



Export Highlights January – June 2025



BIG BRANDS 2025

30TH JANUARY 2025



13TH FEBRUARY 2025



13TH MARCH 2025



18TH MARCH

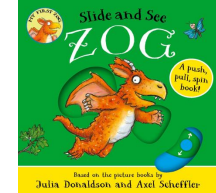
10TH APRIL 2025



8TH MAY 2025

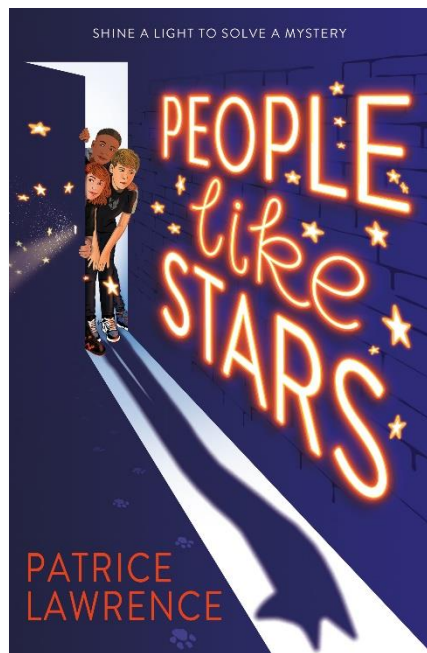


5TH JUNE 2025



PEOPLE LIKE STARS

By Patrice Lawrence



A page-turning mystery and exploration of fractured families, long-buried secrets and the power of friendship, told with warmth and compassion.

Ayrton and his mum have recently moved back to the area they lived in when he was a baby - the area they fled after a local woman stole him away from Mum when she was out shopping, thankfully returning him after only a short time had passed. Mum is over-protective of Ayrton, who just wants to be a normal boy.

At his new school, he discovers that his new friend Stanley is linked to him in an astonishing way: Stanley's grandma was the woman who took Ayrton briefly while his mum's back was turned. She became estranged from her own family because of her actions and Stanley has never known her. Together the boys decide to track the grandma - now a famous artist with the Banksy-style pseudonym Vixen - down, so Ayrton's mother can get answers to the questions that torment her and hopefully find peace and let him live a life with more freedom.

Key Selling Points

- This is the multi-award-winning Patrice Lawrence's first contemporary middle grade novel.
- Patrice's contemporary YA mystery stories pack huge emotional punch with satisfying twists and characters to really care about: *People Like Stars* does exactly this for a younger audience.
- Beautifully written, page-turning and by turns deeply moving and warmly witty.

Pub Date: 30th January 2025

ISBN: 9780702315640

RRP: £7.99

Age: 09-12

Binding: B format – paperback

Extent: 304pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

CBMC code: D3N79

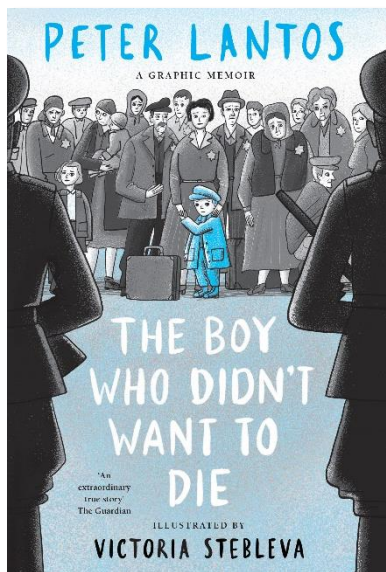
English Language Rights: World

Patrice Lawrence was born in Brighton and brought up in an Italian-Trinidadian household in Sussex. Her first novel *Orangeboy* was one of the most talked-about YA books of 2016 and won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for Older Fiction and the Bookseller YA Book Prize that year. Ever since, her work has consistently featured on prestigious prize lists and *Eight Pieces Of Silva* won the Crime Fest Award for Best Crime Novel for Young Adults and the Jhalak Children's and Young Adult Prize for Book of the Year by a Writer of Colour. Patrice has been awarded the MBE for services to literature.

THE BOY WHO DIDN'T WANT TO DIE: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR

By Peter Lantos

Illustrated by Victoria Stebleva



This is a story of survival, of love between mother and son and of enduring hope in the face of unspeakable hardship. Now available in graphic novel format.

On an extraordinary journey, made by a boy of five through war-torn Europe in 1944 and 1945, Peter travels with his parents from a small Hungarian town, through Austria and then Germany. Along the journey, Peter realises that the adventure is really a nightmare: sleeping in a tent and then under the sky, catching butterflies in the meadows, watching bombs falling from the blue sky outside Vienna, learning maths from his mother in Belsen. All this is drawn against a background of terror, starvation, infection and his father's and grandmother's deaths, stunningly illustrated in black and cyan used to great effect.

Key Selling Points

- Written by one of the last survivors of the Holocaust
- A first-hand account of the journey to Bergen-Belsen
- Written by a recipient of the *British Empire Medal* in 2020 for services to Holocaust education and awareness}
- Peter has given testimony to the *Holocaust Memorial Foundation*
- Nominated for *The British Book Awards Children's Non-Fiction Book of the Year for 2024*
- Winner: *UKLA Best Information Book 2024*



Pub Date: 2nd January 2025

ISBN: 9780702334467

RRP: £10.99

Age: 08-12

Binding: Non Standard – paperback

Extent: 144pp

TPS: 229mm x 153mm

CBMC code: D5N79

Illustrations: 2-colour

English Language Rights:

World excluding Australia and New Zealand

Click [HERE](#) to watch the trailer

Professor Peter Lantos is a Fellow of the *Academy of Medical Sciences* and in his previous life was an internationally renowned clinical neuroscientist. Peter was awarded the *British Empire Medal* in 2020 for 'services to Holocaust education and awareness'. He is one of the last of the generation of survivors and his books will serve as a testimony to his experience. Peter lives in London.

THE BOY WHO DIDN'T WANT TO DIE: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR

By Peter Lantos
Illustrated by Victoria Stebleva



THE BOY WHO DIDN'T WANT TO DIE: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR

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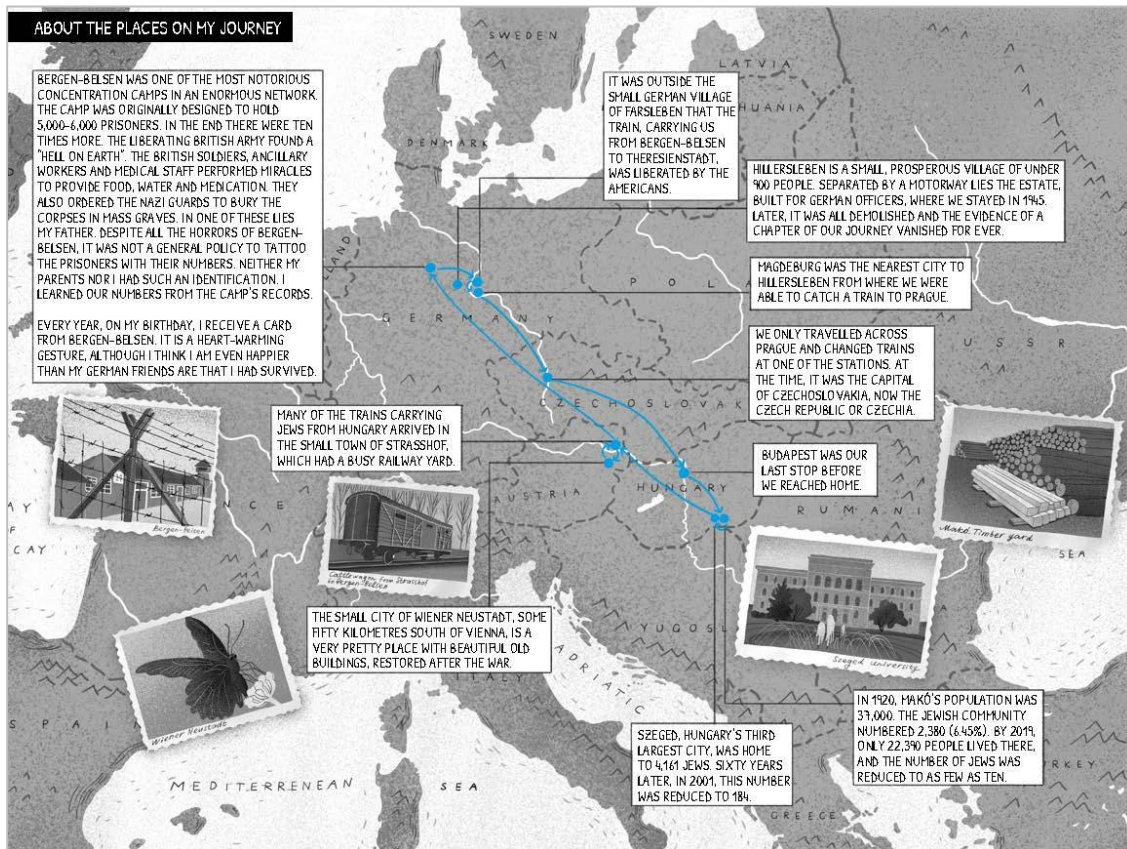
Illustrated by Victoria Stebleva



THE BOY WHO DIDN'T WANT TO DIE: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR

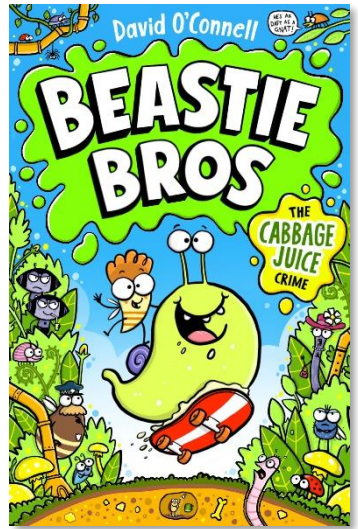
By Peter Lantos

Illustrated by Victoria Stebleva



BEASTIE BROS

By David O'Connell



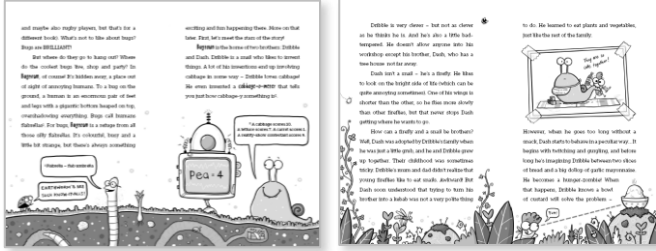
A brand-new highly illustrated, accessible young fiction series with a winning blend of chaos, wacky humour and adventure. Perfect for fans of *Bunny vs Monkey* and *Investigators*.

Dash is a little firefly. One of his wings is shorter than the other so he flies more slowly than everyone else, but that doesn't stop him getting where he wants to go. When he's happy, his bottom lights up! And he's happiest when he's eating custard and hanging out with his adoptive brother, Dribble the snail. Dribble is never in a hurry. He likes to invent things - and eat cabbage. He keeps all kinds of useful objects hidden inside his shell. They help to keep him out of trouble, which is never far away...

Join our minibeast heroes on their first adventure as they foil a master criminal plot involving a crystal worm, ancient custard, a stolen Roboslug and some dastardly dung beetles...

Key Selling Points

- A charming, funny, author-illustrated project from David O'Connell, the illustrator behind Tom Vaughan's *Hercules*, Pip Bird's *The Naughtiest Unicorn*, and many more.
- Perfect for readers aged 6+ and fans of *Jamie Smart*, *Toto the Ninja Cat* and *Dave Pigeon*.
- A witty, laugh-out-loud tale packed with hilarious characters like Flattened Dominic the slug and Mr Truffle the ball of dung.



Pub Date: 13th February 2025

ISBN: 9780702338793

RRP: £6.99

Age: 06-09

Binding: B format – paperback

Extent: 160pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

CBMC code: C3N79

Illustrations: Black and white


English Language Rights: World excluding Australia and New Zealand

**Book #2
coming August
2025**


David O'Connell is a writer and illustrator living in England. He is the illustrator of the *Naughtiest Unicorn* series, Tom Vaughan's *Hercules: The Diary of a Sort of Hero*, non-fiction by Dr Ranj including *The Sunday Times* best-selling *How to Grow Up and Feel Amazing*, and many other picture books, children's fiction and non-fiction. David loves comics, TV shows about space, and sitting in his garden talking to all the bugs that live there. Sometimes they talk back, or so he thinks... He is also a doctor (of science, not medicine) and loves learning all about the natural world.

BEASTIE BROS

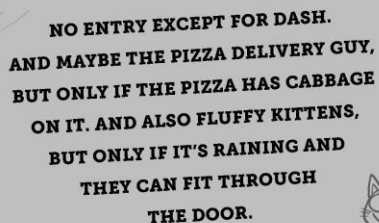
By David O'Connell



been seen heading out of **Bugtown** towards the seaside. Hopefully the rockets would run out of fuel before she reached the cliffs overlooking the sea...



This morning, when Dash landed, he saw that Taneesha, Tilda and some other bugs were already outside Dribble's workshop, trying to peer in through a window. The door had a sign on it saying:



**NO ENTRY EXCEPT FOR DASH.
AND MAYBE THE PIZZA DELIVERY GUY,
BUT ONLY IF THE PIZZA HAS CABBAGE
ON IT. AND ALSO FLUFFY KITTENS,
BUT ONLY IF IT'S RAINING AND
THEY CAN FIT THROUGH
THE DOOR.**



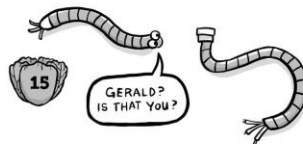
The bugs were chattering curiously.

"What's he making, Dash?" asked Taneesha, frowning and folding her long, spindly arms so that she looked like an angry pencil. "And when do we start worrying?"

"I'm already worried," said Tilda, wiggling her segments nervously. "Everything that snail makes always ends in explosions, disaster or destruction." Tilda could be a bit of a drama queen.

"Did you say explosions, disaster and destruction?" gasped two little beetles who happened to be passing. They stopped and stared, their eyes wide.

"That only happened once... or perhaps twice," said Dash, trying to calm the situation. "And I wouldn't call them explosions. More like quite loud booming noises that sort of ... break things."



BEASTIE BROS

By David O'Connell

The beetles exchanged glances. "We like explosions, disaster and destruction," they said enthusiastically, grinning at Dash in a way that made him slightly uneasy.

"Perhaps I'll see what my brother's up to," he said quickly.

Dash carefully opened the workshop door. He glanced around the huge room, which was built under the twisty roots of a tree. It was filled with shelves of tools and pots of nails, and cupboards stuffed with scrap metal and plastic that Dash had collected. Plans and drawings of Dribble's inventions lay scattered everywhere.

"Hello, Dash!" said Dribble, looking up from his workbench and grinning.

The snail was carefully stirring a glass jar of bubbling purple liquid. Dribble didn't have hands, but he could use his sticky slime to hold on to things like tools, pencils or spoons when he



BEASTIE BROS

By David O'Connell



needed them. Dash had to wipe the tools before he borrowed them, so they didn't get stuck to him. This had once been very embarrassing at a party, when everyone thought that he had come dressed as a spanner.

"There's quite a crowd outside," said Dash, giving the eager beetles, who had managed to follow him, a gentle shove back out of the door. He shut and locked it swiftly.

"My fans, probably," said Dribble. "I expect they're curious to see what my genius mind comes up with next."

"Something like that," said Dash. "I wanted to ask if you'll come with me to the **Museum of Cool Stuff**. It's got a bowl of the oldest custard in the whole world. I've always wanted to see it."

"I'm too busy," said Dribble.



"I've got to work on my new invention. I've just finished skeebling⁵ it with the **Snailmaster 5000**⁶, and now I must test it to make sure it works properly."

Dash looked at the bubbling liquid.

"What does it do?" he asked. "Is it a special polish for snot crystals? An invisibility cordial? A cure for warts?"

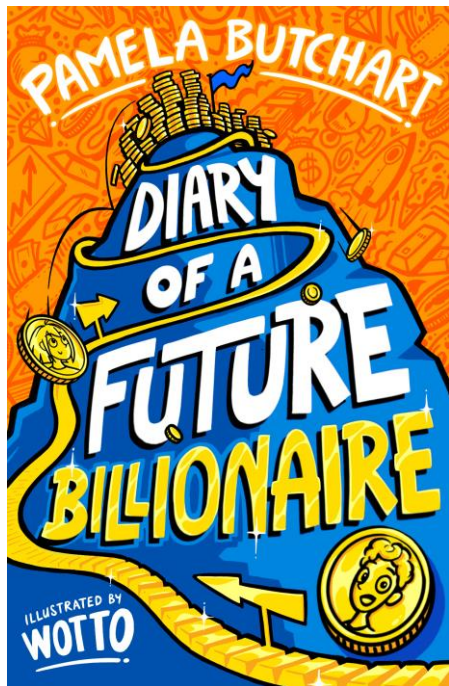
Dribble gave a gurgling laugh. "That isn't my invention! I was just brewing some toadstool tea. Would you like a cup?"

"No, thank you!" said Dash. "So if that's not your invention, what is?"



DIARY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE

By Pamela Butchart



The first book in a hilarious, high-energy new middle-grade series from million-copy-bestselling author Pamela Butchart. Just how far will one boy go to become a fully-fledged billionaire?

So, here's the thing about me. I'm a billionaire. An actual REAL-LIFE billionaire! And you know how some people who get rich say stuff like, 'I can't believe it!' and 'I never thought it would happen to me!' Well ... I CAN believe it. And I KNEW it would happen to me. Because I PLANNED IT. I PLANNED to become the world's RICHEST ten-year-old. And you know what? It WORKED.

Key Selling Points

- Perfect for fans of *Tom Gates* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
- Voice-led fiction told in engaging diary format with black and white illustrations by new illustrator WOTTO throughout
- Pamela Butchart's books have sold into 26 languages worldwide
- A 3-book-series publishing Feb 25/Feb 26/Feb 27
- Pamela says: "I'm hugely excited to share Ben's billionaire diary with the world! I love the characters and I love writing about kids who grew up like I did. You're never an only child on a council estate!"

Pub Date: 13th February 2025

ISBN: 9780702333200

RRP: £7.99

Age: 08-12

Binding: B format – paperback

Extent: 224pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

CBMC code: D3N79

Illustrations: Black and white

English Language Rights: World excluding Australia and New Zealand

Pamela Butchart lives in Dundee with her son and their awesome cat. If she wasn't working as a writer and a teacher she'd like to open a luxury hotel for stray cats. Her top selling stories include *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners* which won the Blue Peter Best Story Award and *My Head Teacher is a Vampire Rat* which won The Children's Book Award. Two of her books, *Petunia Perry* and *the Curse of the Ugly Pigeon* and *There's a Werewolf in My Tent*, were shortlisted for the Lollies – the Laugh Out Loud Awards.

DIARY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE

By Pamela Butchart

son using all the ketchup, can you?

I remembered what I'd overheard Mum say on the phone to Aunty Gemma a few weeks ago:

"He's spent it all! **ALL OF IT!** We've been saving that money for years. It was for rent and emergencies! And now it's gone ... and we own a **MONGOOSE FARM!!**"

None of us even knew what a mongoose was.

Dad said **HE** knew what a mongoose was but when Mum handed him a pen and told him to "draw a mongoose" he couldn't do it.

I asked my friend Bilal to try and he drew this weird face, which looked a bit like a person with loads of eyelashes and a big, surprised O for a mouth.

Apparently he's trying this new art style called **ABSTRACT**. We did a class on abstract art at school and it inspired him.



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He's one of a kind is my mate Bilal.

Anyway, it turned out in the end that it didn't even matter what a mongoose was because the farm that Dad had used all our money to buy didn't even exist.

It was a **SCAM**.

And now we had ...

NO MONEY,

NO HOLIDAY

(and **NO MONGOOSE FARM**).

Dad explained that he'd bought the farm (which turned out to be **FAKE**) from the new guy at work (who mysteriously disappeared as soon as Dad handed over the cash). And that no one (not even the police) have been able to track him down since.

To be honest, I don't know how hard the police are looking, because when Mum phoned 999 and the police showed up at our flat I don't think they actually believed Dad.

They kept asking us if this was a joke and why someone would hand over their life savings to a guy they'd just met - **AND** they kept asking Dad what a mongoose farm was.

Dad explained that we now owned a plot of land in Wales with nothing on it.

Dad actually drove us all there for a camping trip a couple of weeks ago when we found out about the scam.



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DIARY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE

By Pamela Butchart

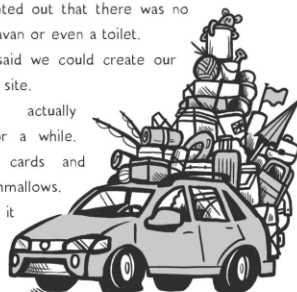
He said it could be our holiday home.

Mum pointed out that there was no house or caravan or even a toilet.

But Dad said we could create our own camping site.

It was actually quite fun for a while. We played cards and toasted marshmallows.

But then it got cold and the fire went out and Dad



couldn't relight it and we didn't have any money to go to a restaurant so we had to eat cold beans out of a can and share a small tent with Baby Angel who snored the whole night!

Anyway, Dad tried to explain to the police what a mongoose was. But the truth was that Baby Angel's crayon drawings would have been more useful.



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And that's when Mum yelled, **"YOU'RE A MONGOOSE, PATRICK!"**

That's about the time the police left and Mum took Baby Angel and went to stay at Auntie Gemma's house for the night because she said she couldn't even look at Dad.

And I went up to my room and googled "mongoose", because I had absolutely no idea what one was. Here is what it looks like if you're interested:



So anyway ... back to the stew.

If Mum hadn't made this particularly disgusting stew, I never would have gone and sat with Dad in the living room.

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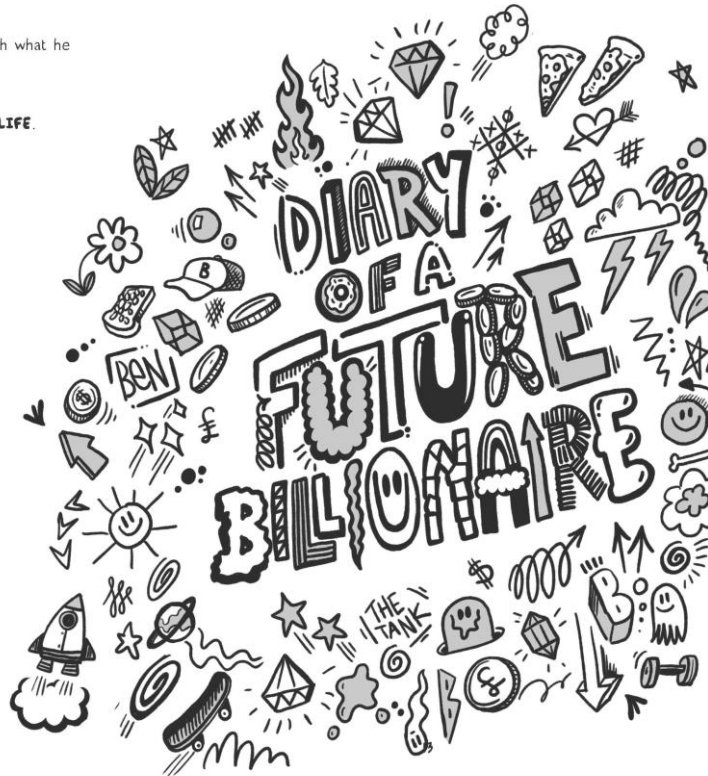
DIARY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE

By Pamela Butchart

And I never would have been forced to watch what he was watching on TV.

So I will be forever grateful for that stew.

Because what Dad was watching changed my **LIFE**.



CLOUD NINE

By Sue H. Cunningham



A hilarious, heartfelt supernatural YA rom-com in which a would-be guardian angel falls in love with her target - perfect for fans of *The Good Place*, *Afterlove*, and *The Dead Romantics*

Sixteen-year-old Evangeline has been dead for decades. Since she accidentally saved her brother's life, she's been given a spot on Cloud Nine - the upper echelon of the afterlife, full of gourmet food and lux surroundings. Here Evangeline works as a celestial guide, helping those on Earth flagged for imminent demise, helping them use their final hours to elevate them to the best Cloud ranking possible.

Unfortunately, she makes the fatal mistake of falling in love with a living boy, Tom. Why can Tom see her, when he isn't her target? And how can they make this work, when he's alive, she's dead, and fraternising with Beforelifers is forbidden? Suddenly, Evvy is facing the biggest challenge of her Afterlife...

Key Selling Points

- A fresh, original and funny supernatural romance – like *You've Reached Sam* or *Afterlove*, with the humour of *The Good Place* and the *Barbie* movie
- Featuring a relatable contemporary world and an imagined afterlife
- A heartfelt romance spanning life and death, with a touching and uplifting conclusion and an unforgettable cast of characters from across history
- Praise for *Totally Deceased*: "Funny, heartfelt and I loved the mystery" - Rosie Talbot, author of *Sixteen Souls*

Pub Date: 13th
February 2025

ISBN: 9780702325861

RRP: £8.99

Age: 12-20

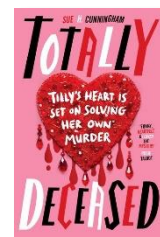
Binding: Paperback

Extent: 416pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

CBMC code: E3N79

**English Language
Rights:** World



Sue Cunningham lives in Manchester with her husband, two sons and a female cockapoo (a last-ditch attempt to even up the sexes). When she's not writing or tripping over electric guitar cables, she works for the NHS. Sue has won the *Write Mentor Children's Novel Award 2020* and was longlisted in the *Bath Children's Novel Award 2020*.

RED FLAGS

By Sophie Jo



Poppy is known for her high standards. Why bother with relationships when boys don't ever seem to live up to her expectations? One red flag and she's out. Cam is known for quickly developing the ick. He's never dated anyone for long – a week here, a month there, but he always spooks.

When Poppy's friends challenge her to give someone a chance for two whole months, Poppy decides that Cam (her mysterious bus crush) could be the best of an underwhelming bunch. But Cam's been set his own challenge: he's banned from ending things in his next relationship ... and that means he's ready to do whatever he can to put Poppy off.

Two skeptics. Two months. And this time, neither of them can disappear the moment they spot something they don't like...

Key Selling Points

- For fans of HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS, Jenny Han, Emily Henry and Dolly Alderton: a new laugh-out-loud 90s dare-trope romance you can't help but fall in love with
- Discusses the difference between a harmless ick and a legitimate 'red flag' when it comes to lying, gaslighting or invading privacy from a dual narrative POV
- Featuring popular BookTok romance tropes #enemiestolovers and #forcedproximity
- The RED FLAGS option has been sold to Netflix US by Adam Sandler's production company, Happy Madison

Pub Date: 13th
February 2025

ISBN: 9780702334399

RRP: £8.99

Age: 12-20

Binding: B format -
paperback

Extent: 340pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

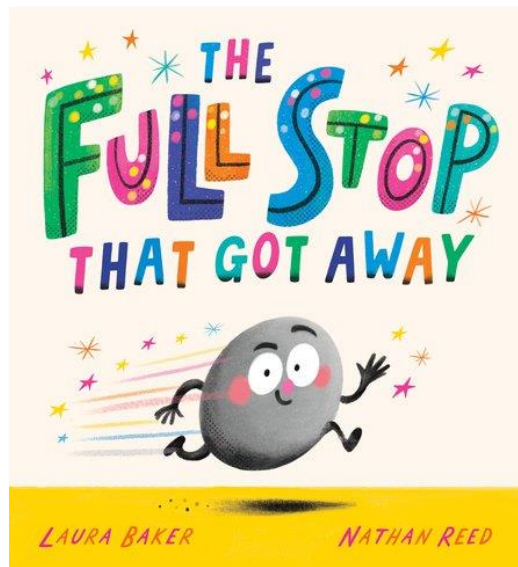
CBMC code: E3N79

Rights: World excl US &
Canada but incl UK &
Republic of Ireland.
Unavailable countries
to be confirmed.

Sophie Jo is a writer of YA fiction from the West Midlands where she lives with her partner and a shy-but-kooky calico cat named Moochi. Sophie is passionate about making sure teenagers know the difference between healthy love and straight-up-horrible-times-disguised-as-love. She's worked with domestic violence charity Women's Aid to spread the word via the Sunday Times, Cosmopolitan and BBC Woman's Hour. In her spare time, Sophie likes visiting Disneyland, overanalysing cult 00s TV show The OC, and writing about relationships – of all kinds – for publications including Breathe Magazine and the Metro.

THE FULL STOP THAT GOT AWAY

By Laura Baker and Nathan Reed



Full of fun and silliness, *The Full Stop That Got Away* brings together Laura Baker and Nathan Reed for the very first time - and the results are hilarious!

This is Frank.

Frank is a full stop, and he acts exactly like a full stop should.

He splits up sentences that get too long . . .

"It's true. I do."

He never shouts . . .

"Ouch. Ouch. Help."

And he never asks questions.

"That's right."

But what if Frank decides to stop acting like a full stop?

How will the story ever end . . .

Key Selling Points

- A laugh-out-loud adventure filled with dragons!
- Not just a fun story, *The Full Stop That Got Away* is also a perfect introduction to punctuation for children
- Ideal for fans of *The Day the Crayons Quit*

Pub Date: 13th February 2025

ISBN: 9780702310225

RRP: £7.99

Age: 03-06

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 32pp

TPS: 275mm x 250mm

CBMC code: A3M79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights: World



Laura Baker is a children's book author and editor who has written a number of popular picture books, such as *The Colour of Happy*, *All the Wonderful Ways to Read* and *Monsters in Trucks*. Laura was born in Canada and now lives in Wales, UK, with her husband, two sons and their big basset hound. **Nathan Reed** has been a professional illustrator since graduating from Falmouth College of Arts in 2000, mainly working in the children's book industry. His books include *Incredible You*, *Achoo!*, *Think BIG* and *PLEASE!*

THE FULL STOP THAT GOT AWAY

By Laura Baker and Nathan Reed



THE FULL STOP THAT GOT AWAY

By Laura Baker and Nathan Reed

Frank splits up sentences that get too long.

It's true.
I do.

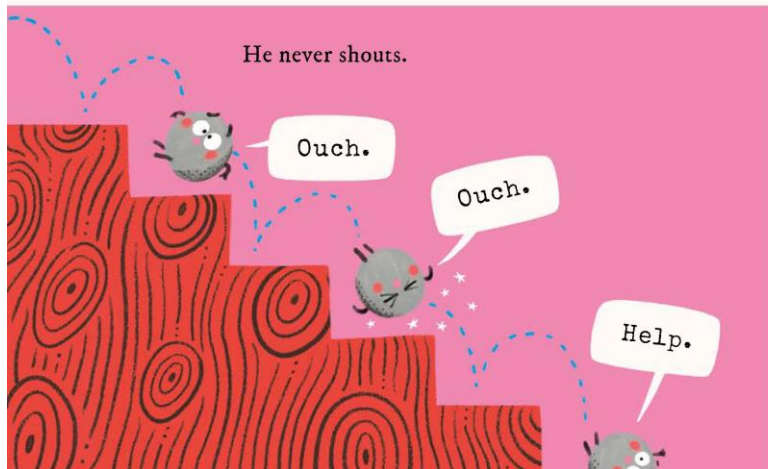


He never shouts.

Ouch.

Ouch.

Help.



And never asks
questions.

That's
right.

And Frank always
gets to the point.

This is all I
have to say.

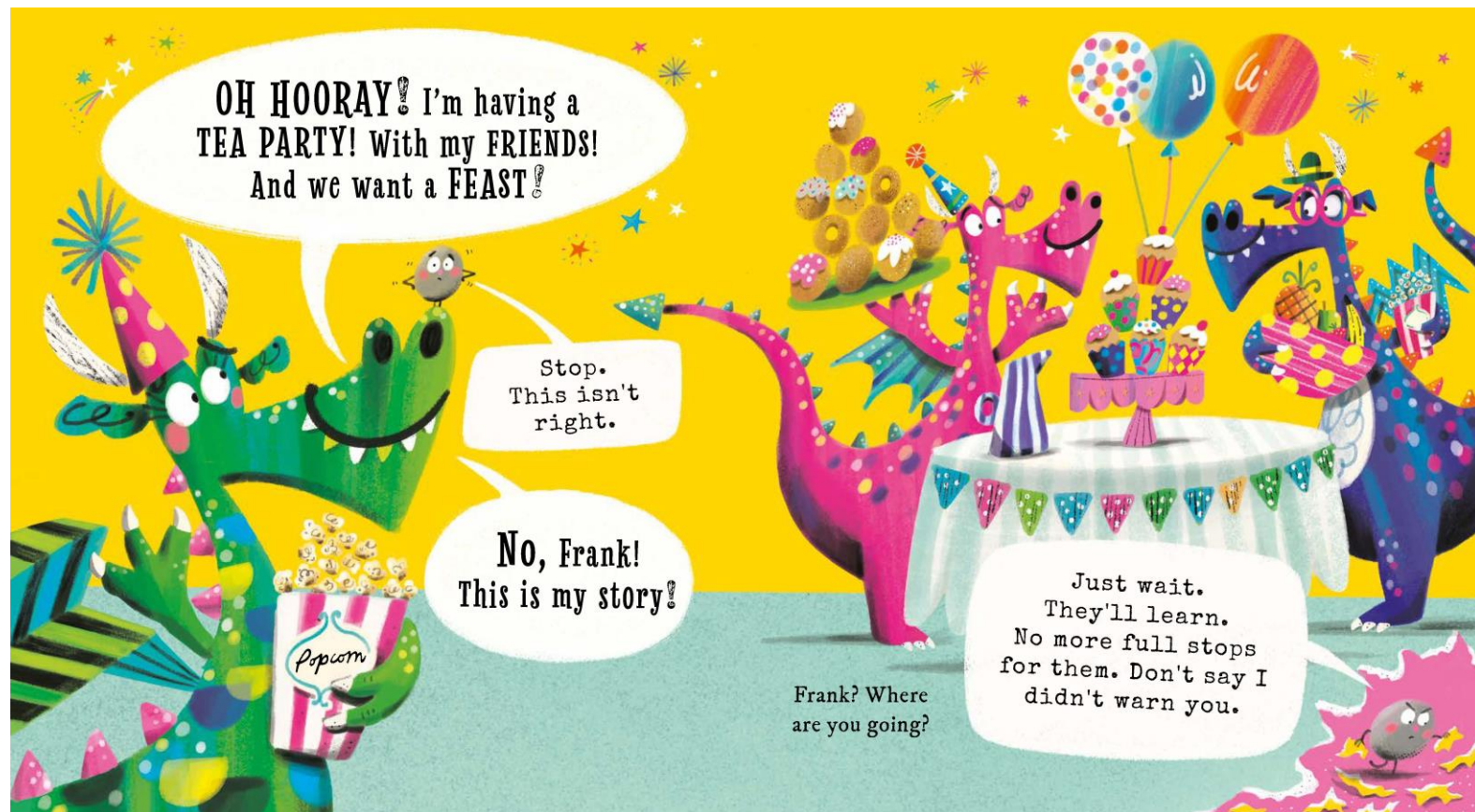
Like I said, when it comes to Frank,
things just stop. Like this:

**FULL
STOP.**



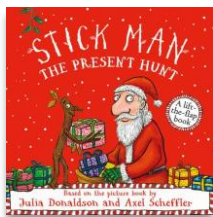
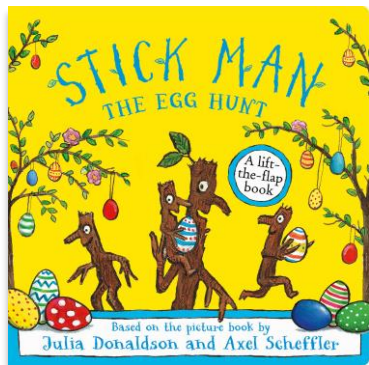
THE FULL STOP THAT GOT AWAY

By Laura Baker and Nathan Reed



STICK MAN: THE EGG HUNT

By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler



9780702334320

It's springtime and Stick Man and his family are going on an egg hunt together.

Can you help them find the colourful eggs?

Lift the flaps to search with the Stick family and find the missing eggs!

Key Selling Points

- A fun and interactive story based on the bestselling Stick Man by Julia Donaldson.
- Enjoy the rich detail of Axel Scheffler's gorgeous illustrations, with so much to spot on every page.
- A fun Easter book perfect for little children, they love lifting the flaps and searching for the missing presents.
- Lift the colourful card flaps in this fun board book, perfect for small hands.



Pub Date: 13th March 2025

ISBN: 9780702341625

RRP: £7.99

Age: 00-03

Binding: Non Standard - board

Extent: 12pp

TPS: 200mm x 200mm

CBMC code: A3J79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights:

World excl US & Canada but incl UK & Republic of Ireland. Unavailable countries to be confirmed

Julia Donaldson is the author of many of the best-loved picture books ever written. She has been awarded a CBE for services to literature, and was also a much-praised Children's Laureate.

Axel Scheffler is one of the most celebrated illustrators in the world. He has brought to life a huge variety of characters, from dragons to gruffalos. Axel lives in London.

STICK MAN: THE EGG HUNT

By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

The Stick Family are going
on an egg hunt!



Can you help them find the eggs?



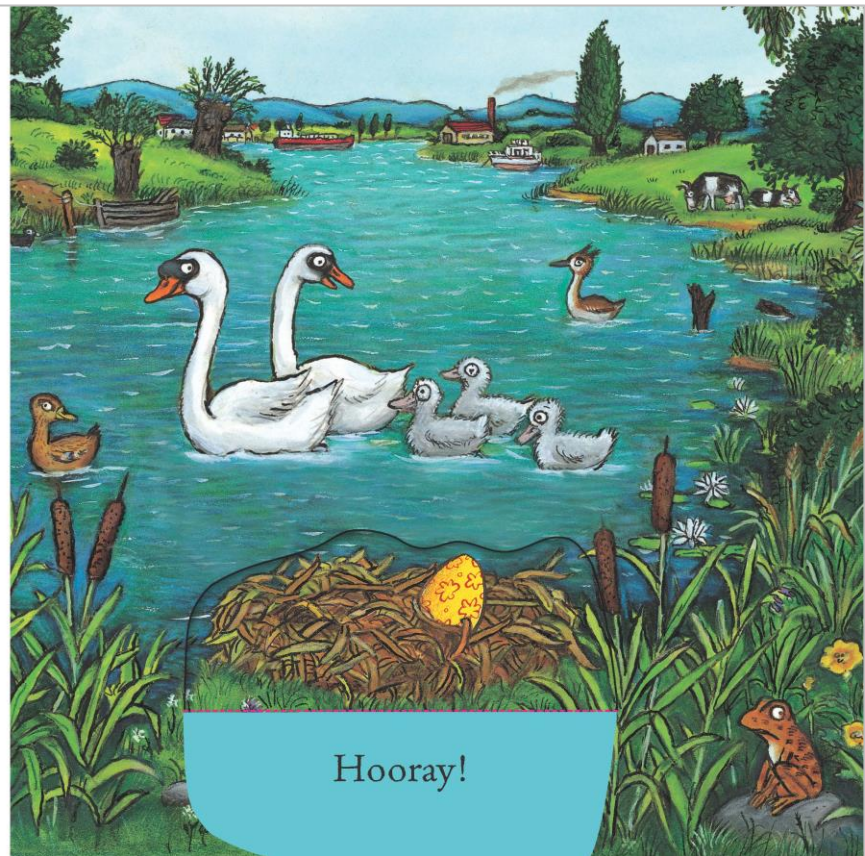
STICK MAN: THE EGG HUNT

By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

These swans' eggs have
just hatched!



Can you find a painted
egg instead?



Hooray!

THE FLOWER THIEF (CBB)

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater



Squirrel is so excited. It's spring and the most perfect flower has started to blossom. But Squirrel is worried there's a FLOWER THIEF about.

After what happened to the leaves in autumn (THEY ALL DISAPPEARED), Squirrel's not taking any chances. . . He MUST keep the flower safe, and he needs his best friend Bird to help him!

Key selling points

- A laugh-out-loud book about the changing seasons, with extra information in the back for especially curious minds
- A brilliant picture book that explores feelings, moods and times where we feel out of control
- By the creators of NYT bestseller, *The Leaf Thief*, now available in 22 languages
- Previously published in paperback as *That's My Flower*

Pub Date: 13th March 2025

ISBN: 9780702340130

RRP: £7.99

Age: 00-03

Binding: Non Standard - board

Extent: 26pp

TPS: 193mm x 175mm

CBMC code: A3K79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights:

World excluding USA & Canada

Alice Hemming worked as a librarian, a website editor and an outreach manager for a university before she became a children's book author. Her first book was published in 2013 and in 2022, *The Leaf Thief* became a New York Times bestseller! Alice lives with her family in Hertfordshire, England.

www.alicehemming.co.uk

Nicola Slater is well-known for her distinctive artwork and has illustrated children's books for over 20 years. She has illustrated *Leaping Lemmings!*, *Hello, Zoo* and *A Skunk in My Bunk* as well as many, many others. Nicola lives with her family in Manchester, England.

THE FLOWER THIEF (CBB)

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater

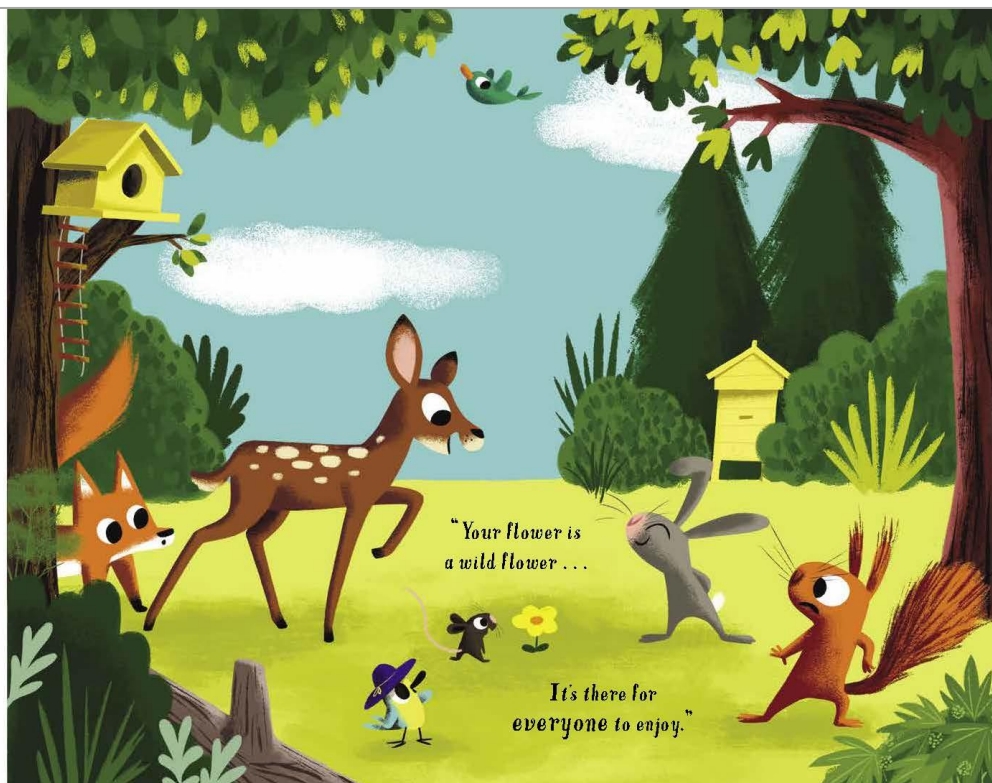


THE FLOWER THIEF (CBB)

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater

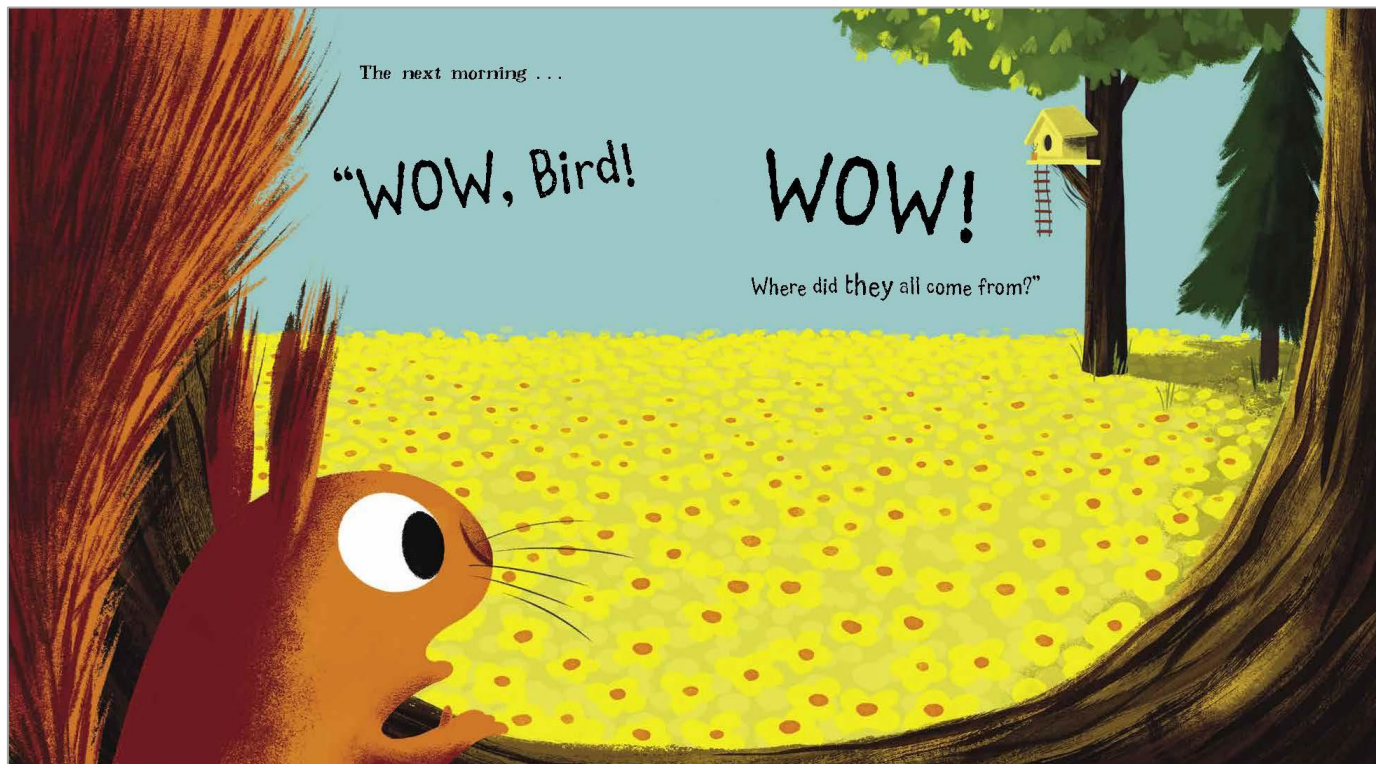
*"Squirrel, I know you love
this flower, but it doesn't
really belong to you."*

WHAT?
Then whose
flower is it?



THE FLOWER THIEF (CBB)

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater



WHERE'S THE LEAF THIEF (CBB)

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater



A fabulous new felt-flap addition to the NYT bestselling Leaf Thief series.

That pesky leaf thief has stolen Squirrel's favourite leaves! Can you help him find them?

Key selling points

- Little ones will love searching for the Leaf Thief in this chunky board book with **bright coloured felt flaps, perfect for little hands.**
- *The Leaf Thief* has been a NYT bestseller and has been translated into over twenty languages
- Other books in the series include *That's MY Flower* and *The Snow Thief*
- Explore numbers and colours *The Leaf Thief - Colours* and *The Leaf Thief - Numbers*, two chunky board books with card flaps

Pub Date: 13th March 2025

ISBN: 9780702339950

RRP: £7.99

Age: 00-03

Binding: Non Standard - board

Extent: 10pp

TPS: 185mm x 185mm

CBM code: A3J79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights:

World excluding USA & Canada

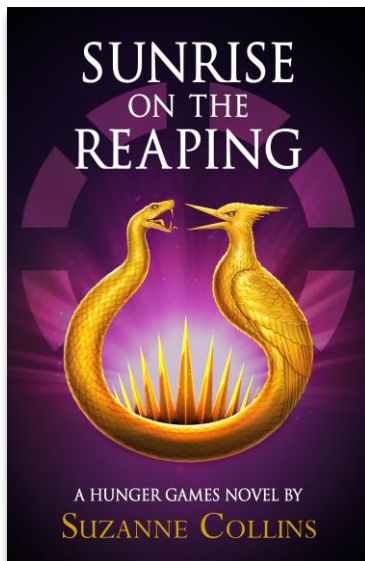
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SUNRISE ON THE REAPING

By Suzanne Collins



When you've been set up to lose everything you love, what is there left to fight for? As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes.

Back in District 12, **Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances.** All he cares about is making it through the day and being with the girl he loves. When Haymitch's name is called, he can feel all his dreams break. He's torn from his family and his love, shuttled to the Capitol with the three other District 12 tributes: a young friend who's nearly a sister to him, a compulsive oddsmaker, and the most stuck-up girl in town.

As the Games begin, Haymitch understands he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight . . . and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.

Key Selling Points

- Lionsgate have already begun preparations for an upcoming film adaptation of Sunrise on the Reaping
- There are more than 100 million copies of all three books in the trilogy in print and digital formats worldwide and the blockbuster film franchise, starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, has earned nearly \$3 billion at the worldwide box office.
- In the UK, sales of the Hunger Games series were 210% up in 2023 from 2022 - a whole new generation of fandom is emerging!

Pub Date: 18th March 2025 **STRICT EMBARGO**

ISBN: 9780702340574

RRP: £19.99

Age: 12-20

Binding: Royal Octavo - hardback

Extent: 416pp

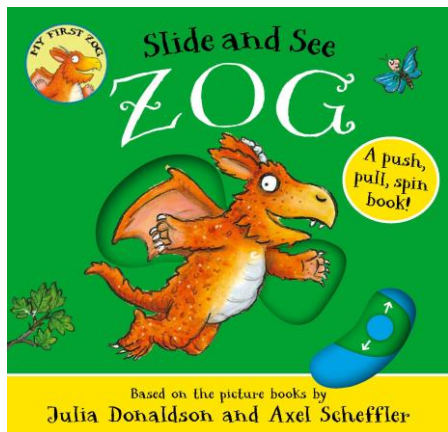
TPS: 234mm x 153mm

CBMC code: E3N79

Rights: World excluding USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

Suzanne Collins' groundbreaking young adult novels, The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, and Mockingjay, were New York Times bestsellers, received wide praise, and were the basis for four blockbuster films. She returned to the world of Panem with The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, a number one global book in 2020 and movie in November 2023. To date, there are more than 100 million copies of all four books in The Hunger Games series in print and digital formats worldwide, and foreign publishing rights have been sold in 54 languages.

ZOG: SLIDE AND SPIN



Cover not final

Slide and spin with ZOG!

Zog goes to Madame Dragon's school where he hopes to win a golden star.

Join Zog, the keenest dragon, at school where he learns to ROAR, FLY and save a PRINCESS!

Based on the bestselling picture book Zog from superstar duo Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

Key Selling Points

- Little ones will love this interactive board book from bestselling author-illustrator duo Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler!
- With sliders to push and pull, plus a wheel to spin, this board book with interactive elements is perfect for little hands.
- The bouncy text makes this the perfect introduction to ZOG
- There are lots of fun details to spot in Axel Scheffler's gorgeous illustrations.

Pub Date: 5th June 2025

ISBN: 9780702341595

RRP: £7.99

Age: 02-06

Binding: Non Standard - board

Extent: 10pp

TPS: 185mm x 185mm

CBMC code: A3K79

Illustrations: Colour

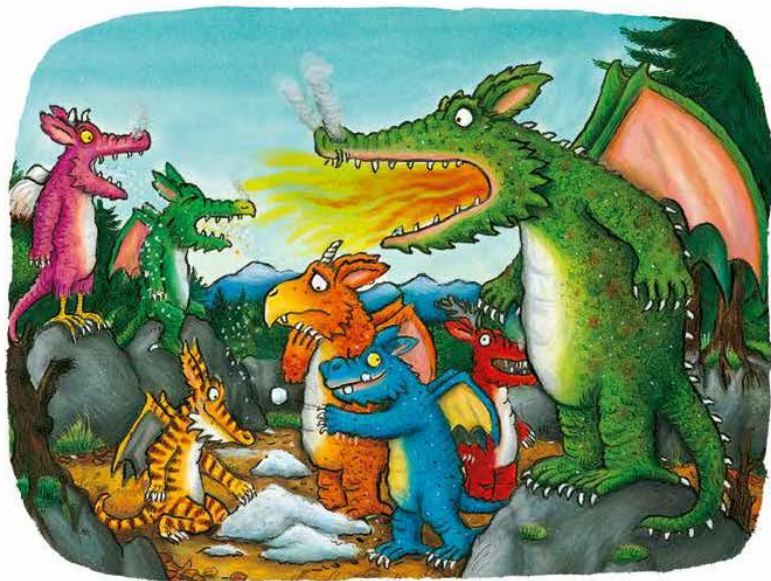
English Language Rights:

World incl UK & Republic of Ireland. Excl US & Canada. Unavailable countries to be confirmed.

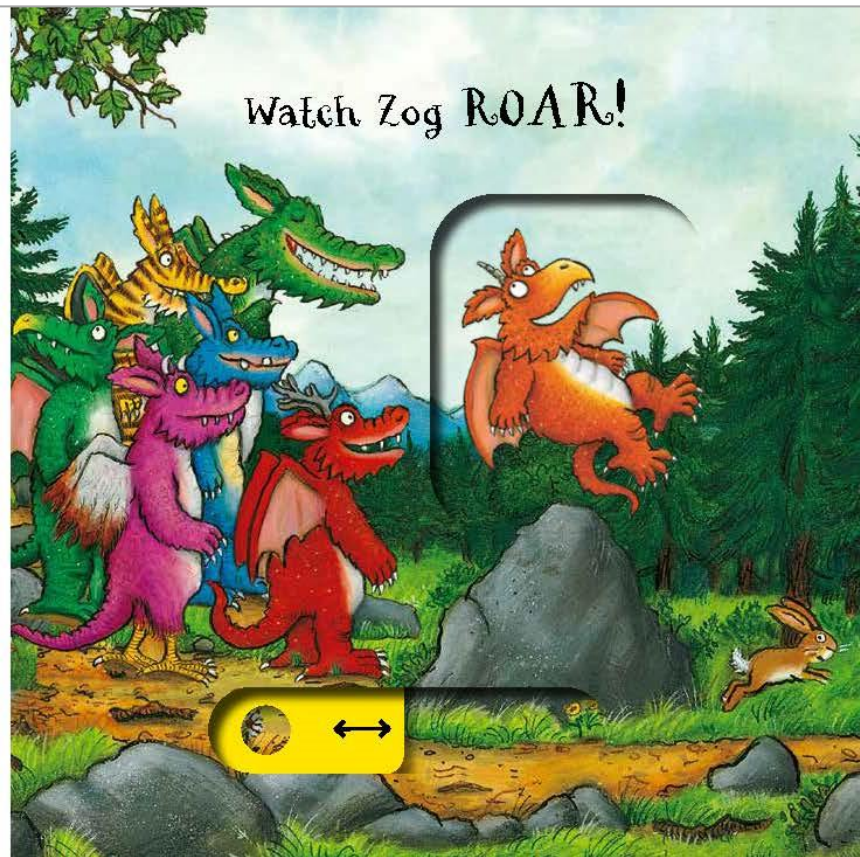
Julia Donaldson is the author of many of the best-loved picture books ever written. She has been awarded a CBE for services to literature, and was also a much-praised Children's Laureate.

Axel Scheffler is one of the most celebrated illustrators in the world. He has brought to life a huge variety of characters, from dragons to gruffalos. Axel lives in London.

Time to learn how
to breathe fire.



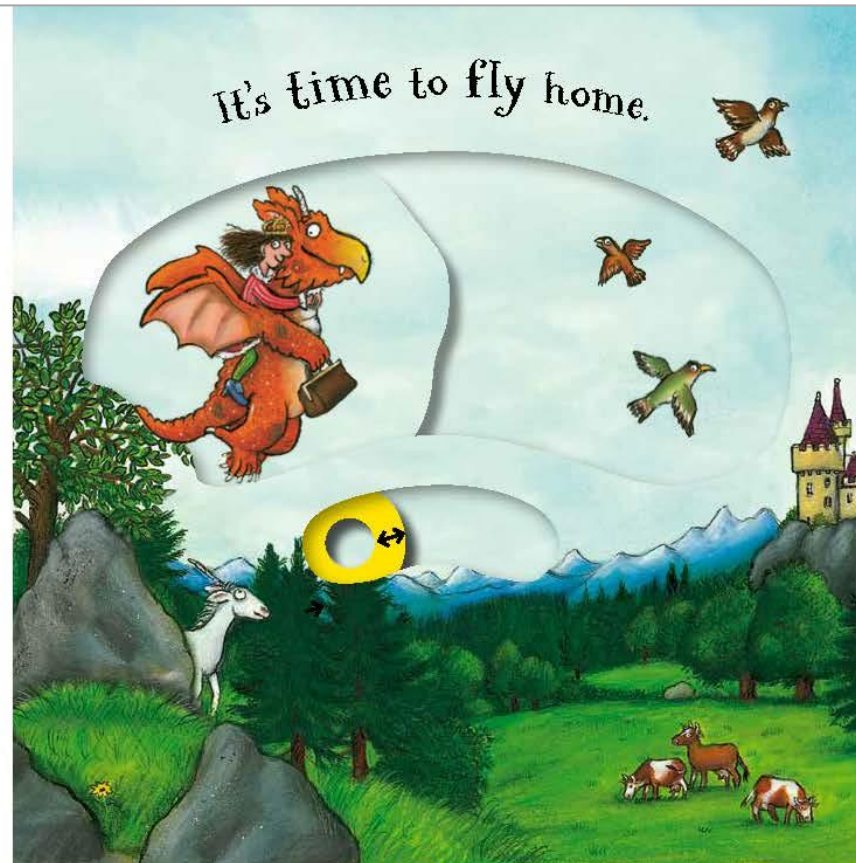
Watch Zog ROAR!



Luckily, he makes
a friend instead...

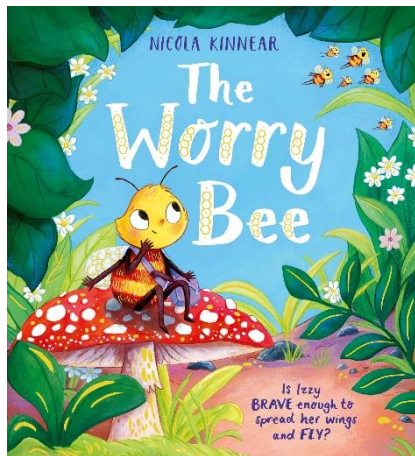


and she's a PRINCESS!



THE WORRY BEE

By Nicola Kinnear



Nicola Kinnear's picture books have been translated into 30 languages!

Izzy longs to fly . . . but she's far too scared.

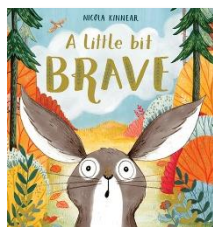
When the other bees whizz off to find flowers, Izzy is desperate to follow them – but she's far too worried. What if she falls? Or gets lost? What if her wings aren't strong enough?

Every day, Izzy trudges after her friends on foot – until a chance encounter shows her that she really *can* fly, if she'll just pluck up the courage to try!



Key Selling Points

- A warm and reassuring story about overcoming fears and finding the courage to spread your wings
- Richly colourful illustrations – children will love exploring this minibeast world!
- Nicola Kinnear is the bestselling creator of *A Little Bit Brave* and *Dragons Don't Share*



Nicola Kinnear has an amazing talent for creating warm, expressive characters which has won her admirers all around the world. As well as creating her own books, Nicola has also illustrated sequels to Beatrix Potter's classic, *Peter Rabbit*.

Pub Date: 10th April 2025

ISBN: 9780702310201

RRP: £7.99

Age: 02-06

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 32pp

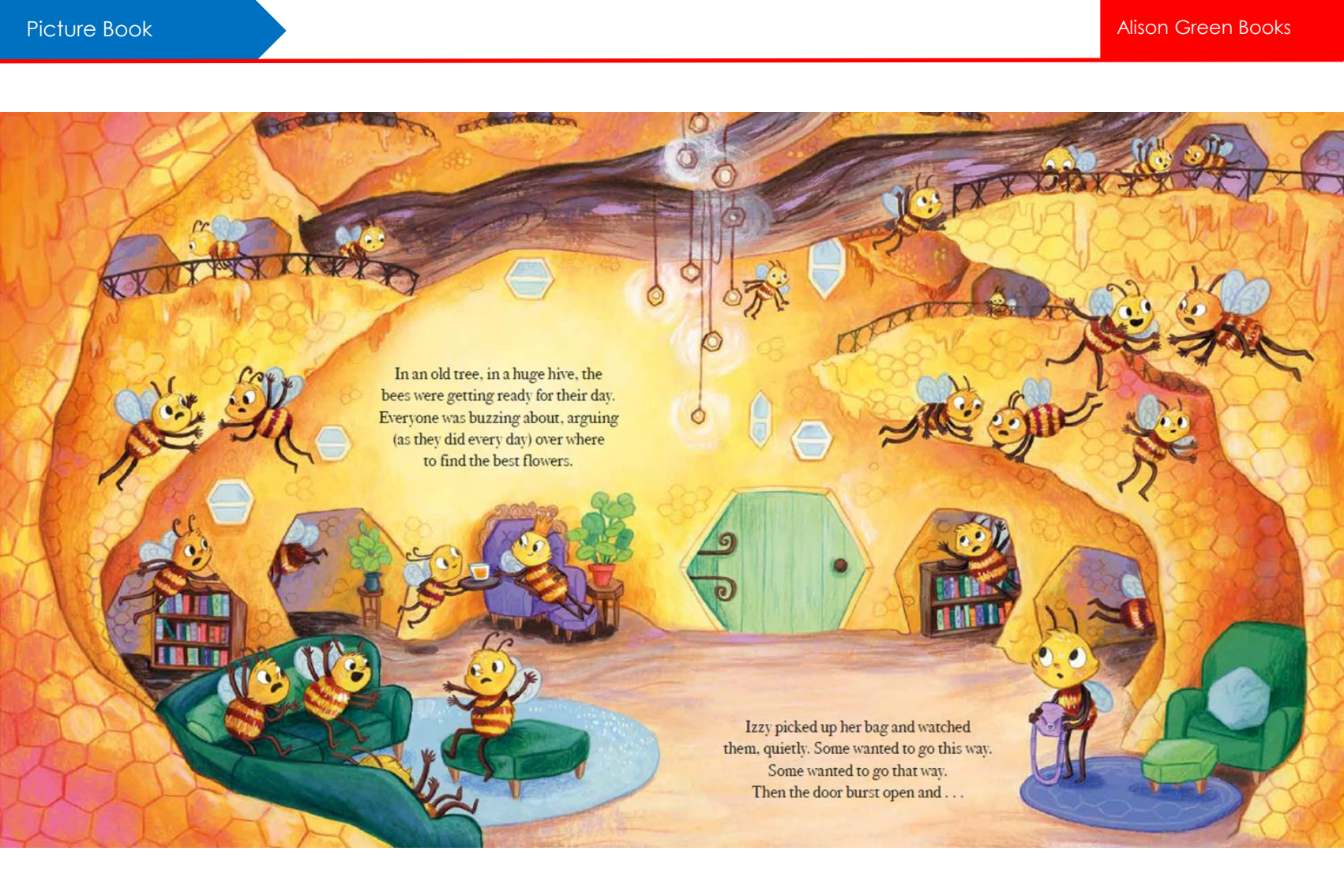
TPS: 275mm x 250mm

CBMC code: A3M79

Illustrations: Colour

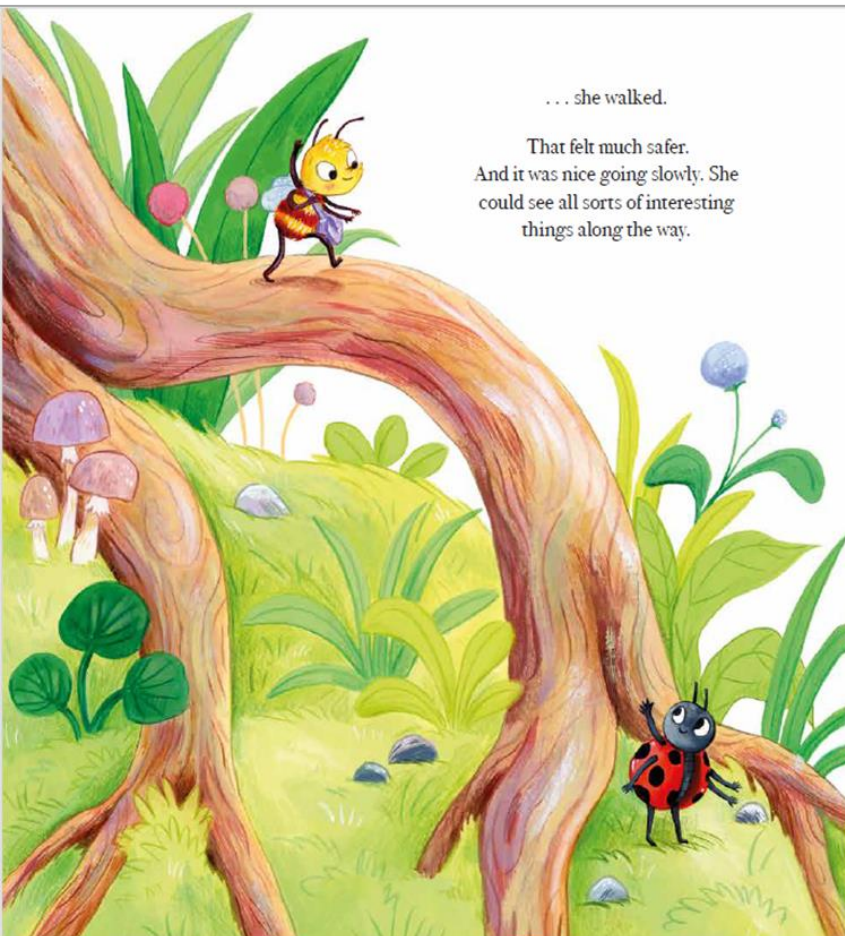
English Language Rights:

World



In an old tree, in a huge hive, the bees were getting ready for their day. Everyone was buzzing about, arguing (as they did every day) over where to find the best flowers.

Izzy picked up her bag and watched them, quietly. Some wanted to go this way. Some wanted to go that way. Then the door burst open and . . .



... she walked.

That felt much safer.
And it was nice going slowly. She
could see all sorts of interesting
things along the way.

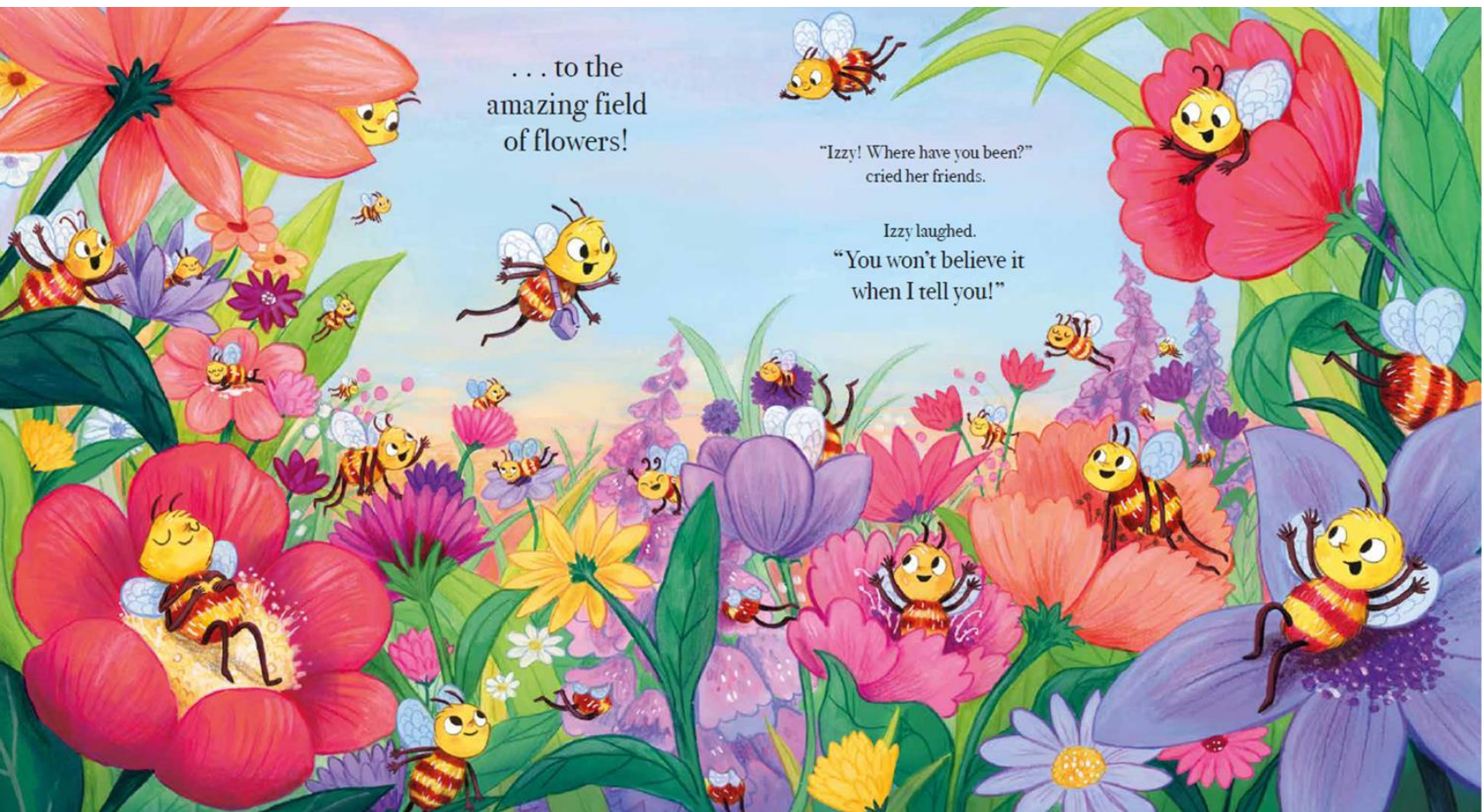
There were snails having a race,



and grasshoppers playing high jump.



She'd miss all of
that if she flew.



... to the
amazing field
of flowers!

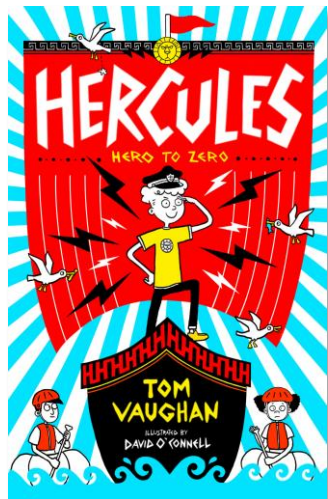
"Izzy! Where have you been?"
cried her friends.

Izzy laughed.
"You won't believe it
when I tell you!"

HERCULES: HERO TO ZERO

By Tom Vaughan

Illustrated by David O'Connell



The third book in the brilliantly funny, contemporary diary-style series, where Hercules is determined to find fortune as well as glory...

It's the school holidays and Herc has so many plans... like touring the world slaying monsters. But Mum tells him they're struggling to make ends meet, and the best she can manage is to send him to Young Explorers camp with his friend Pav. DISASTER! How can Herc make money? Invent something amazing? Win the lottery? He's on the case with Pav, Hatty and Matthew. But their schemes take them to some unexpected places... especially when vengeful Zeus finds out that Hercules and Mum might reveal his secret existence! Soon, Herc is facing the pranks of trickster god Hermes, rafting down a treacherous river, and dressing up as a donkey... Can he get his hands on the fortune he craves, or will he find that true riches lie in unexpected places?

Key Selling Points

- A hilarious, accessible package brilliantly illustrated by David O'Connell. Ideal for fans of Louie Stowell's *Loki*, Maz Evans, Marvel's *Thor* films and Disney's *Hercules*
- Hercules Braver's adventures in this book are loosely based on the next three 'Labours of Hercules', ideal for all young fans of Greek mythology!
- Heartfelt exploration of friendship, secret struggles and discovering your strengths and talents, even if they're unexpected

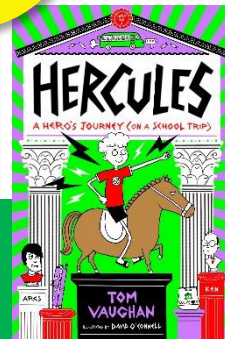
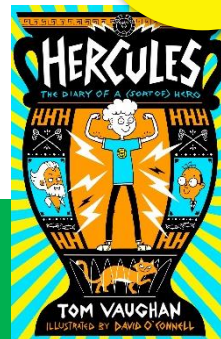


HERCULES BRAVER aka ME,
the hero of this story



ZOOEY aka ZEUS
King of the Gods

Book #1 was the
Waterstones
Children's Book of
the Month for
March 2024



Pub Date: 10th April 2025

ISBN: 9780702340406

RRP: £7.99

Age: 08-12

Binding: B format -
paperback

Extent: 320pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

CBMC code: D3N79

Illustrations: Black and
white

English Language Rights:

World

Tom Vaughan is a journalist, television producer, author and all-round good guy. Despite modest success in those four fields, he'd most like to be remembered as the man who unsuccessfully tried to invent a meal between supper and breakfast, called "supfast". He lives in London with his wife and two small unemployed people, also known as his children.

BOYS WITH SHARP TEETH

By Jenni Howell



Seventeen-year-old Marin James has spent her entire life living in the shadow of the exclusive Huntsworth Academy. So when her cousin's dead body is found in a creek on school property, Marin knows exactly who's to blame: Adrian Graves and Henry Wu, the enigmatic, yet dangerous leaders of the school's ecosystem.

Swapping her ragged T-shirts for a crisp prep school uniform, Marin infiltrates Huntsworth to exact her revenge. But her quest for vengeance is quickly muddled by a confusing attraction to her new life, and to the two dysfunctional and devastating boys who understand her better than anyone ever has.

When Marin uncovers a dark, eerie secret hiding behind Huntsworth's ivied gates, the lines between justice and vengeance, love and hate, and the real and supernatural begin to crumble – and nothing is as it seems.

Key Selling Points

- For fans of The Atlas Six, The Raven Boys and We Were Liars, comes this deliciously dark, mind-bending tale of revenge, sinister privilege and forbidden desires.
- Part supernatural thriller, part murder mystery, Jenni Howell's debut tale is full of chills and scares.
- Features the popular BookTok romance trope #EnemiesToLovers with steamy tension throughout

Pub Date: 10th April 2025

ISBN: 9780702340956

RRP: £8.99

Age: 14-20

Binding: B format - paperback

Extent: 432pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

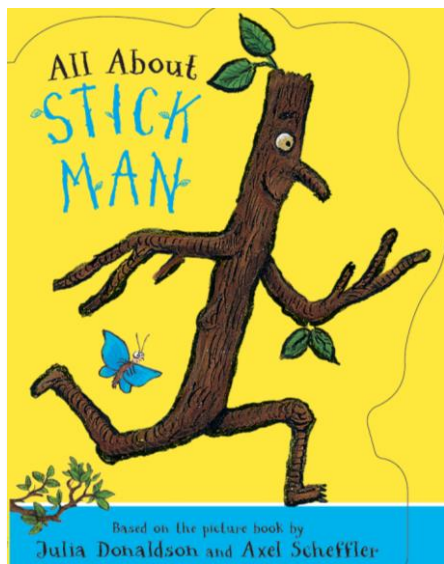
CBMC code: E3N79

English Language Rights:

World excl US & Canada but incl UK & Republic of Ireland. Unavailable countries to be confirmed.

Jennifer Howell has been many things: an archaeologist, a teacher, a C.F.O., and a spy. Now and forevermore an author, she lives in Maryland with her kids, husband, and bearded dragon.

ALL ABOUT STICK MAN



Cover not final

Meet Stick Man and his family in this bright and bold shaped board book from the bestselling creators of The Gruffalo and Zog.

This board book is perfect for kids of all ages with sturdy shaped card pages and brightly coloured illustrations. The bouncy text introduces readers to the much-loved characters from the classic story by the number one bestselling author and illustrator.

Key Selling Points

- Based on the bestselling Stick Man by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler
- Sturdy card pages make this the perfect introduction to Stick Man for younger readers
- A simple, engaging story paired with Axel Scheffler's bright and bold illustrations

Pub Date: 8th May 2025

ISBN: 9780702340123

RRP: £7.99

Age: 00-03

Binding: Non Standard - board

Extent: 10pp

TPS: 259mm x 198mm

CBMC code: A3K79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights:

World incl UK & Republic of Ireland. Excl US & Canada. Unavailable countries to be confirmed.

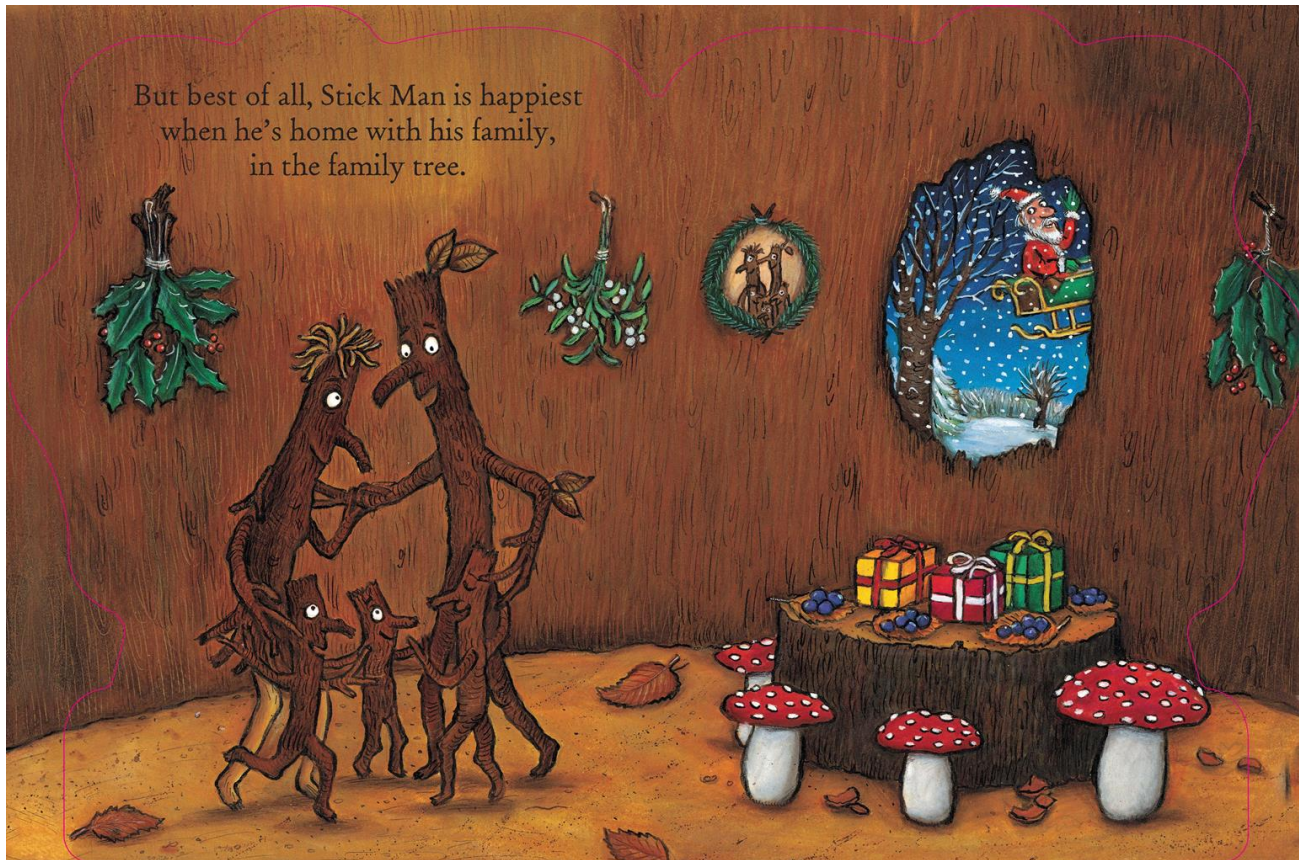
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ALL ABOUT STICK MAN

JULIA DONALDSON & AXEL SCHEFFLER

But best of all, Stick Man is happiest
when he's home with his family,
in the family tree.



ALL ABOUT STICK MAN

JULIA DONALDSON & AXEL SCHEFFLER

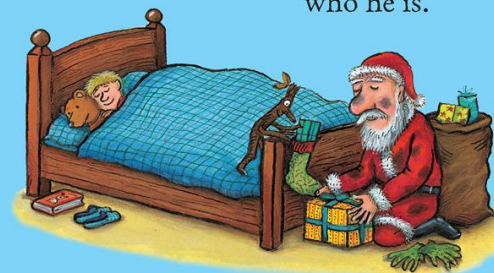
But no!



As he keeps telling everyone,
"I'm Stick Man, *I'm Stick Man*,
I'M STICK MAN, that's me."



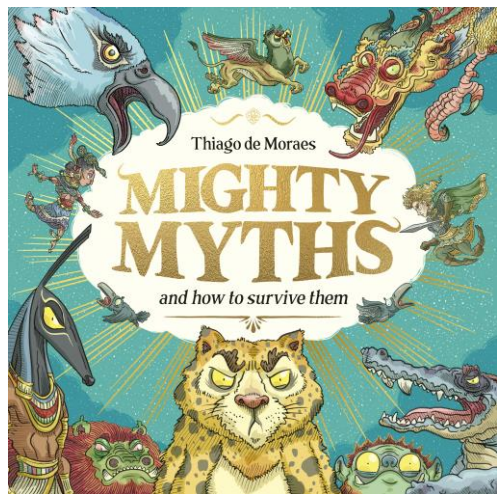
Luckily Santa knows
who he is.



And Stick Man is always happy
to lend a helping hand.

MIGHTY MYTHS

By Thiago de Moraes



Myths are magical. Myths can be monstrous.
But with Thiago de Moraes, myths are always mighty good fun!

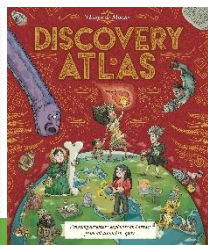
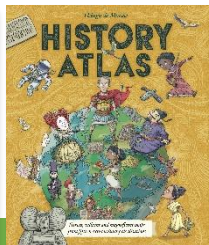
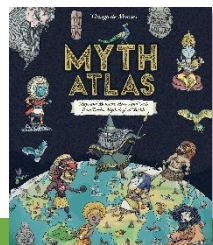
Mighty Myths is a spectacular gift book featuring a fabulous pick-and-mix of mythology from all around the world.

Superbly illustrated throughout in Thiago's inimitable, witty style, this rich and wonderful book is packed full of stories, jokes, facts and hilarity.

Guaranteed to be mightily entertaining, *Mighty Myths* will captivate children and adults alike.

Key Selling Points

- Funny, fact-packed and brilliantly illustrated – myths and legends have never been so entertaining
- Meet extraordinary characters from myths and legends from all around the world
- A gorgeous hardback gift book – guaranteed to captivate children and adults alike!
- *Myth Atlas* has sold into 21 languages and *History Atlas* has sold into 14 languages



Pub Date: 8th May 2025

ISBN: 9780702325090

RRP: £15.00

Age: 06-11

Binding: Hardback

Extent: 64pp

TPS: 280mm x 280mm

CBMC code: C3M79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights: World

Thiago de Moraes: When he's not reading about and drawing historical characters and ancient gods, Thiago also writes and illustrates picture books and young fiction. He has won many awards for his editorial and commercial illustration work. Originally from Brazil, Thiago now lives in the UK.

MIGHTY MYTHS

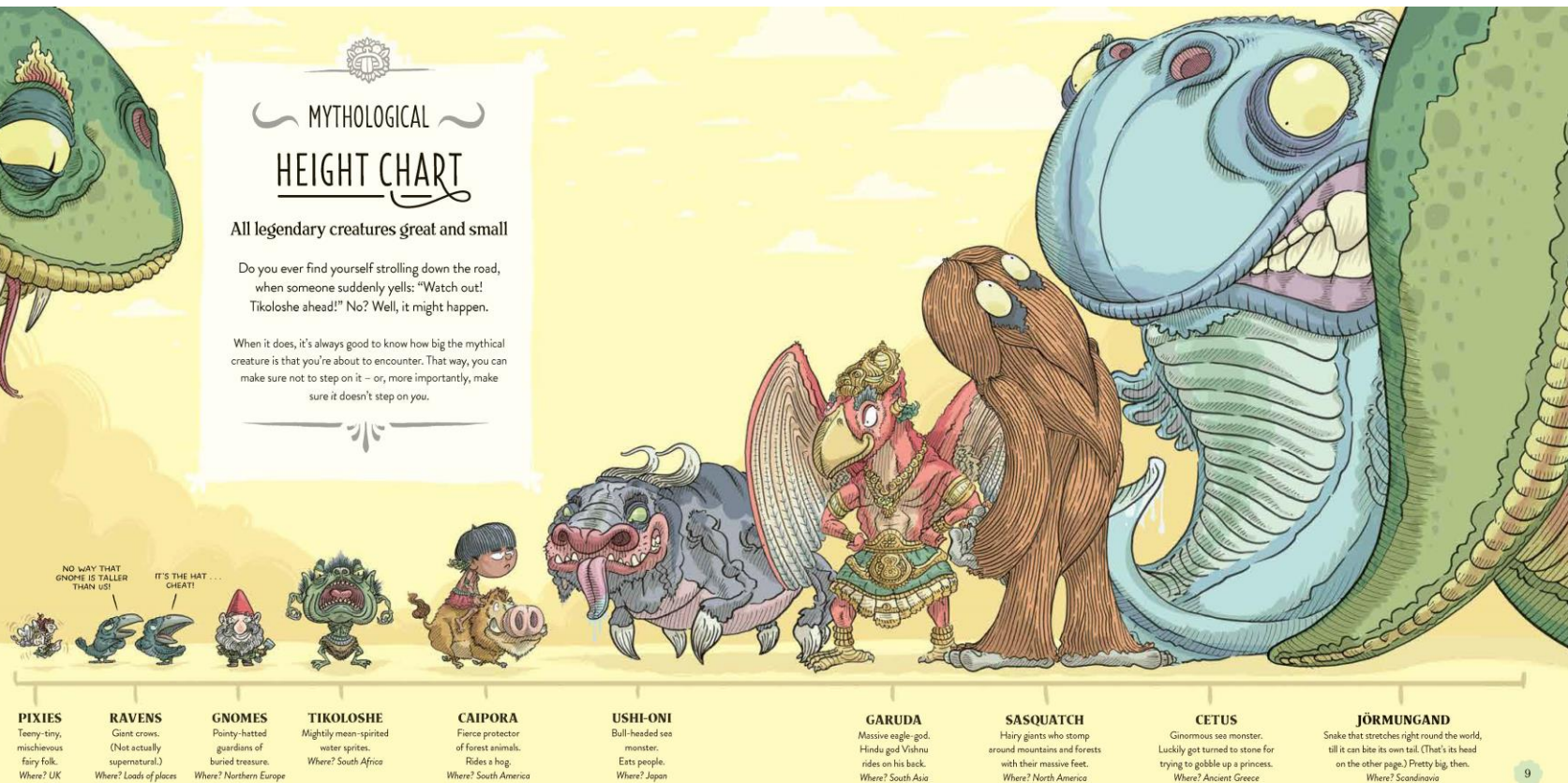
By Thiago de Moraes

MYTHOLOGICAL HEIGHT CHART

All legendary creatures great and small

Do you ever find yourself strolling down the road,
when someone suddenly yells: "Watch out!
Tikoloshe ahead!" No? Well, it might happen.

When it does, it's always good to know how big the mythical
creature is that you're about to encounter. That way, you can
make sure not to step on it – or, more importantly, make
sure it doesn't step on you.



MIGHTY MYTHS

By Thiago de Moraes



THERE'S A LOT OF SCARY STUFF
AROUND THESE PARTS

YUP, DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE
BEFORE FINISHING THIS BOOK.
OR AFTER...

THE NO-GO GUIDE

Some places to avoid

Ah, the Lands of Myth. Full of magic, wonders, excitement and people-eating beasts. Wait, what?!

Yes, that's right: people-eating beasts.
(They probably eat pets, too, if that makes
you feel any better.)

Danger lurks everywhere in the worlds of legend. If you want to survive, it's important to know which places to avoid. This seemingly innocent landscape is a good example. Take a closer look and you'll find it's chock-full of scary creatures. But don't panic! You'll learn more about these fiendish beasts (and how to survive them) later in the book.

OLD HOUSES

A mixed bag. Sure, there might be a few ghosts around, but there might also be a friendly Nisse (1) who'll help with the chores.

CAVES

Watch out for Dragons (2)! They love lurking in caves. So does the Chimera (3), and also Troils (4) - and weird little orange slugs (5). They're not mythical or dangerous, just yucky.

FORESTS

A traditional choice of haunt for your scary beast. Here you'll find Kumho (6), Wyrms (7) and Mapiquaris (8). There are also Gnomes (9), which are not scary but can go on about gardening for quite a bit...

OCEANS

The ocean is dangerous enough anyway. It doesn't help to think that it's filled with all sorts of beasts, from great Cetus (13) to gigantic Jörmungand (14).

SKIES

All kinds of danger can come from the sky: lightning, storms, hurricanes. There's also Qiong Qi (10). You'll need more than an umbrella to survive this hungry monster.

MOUNTAINS

You probably know to look out for Sasquatches (11). But Giants (12) also hide in the snow-capped peaks of mountains, waiting to do whatever it is giants do to regular folk. (Very mysterious, your average giant.)

LAKES

Always take care near deep water, even if there are no monsters around. But some lakes do have monsters, like Mishipeshu (15) and Ahizotz (16), so probably best stay away.

GRAVEYARDS

Graveyards are always creepy - but they can also be full of Vampires (17) and Zombies (18). Don't take a stroll in a graveyard unless it's daytime, and there's a big sign saying, "Definitely no undead here. Go on, trust us."

MIGHTY MYTHS

By Thiago de Moraes

JUST KEEP FLYING...



THE CHIMAERA

Creatures to avoid: Number One

HEAD OF A GOAT

Watch out for this ancient Greek monster. She may look like a terrible mix-up at the zoo, but she's quite likely to eat you – or seriously burn your eyebrows. This goat head might not look that scary, but it can breathe fire. Ouch.



HEAD OF A LION

Why have one head when you can have two? This head is handy for scaring and/or gobbling up unsuspecting shepherds. (Or any other people or animals that might happen to be around. Including you.)



SNAKE TAIL

Why have two heads, when you can have three? But this head is actually a tail. Yes, the Chimaera has a whole snake as a tail. Must cause all sorts of problems when sitting down.



GOOD TASTE

The Chimaera fancies the odd human as a snack so, if you see her, run. It won't help much, but the sweet will season your flesh nicely for the Chimaera. One of you might just as well enjoy the situation...



TEMPER, TEMPER

The Chimaera is notoriously grumpy. It might have something to do with all those heads. It's nice to have company, but three brains in charge of the same body will only lead to arguments.



A HERO LIKE: HOU YI

A mighty Chinese archer who saved humans from disaster

GREAT SHOT

Hou Yi was brave, clever and incredibly good at hitting things with a bow and arrow. When humans got in trouble, he was sent down from the home of the gods, Mount Kunlun, to help them out.



BAD DOGGIE

Hou Yi saved the day (well, the night, actually) when a gigantic dog gobbled up the moon. The archer shot the greedy pup with an arrow and got it to barf the moon back out.



STORMING OUT

When people were being threatened by violent storms, Hou Yi flew up to the god of wind and... guess what? Yup, he shot him in the leg!



TOO MANY SUNS!

When ten suns appeared in the sky and scorched the land, Hou Yi shot down nine of them, saving humans from being burned to a crisp. Unfortunately, the suns were the children of another god, who got so angry that he banished Hou Yi from the home of the gods. Hou Yi became mortal, but he was still as brave and resourceful as ever.



WHERE'S MY ELIXIR GONE?

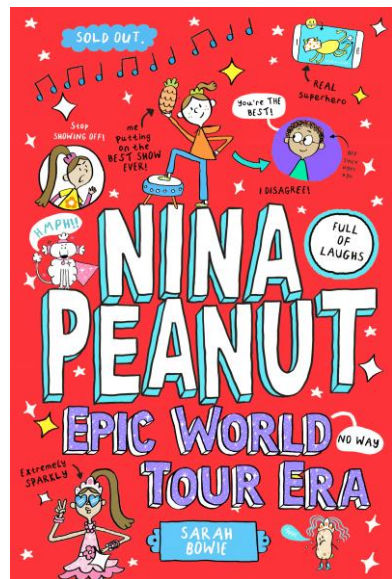
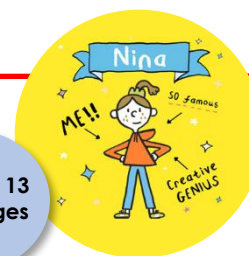
A friendly goddess was so impressed by Hou Yi's service that she gave him an elixir which would make him into a god again. Our hero left the precious potion with his wife, but she stole it and fled to the moon. Luckily, after his death, Hou Yi was turned into a god again one last time. Phew.



NINA PEANUT: EPIC WORLD TOUR ERA

By Sarah Bowie

Sold into 13 languages



Cover not final

The third book in the most charming and funny new character launch of 2024.

Nina is the new best friend for all kids, everywhere. Nina Peanut is in her world tour era - ok, so she's actually just going on an all-inclusive family holiday to a seaside resort, but STILL. And who's that she's just spotted on the next sun lounger over? Only enemy Megan Dunne, who had told everyone at school she was off to the Maldives to work on her tan in luxury...

Key Selling Points

- Hilariously funny, with relatable themes, of friendship/frenemies, big dreams and brilliant pets. Hours and hours of reading fun guaranteed for kids
- Warm, offbeat wit and gorgeous, bright full colour art throughout
- Perfect for fans of *Wimpy Kid*, *Dork Diaries* and *Lottie Brooks*
- Sold into 12 languages

Pub Date: 10th April 2025

ISBN: 9780702329890

RRP: £8.99

Age: 08-12

Binding: Paperback

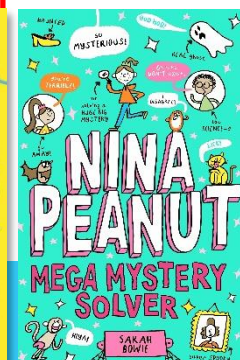
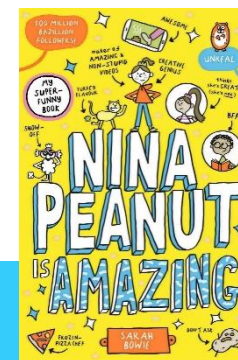
Extent: 272pp

TPS: 210mm x 140mm

CBMC code: D3N79

Illustrations: Colour

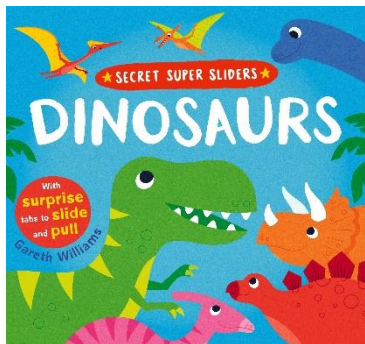
Rights: World excl USA & Canada Rights



Sarah Bowie is a writer and illustrator from Ireland. She is also an arts educator and runs workshops in schools on comic-making, visual storytelling and doodling for wellbeing. She is co-founder of *The Comics Lab* and of Ireland's first Graphic Short Story Prize in partnership with the *Irish Times*. *Nina Peanut* is her debut middle grade.

SECRET SUPER SLIDERS

By Gareth Williams



Reveal surprise sliding tabs within sliding tabs in this innovative, interactive novelty series for toddlers!

With six scenes to explore in each book – from colossal dinosaurs and prehistoric beasts to extraordinary planets and zooming rocket ships – little ones will love sliding and pulling the pages to reveal new surprises and characters while practising their fine motor skills.

Key Selling Points

- A bold, innovative and collectable novelty series with double sliding mechanisms on each spread
- *Super Sliders: Dinosaurs* features all your favourite dinosaurs and prehistoric beasts
- *Super Sliders: Space* features astronauts, asteroids, planets, rockets, space stations, satellites, stars and beyond...
- Vivid artwork, perfect for pre-schoolers
- Enhances motor skills, pincer grip and visual recognition

Gareth Williams was born in West London but ventured (when he was two) to the green valleys of South Wales. At an early age he loved to draw. He quickly realised that his dream of becoming the first Welsh astronaut would be sidelined by his creative abilities and talents (but he still secretly wishes he could have rocketed into space).

Pub Date: 10th April 2025

Dinosaurs ISBN:
9780702334238

Space ISBN:
9780702334221

RRP: £7.99

Age: 01-03

Binding: Non Standard - board

Extent: 12pp

TPS: 185mm x 185mm

CBMC code: A2J79

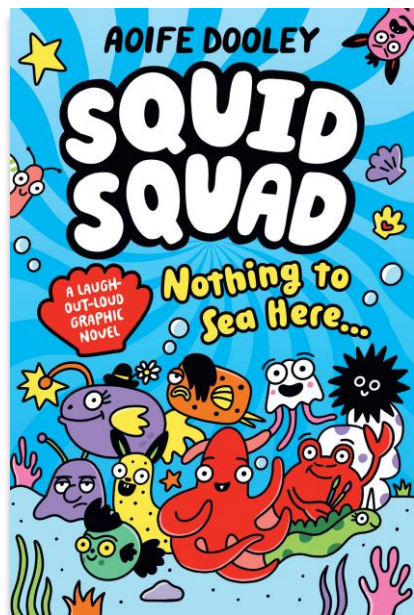
Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights: World



SQUID SQUAD

By Aoife Dooley



***Spongebob Squarepants* meets *Bunny Versus Monkey* in a hilarious, zany, full-colour graphic novel for younger readers.**

Naughty best friends Ollie the vampire squid and Zing the toxin-squirting sea bunny live in the town of Nowhere in the deep sea, home to the wackiest and weirdest creatures of the ocean – like stinky Blob, crafty Hypno-snail, and the mysterious Snakey Unicorn Thing...

Ollie and Zing's naughty antics with their colourful neighbours always keep things lively – especially when they get the better of dastardly old Thornelius the thorn-shooting sea snail! This book contains four hilarious mini episodes, featuring a stolen pet sea anemone (who makes a dashing wig) and a magical toilet...

Key Selling Points

- Full of action-packed mystery and mischief
- High energy, visual, episodic storytelling is perfect for low attention spans
- Aoife has a wonderfully zany, silly humour that will appeal to kids and her bold, bright artwork is perfect for this graphic, fun, colourful younger area of the market
- Aoife brings her unique neurodivergent perspective to the story and highlights and celebrates her odd and quirky characters, basing many of them on the very real unusual creatures found in the deep sea

Pub Date: 8th May 2025

ISBN: 9780702337109

RRP: £9.99

Age: 05-08

Binding: Demi Octavo
- paperback

Extent: 224pp

TPS: 210mm x 140mm

CBMC code: B3N79

Illustrations: Colour

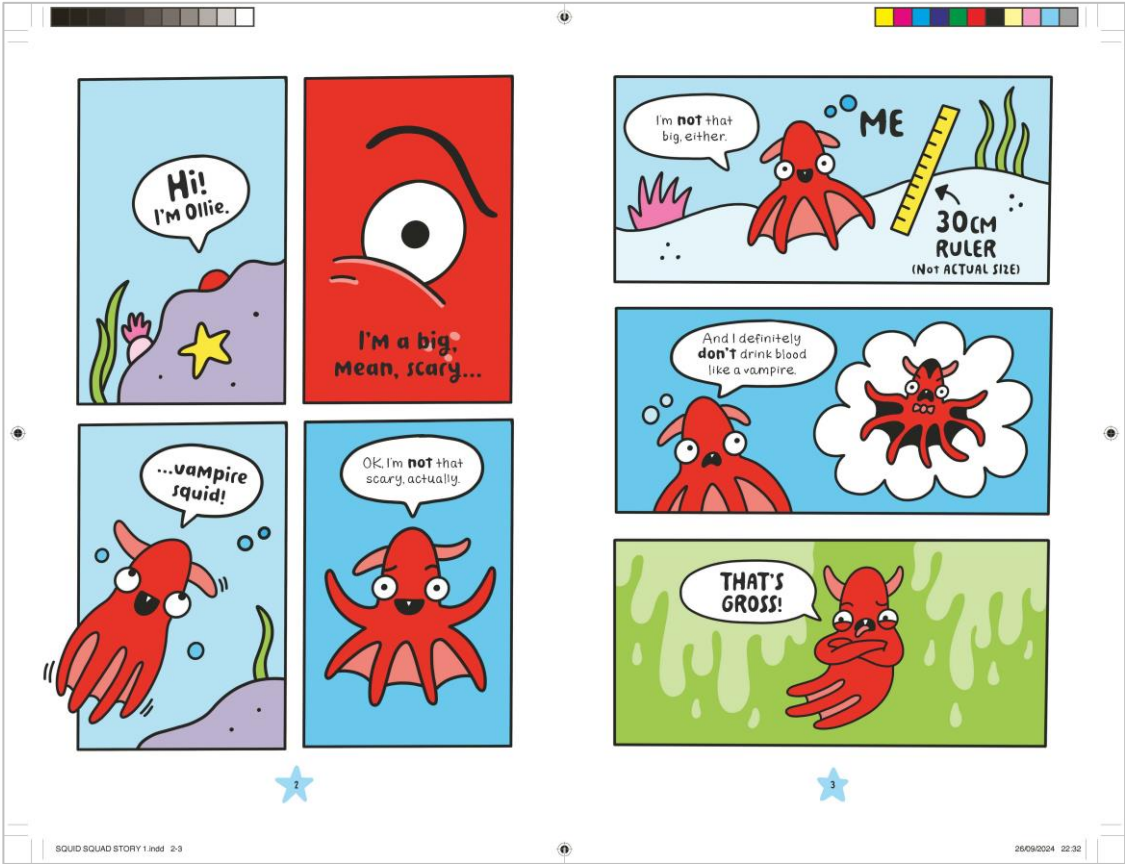
English Language Rights: World



Aoife Dooley is an Irish writer, award-winning illustrator, comedian and graphic designer. Aoife openly shares her experiences of being diagnosed as autistic at the age of 27, neurodiversity and how a diagnosis helped her to truly understand herself. She won Illustrated Children's Book of the Year at the inaugural The Week Junior Book Awards with her debut graphic novel *Frankie's World*.

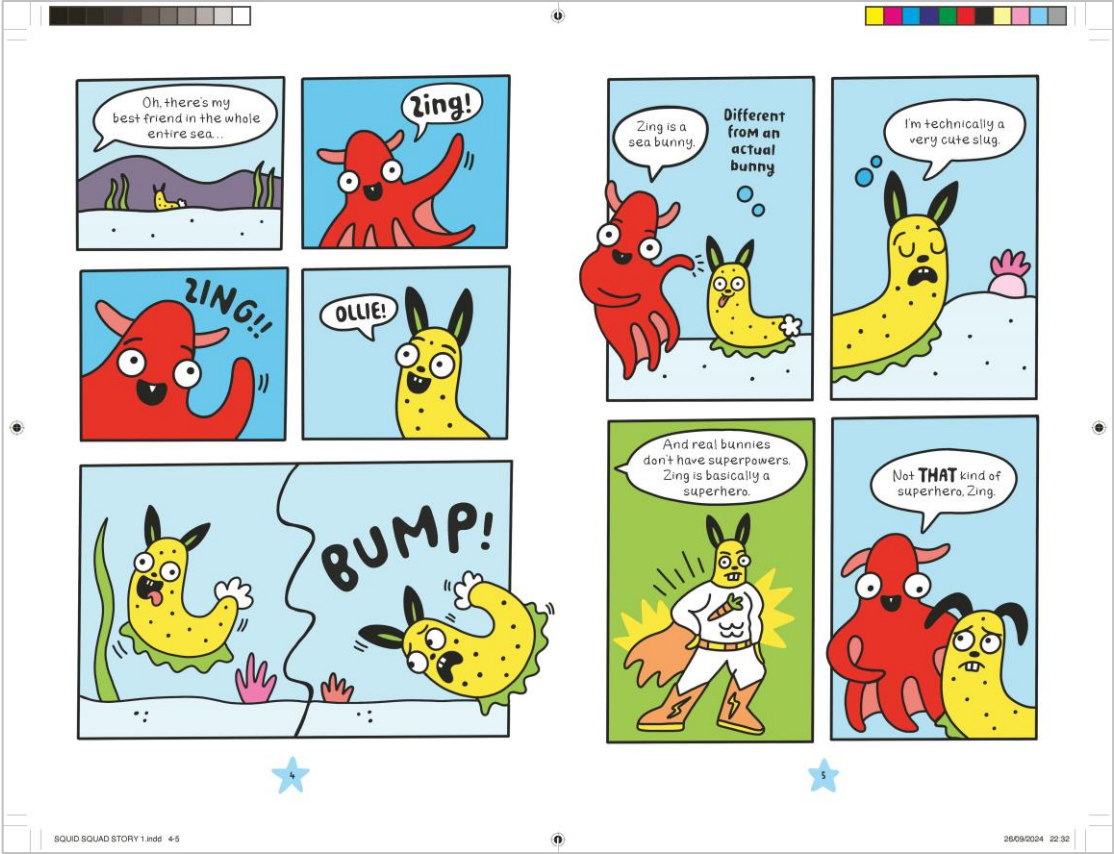
SQUID SQUAD

By Aoife Dooley



SQUID SQUAD

By Aoife Dooley



SQUID SQUAD

By Aoife Dooley



SHEVOLUTION: CELEBRATING FEMALE POWER THROUGHOUT HISTORY

By Lou Treleaven

Illustrated by Petra Braun



Cover not final

A joyful exploration of women's history

Everyone alive today can trace their ancestry back to just one woman. But what would her life have been like and what has happened since for her billions of descendants?

In an all-encompassing whistlestop tour through prehistory, history, and on to the future, *Shevolution* spans an extraordinary 150,000 years, tracing the life of the woman scientists call 'Mitochondrial Eve' and following the journeys of the female pioneers who have shaped us all.

Key Selling Points

- Tells the story of female history from ancient times to the present day
- An important read for all children who want to learn about the Shevolution of society
- Stunning and vibrant art throughout
- Perfect for fans of *Good Night Stories For Rebel Girls* and *Fantastically Great Women Who've Changed The World*

Pub Date: 8th May 2025

ISBN: 9780702333828

RRP: £14.99

Age: 09-12

Binding: Hardback

Extent: 96pp

TPS: 275mm x 225mm

CBMC code: D5N79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights: World

Lou Treleaven lives in Bedfordshire in the UK with her family and two rescue cats, Maple and Bluebell. She has been writing little books of stories ever since she can remember and now has more than 30 published books. She splits her time between writing books and helping authors.

Petra Braun is a freelance illustrator based in Austria. She specializes in digital illustration and emphasizes women's empowerment and love of nature with a modern, feminine, bright, and playful style. She is highly inspired by strong women, the female body, animals, and plants and likes to evoke feelings, a special mood and atmosphere, as well as an uplifting message.

SHEVOLUTION: CELEBRATING FEMALE POWER THROUGHOUT HISTORY

By Lou Treleaven

Illustrated by Petra Braun



IN THE BEGINNING

There is a beginning to every story and this story begins with one woman. Before there was you – or your sister – there was Eve. At the start of our Shevolution, before there were queens ruling countries or girls going to school, there was Eve: a powerful, enterprising, strong-willed survivor. She could have had any name, but whatever her name was, she is our worldwide common ancestor. Mother to us all. Our shared relative and the origin of our Shevolution.

Eve might have lived around 200,000 years ago, but she still would have looked like us. She would have talked and laughed with her friends like us, marvelled at sunsets, gazed at the moon and fallen in love like us. But her life would have been very, very different to ours. Instead of sleeping in a nice warm bed, she would have curled up under the stars. Instead of popping into a shop when she was hungry, she would have had to hunt for meat and gather fruit, nuts and roots.

Scientists call this woman Eve because in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions, Eve was the first woman.

You might be wondering how in the world we know that everyone alive today is related to one woman. Surely that's impossible? The answer is in our DNA. This special instruction code that tells your body how to breathe, grow, live and learn; that tells you how

much you look like the other members of your family, even sometimes how much you behave like them, is the reason. Inside our cells is a very special type of DNA – mitochondrial DNA – which is only passed on from our mothers. This means that scientists can use this DNA to trace back an unbroken chain from every woman and girl all the way back to one: Eve.

Sometimes the person we think of as 'Eve' will change. As family lines end, the most common ancestor to us all will switch to another woman.

Right now, the person we think of as Eve lived in Southern Africa in the Stone Age. She would have had a family and community and no idea that one day, eight billion people would be related to her.

SHEVOLUTION: CELEBRATING FEMALE POWER THROUGHOUT HISTORY

By Lou Treleaven

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AN IRON WILL

As the shevolution continued – although at very different paces in different places – there was another leap forward for the descendants of Eve. People worked out how to extract iron from rock and use it to make steel. This new material meant that weapons and tools became much stronger. Farming improved, it was now possible to build larger structures and war became ever more deadly. The Iron Age had begun, and Iron Age women were ready for it.

What were people in the Iron Age like? How different were their lives to yours? When men died in Iron Age Britain, they were usually buried with a sword and a shield, Iron Age women were buried with a brooch and a mirror. But an ancient grave on Bryher – an island in the Scilly Isles – has had scientists puzzled for a long time. The grave contained a sword and a shield ... and a brooch and a mirror. Was this a man or a woman? All that was left of the body was a few small pieces of bone and teeth, so the body shape wasn't obvious, and the remains were too decayed to test for DNA. But then things changed. Scientists discovered that a person's sex can be found out through their tooth enamel. The teeth were examined, and the ancient body was discovered to be female. Mirrors are thought to have been used in battle for signalling and also for communicating with the gods, so the items left in the grave point to the woman being a warrior or powerful leader. And ancient sites are still unlocking secrets about the lives of mighty Iron Age women.

If you wanted something to last for thousands of years, you wouldn't think of putting it in a bog, these days, but that's exactly what has happened to some Iron Age bodies. Bogs and swamps can preserve

bodies because they prevent oxygen from causing decay. They are also full of the chemical called tannin, which preserves soft body tissue and even clothing.

An Iron Age woman was dug up from a bog in Huldremose, Denmark, scientists were able to discover some amazing things about her, including that her last meal was rye, seeds and some sort of meat. They also found that she had once broken her leg, but it had healed, her right arm was almost severed, she was around forty years old – quite elderly for the Iron Age! – and she lived her life over two thousand two hundred years ago.

She wore a checked woollen skirt that was once blue, a scarf that used to be bright red and two sheepskin capes.

She had some precious keepsakes sewn into her clothing: an old horn comb, a blue hairband and a leather thong.

Bogs were used to making offerings to the gods and to sacrifice animals. Was the woman a human sacrifice, or was her death a sad accident? Was her arm injured before or after death? Her ultimate secrets will never be known, but at least now she will be remembered by history.

The Celts of Ireland worshipped many gods in the Iron Age, but their goddesses were just as important.



SHEVOLUTION: CELEBRATING FEMALE POWER THROUGHOUT HISTORY

By Lou Treleaven

Illustrated by Petra Braun



NOT SO MANY CHOICES

Just like in ancient Rome, one of the few ways women in medieval times could wield any sort of power or influence was through marriage to a high-status man. A woman named **Eleanor of Aquitaine** did just that – not just once, but twice.

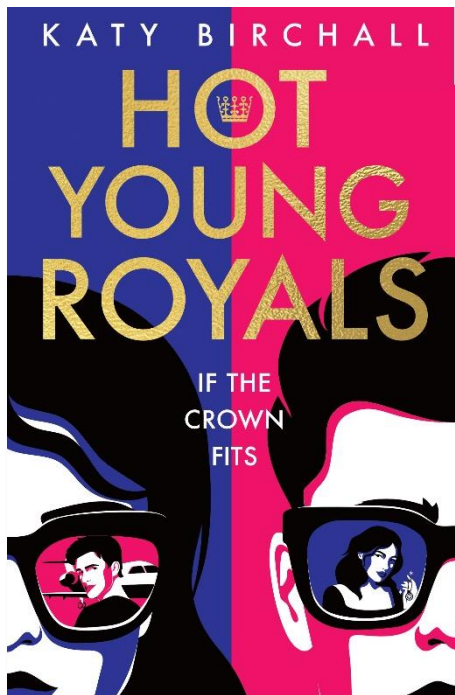
Eleanor's father was the super-rich Duke of Aquitaine in France. When her father and brother died, Eleanor became a very wealthy woman. This may have been why she was married off to the heir to the French throne in 1137, who would later become King Louis VII. The couple did not get on well, but – luckily, being the king – Louis was able to have their marriage annulled in 1152. Eleanor then got hitched to Henry II, King of England in 1154. That marriage didn't go too well either ... to say the least. Eleanor even plotted to kill her husband and Henry had her imprisoned. After Henry's death in 1189, Eleanor's son, Richard, became king and released her. An experienced ruler now in her sixties, Eleanor helped to run England and France, stood in for King Richard when he was abroad, and returned the favour by helping to get him released when he was taken prisoner. When Richard died, Eleanor retired from court life but was still very involved in affairs in her homeland of Aquitaine until her death in 1204. She was buried next to Henry – something probably neither of them would have wanted!

Of course, not many women had the option of becoming a queen. And, since surgeon, director, judge, prime minister and champion athlete were all firmly off the careers table, you'd have to look to what is now a more unusual alternative in order

to avoid marrying and living under the control of a husband. Become a nun. The Benedictines were a popular order of Christian nuns, but new orders such as the Poor Clares began to appear in the Middle Ages and opened up new opportunities for girls and their families. It might not sound terribly appealing, and life as a nun could be harsh – you had to live very simply by strict rules and spent your life in prayer, and serving your community – but you would be independent from your family and the demands of society. You might also be able to read books and educate yourself. A standout nun at the time was the almost superhumanly clever **Hildegard of Bingen**. She studied philosophy, music composition, medicine, literature, biology and cosmology, and made advances in science as well as being famous for her religious visions and her music. For women like Hildegard, convents could provide the space and time to pursue their own interests away from the world.

HOT YOUNG ROYALS

By Katy Birchall



The most glamorous and steamy YA romance of the year, where girl meets boy with a royal twist.

After the death of her Mother, Ruby is thrust from the quiet countryside into the glittering world of London's upper-class. At Clairmont Hall, the corridors are ruled by the Elites – a group made up not only of London's richest but actual royalty – including Princess Caroline, who is rumoured to be promised to the dazzling duke, Xavier. But Ruby can't help wondering if this is what he truly wants...

Ruby realizes infiltrating the Elites might be the key to finding out who her father is. Ruby must balance her new life, new crush and – after her Father is revealed to be the King of England – her new role as Princess.

Key Selling Points

- Perfect for fans of *Red, White and Royal Blue* and *Gossip Girl*
- Filled with steamy, swoony #FakeDating tension. A glitzy tale of family, identity and romance amidst the glamorous backdrop of London's high society.
- Aspirational and accessible for a generation who have grown up accessing the lives of the rich and famous on social media.

Pub Date: 8th May 2025

ISBN: 9780702337208

RRP: £8.99

Age: 14-20

Binding: B format - paperback

Extent: 416pp

TPS: 198mm x 129mm

CBMC code: E3N79

English Language Rights: World

Katy Birchall is the author of several commercial women's fiction books such as *The Secret Bridesmaid* and *The Wedding Season*. She is the co-author of the middle grade *Lightning Girl* and *Luna Wolf* series plus tween books *Star Switch* and *Girls Rule* with Alesha Dixon. She has also written a non-fiction book, *How to be a Princess: Real-Life Fairy Tales for Modern Heroines*. *Hot Young Royals* is her first book for a YA audience.



the LEAF THIEF

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater

THE SUN THIEF



- An international bestselling series sold into 24 territories worldwide
- *The Leaf Thief* is a *New York Times* bestseller
- Children will love following Squirrel and Bird's brilliantly fun antics all whilst they learn about nature and the changing seasons
- Featuring a non-fiction spread at the end of each book



A *New York Times*
international bestselling
brand sold into 24
territories

The hottest new picture book from the incredible duo behind the New York Times bestseller, The Leaf Thief!

Squirrel is back, and he's enjoying the long, sunny summer days. But wait!

Why is Bird going to bed when the sun is still up? What a silly idea! Squirrel could **never** fall asleep while it's still light . . .

And when the sun starts to disappear earlier and earlier each night, Squirrel is convinced there **MUST** be a sun thief about!

Join Squirrel on a **mission** to find the culprit and meet some new nocturnal friends along the way. Luckily, the sun always comes out in the end . . . even if it doesn't stay for long!



Pub Date: 5th June 2025

ISBN: 9780702341267

RRP: £7.99

Age: 02-06

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 32pp

TPS: 275mm x 250mm

CBMC code: A3M79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights: World excluding USA & Canada

Alice Hemming's first book was published in 2013 and since then she's never looked back, writing picture books, middle grade and the bestselling *Midnight Unicorn* series.

Nicola Slater is well-known for her distinctive artwork. She has illustrated *Leaping Lemmings*, *Hello Zoo* and *A Skunk in my Bunk* as well as many, many others. Nicola lives with her family in Manchester, England.

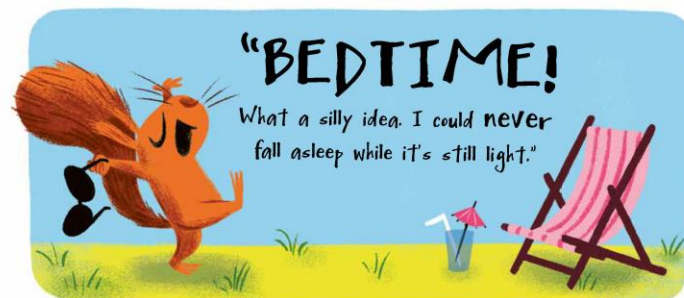
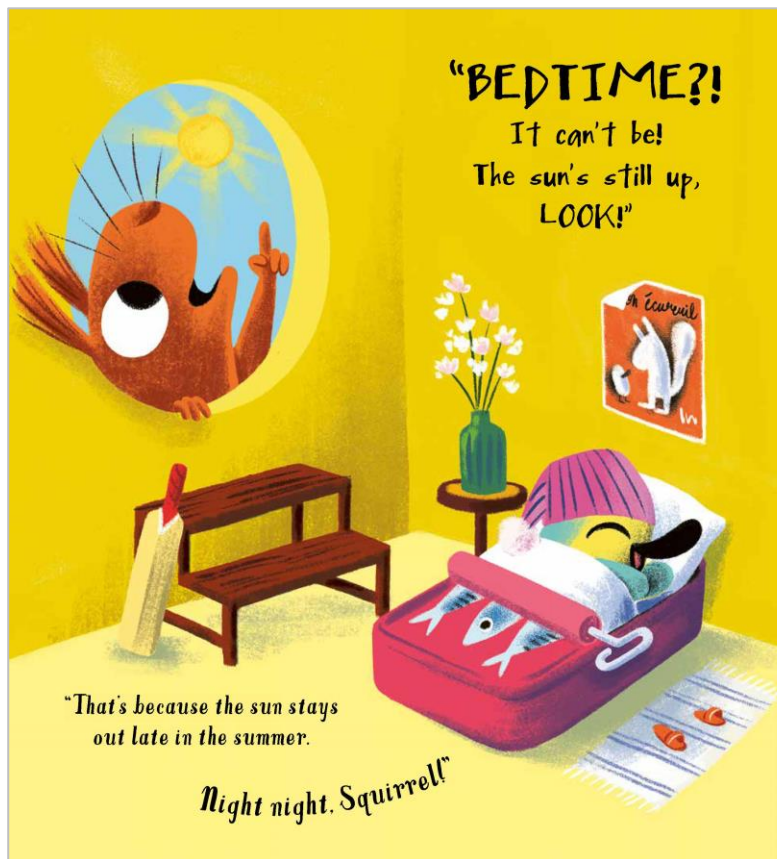
THE SUN THIEF

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater



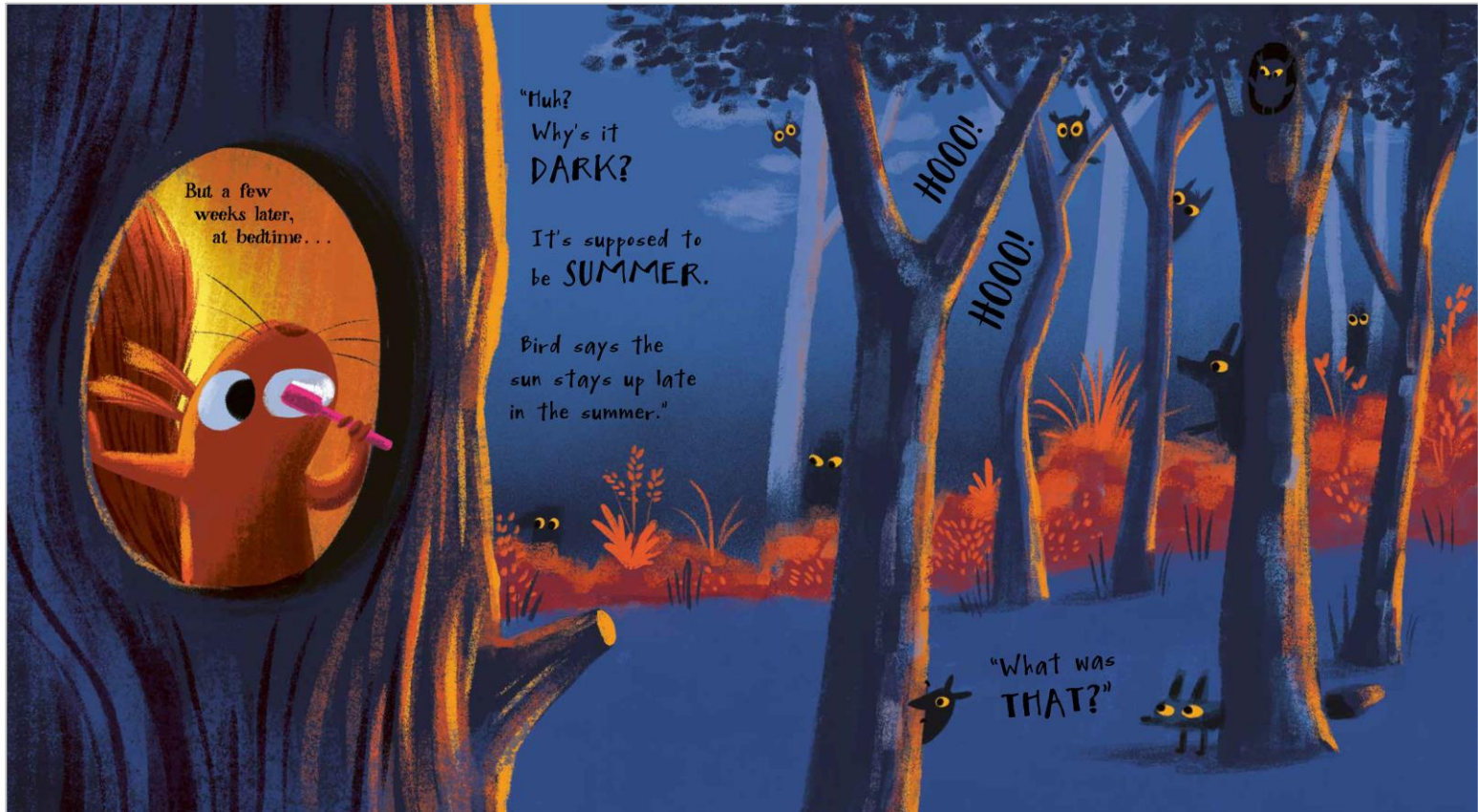
THE SUN THIEF

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater



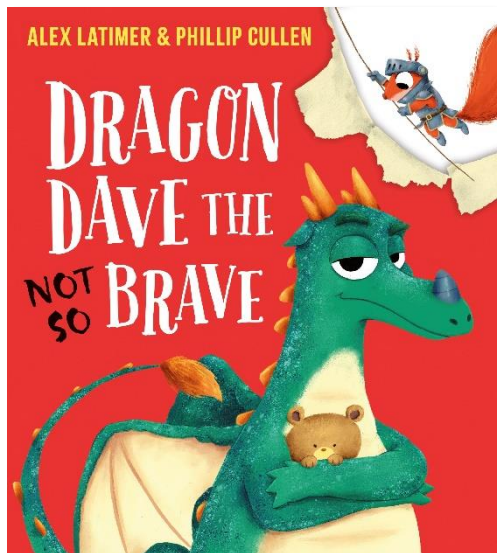
THE SUN THIEF

By Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater



DRAGON DAVE THE (NOT-SO) BRAVE

By Alex Latimer and Phillip Cullen



**Have you ever wanted to change how a story ends?
Then this is the picture book for you!**

Help! Dragon Dave has been stuck in this book **FOREVER**.

He really wants to get out. The story always has a very **sticky ending** . . .

But when Prince George shows Dave that words can be re-written, will Dave be **brave** enough to change his story?

Key Selling Points

- This innovative picture book celebrates friendship, daring to be different, and having the courage to write your own story
- Features important messages, woven into a child-friendly story, with bags of fun
- With artwork full of character and humour by exciting debut picture book illustrator, Phillip Cullen
- Written by master storyteller Alex Latimer, author of many picture books, including *Pip and Egg* which sold into 15 languages

Pub Date: 5th June 2025

ISBN: 9780702314858

RRP: £7.99

Age: 02-06

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 32pp

TPS: 275mm x 250mm

CBMC code: A3M79

Illustrations: Colour

English Language Rights: World



Alex Latimer is an award-winning South African writer and illustrator living in Cape Town. He has a degree in English and Philosophy and has written and illustrated for many major brands across the globe. Alex's picture books are quirky and fun and full of humour that appeals to both children and adults. **Phillip Cullen** is an exciting new children's illustrator. *Dragon Dave the (Not-So) Brave* is his debut picture book. He grew up in Dublin and studied Classical Animation at Ballyfermot College.

The story was pretty good, actually!

There was the fun opening where he swooped in over the village.



And the bit where he chased Prince George with a can opener.



But Dave the Brave was **NOT** a fan of the ending.
It made him feel *not-so* brave.



Dave skipped forward a few pages . . .
This part needed to change, too!

Prince George crept up
the hill to Dave the Brave's
cave, and while he slept
he tied him up.

So, Dave changed the story again.

Prince George crept up
the hill to Dave the Brave's
cave, and while he slept
~~he tied him up.~~

Sang a lullaby
and tucked him
in with Mr Teddy.

"That's a bit much," said Prince George.
"I'm still a Prince, you know!"

"So what?" said Dave. "Princes can sing lullabies."

"I suppose I could give it a go," added Prince George.



"I think we've made enough changes," said Prince George.
"Shall we head back to the beginning and see how the
story goes now?"

"OOH! YES!" shouted Dave.

They could hardly wait.

They ran as fast as they could . . .

back through the book . . .

right to page one . . .

