



LOOKBOOK

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

MIDDLE GRADE & TEEN TITLES



THE TEAM



Alice Grigg

Children's Rights Director

agrigg@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

USA & CANADA



Susanne Evans

Head of Rights

sevans@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

GERMANY, SPANISH-SPEAKING MARKETS



Jenna Brown

Head of Media Rights

jbrown2@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



Maeve Banham

Senior Rights Manager

mbanham@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

FRANCE, PORTUGAL, BRAZIL, THE NETHERLANDS



Benjamin Ehalt (Parental Cover)

Rights Manager

behalt@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

SWEDEN, DENMARK, NORWAY, FINLAND AND ICELAND



Beth Fennell

Rights Manager

bfennell@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

**POLAND, ROMANIA, CZECH REPUBLIC,
SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, UKRAINE**



THE TEAM



Ellie Williamson

Rights Manager

ewilliamson@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

CHINA, ITALY



Stella Dodwell

Senior Rights Executive

sdodwell@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

**KOREA, TAIWAN, JAPAN, THAILAND, MONGOLIA,
MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, VIETNAM**



Clare Braganza

Rights Executive

cbraganza@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

**DOMESTIC, CROATIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
SLOVENIA, SERBIA, BULGARIA**



Jane Stockwell

Rights Executive

jstockwell@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

WORLD (BLUEY)



Clare Laudy

Rights Executive

claudy@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

**TURKEY, ISRAEL, GREECE, WALES,
REST OF THE WORLD**



THE TEAM



Lois l'Anson
Rights Assistant

lianson@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



Rosie Pinder
Rights Assistant

rpinder@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



Ella Gannon
Rights Assistant

egannon@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



Candela Rivero
Rights Assistant

crivero@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



Sophia Lussi
Rights Assistant

slussi@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



CONTENTS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- The Far-Out Five by Olaf Falafel
- The Eye of the Cosmos by Ed Caruana
- Unfairies by Huw Aaron
- The Cosmics by Meggie Johnson

COLOUR ILLUSTRATED FICTION

- Witchy Boo: Casts Her First Spell by Arden Jones Illustrated by Saoirse Lou Tuck and Tina #3 by Jess Brallier and Jack Keely
- The O.D.D. Squad: Operation Hyperkitty by Stuart Heritage
- How to Grow Magic by Rachel Morrisroe Illustrated by Steven Lenton
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

YOUNGER FICTION

- Sandy Brown vs The Robots by Alex Kirk
- Dino Dad: Big Dino Talent Show by Andy Day Illustrated by Steven Lenton
- Celeste Express: The Purrfect Crime by Alexander Slater

PUFFIN PRESS

- The Lantern and the Labyrinth by Thomas Taylor
- The Talon by Robbie Hamilton
- The House of Dusk by Russell Franklin

MIDDLE-GRADE

- Fright Club: Let's Boo This! by Sibeal Pounder
- Holomonsters by Lee Newbery
- Jamaal Target: Phantom Agent by Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie
- Wildlands by Brogen Murphy
- Dragonborn by Struan Murray
- A Box Full of Murders by Janice Hallett
- Dexter Procter and the Case of the Disappearing Doctor
by Adam Kay Illustrated by Henry Paker
- The Starlight Rebel by Lisette Auton
- The Swifts: A Garden of Vipers by Beth Lincoln Illustrated by Claire Powell



CONTENTS

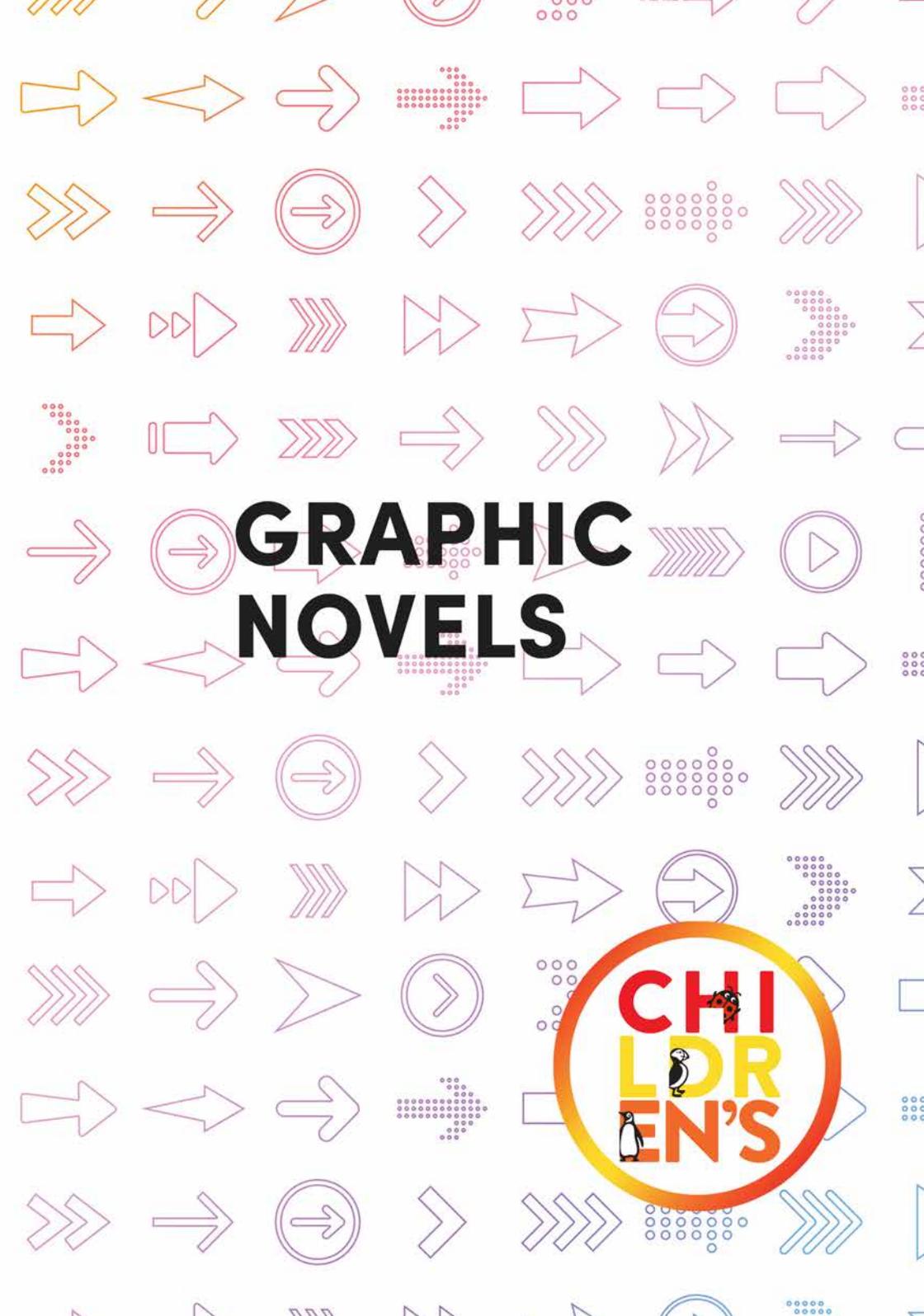
The Kid Who Fell Through Time by Greg James and Chris Smith
Rise of Rebel Queens by Nazneen Ahmed Pathak
A Killing at the Box Office by Paul Westmoreland
Starlight Stables Gang #4 by Esme Higgs and Jo Cotterill
Alex vs Axel: The Thief of Time by Sam Copeland
Operation Tango by Anton du Beke
The Street Art Mystery by Sharna Jackson
The Whisperwicks: The Impossible Trials by Jordan Lees
The Danger Game by Tom Fletcher
Letty and the Mystery of the Word Thieves by Penny Boxall
Yasmin Bandara Levels Up! by Romesh Ranganathan
Untitled #2 by Eilish Fisher
This is Definitely NOT the Diary of Izzy Dobson by Abigail Balfe

YA

French Kisses by Jenny Ireland
Untitled #2 by J. L. Simmonds
Music to My Ears by Emily Emmerson
Her Hidden Fire by Clíodhna O'Sullivan
Blood of Gods and Girls by Katja Kaine
A Beautiful Evil by Bea Fitzgerald
Alecto Gray will Hunt You Down by Laure Eve
Roar by Manjeet Mann
Our Infinite Fates by Laura Steven
The Other Girl by Emily Barr
Falling Fast by Jenni Fletcher
Cruel is the Light #2 by Sophie Clark
The Mirror World by Femi Fadugba
Tides of Fortune by Lauryn Hamilton Murray
The Cursed Melodies #2 by Connie Glynn

US RIGHTS ONLY

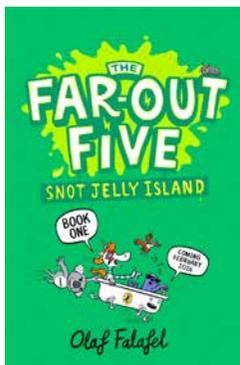
A Stocking Full of Spies by Robin Stevens



GRAPHIC NOVELS



**CHI
LDREN'S**



THE FAR-OUT FIVE

Olaf Falafel

A strange, hilarious group of adventurers try to find their way home in this imaginative and anarchic debut graphic novel.

- * A major launch from an incredibly talented author-illustrator for the Puffin Graphics list.
- * Perfect for fans of *Dogman*, *Bunny Vs Monkey* and *The Investigators*, this is a funny, eccentric and pacy graphic novel with full colour art.
- * Olaf is an award-winning stand-up comedian who regularly performs to huge crowds on tour. He's also an active promoter on social media with nearly 200k followers across platforms.

DESCRIPTION

Our world got flipped, turned upside down, when the funfair came to town...

One funfair, a group of kids and one grumpy amateur magician... plus one magical mega tornado equals The Far-Out Five! Stewart, Sophie, Zainab and Jeffrey - and the Great Waldini - are magically transformed into strange creatures and whisked far away from home – and the wand that could change them back is LOST!

This madcap team of adventurers includes Spewnicorn, a punk unicorn who vomits rainbows; Wally, a pompous and cowardly koala; Tubbs, a walking bathtub; Bloof, a blue-footed booby; and Glossy Jeff, a really chilled-out seal.

Sailing across the ocean in Tubbs the bathtub, the Far-Out Five have to face bizarre creatures, weird landscapes and mysterious tasks on their quest as they try to find Wally's missing wand and get back home. Can they escape the wobbly statues of Snot Jelly Island?



Olaf Falafel is an author, illustrator and a stand-up comedian. He's the winner of The

Funniest Joke of the Edinburgh Fringe and has created and performed several stupidly named comedy shows including Olaf Falafel and the Cheese Of Truth. As well as trying to make people laugh on stage, Olaf draws a lot and tries to come up with funny ideas for kids books.

Age: 7-9

Publication Date: February 2026

Extent: 256pp

Word Count: 12,000

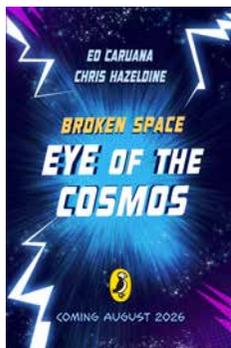
Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Film Rights: Greene & Heaton Ltd



SNEAK PEAK

GRAPHIC NOVELS



THE EYE OF THE COSMOS

Ed Caruana, illustrated by
Chris Hazeldine

A hilarious, irreverent middle-grade graphic novel series about a crew of treasure-hungry Star Breakers and their accidental quest to save the universe. Perfect for fans of AMULET and FROSTHEART aged 9–11.

- * **Brilliantly witty scripts, fast-paced storytelling and funny, dynamic pages make this series a perfect next step for fans of DOGMAN and BUNNY VS MONKEY.**
- * **Combining an epic, action-packed story with commercially appealing full-colour illustrations, this series will also have huge appeal for fans of AMULET and LIGHTFALL.**
- * ***Guardians of the Galaxy* meets *Percy Jackson* with wonderfully irreverent characters, high-energy action and heart-warming crew dynamics, this series is**

DESCRIPTION

Zeke Zero has been living his worst life ever since his dad traded him for a battery as a baby. We've all been there.

Still, 13-year-old Zeke gets by. Or he did, until he 'borrowed' the wrong priceless star map and found himself part of a ramshackle crew of Star Breakers – brave (foolish) souls who dare to search the ruins of dead worlds for (sometimes) incredible treasure. Their first job? Finding an ancient god's eyeball. Unfortunately, the evil Princess Grim has her eye on it too. And Princess doesn't share.

Together with the ill-tempered Captain Tooms and mysterious Astrid of Elsewhere, our irreverent hero must race across the galaxy to find the ancient artefact before Princess Grim – and discover a secret that puts the whole universe at risk...



Ed Caruana is a British author who has written extensively for the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Action Man ATOM* and *Tom & Jerry* comics, and has been the lead scriptwriter for the band Gorillaz since 2016. He has also performed extensively as a stand-up comedian on the London comedy circuit and multiple times at the Edinburgh festival. *Eye of the Cosmos* is his debut graphic novel.



Chris Hazeldine was cast out of his small Midlands hometown ten years ago for daring to speak of London and has lived in the capital ever since. He has worked on a number of creator-owned small press books with the independent WIP Comics group, as well as illustrating *The Island With No Name* and several one-shot adventures in *The Phoenix Comic*.

Age: 9-11 | **Publication Date:** August 2026

Extent: 240pp | **Word Count:** 12,000

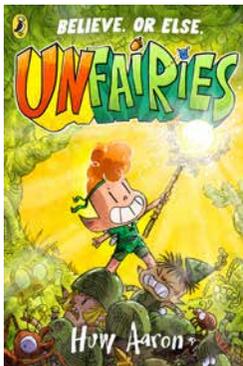
Acquiring Editor: Sam Palfreyman | **Film Rights:** United Agents LTD



EARLY SKETCHES



GRAPHIC NOVELS



UNFAIRIES

Huw Aaron

A hilarious new full-colour graphic novel series from breakout talent Huw Aaron! Perfect for fans of *Bunny Vs Monkey*, *Dogman* and *The Investigators*.

- * *Unfairies* will be the lead 2025 launch for Puffin Graphics, a brand new graphic novel list catering for this booming market with best-in-class graphic novel talent.
- * Huw Aaron is an acclaimed and award-winning creator in the Welsh-language, and Puffin acquired world rights for seven titles across picture books and graphic novels in a hotly contested eight-publisher auction. *Unfairies* is Huw's English language debut and we'll be kicking off this next exciting stage of Huw's career with a stellar campaign planned to match our ambitions for Huw.
- * Hilarious and Anarchic storytelling - Huw's off-beat humour, fantastical world-building and pun-a-page style make this the perfect read for fans of Jamie Smart and Dav Pilkey who are looking to move on to a graphic novel series with more depth to the storytelling but the same level of hilarity.

DESCRIPTION

Some stories will tell you fairies are sweet, kind, magical creatures, but it's time everyone knew the TRUTH. Fairies are sneaky, cunning and about as magical as slugs . . .

Join impulsive, irreverent Pip on a breakneck adventure among the warring unfairy tribes of The Garden. Expect sinister plots, epic acorn-based warfare, a dubious ancient prophecy, thrilling centipede chases . . . and a hero who doesn't give two hoots about anything.



Huw Aaron is a Cardiff-based cartoonist and illustrator. His doodlings can be found in a number of children's books and comic strips and he's a regular contributor to *Private Eye*, *The Oldie* and *The Spectator*.

Age: 7-9

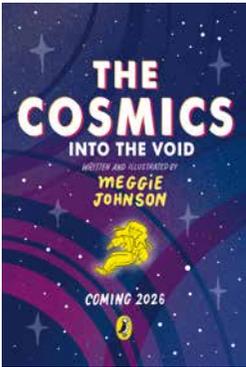
Publication Date: August 2025

Extent: 256pp

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colhurst

Film Rights: Bird Literary

Rights Sold: American English, Catalan, Dutch, French, Spanish, Welsh



THE COSMICS

Meggie Johnson

An awesome multi-verse mystery graphic novel from debut author-illustrator, Meggie Johnson. Perfect for fans of *Steven Universe*, *Roller Girl*, and *Spiderman: No Way Home*.

- * With years of experience in the publishing industry, a wealth of connections among illustrators and almost 100k followers on Instagram, Meggie's debut graphic novel is much-anticipated.
- * **AMAZING ARTWORK:** The incredibly vibrant full-colour art has huge appeal to a wide age-range, as well as enticing reluctant readers
- * **HEARTWARMING RELATIONSHIPS:** At the centre of the story is a wonderfully-developed friendship between the four girls, as well as a touching sibling relationship that spans dimensions and decades.

DESCRIPTION

FOLLOW CELESTE, FLORA, MABEL, AND REBEL INTO THE VOID!

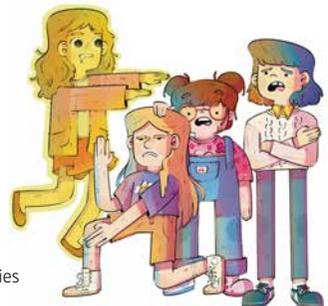
When fourteen-year-old Erin vanishes without a trace from the small town of Beaver Dam in 1984, her case remains a mystery for forty years - until a ragtag group of girls discover the multiverse at the bottom of a discarded bucket at their local roller-skating rink . . . which accidentally unleashes Erin's grumpy teenage spirit onto their unsuspecting town. You, know, as you do.

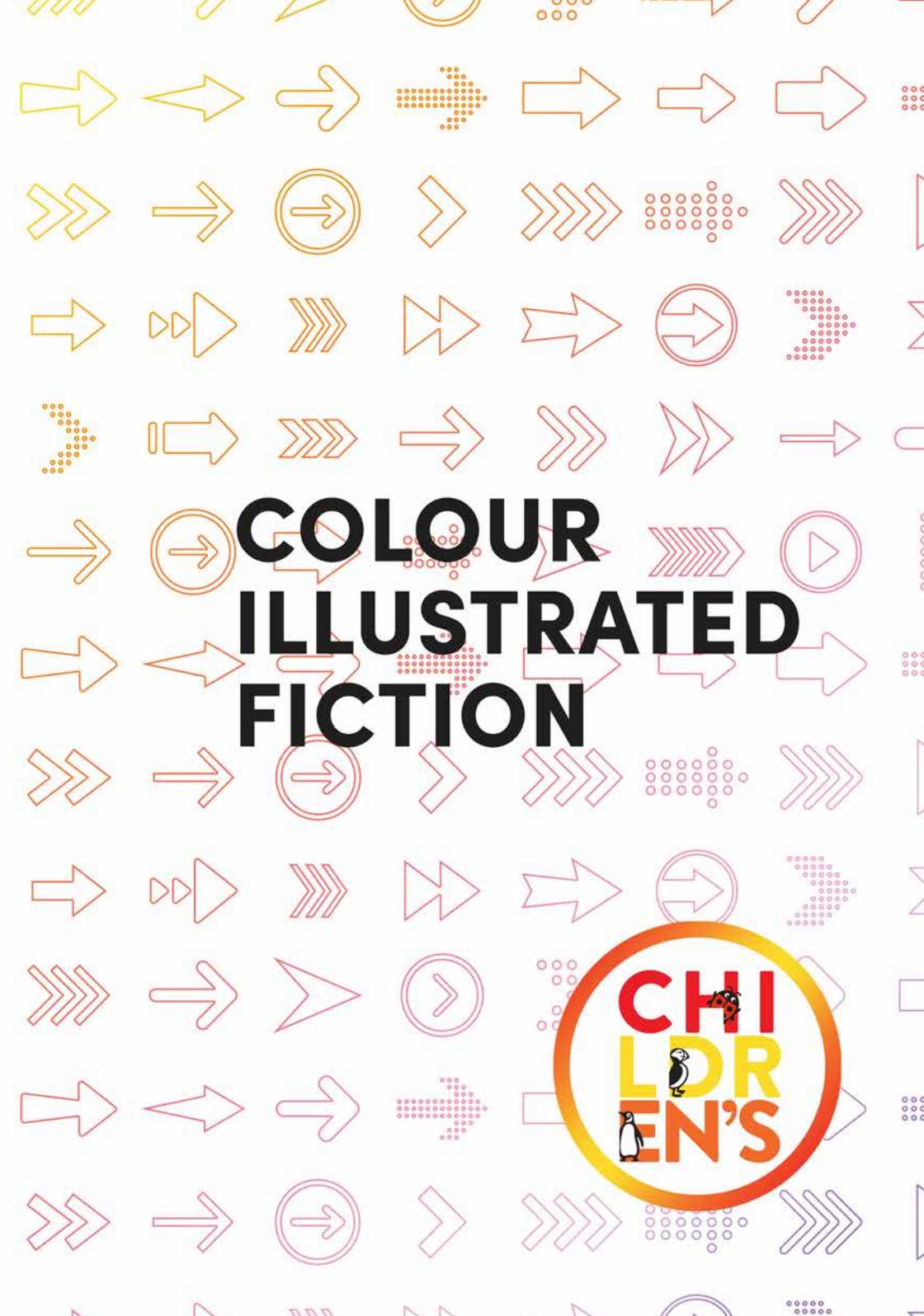
Now Celeste, Flora, Mabel, and Rebel must embark on an epic adventure and work together to save Beaver Dam - and finally uncover what happened to Erin all those years ago.



Meggie Johnson hails from the snowy mountains of the Balkan Peninsula where she grew up exploring the woods in the sun and stoking the fire in the winter. Today, she lives in an airy warehouse in the heart of Worcester's Arboretum. She loves illustrating strong female characters, colourful landscapes, magical adventures, and witty mysteries. She adores a challenge and is always ready to pull up her sleeves for the next big task. Under her belt, she has a BSc in Film and Television Production and an MA in International Publishing.

Age: 9-11
Publication Date: March 2026
Extent: 256pp
Acquiring Editors: Afua Antwi and Kate Davies
Film Rights: The Bright Agency





**COLOUR
ILLUSTRATED
FICTION**





WITCHY BOO CASTS HER FIRST SPELL

Arden Jones and Saoirse Lou

The first book in the all-too-adorable young fiction series, *Witchy Boo*, by debut author Arden Jones and illustrator, Saoirse Lou.

- * This sweet, commercial debut is perfect for fans of Harriet Muncaster's *Isadora Moon* and Paula Harrison's *Kitty's Superhero Adventures*.
- * We acquired four books in this boo-riliant series, with one book publishing every 6 months from September 2026.
- * Each book in the series will focus on a different 'first experience.' From her first day at school, to her first birthday party readers will follow *Witchy Boo* as she grows into her powers and learns what it means to be a witchy-ghost.

DESCRIPTION

Even though she's a ghost, Boo has never liked being scary—not like her brothers Shock and Shriek. But when, on her first day at Scare Town Friends Club, a witch's hat finds its way to Boo's head, she learns that not all ghosts have to be scary. Some ghosts...can be witchy.

Under the watchful guidance of Witch Hazel, who runs Friends Club, *Witchy Boo* learns how to cast her first spell, the consequences of unsupervised magic, and the power of finding acceptance for who you really are.



Arden Jones is a neurodivergent, working-class writer and podcaster from Essex. She lives with her husband, two children and a mischievous cat, and believes that we all possess our own magic, something that gives us our very own heart's true fizz. *Witchy Boo: Casts Her First Spell* is her debut.



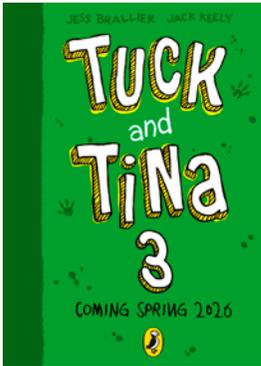
Saoirse Lou is a freelance illustrator from the seaside town of Poole in the UK. Growing up surrounded by old crumbling castles and ancient woods affirmed Saoirse's passion for folklore and mythology, and her guilty pleasure is sketching fairies, pixies and other fantastical creatures. See more of Saoirse's work at <https://www.saoirselou.com/> or on Instagram @SaoirseLouscribbles

Age: 5-7 | **Publication Date:** September 2026

Extent: 128pp | **Word Count:** 8,000

Acquiring Editor: Awo Ibrahim

Film Rights: United Agents Ltd



TUCK AND TINA AND THE DINOSAUR THIEF

Jess Brallier and Jack Keely

The cutest mice in school are back! Join Tuck and Tina on a brand new adventure from bestselling duo Jess Brallier and Jack Keely.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * The perfect stepping stone for early readers - sweet and simple stories combined with funny, colourful illustrations make this series the perfect next step for children moving from picture books to chapter books.
- * An impressive creative duo - Jess Brallier is the founder of Poptropica and the publisher who "discovered Wimpy Kid" while Jack Keely is the illustrator of numerous bestselling titles.
- * Funny characters in relatable stories – Tuck and Tina are the ultimate odd couple and kids will love their fun dynamic in relatable, school-based adventures.

DESCRIPTION

Meet Tina and Tuck - two unlikely mouse friends ready for adventure!

A series of disasters have convinced the school board that the grand but decrepit old Boone School needs to close its doors.

But when Tuck and Tina learn that the problems are the handiwork of a masked troublemaker intent on closing the school in order to get their hands on dinosaur fossils buried beneath the building, they decide to spring into action!

With a kidnapped principal, a bear on the loose, and a sky-high chase in a model aeroplane, this third adventure from the two best friends is not to be missed!



Jess Brallier is the author of over thirty books including a New York Times bestseller. He was also the creative mind behind Poptropica the world's largest kid's site and original home of Diary of A Wimpy Kid.



Jack Keely has illustrated numerous books for adults and kids, most notably the bestselling *Grossology* series which has since been adapted into an animated film, a video game, and robotic performers in the record breaking international Grossology museum exhibitions.

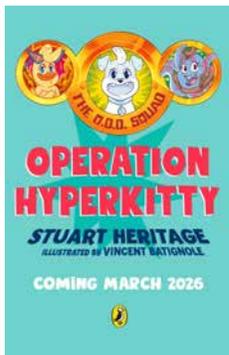
Age: 5–7 | **Publication Date:** March 2025

Extent: 144 | **Word Count:** 3,500

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Tobias Literary Agencyct

Rights Sold: American English



THE O.D.D. SQUAD: OPERATION HYPERKITTU

Stuart Heritage, illustrated by Vincent Batignole

Join the hilariously bizarre world of the O.D.D. Squad - a team of (sort of) heroic animal super heroes you'll never forget.

OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:



- * *The Bad Guys* meets *Dog Man* in this utterly hilarious, highly- colour illustrated series, perfect for fans of Dav Pilkey and *Bunny Vs Monkey*
- * Stuart's brilliant voice is perfectly matched by Vincent Batignole's comic-book style illustrations, which bring this vibrant world to life in glorious full colour
- * Stuart Heritage is a well-known journalist. His sharply wry yet silly sense of humour has made him a popular figure online, with over 60K followers across his social channels. He also provided a storyline for a recent *Bluey* episode, 'Surprise'.

DESCRIPTION

Quack Attack, Detective Octopus and Invisidog have a new recruit: Hyperkitty. She's cute! She's unbelievably fast! She also . . . spends a lot of time on her phone? And actually, isn't very good at being part of a team. Or catching bad guys. It's almost like she doesn't want to be part of the world's best (kind of) superhero team.

Everyone needs time to learn to be a superhero, but disasters keep striking. After a particularly wonky incident involving a pig in a hat at a power station (don't ask, OK?), Justice City decides it's had enough: no more O.D.D. Squad! Can the gang save the day – and themselves – before it's too late?



Stuart Heritage (Author) has written for the *Guardian* since 2009. He is also the author of picture books *Jonathan the Magic Pony*, and *Don't Say Elephant!*, and has credits on popular TV shows including *Bluey*. He lives in Ashford, Kent.



Vincent Batignole (Illustrator) grew up surrounded by French comics and colourful anime on TV. Since then, he's been illustrating and writing for various international clients, and he now resides near Paris with his dog and an enormous manga collection.

Age: 7–9 | **Publication Date:** March 2026

Extent: 224 | **Word Count:** 12,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Greene & Heaton Ltd



HOW TO GROW MAGIC

Rachel Morrisroe,
Illustrated by Steven Lenton

The first book in a brand new chapter book series set in the world of HOW TO GROW from bestselling author and illustrator duo Rachel Morrisroe and Steven Lenton!

- * The picture book series HOW TO GROW has sold over 50,000 copies via TCM since 2021 and has been sold to nine territories to date. This brand new series for 5-7 year olds will bring the magic and mischief of that world to older children.
- * With two-colour illustrations throughout from award-winning, bestselling illustrator Steven Lenton, this series will delight younger readers and is the perfect stepping stone from picture book to share-together chapter books.

DESCRIPTION

When Mr Pottifer tries to teach Sarah's class how to grow magical beanstalks, some mischievous garden gnomes cause havoc and suddenly Enchantment Primary has a giant beanstalk in their school garden!

Join Sarah and her friends on an adventure full of imagination and wonder with a GIANT surprise in store . . .



Rachel Morrisroe is the bestselling author of the How to Grow Magic series, *The Drama Llama* and *Superpets*. Visit her at rachelmorrisroe.com and @RachelMorrisroeAuthor on Instagram.



Steven Lenton is a multi-award-winning illustrator who has illustrated many children's books including *Virtually Christmas* by David Baddiel, *The Hundred And One Dalmatians* adapted by Peter Bently, *The Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam* series by Tracey Corderoy, Frank Cottrell-Boyce's fiction titles and his self-penned series *Genie and Teeny*.

Age: 5-7

Publication Date: February 2026

Extent: 128pp

Word Count: 6,500

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Darley Anderson

COLOUR ILLUSTRATED FICTION



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Lewis Carroll

Illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

A stunning hardback gift edition of the classic story of Alice and her adventures in Wonderland, with full colour illustrations throughout from Joe Todd-Stanton, creator of the Brownstone Chronicles

- * A lavish hardback gift edition of this beloved book with full colour illustrations throughout from Joe Todd-Stanton.
- * Joe Todd-Stanton is the author and illustrator of the bestselling Brownstone Chronicles, *The Secret of Black Rock* and *Kiki's Delivery Service*.
- * An Alice like no other you have seen - this special edition is filled with quirky, Ghibli-influenced characters and a colour palette that takes this much loved story in a fascinating new direction.

DESCRIPTION

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole and into Wonderland, a world that grows curiously and curiously by the minute. . . but don't be late!

'We're all mad here.'

Lost in a strange world with even stranger characters, Alice meets a Cheshire Cat with a great big grin, a tea-sipping and riddle-speaking Hatter, and a very clever Caterpillar. But things take a turn when she meets a short-tempered Queen . . .

Will Alice ever make it home in time?



Joe Todd-Stanton grew up in Brighton where he was taught to draw by his mum. He went on to get a first-class degree in illustration from the University of the West of England and is now an author and illustrator of picture books and graphic novels. His first picture book *The Secret of Black Rock* won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and *The Comet* won the Yoto Carnegies Shadowers' Choice Award. Joe lives in London.

Lewis Carroll, born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-98), grew up in Cheshire in the village of Daresbury. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, inspired by Alice Liddell, the daughter of the Dean of Christ Church in Oxford, was published in 1865, followed by *Through the Looking-Glass* in 1871. He wrote numerous stories and poems for children including the nonsense poem *The Hunting of the Snark* and fairy stories *Sylvie and Bruno*.

Age: 7-9 | **Publication Date:** August 2025

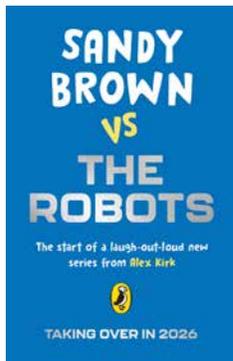
Extent: 144pp | **Word Count:** 27,500

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Rights Sold: Portuguese

YOUNGER FICTION





SANDY BROWN VS THE ROBOTS

Alex Kirk

A laugh-out-loud, wacky and very exciting story about two brilliant kids taking on an army of evil robots - and trying to get back home in time for tea! The first book from one of the writers of **WONKA** and **PADDINGTON 2**, and a fabulously funny new voice for children aged 7-9.

- * This is a very funny, madcap, child-friendly and accessible read for boys and girls aged 7-9; perfect for fans of Pamela Butchart, Nadia Shireen and **THE BEASTS OF KNOBBLY BOTTOM**..
- * This will be the start of a new series, with the first book launching in 2026 and two more in 2027, and will be published in a brilliant illustrated package to establish Alex as an exciting new voice.
- * Alex has incredible family-friendly writing credentials; he was part of the writing team behind **WONKA** and **PADDINGTON 2**, and has worked as an actor, screenwriter and comedian for many years, including a stint writing comedy for the legendary Rik Mayall. This series was inspired by his own reluctant-reader son.

DESCRIPTION

I was in the corner shop buying a comic. Dad was waiting outside. I'd just given my money to Mr Norman, the shop owner, when it happened. Mr Norman's head exploded.

Something VERY WEIRD is going on in the sleepy town of Cleeby. All the grown-ups are acting strangely. Sandy and his friend Arjan think they have been replaced by ROBOTS. And everything points to the evil boss of the local toaster factory, Tony's Toasters! Together with a friendly cyborg named Colin, Sandy and Arjan must save the day - and Sandy's mum - and get home in time for tea!



Alex Kirk has worked in a fish finger factory, as a plumber, as an English teacher, and for the last twenty-five years as a screenwriter, actor and comedian. He was a member of the small writing team with Paul King and Simon Farnaby behind the wonderful **Paddington 2** and **Wonka**, and has written and performed in many sketch shows and plays at the Edinburgh Festival and on the London circuit. Alex is originally from Cleethorpes and now lives in London with his family. This is his first book.

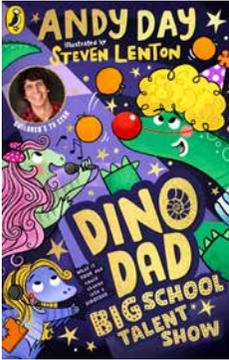
Age: 7-9 | **Publication Date:** June 2026

Extent: 224pp | **Word Count:** 35,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: Spring Literary

World Rights: PPHC



DINO DAD: BIG SCHOOL TALENT SHOW

Andy Day, Illustrated by Steven Lenton

The third magical dino-tastic adventure from children's TV superstar Andy Day, and illustration powerhouse Steven Lenton!



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * Andy Day is one of the most recognisable and well-beloved stars of preschool television. His most famous programme is his 'Dinosaur Adventures' series which continues to be one of CBBC's most watched programmes.
- * Puffin acquired four books in the Dino Dad series, and book one sold over 7.5K in the UK in its first six months on sale - a fantastic result for a debut series.
- * Andy is a genuine dinosaur expert, and has peppered lots of real-life dino facts within his hilariously anarchic and pitch-perfect child-friendly narrative
- * The brilliantly imaginative world of Dino Dad is brought to life with Steven Lenton's exceptional illustrations

DESCRIPTION

Hello! It's me, Ruby Thumb. Me and my dad have loads of amazing adventures in Dinotropolis - an incredible island, full of dinosaurs who live just like us humans do. And when we go there using our special magic ammonite shell, we turn into dinosaurs too!

Let me tell you about the time I spent the week at Pangea's Largest Outstanding Prehistoric School - or PLOPS, as we call it, ha! - AND took part in the Big Dino Talent Show. It was totally roarsome, but there were a few dino-tastic surprises along the way . . .



Andy Day is the star of multiple children's programmes, most notably his *Andy's Adventures*, which span from dinosaurs, safari, aquatic, and his currently-being-filmed 'global' adventures.



Steven Lenton is a multi-award-winning illustrator. He has illustrated many children's books including *Virtually Christmas* by David Baddiel, *The Hundred And One Dalmatians* adapted by Peter Bently, and the best-selling *How to Grow* picture book series.

Age: 5–7 | **Publication Date:** February 2025

Extent: 160pp | **Word Count:** 11,500

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Talent4 Media Limited, KT Forster Literary Agency



CELESTE EXPRESS: THE PURRFECTION CRIME

Alexander Slater

Peanut Jones meets *Amelia Fang* in the second book in this fully illustrated fantasy series from TikTok artist sensation Alex Slater.

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * This highly illustrated series for younger middle grade readers revolves around star princess Celeste, who is sent by her father to run their kingdom's intergalactic post office. There, Celeste embarks on many adventures – and strives to uncover the mystery of her mother's disappearance.
- * Alex is a huge author-illustrator talent, who has millions of fans on his TikTok channel @alexrabbit.
- * Reluctant readers will love Alex's fantastically accessible voice, brilliantly pacy storytelling and sparky illustrations which are reminiscent of Super Mario Brothers.

DESCRIPTION

Princess Celeste Starwing reckons she's just about got the hang of this running the intergalactic post office gig. People's post is getting to them on time, she and Podge have a very helpful new recruit, Oswald the goblin, and the stardust bunnies are as cute as ever.

So it's a bit of a surprise to have a new spanner thrown in the works – a daring cosmic thief, who not only pinches a whole load of post, but frames Celeste and her team for the crime in the process. Now they'll have to work out who the thief is – and quick, before they're thrown into intergalactic prison . . .



Alexander Slater is an author and illustrator from London who loves stories with big ideas and bigger heart. He holds a First Class degree in Graphic Design and Illustration from the University of Hertfordshire and has earned several awards in design and cartooning. When he's not doodling or daydreaming, he can be found cooking, walking his adorable cockapoo, Bailey, or entertaining his millions of followers on his TikTok account @AlexRabbit

Age: 7-9

Publication Date: February 2026

Extent: 240pp | **Word Count:** 33,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: The Blair Partnership

Rights Sold: French

**PUFFIN
PRESS**





I'M DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO PUFFIN PRESS:

a small, carefully curated new imprint for some of the most special voices in quality-commercial and literary middle-grade and teen fiction.

Puffin Press books will spark imaginations; celebrate the possibilities of language and wonderful writing; open up new worlds and worldviews, new concepts, new voices, new experiences; and take an existing love of reading even further. These are books for enthusiastic readers who love to lose themselves in an incredible story; who want to be challenged, excited, and swept away.

Nat Doherty



THE LANTERN AND THE LABYRINTH

Thomas Taylor



© Benjamin Taylor

I'm thrilled to introduce you to one of the most astonishing children's novels I've read in years: a richly atmospheric, sinister middle-grade fantasy inspired by the very darkest fairytales. Intense, unsettling and stunningly crafted, and with a gorgeous tale of family, bravery and self-confidence at its heart, this will be Puffin Press's lead title for 2027, and marks the start of an epic new series.

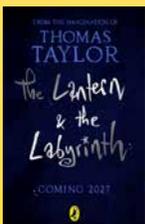
I see the gigantic being standing in the misty swamp air, its body like a crack in the sky, hair lank as water weed, moon-penny eyes blazing straight at me. And I have nowhere to hide.

Tom and his family move to Puckswood Green, a strangely hidden corner of London, to be near Tom's eccentric, reclusive great-grandfather, known as 'Great'. Following the trail of a mysterious lantern down a dim alleyway, Tom discovers Puckswood Green's secret. This the place where the Everyday meets Faery - a dangerous magical world full of things from your darkest nightmares.

Tom is taken under Great's wing as the newest apprentice in a secret society whose task is to protect humans from the creatures of Faery. But when the most horrifying creature of all – The Smothering Dark - begins to hunt Tom down, he begins to realise that Great has not told him everything...

Thomas is the author of the bestselling and award-winning MALAMANDER, and the rest of the EERIE-ON-SEA mysteries, which have sold 600k globally. He's also the illustrator of the original, iconic HARRY POTTER covers. This new tale will cement Thomas's place as one of the most talented creatives for children. It features vicious fairies, trolls, harpies, a magical starling and an utterly unique, terrifying monster - the Smothering Dark - which I feel sure will haunt me forever! Think NARNIA meets PAN'S LABYRINTH or STRANGER THINGS; a perfect, darkly literary read for fans of Philip Pullman, Jordan Lees and Katherine Rundell.

It's an extraordinary book, and I hope you'll fall under its spell as I have.



Age: 9-12

Publication Date: April 2027

Extent: 400

Word Count: 50,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: Morgan Green Creatives Ltd

THE TALON

Robbie Hamilton



Enter the frozen, dangerous world of the Talon, and find yourself completely transported to a frozen, perilous wilderness like no other. This epic debut teen fantasy novel, inspired by Ancient Rome and the legend of the yeti, brings to mind greats such as PERCY JACKSON, ERAGON and WOLF BROTHER, with shades of GAME OF THRONES, GLADIATOR and DUNE. The start of a new series, it is totally gripping, exhilarating and unforgettable, and will keep your heart thudding until the final, breathless page.

The Talon is no ordinary mountain. If you're lucky enough to survive it, you will not do so unscathed.

Felix Iclia was abandoned at birth on the unforgiving streets of Tyrus. Now a young soldier, he is posted to an icy edge of the Tyran Empire to help conquer mountain tribes. But when Felix spots a mysterious, gigantic figure through the snow, destiny takes a strange turn. He and a small band of soldiers begin a quest to capture the creature, in the hope of an Emperor's reward. The chase takes them up a brutal mountain: the Talon.

Above the clouds lurk dangers, secrets, myths and monsters unlike anything Felix has encountered before. And on their trail is Alfia: a raven-haired girl with the power of prophecy, whose tribe has been destroyed by Felix's legion - and who has seen a vision of Felix that will change everything...

Robbie Hamilton is a TV and podcast producer, who studied English at Edinburgh University and now lives in London with his wife, son and a neighbouring pair of owls. His writing is influenced by a fascination with history, mythology and with the natural world, and he can often be found travelling the world in search of sea eagles, puffins or bears.

Every time I read THE TALON I'm astonished by the scope of Robbie's talent, ambition and imagination - I can't wait for you to discover it too.



Age: 12+

Publication Date: February 2027

Extent: 400

Word Count: 70,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: Tessa David Associates

THE HOUSE OF DUSK

Russell Franklin



© Kate Moreton

A boy dies in a car crash. A split second later, he wakes in the underworld, from where he must find his way back to the land of the living. Exceptional writing, a stunning concept, a gorgeous cast of characters and a world that feels truly unique: this is a life-affirming children's debut from an exciting new talent, perfect for fans of Frances Hardinge, Liz Hyder and Kiran Milwood-Hargrave, with shades of Studio Ghibli and Susanna Clarke's *Piranesi*.

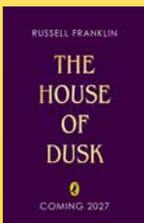
It was locked. He knew that. And yet it was with absolute certainty that he reached out and turned the handle. It caught, of course, but he could somehow feel the lock inside it, cold and unyielding. An answering something bloomed in his chest, fire and electricity and more. Overhead there was an answering pulse, a sun flaring in sympathy with a candle's flicker, and the door clicked and swung effortlessly open . . .

The last thing Ismail remembers is his mother turning to him in the back of the car, and a sudden flash of headlights searing through the rain.

So begins Ismail's journey through the underworld, where he meets Ehri, a warrior girl who has been there for millennia, and lives in a ramshackle hamlet with countless other souls. There, Ismail overhears a legend: whoever can travel through the many levels of the House of the Dead, up to the very top, will win their heart's desire. If they choose it, they will win life.

The House is a dangerous place, with vicious beasts and perilous traps at every turn. No one has ever made it before. Yet as he travels through vast halls, libraries and whole worlds within worlds, strange things begin to happen - almost as if the House recognises Ismail, and is welcoming him home, awakening memories of a time, years ago, when he was someone, something, entirely else . . .

Russell Franklin has worked as a literary agent and has published one adult fiction novel, *The Broken Places*, which was described by Patrick Ness as 'humane and compassionate' and David Mitchell as 'joyous . . . a novel of rare skill'. I adore his first children's book: its breathtaking prose, adventurous pace, and beautiful, unexpected conclusion. It's deep, funny and incredibly moving, and is sure to leave a lasting mark on every reader.

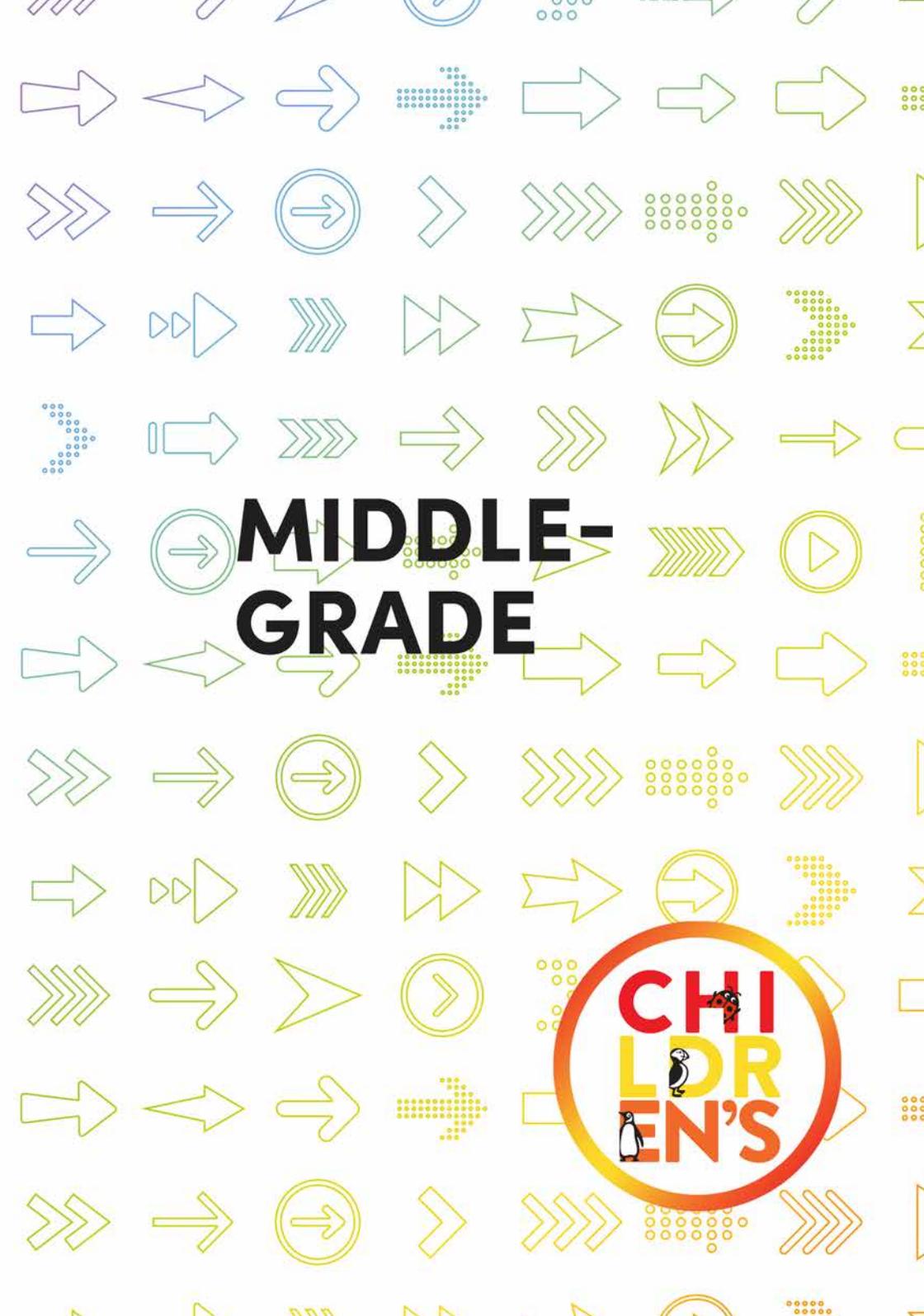


Age: 9-12

Publication Date: June 2027

Word Count: 45,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty



**MIDDLE-
GRADE**



**CHI
LD
REN'S**



FRIGHT CLUB: LET'S BOO THIS!

Sibéal Pounder

A spooky new Middle-Grade series from Sibéal Pounder, bestselling author of *Witch Wars*, *Bad Mermaids* and *Wonka*.



OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:

- * Sibéal Pounder has sold over half a million copies of her books through TCM to date and been translated into over 15 languages!
- * Part murder mystery, part comedy horror, with documents, diaries and articles to build up a brilliant supernatural world. This brand-new series is a gamified *Goosebumps* for a new generation and taps into the current boom in spooky Middle Grade fiction.
- * A fun choose-your-character twist throughout allows readers to decide whether to follow main character Joe to unravel the mystery or to some of the other characters to discover secret clues . . .

DESCRIPTION

The night **Joe Bones** spots a cloaked figure leaving his gran's house, he's sure that something is afoot. So, when he hears that his gran has passed away he's convinced the mysterious man has something to do with her death . . .

Then Joe discovers that his gran was keeping a secret . . . she was part of an ancient society called the **Fright Club**, investigators of crimes in supernatural hidden worlds – from Clinks, the world of skeletons, to the ghostly Veiloo and demon-filled Devilbend. So, Joe convinces his three best friends, **Hal**, **Debbie** and **Rose** to revive the club and track down the mysterious figure to find out what really happened to his gran.

What Joe doesn't know is that each of his friends has a supernatural secret of their own and starting their own Fright Club could unleash a whole heap of trouble . . .



© Richard Gassie

Sibéal Pounder is the author of the bestselling *Witch Wars*, *Bad Mermaids* and *Neon's Secret*

Universe series of books, and the Christmas tales *Tinsel and Sprouts* as well as the novelisation of the *Wonka* movie.

Age: 9-11

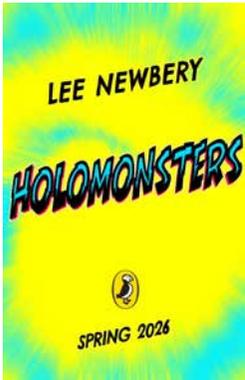
Publication Date: August 2025

Extent: 224pp

Word Count: 50,000

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: The Bent Agency



HOLOMONSTERS

Lee Newbery

***Pokemon* meets *Jurassic World* in this fantastic, action-packed new series.**

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * A super-commercial core middle grade series for fans of *Dragon Realm* and David Owen's *Alex Neptune: Dragon Thief*
- * Magic meets gaming – two hugely appealing topics for young readers
- * Humour and heart combine, as in Lee's brilliant debut *The Last Firefox*
- * Highly illustrated package to make this high concept as accessible as possible

DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the world of *HOLOMONSTERS* – a trading card game like no other . . .

In *Holomonsters*, the fantastical creatures depicted on game cards are projected into the real world as holograms, to do battle in playgrounds, homes and TV studios around the world. These holomonsters look completely real, but are harmless projections that feel no pain.

But when superfan Newt Hawkin is invited to *Holomonsters* Global HQ to test out a new form of the game, he soon discovers not all is as it seems. The holomonsters seem more real than before – and increasingly unpredictable.

Soon Newt learns that the engineers behind *Holomonsters* are using magic to enhance the game to dangerous new levels. Can Newt stop them before the holomonsters break free from their creators' control for good . . . ?



Lee Newbery lives with his son and dog in a seaside town in West Wales. By day he works for an arts charity, helping people to share their stories through creative writing, painting and participatory arts, and by night he sits down at his laptop to write.

Lee enjoys adventuring, drinking ridiculous amounts of tea, and giving his dog a good cuddle - or a *cwtch*, as they say in Wales. His first book, *The Last Firefox*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

Age: 8–10 | **Publication Date:** March 2026

Extent: 336pp | **Word Count:** 45,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



JAMAAL TARGET: PHANTOM AGENT

Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie

Alex Rider meets *Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse* in this fast-paced, action-packed middle-grade series about a 'normal' boy who discovers he has genetically modified powers and is destined to join an elite yet secret organisation.

- * Commercial superhero premise with a Black male lead in the vein of the animated *Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse* and *Black Panther*.
- * Targets boy readers who love the Alex Rider series but who may be more reluctant to read or may struggle to find new middle-grade books in line with their tastes.
- * Thrilling and accessible storytelling from an author with proven writing capabilities having worked on a younger middle-grade fiction series with Storymix and now co-writing Marcus Rashford's *The Breakfast Club Adventures* series.

DESCRIPTION

There's nothing special about Jamaal Target. He's your average twelve-year-old boy who lives with his foster mum and likes to game with his best friend Myla. Until one day, everything changes . . .

When Myla is kidnapped in front of his eyes, Jamaal is pulled into a web of secrets and lies and the shadowy organisation known as PHANTOM. There he learns that his parents didn't abandon him, they were genetically modified 'soldiers', and he has inherited their super strength, speed and heightened senses.

Forced to quickly put his new skills to the test, Jamaal finds himself on high-stakes missions across London, alongside teen PHANTOM Agent Lori Johnson. But does he have what it takes to save his best friend and put the bad guys away?



Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie is a writer who was born and raised in north-west London and grew up in a fostering family. He first began his writing journey in late 2018, finding a passion for storytelling after graduating in History and Economics and realising he wanted nothing more to do with either subject. Since then, he hasn't looked back. His interests include action, fantasy, magical realism and historical fiction. He was part of the writing team who created the Future Hero series for Storymix and he co-writes *The Breakfast Club Adventures* series with Marcus Rashford. *Jamaal Target: PHANTOM Agent* is his solo debut under his own name.

Age: 9-11

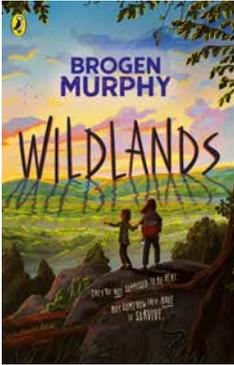
Publication Date: March 2026

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 50,000

Acquiring Editor: Amina Parchment-Youssef

Film Rights: Blair Partnership



WILDLANDS

Brogen Murphy

Perfect for fans of THE EXPLORER, this gripping and profound debut novel is a heart-wrenching survival tale set in a rewilded near future.

- * A survival story at its best, pitch-perfect for young readers interested in practical wilderness skills.
- * This novel presents a utopian vision of the future, in which society has taken radical steps to successfully address the many challenges it faces today, including humanity's relationship with the environment.
- * Astrid and Indie's physical journey mirrors an emotional one: this is a story about sisterhood and family, and the tough choices we sometimes make for the people we love.
- * Astrid and Indie's journey through the Wildlands also provides a whistlestop tour for readers of many of the key species being discussed in rewilding conversations across Europe today - great for linking with the curriculum, or simply inspiring kids to imagine a wilder future!
- * Brogen Murphy is an exciting debut talent, whose background involves work on environmental issues.

DESCRIPTION

Twenty-five years into the future, no humans are allowed in the Wildlands, a vast rewilded territory. Thirteen-year-old Astrid and her younger sister, Indie, find themselves accidentally left off a train along the one track that passes through the nature reserve – and they quickly get lost, carrying almost nothing, with no means of communication, and with little knowledge of survival skills or the natural world. How can they possibly survive?

Perfect for fans of THE EXPLORER and THE LAST WILD, this riveting and emotional middle-grade debut novel takes place in an imagined future teeming with lost flora and fauna that we can only dream about encountering today.



Brogen Murphy After graduating with a degree in Zoology from the University of Cambridge, Brogen

Murphy set about trying to figure out how best to save the world. After a (very) brief stint in climate activism, they spent fifteen years promoting clean technologies that help build a low-carbon future. They are currently on a nomadic adventure with their wife, searching for the perfect place to live.

Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** June 2025

Extent: 416pp | **Word Count:** 65,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Holroyde Cartey



DRAGONBORN

Struan Murray

The electric new fantasy series for fans of *Skandar* and *the Unicorn Thief*.



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * **Exceptional, imaginative world-building paired with pulse-pounding adventure – it's *Skandar* but with dragons.**
- * **The perfect quality-commercial middle-grade offering for fans of AF Steadman and Katherine Rundell.**
- * **A break-out book for Struan Murray, following the critically-acclaimed *Orphans of the Tide* trilogy and *The Secret of the Moonshard*, which was *Indies Book of the Month*.**

DESCRIPTION

There is fire in this girl. She is DRAGONBORN – and she will change the world.

Life isn't fun for Alex Evans. Since her dad's mysterious death, she's never managed to get anything right. Nothing is ever good enough for her controlling mother, who acts like her dad never existed. When the frustration inside Alex finally gets too big to bear, it rushes to the surface.

And fire spills from her mouth.

Because Alex is a dragon. One of the many who live among us, unknown and unknowing, unless something awakens their true nature. Led by the mighty Oliphos to the legendary island of Skralla, Alex must train alongside fierce, frightening dragon-children, if she is to unlock the power of her birthright.

But other dragons are rising too. Drak Midna, the greatest dragon of all, seeks to free himself from the curse that has trapped him in human form for a thousand years. The curse that has kept the world safe.

And Alex has to be good enough for this fight, or the world will burn.



Struan Murray

is Scottish and grew up in Edinburgh, the youngest of a large, rowdy family of redheads. His debut novel, *Orphans of the Tide*, won the prestigious Branford Boase Award, and was included in the Guardian's 'Best children's books of 2020'. When he's not writing, Struan is a lecturer at the University of Oxford.

Age: 9-11

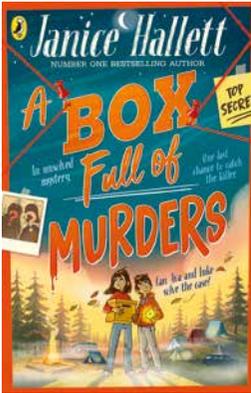
Publication Date: May 2025

Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** 84,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: Curtis Brown

Rights Sold: American English, German



A BOX FULL OF MURDERS

Janice Hallett

The first children's mystery from the number-one-bestselling author of *The Appeal* and *The Twyford Code*, Janice Hallett.

- * Janice Hallett is a bestselling, multi-award winning crime novelist. Her phenomenally successful adult mysteries have over 1 million copies in print globally and been translated into 17 languages.
- * This new middle-grade series has all the hallmarks of Janice's stand-out novels: incredible plotting, unforgettable characters, compulsive and pacy storytelling with an epistolary twist, creating an interactive mystery which challenges readers to crack the case.
- * A MG mystery with a twist - With a contemporary story framing an investigation into a decades-old unsolved mystery, this is the perfect addictive new read for fans of Robin Stevens and Sharna Jackson, bringing something fresh and new to the perennially popular MG mystery genre.

DESCRIPTION

When siblings Ava and Luke discover a mysterious notebook in their dad's attic they are instantly intrigued. As they read through letters, diary entries, newspaper cuttings and notarised secret recordings, they realise that a decades-old, still unsolved, murder case is unfolding right in front of them . . .

Determined to discover what really happened, Ava and Luke turn detective to try and crack the case. But soon they realise that the killer might still be out there - and might be closer than they think . . .

YOU know the facts. YOU have all the clues. Can YOU solve the mystery before they do?



Heralded as 'Agatha Christie for the 21st century' by The Times, **Janice Hallett's** adult crime novels with an epistolary twist have sold over 400,000 copies in the UK to date (TCM) . Her debut book, *THE APPEAL*, was named Sunday Times Crime Book of the Year and was awarded the CWA Debut Dagger. Her two follow-up novels have also both been Sunday Times Bestsellers.

Age: 9-11

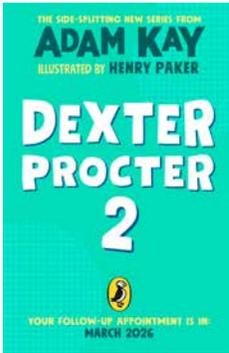
Publication Date: June 2025

Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** 60,000

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Sheil Land Associates

Rights Sold: Italian, Spanish, Turkish



DEXTER PROCTER AND THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING DOCTOR

Adam Kay, Illustrated by Henry Paker

Dr Dexter Procter is back for a follow-up appointment!

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR:



- * Adam Kay's children's books have sold over a million copies since 2020. His first book, *Kay's Anatomy*, was Puffin's biggest ever non-fiction launch, becoming the fastest-selling children's general non-fiction hardback of the last decade and joined the top 50 sellers of the last ten years after only ten days.
- * The first Dexter novel was released in September 2024, and went straight to number one on the UK's children's hardback bestseller list.
- * Adam's unique blend of entertainment and education is informing kids everywhere about their own bodies. It might be fiction but it's packed full of surprising – and surprisingly disgusting – facts!

DESCRIPTION

All is not well in the world of Dexter Procter, the world's youngest doctor.

There's an asthma epidemic which he can't get on top of, the hospital radio station has been shut down and – for reasons he can't begin to fathom – his parents are having another baby... ugh. And I've not even started on the headlice situation. Then his boss, Dr Marigold, disappears and Dexter discovers slimy politician Barbara Burnhall has a secret plan to shut down the hospital! But what Dexter doesn't realise is that he and his friends are about to uncover a dastardly plot featuring kidnap, earthquakes and a runaway ambulance. Dexter Procter doesn't know what's about to hit him. (Spoiler alert: it's an ambulance.)

Adam Kay and Henry Paker have created a second Dexter Procter mystery that is funnier, more ambitious and even more disgusting than the first book (and that was pretty disgusting).



Adam Kay (Author) is one of the UK's bestselling authors, and his children's books have been translated into 30 languages. His debut, *This Is Going to Hurt* was a Sunday Times number one bestseller for over a year, and he won a BAFTA for his adaptation of the book as a comedy-drama series for the BBC.

Henry Paker (Illustrator) is an award-winning comedian, writer and illustrator. He co-writes and performs in the Radio 4 sitcom *ReincarNathan* and co-hosts the *Three Bean Salad* podcast.

Age: 8–12 | **Publication Date:** March 2026

Extent: 432pp | **Word Count:** 60,000

Acquiring Editor: Ruth Knowles/ Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Not Available



THE STARLIGHT REBEL

Lisette Auton

A futuristic, sci-fi middle-grade novel full of heart - perfect for fans of Ross Welford!



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * **Ambitious sci-fi concept with kid appeal**
- * **Lisette is known for writing stories that feature disabled and neurodivergent characters as the heroes - and this is no exception! The neon, frenetic vision of the future also serves to depict the experience of some neurodivergent people today to all readers.**

DESCRIPTION

In the future, the most underestimated person on the planet may be the only one who can save it.

The year is 3897, and life on Earth is a neon dream, all flashing lights and buzzy noise – and no one remembers that there is a night sky filled with stars behind the illuminated shell above them. As she turns 11, neurodivergent, freckled Astrifer Nova is nothing like her sporty, high-achieving twin brother, Blaze. And on the day of her Work Path Allocation ceremony which determines the course of her life, she is crushed when she gets assigned to something as boring as the sock factory.

But all is not as it seems, and as she uncovers layers of hidden truths all around her, Astrifer discovers that the world is bigger than she ever imagined – and that it's up to her and a motley crew of new friends (including one from *very far away*) to challenge the status quo.

Turns out, their differences may be exactly what the planet needs...



Lisette Auton is a northern disabled writer, activist, poet, novelist, spoken-word artist, actor, film and theatre-maker, and creative practitioner. She's an award-winning poet who has performed at Northern Stage, ARC, the Southbank Centre and the Sage, in pubs, in a crypt, at festivals, indoors, outdoors, on a bridge and in a launderette. This is her fourth novel for children

Age: 9-11

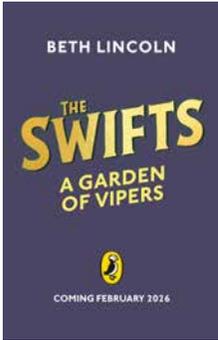
Publication Date: July 2025

Extent: 304pp

Word Count: 60,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Bent Agency



THE SWIFTS: A GARDEN OF VIPERS

Beth Lincoln, illustrated by Claire Powell

The third book in the multi-award-winning, *New York Times*-bestselling *Swifts* series.

OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:



- * Hilarious, critically-acclaimed writing with an utterly unique voice. Beth is an extraordinary new talent in middle grade fiction.
- * The Swifts visit New York City in the latest instalment of their family shenanigans.
- * Exceptional illustrated package from Claire Powell brings the eccentric Swift family to life in glorious detail.
- * The series has now been translated into 20 languages

DESCRIPTION

In the depths of winter, Shenanigan Swift and her family are summoned to America, where Daisy's brother, Dandelion DeMille, is in danger.

Racing to the DeMille family home – a 72-storey greenhouse in the heart of New York City – Shenanigan is too late to stop a murder. But it's Dandelion's uncle who has fallen victim to a mystery assassin.

As a snowstorm rages outside, Shenanigan, Felicity, Phenomena and Erf must uncover both motive and means. But when every room is packed with poisonous plants and deadly insects, how will they ever uncover what really happened in The Greenhouse?



Beth Lincoln is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Swifts*.

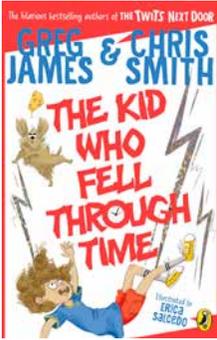
Raised in a former Victorian railway station in the North of England, her childhood fears included porcelain dolls, the Durham panther, and wardrobes that looked at her funny. She grew neither tall nor wise, and never learned to play an instrument – but she did write stories, a bad habit that has persisted to this day.

When she isn't writing, Beth is woodcarving, or making a mess of her flat, or talking the nearest ear off about unexplained occurrences. Her favourite things include ghosts, crisps, and weird old words like *bumbershoot* and *zounderkite*.

Among its many accolades, *The Swifts* was the winner of the Nero Book Award for Children's Fiction and the Barnes & Noble Children's & YA Book Award.

Beth lives in Newcastle upon Tyne with her partner and hopefully, by the time you are reading this, a dog.

Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** February 2026 | **Extent:** 464pp
Word Count: 86,000 | **Acquiring Editor:** Ben Horslen
Film Rights: The Bent Agency | **Rights Sold:** American English



THE KID WHO FELL THROUGH TIME

Greg James and Chris Smith

Travel through time with award-winning bestselling authors Greg James and Chris Smith in this hilarious action-packed adventure.

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHORS:**



- * Star broadcasters Greg James and Chris Smith are a hilarious and mega-popular writing duo. Their award-winning Kid Normal series has been translated into 22 languages and sold over 370k copies through UK TCM alone.
- * The book features time periods that are covered in the primary school curriculum, such as Romans and Ancient Egypt, and interjects facts throughout the text, meaning this has real educational value for the reader.
- * Excitingly, the hilarious duo are the first authors to ever do any extension fiction in the world of Roald Dahl, with *The Twits Next Door* publishing in August 2024

DESCRIPTION

History has always seemed pretty boring to Angus. Totally pointless! That's what Angus thinks until he accidentally falls into a shopping trolley and ends up travelling through time with Marge, the lady who runs the cheese counter at the local supermarket, and who is also FROM THE FUTURE.

And so begins the most epic adventure of his life – exploring a market in Roman Britain, hanging out with Shakespeare, making new friends in Ancient Egypt. Oh, and trying to escape the Evil Emperor Kragg from the 99th Century who is determined to destroy the planet.



Greg James and Chris Smith are the multi-award-winning and bestselling authors of *The Great Dream Robbery*, *Super Ghost* and the *Kid Normal* series.

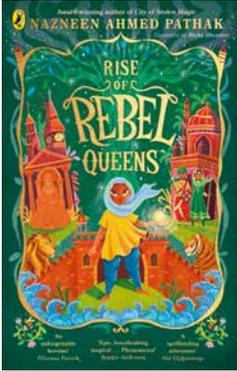
They have been translated into over 20 languages and been shortlisted for both the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Laugh Out Loud Award. In 2024 they were presented with the Ruth Rendell Literacy Award, for their work promoting reading in schools. Outside of their writing partnership, Greg James is a radio and television broadcaster and Chris Smith is a solo author of acclaimed children's books *Frankie Best Hates Quests* and *Clarity Jones* and the *Magical Detective Agency*.

Age: 9-11 | **Publication Date:** April 2025

Extent: 288pp | **Word Count:** 47,500

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Curtis Brown



RISE OF REBEL QUEENS

Nazneen Ahmed Pathak

The epic, magical and breathtaking sequel to *City of Stolen Magic*, and an unmissable read which reimagines our history in a way you've never seen before.

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * *City of Stolen Magic* was one of the bestselling and most critically acclaimed debut children's novels of 2023. Katherine Rundell named it her favourite children's book of the year, calling Nazneen 'A wonderful new voice', while Sophie Anderson called it 'Phenomenal'. It was selected as Waterstones Children's Book of the Month for July 2023.
- * Nazneen is a historian who has studied migration and the devastating impact of colonialism. She is also a poet with a PhD from Oxford University in Bangladeshi literature. She combines these things in beautiful, fascinating novels which shine a light on less well-explored, but crucial, aspects of history for children.

DESCRIPTION

India, 1856. Chompa and her fierce army of magical children are in hiding, running a secret school to spread magic and literacy to those who need it. Their mission is more important than ever, as their enemy, Devaynes, is now the all-powerful Governor of India.

Then Chompa learns that Devaynes is on the hunt for a legendary amulet, which will allow him to summon an army of djinn. She and her friends must split up and take three perilous journeys in search of it: to Bengal bandit country, to the Indian jungle, and to the British Museum. But if they find it, will they be able to resist unleashing it themselves?



Nazneen Ahmed Pathak is a British Bangladeshi writer, historian, poet and visual artist. She studied English literature at the University of Warwick and completed a PhD in Bangladeshi literature at the University of Oxford. As a historian she researches the geography and history of migration, a subject which is at the heart of much of her fiction, poetry and art. She was a mentee on PRH's inaugural WriteNow scheme, which aims to support underrepresented writers.

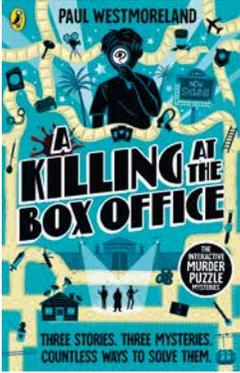
Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** March 2026

Extent: 400pp

Word Count: 75,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

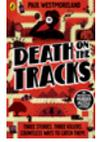
Film Rights: Luigi Bonomi Associates



A KILLING AT THE BOX OFFICE : THE INTERACTIVE MURDER PUZZLE MYSTERIES (BOOK 2)

Paul Westmoreland

Three gripping interactive murder mystery stories - with riddles, puzzles and a 'choose your own adventure' hook.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * A murder mystery book that combines fiendish puzzles with and a 'choose your own adventure' style structure, this is a fun, engaging twist on the puzzles and cosy crime genres.
- * The *Murdle* phenomenon (300k copies sold and counting) is still going strong, and this book taps directly into the market trends that are so hot right now.
- * The unique puzzling structure and emphasis on cosy crime narrative will allow this book to rise above the competition, in a market worth over £3 million in the UK alone.

DESCRIPTION

Solve the puzzle. Solve the murder.

Simple, right? Join Arlo Banks in this choose your own adventure mystery story as you race against the clock to catch a killer.

Arlo Banks had always wanted to be a detective. After a journey that took him from the Orient Express to a secret spy headquarters, he finally got his chance.

Now he's back. And this time his first stop is Hollywood, where murder in Tinseltown awaits . . .

You choose what path you take, what puzzles you solve, and what answers you take to help you solve a murder. Your choices could take you to the killer – or lead to a more unfortunate fate.



Paul Westmoreland has been a professional writer for over 25 years, creating award-winning advertising for TV, cinema, radio and digital campaigns. He is now a full-time author, and as well as coming up with fiendish puzzle and mystery books, he is the writer behind the spooky Rudy middle-grade series, which first published in 2023.

Age: 9-11

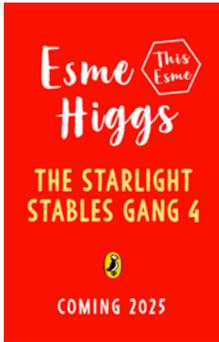
Publication Date: May 2025

Extent: 240pp | **Word Count:** 48,000

Acquiring Editor: Tom Rawlinson

Film Rights: Bath Literary Agency

Rights sold: American English



THE STARLIGHT STABLES GANG: 4

Esme Higgs, Jo Cotterill

A fantastic pony series for 8-12 animal lovers from superstar equestrian influencer Esme Higgs.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * **Brilliantly written and full of personality, this pony-series is perfect for readers of classic animal stories by Dick King-Smith, Clare Balding and Susanna Bailey as well as fun adventure stories like The Great Dream Robbery and The Primrose Railway Children.**
- * **Esme is a twenty-three-year-old equestrian influencer with nearly 1 million followers across YouTube and Instagram. Her online videos are a mix of tutorials, horse care videos and vlogs about her horses (Mickey, Joey and Casper) and more general lifestyle content. The content is upbeat, positive, with a spirit of adventure and 'girls can do it'.**
- * **This is aspirational fiction, with a positive girl-power message from a big sister figure, ensuring this book feels fresh and distinctive from other classic animal fiction**
- * **Beautiful chapter head and interior illustrations throughout.**

DESCRIPTION

Christmas is coming but while most of the Starlight Stables Gang are excited about the annual seasonal party at the stables, Daniel isn't feeling very festive. His mum isn't well and he's struggling to manage caring for her and helping at home, alongside school work and finding time to go to Starlight Stables - the place he loves the most.

Then Daniel finds an abandoned horse in need of his help and suddenly he's got another thing to worry about. . . . But will it prove one thing to many? Or will Daniel finally trust his friends enough to open up and ask for help when he needs it the most?

The much-anticipated fourth book in the Starlight Stables Gang series. Beautifully illustrated by Hannah George.



© David Higgs

Esme Higgs is one of the biggest influencers in the equestrian world – with more than a million followers. She's a writer, presenter, video producer – and a horse-mad ordinary girl.

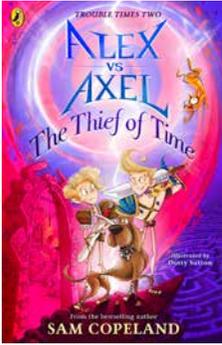
Jo Cotterill is a multi-award-winning writer for children and often gives talks and workshops in schools. She's written and published more than fifty books.

Hannah George's love of drawing and storytelling began at a young age. As a child she carried her sketchbook everywhere capturing all her adventures and mischievous exploits.

Age: 9-11 | **Publication Date:** August 2025

Extent: 288pp | **Word Count:** 41,000

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths | **Film Rights:** This Esme Ltd



ALEX VS AXEL: THE THIEF OF TIME

Sam Copeland

The hilarious second book in the Alex vs Axel series by the author of *Charlie Changes Into a Chicken*.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * A brilliant blend of real-world and fantasy land, taking the reader to new realms of adventure.
- * Combines hilarious humour with huge heart.
- * Highly illustrated package by rising star Dotty Sutton.
- * Sam's lifetime sales through Bookscan are now over 100,000 copies.

DESCRIPTION

Alex, Axel and the rest of the gang are back – but this time it's *Earth* that's in mortal danger.

A terrible threat has appeared all around the globe and every person on the planet has been frozen. With seven days to help them, the team are going to need extra help, which arrives in the shape of Mr Sunshine, Alex's family cat, and a bloodthirsty gnome called Finagle.

Together they will face baddies new and old, monsters, angels and warlocks, in an adventure that crosses three universes, and must learn to work together to save the day.



Sam Copeland is an author, which has come as something of a surprise to him. He is from Manchester and now lives in London with two smelly cats, three smelly children and one relatively clean-smelling wife.

He is the author of the bestselling *Charlie Changes Into a Chicken* series (the first book of which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize), *Uma and the Answer to Absolutely Everything* and *Greta and the Ghost Hunters*. With Jenny Pearson, he has also written *Tuchus & Topps Investigate: The Underpants of Chaos* and *Tuchus & Topps Investigate: The Attack of the Robot Librarians*.

Despite legal threats, he refuses to stop writing.

Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** September 2025

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 46,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: A M Heath & Company Ltd



OPERATION TANGO

Anton Du Beke, Elisa Paganelli

Goodnight Mister Tom meets Billy Elliot, with the mystery of Robin Stevens and adventure of the Famous Five – the second book from bestselling author and ballroom star, Anton Du Beke!



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * Anton Du Beke – star of the BBC’s *Strictly Come Dancing* – is one of this generation’s all-round entertainers and a consummate storyteller. He is the author of six bestselling adult novels that have sold over 200k copies (UK TCM) since 2018
- * Anton’s children’s books have all the historical setting, glitz and glamour and brilliant casts of characters that make his adult novels shine, all wrapped in a heartwarming and charming story that the whole family can enjoy together
- * Classic storytelling that’s perfect for fans of Ben Miller, Emma Carroll and Michael Morpurgo – an unforgettable adventure set on the homefront during WW2, full of friendships, (found) family, bravery and, of course, dance

DESCRIPTION

Summer, 1941: London evacuees Harry and Rosie Morton are looking forward to a summer spent exploring the Lancashire coast with their new friends – and learning the tango as a surprise for Mum’s birthday.

Until they learn two things: awful cousin Jasper is coming to stay.

And worse: Dad will soon return to the Western Front.

Then a train journey changes everything and the twins suddenly find themselves caught in a treacherous plot. And, when the adults around them don’t believe their story, Harry and Rosie realise they must summon all their courage if they want to protect the war effort and save lives . . .

With time running out, can Harry and Rosie stop the crooks before it’s too late and have one last dance with Mum and Dad before he leaves for France?



Anton Du Beke is the King of Ballroom, *Strictly Come Dancing* royalty and one of this

generation’s most-loved entertainers. A consummate storyteller, adept at captivating audiences, Anton has a number of bestselling adult novels. *Code Name Foxtrot* is his children’s debut.

Age: 9-11

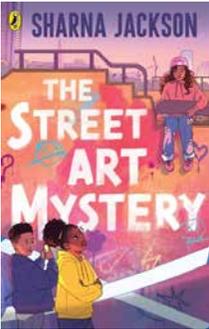
Publication Date: June 2025

Extent: 300pp

Word Count: 45,000

Acquiring Editor: Anthea Townsend and Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: I Will Know Someone Limited, Kerr MacRae LPA



THE STREET ART MYSTERY

Sharna Jackson

The brilliantly twisty murder mystery set on the streets of west London from the award-winning Sharna Jackson.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * Sharna is the master of page-turning murder mysteries with a sparky urban voice, and in her new book has delivered a fast-paced and compelling whodunnit which will appeal to fans of Robin Stevens, Kereen Getten and the Lizzie and Belle Mysteries.
- * Packed with sharp, real, funny teenage dialogue as well as epic reveals and red herrings to keep readers guessing.
- * Set in the heart of London and featuring tourist destinations familiar to many readers, this mystery is perfect for fans of *The London Eye Mystery*.
- * Sharna Jackson's debut novel *High Rise Mystery*, won the Waterstones Prize for Younger Readers and was chosen as a Booktrust pick. It has sold over 40k on UK TCM since publication.

DESCRIPTION

Margot, Wesley and Josephine have got an awesome weekend mapped out for the end of the holidays before they start high school – and they don't want anything to stand in the way of their BIG plans in London. But when they are staying with Margot's mum and her new boyfriend Teddy in Notting Hill, something happens that they just can't ignore...

Join the kids as they follow the case across wild West London, following the trail of a super creative murderer as well as some epic street art. From skate parks, tower blocks and canal towpaths they end up on a float at the colourful Notting Hill carnival - the biggest party of the year! How will they piece together the evidence to solve the mystery at the heart of London's coolest sights?



Sharna Jackson is an award-winning author and curator who specialises in developing socially-engaged initiatives for children across culture, publishing and entertainment. She was recently the Artistic Director at Site Gallery in Sheffield, and was formerly the editor of the Tate Kids website. Sharna's debut novel *High-Rise Mystery* received numerous awards and accolades including the Waterstones Book Prize for the Best Book for Younger Readers. Sharna lives on a ship in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

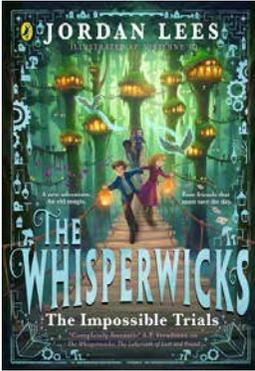
PRAISE FOR SHARNA JACKSON:

'I utterly loved The Good Turn; it's bone-deep brilliant; a joy to the very end. It's so warm and so funny, and so ferociously on the side of justice and of hope. I adored it.' **Katherine Rundell**

Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** February 2026

Extent: 44,000 | **Word Count:** 44,000

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst | **Film Rights:** Janklow & Nesbit



THE WHISPERWICKS THE IMPOSSIBLE TRIALS

Jordan Lees

From the New York Times bestseller and most exciting new voice in children's fiction comes the second book in this spectacular fantasy series.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * The middle grade debut of the decade - the immersive writing and world-building of Philip Pullman and Katherine Rundell with the page-turning kid appeal of *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief*
- * A world beyond our imagination: A richly imagined, atmospheric and evocative world full of spectacular characters and a very special kind of magic. The second book in the series expands this incredible world into new spaces and introduces immediately beloved new characters
- * A global phenomenon: We have secured fifteen rights deals for *The Whisperwicks* series so far

DESCRIPTION

'Completely fantastic' A.F. Steadman, bestselling author of the *SKANDAR* series

'Magic forged at Midsommer is the strongest and truest of all magic – both fair and foul.'

Ever since Benjamiyah returned from his spectacular adventure in Wreathenwold, he's been desperate to go back. When he discovers a fragment of witchstone, he is transported back to the labyrinthine streets of Wreathenwold and soon finds himself on another dangerous quest involving a strange collection of fairytales – **The Book of Barely Believable Stories**.

Reunited with Elizabella Cotton and helped by two new friends – Mea and Silas the mapmaker – the gang undertake a series of magical trials to save the missing children of Wreathenwold before midsommer ends and they are lost forever . . .



Jordan Lees was born in Scotland but grew up in Essex, where he still lives with his wife and young daughter. He studied literature at university and has worked in publishing since, firstly in royalties before becoming a literary agent. When not working, Jordan can usually be found reading whatever is lying around or losing at online chess.

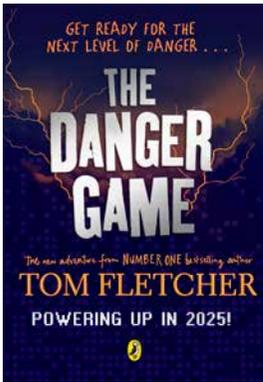
Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** March 2025

Extent: 448pp | **Word Count:** 70,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

Rights Sold: American English, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian



THE DANGER GAME

Tom Fletcher,
illustrated by Shane Devries

An electrifying new sequel to THE DANGER GANG with a super-hot gaming angle, from multi-million-copy-bestselling author Tom Fletcher.

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * Tom's books have sold over 10m copies globally, including 6m in the UK. One of the UK's bestselling and best-loved authors, his books have been translated into 41 languages.
- * This story returns to the world of THE DANGER GANG, which has sold 350k copies in the UK alone - but now has a super-hot gaming angle.

DESCRIPTION

It's a year since the incredible events of THE DANGER GANG, and Franky Brown can't wait for tonight's sleepover with his gang of best friends – all of whom were granted unbelievable superpowers in last year's magical storm!

But the night goes awry when Franky finds a mysterious videogame in the garage, and decides to press play – and is ZAPPED INSIDE IT!

It turns out Franky's genius inventor mum created the game when she worked for the super-evil Shadow Tech – and realised too late that the company's evil technology has turned the game BAD. Can the Danger Gang level up and use their special skills – from Mollie's invisibility, to Eric's shark-powers, to Katy's incredible acrobatics - to play Franky to freedom? And can they work together to defeat the ultimate boss waiting for them at the end... or will it be GAME OVER for the Danger Gang?

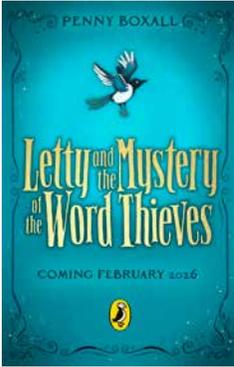


Tom Fletcher is a number-one bestseller and one of the UK's most popular children's authors.

As well as his career as an author, by the age of 21, Tom had penned 10 UK number 1 singles and is the founding member of the band McFLY. The Brit Award-winning band has sold over 10 million records worldwide and Tom has also written songs for other artists including One Direction, Busted and 5SOS.

Shane Devries is an illustrator from Adelaide, Australia. He began working as an architectural illustrator and has worked as a graphic designer and now creates visual development art for animation productions and illustrates books.

Age: 8-11 | **Publication Date:** October 2025
Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** Approx 45,000
Illustrations: Black and white illustrations
Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty
Film Rights: Curtis Brown
World Rights: PRHC



LETTY AND THE MYSTERY OF THE WORD THIEVES

Penny Boxall

The next exciting historical adventure from Penny Boxall; perfect for fans of Netflix's *Enola Holmes*, Hana Tooke's *The Unadoptables*, and Katherine Rundell's *Roftoppers*.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * Author Penny Boxall's first children's book – *Letty and the Mystery of the Golden Thread* – was chosen as Blackwell's Book of the Month for February 2025.
- * A must-read for fans of mystery and history, LETTY is packed with accessible and fascinating detail about historical people, objects and places, all woven into a pacy adventure.
- * Penny's writing style is literary yet accessible, packed with detail, and above all fun.

DESCRIPTION

LONDON, 1775

Though thirteen-year-old Lettice Breech's father has to go away for business, he feels safe in the knowledge that nothing bad can happen to her - not in their home city, and in the care of a trustworthy guardian.

But despite her very best intentions, Letty soon finds herself embroiled in a thrilling new mystery, involving secret notes found in dictionaries, a rag-tag gang of new friends (and enemies), several thefts and - nearly - a murder . . .



Penny Boxall writes middle-grade fiction.

She's fascinated by all things 18th-century. In her museums jobs she's helped look after William Wordsworth's spectacles at Dove Cottage, Laurence Sterne's porcelain cow at Shandy Hall, Mughal miniatures at the Ashmolean, and the Queen's tapestries.

She has an MA in Creative Writing from UEA and has published three poetry collections, including *Ship of the Line* (which won Scotland's largest poetry prize). She's held residencies at an Oxford college, a Scottish castle, a Swiss chateau, and a shipping container near Loch Long.

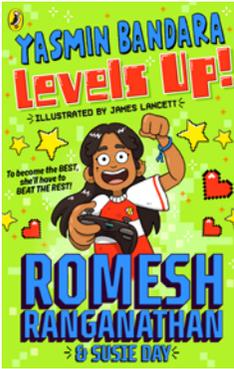
She grew up in Aberdeenshire and now lives in York. She can often be found wuthering about on the moors.

Age: 9-11 | **Publication Date:** February 2026

Extent: 368pp | **Word Count:** 50,000

Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield

Film Rights: David Higham Associates



YASMIN BANDARA LEVELS UP!

Romesh Ranganathan

Adam Wins the Internet meets Little Badman in this hilarious new middle-grade novel from much-loved comedian Romesh Ranganathan

OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:



- * Part *Adam Wins the Internet* and part *Little Badman*, *Yasmin Bandara Levels Up!* is the second middle-grade title after 2023's *Lil Muffin Drops the Mic* from much-loved comedian Romesh Ranganathan.
- * As well as being a hilarious and accessible read, the story also delivers a really powerful and heartwarming message about the importance of believing in yourself and following your dreams.
- * This is the perfect next read for reluctant readers, fans of simple plots and computer gaming, and readers of funny stories with heart, such as those by David Baddiel, Charlie Higson, Adam Hills and Danny Wallace.

DESCRIPTION

Yasmin Bandara has NO IDEA what she wants to be when she grows up.

Her parents want her to become a doctor, they won't even let her play computer games unless it's an educational one called Monkey House.

So when her best friend Zane introduces her to an exciting football game called FifPro, Yasmin can't get enough! She secretly plays whenever she can, hoping one day she'll be as good as her favourite gamer 'The Goat'.

But balancing schoolwork with gaming is making Yasmin's head SPIN. And when she's invited to play in tournaments for both games she's got to make a choice. Can Yasmin make her parents proud AND beat The Goat, or will it be GAME OVER?



Romesh Ranganathan is a comedian, actor and writer. A former maths teacher, he is now known for his award-winning series *The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan*.

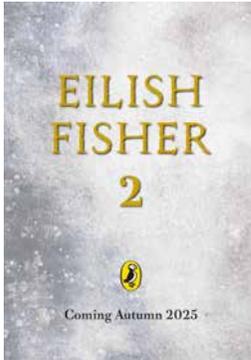
DJ Muffin drops the Mic is his first children's book and gave him an excuse to write about two of his favourite things - hip hop and cake.

Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** April 2025

Extent: 352pp | **Word Count:** 39,200

Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield

Film Rights: Off The Kerb Productions



UNTITLED BOOK TWO

Eilish Fisher

A beautiful novel in verse about grief, family and the power of hope, from the award-winning author of *Fia and the Snow Deer*, Eilish Fisher

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * **Eilish is an incredible new voice for middle grade readers, telling immersive, emotional stories through beautiful, yet accessible, verse. This second novel will once again appeal to fans of Sarah Crossan, Hannah Gold and Katya Balen**
- * **Exploring grief, family and the importance of finding hope in the darkest of times, this is a novel that will open up important conversations through the power of Eilish's words.**
- * ***Fia and the Last Snow Deer* won the highly coveted Irish Book Award Junior Children's category in 2024 and has been highly praised and reviewed.**

DESCRIPTION

Rowan was raised in the desert. Growing up all she's known is sunshine, warmth, love. Then her beloved Dad dies, everything changes.

Now Rowan and her mum have moved from the hazy heat of the desert to the cold landscape of Ireland. Each of them hoping that living in the town Rowan's Dad called home will bring them closer to him.

But as soon as Rowan arrives, she knows something's not right. Why is it so cold even in August? Why do lights turn on without warning or kettles boil with no one pressing a switch?

Even more mysterious is The Wall. It surrounds the town, but no one can tell Rowan who built it or how long it's stood, or why it's forbidden to cross over to the other side. So, when she spots a crack in the stone, Rowan can't resist the temptation to explore. In the woods beyond, she discovers a strange horse whom she feels an instant connection with, a bond that brings the return of warmth and hope . . . but at what price?



Eilish Fisher

lives in a small mountain town in Co. Wicklow with her husband and son. Eilish received both a Words Ireland mentorship and a full Literary Bursary Award from the Arts Council of Ireland.

Age: 10+

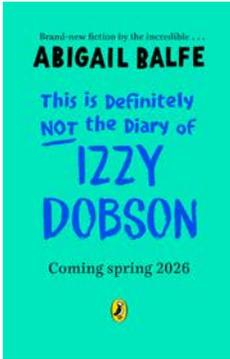
Publication Date: September 2025

Extent: 272pp

Word Count: 23,000

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Skylark Literary



THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE DIARY OF IZZY DOBSON

Abigail Balfe

A funny and touching illustrated fiction debut from the bestselling author of *A Different Sort of Normal*



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * From the incredibly talented author of the bestselling *A Different Sort of Normal* comes this funny middle-grade fiction debut about a girl who is not only trying to find her diary, but also her place in the world.
- * Perfect for fans of *LOTTIE BROOKS* and *TOM GATES*, this book is heavily illustrated with the author's mono drawings throughout.
- * Izzy's unique and hilarious perspective on life will be a comfort to kids who feel different. She comes to discover and embrace her own neurodivergence, makes new friends, takes on a bully, and navigates her grandmother's worsening dementia.
- * Told with warmth, humour and authenticity by author-illustrator Abigail Balfe, who speaks with authority and sensitivity about neurodivergence.

DESCRIPTION

**MISSING DIARY
PLEASE RETURN TO IZZY DOBSON IF FOUND!!
REWARD: JAR OF MANGO CHUTNEY**

Izzy Dobson has a few problems...

- 1) Her diary is missing.
- 2) School is the WORST.
- 3) Her cat has left another dead bird on her pillow.

But thankfully she has her wonderful Mum and Nan, her cat Horace, her favourite teacher Miss Finlay, and a new, trusty notebook (which is definitely NOT a diary!) to help solve the case. Now, if only she could figure out what people mean when they say random things, find a quiet place to eat lunch in peace, and maybe even make some friends?

Izzy Dobson navigates the perils of growing up in this fiction debut filled with hilarious anecdotes; touching heartfelt moments; and just a dash of mango chutney.



Abigail Balfe is a Brighton-based writer, illustrator and creative producer. Original storytelling has always been at the heart of Abigail's career and she has spent a decade leading social media campaigns for some of the biggest TV & entertainment clients in the world. Abigail also used to perform stand-up comedy and won several tiny trophies for her onstage humour; which involved life-size illustrations, ridiculous songs and rambling stories about her family.

Age: 9-12

Publication Date: April 2026

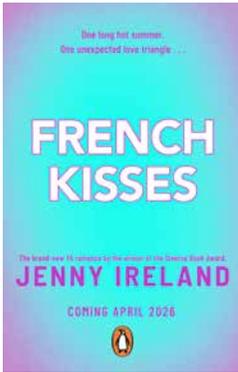
Extent: 240pp | **Word Count:** 29,500

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: United Agents Ltd

YA





FRENCH KISSES

Jenny Ireland

One summer. One very unexpected love triangle . . .

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * For fans of *The Kissing Booth* and *The Summer I Turned Pretty* – a fresh coming-of-age romance with Jenny Ireland’s key disability representation and authentic teen characters.
- * Jenny Ireland has taken UKYA by storm since her debut novel *The First Move* published in 2023. She won the Diverse Book Prize and was shortlisted for the prestigious Branford Boase Award and the YA Book Prize.
- * Featuring so much that fans of contemporary romance love: enemies to lovers; love triangle; grumpy x sunshine; summer romance

DESCRIPTION

When her parents are told about her (totally unfair) suspension from school, wild-child Margot is forced to go to on a family holiday to the South of France.

Enter Félix and Antoine. They are polar opposites. Félix: mild mannered, caramel haired and sweet. Antoine: dark haired. Tattooed. Arrogant.

The only thing they seem to have in common is that they’re both ridiculously attractive, and they both have a thing for Margot. But there’s something much more significant about them that’s going to come as a real shock to Margot . . . They’re brothers . . .



Jenny Ireland is a Young Adult writer who lives outside Belfast, Nth Ireland, with her husband, two children and border collie. She is a Law and French Law graduate and former paralegal.

In 2019 she underwent emergency brain surgery. While this experience was relatively traumatic, the close encounter with death has given her the gift of seeing what truly matters in life. Writing books. She has been nominated for many prestigious awards since the publication of her debut novel *The First Move* in 2023.

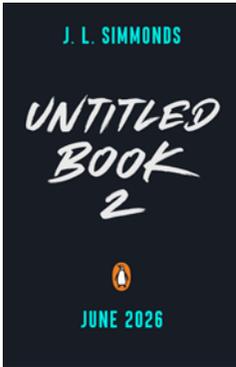
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** April 2026

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 70,000

Acquiring Editor: Ruth Knowles

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



UNTITLED BOOK 2

J. L. Simmonds

A criminal, a civilian, a high-stakes scavenger hunt and the most unlikely of meet cutes . . .

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * A high-stakes scavenger hunt thriller combined with an enemies-to-friends-to-lovers LGBTQ+ romance against the backdrop of New York City.
- * YA readers have devoured the likes of Holly Jackson, Tess Sharpe and Casey McQuiston and are hungry for more in this space. This is the perfect next book to fill their insatiable appetite.
- * J. L. Simmonds is a British author but the story's US setting chimes with YA market conditions and international publisher wish lists.
- * The film potential is clear and as a result we have acquired dramatisation rights.

DESCRIPTION

Kendra Walker has never shied away from dabbling in criminal activity and her family's antique business is no different, frequently trading stolen goods. But when Kendra's dad goes missing after re-discovering 'lost' priceless jewellery, he leaves behind a trail of clues for her to follow.

As Kendra's hunt leads her through the streets and avenues of New York City, she ends up in a shoot-out in a bodega. But when she realises there's been a witness to her crime, Kendra kidnaps the girl without thinking, roping her into the search for her dad in exchange for Alice's freedom.

As Kendra and Alice work together to solve the mystery, it soon becomes apparent they're not the only ones with an interest in the jewellery. Forced to use their wits and skills to stay one step ahead of the mafia, the girls grow closer and realise there's more to each other than meets the eye. But can a real romance ever blossom from such an unconventional meet-cute?



J. L. Simmonds grew up by the seaside but now lives in Bristol. She studied

English Literature and worked in marketing and communications for ten years before returning to Bath Spa for her MA in Writing for Young People. She writes joyful LGBTQ+ YA, bad poetry and text messages with too many emojis. *Run Away With Me* was her debut novel.

Age: 12+

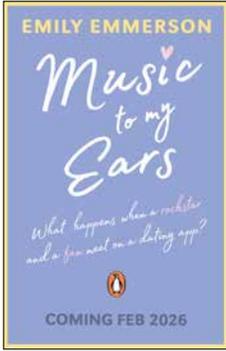
Publication Date: June 2026

Extent: 368pp

Word Count: 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Amina Parchment-Youssef

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



MUSIC TO MY EARS (WORKING TITLE)

Emily Emmerson

What happens when a celebrity and a fan meet on a dating app?

- * **The Brown Sisters series** by Talia Hibbert meets the **Dreamland Billionaires series** by Lauren Asher in this witty but steamy New Adult romance.
- * The story nicely combines the popular fake dating trope with, the similarly current, obsession with celebrities. Between the rise of fan edits on social media and the recent popularity of fan-insert romances in film (Prime's *The Idea of You* – Netflix's *A Family Affair*) this idea is both on trend and delightfully fun.
- * This is the first book in a loosely-linked trilogy, with books 2 and three centered around Jessy's sister and best-friend, Laura and Anna—each with their own famous love interest.

DESCRIPTION

Meet Jessy and Patrick.

All Jessy wants is to figure out what to do with her life. She hates her job, lives in a crappy apartment and her love life is non-existent. . . That is until her sister begs her to join her newly launched dating app, Butterflies.

Front man of These Exiles, Patrick just wants a break after coming off tour. But when he's mistakenly arrested, his record label insists on doing damage control. Their latest scheme? Getting Patrick into a relationship.

When Jessy and Patrick match on Butterflies, neither plan to actually meet. . . until they literally bump into each other. With their faces plastered all over the internet, the two find themselves unexpectedly 'dating.'

Can they keep up the farce in front of the whole world, or will they start to believe their own lie?



Emily Emmerson is a Brit writing happily ever afters with heart and humour. *Music to My Ears* is her New Adult fiction debut. As Emily Murdoch Perkins, her non-fiction debut—a feminist exploration of the British monarchy—was published in October 2024. As Emily Murdoch, she teaches and speaks on the craft and business of writing.

Age: 18+

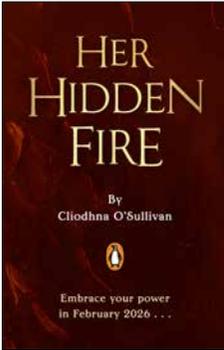
Publication Date: February 2026

Extent: 360pp

Word Count: 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Awo Ibrahim

Film Rights: United Agents



HER HIDDEN FIRE

Clíodhna O'Sullivan

Perfect for fans of *POWERLESS*, this is a stunningly written feminist romantasy trilogy – with dragons! – by an Irish debut author.

- * Perfect for fans of *POWERLESS*, this stunningly written romantasy trilogy delivers a richly imagined world, a pacey, gripping story of deception - and a love triangle for readers to endlessly debate!
- * Clíodhna is an Irish debut author who was inspired by Ireland's myths and history to depict an unforgettable society (with meaningful parallels for readers to draw to our own!) in a richly evocative world.
- * A great recommended read for adult readers of YA.

DESCRIPTION

If he has the ability to wield magical powers, everyone will rejoice – especially the girl who loves him. But what happens when they realize *she* has the gift?

In a world where dragons stalk the skies and magical abilities are an elite privilege, the ruling family of Ailm's Keep is on a knife edge: can Ionain, the heir apparent, channel magic, or will the family be cast out and replaced by a cruel master from a neighbouring land?

So when Éadha, a servant girl who loves Ionain, discovers that she can draw power, she finds herself in grave danger. It's extremely rare for a girl to have this talent, and certainly never outside the great families. At Ionain's moment of truth, Éadha makes a desperate gamble to save him, Ailm's Keep, and ultimately herself.

As Éadha and Ionain enter a whirlwind of patriarchy, class, heartache and jealousy, they learn about power's terrible cost – a price others willingly pay to maintain theirs.

How far would you go to empower the one you love?



Clíodhna O'Sullivan

is a writer based in Co. Louth, Ireland.

She works part time as a legal counsel, is reasonably fluent in German, and plays in a band, Molasha (you can find them on Spotify!).

She is married with three children, living with far too many cats and a dog.

Age: 14+

Publication Date: February 2026

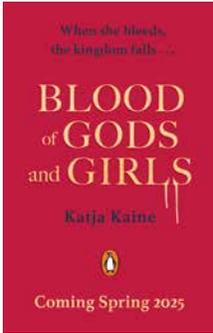
Extent: 448pp

Word Count: 95,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas
and Emma Wood

Film Rights: Mulcahy Sweeney Associates

Rights Sold: American English, French, Spanish



BLOOD OF GODS AND GIRLS

Katja Kaine

A sweeping fantasy about found family, betrayal and loving the one person you shouldn't set in a Singapore-inspired melting pot of Eastern culture.

- * An epic romantasy featuring powerful female friendships, romance, betrayal and action-packed adventure as well as a fierce feminist heroine who fights for her beliefs and the need to create a better world.
- * The perfect read for fans of compulsive romantic fantasy like *The Gilded Ones* and *Children of Blood and Bone* with the feminist overtones of *The Handmaid's Tale*.
- * The author, Katja Kaine, is half Singaporean and has created a world infused with Singaporean culture that is vividly realised and immersive.
- * *Blood of Gods and Girls* was longlisted for the Bath Children's and WriteMentor novel awards in 2023.

DESCRIPTION

"The cage keeps the songbird safe from the hawk, but what is the point?"

For 300 years there has been a Living Goddess. For 300 years the people having been paying the price of betraying the goddess Shantavi. For 300 years the Kingdom has been cursed.

Enter Nisha, destined to set that all on fire.

On the run from her fate

Forced out of hiding to save the only family she knows

In love with a man who represents everything she hates

The unique power to save her Kingdom



Katja Kaine is half Singaporean and half German and has spent most of her life travelling the world. She is UK-based and lives in West Yorkshire with her partner, three fluffballs and two microhumans. She is the creator of the Novel Factory software for writers, through which she has 65,000 writers following her writing journey. *Blood of Gods and Girls* was longlisted for the Bath Children's and WriteMentor novel awards in 2023. Katja's other unpublished works have been shortlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award, selected for the SCBWI Undiscovered Voices Anthology, and recognised by the Guppy Prize and the Bridport Prize.

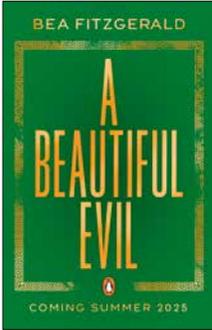
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** March 2026

Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

Rights Sold: German



A BEAUTIFUL EVIL

Bea Fitzgerald

The eagerly anticipated new YA Greek myth re-imagining from Bea Fitzgerald, TikTok superstar and *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Girl, Goddess, Queen*.

- * **Bea's debut novel *Girl, Goddess, Queen* charted at No 6 in the *Sunday Times* Children's Bestseller list and was the bestselling YA hardback of 2023. It was also shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Prize 2024.**
- * **We snapped up World Rights in three of Bea's brilliant feminist myth retellings in a whirlwind pre-empt acquisition. Rights have subsequently been sold in 14 Languages**
- * **This sensational new book takes a well-known myth and turns it on its head: with a forbidden, yearning romance to die for and a plot full of full of unexpected turns, you can forget everything you thought you knew about Pandora.**

DESCRIPTION

When the Gods make the first human woman, Pandora, they impress on her just one certainty: that she has been made to love and be loved by her husband, the titan Epimatheos. But when Pandora is delivered to him, she's surprised to find that Matheos doesn't feel the same AT ALL. In fact, he wants nothing to do with her.

Pandora struggles to find purpose and meaning in her new life. What was she made for, if not loving this man? Even if actually, he is a fairly unbearable grump. And his only friends are animals, and weird automatons. Although he is extremely (annoyingly) handsome.

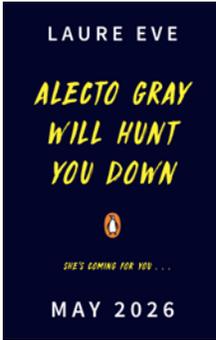
But fate has a funny way of working, and in trying to stay away from one another, Pandora and Matheos find themselves thrown together more and more, as they try to uncover the real reason the Gods sent her to him. Could it have something to do with Matheos's cursed brother, Prometheus? And if so – what might their being together mean for the future of humanity . . . ?



Bea Fitzgerald is a bestselling author and content creator who has been shortlisted

for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and swiftly become one of UK YA's biggest stars. She worked in publishing for a number of years, and is fascinated by the way stories endure and resonate through centuries and generations. When she's not writing, she's entertaining her followers on TikTok and Instagram with her mythology-themed comedy account @chaosonolympus.

Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** August 2025
Extent: 512pp | **Word Count:** 108,000
Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst
Film Rights: Luigi Bonomi Associates
World Rights: French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Spanish



ALECTO GRAY WILL HUNT YOU DOWN

Laure Eve

A darkly funny contemporary thriller with echoes of *Promising Young Woman* and *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*.

- * An addictive and pacy contemporary thriller with a film noir edge.
- * Laure's previous YA duologies *The Graces* and *The Curses* were highly acclaimed with fantastic reviews.
- * The female revenge angle brings a fresh and distinctive angle in a crowded thriller market.

DESCRIPTION

I may never be voted 'most likely to win prom queen' but I would rank first for 'most annoyingly determined to discover the truth at any cost'. There is something going on here, and it all began with my brother.

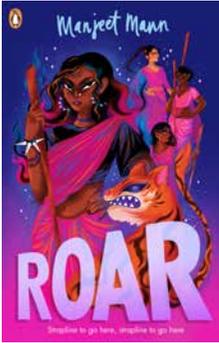
When a boy in her town starts claiming that a demon is stalking him – Alecto Landry has no choice but to investigate. After all, that's exactly what her brother Lucas said, right before he died . . .

Armed only with her razor-sharp wit and a talent for getting into trouble, Alec endures threats and kidnappings, and even the spark of a new romance, in order to get to the truth.



Laure Eve is a novelist and screenwriter. She is the author of critically acclaimed YA duologies *The Graces* and *The Curses*, *Fearsome Dreamer* and *The Illusionists* and she is also co-creator, sole writer and executive producer of *The Mysterious Master M*, a fiction podcast series being produced by Q Code and starring Rupert Friend.

Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** May 2026
Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 80,000
Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough
Film Rights: Rogers, Coleridge and White



ROAR

Manjeet Mann

An empowering novel of resistance inspired by Sampat Pal and the Pink Sari Gang from the multi-award-winning author of *Run, Rebel* and *The Crossing*



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * **Manjeet Mann's first two novels in verse have taken the YA world by storm. They are amongst Penguin Children's most widely prize-shortlisted novels ever. *Run Rebel* won the UKLA Award and the Carnegie Shadower's Choice Award. *The Crossing* won the Costa Children's Book Prize.**
- * **A feminist manifesto in powerful verse Inspired by the true story of Sampat Pal and the Gulabi Gang, a group of pink-sari-wearing stick wielding vigilante women in India, this novel will spark conversations around the world. Perfect for fans of Sarah Crossan, Elizabeth Acevedo and Rupi Kaur.**
- * **Acclaim for Manjeet Mann: 'Skilful, involving and important, this deserves it's accolades' *The Sunday Times* 'Mann's brilliant, coruscating verse novel lays out the anatomy of Amber's revolution, and the tentative first flowerings of hope and change' *Guardian***

DESCRIPTION

Rizu lives a comfortable life in the gated middle class suburbs of Delhi; her biggest worries are getting her homework done and keeping up with the mean girls at school. That is, until she's accused of being a witch and the hysteria that follows triggers a chain reaction that ends in tragedy.

Alone and fearing for her life, Rizu runs away and joins a group of pink sari wearing, stick wielding women, known for their revenge vigilantism. Together they can help Rizu take back her life and seek justice against those who wronged her.

Because sometimes you have to run through the streets and ROAR.



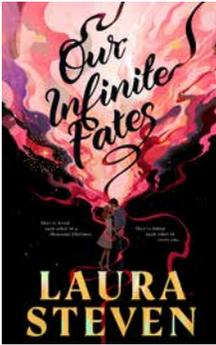
Manjeet Mann is a multi-award winning children's author, actress, playwright and screenwriter. Her debut YA novel *Run, Rebel* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2021 and won the CILIP Carnegie Shadowers Choice Award, The UKLA Award, Diverse Book Award and Sheffield Children's Book Award. It was also a Guardian best book of 2020. Her second novel *The Crossing* won The Costa Children's Book Award. Manjeet is also the founder of Run The World - a not for profit that uses sport and theatre as a means to empower women and girls.

Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** October 2025

Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 25,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Rogers, Coleridge and White



OUR INFINITE FATES

Laura Steven

A star-crossed lovers romance that spans a millennia, for fans of *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*, *They Both Die at the End* and *The Time Traveller's Wife*

- * **Our Infinite Fates** has been selected as our lead YA title for 2025. With a star-crossed lovers romance in the vein of *The Invisible Life of Addie La Rue*, *The Time Traveller's Wife* and *They Both Die at the End* this story has the potential to reach a very broad audience.
- * Laura has published five YA novels with Farshore and seen growing success with her most recent YA - the dark academia offerings *The Society for Soulless Girls* and *Every Exquisite Thing*
- * We have secured sixteen rights deals so far including a six publisher auction in Italy and a six-figure pre-empt in Germany. We are also working closely with Macmillan US who are launching this as a super-lead on their list.

DESCRIPTION

'Maybe that's all love is, in the end. An endless tempting of fate.'

Evelyn can remember all her past lives. She can also remember that in every single one, she's been murdered before her eighteenth birthday.

The problem is that she's quite fond of the one she's in now, and more importantly, her sister needs bone marrow to stay alive. So now she has to:

1. find the centuries-old enemy who hunts her through each life and destroy them forever
 2. figure out exactly why she's being hunted in the first place,
 3. try quite hard not to fall in love with them
- ... again.



Laura Steven has published several critically acclaimed and award-winning books for children and young adults, such as *The Society For Soulless Girls*, which was shortlisted for the YA Book Prize and the Diverse Book Awards, and *The Exact Opposite of Okay*, which won the inaugural Comedy Women in Print Prize, judged by Marian Keyes. Her books have been widely translated and optioned for TV, and her work has appeared in *The i Paper*, *The Guardian* and *Buzzfeed*.

Age: 12+

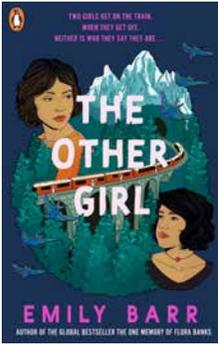
Publication Date: February 2025

Extent: 416pp | **Word Count:** 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

Rights Sold: Bulgarian, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Slovak, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian



THE OTHER GIRL

Emily Barr

Two very different girls get on a train across Europe for a summer that will change their lives. When they get off the train, neither is who they were when they got on. But just for the summer, right . . . ?

OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:



- * Emily Barr is amongst the few UK YA authors who have broken through to see sales success in recent years, with her YA titles selling over 75,000 copies through UK Bookscan to date, and *The One Memory of Flora Banks* translated into 25 languages.
- * A brilliantly page-turning thriller featuring tropes readers love - stolen identity, hidden secrets, rich people behaving badly and partners in crime.
- * Emily's travel journalist experience plays into her YA thrillers excellently. In *The Other Girl*, a summer of interrail travel means that Switzerland and France feature very heavily.

DESCRIPTION

Two girls meet on the 12.02 Paris to Zurich train.

One – Tabbi – is rich, privileged, chaotic. She is on her way to six weeks at rehab in the Swiss mountains.

The other – Ruby – is leaving her troubled past behind her for a summer of interrail travel as cheap as she can.

Both keen to escape their lives they agree to swap lives for the next six weeks and meet up in Paris to swap back.

But one of them likes their new life far too much to give it back . . .



THE ONE MEMORY OF FLORA BANKS, published in 2017, was **Emily Barr's** first novel for young adults and was a global hit, publishing in 25 languages.

Before that, she worked as a journalist in London but always hankered after a quiet room and a book to write. She went travelling for a year, which gave her an idea for a novel set in the world of backpackers in Asia. This became *BACKPACK*, an adult thriller which won the WH Smith New Talent Award, and she has since written eleven more adult novels published in the UK and around the world. She lives in Cornwall with her husband and their children.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: May 2025

Extent: 400pp

Word Count: 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Ruth Knowles

Film Rights: Curtis Brown



FALLING FAST

Jenni Fletcher

From the award-winning author of Formula 1 romance **LIGHTS OUT** comes the next addictively steamy story.

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * The next book in Jenni Fletcher's F1 New Adult romance series – perfect for adult readers of Booktok faves Hannah Grace (*Icebreaker*), and Lauren Asher (*The Fine Print*).
- * **FALLING FAST** is a New Adult romance by award-winning author Jenni Fletcher, featuring fan-favourite romance tropes like #annoyancetolovers and delivering moderate spice levels with scenes of an intimate nature.
- * **Sports** is the next big trend in romance fiction, as demonstrated by the views that #Sportsromance has amassed on Tiktok.
- * A must-have read for fans of Netflix's hit show *Drive to Survive!*

DESCRIPTION

Formula 1 superfan Ava Yearwood can't quite believe her luck when she lands a job at Rask Racing.

Ava loves everything about working for the team . . . everything except their devastatingly attractive driver, Leif Olsen. His quiet, brooding attitude should put her off, but frustratingly sparks fly during their every interaction.

Ever the professional, Ava is determined to avoid Leif at all costs. But when she's assigned as his Media Officer, there's just no getting away from him – and the flames smouldering between them begin to heat up . . .

Can Ava and Leif keep their careers on track, or will their insane chemistry steer them both off-course?



Jenni Fletcher has written more than twenty romance novels, ranging from the Roman to Victorian eras. She teaches Creative Writing at Bishop Grosseteste University and her books have been nominated for five RNA Romantic Novel Awards. She also won the Libertà Books Shorter Romantic Novel Award in 2020. Jenni grew up in Aberdeenshire and Somerset, has a PhD in Edwardian literature, and now lives in Yorkshire with her family and dog. @JenniAuthor.

Age: 18+ | **Publication Date:** March 2025
Extent: 336pp | **Word Count:** 80,000
Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield
Film Rights: Jenni Fletcher



CRUEL IS THE LIGHT 2

Sophie Clark

Discover the epic, sizzling and **NUMBER ONE BESTSELLING** romantasy that everyone is talking about . . .



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * **A MAJOR YA BRAND IN THE MAKING WITH A PASSIONATE FANDOM:** CRUEL IS THE LIGHT was an instant #1 bestseller in the UK Children's & YA market, an overall UK market #2 and a #1 YA bestseller in Australia.
- * **PERFECT FOR A #BOOKTOK #ROMANTASY AUDIENCE:** A forbidden romance between a demon and a demon-hunter, full of danger, tension, temptation, secrets and page-turning mystery. Perfect for fans of FOURTH WING, POWERLESS, DIVINE RIVALS and SERPENT AND DOVE..
- * **PACKED WITH READER-FAVOURITE TROPES:** including only one bed, knife to the throat, close proximity, fake engagement, enemies-to-lovers. With lots of #BookBoyfriend potential!.
- * **A MAJOR GLOBAL LAUNCH + RIGHTS DEALS TOTTING UP:** snapped up by three different PRH Publishers (UK, US, ANZ), in a two-book deal, and 8+ languages sold and counting!

DESCRIPTION

They say love conquers all . . . But can love win in a war between demons and exorcists? Or will it just tear them all apart . . . ?

Cruel is the Light is an epic enemies-to-lovers romance about a demon hunter and a foot soldier thrown together in a centuries-old war . . . and the forbidden love that could change the course of history.

Now, get ready to return to the characters everyone is talking about in the heart-stopping sequel.



Sophie Clark likes to say she writes fantasy featuring wounded girls with sharp edges, charming boys who fall for them anyhow, twisted gods, and other unholy things. She holds a master's degree in international relations from the University of Melbourne, and worked for the Australian Senate before leaving politics for good. She now resides in Tasmania, Australia, with a beautiful black-and-white Border collie called Indy.

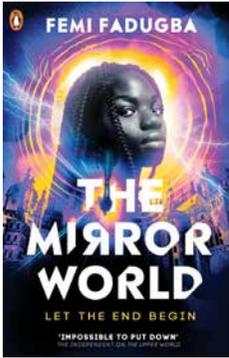
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** May 2026

Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** 75,000

Acquiring Editor: Anthea Townsend

Film Rights: Coleridge & White

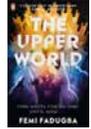
Rights Sold: American English, Czech, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian



THE MIRROR WORLD

Femi Fadugba

The electrifying sequel to the bestselling, critically acclaimed, page-turning thriller, *The Upper World*, soon to be a major Netflix movie starring Academy Award Winner Daniel Kaluuya.



OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:

- * A thrill-ride of a read, as mind-blowing as a Christopher Nolan epic with the high-stakes drama and heart of *Top Boy*.
- * This duology was acquired in a hotly-contested 15 publisher auction. *The Upper World* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Book Prize, the YA Book Prize, longlisted for the Branford Boase and published to widespread rave reviews.
- * Femi Fadugba is a phenomenal talent, holding a Quantum Physics Masters from the University of Oxford. He deftly brings together his two worlds in his writing, combining the story of life on a Peckham estate with the study of physics.

DESCRIPTION

With her mentor, Dr Esso, by her side, Peckham born and bred Rhia is beginning her first week at the University of Oxford. She's determined to have a fresh start and put the Upper World behind her, but fitting in proves more difficult than she thought.

That's until Rhia receives an invite under her door to a secret and exclusive society called the Ravens. The Ravens are a cult-like group that guarantee students a life of wealth and success. Yet is Rhia really willing to sell out to secure her future?

And, more pressingly, with increasingly strange goings-on happening around her, could joining the group mean opening Pandora's box – and uncovering something even more mind-bending than the Upper World? Rhia is about to find out . . .

'A time-twisting, mind-bending thrill ride . . . I loved it!' Holly Jackson, author of *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* (on *The Upper World*)



Femi Fadugba is an EdTech CEO, sci-fi writer and Dummett Fellow at New College, Oxford.

He has given talks to over 10,000 students on topics ranging from time travel physics to the process of writing his debut novel, *The Upper World* (coming to Netflix soon!). In prior lives, Femi worked as a science tutor, management consultant and solar salesman, having studied at UPenn and Oxford, where he published in the field of Quantum Computing.

Age: 12+

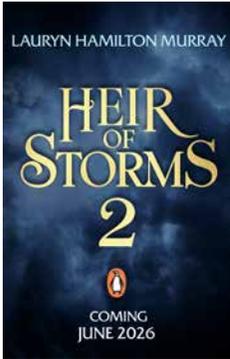
Publication Date: April 2025

Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** 65,000

Acquiring Editor: Amina Parchment-Youssef

Film Rights: Netflix

Rights Sold: Italian, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian



TIDES OF FORTUNE

Lauryn Hamilton Murray

**The stunning follow-up to HEIR OF STORMS
– an epic new YA romantasy series.**



**OTHER TITLES
IN THE SERIES:**

- * **The perfect series for fans of TWIN CROWNS, Stephanie Garber and THE HUNGER GAMES, from an astonishing new writing talent.**
- * **With vibrant world-building, a swoon-worthy enemies-to-lovers romance and elemental magic, this fun accessible fantasy will delight fantasy fans from teen to adult.**
- * **Book one secured eight deals so far at pre-empt or auction including major deals with Roaring Brook in the US and in Germany.**

DESCRIPTION

Having survived three treacherous trials to win her crown, Blaze is now Queen of the Aquatori. But before she can take her throne, first she must set out to find the eye of the soul before the usurper to the throne claims its power for himself.

Her journey will take her deep into the forests of Ostacre and into a temporary alliance with the infuriating but undeniably compelling Fox. She can't help but feel drawn to him . . . but can she trust him?

Fortune favours the brave but will it favour the Stormweaver on her most dangerous mission yet?



Lauryn Hamilton Murray

grew up in Scotland writing stories about sad girls, secrets and storms. She holds a BA Hons in English Literature from the University of Stirling and a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh. She is happiest when reading in the sun and hiking with her dogs, Huxley and Ziggy.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: June 2026

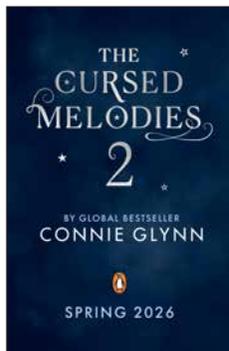
Extent: 400pp

Word Count: 100,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Paper Literary

Rights Sold: American English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese (Brazil), Spanish



THE CURSED MELODIES 2

Connie Glynn

A teen fantasy trilogy filled with romance and dark magic, by the bestselling author of *The Rosewood Chronicles*



OTHER BOOKS
IN THIS SERIES:

- * A teen fantasy adventure series full of dark magic and romance but remaining in the 12+ clean teen space Connie is so known and loved for.
- * Connie was the number one debut author of 2017 in the UK YA market with her previous series, *The Rosewood Chronicles*, which have sold almost 75,000 copies through TCM and have had built up big followings in Australia and Europe.
- * Queer romance, chosen family and strong bonds of friendship light up the page, and bring to life the diverse and complex characters readers love in Connie's work.

DESCRIPTION

The ocean is calling...

With the return of the evil Shadowling, Astrid, Jonas, and Gwen are faced with a new task: by order of the Queen, they are sent on a top-secret journey across the sea to retrieve ancient weapons that the Bloom Bloods hope can stop the Shadowling once and for all.

Gwen and the twins set off, but it's not all plain sailing. When their ship is jeopardised, they must turn to an unlikely source for help, and worst of all, a certain royal shipmate keeps pestering them.

They will soon learn that the sea is full of wild and untameable magic – magic that could reveal answers the twins have been searching for their whole lives. With their rag-tag crew and the fate of the world at stake, who can they trust? And what terrible things might be waiting for them in the deep?



Connie Glynn lives in London with three charming but mischievous cats. She studied film at the University of Sussex where she started her YouTube channel 'Noodlerella', which amassed over a million followers across social platforms. She has since parted ways with the pink-haired alter ego, but has kept her whimsical approach to life and the search for magic in the everyday. In her spare time, she can usually be found rewatching golden-age Disney movies or taking long naps outside with a book over her face.

You can find her on YouTube at Connie Glynn for video essays and pop culture content, on Instagram at @ConnieGlynn for the pretty stuff, and TikTok at @milktooth for cosplay, chaos and everything in between.

Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** March 2026

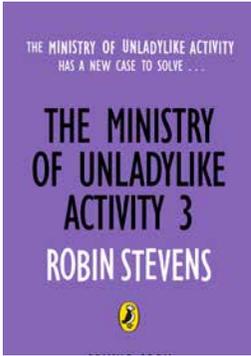
Extent: 304pp | **Word Count:** 85,000

Acquiring Editor: Ruth Knowles & Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Free Focus Limited, Conville & Walsh Ltd

**US
RIGHTS
ONLY**





A STOCKING FULL OF SPIES: A MINISTRY OF UNLADYLIKE ACTIVITY MYSTERY

Robin Stevens

The third thrilling and unputdownable tale in a fiendishly twisty new mystery series from the million-copy-bestselling author Robin Stevens

OTHER BOOKS
BY THE
AUTHOR:



- * Robin Stevens is one of the UK's bestselling children's authors, with over 1.5 million copies sold through TCM.
- * This is the third book in a thrilling and highly-anticipated new WW2 spy-detective series, with everything fans love about Robin's books: brilliant but underestimated children, wonderful friendships and rivalries, twisty mystery plots, deliciously sparky narrative voices, and history brought to life.
- * Perfect for twisty-mystery fans of *The Swifts* by Beth Lincoln, *The Bletchley Riddle* by Ruta Sepetys, *Enola Holmes* and *Knives Out*.

DESCRIPTION

'It's hard to know where to start. There's so much to say – about the murders, and the mole, and the ship, that I'm getting tangled up in the story already. And none of it makes sense unless I explain to you that even though I only turned twelve in September, I'm a spy and a detective.'

It's December 1941, and almost Christmas at Bletchley Park, where codebreakers are hard at work.

Then there's a suspicious death at the park. A codebreaker is shot dead in what appears to be a tragic accident. But a top-secret message is discovered in his pocket - a message he should never have had. Was he a secret agent, working for the other side? Was the message planted on him? Most importantly - was this murder?

It's up to May, Nuala and Eric to prove the innocence of Bertie Wells, a hapless young codebreaker in the frame for the murder, and crack the case. They are brought to Bletchley, a most strange and secretive place full of Britain's most brilliant minds, where they'll need to watch, listen, deceive, decode, and puzzle out the incredible, unthinkable truth...



Robin Stevens

was born in California and grew up in an

Oxford college, across the road from the house where Alice in Wonderland lived. She has been making up stories all her life.

Robin is now a full-time author and the creator of the internationally award-winning and bestselling *Murder Most Unladylike* and *Ministry of Unladylike Activity* series. She still hopes she might get the chance to do some detecting of her own one day. She lives in London.

Age: 9–12

Publication Date: September 2025

Extent: 400pp

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: The Bent Agency



To download or browse our LOOKBOOK, the rights guide for all our titles please go to www.penguin.co.uk/bologna25

PERMISSIONS REQUESTS

Penguin Children's: penguinpermissions@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

Random House Children's: rhpermissions@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

RIGHTS ENQUIRIES

Penguin Random House Children's: childrensrights@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE UK

Penguin Random House Children's Rights

One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London SW11 7BW

