

An exclusive introduction by *Eoin Colfer*

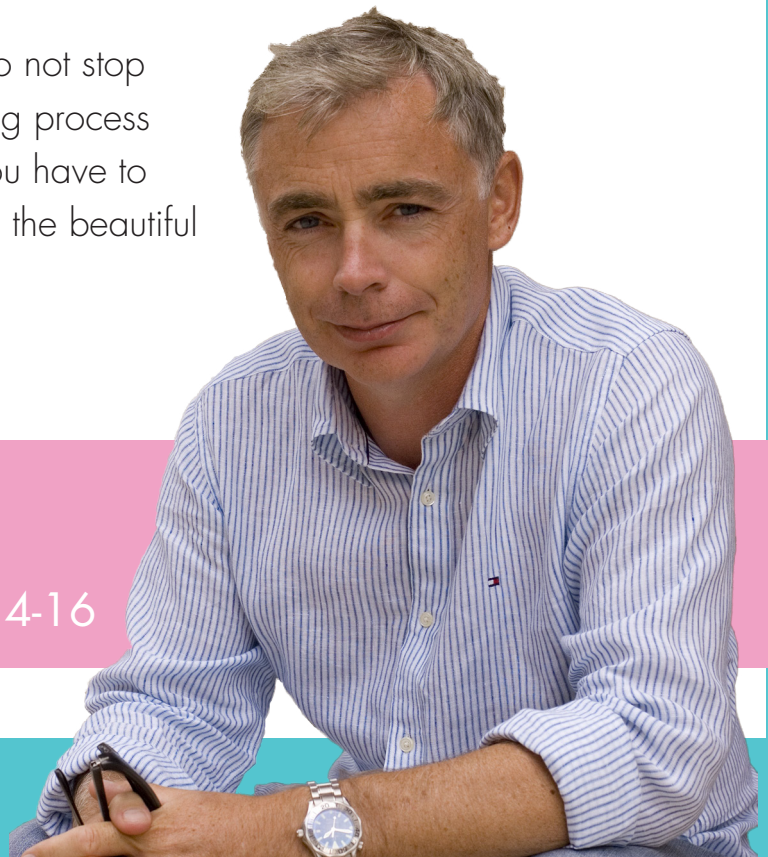
In all
We Are Writers
books until
2016

My parents turned me into a writer in a very sneaky fashion. Before I even started school they were leaving art materials around and speaking casually about stories like they were no big deal and everyone went around writing stories and drawing cartoons.

As I grew older I assumed in a soft focus kind of way that I would get published around about the age of twenty five but shock horror, it didn't happen. I submitted manuscript after manuscript which were gently but insistently returned to my door. It took fifteen years of trying to finally get that first published novel in my hands and let me tell you something; it was worth the wait.

I would have waited for twenty more years to slide my sweaty hands over that first glossy cover. I may have clasped it to my breast and dropped to my knees in thanks. I definitely wept.

But seriously, young writers, do not stop improving. Think of your writing process as a big lump of stone and you have to keep chipping away to reveal the beautiful sculpture beneath.



Eoin Colfer

Bestselling children's author
Irish Children's Laureate 2014-16