



Penguin Random House Children's

LOOKBOOK

SPRING/SUMMER

2026

MIDDLE-GRADE &
TEEN TITLES



CONTENTS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- Lou & Cloud by Wenyi Geng
- Dragon Viking by Odin Helgheim
- The Cosmics: Into the Void by Meggie Johnson
- Star Breakers: Zeke Zero Vs The Galaxy by Ed Caruana
- The Far-Out Five: Portal Loo Panic by Olaf Falafel
- Unfairies: Death by Toad by Huw Aaron

COLOUR ILLUSTRATED FICTION

- Witchy Boo: Starts Magic School by Arden Jones
- Tuck and Tina and the Dinosaur Thief by Jess Brallier and Jack Keely
- How to Grow Magic: The Giant Mystery by Rachel Morrisroe
- Tiny Dogs: Pumpkin Trouble by Rose Lihou
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

YOUNGER FICTION

- Moth the Veggie Vampire by Dotty Sutton
- Diary of a Number One Superfan: Taylor Swift by Pamela Butchart
- Robots Stole My Mum! by Alex Kirk
- Princess Olivia Investigates: The Knights of Nature by Lucy Hawking

PUFFIN PRESS

- The Timekeeper's Boy by Tamzin Merchant
- The Lantern and the Labyrinth by Thomas Taylor
- The Talon by Robbie Hamilton
- The House of Dusk by Russell Franklin

MIDDLE-GRADE

- The Shadow Six by Kelly Smith
- The Mercury Murders by Vashti Hardy
- Wildlands #2 by Brogen Murphy
- The Whisperwicks: The Vanished Key by Jordan Lees
- Dragonborn: The Twilight Child by Struan Murray
- Fright Club: If You've Got It Haunt It by Sibeal Pounder
- The Illusioneers by Clare Harlow
- Holomonsters by Lee Newbery
- The Waters and the Wild by Eilish Fisher



CONTENTS

The Monsters at the End of the World #2 by Rebecca Orwin
Dexter Procter and the Case of the Disappearing Doctor by Adam Kay
This is NOT the Diary of Izzy Dobson by Abigail Balfe
Jamaal Target: PHANTOM Agent by Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie
Rise of Rebel Queens by Nazneen Ahmed Pathak
X-Mas Marks the Spot by Paul Westmoreland
The Swifts: A Garden of Vipers by Beth Lincoln Illustrated by Claire Powell
Death at the Museum by Janice Hallett
Atlas and Skye by Emma Smith-Barton
The Danger Game by Tom Fletcher

YA

Death Wish by Lee Newbery
The Only Immortals by Laura Steven
To Hell With You by Beth Tomlin
The Midnight Coven by Marisa Urgo
Blood of Gods and Girls by Katja Kaine
Glitterati by S. J. Green
I Am Vengeance by J. J. Arcanjo
The Soulmate Bakery by Safa Ahmed
The Princess and the Thief by Cerrie Burnell
This Divine Revelry by Bea Fitzgerald
We End in Ashes by Kat Delacorte
Merciful is the Dark by Sophie Clark
Tides of Fortune by Lauryn Hamilton Murray
The Cursed Melodies #3 by Connie Glyn
Her Rising Flame by Cliodhna O'Sullivan
I Knew You Were Trouble by J. L. Simmonds

NEW ADULT

The Esprithean Trilogy by Bree Grenwich & Parker Lennox
Famously in Love #2 by Emily Emmerson

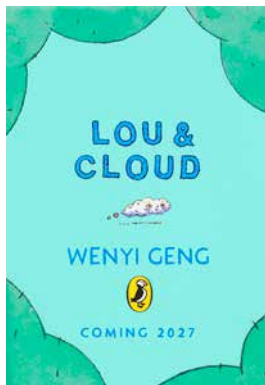
US RIGHTS ONLY

A Stocking Full of Spies by Robin Stevens
Dead Ends by Ashley Hickson-Lovence



**GRAPHIC
NOVELS**

GRAPHIC NOVELS



LOU & CLOUD

Wenyi Geng

***My Neighbour Totoro* meets *Greenwild* in this beautiful, sweetly funny graphic novel from a brilliant new talent.**

- * *Lou & Cloud* is the start of an exciting new series for Puffin Graphics. We snapped up three books, and are so excited to include Wenyi's beautiful, painterly art on our list.
- * *Lou and Cloud* are a buddy partnership children will adore – Cloud is super cute, but super brave, and Lou's journey of adventure and discovery will entrance readers.
- * Wenyi's art truly is extraordinary, and her comic voice is excellent too – there are lots of laughs amongst the epic setting and gorgeous world building.

DESCRIPTION

When a terrible storm blows away Lou's home – and their beloved grandmother – they know it's up to them to venture into the nearby forest and find out what's happened to them. With the help of a small, fluffy, very eager-to-please little cloud, Lou embarks on a journey through magical, wonderful – but also sometimes dangerous – places, encountering amazing creatures and trying to put right all that's been destroyed by the storm.

But can two unlikely friends really take on such a powerful force? And will Lou ever see grandma again?

A heartwarming and joyful adventure, perfect for fans of *Lightfall*, *My Neighbour Totoro* and *Hilda*.



Wenyi Geng is an illustrator, designer and art director. She was born and lived in Japan until the age of 6, then returned to her hometown – Beijing, China – and stayed there until University. She then moved to New York to study illustration at the School of Visual Arts. After she graduated, she moved to Tokyo, and has lived there since. *Lou & Cloud* is her debut graphic novel.

Age: 9-11

Publication Date: March 2027

Extent: 176pp

Word Count: 11,800

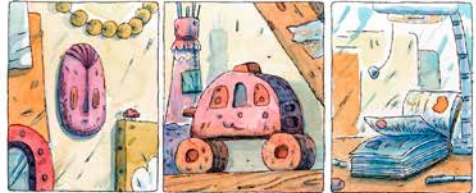
Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colthurst

Film Rights: Peters, Fraser & Dunlop



ARTWORK
NOT FINAL

LOU & CLOUD



GRAPHIC NOVELS



DRAGON VIKING

Odin Helgheim

Norse Sagas meet Saturday morning cartoons in this funny middle-grade fantasy adventure series about a boy on a quest to become the legendary Dragon Viking. Perfect for fans of *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Pokémon* aged 8–12.

- * Kids will love discovering the drama, humour and larger-than-life characters of epic Viking legends with the popular aesthetic of *Pokémon*, *Fortnite* and Netflix cartoons.
- * Themes of overcoming adversity and the power of friendship meet exciting action and unforgettable characters, just like the popular shonen anime *Naruto*.
- * Odin is an award-winning bestseller in Norway with an active Instagram audience (164,000 followers) – *Dragon Viking* sold over 3,000 copies in Norway in two months!

DESCRIPTION

Sigurd dreams of slaying dragons. They destroyed his home, killed his father and forced him into a life of servitude. And one day, he will have his revenge!

But for now, he's stuck doing chores for the whole town – including his hapless friend, Stein Steinsson. Until a giant golden pig goes on a rampage and the brave Sigurd . . . gets his butt kicked. But his heroics catch the eye of Fafnir, a small dragon on a BIG quest: to become the King of Dragons. Fafnir agrees to help Sigurd, if Sigurd helps him recover the eight magical runestones that unlock his unique and powerful transformations. And what's that, glinting in the trotter of Gulli, the oversized golden pig . . . ?

As the series continues, Sigurd, Fafnir, Gulli and Stein will have to team up to battle seven fearsome chieftains inspired by Viking legend, win the remaining runestones, unleash Fafnir's powers and allow Sigurd to become the fabled Dragon Viking.



© Bonnier -
Chris Helberg

Odin Helgheim is from Sandefjord, Norway but spent a few years in the US

as a child, where he discovered comics and started honing his drawing skills. His debut graphic novel *Ragnarok: Fenrir* won ARK's children's book prize in 2020. There are now six titles in the series, with over 85,000 copies sold in Norway. Odin lives in Oslo and works full-time creating graphic novels.

Age: 8-12

Publication Date: February 2027

Extent: 128pp

Word Count: 12,000

Acquiring Editor: Sam Palfreyman

Film Rights: Bonnier Norsk Forlag

Rights: World excl. Nordics

GRAPHIC NOVELS



15

16



DRAGONVIKING

ODIN HELGHEIM

SNEAK
PEEK



GRAPHIC NOVELS



THE COSMICS: INTO THE VOID

Meggie Johnson

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

- * With years of experience in the publishing industry, a wealth of connections among illustrators and almost 100,000 followers on Instagram, Meggie's debut graphic novel is much-anticipated.
- * Amazing artwork: The incredibly vibrant full-colour art has huge appeal to a wide age-range, as well as enticing reluctant readers.
- * Heartwarming relationships: At the centre of the story is a wonderfully-developed friendship between the four girls, as well as a touching sibling relationship that spans dimensions and decades.

DESCRIPTION

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

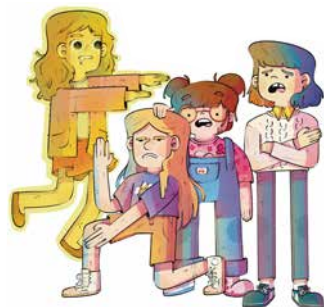
When fourteen-year-old Erin vanishes without a trace from the small town of Beaver Dam in 1984, her case remains a mystery for forty years – until a ragtag group of girls discover the multiverse at the bottom of a discarded bucket at their local roller-skating rink . . . which accidentally unleashes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

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



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

Age: 9-11
Publication Date: January 2027
Extent: 224pp
Acquiring Editors: Afua Antwi
Film Rights: The Bright Agency

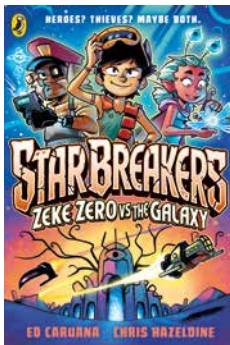




SNEAK PEEK



GRAPHIC NOVELS



STAR BREAKERS: ZEKE ZERO VS THE GALAXY

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.

- * *Guardians of the Galaxy* meets *Percy Jackson*, in this sci-fi/fantasy adventure packed with hilarious characters, blockbuster action and heartwarming crew dynamics.
- * 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 thats perfect for adventure-loving fantasy fans of *Amulet* and *Frostheart*.

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.

Locked in a race across the galaxy, Zeke and his crewmates, the grouchy Captain Tooms and mysterious Astrid of Elsewhere, will have to work together to dodge the monsters and mayhem – 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. *Star Breakers* 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



7



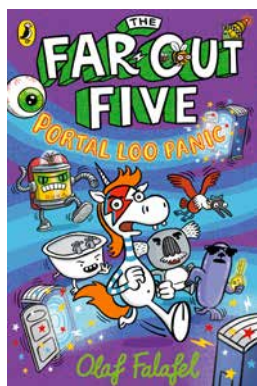
30



31

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: September 2026

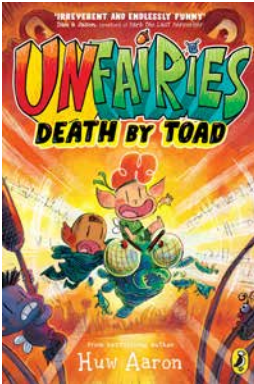
Extent: 208pp

Word Count: 11,800

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Film Rights: Greene & Heaton Ltd

Rights Sold: Portuguese



UNFAIRIES: DEATH BY TOAD

Huw Aaron

The second hilarious full-colour graphic novel in breakout talent Huw Aaron's bestselling *Unfairies* series! Perfect for fans of *Bunny Vs Monkey*, *Dogman* and *Donut Squad*.

OTHER
BOOKS
IN THE
SERIES:



- * Bestselling series – *Unfairies* was a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month for August 2025, and sold a whopping 10,000 copies during its reign. It was the first ever graphic novel to be picked for this slot!
- * An incredible talent – Huw Aaron is a once-in-a-generation talent, as well as an acclaimed and award-winning creator in the Welsh-language.
- * Hilarious and anarchic storytelling – Huw's fantastical world-building and pun-a-page style is perfect for readers looking to move on to more detailed storytelling.

DESCRIPTION

PREPARE TO RE-ENTER THE GARDEN.

Pip is now the ruler of Oakhold. Yay! But there's already trouble. Boo!

Shockingly, it turns out Pip is actually a pretty rubbish leader. Something sinister is stirring in the garden – and Pip could not give two hoots about tackling it.

That is, until she sends her best friend Twig out on a heroic mission, and he is KIDNAPPED. Now it's up to Pip and a most unlikely ally to get him back - and try their best to avoid . . . DEATH BY TOAD.



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: May 2026

Extent: 256pp

Acquiring Editor: Naomi Colhurst

Film Rights: Bird Literary

Rights Sold: American English, Catalan, Dutch, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish



**COLOUR
ILLUSTRATED
FICTION**

COLOUR ILLUSTRATED FICTION



WITCHY BOO STARTS MAGIC SCHOOL

Arden Jones and Saoirse Lou

The second book in a spellbinding, new illustrated series featuring *Witchy Boo*, a little ghost with a BIG magical secret!

Perfect for fans of *Isadora*

Moon and Kitty's

Superhero Adventures.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * Puffin acquired four books in the *Witchy Boo* series, written by debut author Arden Jones and illustrated by Saoirse Lou.
- * This series is a major launch for Puffin's chapter book list, with a new title publishing every six months, from September 2026.
- * The stories will follow *Witchy Boo* on her journey of self-discovery. From her first day at school to her first birthday party, readers will delight in joining her in recognisable scenarios and learning how to overcome relatable anxieties.
- * Perfect for those transitioning from picture books, these accessible chapter books with charming two-colour illustrations are perfect for 5-7 year-olds, reading independently or with assistance.

DESCRIPTION

Even though she's a ghost, Boo has never liked being scary. But, when a witch's hat found its way onto her head, Boo learnt that not all ghosts have to be scary. Some ghosts can be . . . witchy!

Join *Witchy Boo* on her first day at The Broom Academy – the school for witches – where she discovers more of her powers, makes new witchy friends and accidentally floods the school . . . with a pumpkin potion.



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

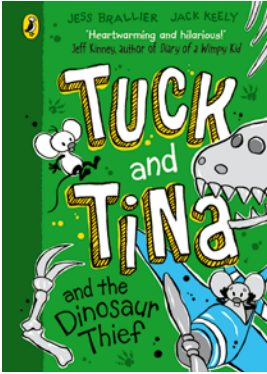
Age: 5-7 | **Publication Date:** March 2027

Extent: 128pp | **Word Count:** 7,000

Acquiring Editor: Awo Ibrahim | **Film Rights:** United Agents Ltd

Rights Sold: Catalan, French, 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.

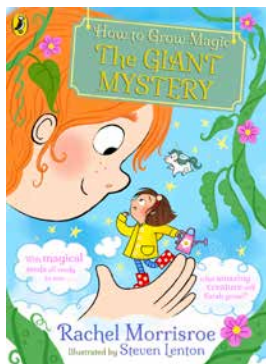
Age: 5–7 | **Publication Date:** May 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Tobias Literary Agency

Rights Sold: American English, Chinese, Danish



HOW TO GROW MAGIC

Rachel Morrisroe,
illustrated by Steven Lenton

Welcome to Enchantment Street where magic grows on trees! The perfect new magical read for fans of *Claude*, *Shifty McGifty* and *Isadora Moon*!

- * Two-colour illustrations throughout and simple, short chapters make this a perfect stepping stone for younger readers moving on from picture books.
- * This brand new series is full of magic and mishaps, featuring a new creature in each story from giants to unicorns to dragons!
- * This series also taps into the popularity of gardening – *Grow a Garden* was one of the most popular games on Roblox in 2025 and *Magical Animal Crossing* continues to top the gaming charts too.

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*, *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

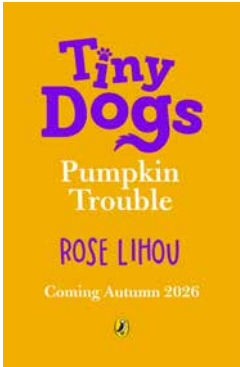
Publication Date: July 2026

Extent: 144pp

Word Count: 6,500

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Darley Anderson



TINY DOGS: PUMPKIN TROUBLE

Rose Lihou

Bea and her tiny dogs get ready for spooky Halloween celebrations in the next book in the charming colour chapter book series, perfect for fans of *Isadora Moon*, *Mummy Fairy*, and *Rabbit and Bear*.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * A sweet illustrated chapter book series featuring four delightful tiny dogs.
- * Charming full colour illustrations throughout from author and 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.
- * A new seasonal offering for this series focussing on familiar Halloween fun.

DESCRIPTION

Bea is getting ready for Halloween and is super excited about dressing up, going to parties and trick-or-treating! The tiny dogs are excited about the spooky celebration too. But when Bea tries to decorate a pumpkin and win a competition, everything goes wrong and it looks like Halloween might be ruined. Can the tiny dogs save the day?



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: October 2026

Extent: 144pp

Word Count: 8,500

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Film Rights: The Blair Partnership

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

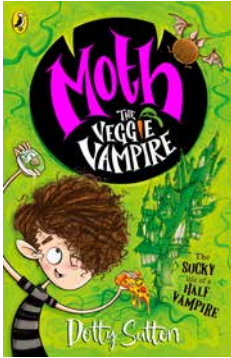
Extent: 144pp | **Word Count:** 27,500

Acquiring Editor: Kelly Hurst

Rights Sold: Catalan, French, Greek, 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

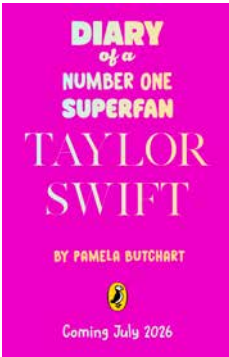
Publication Date: October 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: Arena Illustration Ltd

Rights Sold: Brazilian Portuguese, French



DIARY OF A NUMBER ONE SUPERFAN: TAYLOR SWIFT

Pamela Butchart

The first book in a new series from bestselling, award-winning author Pamela Butchart. This book explores global superstar Taylor Swift's rise to fame written from the perspective of her absolute, number one, biggest child-fan.

- * Pamela Butchart is the bestselling author of the *Aliens and Wigglesbottom Primary* series. Winner of The Children's Book Award, Blue Peter Best Book Award, and The Laugh Out Loud Book Awards.
- * The answer to *Little People, Big Dreams* for middle-grade readers. Perfect for reluctant readers who want to know absolutely everything about their favourite stars.
- * Written in a sparky and relatable child's voice, Pamela's brilliant story-telling skills and quirky narrative style paired with fun mono illustrations offers something entirely new in this space.

DESCRIPTION

"AAHHHHH!!!! I am going to see TAYLOR SWIFT in concert. And, in case it wasn't obvious, I am Taylor's official biggest fan ever. I don't have a certificate or a badge or anything to prove it. But I know a lot about Taylor Swift. Like, a LOT. I'm pretty sure I know facts about Taylor Swift that even her BEST FRIENDS, her FAMILY and her CATS don't know. And I'm going to write them all down here as I prepare for the MOST IMPORTANT EVENT of my entire LIFE."

Gemma is a Taylor Swift superfan. As she journals the build-up to her first Taylor concert, she's also navigating school, friendships, a dad who refuses to accept why Taylor Swift is the most talented musician in the world AND trying to become a songwriter herself. Alongside the true stories behind Taylor Swift's biggest hits, unforgettable award show moments, the inspiring times Taylor has stood up for herself and what she believes in, the amazing ways she gives back to her fans, and much more, this is a warm, funny, heartfelt and FACT-PACKED journal for all young Swifties.



© Chris Close

Pamela Butchart is an award winning, best-selling children's author.

She lives in Dundee with her son, her fiancé and their very loud cat, Bear. Her top-selling stories include *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners*, which won the Blue Peter Best Story Award, *My Head Teacher is a Vampire Rat*, which won the Children's Book Award and *A Monster Ate My Packed Lunch*, which won the Lollies – the Laugh Out Loud Awards.

Age: 8+ | **Publication Date:** July 2026
Extent: 208pp | **Word Count:** 23,000
Acquiring Editor: Meg Osborne
Film Rights: Lindsay Literary Agency



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.

**MORE FROM
THIS AUTHOR:**



- * 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 Cleebly. 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



PRINCESS OLIVIA INVESTIGATES: THE KNIGHTS OF NATURE

Lucy Hawking

The third title in this series by global bestseller and science educator Lucy Hawking. 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 also introduces kids 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

Princess Olivia faces her biggest science mystery yet!

Things are going wrong in the country of Alez. Water isn't where it should be, the land is too dry and the temperature too hot.

Olivia and her best friends, Ravi and Helga (aka The Climate Crew) soon realise that all these problems are connected. Then they discover a group set up years and years ago, called the Knights of Nature, believe the same thing!

Can The Climate Crew and the Knights figure out how to protect their world – before it's too late?



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: April 2026

Extent: 256pp

Word Count: 33,000

Acquiring Editor: Tom Rawlinson

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 TIMEKEEPER'S BOY

Tamzin Merchant



Tamzin Merchant is an incredibly special talent: a natural storyteller whose writing sings with mischief, joy, atmosphere and magic, and a deep fascination with the power of craftsmanship and creativity. Tamzin's internationally award-winning *Makers* series was sold into 13 languages and sold 65,000 copies in the UK.

I'm thrilled to introduce Tamzin's new standalone novel: an epic adventure which weaves together magic, family, history, and a truly magnificent clock. A wintery delight which is perfect for fans of Katherine Rundell and Michelle Harrison, this gorgeous tale has shades of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, *The Clockwork Conspiracy*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Midnight is the door.

Pip is visiting his grandfather when he discovers an exquisitely crafted replica of the famous Astronomical Clock that stands in the centre of Prague, where Grandpa grew up.

At midnight, magic occurs. Pip finds himself transported to the real Astronomical Clock, in a snowy Prague, seventy years ago. There, he comes face to face with a boy - a boy who looks familiar . . .

But Pip is not the only one to emerge from the clock. The sudden burst of magic that ran through its ancient mechanism has brought the carved wooden figures that adorn it to life. They scatter and head off into the city, intent on causing chaos – including the menacing hooded figure of Death. Now Pip faces a race against time to restore the clock and return home, before he is lost in the past forever.

Tamzin is also a gifted actor, screenwriter and producer. In her acting career, she's been a doomed Tudor queen, a witch, a warrior and a rebellious high-society runaway, among many other roles – and you can feel the curious delight of stepping into another person's shoes in everything Tamzin writes, with this new story no exception.

Wrap up warm, and prepare to be swept away.



Age: 9-11

Publication Date: September 2027

Extent: 400pp

Word Count: 49,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty

Film Rights: Rogers, Coleridge & White

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.

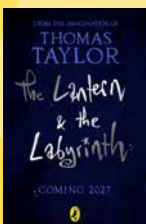
I see the gigantic being standing in the misty swamp air, its body like a crack in the sky, hair lank as water weed, moon-penny eyes blazing straight at me. And I have nowhere to hide.

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 is 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 copies 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, Ukrainian

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: 11-13

Publication Date: July 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

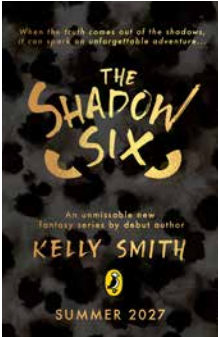
Extent: 368pp

Word Count: 45,000

Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty



**MIDDLE-
GRADE**



THE SHADOW SIX

Kelly Smith

Lyra has her daemon, Harry has his patronus, and Skandar has his unicorn. Now meet Myrtle and Six . . .

- * This series was acquired in a major deal after a heated seven-publisher auction in the UK, and pre-empted in the US. It will be Puffin's focus middle-grade launch of 2027.
- * The soul-shadow animal concept has kid appeal and the writing is top-notch, hitting the "quality commercial" sweetspot of the market that has worked for *Skandar*, *Greenwild* and *Impossible Creatures*.
- * This is planned for a minimum three-book series, and Kelly Smith is a debut writer with loads of future potential.

DESCRIPTION

When the truth comes out of the shadows, it can spark an unforgettable adventure.

In Greycloak Island, disobedient children are dangerous. Their souls can "break" and release violent shadow creatures, so good behaviour is strictly enforced.

Myrtle Rainwater is well-behaved. But one day she finds a soul-shadow panther in the bathroom of her grim boarding school wearing a name tag: "Six". She realizes that – impossibly – he is hers! Confused and ashamed, she hides him and flees the school with her mischievous best friend, Natty.

In the ensuing adventure, Myrtle begins questioning everything she's been told. What are soul-shadows? What happens to the children whose souls have broken? And why is the Grand Principal, the mysterious leader of the government, so interested in Myrtle's fate?

As Myrtle, Natty and Six try to evade capture, they encounter new dangers and new friends, piecing together the answers to those questions. But when the full picture is revealed, can Myrtle keep her heart – and soul – from breaking apart forever?



© Louise Rose Photography

Kelly Smith is debut author who lives in East London with her husband, an energetic four-year-old, and far too many stuffed animals (including a panther).

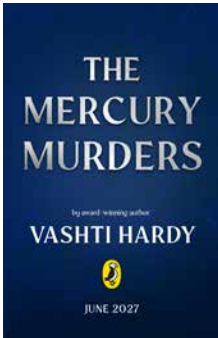
Age: 9-11

Publication Date: Spring/Summer 2027

Extent: 352pp | **Word Count:** 55,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Curtis Brown Ltd



THE MERCURY MURDERS

Vashti Hardy

This brilliant new middle-grade fantasy adventure series mixes magic, alchemy and murder – perfect for fans of *Skandar!*

- * **Vashti Hardy is an award-winning author of transportive middle-grade fantasy adventures. This new series is a big, exciting pivot for Vashti, mixing the contemporary world with magic in an enthralling hidden parallel society.**
- * **Middle-grade readers seek out murder mysteries and magical school settings, and this one brings to mind *Hogwarts*, *Skandar* and *Onyeka*.**

DESCRIPTION

Kit Mercurio has always known he's different. But when a mysterious letter invites him to enrol at Forgeborn Academy, he discovers he's part of an ancient secret society of 'alchims' – people whose magical abilities are tied to metals. These powers that have shaped history and legend, from Excalibur to Thor's hammer.

But within this world, Kit and his mother are outcasts – members of the toxic and slippery House of Mercury, shunned by the powerful Houses of Gold, Silver, Copper and Iron. Kit learns his father, who died under mysterious circumstances many years ago, was a member of Gold, and he sees a chance to investigate the truth of what really happened.

At Forgeborn, Kit is treated as a suspicious outsider, and when a high-profile murder occurs, he becomes the prime suspect.

With dangerous rivals, hidden alliances, and a fraught legacy that could tear him apart, Kit's greatest challenge may be surviving long enough to reveal the truth . . .



Vashti Hardy's middle-grade fantasy adventures are published across the world in many languages, including the Brightstorm Chronicles, Harley Hitch and Griffin Gate series. *Wildspark* won the Blue Peter Book Award, and bestseller *Brightstorm* was the Independent Booksellers' Book of the Season and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and Books are My Bag Awards, among others. She lives near Brighton, England.

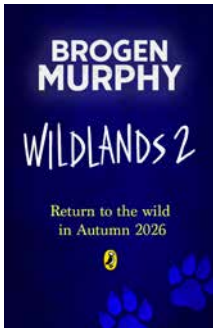
Age: 9-11

Publication Date: June 2027

Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 55,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: The Shaw Agency



WILDLANDS #2

Brogen Murphy

Return to the wild in this thrilling sequel to *Wildlands*, the award-winning survival adventure novel. But this time they witness an even greater challenge: winter is coming.

**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**



- * Brogen Murphy's smash hit debut, *Wildlands*, established them as an exciting new voice in high-quality children's fiction, delivering a thrilling adventure while also raising big, philosophical questions for readers to consider.
- * This second novel adds a new narrative perspective, that of Finn – a poacher's son who is trying to rescue a bear cub by returning it to the Wildlands safely.
- * *Wildlands* won the Children's Wainwright Prize for Fiction 2025 and was among the best-selling middle-grade debuts in the UK in 2025 – selling over 10,000 copies through UK TCM in the first 9 months.

DESCRIPTION

Returning to a near-future, rewilded Britain for another thrilling and thought provoking adventure, award-winning author Brogen Murphy brings us a story of bravery, friendship and hope.

Finn lives in the Buffer Zone on the edge of the Wildlands, a vast, rewilded landscape filled with boar, bison and beavers. But his quiet life is upended when his father takes in an orphaned bear cub – a secret that could cost them everything.

After being rescued from the Wildlands, Astrid is doing everything she can to expose the poachers who threaten this protected sanctuary – but no one is listening.

When Finn's bear grows too big to hide, and Astrid's Mum hatches a daring plan to get proof of the poachers' illegal activities, both children set off on parallel journeys – over land, sea and sky.

But winter is closing in, and a terrible storm is brewing . . .

Stranded in the heart of the Wildlands – with secrets between them and danger far closer than they realise – can they learn to trust each other to save what they both love most?



After graduating with a degree in Zoology from the University of

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

Age: 9-11

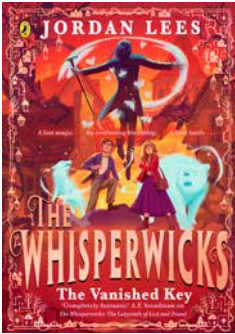
Publication Date: September 2026

Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 60,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Holroyde Cartey

Rights Sold: American English



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 14 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, Benjamiah 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.

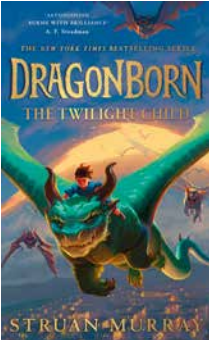
Age: 9–11 | **Publication Date:** April 2026

Extent: 464pp | **Word Count:** 75,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

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



DRAGONBORN: THE TWILIGHT CHILD

Struan Murray

The second book in the New York Times bestselling fantasy series, perfect for fans of *Impossible Creatures*.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:**

- * *Dragonborn* was a New York Times bestseller and has been shortlisted for the Nero Book Awards.
- * 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 A. F. Steadman and Katherine Rundell.

DESCRIPTION

Having woken the dragon inside her, Alex Evans must embark on a dangerous quest to stop Drak Midna and his war against humanity.

When tragedy strikes the island of Skralla, Alex and her friends journey north to the magical heart of Scotland, where dark plots are in motion, and humans and dragons fight side-by-side against an ancient demonic evil.

But that evil grows stronger every day, and as friendships fall apart and enemies old and new strike from the shadows, Alex must master her own fearsome power, and unravel a mystery that might just be the key to victory: the legend of the Twilight Child.



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', while the first book in his latest series, *Dragonborn*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. When he's not writing, Struan is a lecturer at the University of Oxford.

Age: 9-11

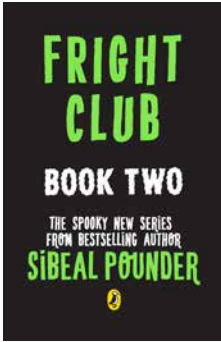
Publication Date: May 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: Curtis Brown

Rights Sold: American English, French, German, Turkish, Ukrainian



FRIGHT CLUB: IF YOU'VE GOT IT, HAUNT IT

Sibéal Pounder

The second book in the 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 nearly 380,000 copies of her books through UK TCM to date and been translated into over 15 languages!
- * Part murder mystery caper, part safe-spooky adventure, this brand new series is perfect for fans of Jennifer Killick, R.L. Stine and Laura Ellen Anderson and taps into the current boom in spooky middle-grade fiction.
- * With a fun choose-your-character twist throughout, readers can decide whether to follow main character Debbie to unravel the mystery or to read the point of view of other characters to find out secret clues . . .

DESCRIPTION

Grave Club Forever. Spooky Sleuths Together. Secrets Spilled . . . Never!

Joe Bones and his friends, Hal, Rose and Debbie are back for another Grave Club spooky adventure! This time Debbie's in charge of leading the case . . . But will her friends discover the truth about her supernatural identity?

The second book in the spooky new middle-grade series from Sibéal Pounder, bestselling author of *Witch Wars*, *Bad Mermaids* and *Wonka*.



© 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

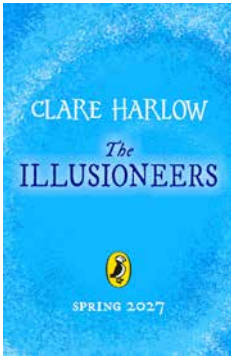
Publication Date: September 2026

Extent: 144pp

Word Count: 50,000

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: The Bent Agency



THE ILLUSIONEERS

Clare Harlow

A magical new middle-grade fantasy novel from the author of *Tidemagic*.



**OTHER BOOKS
FROM THE AUTHOR:**

- * **Clare's biggest, boldest and most commercial book yet. Combining exquisite writing with a brilliant, hooky concept.**
- * **Set in London with a magical twist, this is an adventure brimming with illusion and excitement. With sisters sharing secret powers, a hidden conspiracy and a magical mystery to solve, it's perfect for fans of *The Hatmakers* and *Nevermoor*.**
- * **Clare is a former theatre actor, an English tutor and a graduate of the Bath Spa MA in Children's Literature.**

DESCRIPTION

Twins Maddox and Lou are part of the five percent of the population known as illusionneers – magicians who can create spectacular illusions. Enrolling at Mistfort, the academy where their skills will be honed through a series of trials, should be the first step towards a prestigious future. But the least powerful students are expelled every week, and Maddox knows she's on borrowed time.

Her sister, however, is strong. Almost too strong. The twins' training has barely begun before Lou is crafting extraordinary illusions that sound and even smell as real as they look. But there is a danger in such power. Illusionneers who can't control their magic risk 'looping' – conjuring illusions so intense they can trap onlookers in a terror trance, unable to distinguish what's real from what isn't.

While Lou seeks help from charismatic headteacher Dr Cracken, Maddox starts to suspect that her twin's struggles might be part of a larger danger. Looping is on the rise, compromising public safety. The Ministry of Imagination blames the rebellious faction known as the White Crows, but what if the truth lies closer to home – within the walls of Mistfort itself . . . ?



Once upon a time, **Clare Harlow** was an actor, touring theatres all over the UK and Ireland. A few years ago, she turned her love of storytelling from stage to page and became a writer, too. She lives in southeast London.

Age: 9–12

Publication Date: February 2027

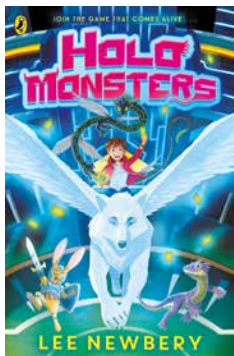
Extent: 304pp

Word Count: 65,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: PRH Childrens

Rights Sold: American English, Italian



HOLOMONSTERS

Lee Newbery

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

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * A super-commercial new middle-grade series for fans of *Dragon Realm* and *Escape Room*.
- * 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 are louder, larger and more lifelike 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.

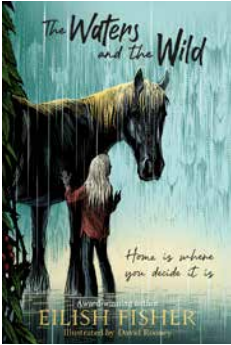
Lee enjoys adventuring, drinking ridiculous amounts of tea, and giving his dog a good cuddle – or a *cwtch*, as they say in Wales. His first book, *The Last Firefox*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

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

Extent: 352pp | **Word Count:** 45,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



THE WATERS AND THE WILD

Eilish Fisher,
illustrated by David Rooney

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

**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.
- * Eilish's debut, *Fia and the Last Snow Deer*, was the An Post Irish Children's Book of the Year (Senior), Book of the Year at the Children's Books Ireland Awards, and Children's Poetry Book of the Year at The Week Junior Awards. It's also been nominated for both Carnegie Awards 2026.

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+

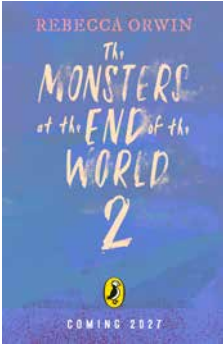
Publication Date: September 2025

Extent: 320pp

Word Count: 23,000

Acquiring Editor: Jane Griffiths

Film Rights: Skylark Literary



THE MONSTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD #2

Rebecca Orwin

A powerful story of unlikely friendship and hope, set in a future damaged by climate change.



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * Sunny and Mo's adventures continue as they travel to a mysterious island which seems immune to the poison blighting their land.
- * 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

After narrowly avoiding a terrible conflict, the humans and monsters of Seawaren have fallen into an uneasy truce. Sunny still hopes the monsters can be persuaded to help her community with the mysterious Goo they produce, which has the power to heal their poisoned crop fields. Mo is less sure, and his brother Blue – traumatised by his imprisonment by humans – remains openly hostile.

But when Mo is kidnapped by a pair of wandering strangers and carried away, Sunny, Mo and their friends set off in pursuit. Their chase leads them through the Burnt Land to an impossible place beyond – the island of Pontyme, which is mysteriously free of poison.

Here, monsters are revered as Divine Protectors, responsible for keeping Pontyme fertile and protected. But Sunny is suspicious of the island's charismatic leader, Hadrian, and the power he seems to wield. While beneath the island, a shadow lurks, nursing a terrible thirst for revenge . . .



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 and son.

Age: 9–12

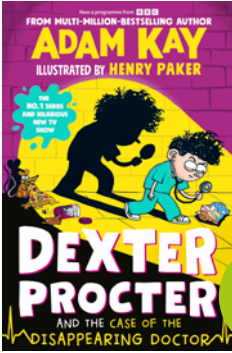
Publication Date: January 2027

Extent: 400pp

Word Count: 60,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: Solas Literary



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. Two star-studded, 50-minute BBC comedy specials were adapted from the first two Dexter Procter books, airing in December 2025 and Spring 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 with Dexter Procter, the world's youngest doctor.

His granny has broken her leg, his friends Rupi and Otto have been expelled, there's an asthma epidemic he can't get on top of, and everything fun at the hospital has been shut down by slimy politician Barbara Burnhall. And then his boss Dr Marigold disappears off the face of the earth! But what Dexter doesn't realize 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 a runaway ambulance.)

Adam Kay and Henry Paker have created a second Dexter 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.

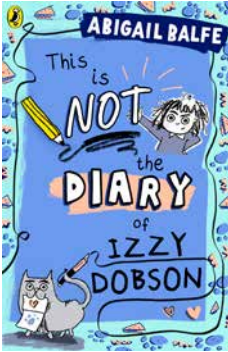
Age: 8–12 | **Publication Date:** April 2026

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

Acquiring Editors: Ruth Knowles & Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Not Available

Rights Sold: Lithuanian



THIS IS NOT THE DIARY OF IZZY DOBSON

Abigail Balfe

A laugh-out-loud and big-hearted illustrated fiction series 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 (undiagnosed) 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

IZZY DOBSON HAS A FEW PROBLEMS:

- 1) School is the **WORST**.
- 2) Making friends is **HARD**.
- 3) Her **VERY TOP SECRET EMBARRASSING DIARY** has gone **MISSING!**

Cue Izzy's Very Important Investigation, recorded in this Very Normal Notebook (definitely **NOT** another diary!). Can Izzy retrace her steps before the diary falls into the wrong hands? Or has its fate already been sealed by a **SINISTER DIARY THIEF?**

Expect cat doodles, brilliant (ish) brainwaves, and Izzy's hilarious commentary on life as you join her chaotic search – not just for the missing diary, but for her place in this Very Confusing World.



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 Spiderverse* in this fast-paced, action-packed middle-grade series about a 'normal' boy who discovers he has superpowers and is destined to join an elite yet secret organisation.

- * Our lead debut 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 Spiderverse* 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 . . .

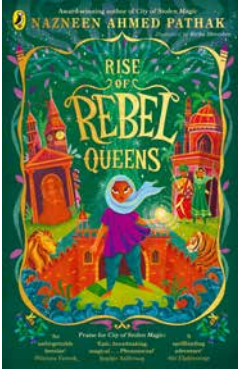
When Myla is kidnapped in front of his eyes, Jamaal is pulled into a web of secrets and lies and the shadowy organisation known as PHANTOM. There he learns that he has inherited super strength, speed and heightened senses from the parents he never knew.

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-wrote *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



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:** September 2027

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.

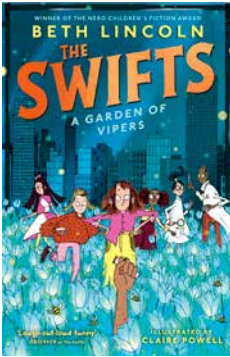
Age: 9-11

Publication Date: November 2025

Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** 40,000

Acquiring Editor: Tom Rawlinson

Film Rights: Bath Literary Agency



THE SWIFTS: A GARDEN OF VIPERS

Beth Lincoln,
illustrated by Claire Powell

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

OTHER BOOKS
IN THE SERIES:



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

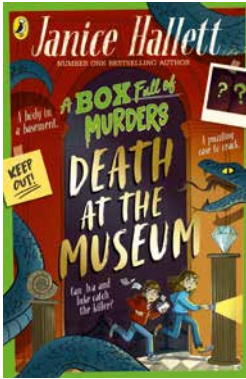
Raised in a former Victorian railway station in the North of England, her childhood fears included porcelain dolls, the Durham panther, and wardrobes that looked at her funny. She grew neither tall nor wise, and never learned to play an instrument – but she did write stories, a bad habit that has persisted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

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 half a million copies through UK TCM to date. Her debut, *The Appeal*, was *Sunday Times* Crime Book of the Year and her 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

Imagine an old museum with more secrets than anyone could ever guess. A school trip that ends in murder. A crime unsolved for decades . . . But who did it?

Ava and Luke are on the case, following the clues left in a new box of murders. Using school workbooks, museum records, secret recordings and letters the siblings start to unravel the mystery of a body in the basement. But can they discover what really happened . . . before the killer strikes again?

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

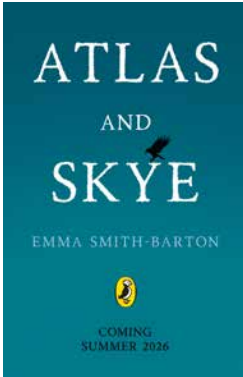
Publication Date: June 2026

Extent: 400pp | **Word Count:** 68,000

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

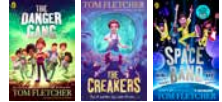


THE DANGER GAME

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 10 million copies globally, including 7 million in the UK.
- * One of the UK's bestselling and best-loved authors, his books have been translated into 42 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.

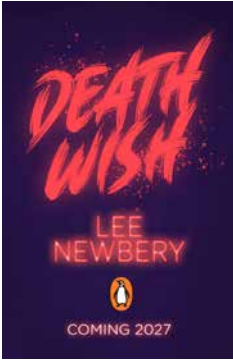
As well as his career as an author, by the age of 21, Tom had penned 10 UK number 1 singles and is the founding member of the band McFly. The Brit Award-winning band has sold over 10 million records worldwide and Tom has also written songs for other artists including One Direction, Busted and 5SOS.

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:** 45,000
Acquiring Editor: Natalie Doherty
Film Rights: Curtis Brown



YA



DEATH WISH

Lee Newbery

A darkly compelling supernatural thriller with added bite.

- * **A bold new direction for one of PRHC's rising stars, this is *Big Brother* meets *Squid Game* – with vampires!**
- * **This super-commercial concept is matched by Lee's accessible, pacy writing, delivering a gripping, action-packed read.**
- * **Inclusive cast, with strong LGBTQ+ representation and a steamy gay romance at the heart of the story.**

DESCRIPTION

Do you want to live forever?

In a world where vampires exist and have, with their strength, speed and impossible good looks, become its apex celebrities as well as its apex predators, this is the question eighteen-year-old Kai has to ask himself when he's invited to take part in *Death Wish* – the reality TV show that has taken the globe by storm.

The prize for winning is a vampire bite, and the immortality that goes with it. But winning is only one possible outcome. The other is death – real death, not the glamorous vampire kind. Even so, Kai simply can't pass up the opportunity to save his sick mother. Not to mention the fact that he might be falling in love with a vampire himself.

But with long-simmering tensions between humans and vampires rising to boiling point, the thirteenth season of *Death Wish* threatens to be the most shocking and deadly yet.

The stakes are high. Let the games begin.



Lee Newbery lives with his son and dog in a seaside town in West Wales. By day he works for a 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.

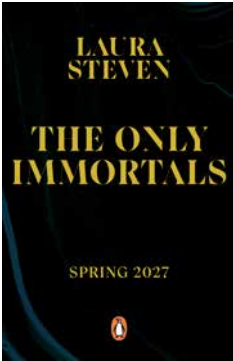
His first book, *The Last Firefox*, won the Wales Book of the Year People's Choice Award and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Lee enjoys adventuring, drinking ridiculous amounts of tea, and giving his dog a good cuddle – or a *cwtch*, as they say in Wales.

Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** January 2027

Word Count: 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Ben Horslen

Film Rights: PRH Childrens



THE ONLY IMMORTALS

Laura Steven

A twisted soulmates love story that will break you apart and then piece you back together again. From the internationally bestselling author of *Our Infinite Fates*.

**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**



- * Fans of *Our Infinite Fates* will fall hard for *The Only Immortals* which delivers another century-spanning star-crossed lovers romance with a fantasy twist in a fresh and distinctive way.
- * Laura is incredibly well connected with other authors and booksellers, as well as being active across her socials (36,500 on TikTok, 33,000 on Instagram). She is great at events.
- * We secured 16 rights deals for *Our Infinite Fates* including a six-publisher auction in Italy and a six-figure pre-empt in Germany.
- * Laura also writes the Sunday Times bestselling adult fantasy series, *Silvercloak*, under the name L.K. Steven.

DESCRIPTION

Hendrie Strachan and Madelena Caravita have been in love for decades. Madelena is hot-tempered and headstrong. Despite being over 600 years old and having had plenty of time to work on her issues, she wants to fix everything for everyone all the time, to control the world around her.

Hendrie, on the other hand, is loyal and soft and puppy-hearted. He's always struggled to stand up for himself, for what he believes in.

Before they found each other, they were both desperately lonely, believing their respective clans to be the only immortals left in the world. Everything changed when they fell in love, but now it's all over. Hendrie has betrayed her . . .



Laura 'L.K.' Steven is a #1 New York Times, Indie & USA Today bestselling author from the northernmost town in England. She has published several books for young adults, such as the instant bestseller *Our Infinite Fates*, while *The Society for Soulless Girls* and *Every Exquisite Thing* were shortlisted for the YA Book Prize. She is also the author of the adult fantasy trilogy, *Silvercloak*, written as L.K. Steven.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: April 2027

Extent: 320pp | **Word Count:** 85,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeline Milburn

Rights Sold: Brazilian Portuguese, Bulgarian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish



TO HELL WITH YOU

Beth Tomlin

The YA debut romance you didn't know you needed . . . and it takes place in Hell.

- * A high-concept sapphic romance perfect for readers of *You've Reached Sam*, *They Both Die at the End* and *Our Infinite Fates* – with a surprising, distinctive setting.
- * This novel is highly readable, packed with tropes that are catnip for seasoned YA readers: grumpy vs sunshine, soulmates, found family, shared bed, etc.
- * But it also has depth, throwing up big questions around the nature of punishment and the notion of perfection, the latter of which teens will find especially easy to connect with. A book about love, to love!

DESCRIPTION

She found her soulmate. But do they have a chance in Hell?

Birdie is disappointed to find herself in Hell. OK, it could be worse: this isn't the worst part of Hell. But the tea here is lukewarm, the staircases are too long, and all the novels in the library are missing their endings. Birdie's memory is patchy – she isn't exactly sure why she's been condemned.

Birdie's next-door-neighbour, Enid, is convinced Birdie doesn't belong in Hell. Enid, by the way *definitely* doesn't. Enid, by the way, is a fallen angel – at least, temporarily fallen. She's got a plan, though: she and Birdie can prove they're good enough for Heaven.

But who's really in charge? And why are souls disappearing without any warning? And as the girls grow closer to each other, buried truths begin to surface, putting them in ever graver danger. . .

To stay together, Enid and Birdie will have to face their demons and their angels. And to defy fate, they'll have to raise a little Hell.



Beth Tomlin is a queer writer of fiction and unreasonably long

WhatsApp messages living in Lancashire with her chaotic dog, Wilson. She has two creative writing degrees and currently works as a learning designer for a global training provider. This is her publishing debut.

Age: 12+

Publication Date: March 2027

Extent: 352pp

Word Count: 85,000

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Bath Literary Agency



THE MIDNIGHT COVEN

Marisa Uργο

A spooky dark academia mystery, perfect for fans of Cynthia Murphy.

- * **An accessible dark academia mystery with a light spooky twist, with a sparky main character that is sure to capture the hearts of readers.**
- * **Highlights long-term issues faced by the LGBTQIA+ community, from the late 90s to today.**

DESCRIPTION

Every thirty years at Windfell Academy, three students die at midnight on November 17th. This is the Windfell Curse.

Sixteen-year-old Sloane hopes that attending Windfell Academy will be the fresh start she needs after a grief-induced mental breakdown. Her only goal is to lay low.

Then she starts a fire. Whoops.

Sloane's accidental fire triggers rumours that the Windfell Curse has struck again, and that she is the catalyst. As Sloane learns more about the cycle of the supposed curse, she realizes it may not be a curse after all.

It may be a gift.



Marisa Uργο writes young adult novels that mix humour and heart.

She is a New Yorker living in Boston. By day, Marisa works in higher education. By night, she is supposed to be writing but is mainly picking her cat up off the keyboard. You can follow her on Instagram for book updates at @marisaurgowrites.

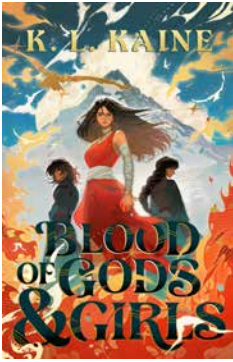
Age: 12+

Publication Date: August 2027

Extent: 416pp | **Word Count:** 90,000

Acquiring Editor: Afua Antwi

Film Rights: Triada US Literary Agency



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.

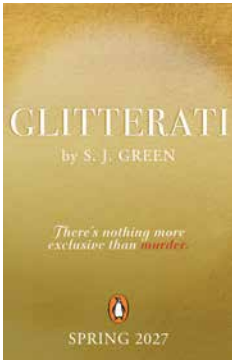
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** July 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Madeleine Milburn

Rights Sold: German



GLITTERATI

S. J. 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. The writing 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 thriller-romance 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 international 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?



© Ruth Crafer

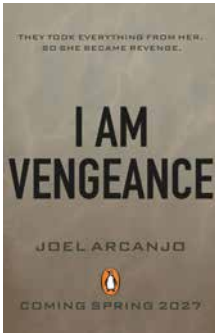
S. J. Green, also known as Simon James Green, is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. His YA novels include *Noah Can't Even* (picked by WHSmith as one of the most important LGBT books of the last 50 years); *Alex in Wonderland* (nominated for the Carnegie medal and Top LGBTQ+ 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 | **Rights Sold:** French



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 has been adapted for TV by BBC Studios, due on onscreen in 2026.

DESCRIPTION

These men tried to destroy me. To chip me apart, piece by ruined 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.

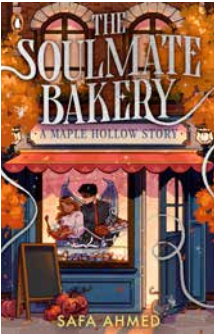
Age: 12+

Publication Date: March 2027

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

Acquiring Editor: Emma Wood

Film Rights: The Blair Partnership



THE SOULMATE BAKERY

Safa Ahmed

Magic, mayhem and messy crushes abound in this cosy romantic fantasy.

- * **With its enchanting setting, this brand-new cosy fantasy romance is perfect for fans of Aamna Qureshi's *The Baby Dragon Café* and Laurie Gilmore's *The Pumpkin Spice Cafe*.**
- * ***The Soulmate Bakery* is filled with BookTok's favourite tropes, including a sunshine x grumpy, annoyance to lovers, best-friends-older-brother romance and a love triangle between a loveable werewolf, a cheerful kitchen witch and a surly dragon shifter.**
- * ***The Soulmate Bakery* 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. With its sweet but low spice romance, this is perfect for fans of core YA.**

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 her best friend's older brother, Orion Hawthorne, for help.

The surly dragon-shifter might be the town's best curse-breaker, but he and Maya do NOT get along. Whether she likes it or not though, Maya will need his help. Because to fix this spell she'll need to find her actual soulmate 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

Rights Sold: French



THE PRINCESS AND THE THIEF

Cerrie Burnell

From author 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.
- * Features enchanting magic, life-changing friendship, first crushes and dark betrayals.

DESCRIPTION

In the Kingdom of Veniera subjects can wield magic, but its power depends on their standing in society.

Fifteen years ago, two babies were born without their right hands to very different families.

Neva grew up to be a talented thief, able to cast incredible enchantments with magic she shouldn't be able to access.

The other baby, Princess Aria, is now the last remaining member of the royal family. Few know that she has lost almost all her magic, and can only access one royal, golden strand of it. Without her magic the palace is vulnerable to foes.

Though Aria and Neva lead very different lives, a chance encounter one midsummer night entwines 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.

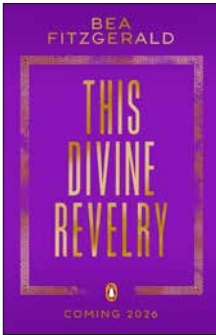
Age: 12+

Publication Date: September 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Linas Alsenas

Film Rights: Coleridge & White



THIS DIVINE REVELRY

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.
- * All three of Bea's previous books have been bestsellers, and nominated for multiple awards including the Waterstones Children's Prize
- * Bea herself is brilliantly promotable, with OVER a 120,000 following on her @chaosonolympus Greek-myth inspired comedy TikTok account, and 70,000 followers on Instagram.

DESCRIPTION

When Ariadne vows to help Theseus escape the monster beneath her palace's floors, she hopes she will free herself from the savage rule of her father, too.

Instead, she finds herself abandoned on an island the morning after Theseus has sworn love and marriage – watching his ship sail away without her.

In return, Ariadne swears revenge. Which is all very well – except for the aforementioned being abandoned on an island thing. Luckily for her though, the island happens to belong to a god – and it quickly turns out Dionysus and Ariadne may be able to help each other.

Ariadne isn't interested in real love any more – of course – which is a shame, as there's something irresistible about the pull between her and Dionysus. And he is the first person to agree with her that women can be more than just footnotes in men's myths. They have a power of their own.

And once that power is unleashed – the men of Ariadne's story, and even the gods themselves, should prepare to tremble . . .



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 hotly-anticipated sequel to the compelling romantasy *With Fire in Their Blood*.

**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.
- * Equal parts thrilling and devastating, this YA romantasy is the epic conclusion to the *With Fire In Their Blood* duology, perfect for fans of *Powerless* and V.E. Schwab.

DESCRIPTION

The hotly-anticipated sequel to the compelling romantasy *With Fire in Their Blood*.

Return to Castello, the crumbling Italian city torn between two warring mafia clans, where dark magic electrifies the streets and love leads to ruin . . .

In one act of flame and fury, Lilly Deluca plunged the town of Castello into a brutal civil war and was stripped of her own Saintry power in the process. Wanted by opposing clans, Lilly fights to stay ahead of her pursuers while keeping herself and Christian, the boy she loves, alive.

But she cannot escape the city. Castello was built on secrets, and it won't let Lilly out of its deadly grip. Something is calling to her from the depths of the town, promising to be the key to her salvation – returning her power and ending the war for good . . .

With the clans closing in, Lilly must team up with Nico, the beautiful boy from the rival mafia family, to uncover the truth about Castello's dark heart. But as the conflict escalates and her connection to Nico intensifies, Lilly is forced to choose: break her own heart, or risk letting Castello fall forever.



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.

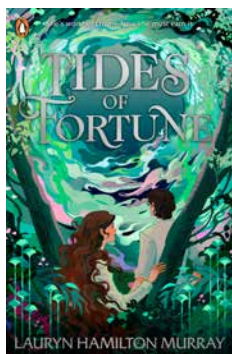
Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** May 2026

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

Acquiring Editor: Anthea Townsend

Film Rights: Coleridge & White

Rights Sold: American English, Brazilian Portuguese, Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Romanian, Spanish



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

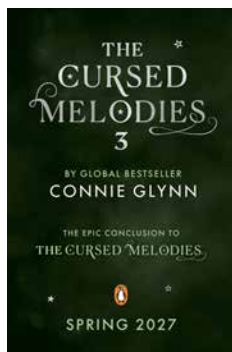
Extent: 400pp

Word Count: 100,000

Acquiring Editor: Carmen McCullough

Film Rights: Paper Literary

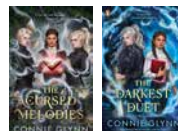
Rights Sold: American English, Brazilian Portuguese, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, Turkish



THE CURSED MELODIES #3

Connie Glynn

The third and final chapter of a teen romantasy series full of dark magic, perfect for fans of *Twin Crowns*.



OTHER BOOKS
IN THIS SERIES:

- * *The Cursed Melodies* made it to the top 10 Children's Fiction Hardcover bestseller list in its first week of publication. This is the final book of the trilogy . . .
- * Connie Glynn is UK YA royalty. She was the number one debut author of 2017 in the UK YA market with her previous series, *The Rosewood Chronicles*, which has been optioned for TV/film, has sold almost 75,000 copies through UK TCM, and is popular in Australia and Europe.
- * High-stakes adventure, fierce friendships and spell-binding romance –
Bea Fitzgerald

DESCRIPTION

With Astrid in the clutches of the evil Shadowling, Gwen and Jonas must reach out to unlikely allies to help find a way to defeat him and save her. The answers lie in the past, and their quest takes them far south to secret forests in Morocco, where it is said the Shadowling hatched centuries ago.

Meanwhile, Astrid has become the Shadowling's favourite. Under his command, she has unleashed chaos all over the world, pushing the Order to its limits.

And, despite knowing that her terrible deeds are bringing about the end of humanity, Astrid cannot quell her obsession with Gwen.

Ultimately, Gwen must make a shocking decision in the hopes of saving Astrid and the world. The fate of all lies in their hearts.



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.

Age: 12+ | **Publication Date:** March 2027

Extent: 304pp | **Word Count:** 50,000

Acquiring Editors: 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:

- * This is the sequel to *Her Hidden Fire*, which 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 escapes her fate? 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 sacrifice 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

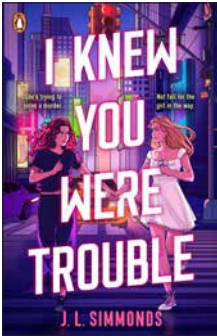
Extent: 448pp

Word Count: 90,000

Acquiring Editors: Linas Alsenas
& Emma Wood

Film Rights: Mulcahy Sweeney Associates

Rights Sold: American English, French,
Spanish



I KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE

J. L. Simmonds

A criminal, a civilian, a high-stakes scavenger hunt and a romance against all odds, set against the backdrop of New York City.



**OTHER BOOKS
BY THE AUTHOR:**

- * A high-stakes scavenger hunt mystery 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 thrillers 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 on the streets of New York, she suspects foul play.

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

Kendra remembers the jewellery 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 New York that she needs to follow and solve. Could there be a connection between the jewellery and her mum'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 jewelery 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



**NEW
ADULT**

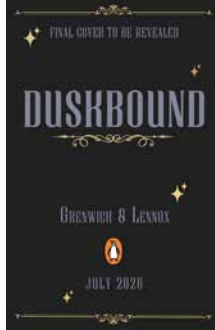
THE ESPRITHEAN TRILOGY

Bree Greenwich & Parker Lennox

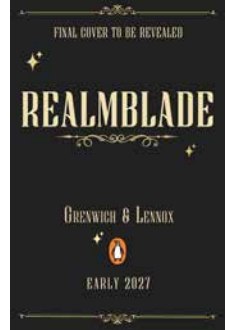
The series that has everyone talking!



Publication Date: April 2026
Extent: 448pp
Word Count: 102,000



Publication Date: July 2026
Extent: 592pp
Word Count: 125,000



Publication Date: Early 2027
Extent: 640pp
Word Count: 150,000

- * This steamy crossover romantasy series is perfect for fans of *Fourth Wing*, *A Fate Inked in Blood* and *A Court of Thorns and Roses*.
- * **Self-published history:** *Riftborne* has sold more than 23,000 copies since Sep 2024 and *Duskbound* has sold 14,000 copies since March 2025.
- * **Hype:** Since its release, *Riftborne* was named a 'Best of BookTok' favourite and earned a spot on BuzzFeed's lists of books to read after *ACOTAR*, alongside *Fourth Wing*. *Riftborne* and *Duskbound* are currently 4th and 6th in Amazon UK's bestselling New Adult/College Fantasy chart.
- * **Tropes:** A true enemies-to-lovers romance, slow burn, love triangle, trainer x trainee, forced proximity, morally grey MMC, found family, political intrigue, hidden powers awakening etc.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Full of political intrigue, enthralling world-building, high-stakes & jaw-dropping plot twists, the Esprithean trilogy, is a slow-burn, enemies to lovers romantasy series about Fia Riftborne, a rebel with an explosive, dangerous power who must confront her growing feelings for the enemy and face a dark truth that could shatter everything she's ever known . . . about her friends . . . her family . . . and herself.

Age: 16+ | **Acquiring Editor:** Awo Ibrahim

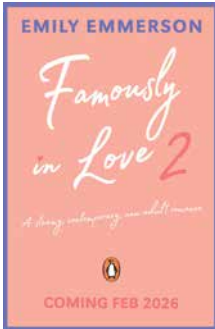
Film Rights: BookEnds Literary Agency | **Rights Sold:** American English, Brazilian Portuguese, Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Romanian, Spanish



Bree Greenwich and Parker Lennox

are two

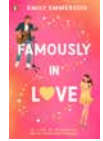
platonic soulmates who have been nearly inseparable since meeting at 19. Their shared love of fantasy, badass heroines, and steamy romances fuelled their dream of co-authoring a novel, which they've finally achieved with their debut, *Riftborne*.



FAMOUSLY IN LOVE #2

Emily Emmerson

A steamy, celeb x fan, sports romance perfect for fans of Lauren Asher, Hannah Grace and Elsie Silver.



**OTHER BOOKS
IN THIS SERIES:**

- * *Icebreaker* by Hannah Grace (435,000 UK TCM) meets Lauren Asher's *Terms and Conditions* (93,000 UK TCM) in this witty, steamy New Adult romance.
- * This is a sequel to *Famously in Love* and is part of a loosely-linked duology where, in each story, a different FMC meets a famous celebrity and romance ensues.
- * The story combines the sports romance genre—which we know is a BookTok fave—with, the similarly current, obsession with celebrities. Between the rise in celebrity fan edits, the recent popularity of fan-insert romances in film (think *The Idea of You* – inspired by Harry Styles) and the establishment of dating apps as a cornerstone of modern dating – this idea is both on trend and delightfully fun.

DESCRIPTION

Working for her best-friend's new dating app, Butterflies, is not what Anna Turai thought she would be doing with her law degree. But, after burning out at her firm, this could be exactly the break she's looking for.

Besides, helping her best-friend out isn't really work. Her one job? Convince former star athlete Hamilton Boyce to join Butterflies as an Ambassador.

What starts as a simple task to charm the athlete into a contract turns into easy trackside banter, whilst Hamilton launches his comeback.

As the two spend more time together, the chemistry between them becomes undeniable and, soon their professional relationship heats up . . .



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: August 2026

Extent: 360pp

Word Count: 80,000

Acquiring Editor: Awo Ibrahim

Film Rights: United Agents