



Penguin Random House Children's

LOOKBOOK

AUTUMN/WINTER

2025

MIDDLE GRADE &
TEEN TITLES



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**GRAPHIC
NOVELS**

GRAPHIC NOVELS



STARBREAKERS

Ed Caruana, illustrated by
Chris Hazeldine

A hilariously 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 9–13.

- * **Brilliantly witty scripts, fast-paced storytelling and dynamic page layouts make this series a perfect next step for fans of *Dogman* and *Bunny Vs Monkey*.**
- * **An epic, action-packed story with funny, accessible full-colour art that's perfect for adventure-loving fantasy fans of *Amulet* and *Lightfall*.**
- * ***Guardians of the Galaxy* meets *Percy Jackson*, a commercial sci-fi/fantasy adventure full of charmingly snarky characters, high-energy action and heart-warming crew dynamics readers will love to get lost in.**

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 as a stand-up comedian on the London comedy circuit and multiple times at the Edinburgh festival. *Starbreakers* 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: 9-13 | **Publication Date:** August 2026

Extent: 240pp | **Word Count:** 36,000

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



SNEAK PEEK



GRAPHIC NOVELS



THE FAR OUT FIVE: PORTAL LOO PANIC

Olaf Falafel

The hilarious series from stand-up comedian and artist Olaf Falafel. Spewnicorn and friends try to find their way out of a multi-dimensional world in this imaginative and anarchic graphic novel.

OTHER
BOOKS
IN THE
SERIES:



- * The Far-Out Five is a lead series 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 200,000 followers across platforms.

DESCRIPTION

A madcap team of adventurers, lost far from home without the magical wand that could change them back into a normal group of kids and one grumpy amateur magician...

Spewnicorn, a punk unicorn who vomits rainbows

Wally, a pompous and cowardly koala

Tubbs, a walking bathtub

Bloof, a blue-footed booby

Glossy Jeff, a really chilled-out seal

Together they must sail the oceans and face bizarre creatures, weird islands and mysterious tasks on their quest to find Wally's missing wand and get back home.

Now they face an island with a lot of **Portal Loos** – mobile toilets that are gateways to different interconnected dimensions – obviously! With a **rampaging evil impala** on the loose, they must hop from world to world with only the navigational whelks to help them find the way out of this **multi-dimensional whirlwind**. Will they ever escape? Will Wally ever manage to have a wee?



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: July 2026

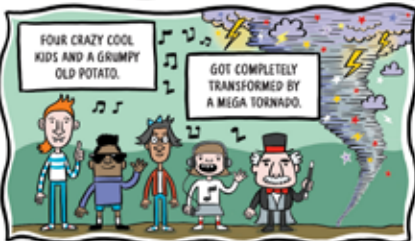
Extent: 224pp

Word Count: 11,800

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Film Rights: Greene & Heaton Ltd

Rights Sold: Portuguese



SNEAK PEEK



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 is 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.**
- * **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, Portuguese, Spanish, Welsh



**COLOUR
ILLUSTRATED
FICTION**



WITCHY BOO: CASTS HER FIRST SPELL

Arden Jones and Saoirse Lou

The start of a spellbinding new illustrated series featuring Witchy Boo, a little ghost with a BIG magical secret!

- * For fans of *Isadora Moon*, *Unicornia* and *Kitty's Superhero Adventures*.
- * This series is a major launch for Puffin's young fiction list, with a new title publishing every six months, from September 2026.
- * Perfect for those transitioning from picture books, these will be equally enjoyed by those reading-with-assistance or beginning their independent reading journey.

DESCRIPTION

Even though she's a ghost, Boo has never liked being scary – not like her brothers Shock and Shriek.

But when a witch's hat finds its way onto her head, Boo learns that not all ghosts have to be scary. Some ghosts can be . . . witchy!

Follow Witchy Boo on her magical journey, as she learns to accept herself – with the help of some very cute friends.



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

Rights Sold: Catalan, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish

COLOUR ILLUSTRATED FICTION



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

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Tobias Literary Agency

Rights Sold: American English, Chinese

COLOUR ILLUSTRATED FICTION



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 UK TCM since 2021 and has been sold to eleven 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* and *Felix and the Future Agency*. 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



TINY DOGS: THE SLEEPOVER SURPRISE

Rose Lihou

Bea and her tiny dogs have their very first sleepover in the next book in the charming colour chapter book series.

OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:



- * A sweet illustrated chapter book series featuring four delightful tiny dogs, perfect for fans of *Isadora Moon*, *Mummy Fairy*, and *Rabbit and Bear*!
- * Charming full colour illustrations throughout from author/illustrator Rose Lihou - *Tiny Dogs* is the ideal companion for readers moving on from picture books.
- * Reassuring storylines that encourage gentle learning around themes such as confidence and finding your voice, all while discovering the importance of friendship and nature.

DESCRIPTION

'Ridiculously delightful' - Guardian

Tiny dogs, big adventures!

Bea and her friend Daisy are SO excited about their very first sleepover! They have plans for matching pyjamas, games and snacks to share - all designed for two! Bea's secret tiny dogs are having a tiny sleepover of their own in the garden too.

But when a knock on the door brings a surprise visitor, it looks like Bea and Daisy's plans have been ruined. And the tiny dogs also have a surprise to deal with. Can Bea and the pups work together to save their sleepovers? And will they manage to get any sleep at all?

A colour chapter book series, perfect for readers moving on from picture books.



Rose Lihou is a children's author and illustrator living in Winchester, UK. Having previously worked in design teams across retail and children's publishing, she's now based from her home studio and supplies her illustrations to shops and galleries around the world. When she's not writing and illustrating, you're most likely to find Rose in a field with her two daughters and miniature schnauzer, Herbie.

Age: 5-7

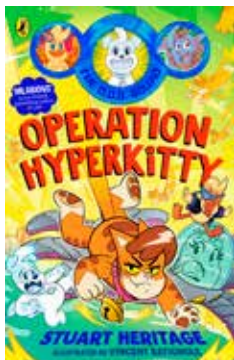
Publication Date: March 2026

Extent: 144pp

Word Count: 9,000

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Film Rights: The Blair Partnership

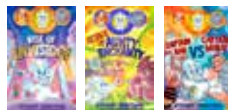


THE O.D.D. SQUAD: OPERATION HYPERKITTY

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 60,000 followers across his social channels. He also provided a storyline for a recent *Bluey* episode,

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 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 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: 224pp

Word Count: 12,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Greene & Heaton Ltd



THE WATERS AND THE WILD

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* was the 2024 Children's (Senior) Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. It was also Book of the Year at the Children's Books Ireland Awards as well as winning the Ellis Dillon Debut award.

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

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 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: Catalan, Portuguese, Spanish



**YOUNGER
FICTION**



MOTH THE VEGGIE VAMPIRE

Dotty Sutton

The hilarious new series perfect for fans of *Loki*, *Amelia Fang* and *Hotel Transylvania*.

- * *Amelia Fang* meets *Loki* for a stay at Hotel Transylvania.
- * The perfect blend of funny and spooky for 7-10-year-old readers, this is the first book in a super accessible and commercial series.
- * Extensively illustrated throughout, with Dotty's own amazing illustrations.
- * Four books acquired.

DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Hawthorne Manor, a fifteen-and-a-half-star hotel with a difference – it's run by vampires!

But nine-year-old Moth is only a half-vampire (that's what happens if you get bitten by a vamp with only one fang), meaning he can't fly and hates the sight of blood. He can come out in sunlight, though, which means it's his job as Temporary Deputy Assistant Sub-Manager to run the hotel all day, while the rest of the staff snooze in the dark, creepy basement.

Bullied by the other vampires, particularly cocky Vlad the Lad, who loves to make his life a misery, Moth's life sucks. That is until a party of school children unexpectedly check in, and Moth is faced with a new challenge: a feisty (human) girl called Mina.

Can Moth protect Mina from the vamps without revealing the truth about himself and the hotel? Or can humans and half-vampires never truly be friends?



Dotty Sutton is an Edinburgh-based illustrator and model maker. The dictionary definition of 'dotty' is 'eccentric or slightly mad', which is a description she is rather flattered by.

Dotty has illustrated books including Waterstones Children's Book of the Month *Alex vs Axel* by Sam Copeland and *The Notwitches* by Gary Panton. When not drawing, she's building tiny worlds and puppets out of paper and clay, or inspiring the next generation of adventurers as a Cub Scout leader.

Age: 7-9

Publication Date: October 2026

Extent: 288pp | **Word Count:** 20,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: Arena Illustration Ltd



ROBOTS STOLE MY MUM!

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 Beast 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 feature fantastic illustrations from Tim Wesson.
- * 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:** 27,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: Spring Literary



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

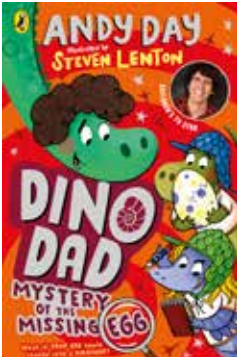
Publication Date: February 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: The Blair Partnership

Rights Sold: French

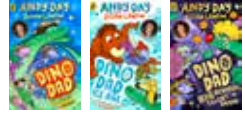


DINO DAD: MYSTERY OF THE MISSING EGG

Andy Day, Illustrated by Steven Lenton

The fourth book in a dino-tastic adventure series 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 UK preschool television.
- * Andy is a genuine dinosaur expert, and has peppered lots of real-life dino facts within his hilariously anarchic narrative, ideal for readers aged 6+.
- * The world of Dino Dad is brought to life with Steven Lenton's exceptional illustrations, which add even more amazing humour and charm.
- * Puffin acquired four books in the Dino Dad series, and book one was the second-highest bestselling young fiction debut of 2024.

DESCRIPTION

Hello! It's me, Ruby Thumb. I can't wait to tell you all about my newest adventure. It was fantastic - I got to be a real-life dino detective! Me and dad had to solve the mystery of a missing fossilised dinosaur egg . . . and we discovered something amazing 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 '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:** June 2025

Extent: 176pp | **Word Count:** 12,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Talent4 Media Limited, KT Forster Literary Agency



PRINCESS OLIVIA INVESTIGATES: THE KNIGHTS OF NATURE

Lucy Hawking

The third title in this series by global bestseller and science educator Lucy Hawking about a former princess desperate to find out about the world around her.

Illustrated throughout
by Zoe Persico.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * In this unique series for readers 7+, Olivia investigates key natural science topics including biodiversity and climate change, through a fictional adventure with expert non-fiction information scattered throughout.
- * Will inspire the scientists and activists of the future who have loved Rosie Revere Engineer and Ada Twist Scientist.
- * Lucy travels all over the world educating young people about science and this illustrated series accessibly introduces them to the concept of climate change.
- * Publishing in time for the ever-resonant Earth Day.
- * Lucy and Stephen Hawking's series of children's books *George's Secret Key to the Universe* was a global hit, selling over 400,000 books worldwide.

DESCRIPTION

Olivia still much prefers life as a scientist to life as a princess. But now she has to go on her biggest adventure yet! She and her best friends, Ravi and Helga realise that even more of the problems in nature than they thought are connected to how the Earth is being looked after by everybody on it and they want to help. Then they realise that there was a group of people years and years ago who thought the same thing. If they work together – could they maybe do something to help Alez's weather and countryside and animals and people – and, well, everything, really!



Lucy Hawking is a children's writer, the co-creator of non-fiction compendium *Unlocking the Universe* and the *George* fiction series, with her father Stephen Hawking. Lucy is a former journalist, having written widely for British newspapers, and she gives regular talks about science and stories to audiences all over the world.

Age: 7–9

Publication Date: March 2026

Extent: 256pp

Word Count: 33,000

Acquiring Editor: Ruth Knowles

Film Rights: Little St Mary Limited, Janklow and Nesbit



**PUFFIN
PRESS**



WELCOME TO PUFFIN PRESS: A UNIQUE LITERARY IMPRINT AT PUFFIN.

We're small in size. We publish books chosen and loved by just one editor. But we're big in personality.

Puffin has been sparking imaginations for eighty five years and we're very proud to be its newest chapter. Our focus is middle-grade for the most confident and voracious young book-lovers, who want to be excited, challenged and swept away.

Our list is a varied treasure trove, full of friendship and found family, adventure and magic, myth and monsters. With Puffin Press you'll time-travel, brave icy mountains, hunt for ghosts, and navigate the underworld itself.

What our books all have in common is rich, memorable characters, and storytelling that's both groundbreaking and timeless.

We love every one, and we hope you will too.

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.

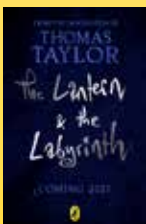
I see the gigantic being standing in the misty swamp air, its body like a crack in the sky, hair lank as water weed, moon-penny eyes blazing straight at me. And I have nowhere to hide.

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 600,000 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: 400pp

Word Count: 50,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: Morgan Green Creatives Ltd

Rights Sold: German, Turkish

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: March 2027

Extent: 400pp

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 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 and a world that feels truly unique: this is a life-affirming children's debut, 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 . . .

When Ismail wakes moments after his parents' car overturns, he finds himself in the underworld, along with countless other souls, some of whom have been there for millennia. It's here that he learns of the legend: whoever can travel through the many levels of the House of the Dead, 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: February 2027
Extent: 368pp
Word Count: 45,000
Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty



**MIDDLE-
GRADE**



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 UK TCM to date and been translated into over 17 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

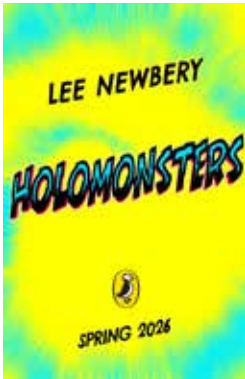
Publication Date: September 2025

Extent: 336pp

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 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.

But when superfan Newt Hawkin is invited to Holomonsters Global HQ to beta test a new form of the game, he soon discovers not all is as it seems. The holomonsters here 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.

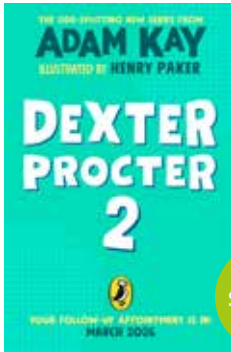
Lee enjoys adventuring, drinking ridiculous amounts of tea, and giving his dog a good cuddle - or a *cwtch*, as they say in Wales. His first book, *The Last Firefox*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

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

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

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



COMING
SOON TO
TV!

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.
- * The first Dexter novel was released in September 2024, and went straight to number one on the UK's children's hardback bestseller list. There will also be two star-studded, 50-minute BBC comedy specials adapted from the first two Dexter Procter books airing at the end of 2025 and 2026.
- * 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 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.)

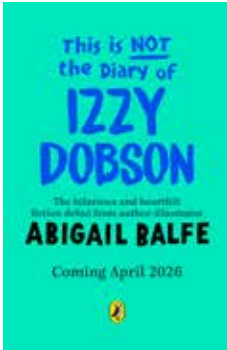
Adam Kay and Henry Paker have created a second Dexter Procter mystery that is funnier, more ambitious and even more disgusting than the first book (and that was pretty disgusting).



Adam Kay is one of the UK's bestselling authors, and his children's books have been translated into 32 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 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
Rights Sold: Lithuanian



THIS IS 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 Abigail Balfe 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: 8-12

Publication Date: April 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: United Agents Ltd



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.

- * Our lead middle-grade paperback of 2026.
- * Commercial action-adventure in the vein of Alex Rider (but for a new generation!) combined with a superhero angle in the vein of the animated *Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse* and *Onykea and the Academy of the Sun*.
- * Thrilling and accessible storytelling from an author with proven writing capabilities as the co-writer of Marcus Rashford's *The Breakfast Club Adventures* series.
- * The protagonist is a young Black boy who grew up in the foster care system, like author Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie, giving much needed representation to the wider middle-grade market.

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 he has inherited super strength, speed and heightened senses from the parents he never knew.

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:** August 2026
Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 50,000
Acquiring Editor: Amina Parchment-Youssef
Film Rights: Blair Partnership



DRAGONBORN: THE TWILIGHT CHILD

Struan Murray

The second book in the soaringly brilliant new fantasy series perfect for fans of *Impossible Creatures*.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * The adventures continue in the sequel to the acclaimed *Dragonborn*, with more twists and tangled friendships as the sinister Drak Midna pushes forward with his plans to start a new war between dragons and humans.
- * Exceptional world-building paired with pulse-pounding action in the perfect blend for readers aged 9-11 – it's *Skandar* but with dragons.
- * A perfect quality-commercial middle-grade offering for fans of AF Steadman and Katherine Rundell.

DESCRIPTION

After accepting her true nature, Alex Evans faces the challenge of learning what it truly means to be a dragon. But while flying and fire-breathing are not as straightforward as they seem, soon Alex is drawn away from her studies on the island of Skralla by more urgent matters.

In his hunt for dragon blood strong enough to break the curse keeping him trapped in human form, Drak Midna has kidnapped Oliphos, the mighty leader of the Skarren-Har. Meanwhile, danger is brewing in the Hidden Realms, where the ancient dragon city of Dundarrak is under threat from an army of demons.

Without Oliphos to lead them, can Alex and her friends defend Dundarrak and also thwart Drak Midna's ambition to rekindle a global war between humans and dragons? A war that would set the whole world ablaze . . .



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 2026

Extent: 352pp | **Word Count:** 85,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: Curtis Brown

Rights Sold: American English, French, Italian



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



X-MAS MARKS THE SPOT (AN INTERACTIVE PUZZLE MYSTERY)

Paul Westmoreland

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

OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:



- * This is a fun, engaging twist on the puzzles and cosy crime genres.
- * The first book in the series, *Death on the Tracks*, has already sold in 4 languages.
- * The *Murdle* phenomenon (300,000 copies sold and counting) is still going strong, and this book taps directly into the market trends that are so hot right now: a strong narrative, fiendish yet accessible puzzles, and a hugely entertaining voice.

DESCRIPTION

Solve the puzzle. Stop the baddies. Simple, right?

Step into the shoes of Arlo Banks, and return to a world of secrets, spies and diabolical plans.

It's Christmas, and Arlo is hoping to finally start his top-secret training to become a proper spy.

But old enemies have other plans. When it turns out there's a scheme to rob the Bank of England, Arlo must use all his puzzle-solving cunning to unravel the mystery.

As the temperature drops, and the snow falls, Arlo makes a discovery that will take him across the world . . . and put its future in his hands.

You choose what path you take, what puzzles you solve, and what answers you choose in this interactive high-stakes mystery.



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: November 2025

Extent: 352pp | **Word Count:** 40,000

Acquiring Editor: Tom Rawlinson

Film Rights: Bath Literary Agency



THE WHISPERWICKS: THE VANISHED KEY

Jordan Lees

The spell-binding world-building of Philip Pullman and Katherine Rundell with the page-turning kid appeal of *Skandar*.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * The debut middle-grade series of the decade.
- * A richly imagined, atmospheric and evocative world full of spectacular characters and a very special kind of magic.
- * *The Whisperwicks: The Labyrinth of Lost and Found* was Puffin's lead debut for 2024, hit #1 on the NYT Bestseller list in June 2024, and was the Waterstone's Children's Book of the Month for January 2025.
- * Rights have now been sold in 15 languages and counting.

DESCRIPTION

The epic conclusion to the highly acclaimed *Whisperwicks* series. Prepare yourself for impossible magic, spectacular adventure and a mind-blowing finale.

The magus Manfred Tarr is on the hunt for a key – a key that has been lost for centuries and which has the power to release a terrible darkness into the world. To save Wreathenwold from a dreadful fate and armed only with his magic, his courage and his best friends Elizabella, Mea and Silas, Benjaminah must set out on another impossible quest to find the Three Sisters. This dangerous journey will take them through the Weird Wood – home to ragwitches, root folk and half bears – and into a fierce battle with far-reaching consequences.



Jordan Lees was born in Scotland but grew up in Essex, where he still lives with his wife and young daughter. Having devoured stories all through childhood, Jordan then studied literature at university and has worked in publishing ever since, most recently as a literary agent. When not writing, Jordan can usually be found reading whatever is lying around or losing at online chess.

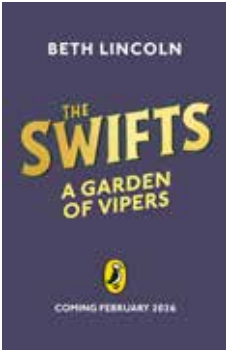
Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** April 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

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



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 21 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, Chinese



A BOX FULL OF MURDERS #2

Janice Hallett

The second murder mystery in this middle-grade series from number-one-bestselling author of *The Appeal*, Janice Hallett.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * Heralded as 'Agatha Christie for the 21st Century', Janice Hallett's adult murder mysteries novels have sold over 450,000 copies through UK TCM to date. Her debut, *The Appeal*, was *Sunday Times* Crime Book of the Year and her three follow-up novels have all been *Sunday Times* Bestsellers.
- * Janice's middle-grade series has all the hallmarks of her standout adult crime novels: incredible plotting, unforgettable characters and compulsive storytelling told through a variety of documents, challenging readers to crack the case and tapping into the popularity of murder mysteries and puzzle books.
- * Each book frames a cold case with a contemporary story and are perfect for fans of Robin Stevens.

DESCRIPTION

Discovering another box full of papers in their attic, siblings Luke and Ava are ready to embark on a whole new investigation into an unsolved murder case from the past. *Are you?*

This time the mystery involves a body found deep in the basement of the Natural History Museum, and a killer who has escaped justice . . . until now!

Ava and Luke are determined to unmask the culprit. But as they follow diaries, phone logs and other documents from the past, the mystery deepens, and the siblings realise they'll need to read between the lines of the clues left behind, if they are going to uncover the truth and solve the case once and for all.

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



Janice Hallett is one of the most popular crime novelists writing today. Her debut novel, *The Appeal*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller, a Waterstones Thriller of the Month and *Sunday Times* Crime Book of the Month. While her subsequent novels, *The Twyford Code*, *The Case of the Alperton Angels* and *The Examiner* have all been instant bestsellers garnering huge reader and critical acclaim. When not indulging her passion for global travel, she is based in West London.

Age: 9-11

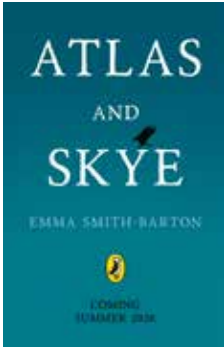
Publication Date: June 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Sheil Land Associates

Rights Sold: Catalan, Spanish



ATLAS AND SKYE

Emma Smith-Barton

A beautifully told new middle-grade novel from Waterstones Prize shortlisted Emma Smith-Barton about the eternal power of friendship, memory and love.

- * **Atlas and Skye is Emma's extremely exciting return to fiction writing, launching almost exactly five years after her hugely respected and much beloved YA debut, *The Million Pieces of Neena Gill*.**
- * **Atlas and Skye is Emma's middle-grade debut, and is a beautiful story that will offer comfort to children experiencing loss.**
- * **Emma's work is always deeply moving, and driven by craftsmanship and passion.**

DESCRIPTION

Atlas's Grandpa is beginning to forget things. The end of stories, where he put things - and Atlas is worried that soon Grandpa will forget him, too. Skye is forgetting things, too. Like how it feels to have her big sister around now she's left for uni, and the smell of her Grandma's perfume. She's never felt more lonely - until she meets Atlas, a new boy at school who needs her help.

Together Atlas and Skye set out to piece together the missing memories of Grandpa's past - and learn how to live with a future that feels uncertain.

Told in alternating verse and prose chapters between Atlas and Skye, this is a beautiful story about love, memory, and the power of learning to let go.



Emma Smith-Barton was born in South Wales to Pakistani parents. Growing up between cultures has heavily influenced her writing and she is especially interested in exploring themes of identity and belonging. *The Million Pieces of Neena Gill* was Emma's first novel for young adults. It was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020; the Branford Boase Award 2020; and the Romantic Novelists' Association Debut Romantic Novel 2020.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: July 2026

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 40,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Darley Anderson



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 40,000 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.

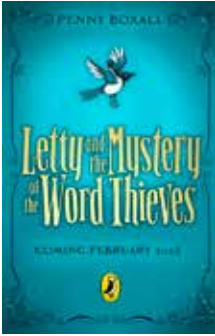
PRAISE FOR SHARNA JACKSON:

'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: 304pp | **Word Count:** 45,500

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



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 *Rooftoppers*.

**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

Thirteen-year-old Lettice Breech is grappling with a dilemma; her Pa is unwell - too poorly to work - and it falls to Letty to save their home from the bill collectors.

So when the opportunity arises to help a young viscount find his missing grandfather and the family's treasure, Letty steps up to the plate.

Soon she finds herself embroiled in a thrilling new mystery, involving maddening clues 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 Oxford. She can often be found wuthering about on the moors.

Age: 9-12 | **Publication Date:** May 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield

Film Rights: David Higham Associates

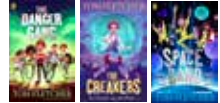


THE DANGER GAME

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 10million copies globally, including 7million 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 450,000 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?

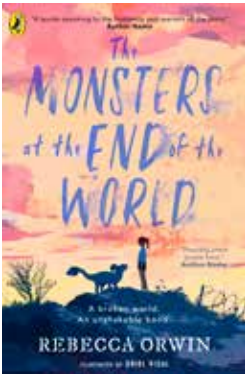


Tom Fletcher is a number-one bestseller and one of the UK's most popular children's authors.

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 2026
Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** Approx 45,000
Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty
Film Rights: Curtis Brown



THE MONSTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Rebecca Orwin

An astonishing debut novel about friendship, trust and survival – with a monstrously big heart.

- * A compelling adventure that explores the power of empathy and kindness to unlock conflict.
- * Hannah Gold's *The Last Bear* meets David Almond's *Skellig* with a dash of Katherine Rundell's *The Wolf Wilder*.
- * Perfect for readers dreaming of the life-changing and unlikely friendships of books like *How to Train Your Dragon* and films like *E.T.*

DESCRIPTION

Two hundred years ago, a series of natural disasters known as the Ruin poisoned the land and caused never-before-seen sea creatures to claim the ocean as their own. For the coastal villages that are all that is left of humanity, they are a constant threat and a frightening story told to keep children out of the shallows. They are precisely what they have been named: monsters.

But when Sunny discovers one of those monsters trapped on the beach, she realises that everything she thought she knew about them is wrong. Mo, as she names him, is an intelligent, gentle creature, far more in tune with nature than humans.

With crops failing on land and hostilities increasing at sea, will Sunny and Mo's unlikely friendship be enough to save what's left of their world?



Rebecca Orwin was brought up in Chesterfield by a mum who loves books and a dad who loves films and ended up loving stories in all their forms. Her favourites are those that provide the most thorough escape from the everyday, full of magic, adventure and preferably a few good jokes. She has a BA in English Literature and an MA in Creative Writing from Newcastle University, and lives in Sheffield with her husband.

Age: 9–11

Publication Date: January 2026

Extent: 352pp

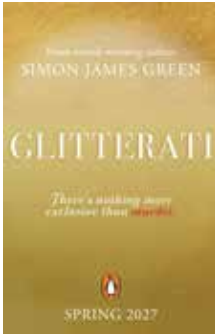
Word Count: 63,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: DKW



YA



GLITTERATI

Simon James Green

***Saltburn* meets *We Were Liars* in an explosive YA thriller.**

- * **A page-turning novel steeped in lies, money and murder, told from a fraudster's perspective.**
- * **Includes biting humour and a sharp critique of the highest society, similar to *White Lotus*.**
- * **Simon James Green is a much beloved, award-winning author of YA rom-coms, and this high-concept thriller is an exciting new direction for him.**

DESCRIPTION

Tommy Baxter arrives on an exclusive island in the Caribbean ready for a week of extreme luxury and unrivalled pleasures. He's part of a very select group of teens whose close-knit families are the world's most elite ... and most powerful.

Except he's not really Tommy Baxter.

He's a con artist looking to uncover dirt on these glitterati – or to manufacture dirt, if necessary – so he can extort them for big money. But “Tommy” soon realizes that his lies might be too daring to last long – and that he might be developing feelings for one of his marks.

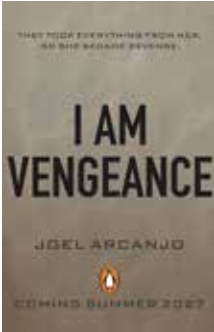
Then, as the net closes in on him, he uncovers secrets far darker than he'd ever expected ... secrets worth killing for.

Once the murders begin, Tommy doesn't know whom he can trust. Can he lie his way off the island before the truth catches up and leaves him dead?



Simon James Green is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. His YA novels include *Noah Can't Even* (picked by WHSmith as one of the most important LGBT books of the last 50 years); *Alex in Wonderland* (nominated for the Carnegie medal and Top LGBTQ+ Books of 2019 from Attitude Magazine); *Heartbreak Boys*, (an Indie Next List Pick, USA); *You're the One That I Want* (shortlisted for the YA Book Prize), *Gay Club!* (nominated for the Carnegie Medal and starred reviews from Kirkus and BookList); *The Big Ask* (Kirkus starred review); and *Boy Like Me* (longlisted for the Carnegie Medal, and winner of the Readers' Choice Award at the Diverse Book Awards).

Age: 14+ | **Publication Date:** March 2027
Extent: 384pp | **Word Count:** 85,000
Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas
Film Rights: Skylark Literary



I AM VENGEANCE

Joel Arcanjo

The first in a fast paced dystopian duology, with a slow-burn romance, expertly plotted with clever twists and bloody vengeance, from the Waterstones Children's Book Prize-nominated author of the Crookhaven series.

- * Arma is a headstrong heroine reminiscent of Katniss Everdeen, with emotional depth and unstoppable force, tapping into the BookTok "female rage" trend.
- * The setting blends familiar elements from *Dune*, *Mad Max*, and *Silo* with a fresh approach, making it an accessible sci-fi read.
- * Joel's middle-grade series Crookhaven, including *School for Thieves*, was a Waterstones Prize 2024 finalist and a Times Best Book for Children 2023. It has sold in 16 territories and is in development with BBC Studios.

DESCRIPTION

These men tried to destroy me. To chip me apart, piece by piece. But only I can kill me.

Arma is a Wheezer, the lowest in Earth's climate-ravaged future society, forced to scour the barren Wilds for the last remaining seeds vital for producing oxygen. This work has ruined Arma, inside and out. When she collapses, Taron, the boy she loves, makes a desperate choice to save her, leading to his execution, which she is forced to watch.

Broken in body and mind, Arma swears revenge against three people: the manager who condemned Taron, the Elite ruler who ordered the execution, and her best friend who conspired against her.

To succeed, Arma must find a new base and reinvent herself as the Elite, Clover. She learns the rules of their opulent society, forms dangerous alliances, and deceives at every turn. Despite her failing health and the revelation of terrible secrets, Arma surprises herself by falling in love again. But her time for vengeance is quickly running out . . .



Joel Arcanjo is a half-Portuguese, half-English writer who grew up between the Algarve and Devon. He has a degree in Criminology and Psychology from Aberystwyth University and a Masters in Creative Writing and Publishing from City University, London.

Age: 12+

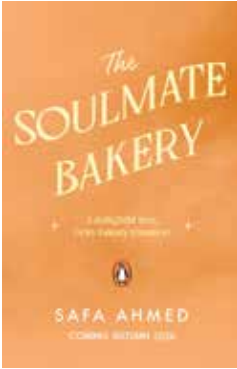
Publication Date: March 2027

Extent: 384pp | **Word Count:** 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Emma Wood

Film Rights: The Blair Partnership

Rights Sold: tbc



THE SOULMATE BAKERY

Safa Ahmed

Spells, kisses and magical mishaps galore in this enchanting cosy fantasy romance.

- * With its enchanting setting, this brand-new YA cosy fantasy series is perfect for fans of Aamna Qureshi's *A Witch's Guide to Love and Poison* and Laurie Gilmore's *The Pumpkin Spice Cafe*.
- * *A Spell for Soulmates* is the first book in a loosely-linked trilogy, all set in the same magical world of Maple Hollow, but each centred on a different romance.
- * Safa Ahmed is a real talent, both as a writer and as an advocate of diversifying literature. Last year, for her debut *The Girlfriend Act*, she participated in our Summer of Love roadtrip and was invited to speak at a YALC panel.

DESCRIPTION

Kitchen witch, Maya, just needs one thing in her life to go well. Done with being a walking disaster, she knows the exact thing that'll help get her life on track . . . finding her soulmate. It shouldn't be difficult; she has all the ingredients for the ultimate soulmate-finding-cookie.

But disaster strikes when her enchanted cookies end up on sale at Maple Hollow's Annual Fall Bake Sale and wreak havoc. Maya will do anything to fix her latest mess-up. Even, ask Orion Hawthorne for help.

The surly dragon-shifter has always been a thorn in her side, but he is the town's best curse-breaker and, whether she likes it or not, she'll need his help. Because to fix this spell she'll need to; find her actual soulmate, confess and cast a counterspell of epic proportions. Easy.



Safa Ahmed is a British-Pakistani content marketer and Psychology undergraduate. Ever since she scribbled down her first story – a mystery featuring stolen cookies and an incriminating teddy bear – it's been her dream to be a writer and publish books that celebrate joy, heartbreak, swoony love interests, fierce female characters, and everything in-between.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: October 2026

Extent: 368pp

Word Count: 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Awo Ibrahim

Film Rights: Azantian Literary Agency



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 UK YA 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 many tropes 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 spend four whole weeks on holiday with her family in the South of France.

Enter Félix and Antoine. They are polar opposites. Felix is caramel haired, sweet and caring. Antoine is dark haired, tattooed and 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, Northern 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:** June 2026

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 70,000

Acquiring Editor: Ruth Knowles

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



BAD IDEA, RIGHT?

J. L. Simmonds

A criminal, a civilian, a high-stakes scavenger hunt and a romance against all odds . . .

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * A high-stakes scavenger hunt thriller combined with a grumpy x sunshine LGBTQ+ romance set against the backdrop of New York City and all its famous landmarks.
- * Perfect for fans of Jennifer Lynn Barnes' twisty, puzzle-filled mysteries and Casey McQuiston's queer love stories.
- * J. L. Simmonds is a British author but the story's US setting chimes with YA market conditions and publisher wish lists.

DESCRIPTION

Kendra Walker is no stranger to the criminal underworld. Trained from young to take over the family antique business, she's well aware they specialize in trading stolen goods. So when Kendra's mom is 'accidentally' killed during an attempted robbery of a bodega, she suspects foul play.

Months later, Alice De Lacy visits Walker Antiques, searching for jewelry burgled from her family home. Frustrated by the police's inaction, she's committed to scouring every antique and pawn shop in NYC.

Kendra remembers the jewelry but finds it missing from the safe. With no record of sale and only a mysterious ticket for a Grand Central Station tour left behind, Kendra soon realizes her mom created a scavenger hunt across the city that she needs to follow and solve. Could there be a connection between the jewelry and her mom's murder?

Joining forces with Alice, the girls work to solve the mystery. But it soon becomes apparent an infamous crime mob are interested in locating the jewelry too. Forced to use their wits and skills to stay one step ahead, the girls grow closer. But with Kendra at risk of meeting the same fate as her mom, how long will their romance last?



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* published in June 2025 and 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



THE PRINCESS AND THE THIEF

Cerrie Burnell

From author, actor and ambassador Cerrie Burnell, comes a wild new adventure about courageous young women, spellbinding magic, and the power of friendship.

- * **This is an #ownvoices fantasy story for tween readers: Cerrie was born without the lower part of her right arm, and her main characters, Aria and Neva, have the same disability.**
- * **Readers who loved the adventure of *Wilder Than Midnight* but are not yet ready for YA, will adore the feisty characters of Ava and Neva.**
- * **Cerrie's stunning writing will entice readers into a brand new world of enchanting magic, lifechanging friendships and sisterhood, first crushes, and dark betrayals.**

DESCRIPTION

In the Kingdom of Veniera there is a mystical place called 'the ether', where subjects can find the magic afforded to them, depending on their place in society. Most magic is good, but there are also dark enchantments, extremely rare, only to be used in the most desperate of times.

Fifteen years ago, two babies were born to very different families. Both girls were born without their right hands and, as they grew up, their matching long dark hair, sparkling green eyes and disabilities made it tricky to tell them apart.

Neva is a talented thief, able to cast enchantments she shouldn't. She also longs to be an opera singer, but lacks the confidence to step into the spotlight.

Aria - the last princess of her tragic family - can only access one golden strand of royal enchantment. She's a brave girl, but her secret lack of magic makes the kingdom vulnerable to foes.

Though Neva and Aria have no reason to meet, a chance encounter one midsummer's eve will entwine them in a thrilling adventure that will change their fates forever.



photo © Lynda Kelly

Cerrie Burnell is a former children's television presenter, actor, ambassador, and author of thirteen children's books, including *WILDER THAN MIDNIGHT* and *SWIFTER THAN STARLIGHT*. She wrote and starred in the play *Winged: A Fairytale*, as well as creating the one-woman show *The Magical Playroom*. Since leaving *CBeebies* in 2017, Cerrie has made the eye-opening documentary *Silenced: The Hidden Story of Disabled Britain*, and in 2021 Cerrie joined the BBC's Creative Diversity team as one of their new Disability Ambassadors.

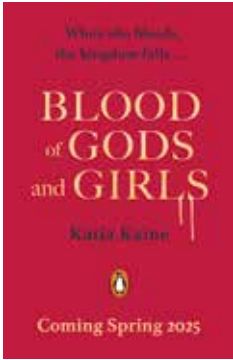
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** July 2026

Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 75,000

Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield

Film Rights: Coleridge & White

World Rights: PRHC



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 have 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.

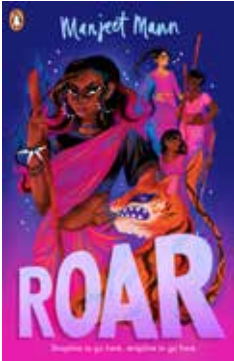
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** March 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

Rights Sold: German



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 its accolades' The Sunday Times.

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 Shadders 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.

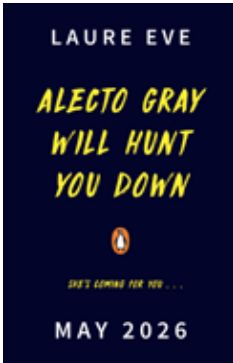
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** October 2025

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

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Rogers, Coleridge and White

Rights Sold: American English



ALECTO GRAY WILL HUNT YOU DOWN

Laure Eve

A darkly funny contemporary thriller for fans of Cynthia Murphy, Wilder Girls and House of Hollow.

- * 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+

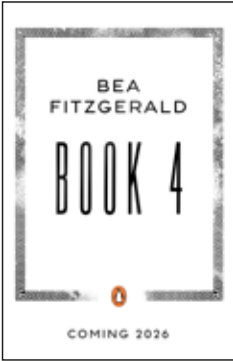
Publication Date: May 2026

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Rogers, Coleridge and White



UNTITLED #4

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*.

OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:



- * This is Bea's fourth brilliant book for us, and her writing and storytelling goes from strength to strength with each new story.
- * Bea's debut novel *Girl, Goddess, Queen* was the bestselling YA hardback of 2023. It was also shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Prize 2024. Her follow-up, *The End Crowns All*, was shortlisted for the YA Book Prize 2025.
- * Bea herself is brilliantly promotable, with OVER a 100,000 following on her @chaosonolympus Greek-myth inspired comedy TikTok account, and 50,000+ followers on Instagram.

DESCRIPTION

When Ariadne agrees to help Prince Theseus defeat the terrifying Minotaur, he hopes her trust in him might lead to a true love match. Instead, she finds herself abandoned on an island the day after their supposed elopement - watching Theseus's ships sail away without her.

Furious and hurt, Ariadne swears revenge. Luckily, she crosses paths with Dionysus - who has quite a keen interest in revenge himself, in spite of all the partying. Ariadne isn't interested in love any more- but there's something undeniably irresistible about the pull between her and Dionysus. One which might just change all their destinies forever . . .



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:** September 2026

Extent: 496pp | **Word Count:** 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Luigi Bonomi Associates



WE END IN ASHES

Kat Delacorte

It was always her destiny to burn this city to the ground . . .

The sequel to the must-read YA supernatural dark romance, *With Fire in Their Blood* YA romance.

**OTHER TITLES
IN THE SERIES:**



- * The second instalment in a seductive YA fantasy duology. A supernatural dark romance featuring queer representation and a love square with three romantic options for the protagonist.
- * Immersive urban fantastical Italian setting in the imaginary leafy hill town of Castello, divided by two warring Italian families.
- * Featuring beloved fantasy tropes: enemies to lovers, a love triangle, villain to hero - the perfect offering to satisfy the huge craze for fantasy on BookTok, comfortably sitting beside breakout fantasy titles: *Legendborn*, *These Violent Delights* and *Blood & Honey*.

DESCRIPTION

The second supernatural dark romance set in the crumbling Italian city of Castello, where mafia clans make the rules, dark magic pulses the streets and the sins of the past threaten to consume the present.

It's been a gruelling couple of weeks in hiding since Lilly *accidentally* turned life in Castello to ruins. She'd been trying to put an end to the brutal war but somehow wound up as the towns most hated.

The only thing that the clans can agree on is that she **MUST** be captured. This isn't an issue for Lilly if she can just figure out how to get her power back.

Though she isn't the only one looking for it. Somehow the clans are finding ways to wield this power for themselves and, unsurprisingly, Lilly is the only one who can put a stop to their dark plans, but she can't do it alone.

She'll need to trust the people who hurt her the most . . . it doesn't help that they're both devastatingly gorgeous.



Kat Delacorte

was eleven years old when her family moved from

the United States to a small town in central Italy. She soon began writing stories about her new friends developing superpowers, and she hasn't looked back since. She graduated with a BA in History from Columbia University, and lives in Venice, Italy.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: April 2026

Extent: 368pp | **Word Count:** 86,000

Acquiring Editor: India Chambers

Film Rights: Curtis Brown



MERCIFUL IS THE DARK

Sophie Clark

the sequel to the epic, sizzling and **NUMBER ONE BESTSELLING** romantasy, *Cruel is the Light*.



**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 and 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*.
- * A major global launch and rights deal totting up: Snapped up by three different PRH Publishers (UK, US, ANZ), in a two-book deal, and 10+ 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.

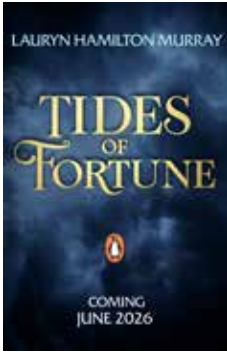
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** May 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Anthea Townsend

Film Rights: Coleridge & White

Rights Sold: American English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish



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 ten 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, Turkish



THE DARKEST DUET

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 UK TCM and has 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

Rights Sold: Polish



HER RISING FLAME

Clíodhna O'Sullivan

The second book in the searing *Her Hidden Fire* romantasy trilogy, perfect for fans of S. F. Williamson.



OTHER BOOKS
IN THIS SERIES:

- * Book 1 had a significant US preempt and is now acquired in France and in Spain, with interest gathering apace across international markets.
- * A great recommended read for adult readers of YA, with its mature romance dynamics and thoughtful feminist themes.
- * This second novel in the trilogy splits the perspectives, widening out from Eadha's to also include both Ionain and Gry. This gives readers a tantalising glimpse into the mechanics of the love triangle!

DESCRIPTION

What happens when a girl flees on the back of a dragon?

The hunt begins.

Éadha has narrowly escaped the cruel grip of the Master Channellers. Forced to the very edge of the world she knows, to a place of long-held secrets, she must create a new life for herself - in ways she'd never imagined.

Ionáin must come to terms with the fact that he has no power, nor did he ever. Deep into the Fodder holds, he faces the stark reality of what it means to be an enemy of the Masters and tries to make sense of what happened with Éadha.

Gry must walk the careful balance between protecting his Family's secret legacy and being true to his feelings. With his newly revealed abilities, he must train with the Masters he despises and hope to find some way to undo the very system that makes him elite.

Told from these three perspectives, HER RISING FLAME is a whirlwind sequel of world-shattering secrets, heartache, and the terrible consequences of power.

What would you change for 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: 12+

Publication Date: November 2026

Extent: 448pp

Word Count: 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas
and Emma Wood

Film Rights: Mulcahy Sweeney Associates

Rights Sold: American English, French, Spanish



**NEW
ADULT**



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 #annoyancelovers 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.

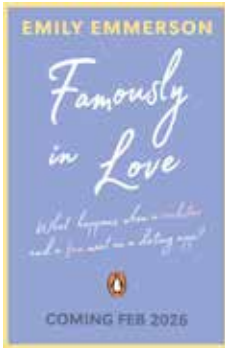
Age: 18+ | **Publication Date:** March 2025

Extent: 336pp | **Word Count:** 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield

Film Rights: Jenni Fletcher

Rights Sold: American English, Czech



FAMOUSLY IN LOVE

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 combines the popular fake dating trope with, the obsession 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 duology, with book two centered around Jessy's best-friend, Anna and her 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. *Famously in Love* 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



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ONLY**



A STOCKING FULL OF SPIES: A MINISTRY OF UNLADYLIKE ACTIVITY

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 UK 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



SKULKMOOR

Hana Tooke

***Wednesday* meets *The Secret Garden* with a touch of *Knives Out* in this gorgeously gothic and mysterious adventure about family secrets, devilishly bad deeds, and a touch of murder . . .**

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * Hana Tooke is a UK middle-grade star, with over 24,000 copies of her books sold through UK TCM.
- * This new story taps perfectly into appetites for all things whimsigoth, and is ideal for fans of *The Swifts*, *Murder Most Unladylike*, and *Enola Holmes*.
- * Hana is a proud #ownvoices author and in this story takes a careful and sensitive look at Iris's physical disability, which mirrors Hana's own.

DESCRIPTION

Once, the great house of Skulkmoor stood proudly on its hillside, commanding the attention of anyone who came by. But many years ago, the Fox family was torn apart by a question of murder - and of inheritance. With no clear heir, the vast family fortune - and the house - has been literally divided in two. But now, two young cousins, one from rival sides of Skulkmoor, must race to solve the crime - or face losing their home forever.



Hana Tooke grew up on a polder near Amsterdam, in a house filled with peculiar clocks and a head filled with a peculiar imagination. She's been a singer, a teacher, and even a mad-scientist, but these days she spends her days writing stories, sculpting puppets, and collecting curiosities. Her debut novel, *The Unadoptables*, was shortlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award and longlisted for the Branford Boase.

Age: 9-11

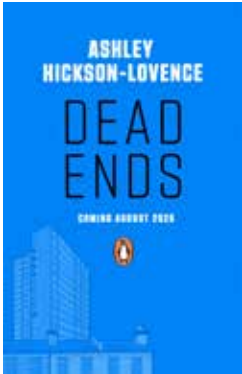
Publication Date: September 2025

Extent: 368pp

Word Count: 60,000

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Little Tulip Ltd, Andrew Nurnberg



DEAD ENDS

Ashley Hickson-Lovence

**An electrifying YA verse-novel by
Carnegie-nominated author and poet
Ashley Hickson-Lovence.**



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * *Dead Ends* is inspired by Ashley's London upbringing.
- * Author and former educator Ashley is passionate about making poetry accessible to all young adult readers and engaging reluctant readers through his work, especially teenage boys.
- * *Wild East* has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal for Writing 2025 and shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award, as well as being longlisted/shortlisted for various regional awards.

DESCRIPTION

Something is going down at Singer Court.

Something big.

It's Saturday morning and fourteen-year-old Toby "Mastermind" McKenzie and his younger brother Tré are forced to evacuate their high rise tower block by armed officers.

Set over the course of a single day, this is the nail-bitingly thrilling and poetic tale of a bright young Black boy using the power of courage, friendship and community to save the day.



Ashley Hickson-Lovence is a novelist, poet, literary critic, and Lecturer of Creative Writing.

Wild East is his first YA verse-novel, and was partly inspired by his time as a secondary school English teacher, his own move from London to Norwich, and tutoring a group of asylum seekers at an Arvon retreat. *Wild East* also weaves in Ashley's love of British hip hop.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: August 2026

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 40,000

Acquiring Editor: Katie Sinfield

Film Rights: PSA Literary



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