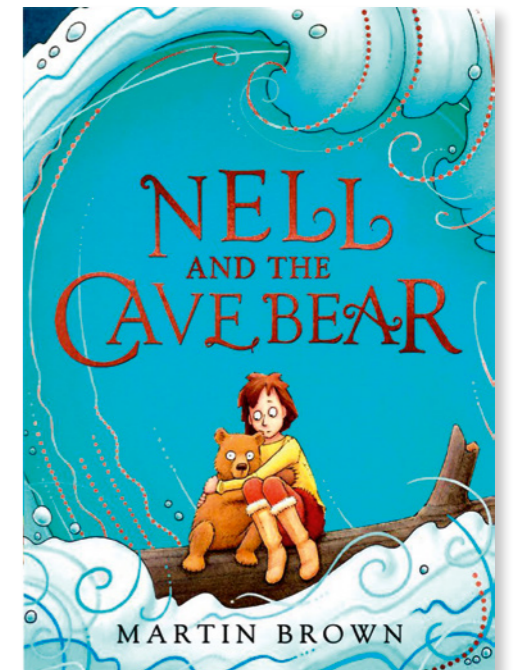
This heart-warming story is beautifully and simply told, with a delightfully gentle humour, and exquisitely illustrated.

**The second book featuring Nell and the Cave Bear – *Nell and the Cave Bear: The Journey Home* – is available now!**

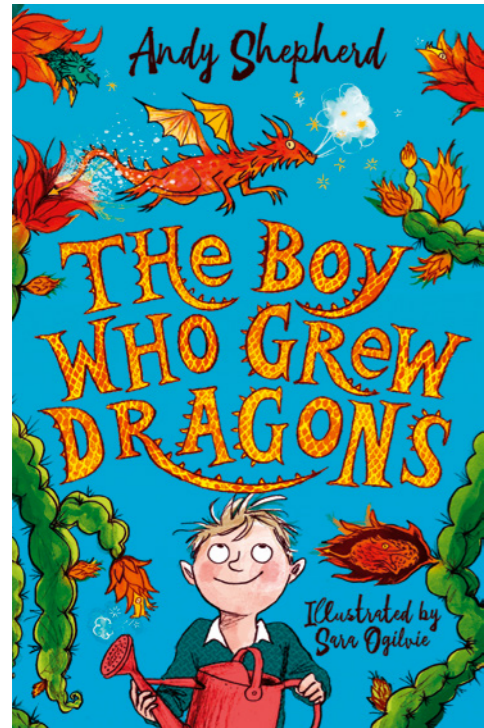
**MARTIN BROWN** is the cartoonist illustrator of the hugely successful *Horrible Histories* series.

He trained to be an art teacher in his home town of Melbourne before working as a stage-hand in the television studios of the ABC. Then, following many Australian footsteps abroad, Martin ended up in London where his lifetime dream of becoming a cartoonist was realised.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



<b>Publication:</b> September 2019
<b>Rights:</b> World
<b>Age range:</b> 5-7
<b>Key themes:</b> adventure, friendship, journeys
<b>Extent / Word count:</b> 176pp / 13,700 words / two-colour illustrations
<b>2 books in series</b>



## The Boy Who Grew Dragons

**Andy Shepherd**

**Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie**

**SHORTLISTED FOR THE WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE 2019**

**LONGLISTED FOR THE BLUE PETER BOOK AWARDS 2019**

**'Irresistible . . . a modern classic' Guardian**

**'A warm-hearted debut . . . lovely, expressive, characterful' Sunday Times**

When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house – and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! The tree is a dragonfruit tree, and Tomas has got his very own dragon, Flicker . . .

Tomas soon finds out that life with Flicker is great fun, but also very . . . unpredictable. Yes, dragons are wonderful, but they also set fire to your toothbrush and leave your pants hanging from the TV aerial. Tomas has to learn how to look after Flicker – and quickly. And then something extraordinary happens – more dragonfruits appear on the tree. Tomas is officially growing dragons . . .

**ANDY SHEPHERD** is the author of the bestselling *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* series. She lives near Cambridge with her husband and two sons.

**SARA OGILVIE** is an award-winning illustrator. She was born in Edinburgh in 1971 and now lives in Newcastle upon Tyne.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



#### Publication:

June 2018

#### Rights:

World

#### Age range:

7–9

#### Key themes:

dragons, adventure, friendship, mayhem

#### Extent / Word count:

224pp / 26,700 words / b+w illustrations

**6 books in series**

## The Silver Road

**Sinéad O'Hart**

**Myth and magic combine in this unforgettable adventure drawing on Irish folklore, from award-winning author Sinéad O'Hart.**

***The seandraiocht – the Old Magic – isn't remembered like it once was. Its power is fading . . .***

When Rose is entrusted with a powerful stone by a Frost Giant, she is swept into an adventure full of danger. The stone can be used for great good or great evil, depending on its keeper. It leads Rose to discover the magic that runs through all of Ireland. A magic that is threaded together beneath the land: the Silver Road. But the Silver Road is under threat.

Now Rose must keep the stone from falling into the wrong hands and embark on a quest to find its rightful owner and keep the magic alive . . .

**A stunning new fantasy adventure for children, drawing on Celtic folklore. Perfect for fans of Catherine Doyle and Ross Montgomery.**

**SINÉAD O'HART** is a children's author, a children's literature podcaster (she co-hosts *Storyshaped*, available on all podcasting platforms) and a parent, all of which keeps her busy (but not too busy to read).

She's the author of *The Eye of the North*, *The Star-Spun Web*, *Skyborn*, *The Time Tider* and *The Silver Road*, and sometimes she can't quite believe she's lucky enough to do what she loves most (putting fictional people into frankly dangerous situations) as a job!

**AN IRISH TIMES BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK OF 2023**

**AN IRISH INDEPENDENT BEST IRISH CHILDREN'S BOOK OF 2023**

**SHORTLISTED FOR THE AN POST IRISH BOOK AWARDS 2023**



#### Publication:

September 2023

#### Rights:

World

#### Age range:

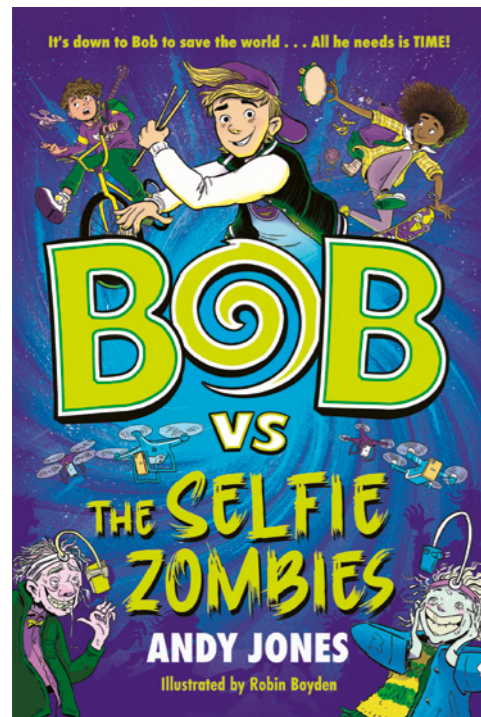
9–11

#### Key themes:

ancient myths, modern friendships, the power of storytelling

#### Extent / Word count:

352pp / 63,000 words



## Bob vs the Selfie Zombies

**Andy Jones**

**Illustrated by Robin Boyden**

**The hilarious and action-packed story of Bob, accidental time traveller. It's down to Bob to save the world . . . All he needs is time!**

Bob and his best friend Malcolm are determined to win the school talent competition with their band The Tentacles of Time. Not only is there £50 to be won, but the future of the world depends on it.

Bob doesn't know why he can time travel. He does know that it always happens at the worst possible moments. Like when he's in the bath. Awkward! But when Bob comes face to face with his future self in the middle of a disastrous alternative reality, he has to do something!

In this terrifying version of the future, an evil genius has created a smile-operated selfie camera that turns people into zombies. The world as Bob knows it has completely collapsed. There's not even anywhere to get a decent pizza! It's up to Bob to fix the present, change the course of time and save the whole world!

**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.

**ROBIN BOYDEN** lives in Cheltenham with his partner and their Cockapoo Lupin. Robin has been an illustrator for over a decade and during that time has worked for the likes of *The Guardian*, *The Times*, Bloomsbury and Penguin Random House, to name a few.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
February 2023

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
future, family, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**  
320pp / 39,000 words / b+w illustrations

**2 books in series**

## Eddie and the Box of Flits

**Kate Wilkinson**

**Illustrated by Joe Berger**

**A modern classic set against the backdrop of the London Underground, this is a timeless story of friendship, family and noticing the little things in life.**

When eleven-year-old Edie Winter finds a mysterious box on the London Underground, she goes straight to take it to her father, an employee of the London Underground Lost Property Office. But on her way, Edie is amazed to discover that the box is home to a family of Flits – tiny winged people. And these Flits – Impy, Speckle and Nid – need Edie's help. Not only do they need supplies (rice crispies, sugar sprinkles, digestive biscuits and raisins) and someone to look after them, but their brother Jot has run away and they need Edie's help to find him.

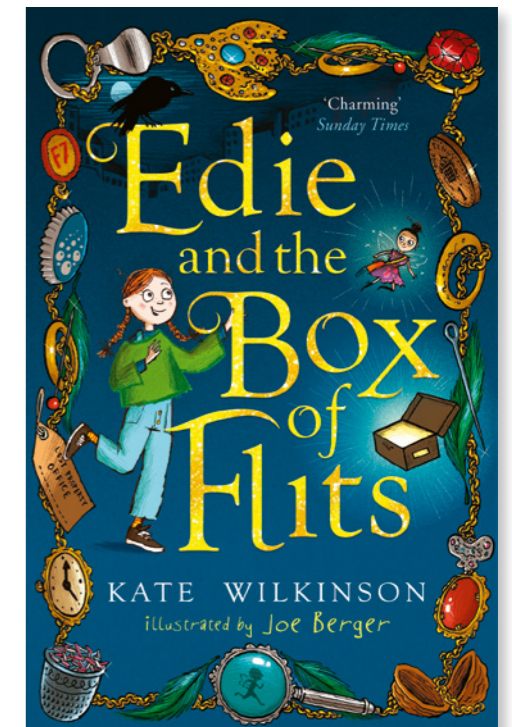
With delightful black-and-white illustrations by animator, cartoonist and illustrator Joe Berger.

Perfect for fans of *The Borrowers*, *Harklights* and *Mrs Pepperpot*.

**KATE WILKINSON** started out as a children's writer for BBC Radio creating audio stories for pre-school listeners. She then became a radio producer for many years, working primarily on arts programmes, literary features and readings such as Radio 4's *Book at Bedtime* and *Book of the Week*.

**JOE BERGER** is a freelance illustrator who makes award-winning animations, and co-writes and draws a weekly comic strip in *The Guardian*. He has written and illustrated many children's books and in 2010 was World Book Day Illustrator. He lives in Bristol.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
July 2021

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
adventure, hidden world, lost property

**Extent / Word count:**  
288pp / 42,000 words / b+w illustrations

**2 books in series**



## Hide and Seek

Rhian Tracey

**A thrilling mystery adventure based on true historical events, from the author of *I, Spy: A Bletchley Park Mystery*.**

Before the war starts, Ned is resigned to a future working in the family funeral parlour. Then the covert operations at Bletchley Park begin and his life is transformed.

Ned and his mother leave Bletchley Park on a vital wartime mission into the remote Welsh countryside. Their task: to protect the priceless artwork that is being stored in a slate mine in the village of Manod. As long as its whereabouts are secret, they'll keep the national treasures out of the hands of the enemy.

But when it appears that someone in the village is trying to expose the truth, suspicion turns to the newcomers – Ned, his mother, and a young German-Jewish refugee, Anni. Can Ned, Anni and their friend Harri prove their loyalty to the mission and keep the secret safe?

**A gripping wartime story, perfect for readers aged 9 and up and fans of Phil Earle, Robin Stevens, Lesley Parr and Hilary McKay.**

**RHIAN TRACEY** was born in Swansea and grew up on the Welsh borders. As Rhian Ivory, she has previously published *The Boy Who Drew the Future* and *Hope*. 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.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
February 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
9–11

**Key themes:**  
Second World War, mystery, code breaking

**Extent / Word count:**  
272pp / 62,000 words

## Prey Zone

Wilbur Smith, Keith Chapman and Steve Cole

**A thrilling Wilbur Smith series for the next generation with high action and high stakes.**

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 *Sarchosuchus* Ralph recognises from his favourite game, *Predasaur*.

As Ralph and Robyn follow the clues, all roads lead them to Crocodile Lodge's infamous neighbour: billionaire 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 following the success of *When the Lion Feeds*, and has since published over fifty global bestsellers, all meticulously researched on his numerous expeditions worldwide.

**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 best-selling author of over 150 books of which sales exceed three million copies. His works include the hugely successful *Astrosaur*s 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.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**  
September 2022

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
12+

**Key themes:**  
gaming, technology, conservation

**Extent / Word count:**  
240pp / 53,000 words

**3 books in series**





## The Reluctant Vampire Queen

Jo Simmons

The perfect lighthearted summer read for 11-14 year olds.

**'Geek Girl with a supernatural twist' – Observer**

Meet Mo Merrydrew – independent young woman, Mini Battenberg fan, president of the debating society – and reluctant vampire queen . . .

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), 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 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 series from bestselling author Jo Simmons**

**JO SIMMONS** is an author of funny fiction. *I Swapped My Brother on the Internet* was shortlisted for the Lollies Book Awards 2020 and was translated into several languages. Jo began her working life as a sub-editor on magazines in London and later became a freelance journalist. She lives in Brighton with her family and a small, scruffy dog who leaves hair absolutely everywhere. *The Reluctant Vampire Queen* series is her first for teenagers.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**

July 2022

**World Rights**

**Age range:**

11-14

**Key themes:**

vampires, friendship, crushes, bats and fangs

**Extent / Word count:**

352pp / 73,000 words

3 books in series

## Robin Hood: Hacking, Heists & Flaming Arrows

Robert Muchamore

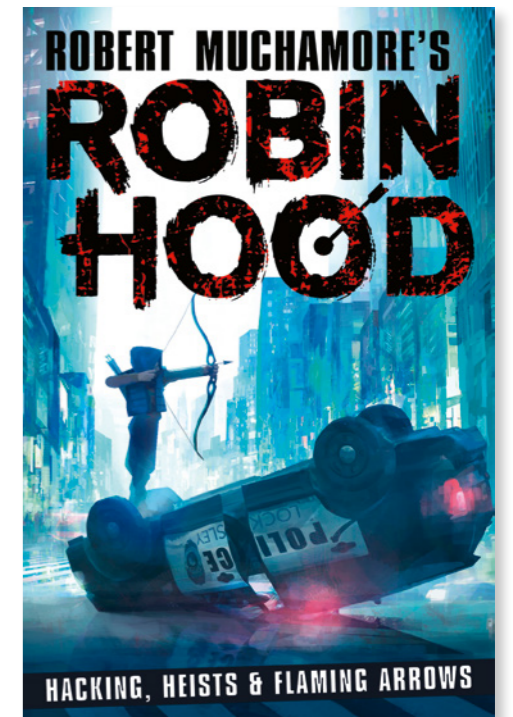
**A town. A forest. A hero.**

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

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

**ROBERT MUCHAMORE** books have sold over 15 million copies worldwide, have been translated into 24 languages, and have been number-one bestsellers in eight countries including the UK, France, Germany, Australia and New Zealand. For more information about Robert and his books, go to [www.muchamore.com](http://www.muchamore.com).

### ALSO AVAILABLE



**Publication:**

March 2020

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

12+

**Key themes:**

action, high-tech contemporary adventure, humour

**Extent / Word count:**

272pp / 48,000 words

8 books in series



## The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree

Paola Peretti

**'A simply told, bitter-sweet story, with a powerful poetic message' – Jacqueline Wilson**

**Nominated for the CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL 2019 and the IBBY Honour List 2020. A novel for all ages about a young girl losing her sight, inspired by the author's own life story. For fans of *Wonder*, *The Little Prince* and *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly*.**

Mafalda is a nine-year-old girl who knows one thing: some time in the next six months her sight will fail completely.

Can Mafalda find a way through a seemingly dark future and still go to school, play football and look after her beloved cat? With the help of her family, and her friends, Mafalda needs to discover the things that will be important to her when her sight has failed.

A moving, empowering tale of courage and determination that will inspire young and old.

**PAOLA PERETTI** is Italian and was born in the province of Verona, where she still lives today. She studied literature and philosophy and graduated in publishing and journalism in 2011 with a thesis on gender discrimination in literature.

**Publication:**  
August 2018

**World English Rights**

**Age range:**  
12+

**Key themes:**  
losing sight, growing up, friendship

**Extent / Word count:**  
208pp / 40,700 words

### ALSO AVAILABLE



## Wise Creatures

Deirdre Sullivan

**'When it comes to writing YA fiction as beautiful, eerie and utterly chilling as *Wise Creatures*, Deirdre Sullivan is in a league of her own' Louise O'Neill, author of *Only Ever Yours***

*I always thought that hauntings began with houses. They don't, of course.*

*It's people, isn't it? They begin with people.*

If anyone knows what it is to be haunted, it's Daisy. The ghosts of her troubled past are ever present. Daisy has always done her best to shut the ghosts away. To shut away the wise creatures, who used to whisper to her from the walls of the house. To live a normal life.

But now, something is humming in the house. Something dark, and unknown. And it's targeting Nina, her beloved sister. Daisy knows that something is up. And that the wise creatures, locked away for so long, are back. And this time, who knows what they want?

**A haunting psychological 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, and her first book for Hot Key Books, *Perfectly Preventable Deaths*, was shortlisted for the Awards in 2019.

### ALSO AVAILABLE



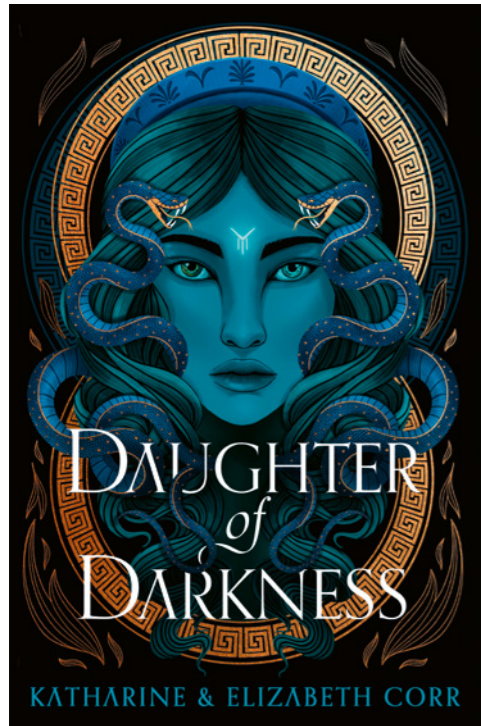
**Publication:**  
September 2024

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
YA

**Key themes:**  
sisterhood, trauma, hauntings, memories

**Extent / Word count:**  
384pp / 75,000 words



## Daughter of Darkness

**Katharine & Elizabeth Corr**

**'Everything I want in a fantasy and more' – Mary Watson, author of *Blood to Poison***

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?

A stunning YA duology set in a world inspired by the mythology of ancient Greece, from the authors of *A Throne of Swans* and *A Crown of Talons*.

**Perfect for fans of Alexandra Bracken's *Lore* and Jessie Burton's *Medusa*.**

### **KATHARINE & ELIZABETH CORR**

are sisters originally from Essex, now living in Surrey. 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 local coffee shops, arguing over which character to kill off next. Katharine and Elizabeth are authors of the enthralling *A Throne of Swans* duology and the spellbinding trilogy *The Witch's Kiss*.

### **ALSO AVAILABLE**



#### **Publication:**

August 2022

#### **Rights:**

World

#### **Age range:**

YA

#### **Key themes:**

freedom, betrayal, the Underworld

#### **Extent / Word count:**

448pp / 113,000 words

**2 books in series**

## This Is How You Fall in Love

**Anika Hussain**

**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: 90s romcoms and romance novels and grand sweeping gestures. 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 . . .

**A hilarious and heartfelt romcom, told with a light touch, perfect for fans of *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry* and *Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating*.**

**ANIKA HUSSAIN** was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, but currently lives and writes in Bath, Somerset. She is a graduate of the Bath Spa MAWYP. 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.



**'Had me head over heels the entire way through! Charming, funny, and bright, it's a gorgeous story of love, romance and friendship.'**

Beth Reekles, author of *The Kissing Booth*

#### **Publication:**

February 2023

#### **Rights:**

World

#### **Age range:**

YA

#### **Key themes:**

friends-to-lovers, fake dating, comedy

#### **Extent / Word count:**

400pp / 77,000 words



## The Foreverers

**Chris Whitaker**

**What would you do if you knew the world was going to be destroyed by a huge asteroid in one month? The mesmerising YA debut from the winner of the CWA Gold Dagger Award for Best Crime Novel 2021 and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *We Begin at the End*.**

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, it leaves everyone facing the answer to one, simple question . . .

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

**CHRIS WHITAKER** is the award-winning author of adult thrillers *Tall Oaks*, *All the Wicked Girls* and *We Begin at the End*. All three books were published to widespread critical acclaim, with *Tall Oaks* going on to win the CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger Award.

An instant *New York Times* bestseller, *We Begin at the End* was picked as a Waterstones Thriller of the Month and won the CWA Gold Dagger Award.

**Publication:**

July 2022

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

YA

**Key themes:**

coming of age, thriller, dark humour, end of the world

**Extent / Word count:**

352pp / 73,000 words

## The Twisted Tree

**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.

**Praise for *The Twisted Tree***

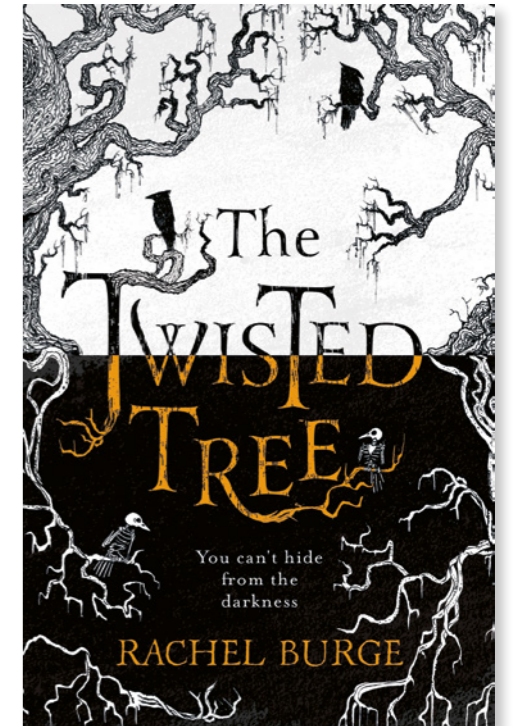
**‘A creepy and evocative fantasy likely to make readers wary of the shadows in the corner of an eye’**  
*Sunday Times*

**‘Rattles along with proper page-turning pace’**  
*Daily Express*

**‘Creepy and amazing’**  
*MTV UK*

**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 and son.

**ALSO AVAILABLE**



**Publication:**

January 2019

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

YA

**Key themes:**

norse myth, ghost stories, magic, winter

**Extent / Word count:**

272pp / 57,000 words

**2 books in series**



## Waking the Witch

Rachel Burge

*'I tried to keep you safe, but I see now that I can't. They won't stop until they have you ...'*

When Ivy's search for her mother draws her to a remote Welsh isle, she uncovers a dark secret about her past.

An ancient and corrupt power is stalking Ivy, and her only chance of survival is to look deep within herself. For not every story in legend is true, and some evils are not what they seem . . .

**An unputdownable novel steeped in Welsh mythology and Arthurian legend, from the bestselling author of *The Twisted Tree* and *The Crooked Mask*.**

**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 and son.

**Publication:**  
August 2022

**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
YA

**Key themes:**  
Arthurian legend, mythology, romance, dark secrets

**Extent / Word count:**  
304pp / 76,000 words

## You Are a Story

Laura Dockrill

Interiors illustrated by Lotte Cassidy

*'This book is much like the author – warm, honest, open, encouraging. I loved it and want to buy a copy for every creative teenager I know.'* – Louise O'Neill

**A guide for using creative writing to speak your own truth.**

**You are enough. You are interesting. Tell your story.**

Celebrated writer Laura Dockrill knows that the best writing comes when you are speaking your own truth, with your own voice. Expressing yourself honestly is a powerful way to know yourself and grow to celebrate the exciting, creative, unique person you are.

When you are a teenager, everything feels different. How are you supposed to figure out who you are when it seems like teachers, parents, friends, the rest of the world, are all asking you to be something else? It can be overwhelming but the best way to steer yourself through this crazy, brilliant time is to hold on to your sense of *you*. Laura's stress-free invitations to creative writing encourage you to find your voice, celebrate it and use it.

**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 postnatal mental illness. Find her on Twitter and Instagram @LauraDockrill

**LOTTE CASSIDY** is an illustrator and animator from London, with a masters in Visual Communication from the Royal College of Art. She loves to explore the everyday, inspired by her surroundings, documenting people and their connection to a place. In her camera roll you will find people in puffer jackets, fish and chips, dogs with long legs, chimneys and hopscotch on the pavements.



**Publication:**  
May 2023

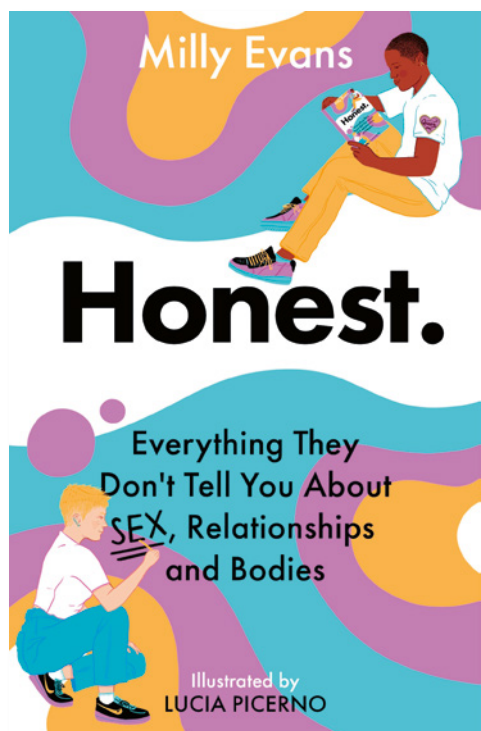
**Rights:**  
World

**Age range:**  
12+

**Key themes:**  
creative writing, finding your voice, mental wellbeing

**Extent / Word count:**  
304pp / 54,000 words / b+w illustrations

# Non-fiction



## Honest Everything They Don't Tell You About Sex, Relationships and Bodies

Milly Evans | Illustrated by Lucia Picerno

**Sex is EVERYWHERE. So why don't we talk about it properly?**

**A bare-all, refreshingly honest guide for teens, written by someone who isn't thirty years older than you.**

Being a teen is tough enough without having to navigate the minefields of discovering sex, love and bodies. And let's be real: sex education at school doesn't always cut it.

Sex educator and journalist Milly Evans is here to help – as a young adult who is still figuring life out, she knows exactly what teens are going through. And she's here with answers to all those questions that aren't in their school textbooks.

From orgasms to anatomy, gender identity to masturbation, positive relationships to first times, it's all here, and in candid detail.

With playful and informative black-and-white illustrations by Lucia Picerno throughout, *Honest* is the searingly frank, inclusive and witty guide that every 21st-century teenager needs.

**Enough foreplay! Let's do this.**

**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:**

June 2022

**Rights:**

World

**Age range:**

13+

**Key themes:**

sex, bodies, relationships, truth, life

**Extent / Word count:**

320pp / 61,000 words / b+w illustrations