

Rights Guide Spring 2025

Macmillan
Children's Books

Say hello to
Matty
and Mo!



Campbell


MACMILLAN
Children's Books

Dear Publishers,

Welcome to our Spring Guide showcasing the best of our publishing this season. Our titles are now represented across three guides, to help save you time, so please do look out for our non-fiction and Priddy Books Rights catalogues too.

Starting with our very youngest readers, I want to highlight our new character-led board book series, *Matty and Mo* by Rosalind Beardshaw. The series is already attracting a great deal of attention; we go to Bologna with six languages confirmed, with more to come. Camilla Reid's Macmillan Children's Books publishing has had a brilliant first year and there are now more than a quarter of a million copies of her books in print around the world. Her new series is illustrated by award-winning Kate Hindley and introduces best friends Nell and Beany, who are at the very centre of their adventures, as all toddlers are. This novelty series is perfect for sharing, and inspiring creative play.

Emily Gravett won the Macmillan Prize for Illustration twenty-one years ago and we are proud to have been her publishing home ever since. Her new picture book, *Bear's Nap*, is a classic in the making; full of her signature humour and engaging animals characters. The 'Mac Prize' continues to discover brilliant new talent and we have new picture books from Becky Colvin with *The Great Green Island* and Kate Rolfe with *Owl and Moon*.

Highlights on our picture book list include Diane Ewen's *The Great Unicorn Escape*, this is the second picture book in the Unicorn Forest series and is a great adventure about finding friends in unexpected places, and Julia Donaldson's *Gozzle* is the latest joyful picture book illustrated by Sara Ogilvie. Publishing this spring, it is backed by an extensive marketing campaign, and we are very pleased to have eight publishers already signed up to be part of this growing partnership brand.

Illustration remains central to our young fiction lists. The Mubbles by Liz Pichon is ready to find its fans this year as children around the world discover this brilliant and hilarious new world of crazy characters. In middle-grade, look out for Rob Biddulph's exciting new adventure series *The Moonhaven Chronicles*, C.M Lewis's epic fantasy *Quill and the Last Generation*, hilarious debut *Dante N Ferno is NOT a Loser* by Brian Gordon and laugh-out-loud colour graphic novel *Tiny Hercules* by Jon Lock and Nich Angell.

Our YA imprint, First Ink, goes from strength to strength. After Frankfurt, we had a flurry of pre-empts, offers and auctions in nine territories for *The Sleepless* by Jen Williams. *Of Flame and Fury* by Mikayla Bridge has been snapped up in four languages so far, and the compelling gothic fantasy romance *Like the Moon We Rise* by Annabelle Cormack is the latest addition to this hugely exciting list.

We have been publishing books to entertain children since Macmillan released *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll 160 years ago in 1865. It is our ambition to keep doing so for many years to come and we look forward to working with you to inspire the young readers of the future.

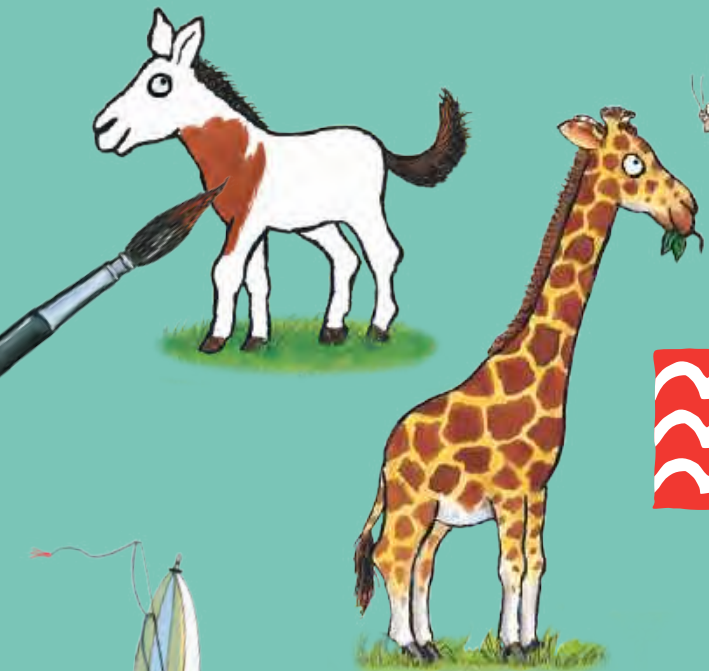
With all best wishes,



Alison Ruane

MD of Macmillan Children's Books





Campbell

and



PRESCHOOL



An exciting new developmental range of books for babies, each addressing important milestones



- A fold-out and stand-up 'tummy time' book with peepholes – perfect to use from birth to strengthen neck muscles and encourage grasping



- A playbook for active babies 6m+, with chunky sliders and flaps to develop pincer grip
- Including first words for language development and a mirror ending



- A cloth book for newborns and older babies with a strap for on the go
- With crinkly pages and a mirror

Campbell

Squeak my Nose and Beep my Nose

Best for babies



Illustrated by Marion Billet

A brand-new novelty format, perfect for laughing and bonding together

- Bright, friendly faces with a soft wipe-clean squeaker on each spread
- Funny mirror ending, with a squeaker in the middle, so little ones can 'squeak' their own nose
- Marion Billet is published in more than 10 languages, with UK sales of over 5 million copies



Campbell

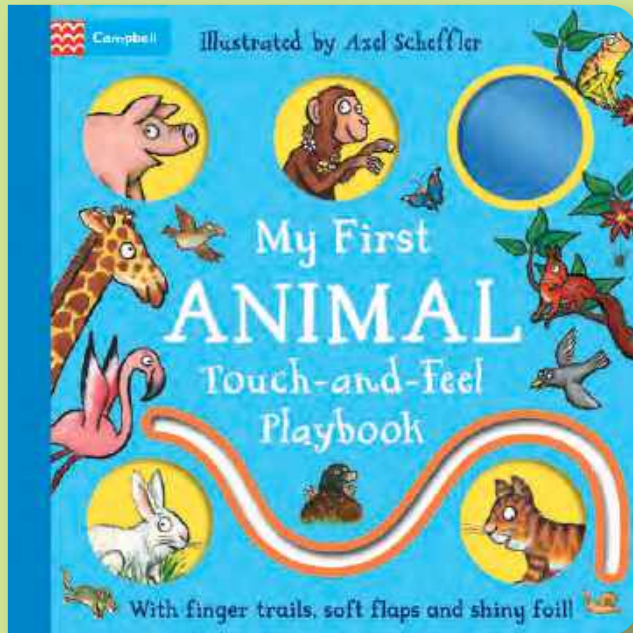


Axel Scheffler

Best for babies

Best for preschool

Growing the bestselling Axel Scheffler range with an exciting new format and more Magic Painting



- Introduce babies to first early-learning concepts
- Develops hand-eye coordination with shiny foil, soft flaps, tactile die-cuts and finger trails
- Encourages interactive play



More formats available:

Search and Find with Tabs - Lift the Flap - Push Pull Slide - Press the Page Sound



- Transform pictures into colour by just adding water
- Leave to dry then use again for mess-free fun
- With a carry handle for on the go

Illustrated by *Marine Fleury*



Lift the flap and press the sound in this immersive new series where children make the action come alive!

- Features **two** types of novelties for lots of play value and different motor skills
- Places the reader at the centre of the story, with exciting tasks for them to carry out
- Familiar places and first experiences with relatable toddler characters
- Rhyming text and funny details to spot throughout
- Builds thinking skills and key vocabulary



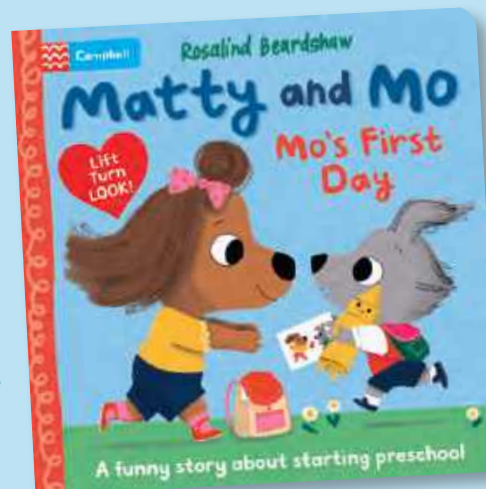
Matty and Mo

Best for toddlers

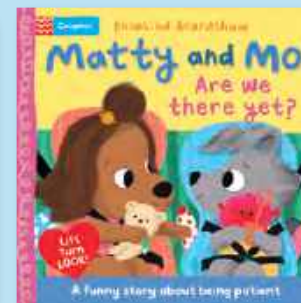
Illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Giggle along with Matty and Mo in this funny character-led novelty series

- Stories inspired by real family life experiences
- With flaps, a wheel and an adorable fold-out heart ending
- Builds emotional and social intelligence, as the two puppy siblings encounter familiar situations and learn how to play together



Also available:



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The Big Book of ROBOTS

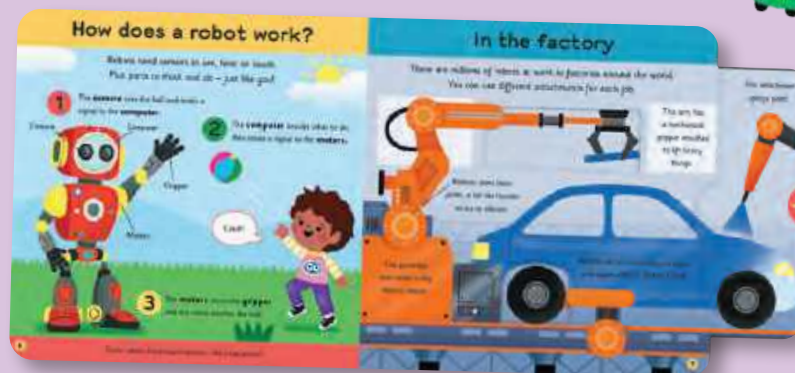
Illustrated by Yujin Shin

Best for early years

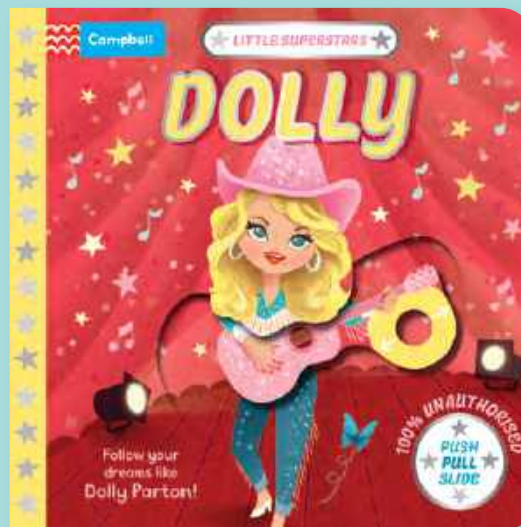
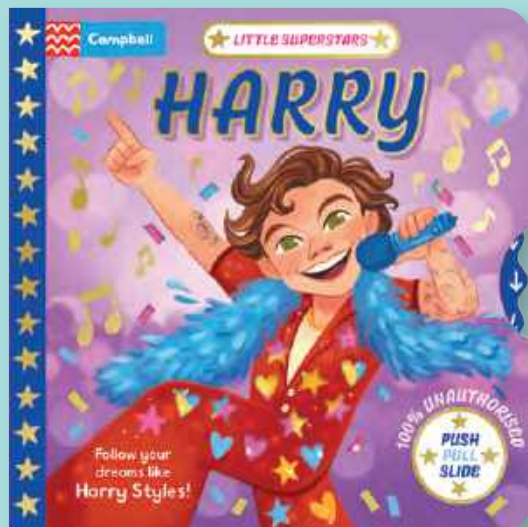


A first introduction to robots and AI with multiple novelties!

- Get involved with build-your-own-robot sliders, pull-tabs, flaps and a pop-up finale
- Discover incredible robots, from squishy octobots to giant exoskeletons
- Encourages learning through play
- Packed with expert-checked facts



Illustrated by Mariana Avila Lagunes and Joanie Stone



Also available:



Inspire little dreamers with the incredible life stories of Harry Styles and Dolly Parton!

- An interactive introduction to well-known superstars
- Sweet, rhyming text with an empowering message
- Best-selling push, pull, slide format for children to play along as they read
- Bright illustrations featuring plenty of hidden 'easter eggs' for fans to spot

★
OVER 100K
COPIES
PRINTED
ACROSS
MARKETS
★

Camilla Reid

Illustrated by
Kate Hindley

Best
for 1+

Nell & Beany

A new character-led novelty series
from a bestselling star pairing

- Meet Nell and Beany, two best friends who love to go on adventures!
- An ambitious new series mixing cute animal characters with innovative slider mechanisms for engaging, interactive reading
- Combining the dynamism of Richard Scarry, the interactivity of Bizzy Bear and the warmth of Pip and Posy, with broad, enduring commercial appeal and full of interactive fun





Camilla Reid

Illustrated by Carly Gledhill



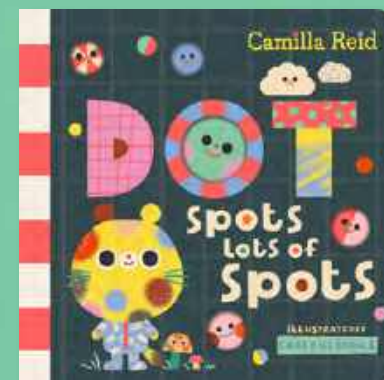
Best for
1+

An exciting hide-and-seek novelty series from Camilla Reid



Draft cover

New for 2026!



Exciting new sliding
counter format!

- Ten satisfying sliding mechanisms and a mirror
- An engaging interactive hide-and-seek story
- Striking illustrations by Carly Gledhill, with eye-catching neon details

Coming soon:
Is Dot in the Hay? (2026)
Is Dot in the Snow? (2026)



Camilla Reid

Illustrated by Jill Howarth

Slide and Count

Irresistible counting books
series created by Camilla Reid

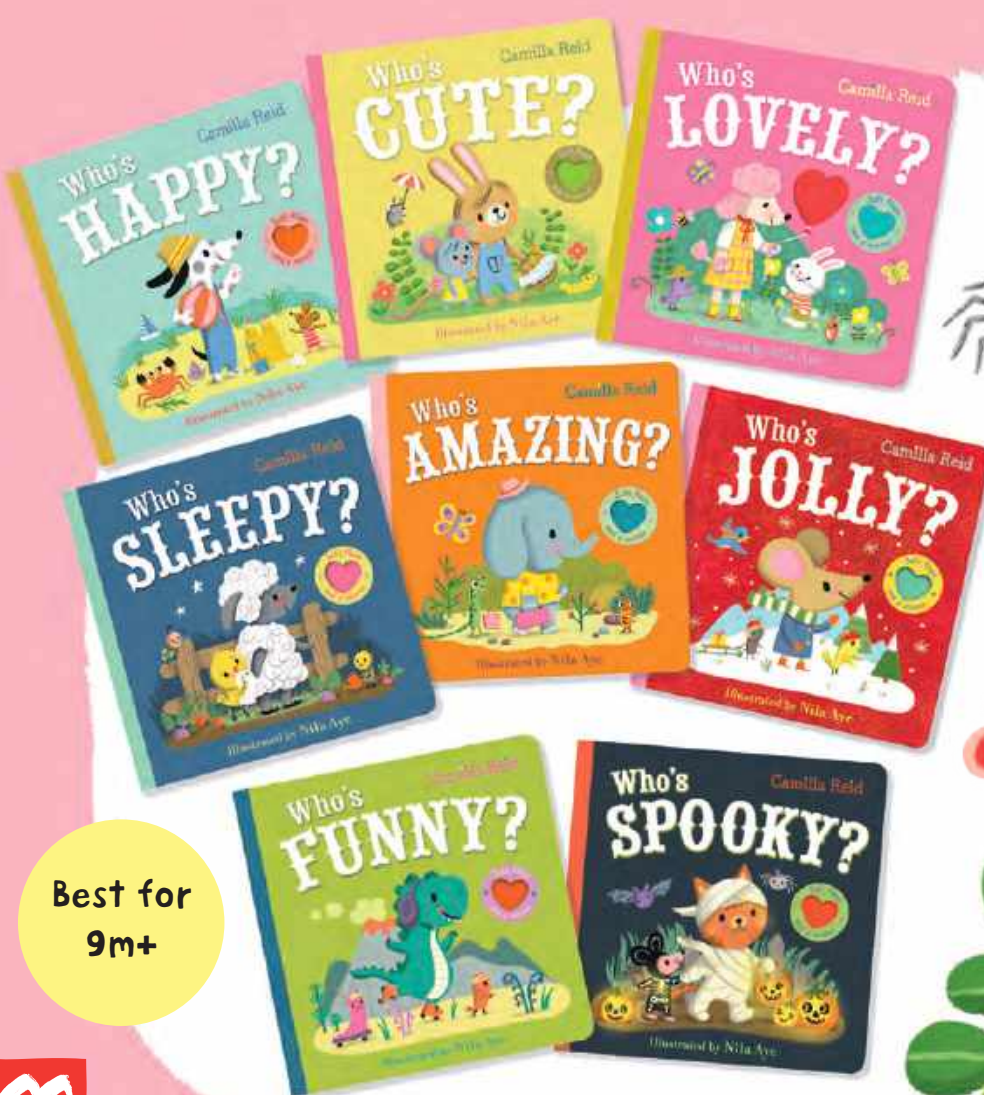
Best for
3+

Sold in
13 languages!



- ★ Huge play value: 25 sliding counters, perfect for small fingers
- ★ Based on popular nursery rhymes that encourage counting skills
- ★ Six richly detailed scenes from illustrator Jill Howarth
- ★ Coming soon: *Five Little Chicks*





Camilla Reid
Illustrated by Nila Aye

Soft Flaps

A delightful novelty series from bestselling early years author, Camilla Reid

- ♥ Stylish and engaging, putting the child reader at the heart of the book
- ♥ With five big felt flaps and a surprise mirror ending
- ♥ Charming illustrations from Nila Aye, packed with playful detail
- ♥ New titles for 2025: *Who's Funny?* and *Who's Spooky?*

Sold in
15 languages!

Best for
9m+



Ready, Steady, Race!

Illustrated by
Teresa Bellón

Best for
9m+

Get ready to race with this fun
and innovative new slider series!



- ✿ Tilt the book to make the colourful counters race across the page, with different possible outcomes
- ✿ Books 1 and 2 feature bugs and vehicles, with bright, bold and stylish illustrations from preschool favourite Teresa Bellón
- ✿ New to market format with a different interactive novelty on each spread, perfect for playing together



Written by Pippa Goodhart and
illustrated by Emily Rand



Count to 10 and explore the colourful world around us in this spot-and-say picture book, with hundreds of everyday objects to find.

- Written by Pippa Goodhart, author of the 2 million copy bestselling *You Choose!* series, and illustrated by award-winning illustrator, Emily Rand
- The second of a pair of gorgeous preschool board books which celebrate the wonder of the everyday world and introduce toddlers to hundreds of familiar objects – *Colours of Things* published July 2024
- ♥ Full of colourful things to spot, and with interactive questions on every spread, plus reading tips for parents and carers

By the same
author and
illustrator:





Brands and Classics

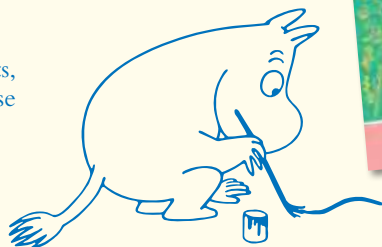




What is a MOOMIN?

A colourful visual exploration of the world and history of Moominvalley and the Moomin family.

MOOMIN



- Includes 100 iconic objects, from the family's lighthouse lamp to Snufkin's trusty knapsack, and from the Hobgoblin's magical hat to Moominpappa's inky fountain pen

- With character introductions, a visual timeline and never-before-seen archive material, this is a unique introduction for all ages



Book 7
coming
2026

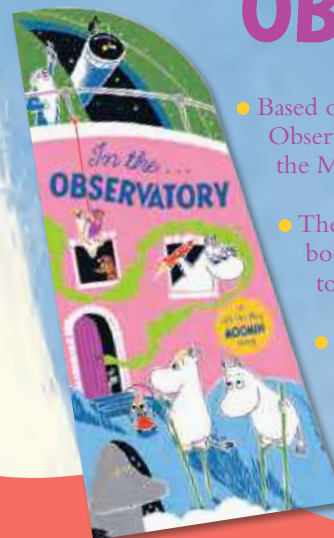
MOOMIN1VALLEY

- Book 6 of the collectable and hugely successful *Adventures in Moominvalley* animated series

- Gift hardback with special cover finishes, introducing new episodes and characters from season 4 of the Moominvalley series



In the... OBSERVATORY

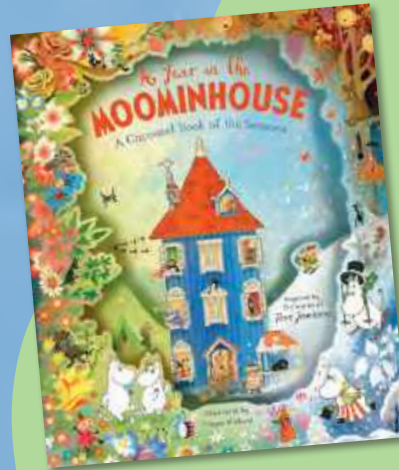
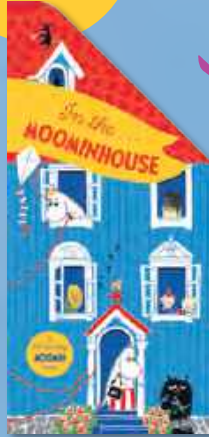


- Based on Jansson's comic strips and set in the Observatory, this beautiful book introduces the Moomins to the very young
- The third in a series of shaped board books, with a brand-new story and flaps to lift on every page
- Newly illustrated by Riina and Sami Kaarla, bringing to life the warmth and humour of Tove Jansson's irresistible Moomin world





Also available:



A Year in the MOOMINHOUSE

A Carousel Book of the Seasons

- A stunning carousel gift book opening out to show six intricate layered scenes of the Moominhouse
- Showing seasons across a year in Moominvalley, from Snufkin returning for spring to the family preparing for winter hibernation
- With brand-new illustrations interpreting Tove Jansson's classic and beloved artwork



A Pop-Up Adventure



Book 2 coming 2026:
The Moomins and the Comet

© Moomin Characters ™

Sylvanian Families®

A wide-reaching publishing programme celebrating this iconic and internationally beloved toy brand.

- Launched in Japan in 1985, Sylvanian Families spans 40 years and has sold over 230 million toys worldwide
- Beautifully designed picture books, search-and-find books, sticker activity and gift titles that tie into the Sylvanian Families ethos of Nature, Family and Love
- True cross-generational appeal – instantly recognisable and perennially popular



Sylvanian Families Character Encyclopedia: The Official Visual History

- A complete guide to all the characters from the world of Sylvanian Families, with images, character profiles, fun facts and more!
- Includes a mini-figure of Crème the Chocolate Rabbit baby with a special exclusive outfit



Freya's Perfect Party: A Lift-the-Flap Story

- A preschool novelty book shaped like the Chocolate Rabbit Family's house, with die-cut windows on the cover and flaps to lift on every page
- Join the Chocolate Rabbits as they have a party and invite all their friends – with things to spot on every page and a brand-new story to read



Halloween Search and Find

- Join Freya and her friends for a spook-tacular Halloween party – with over 20 scenes to search and more than 200 spooky things to spot!

Picture Book 3:

- A picture book based on the animation Freya's Happy Diary, with an illustrated map and character profiles
- An official Sylvanian Families story featuring beloved characters and settings



Also available:



Character Encyclopedia: Format: 280mm x 224mm HB • Extent: 224pp • Pub Date: October 2026 • UK Retail Price: £30.00

Freya's Perfect Party: Format: 300mm x 140mm BB • Extent: 10pp • Pub Date: July 2025 • UK Retail Price: £7.99

Halloween Search and Find: Format: 300mm x 216mm HB / PB • Extent: 32pp • Pub Date: September 2025 • UK Retail Price: £7.99

Picture Book: Format: 250mm x 250mm HB / PB • Extent: 32pp • Pub Date: April 2026 • UK Retail Price: £7.99



Tales from Acorn Wood

JULIA DONALDSON  AXEL SCHEFFLER

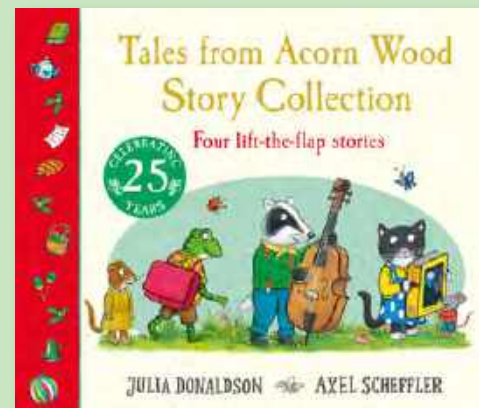


Tales from Acorn Wood: Spring A Push, Pull and Slide Book



- Discover all your favourite characters and places in Acorn Wood with this fun, interactive book
- A bestselling format with tabs to push, pull and slide on every spread
- Based on the popular Tales from Acorn Wood series – close to 10 million copies sold worldwide!
- A second title, *Winter*, to publish in Autumn 2026

Tales from Acorn Wood: Story Collection

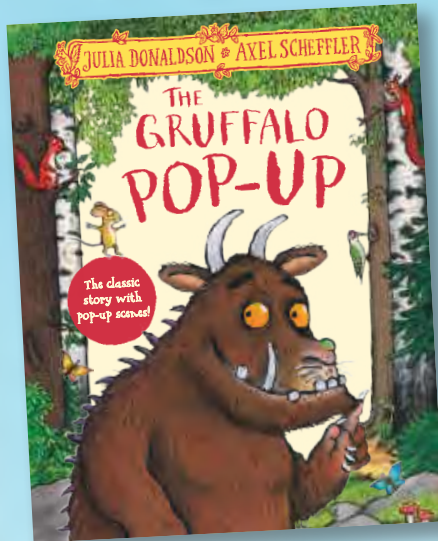


- A beautiful treasury of the much-loved *Frog's Day Out*, *Cat's Cookbook*, *Dormouse Has a Cold* and *Badger's Band*
- Gift hardback with foil on the cover and lift-the-flaps throughout – the perfect gift for toddlers



JULIA DONALDSON * AXEL SCHEFFLER

THE GRUFFALO



The Gruffalo Pop-Up

- An amazing, interactive pop-up edition of the bestselling picture book
- Enjoy the full story told over eight spreads
- With 3D scenes, moving mechanisms, gatefold flaps and lots of pop-ups – including a giant Gruffalo!





Gruffalo, Who Can You See?

- Meet all your favourite characters from the deep dark wood
- With lots of things to spot and interactive questions on every spread
- A sturdy board book format with tabbed pages – perfect for little hands!

The Gruffalo and The Gruffalo's Child Board Book Gift Slipcase

- A beautiful slipcase of two much-loved, classic stories
- *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child* have sold a combined 18.2 million copies worldwide
- Chunky board books and a gorgeous slipcase – the perfect gift for little ones





JULIA DONALDSON * AXEL SCHEFFLER



Magic Painting Books



- Reusable magic painting books for mess-free fun!
- Brush water over the pages to colour in all your favourite characters and scenes
- Chunky board activity books with a carry handle, perfect for little hands

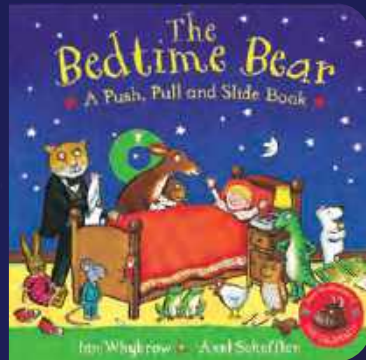


Ian Whybrow ★ Axel Scheffler

★ Push, Pull and Slide Books ★



- ★ Enjoy these much-loved interactive stories, with over half a million copies sold worldwide, now available in a new and exciting format
- ★ Bestselling push, pull and slide format with novelty mechanisms on every spread – perfect for little hands
- ★ A winning combination of Ian Whybrow's funny, rhyming text and witty illustrations by Axel Scheffler, illustrator of *The Gruffalo*



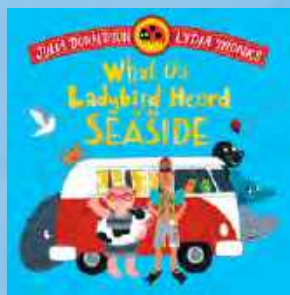
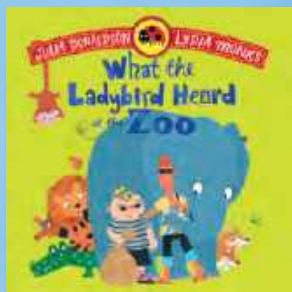
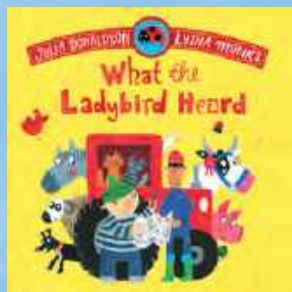
Draft cover



JULIA DONALDSON

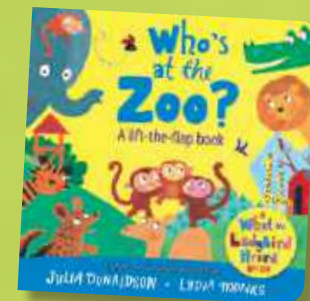
LYDIA MONKS

What the Ladybird Heard

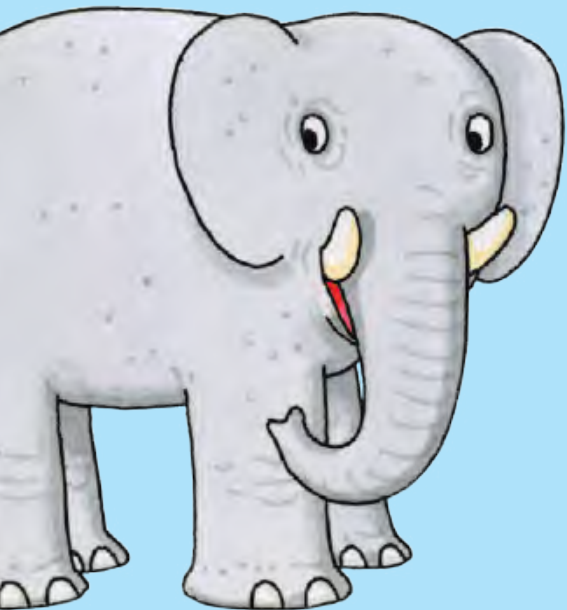


- Five fantastically funny picture-book adventures from the bestselling partnership of Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks
- New series look with bright, playful cover designs
- With brand new cover artwork from Lydia Monks

What the Ladybird Heard: Lift-the-Flap Books



- Join the clever little ladybird for lots of fun on the farm and at the zoo in these chunky cased board books
- With large card flaps to lift on every spread to reveal all your favourite animals from the original stories
- Refreshed editions with bright new cover looks



Rod Campbell

Dear Zoo



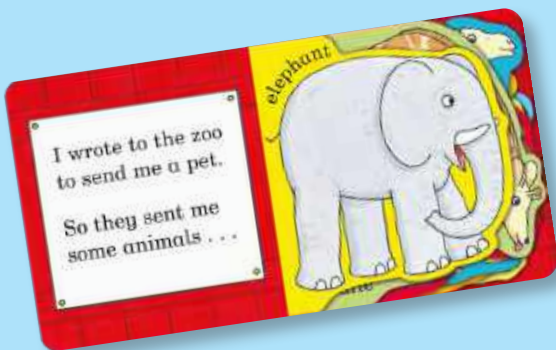
Rod Campbell

Dear Zoo

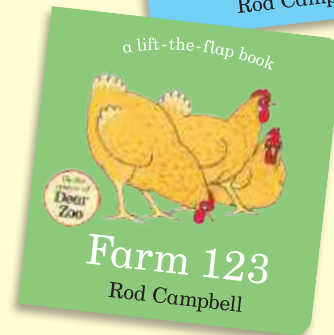
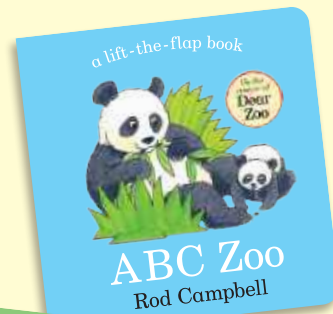
- A lift-the-flap preschool classic that has been delighting children for over 40 years
- Over 13 million copies sold worldwide



Dear Zoo Animal Shapes



- Turn the shaped card pages to discover all the animals the zoo has sent – perfect for little hands
- Based on the bestselling preschool story



ABC Zoo and Farm 123

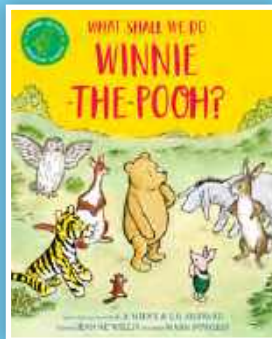
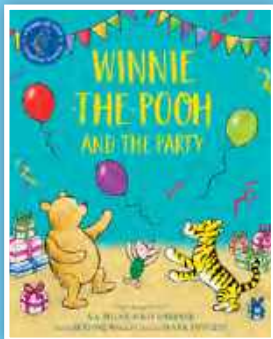
- Reissues of two popular classics, which have sold over 500k copies worldwide
- Packed full of favourite animals, with sturdy card flaps to lift on every page
- Focus on farms and zoos, two perennially popular themes

Dear Zoo: Format: 170mm x 170mm BB • Extent: 18pp • Pub Date: January 2022 • UK Retail Price: £7.99

ABC Zoo: Format: 170mm x 170mm BB • Extent: 18pp • Pub Date: January 2026 • UK Retail Price: £7.99

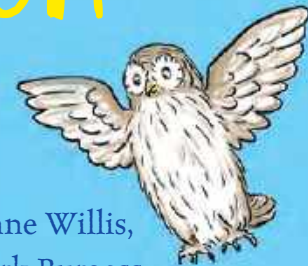
Farm 123: Format: 170mm x 170mm BB • Extent: 18pp • Pub Date: April 2026 • UK Retail Price: £7.99

Dear Zoo Animal Shapes: Format: 170mm x 170mm Cased BB • Extent: 18pp • Pub Date: June 2026 • UK Retail Price: £7.99



WINNIE-THE-POOH

- ✿ Four official Winnie-the-Pooh picture books with all the charm of the original much-loved stories
- ✿ Rhyming adventures written by award-winning author, Jeanne Willis, with artwork by celebrated Winnie-the-Pooh illustrator, Mark Burgess
- ✿ Publishing with brand-new, bright and bold cover designs sure to appeal to children and grown-ups alike
- ✿ Featuring Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and all your favourite characters from the Hundred Acre Wood – perfect for fans of all ages



ALSO AVAILABLE

Beautiful hardback gift treasury containing four of the much-loved Winnie-the-Pooh adventures



Milly-Molly-Mandy

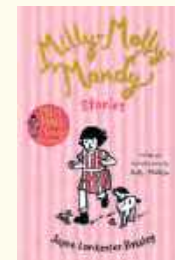
Makes a Garden



- A newly imagined picture-book edition of one of Joyce Lankester Brisley's original Milly-Molly-Mandy stories
- Introducing a new generation of readers to the gentle, warm-hearted world of Milly-Molly-Mandy, with themes around family, community and nature
- Illustrated by Catharine Collingridge in her fresh, contemporary style, which perfectly captures the charm of the original stories



Also available:

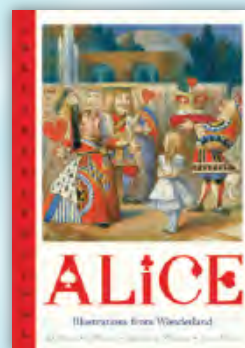


A celebratory publishing programme
for the 160th anniversary of
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,
one of the bestselling and most
iconic books of all time

ALICE

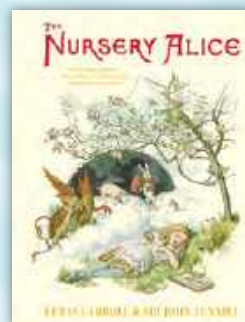


- ♥ A novelty picture book retelling of the classic story, with five envelopes to open throughout
- ♥ Discover extra content inside the envelopes including DRINK ME and EAT ME labels, the mad tea-party menu, an invitation from the Queen of Hearts to play croquet, and more!
- ♥ With newly commissioned illustrations in the style of Tenniel, bringing this beloved story to life in a new and unique way



ALICE PULL-OUT PRINTS: ILLUSTRATIONS FROM WONDERLAND

- ♥ A collection of pull-out posters, featuring original images from Tenniel and other classic illustrators
- ♥ Over 20 beautiful images that can be removed and framed, presented in a beautiful gift book with special finishes
- ♥ With quotes and excerpts from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* plus facts about these beloved illustrations and their fascinating publishing history



THE NURSERY ALICE

- ♥ Lewis Carroll's own retelling of *Alice* for younger readers, with colour illustrations by Sir John Tenniel
- ♥ A stunning facsimile of the original 1890 edition, with the iconic cover illustration by acclaimed Victorian artist E. Gertrude Thomson

THE CLASSIC BOOKS IN HARDBACK



THE CLASSIC BOOKS IN PAPERBACK



ALICE PACK OF CARDS



Letters from Wonderland: 203mm x 268mm HB • Extent: 32pp • Pub Date: September 2025 • UK Retail Price: £14.99

Alice Pull-Out Prints: 296mm x 209mm HB • Extent: 40pp • Pub Date: June 2025 • UK Retail Price: £20.00

The Nursery Alice: 205mm x 165mm HB • Extent: 72pp • Pub Date: April 2025 • UK Retail Price: £12.99



Picture Books



GOZZLE

JULIA DONALDSON • SARA OGILVIE

Meet Gozzle — an incredibly sweet baby goose who is convinced she is a bear . . .



- An unsuspecting bear finds himself a father of a rather determined little gosling in this laugh-out-loud, joyful book about the true meaning of home and family



Sold in
15 languages

- From the award-winning, bestselling creators of *The Detective Dog* and *The Hospital Dog*, which have sold over a million copies worldwide



10TH
ANNIVERSARY




The DETECTIVE DOG

- A special anniversary paperback of the bestselling story with a new, eye-catching cover design
- Featuring the original story plus added bonus content from the creators
- *The Detective Dog* has sold 875,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into 17 languages



JULIA DONALDSON

SARA OGILVIE



Julia Donaldson
Catherine Rayner

The Magic Feather



Imagine if you had a magic feather that
meant you could understand the birds . . .



A magical fairy tale about one girl's journey into a
far-off land to save a woodland from destruction

With a positive message about caring for nature
and our environment

Written by the unparalleled Julia Donaldson and
richly illustrated by Catherine Rayner, winner of the
Kate Greenaway Medal

**Hip hip hooray for
Hippo and his
brand-new
potty!**



- ★ A playful look at potty-training and all its challenges!
- ★ Fourth title in this stand-out, character-led series for young children – and their parents!
- ★ From the award-winning creator of *Please Mr Panda* – over 1 million copies sold
- ★ A fresh, funny and relatable look at key childhood moments, emotions and milestones

More in the series:



Coming in board book in 2026!

Hippo Potty



Steve Antony



BECKY COLVIN

The GREAT GREEN Island

Step onto a small island with a big secret. A magical secret in the shape of a Great Green Crocodile . . .



- Outstanding picture book debut from the winner of the Macmillan Prize for Illustration 2023
- A tale of mystery, magic and adventure
- A funny and imaginative modern fable, reminding us to stop and experience the wonders of nature



Diane Ewen

The Great Unicorn Escape

Louella, Norrie and Star have a whole day of fun planned, but when Star wanders off, will they discover that more friends can be found off the beaten path?

- ★ A magical adventure about discovering new friends, and not *always* doing as you're told!
- ★ The second book in the Unicorn Forest series, introducing Star: Louella's little sister
- ★ Diane Ewen is the winner of the Jericho Prize, the Queen's Knickers award, and a National Book Award

Also available:





MARTA ALTÉS BIG TIGER

No matter how big you are,
you are never too big for a hug.

- Stand-out new title from a worldwide bestseller!
- A joyful, jungle adventure, perfectly capturing a child's first steps towards independence
- From award-winning Marta Altés, who has been translated into 34 languages and counting!



MARTA
ALTÉS
over 1.6M
books sold
worldwide



Hazel Gardner and Nikki Dyson

PENGUIN and PUP!

THE PERFECT PET

Meet Penguin and Pup, best friends with VERY different personalities – will they ever agree on their *purrfect* pet?

Also available:



- Third in a four-book series focusing on key milestones and special moments
- Illustrated by award-winning, bestselling illustrator Nikki Dyson (*You're Called What?* 10 languages sold)
- From circus fleas to manatees – laugh out loud as Penguin and Pup try to work out what makes the perfect pet...



The Night Before Christmas In NEVERLAND

This is no ordinary Christmas Eve ...

- ★ Peter Pan and Captain Hook meet Santa Claus – a fabulous, festive mash-up of two classic tales
- ★ Second title in the series from award-winning Kate Hindley and Carys Bexington
- ★ *The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland* – sold in 11 languages and over 100k copies worldwide

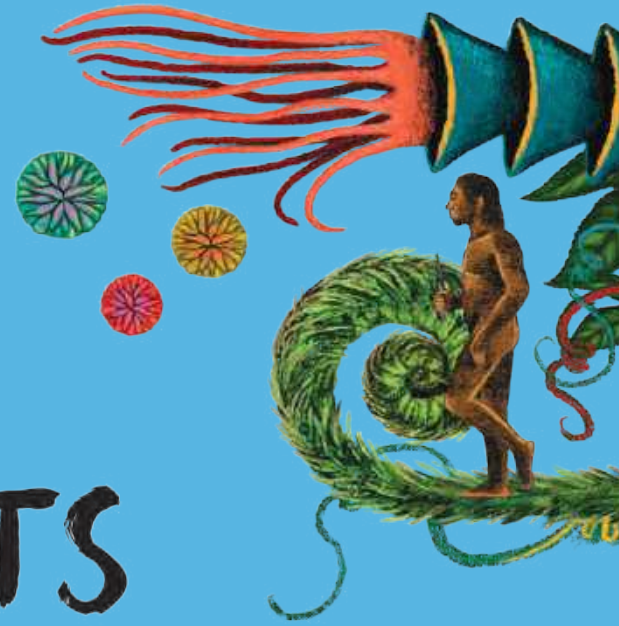
CARYS BEXINGTON

KATE HINDLEY



Now an animated film!





TWO HOOTS





BEAR'S NAP

Emily Gravett

- Has all the hallmarks of a modern classic: *Peace at Last* meets *Frog and Toad*
- Full of animal noises that children will love to call out as the story is read
- From Paddington to Winnie-the-Pooh, bears are among the most popular characters in children's literature: this bear will be no exception

Double Kate
Greenaway winner with
worldwide sales of over
2 million copies



NEW
2026



MIRROR MAGIC

By the
winner of the
Kate Greenaway
Shadower's
Choice Award

Sharon King-Chai



HOLD THE
BOOK UPRIGHT
TO CREATE A
MAGICAL MIRROR
WORLD.

- From the award-winning illustrator of Julia Donaldson's *Animalphabet* and *Counting Creatures*
- Vibrant illustrations and a mirrored surface on every spread, with things to spot and first words to learn
- Covering popular topics for little ones including: bugs, animals, dinosaurs, vehicles, seaside and Christmas



Kate Rolfe OWL AND MOON

An uplifting, magical story from the award-winning creator of *Wiggling Words* and *Wolf and Bear*.

- A night-time adventure about a cheeky little owl and the friends she meets in the dark
- This warm and atmospheric story about friendship, courage and resilience is a joyful bedtime treat

Waterstones
Children's
Book Prize
Shortlist



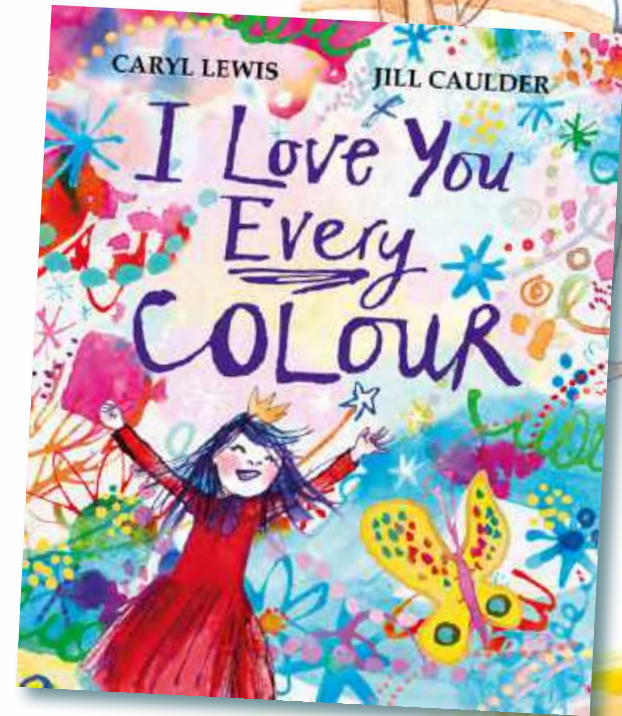
WINNER
AOI World
Illustration
Award

CARYL LEWIS • JILL CALDER

I Love You Every COLOUR

A timeless celebration of love in all its forms, from personal and family relationships to the natural world and the planet as a whole.

- An astonishing, sumptuously colourful collaboration between award-winning author and illustrator
- The perfect book for Valentine's Day, christenings and birthdays: a song of love for every child and for the planet we share





ANNIE BOOKER THE GREAT BEAR

A moving story of humanity's impact on the natural world, with the feel of a timeless myth.

- A stunningly beautiful eco-folktale from a hugely talented debut artist and author
- Winner of the Batsford Prize for Illustration, People's Choice Award 2022
- A tribute to the power of nature, with a hopeful ending and a non-fiction, educational spread



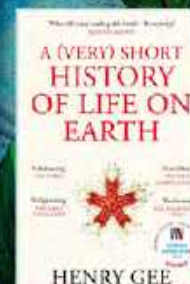
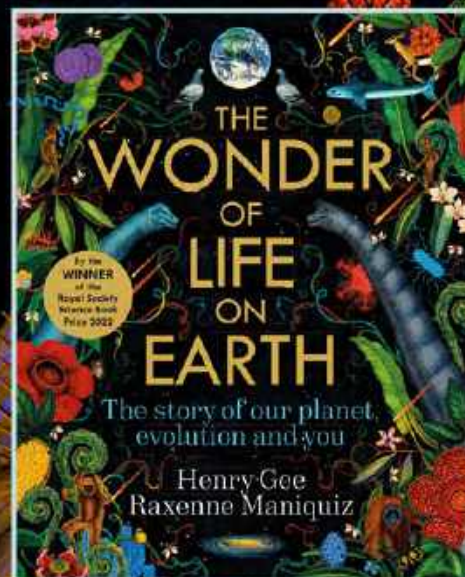
HENRY GEE • RAXENNE MANQUIZ

THE WONDER OF LIFE ON EARTH

The story of our planet, evolution and you

Discover the story of life on Earth as
you have never seen it before.

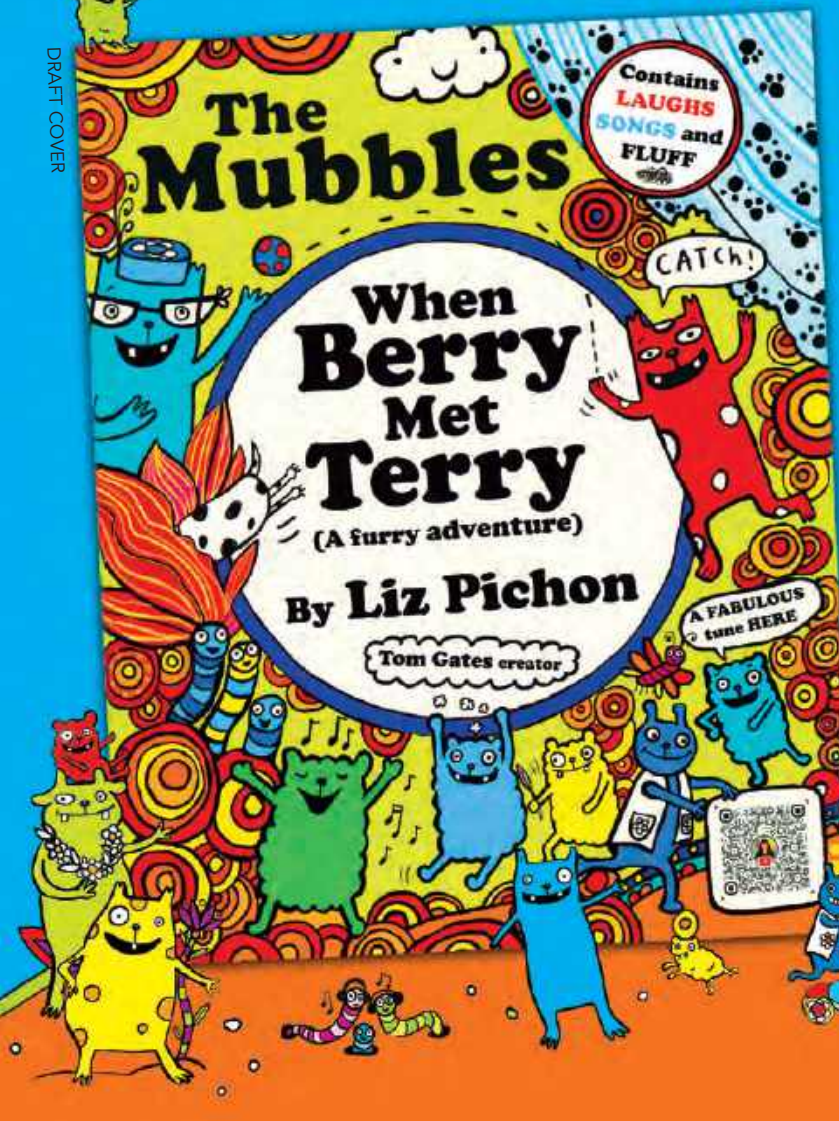
- A nonfiction gift book showcasing the most pivotal moments in the unlikely story of life on Earth from the beginning to the present day, with a view into the future
- Expert voice: Henry Gee is a highly respected science writer and an editor for the internationally-renowned journal *Nature*
- Illustrator Raxenne Maniquiz is known for her exquisitely detailed botanical illustrations inspired by her home in the Philippines



WINNER
Royal Society
Science Book
Prize 2022

Sold in 25+
languages





The Mubbles

By
Liz Pichon

A FABULOUS, all singing, all dancing book of JOY!
By **Liz Pichon**, the creator of the multimillion copy global bestseller **Tom Gates**.

Welcome to the Isle of Smile, home of **The Mubbles**, where the beautiful island runs on **SUN, WIND** and **FLOWER POWER**. Everyone on the Isle of Smile, including the Wibbles of Wobble Mountain, the Earworms and the one-eyed Drib Drabs, lives in perfect harmony – most of the time. But when the Uncertain Curtain delivers a **MYSTERIOUS DOG** to the Isle of Smile, and **The Mubbles** are overjoyed, until he causes too much **HAVOC!** Time spent with **The Mubbles** on the Isle of Smile makes everything better – you'll see.

- The book features a QR code that will take you to a website full of extra content from **The Mubbles** and The Isle of Smile – featuring original music videos, songs and activities, the channel already has 100k followers with the fanbase growing every day!
- **Tom Gates** series has sold over 16 million copies in 47 languages/territories across the world



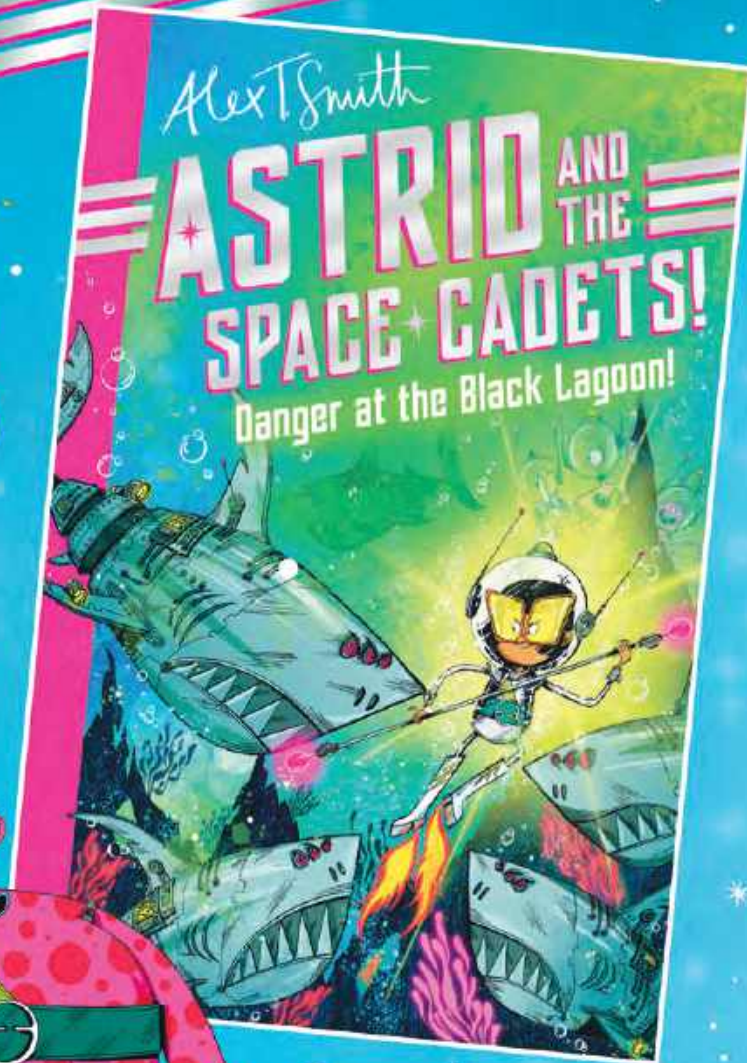
Alex T. Smith ASTRID AND THE SPACE CADETS! Danger at the Black Lagoon!

BLAST OFF on an adventure with the Space Cadets! From beloved children's author-illustrator Alex T. Smith, the bestselling creator of *Claude* and *How Winston Delivered Christmas*, comes a funny and fast-paced illustrated adventure through space.

Filled with out-of-this world illustrations on every page, *Astrid and the Space Cadets: Danger at the Black Lagoon!* is perfect for fans of *Grimwood* and *The Bad Guys*, and for kids who are ready to read by themselves.



- Alex T. Smith's middle-grade titles with Macmillan have been translated into over twenty languages
- Filled with black and white illustrations by the author



Alex T. Smith

HOW WINSTON DELIVERED CHRISTMAS AT LAST

Join Winston the mouse in another irresistible festive adventure!

Christmas is approaching and Winston is determined to have absolutely NO adventures this year – he's looking forward to spending the festive season cosy and snug with Oliver.

But when he stumbles across an undelivered letter, Winston just knows he has to help. Along with the help of old friends and new, Winston travels to snow-covered New York City in search of a little girl who lived on Mistletoe Street eighty years ago . . .

- Almost 350k of Winston's adventures have been sold worldwide
 - A film adaptation of *How Winston Delivered Christmas* is currently in production
 - The perfect heartwarming festive story to enjoy over advent, told in 24-and-a-half chapters, one to enjoy each day in the lead-up to Christmas. Each chapter ends with a Christmas activity that all the family can enjoy together



Jon Lock & Nich Angell

TINY HERCULES



The mad-cap humour of Dog Man meets the accessible, high-concept hook of Loki, based on the beloved myths and legends that have helped turn Percy Jackson into a bestseller.

HE'S BRAVE!
HE'S STRONG!
HE'S THE SIZE OF A JAM JAR!

He's Tiny Hercules, the world's tiniest, mightiest hero – and he's winning his way back to Tiny Olympus, one legendary deed at a time! Tiny Hercules won't let anything stop him, not even a suspiciously Zeus-like swan...

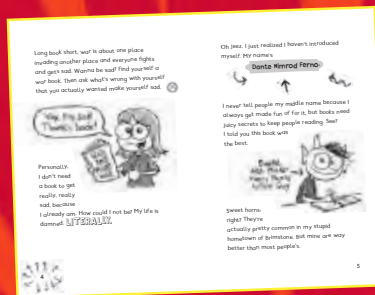
- Full of wacky antics and laugh-out-loud humour, *Tiny Hercules* is the perfect read for boys and girls aged 6+
- *Tiny Hercules's* main adventure is 173 pages with an optional short story and bonus content to bring it up to 208 pages
- The first in a new series, four books have been acquired with the second title due to publish in September 2026
- North American rights sold in a 6-figure preempt



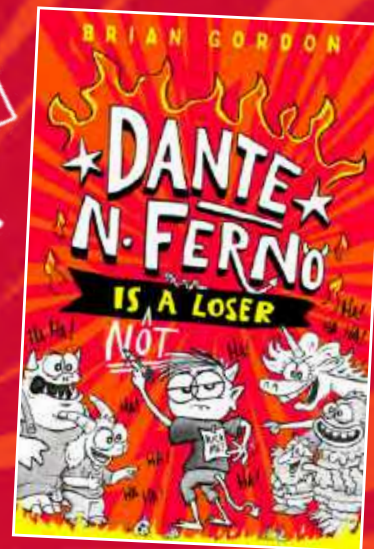
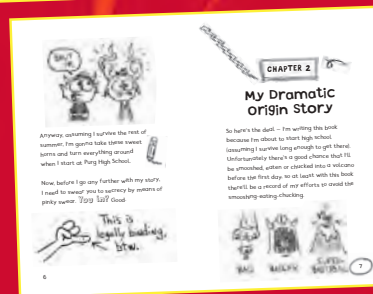
★ DANTE ★ N-FERNO IS A LOSER NOT

BRIAN GORDON

- Fully illustrated throughout in black and white by the author
- Clear, commercial concept and funny, accessible writing pair with the illustrations to make this the perfect series for reluctant readers
- Launch of a new series, with books 2 and 3 following in six-month intervals, to gain the momentum that is so important for this age group



HA!
HA!
HA!



LOKI meets WIMPY KID in this hilarious new highly illustrated series for readers aged 7+!

Dante N. Ferno is winning ... at being a LOSER.

My Completely and 100% Foolproof Plan to Become the COOLEST PERSON EVER:

1. Completely reinvent myself.
2. Make a ton of new friends and humbly accept my nomination as their leader.
3. Become good at sports stuff and win all the game things.
4. Rub my newfound popularity in the face of all the haters.

What could go wrong in a school full of creatures from myth and legends? (Spoiler: A lot!)

THE LAST WOLF

ROB BIDDULPH

The Goonies meets the legend of the werewolf in this thrilling adventure by superstar author and illustrator Rob Biddulph. Perfect for boys and girls aged 9–12 and illustrated in black and white throughout by the author.

Four friends Jax, Jovi, Esau and Fourth – the Moonlighters – regularly sneak out on nights of the full moon, enjoying the freedom of the deserted streets of Moonhaven.

They are careful to avoid the Nighthawks, who strictly police the curfew that, it is said, has protected people from werewolves for decades.

Everything changes when news of a werewolf attack turns suspicion on the friends. The Nighthawks are hunting anyone who broke the curfew that night and the Moonlighters have no choice but to run. So the mystery begins, rumours start, friendships are tested, secrets are kept and broken, and the friends don't know who to trust – not even each other . . .

- The first of a thrilling new werewolf duology.
Book 2 follows in February 2026
- 100 black-and-white illustrations fully integrated throughout – perfect for even the most reluctant readers



C. M. LEWIS

QUILL

AND THE LAST GENERATION

A stunning new middle-grade, epic fantasy adventure inspired by Celtic mythology

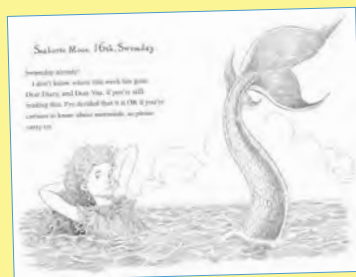
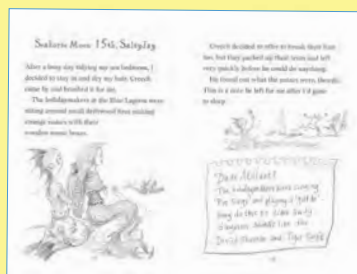
Quill is one of the last generation of children born into a fading modern world. No babies have been born for twelve years. No one knows why.

Everything changes when a young shapeshifter – a girl in the form of a raven – opens Quill's eyes to a world of myth and magic and an urgent quest to recover the Light of the World. New friends and loyal warriors believe Quill is the hero they have been waiting for. But what if they're wrong? Fighting doubt and uncertainty, he must master newfound powers in the Underworld, learn to ride a beautiful but deadly water horse, and prepare to battle the King of Darkness, his fearsome dragons and monstrous hound. Everyone he loves is counting on him. Can Quill embrace his destiny and claim the Light of the World before it's too late?

- The first title in a new middle-grade fantasy adventure series for children 9+
- The author is BAFTA award-winner, Branford Boase and *The Week Junior*-shortlisted Caryl Lewis writing middle-grade fantasy under the pseudonym C. M. Lewis. Caryl is also a three-time winner of Welsh Book of the Year and the Waterstones Welsh Book of the Year 2022
- Thirty black-and-white illustrations throughout

Chris Riddell MERMAID'S DIARY

- First in a new series from Chris Riddell
- The ever-popular illustrated diary format combined with Chris's trademark wit and invention is perfect for readers aged 7+
- Beautiful hardback package, with fully integrated black-and-white illustrations by Chris Riddell throughout



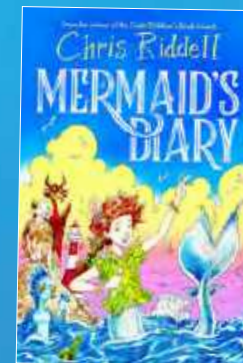
Fans of Ottoline and Goth Girl, will love award-winner Chris Riddell's new series featuring mermaid Atalanta Scrimshaw and her friends in Sleepy Cove.

Meet shy mermaid Atalanta Scrimshaw.

She lives in the quiet backwater of Sleepy Cove, collects messages in bottles, rides seahorses and enjoys the hobby of 'walking' on the beach and visiting friends.

Life is perfect, until Atalanta learns of plans by developers Bristle & Splinter to transform Sleepy Cove into a luxury, seaside golf resort.

Realizing that this plan will destroy her home, she enlists the help of her friends, old and new, to try to stop it . . .



THE BLOCKBUSTERS!

FRANK
COTTRELL-BOYCE

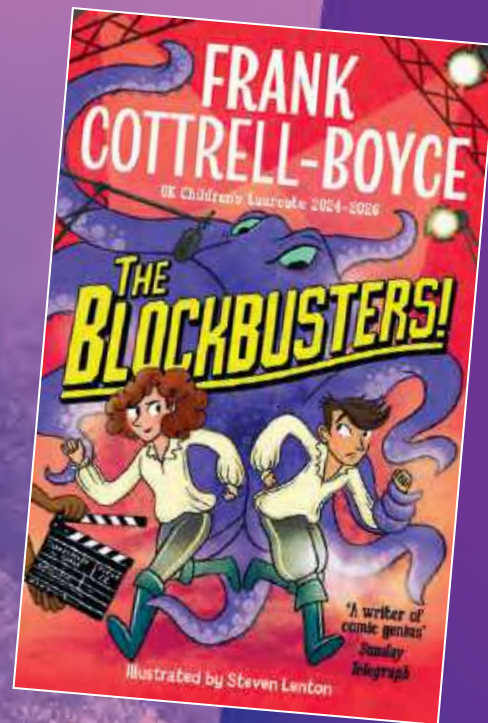
Illustrated by Steven Lenton

A funny and heart-warming adventure giving a peep behind the scenes of a Hollywood movie by UK Children's Laureate and bestseller Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

When new boy Rafa and his friends accidentally stray onto the set of a Hollywood blockbuster, the last thing they expect is to become part of the action. Rafa's likeness to the famous movie star, BB, gives him VIP access all areas, including the banquet of catering doughnuts!

But Rafa isn't the only one having an adventure. His big brother, Cillian, is missing. He sent Rafa a clue to his location, but he can't really be in actual Hollywood, can he? It's up to Rafa to keep acting the part of a movie star, if he is to find his brother – and home.

- Hilarious, authentic adventure revealing the chaos of life behind the scenes on a blockbuster movie set by award-winning screenwriter and movie industry insider Frank Cottrell-Boyce
- Gorgeous hardback illustrated in black and white throughout by Steven Lenton
- Perfect blend of prize potential and child-appeal from a multi-award-winning author



GREENWILD

THE FOREST IN THE SKY

- The epic finale to the Greenwild trilogy, from Overall Waterstones Children's Book Prize Winner Pari Thomson, takes place in the Amazon rainforest – the most biodiverse place on earth – beautifully illustrated throughout by Elisa Paganelli
- The bestselling Greenwild series is gaining momentum, with 40k copies sold through UK TCM
- This series is perfect reading for fans of *The Explorer* and *Skandar*. *Skandar*'s A. F. Steadman said of the book: 'Phenomenal . . . if you don't believe in magic, you will after you've read Greenwild'
- The gentle environmental messaging of this series makes it a perfect pick for parents and teachers, while the fast-paced adventure and magical storytelling has captured children's hearts



The battle for the magical world is only just beginning . . .

With the support of the Iffenwilders and their mighty water magic, Daisy and her friends are finally setting off to rescue the Botanists held prisoner in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. But when an unexpected attack sends the rescue mission spinning off course, Daisy and Max are separated, and Max is shipwrecked on an impossible shore with no way of escape. Even Daisy's arrival at the forest in the sky – the stunning Amazerian pocket of the Greenwild, teeming with green magic – is in jeopardy as the mysterious Reaper King draws ever closer.

TIME KEYS THE LEGEND OF VIKING THUNDER

M. G. LEONARD

Illustrated by Manuel Šumberac

Blockbuster adventure meets the mystery of time travel in the second title in this contemporary, action-packed adventure series by the bestselling, award-winning author of *Beetle Boy* and *Adventures on Trains* M. G. Leonard. Illustrated by Manuel Šumberac.

'Classic and fresh – a breathtaking adventure'
Eoin Colfer, bestselling author of *Artemis Fowl*

'Readers are going to fall in love with this brilliant new series'
A. F. Steadman, bestselling author of *Skandar*

Sim's Uncle Emmett is missing and on the run from the ruthless Council of Keys. Sim and his cousin Jeopardy are determined to find him. Their search takes them through a hidden door in time to Viking Norway and a desperate mission across land and sea to stop the legendary Gjallerhorn – said to herald Ragnarök, the end of the world – from falling into the wrong hands.

- The second title in a time travelling, mystery series for boys and girls of 8–12
- Illustrated in black and white throughout; publishing two titles per year in paperback launching with *Hunt for the Golden Scarab* in January and followed by *The Legend of Viking Thunder* in September 2025
- The settings for the first four are:
 1. Ancient Egypt
 2. Viking Norway
 3. Ancient Rome
 4. Elizabethan England



YOU AND ME

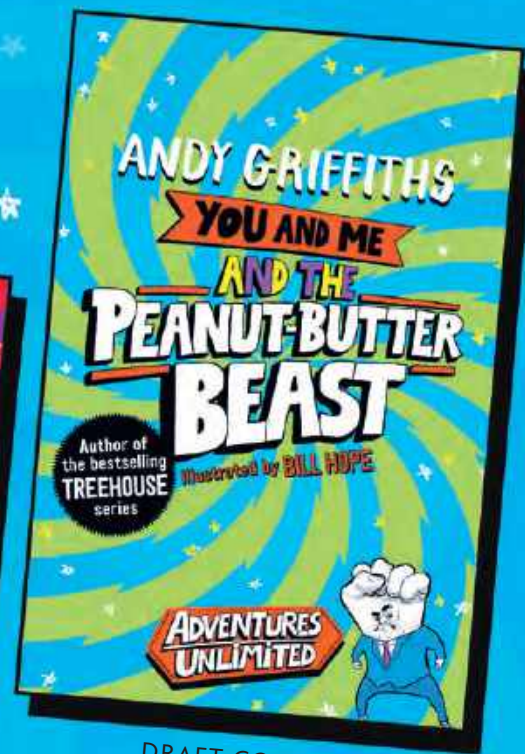
ANDY GRIFFITHS

Illustrated by Bill Hope

From the author behind the multi-million bestselling Treehouse series comes the second book in this brand-new exciting adventure series – where YOU'RE the main character!

Remember when we found that really deep hole and you jumped in and I had to jump in to rescue you and at the bottom of the hole we found the cave of the legendary peanut-butter beast? What? You don't remember? But that was one of our deepest – and most dangerous – adventures ever! Let me remind you how it all went down . . . and down and down and down!

- From the bestselling creator of the the Treehouse series, Andy Griffiths, who has achieved worldwide sales of over 12 million and been translated into 37 languages
- Hilarious, action packed, highly-illustrated new offering that will have readers racing to the very end



DRAFT COVER

**FIRST
INK**



LIKE THE MOON WE RISE

ANNABELLE CORMACK

The first in an epic trilogy – an atmospheric gothic fantasy romance by debut author Annabelle Cormack, for fans of *Belladonna* and *Red Queen* with the occult tones of *One Dark Window*.

- Rich world-building and high stakes make this the perfect witchy gothic fantasy to fall for in 2026
- Popular YA tropes include: friends-to-enemies-to-lovers, slow-burn romance, hidden identities, witches, touch her and die, dragons and more
- UK-based author writing with Celtic influence

SERVE THE EMPRESS . . . OR BURN.

Auriel has spent her life indentured to the mysterious, cruel hag Dakr, working as a poison maiden to do her bidding – but she can almost taste freedom; freedom to find her mother, freedom to hone her magick on her own terms . . . as long as she keeps it secret. Because magick can only be legally practised by witches who serve the Empress, or they will be punished.

But instead of freedom, Auriel is handed over to the haughty Ambrose, a young prince intent on revenge. Ambrose has a proposition for Auriel: if she pretends to be the prophesied all-powerful Khelani, and helps him liberate their people from the Empress's control, he'll grant her freedom.

Thrown into a dangerous scheme, Auriel discovers her friend, Faolan Flynn, has been in on this plan all along and spying on her. Friends soon turn to rivals – but she can't deny the growing attraction she feels for him as she's trained to defeat the Empress . . . nor can she shake the dark presence that has always been with her. The more Auriel learns about Flynn, Ambrose and the Empress, the less sure she is who to trust.

But the prophecy is just a story . . . right?

LOVE, GODS & SINNERS

CAMILLE CHONG

- Camille Chong is a Singapore-raised writer whose debut YA novel is a love letter to teenagers who grew up on white, overly-cishet superhero franchises
- The setting is richly drawn, the characters flawed and fun; the book will appeal to adults who like the chemistry of *Gideon the Ninth* and teens who came to *Iron Widow* for its high-concept adventure
- The book plays with familiar YA tropes like enemies-to-lovers but has a wonderfully original setting and tone, and is the fresh contemporary fantasy that readers will be craving in a busy romantasy market

Two teens, descended from gods, must choose between love and villainy in *Love, Gods and Sinners*, a sizzling enemies-to-lovers urban fantasy.

In a glittering, fantastical Singapore, where humans are born with ancient magic into a polarized near-future society, two young research scientists find themselves falling in love. The only problem? They've just been tasked to kill each other . . .

Raven spends her nights (and her magic) carrying out dangerous missions for the maligned Foxes, descendants of the Chinese Nine-Tailed Foxes. But by day, she's simply Harper Leong. A magic-less research intern, Harper is the playful academic rival of the famous Tia Njauw. Tia uses her unique brand of moon magic to protect the city – and she hates Raven.

When Raven is tasked to murder Tia in order to secure the future of the Foxes, the two teens start to understand that the concepts of right and wrong can be just as complicated – and dangerous – as falling in love.



Wish You Were Her

Elle McNicoll

Book Lovers meets You've Got Mail in this enemies-to-lovers romance from bestselling, award-winning author Elle McNicoll.

18-year-old Allegra Brooks has skyrocketed to fame after starring in a hit television show, and all she wants is a normal teenage summer.

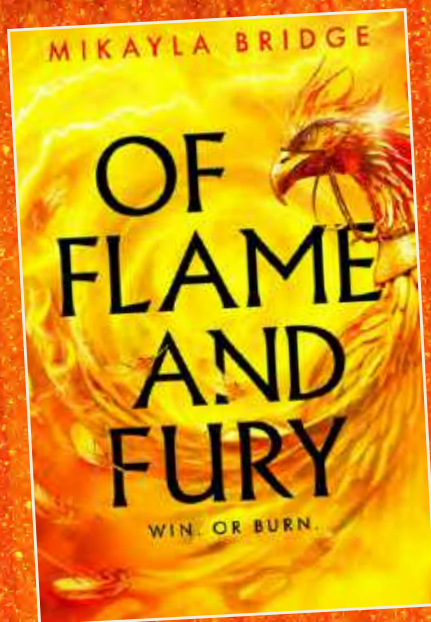
Her destination for escape? Lake Pristine and its annual Book Festival, organized by the dedicated but unfriendly senior bookseller, Jonah Thorne.

But in small towns like Lake Pristine, misunderstandings abound, and before long the two are drawn into high-profile hostility that's a far cry from the drama-free holiday Allegra was craving. Thank goodness for her saving grace: the increasingly personal emails she's been sharing with a charming bookseller who is *definitely not* Jonah Thorne . . .



A romcom about finding the one person who makes you feel yourself when the whole world is watching.

- Perfect for fans of Emily Henry, Sophie Kinsella and Beth Reekles, this is a charming, funny and swoon-worthy romance centring two autistic lead characters
- Elle's star is on the rise: with a major TV series based on her debut novel *A Kind of Spark* continuing its success with a second season, and a growing international profile



OF FLAME AND FURY

***Fourth Wing* meets *The Fast and the Furious* in *Of Flame and Fury* – the explosive YA fantasy by debut author Mikayla Bridge. With deadly phoenixes, edge-of-your-seat action and a smouldering enemies-to-lovers romance, you won't want to miss the hottest YA fantasy of the summer.**

Hotter than F1. Deadlier than Dragons.

Win. Or Burn.

- Global Macmillan pre-empt, jointly acquired with Macmillan US and Macmillan ANZ
- A lead YA of summer 2025, with a major global comms campaign
- Clear, commercial concept that combines the deadly magical creatures of *Fourth Wing* with the edge-of-your-seat racing of Formula One

On an island built from ash and shrouded in fire, phoenix racing is the most profitable – and deadly – work you can find. No one knows that better than Kelyn Varra and her crew, the Crimson Howlers.

When the Howler's rider is killed during a race, Kel is forced to join forces with arrogant, hot-headed Warren Coupers – the last person she would ever want on her team. But with her rising debts and threats to her beloved phoenix, Savita, the pressure to win has never been higher and Kel is left with no other choice.

But then mysterious tech mogul Canen Cristo takes an unsettling interest in the team. Amidst perilous races, the threat of an unstoppable disease and her growing attraction to Coup, Kel soon uncovers a sinister plot that will threaten everything she cares for, as she fights to keep Savita and her magic out of the hands of those who would use it for their own gain . . .

THE SLEEPLESS

Godkiller meets Powerless in this epic gods-and-monsters romantasy from British Fantasy Award-winning author Jen Williams.

Elver was saved by the Queen of Serpents when she was just a child. Artair spends his nights shut up in a tower because of the dangerous spirit that overtakes his body when he sleeps. When Artair is sent on a mission to steal a monster cub that is under Elver's protection, he – and Lucian, the other spirit inhabiting his body – are set on a collision course with the monster girl that will challenge everything they think they know about their world.



- Full of fresh takes on beloved fantasy tropes and stunning, immersive world-building, this epic fantasy is bound to sweep you away
- A love triangle as you've never seen it: Elver finds herself falling both for Artair, the brave and kind human who gets through to her after she's sworn off humanity – and Lucian, the passionate and volatile spirit who inhabits Artair's body at night
- Jen Williams is an award-winner in the adult fantasy sphere: her first three books were nominated for British Fantasy Awards in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and she won the award for Best Fantasy Novel in 2018 and 2019
- Sold in 9 territories

