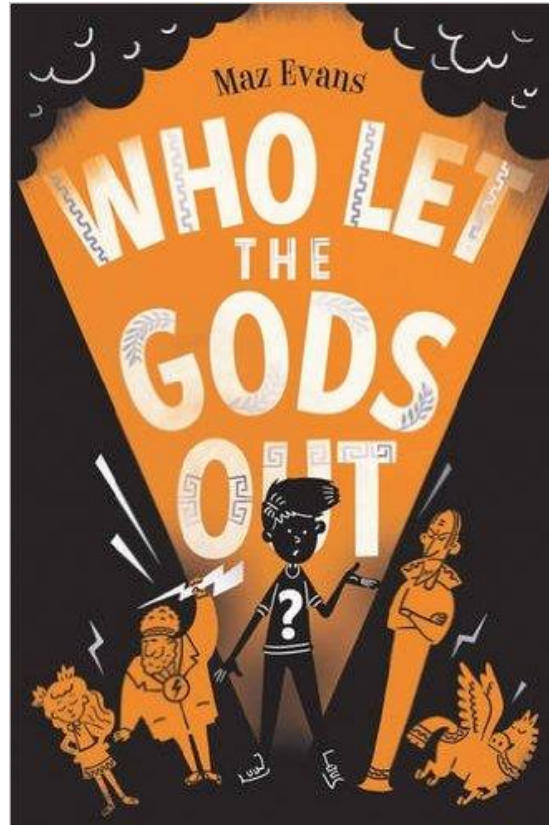
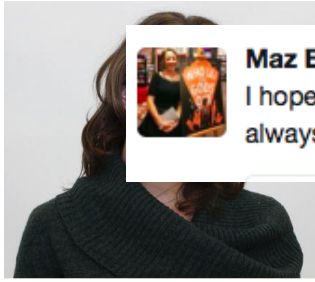


# Who Let The Gods Out



Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?

**Author**  
**(and why she thinks you should read her book)**  
**Maz Evans**



**Maz Evans** @MaryAliceEvans · 37m

I hope that WLTGO is like life: sometimes funny, sometimes sad, but you'll always find friends on your adventure. And someone always farts.

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## For Fans Of:

Roald Dahl  
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief  
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright

## Reviews

- 👤 **Oliver Thorpe, age 10** - 'I loved this, and couldn't put it down, hence I read it in two days. I think that whoever picks it up, will love it, and find it very amusing finished.'
- 👤 **Sam Harper, age 12** - 'I finished this hilarious, crazy adventure in a single sitting.... If you like fast-paced, against the clock, comical capers you'll love this, it's fantastic.'
- 👤 **Jack Horswill, age 10** - **Little Sutton Primary School** - 'I would like to congratulate Maz Evans on how astonishing the action in this book was - the way she brought the Gods to life as heroes was brilliant.'
- 👤 **Nomvelo Malinga, age 10** - '*Who Let The Gods Out* is filled with adventure and problem-solving.'

## Extract

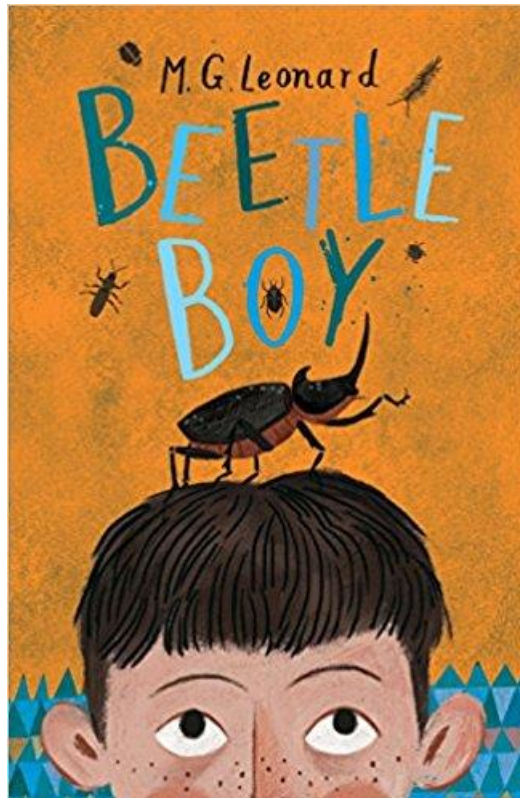
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'He disgraced the Brysmore name!' roared Boil. 'He shamed himself! He shamed the school! He ruined my brilliant PowerPoint presentation on Napoleon's favourite socks! He . . .'

'He fell asleep,' said Call Me Graham quietly, looking at Elliot's pale face and dark-rimmed eyes. 'Let's try to keep a little perspective, Mr Boil. This isn't the first time this has happened lately, Elliot. Why are you so tired?'

'Pah!' spat Boil. 'Out all hours terrorizing old ladies, I expect! Or playing violent computer games until dawn! Or putting my underpants up the school flagpole! Again!'

Elliot tried not to smirk at the memory of his all-time favourite prank, which Boil knew – but could never prove – that Elliot was responsible for last year. But pranks were long gone. These days Elliot couldn't afford any more trouble.

## **Beetle Boy**



Darkus is miserable. His dad has disappeared, and now he is living next door to the most disgusting neighbours ever. A giant beetle called Baxter comes to his rescue. But can the two solve the mystery of his dad's disappearance, especially when links emerge to cruel Lucretia Cutter and her penchant for beetle jewellery? A coffee-mug mountain, home to a million insects, could provide the answer - if Darkus and Baxter are brave enough to find it.

**Author**  
**(and why she thinks you should read her book)**  
**MG Leonard**



**M.G. Leonard** @MGLnrd · 17m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

To open their eyes to the wonderful insect safari all around them & enjoy a thrilling action packed adventure with dens, battles & beetles.

**For Fans Of:**

James and the Giant Peach  
The Last Wild  
Time Travelling With a Hamster

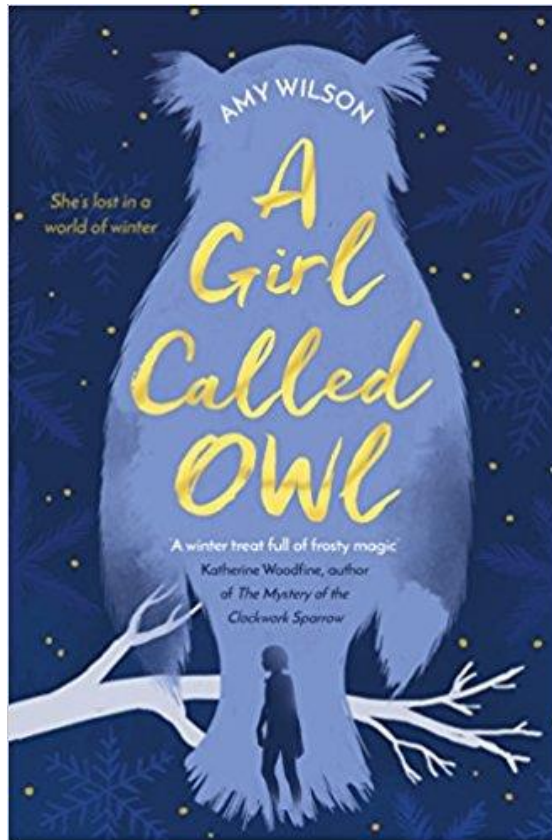
## Reviews

- 👤 Liam's Wilson, age 11 - 'A hilarious, thrilling adventure.'
- 👤 Sam Harper, age 11 - 'A truly captivating story with great illustrations to add to the entire picture that it creates in your mind's eye. Brilliant!'
- 👤 Alexander Bisland, age 10 - 'This book intrigued me and I was always on the edge of my seat, determined to read on! I give it 10/10!'
- 👤 Emily Lonsdale, age 10 - 'Really unusual book with a mixture of insect and mystery.'
- 👤 Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 10 - 'What a fantastic story. The mystery of a disappearing Dad, a boy who can communicate with beetles and a very weird "villain" who is extremely creepy!'

## Extract

**D**r Bartholomew Cuttle wasn't the kind of man who mysteriously disappeared. He was the kind of man who read enormous old books at the dinner table and got fried egg stuck in his beard. He was the kind of man who always lost his keys, and never took an umbrella on rainy days. He was the kind of dad who might be five minutes late picking you up from school, but he always came. More than anything else, Darkus knew his dad was not the kind of father who would abandon his thirteen-year-old son.

# A Girl Called Owl



It's bad enough having a mum dippy enough to name you Owl, but when you've got a dad you've never met, a best friend who needs you more than ever, and a new boy at school giving you weird looks, there's not a lot of room for much else.

So when Owl starts seeing strange frost patterns on her skin, she's tempted to just burrow down under the duvet and forget all about it. Could her strange new powers be linked to her mysterious father? And what will happen when she enters the magical world of winter for the first time?

## Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Amy Wilson



**Amy Wilson** ❄️ @AJ\_Wils · 34m


Replying to @MrBoothY6

To discover a world of winter magic and frosty adventure, as Owl seeks Jack Frost & finds new friends & a whole other side to herself. (!!)

## For Fans Of:

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe  
The Dreamsnatcher  
The Girl of Ink and Stars

## Reviews

-  **Judith, age 11** - This book was absolutely breath taking...The fantastic story line and characters to fall in love with means that without a doubt, *A Girl Called Owl* is the perfect story for people who like adventure books.'
-  **Mia Goodman, age 10** - 'A FAB story! I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves adventures. A absolutely adored it. What a great frosty read...'
-  **Harriet Harper-Williams, age 11** - 'Jump into this world of magic and feel yourself transforming into a new person. One of the best books I've ever read!'
-  **Georgie Docwra, age 11** - 'I would recommend this book to children that are 9+ that enjoy adventure and fantasy stories!'
-  **Annie Sherratt, age 12** - 'This is the most magical book ever! If you have a great imagination it is PERFECT for you!'

## Extract

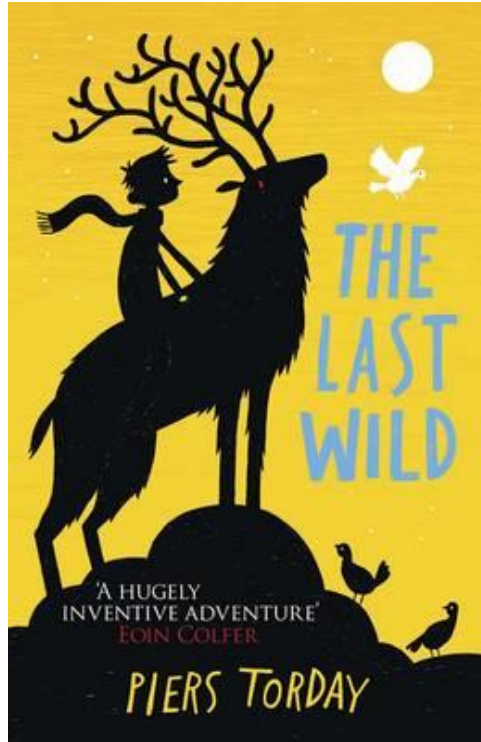
When you have a kid, don't call it something stupid.

Don't call it Apple, or Pear, or Mung Bean.

Don't call it Owl.

This advice is a bit late for me. Because she did. She did call me Owl. Thirteen years ago she looked down at a tiny little baby – me – and decided that Owl would be a good way to go.

# The Last Wild



In a world where animals no longer exist, twelve-year-old Kester Jaynes sometimes feels like he hardly exists either. Locked away in a home for troubled children, he's told there's something wrong with him. So when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he's finally gone a bit mad. But the animals have something to say...The pigeons fly Kester to a wild place where the last creatures in the land have survived. A wise stag needs Kester's help, and together they must embark on a great journey, joined along the way by an over-enthusiastic wolf-cub, a spoilt show-cat, a dancing harvest mouse and a stubborn girl named Polly. The animals saved Kester Jaynes. But can Kester save the animals?

**Author**  
**(and why he thinks you should read his book)**  
**Piers Torday**



**Piers Torday**  @PiersTorday · 49m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

If you like animals and / or adventure then The Last Wild is the book for you. Especially if you like cockroaches. Or even if you don't.

**For  
Fans  
Of:**

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe  
Beetle Boy  
James and the Giant Peach

## Reviews

**Katie Humphreys age 10** I think this book was great because it had adventure, mystery and happiness in it. [Click here](#) to read the full review

**Ewan Young, 10** The Last Wild is a really good book. It was so exciting I couldn't stop reading it! [Click here](#) to read the full review

**Daisy Theobald, age 10** if you are an animal lover then this is the book for you....[Click here](#) to read the full review

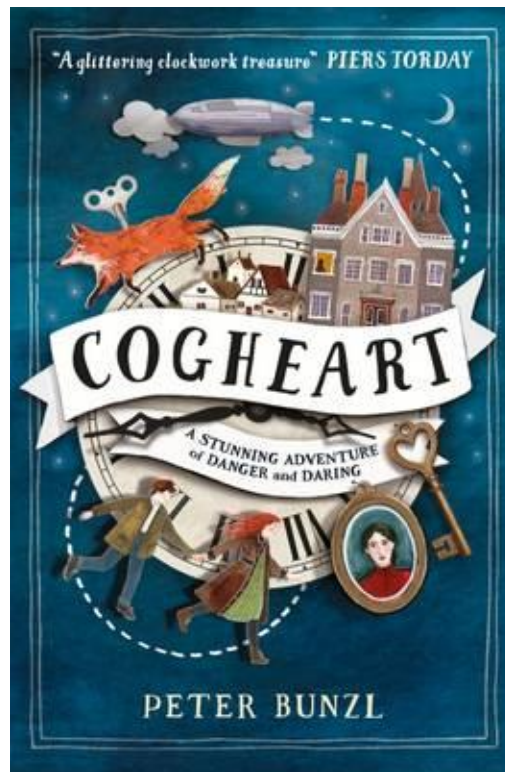
## Extract

Behind him is Big Brenda, a fat girl with hair in bunches who has to sleep on a reinforced bed. She's here because she ate her mum and dad out of house and home – even during the food shortage – and got so big they couldn't look after her any more. That pale-faced kid with bags under his eyes is Tony – who got in trouble for stealing tins of food. And now he's here, quietly nicking some headphones out of the bag belonging to Justine, who is here because she was caught being part of a gang. A gang of thieves who got around everywhere on bikes, who nicked not just tins of food, but anything they could get their hands on. Like music players and headphones. That little kid she's talking to with spiky hair and a devil grin – that's Maze, who has an attention deficiency. The kind of attention deficiency that makes you chase your mum around the kitchen with a knife. And then right at the back, behind them all, is me.

I know their names. I listen to their conversations. I know why they're here.

But I don't know why I am.

# Cogheart



When 13-year-old Lily's inventor father vanishes after a Zeppelin crash, Lily's determined to hunt down the truth behind his disappearance, helped by Robert, the local clockmaker's son, and her wily mechanical fox Malkin. But shadowy figures are closing in and treachery lurks among the smoky spires of London - along with a life-changing secret. Be swept away by airships and flabbergasted by dastardly plots in this extraordinary and wildly imaginative debut, bursting with invention and adventure.

## Author (and why he thinks you should read his book) Peter Bunzl



**Peter Bunzl** @peterbunzl · 1h

Replying to @MrBoothY6

Bc it's a dangerous daring tale filled with action adventure, airships, mechanical robots, mystery, mayhem, secrets and betrayal + heart.

### For Fans Of:

# Northern Lights

## Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

### Clockwork

## Reviews

- 👤 **Isabella Campbell, age 11** - 'Cogheart is an amazing book. From the outset, the characters and the treacherous plots take you on a thrilling, magical journey of adventure and the final twists will leave you spinning.'
- 👤 **Rohan Delamere, age 10** - 'A steampunk fantasy adventure that had me gripped with its brilliantly woven characters and cast of mechanical wonders. An amazing read!'
- 👤 **Erica Motoc, age 10** - 'this book is perfect for children who like drama and moments of tension that make you hold your breath at every written word.'
- 👤 **Iulia Motoc, age 8** - 'The story is full of descriptions.'

## Extract

Lily balled her fists. "Why don't you leave her alone?" she said, stepping forward to shield Molly from the two girls.

"What business is it of yours?" Alice asked.

"She's a friend of mine."

"She? *SHE*?" Lucretia folded her arms across her chest and gave a disdainful laugh. "It's not alive, Lily. Mechs aren't living."

"Besides," Alice scuttled closer to Lucretia, "everyone knows mechs and humans can't be friends. Mechs have no feelings."

Lily sighed. It was exhausting dealing with such idiots. "Don't be ridiculous," she told them. "Of course they have feelings. They're no different to you or me."

Lucretia tutted at her. "Oh, Lily, Lily, how wrong you are. Let me show you." She whipped out a hand and struck Molly round the head.

# The Apprentice Witch



Arianwyn fluffs her witch's assessment. Awarded the dull bronze disc of an apprentice - to the glee of her arch-rival, Gimma - she's sent to protect the remote, dreary town of Lull. But her new life is far from boring.

**Author**  
**(and why he thinks you should read his book)**  
**James Nicol**



James Nicol @JamesENicol · 1h

of fun & adventure & colourful cast of characters. About self belief - where magic can't solve all! Doesn't take itself too seriously

## For Fans Of:

The Worst Witch  
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone  
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

## Reviews

★★★★★ A wonderfully enchanting debut from James Nicol.

By [Book Lover Jo](#) on 13 Aug. 2016

Format: Paperback

'The Apprentice Witch' is a wonderful, enchanting debut from James Nicol about a young witch called Arianwyn who will weave her magical powers over you and capture your heart. Sent off to the remote town of Lull after failing her witch's assessment, Arianwyn is filled with uncertainty but thrilled at the thought of being close to the magic of the Great Wood. Armed with only a present from her grandmother a faded old book 'The Apprentice Witch's Handbook' she feels that she has everything to prove and much to lose. Unknown to the outside world she is struggling to contain a mysterious magic within herself, which will unexpectedly make an appearance and is beyond her control. Then just to complicate matters her arch-enemy Gimma makes a surprise appearance in Lull and appears determined to make her life difficult. Arianwyn begins to question if she will ever become a proper witch? Little does she know that there is much more than this to worry about, as dark forces are on the horizon.

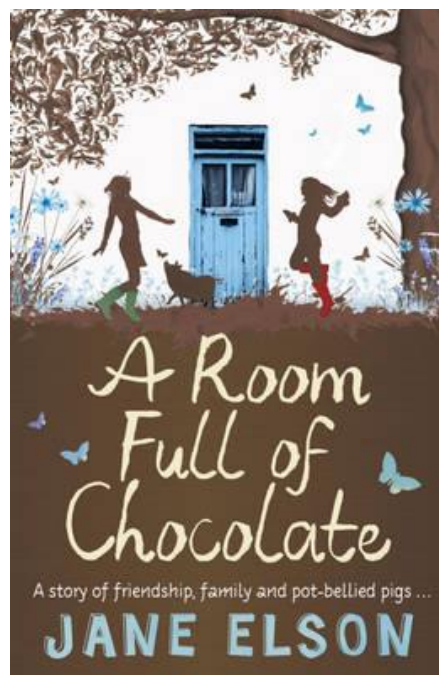
James Nicol has created a completely believable world of magic and witchcraft. When you read Harry Potter you know that Diagon Alley and Quidditch are real and they just become part of the story, you don't question their existence. Or when you watch a film with amazing special effects and the story is so brilliant you don't focus on them they just complement the experience. For me this is how I feel when I read 'The Apprentice Witch'. I'm so involved in the story that I totally accept the premise there are four cardinal glyphs used by witches when they create spells, I know that this must be true. All of the details feel genuine and authentic, it's not an actual story but in fact James is allowing us a glimpse into a world we haven't yet discovered. [Read more >](#)

## Extract

**W**itches of Hylund,' the poster declared,  
'Your country needs you! Join up TODAY!'

Arianwyn stared up at the elegant woman gazing proudly from the poster. The woman's hair was golden and flowing, her lips bright red. She wore the dark navy uniform and the silver star of a fully trained witch. Arianwyn glanced down at her coat and the space that her own star would soon occupy.

## A Room Full Of Chocolate



Grace's fun-loving Mum has found a lump. Her north London world of sleepovers, tap dancing and playing the clarinet fall apart when she is sent to live with her grumpy old granddad on his farm in Yorkshire while her mother goes into hospital to get better. Grace misses her mother so much it hurts, and doesn't quite understand what is happening to her. And things go from bad to worse when she starts school and becomes the bullies' latest target. But Grace is no longer alone when she meets Rainbow Girl Megan and her pig, Claude - when she's with them she feels as if she

can confront anything. At Easter time when Grace misses her mum the most, she knows she must find a way to get to London. With Megan's help, she hatches a plan to run away that involves Claude, chocolate Easter eggs and a risky ID swap. But it's all worth it if it means that she finally gets to see her mum.

## Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Jane Elson



**Jane Elson** @JJELSON35 · 2h

Replying to @MrBoothY6

It's my life story so my hope is children will laugh & cry & care passionately about Grace. Plus it's got chocolate in the title

The Girl Who Walked On Air  
A Boy Called Hope  
A Library of Lemons

## Reviews

Shows just how important friendship and family are... a beautifully written book with real insight. (*Parents in Touch*)

Real authenticity... beautifully written and very moving. \*\*\*\*\* (*Bookbag*)

Full of emotion and humour... I couldn't put this book down! (*The Guardian*)

I devoured the story. It's one with an important message and a book I personally think should be required at school. Delicious! (*Chrissi Reads*)

Touching story with many light-hearted moments full of endearing, well rounded characters. (*Primary Times*)

A lovely book about courage and friendship. (*Cirencester Life*)

## Extract

Mum found a lump under her arm on my tenth birthday.

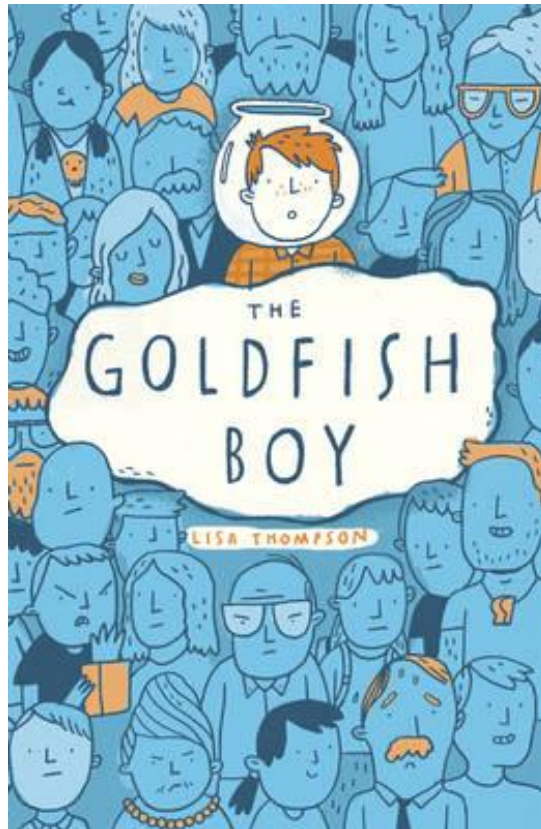
I wrote this fact down in my Special Blue Book that I use for my stories and plays.

Dad had been shouting at her and had stormed out, and afterwards I heard her crying in the shower. I banged on the door.

'Mum, it's me, Grace. I need a wee desperate, like two-seconds-to-spare desperate.'

Mum let me in, all covered in soapy bubbles, but as I ran to the toilet I heard her gasp. It was only a small gasp but I heard it.

## **The Goldfish Boy**



Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next-door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing.

Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters.

## **Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Lisa Thompson**



**Lisa Thompson** @lthompsonwrites · 10m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

If you like a story with a mystery, some twists and turns and one that will make you laugh (& possibly cry) then this is the book for you!

### **For Fans Of:**

# Wonder Mystery stories The Bubble Boy

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Warm and wonderful, a definite must have read!**

By [Book Lover Jo](#) on 6 Jan. 2017

Format: Paperback

'The Goldfish Boy' is a truly stunning debut from Lisa Thompson. Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day a toddler staying next door goes missing and Matthew finds himself at the centre of the mystery. Every one of his neighbours is a suspect, so Matthew must turn detective whilst facing his own fears. A beautifully written tale that deals with grief, mental illness and the power of friendship. Lisa has assembled a fantastic cast of characters that highlights that we all have our own unique quirks that are part of our personalities, but don't necessarily need to define us as individuals. It also offers the reader an insightful look into why people behave the way they do. I failed to unravel the mystery of who was responsible for the disappearance of the boy next door, but I was so enthralled by this tale I read 300 pages in one sitting, desperate to uncover the truth. Warm and wonderful, a definite must have read.

## Extract

I went to bed while it was still light outside. My limbs felt heavy, my brain exhausted. I must have fallen asleep within minutes to the sound of a blackbird singing outside. When I woke up it was dark. My clock glowed red: 2:34 a.m. Something had disturbed me but in that just-awake state I wasn't sure what; and then I heard knocking on the other side of my wall.

Tap, tap, tap.

I sat up and listened again.

Tap, tap, tap.

"Can you hear that?" I whispered to the Wallpaper Lion. "She's doing it again."

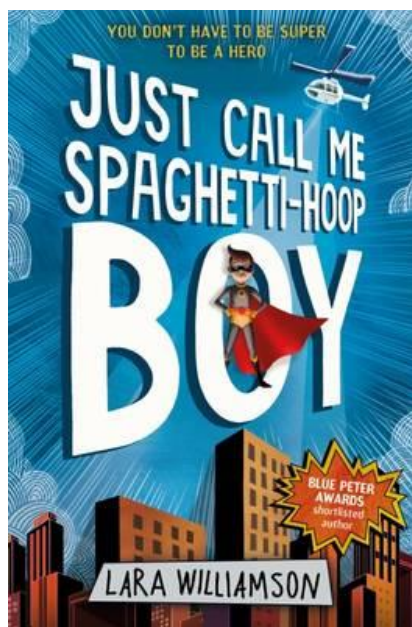
I closed my eyes and listened.

Tap, tap, tap.

"Are you there, Goldfish Boy? Are you back in your tank?"

It was Casey. I clenched my hand into a fist, ready to thump back if she did it again. I waited for ten minutes, but there was silence.

# Just Call Me Spaghetti-Hoop Boy

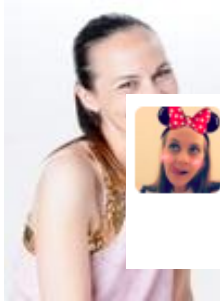


Adam Butters is happy with his adoptive family but that doesn't mean he doesn't feel like a part of him is missing. Especially when he finds his birth certificate with his original name, Ace, on. He has two names, two identities – just like a Superhero!

And Adam is determined to be superhero. He's going to save a life, help animals and old people, and make everyone happy. He thinks this will make his adoptive mum stop being so sad and his real mum want him again. But it's not the easiest of superhero missions, and it takes a painful discovery for him to realise you don't have to be super to be a hero.

**Author**  
**(and why she thinks you should read her book)**

# Lara Williamson



**Lara Williamson** @LaraWilliamson · 2h





Replying to @MrBoothY6

To discover families come in all shapes and sizes. And to learn you don't have to be super to be a hero, you just have to be you!

## For Fans Of:

Time Travelling With A Hamster  
Who Let The Gods Out?  
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright

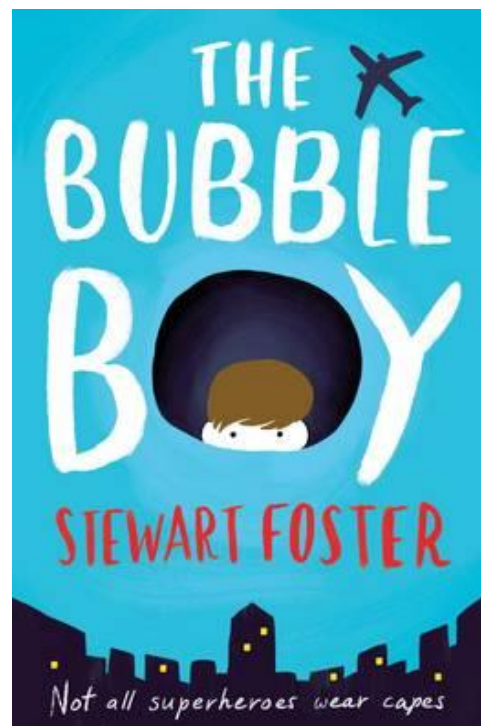
## Reviews

-  **Emily Walklett, age 12** - 'Absolutely brilliant- totally absorbed with this book from page 1! Instant likeability! This book gets full marks!'
-  **Lewis Briggs, age 10** - 'I loved this book! This could win so many famous awards for its greatness! I will recommend this fabulous book to all my friends.'
-  **Sam Harper, age 12** - 'A really good story about the importance of family and the love that holds them together. This will make you feel happy, sad and very glad you read it.'
-  **Toby Little, age 9** - 'I like this book because it shows a lot of truth about who you can be and what you can do. Whether you are young or old, big or small, you can change the world around you.'

## Extract

I'm Adam Butters and I love comics. My favourite characters are the Titans, which are little green creatures that live on the moon. I don't live on the moon but on planet Earth; top floor flat, number 53 Pegasus Park Towers. I like sunshine, my old teddy bear, rolling down hills and eating spaghetti hoops (but not at the same time). I wear my bobble hat because it makes me feel safe. When it gets wet my classmates think it smells of dogs but I don't care. We do have a dog, although it doesn't *smell* of dog because it doesn't exist. It's an invisible dog called Sausage Roll and belongs to my six-year-old sister, Velvet. I've got an older sister too and unfortunately she *does* exist. She's called Minnie. But the most important things in my life are my mum and dad, and there isn't anywhere else in the universe I'd rather be than with them.

## The Bubble Boy



Eleven-year-old Joe can't remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he's not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it for ever.

The Bubble Boy is the story of how Joe spends his days, copes with his loneliness and frustrations, and looks - with superhero-syle bravery, curiosity and hope - to a future without limits. Expect superheroes, super nurses and a few tears from this truly unique story.

**Author**  
**(and why he thinks you should read his book)**  
**Stewart Foster**



**For Fans Of:**

Wonder  
The Goldfish Boy  
A Boy Called Hope

**Reviews**

- 🗨️ **Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 11** - 'A truly inspirational and unique story. Joe is an eleven year old who has an immune disorder and has spent all his life in hospital. Amir arrives and this is where the story comes to life. Fabulous!'
  
- 🗨️ **Emily Yates, age 9** - '*The Bubble Boy* is the best book I have reviewed so far and by far the most realistic...A surprising, thought provoking book which makes me realise how blessed I am. I really enjoyed it!'
  
- 🗨️ **Sam Harper, age 11** - 'A heart-wrenching, emotional character study of a boy in a bubble who lives life through his screens and his dreams.'
  
- 🗨️ **Rose Roberts, age 12** - 'I loved this book. I could happily just read about Joe's everyday life without anything particularly exciting happening, and was hooked from the start. When I did get to the truly thrilling bit: wow!'

## Extract

### 11 years, 2 months and 21 days

'I've got a tattoo. Guess what it is?'

'A giraffe?'

'On my ankle?'

'Okay, an elephant.'

Beth touches me on my arm.

'Come on, Joe,' she says. 'You're not even trying.'

'Sorry. Show me it?'

She smiles then pulls up the right trouser of the overalls that all visitors have to wear, even family.

'Last guess?'

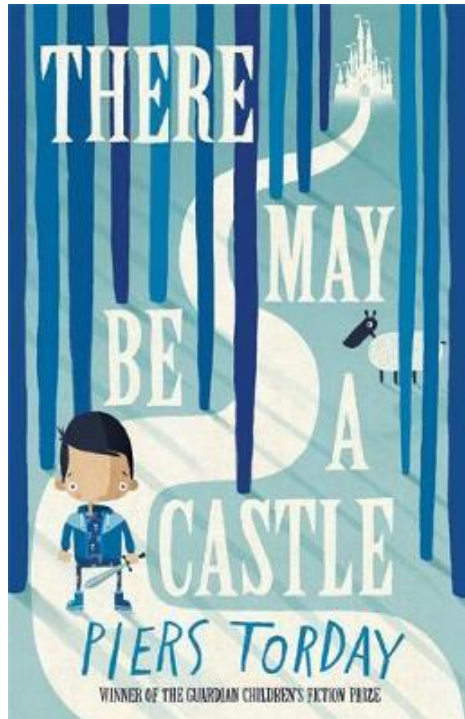
'Spider-Man?'

'No.' She laughs. '*You* can get that one when you're older.'

We look at each other and say nothing.

There May Be A Castle

She used to say she was sorry. Used to tell her it was okay that it didn't matter. Now we just look at each other then look away, pretending nothing's happened.



Eleven-year-old Mouse is travelling to see his grandparents on Christmas Eve with his mother and two sisters. But it's snowing, and visibility is bad, and the car goes off the road, and crashes. Mouse is thrown from the car. When he wakes, he's not in his world any more. He meets a sheep named Bar, who can only say Baaa, and a sarcastic horse named Nonky, who is a surprising mix of his beloved toy horse and his older sister. So begins a quest to find a castle in a world of wonder - a world of monsters, minstrels, dangerous knights and mysterious wizards; a world of terrifying danger but also more excitement than Mouse has ever known.

**Author**  
**(and why he thinks you should read his book)**  
**Piers Torday**



Piers Torday ✓ @PiersTorday · 2h

Replying to @MrBoothY6

**For Fans Of:**

There May Be A Castle is a book where you can never tell what is going to happen next especially at the end

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Beetle Boy

A Girl Called Owl

## Reviews

- 👤 **Hannah Minton, age 10** - 'This book was fantastic. I couldn't read it quick enough.'
- 👤 **Noah Scott-Sentence, age 9** - 'I enjoyed the book and thought it was clever and full of imagination.'
- 👤 **Emily Lonsdale, age 11** - 'Very funny, adventurous and full of twists and turns but I think it needs a warning for sensitive children that the ending is very sad.'
- 👤 **Alice East, age 12** - '*There May Be a Castle* is another great book written by Piers Torday. This book is about the adventure and the journey Mouse goes on in a strange land.'

## Extract

'Mum's going to kill you,' said Violet – who was much taller than him, even though she was only a year and a half older – leaning against the doorway opposite.

'Why?'

'Because you're always daydreaming and never ready on time,' said Violet. 'She's going to skin you alive, and then boil you—' She swerved out of the way just in time to avoid the rucksack being swung in her direction. 'Didn't you check the weather on your phone? There's more snow coming in, and ice too . . . so she wants to make it across the hills before it gets dark.' She clapped her hands. 'It's Christmas, Mouse!'

Mouse muttered into his jumper, not looking at her. 'I hate Christmas.'

# Wonder



Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

**Author**  
**RJ Palacio**



**For Fans Of:**

The Bubble Boy  
The Goldfish Boy

## Firegirl

### Reviews

A beautiful, touching story about your not so average boy....Holly, Aberdare Girls School

What a gem of a story. Moving and heart-warming. This book made me laugh, made me angry, made me cry -- Malorie Blackman

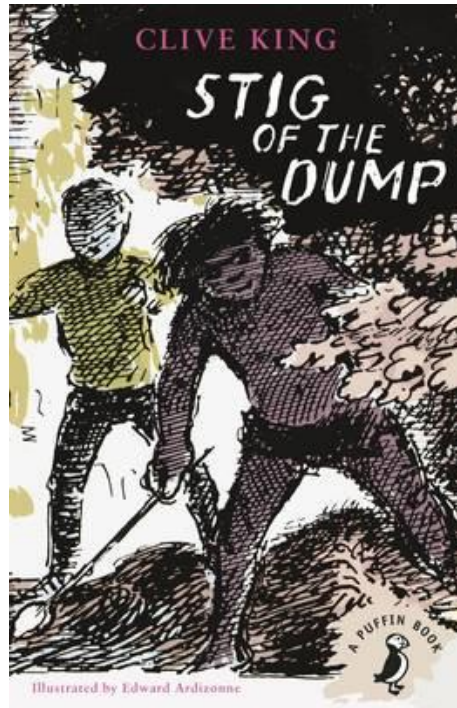
The breakout publishing sensation of 2012 will come courtesy of Palacio, a New York graphic designer whose debut novel, Wonder, is destined to go the way of Mark Haddon's The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and then some. Telling the story of August, a schoolboy born with an unspecified facial deformity, it is dark, funny, touching and no Tube carriage will be without a copy this year *The Times*

### Extract

I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

If I found a magic lamp and I could have one wish, I would wish that I had a normal face that no one ever noticed at all. I would wish that I could walk down the street without people seeing me and then doing that look-away thing. Here's what I think: the only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way.

## Stig Of The Dump



Barney is a solitary little boy, given to wandering off by himself. One day he is lying on the edge of a disused chalk-pit when it gives way and he lands in a sort of cave. Here he meets 'somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes' wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. He names him Stig. Of course nobody believes Barney when he tells his family all about Stig, but for Barney cave-man Stig is totally real. They become great friends, learning each others ways and embarking on a series of unforgettable adventures.

## **Author** **Clive King**



### **For Fans Of:**

Tom's Midnight Garden  
The Borrowers

Skellig

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Enchanting**

By [Geoge](#) on 20 Jun. 2004

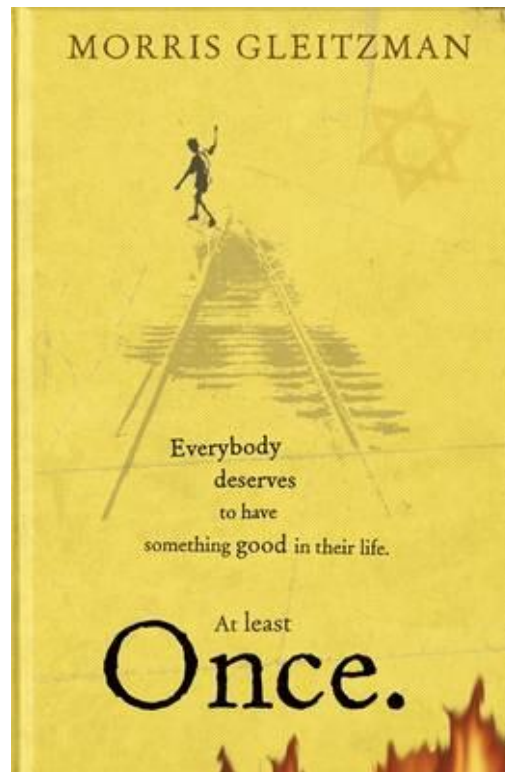
Format: Paperback

I have just sent this book as a present to my nephew. I remember spending hours reading it on summers days in my bedroom as a child. This totally captivated my imagination then and I can't think of many books that made more impact. The story has been described to death but the depth of imagination involved and the historic significance can't be overlooked. Loved it!

## Extract

**IF** you went too near the edge of the chalk-pit the ground would give way. Barney had been told this often enough. Everybody had told him. His grandmother, every time he came to stay with her. His sister, every time she wasn't telling him something else. Barney had a feeling, somewhere in his middle, that it was probably true about the ground giving way. But still, there was a difference between being told and seeing it happen. And today was one of those grey days when there was nothing to do, nothing to play, and nowhere to go. Except to the chalk-pit. The dump.

# Once



For three years and eight months Felix has lived in a convent orphanage high in the mountains in Poland. But Felix is different from the other orphans. He is convinced his parents are still alive and will come back to get him. When a group of Nazi soldiers come and burn the nuns' books, Felix is terrified that his Jewish, bookseller parents will also be in danger. After escaping from the orphanage, Felix embarks on a long and dangerous journey through Nazi occupied Poland, befriending a little orphan girl called Zelda and a kindly dentist, Barney, who hides and cares for Jewish children. But when the Nazis discover them, Barney makes the ultimate sacrifice for the children.

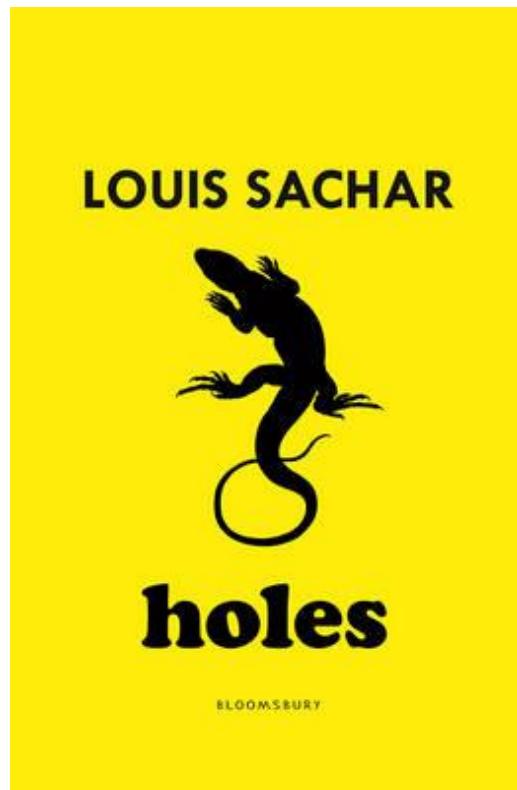
**Author**  
**Morris Gleitzman**



**For Fans Of:**

Carrie's War





Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. The evil warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.

**Author**  
**Louis Sachar**



Wonder  
Once  
Millions

## Reviews

★★★★★ **A great story.**

By A Customer on 7 Jan. 2003

Format: Paperback

I love this book! It's style is very simple, but somehow it holds you from beginning to end. It's basically three stories taking place in three different times all in one book. All three are beautifully intertwined.

The main story is about a very unlucky boy called Stanley Yelnats (notice the palindrome?) who is sent to a detention camp for a crime he didn't commit. Every day he has to dig a large hole, under the blazing Texas sun, without much water. He is told that it is character-building, but he soon realises that the camp owner is searching for something hidden in the dried-up lake-bed. Stanley finds tiny clues along the way and eventually works out why he and the other boys are being made to dig every day, and how this ties in with his own family's past, and future.

This is a fantastic story and very well-written book. Read it!

## Extract

The reader is probably asking: Why would anyone go to Camp Green Lake?

Most campers weren't given a choice. Camp Green Lake is a camp for bad boys.

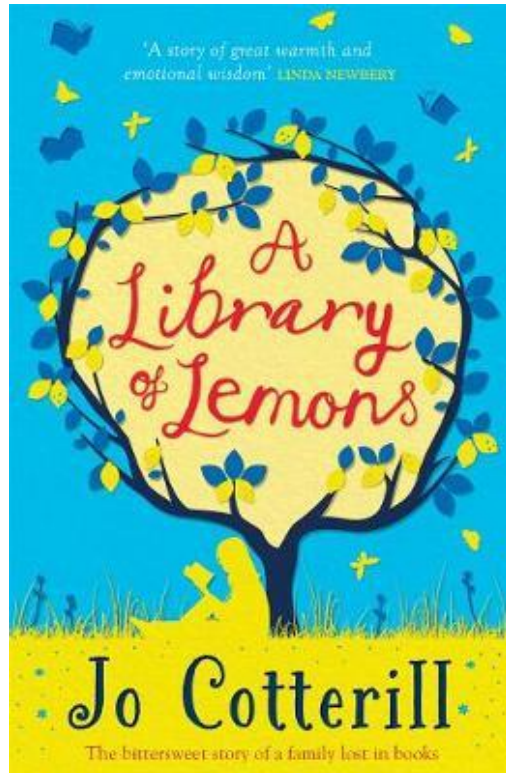
If you take a bad boy and make him dig a hole every day in the hot sun, it will turn him into a good boy.

That was what some people thought.

Stanley Yelnats was given a choice. The judge said, "You may go to jail, or you may go to Camp Green Lake."

Stanley was from a poor family. He had never been to camp before.

# A Library Of Lemons



Calypso's mum died a few years ago and her emotionally incompetent Dad can't, or won't, talk about Mum at all. Instead he throws himself into writing his book *A History of the Lemon*. Meanwhile the house is dusty, there's never any food in the fridge, and Calypso retreats into her own world of books and fiction. When a new girl, Mae, arrives at school, the girls' shared love of reading and writing stories draws them together. Mae's friendship and her lively and chaotic home - where people argue and hug each other - make Calypso feel more normal than she has for a long time. But when Calypso finally plucks up the courage to invite Mae over to her own house, the girls discover the truth about her dad and his magnum opus - and Calypso's happiness starts to unravel.

## Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Jo Cotterill



Jo Cotterill @jocotterillbook · 6m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

It's important to know you don't have to carry your worries all by yourself. Books provide escape but friends help you find your way home.

**For Fans Of:**  
*A Room Full of Chocolate*  
*The Secret Garden*  
*A Girl Called Owl*

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Heartbreaking and beautiful**

By [Bev Humphrey](#) on 6 May 2016

Format: Paperback

Warning: tissues will be needed. Calypso's mum died, and now her dad has become very closed off and remote, telling her that she shouldn't cry but should instead develop 'inner strength'.

Calypso is quite a solitary girl relying on the company of the fictional characters in her beloved books until a new girl, Mae arrives at her school who has a similar love of words and books. The girls become fast friends but Mae's very normal, noisy family life serves to highlight the disparity with Calypso's quiet, lonely life with her dad. Things come to a head in a heartbreaking scene that involves lemon throwing and afterwards Calypso finally starts to get some help with her father's and her own grief.

Jo Cotterill's writing is just beautiful without being overly sentimental and the story both highlights the lives of young carers and portrays grief in a very realistic and poignant way. I'm not ashamed to say I cried buckets and *Lemons* is a book I will definitely reread - I can give no greater compliment than this, I rarely read a book more than once as my tbr list is far too long! The story, although achingly sad, is hopeful too, there are no easy answers for Calypso and her dad but things do start to improve by the end of the book. I loved it, last year I spent the year recommending Sarah Crossan's *One* to anyone that would listen, this year I won't be shutting up about *A Library of Lemons* - it is simply wonderful.

## Extract

The new girl, Mae, asked me to play with her today. I didn't know what to say. She's got long black hair that she'd tied into two plaits and put on top of her head, like Heidi or the children from *The Sound of Music*. She has a round doll face with bright blue eyes, and she only joined the school this term.

I was sitting in my favourite corner of the playground, with a book. It's what I always do at break-time. Mae smiled at me in a hopeful way, but I shook my head and went back to my book.

'Okay,' she said, and went.

# Goodnight Mister Tom



Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London.

**Author**  
**Michelle Magorian**



The Boy In The Striped Pajamas  
Once  
Carrie's War

## Reviews

- 👤 Ellen Cox, age 7 - 'I loved this book - enjoyed the story and also learning things about the war.' [Read full review >](#)
- 👤 Emily Keaveny, age 10 - 'A fantastic book about the Second World War and what it was like to be an evacuee.' [Read full review >](#)
- 👤 Erica Motoc, age 7 - 'Goodnight Mister Tom is a really good book.' [Read full review >](#)
- 👤 Luke Bauer, Age 11 - 'Everyone will enjoy this fantastic novel about the WW2 evacuee William Beech. William gets evacuated to the town of Little Weirwold, and with his foster parent, Tom, he discovers a whole new world.' [Read full review >](#)

## Extract

‘YES,’ said Tom bluntly, on opening the front door.  
‘What d’you want?’

A harassed middle-aged woman in a green coat and felt hat stood on his step. He glanced at the armband on her sleeve. She gave him an awkward smile.

‘I’m the billeting officer for this area,’ she began.

‘Oh yes, and what’s that got to do wi’ me?’

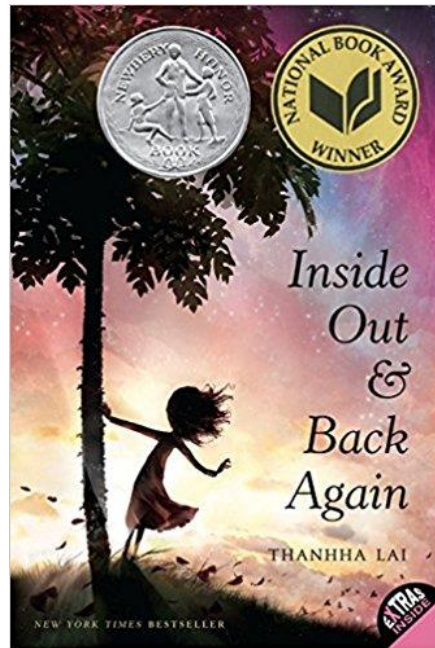
She flushed slightly. ‘Well, Mr, Mr . . .’

‘Oakley. Thomas Oakley.’

‘Ah, thank you, Mr Oakley.’ She paused and took a deep breath. ‘Mr Oakley, with the declaration of war imminent . . .’

Tom waved his hand. ‘I knows all that. Git to the point. What d’you want?’ He noticed a small boy at her side.

# Inside Out & Back Again



Ha has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Ha and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed towards hope...towards America.

**Author**  
**Thanhha Lai**



**For Fans Of:**

The Crossover  
Once

Wonder

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Beautiful and original.**

By Sarah W on 12 Aug. 2015

Format: Paperback | **Verified Purchase**

A beautiful and evocative book.

## Extract

Every new year Mother visits  
the I Ching Teller of Fate.  
This year he predicts  
our lives will twist inside out.

Maybe soldiers will no longer  
patrol our neighborhood,  
maybe I can jump rope  
after dark,  
maybe the whistles  
that tell Mother  
to push us under the bed  
will stop screeching.

But I heard  
on the playground  
this year's *bánh chưng*,  
eaten only during Tết,  
will be smeared in blood.

# The Secret Of Nightingale Wood



1919. Henry moves to the countryside with her family, scarred by her brother's untimely death. All alone, with only stories for company, Henry discovers that Hope House is full of strange secrets: a forgotten attic, ghostly figures, mysterious firelight that flickers in the trees beyond the garden. Her only friends are characters from her favourite books - until, one day, she wanders into the woods and meets Moth, a striking witch-like woman. Together they form a bond that could help Henry save her family and overcome her grief.

## **Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Lucy Strange**



**Lucy Strange** @theLucyStrange · 8m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

Get lost with Hen in the tangled world of Nightingale Wood - fairy tales, friendship and family secrets... A book for true book worms. 📖 🌳 🦋

### **For Fans Of:**

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

## The Secret Garden Strange Star

### Reviews

- 👤 **Alexander Bisland age 11** - 'I recommend this book to age 10+ readers who like suspense and mystery and a bit of magic. I give it 10/10.'
- 👤 **Judith, age 11** - 'This book is absolutely stunning but beware it's not for the faint of heart.'
- 👤 **Mia Goodman, age 10** - 'I would recommend this book to anyone aged 9+ who enjoys reading books on adventures, mysteries, secrets and mysterious characters.'
- 👤 **Bella Perez, age 11** - 'I couldn't put it down for one second.'

### Extract

**W**e stood together, looking up at the new house – Father, Mama, Nanny Jane, Piglet and me. It was large and old, almost falling down in places, with gently bulging walls and a steep, tiled roof that was etched with lichen. The sign on the gatepost read HOPE HOUSE.

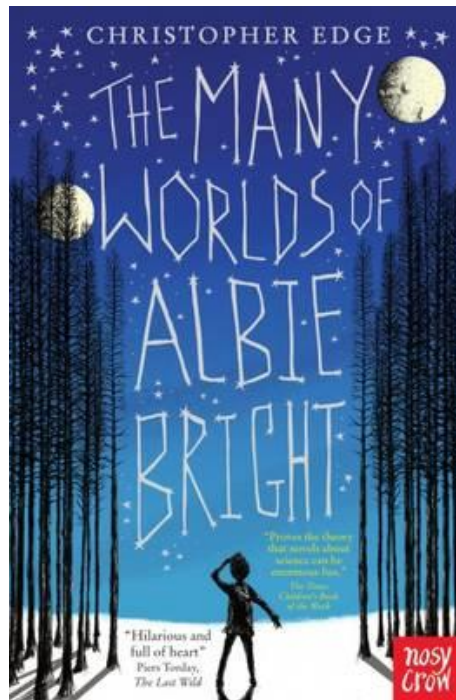
'It's a fresh start,' Father said.

Mama didn't say anything. She just stared at our strange new home, and then turned to stare at Father.

'Come on, Piglet,' I whispered to the baby. 'Let's have a look around.'

I clutched her tightly to my chest and walked around the side of the house, towards the long garden and the wilderness of woodland that lay beyond.

## The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright



When Albie's mum dies, it's natural he should wonder where she's gone. His parents are both scientists and they usually have all the answers. Dad mutters something about Albie's mum being alive and with them in a parallel universe. So Albie finds a box, his mum's computer and a rotting banana, and sends himself through time and space to find her...

## **Author (and why he thinks you should read his book) Christopher Edge**



**Christopher Edge** @edgechristopher · 12m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

Big ideas, laugh-out-loud moments, mind-blowing adventure & real heart.  
Discover how a box, a laptop & a banana can take you to another world

### **For Fans Of:**

Time Travelling With A Hamster  
Phoenix  
George's Secret Key To The Universe

## Reviews

'A big book with a big brain, big laughs and a big, big heart' - Frank Cottrell Boyce

'Hilarious and full of heart' - Piers Torday

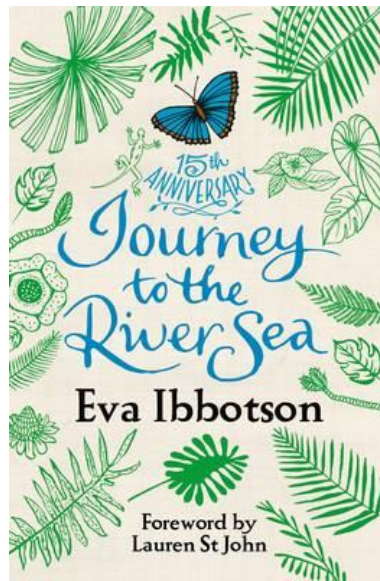
'Proves the theory that novels about science can be enormous fun' - The Times

## Extract

According to my mum, my early arrival was a bit like the Big Bang – a complete surprise and pretty scary too – and I ended up staying in hospital until I was nearly four months old. Then, when I finally got better, Mum and Dad took me with them when they went to work at CERN in Switzerland.

CERN is like Disneyland for scientists. It's where the World Wide Web was invented and now it's the home of the Large Hadron Collider. In case you've not seen it on the TV, the Large Hadron Collider is the biggest machine in the world. It's sixteen and a half miles long and weighs a whopping 38,000 tons. That's why it's called the LARGE Hadron Collider. Scientists built the LHC to look inside the smallest things in the universe. Atoms.

# Journey To The River Sea



It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in *Journey to the River Sea*, Eva Ibbotson's highly colourful, joyous adventure.

**Author**  
**Eva Ibbotson**



**For Fans Of:**

The Jungle Book  
Floodlands  
Cogheart

## Reviews

'Bubbly and fantastical... driven by humour and warmth, *Journey To The River Sea* has an irresistible charm.' *Guardian*

'Funny, wise and true.' Philip Pullman

## Extract

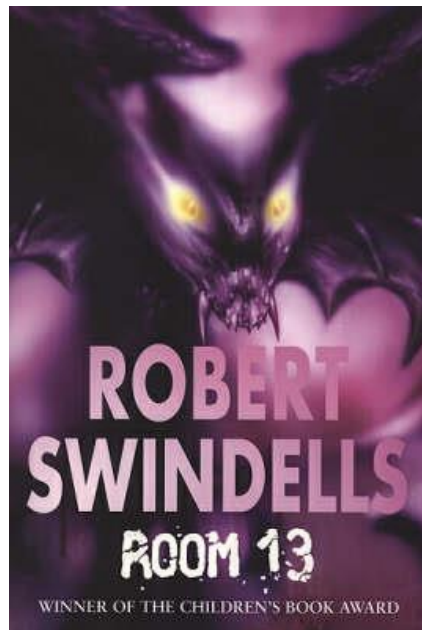
It was a good school, one of the best in London.

Miss Banks and her sister Emily believed that girls should be taught as thoroughly and as carefully as boys. They had bought three houses in a quiet square, a pleasant place with plane trees and well-behaved pigeons, and put up a brass plate saying: THE MAYFAIR ACADEMY FOR YOUNG LADIES – and they had prospered.

For while the sisters prized proper learning, they also prized good manners, thoughtfulness and care for others, and the girls learnt both algebra and needlework. Moreover, they took in children whose parents were abroad and needed somewhere to spend the holidays. Now, some thirty years later, in the autumn of 1910, the school had a waiting list, and those girls who went there knew how lucky they were.

All the same, there were times when they were very bored.

# Room 13



Somebody was in there. Somebody - or some thing...There is no room thirteen in the creepy Crow's Nest Hotel, where Fliss and her friends are staying on a school trip. Or is there? For at the stroke of midnight, something peculiar happens to the door of the linen cupboard next to room 12. And something is happening to Ellie-May Sunderland, too - something very sinister...

**Author**  
**Robert Swindells**



**For Fans Of:**

A Monster Calls  
Eren  
Clockwork

## Reviews

If you enjoy being scared out of your wits, then this is the book for you Independent A splendid, spooky story with good characterisation, a believable setting, humour and the ability to make the unreal seem real. I recommend it to children of ten to thirteen without reservation The School Librarian

## Extract

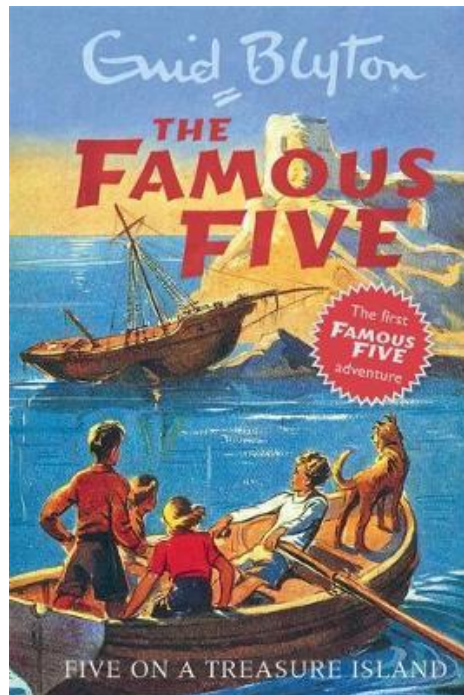
**This is what Fliss dreamed the night before the second year went to Whitby.**

**She was walking on a road high above the sea. It was dark. She was alone. Waves were breaking at the foot of cliffs to her left, and further out, the moonlight made a silver path on the water.**

**In front of her was a house. It was a tall house, looming blackly against the sky. There were many windows, all of them dark.**

**Fliss was afraid. She didn't want to go inside the house. She didn't even want to walk past but she had no control over her feet. They seemed to go by themselves, forcing her on.**

# Five On A Treasure Island



There was something else out on the sea by the rocks - something dark that seemed to lurch out of the waves ...What could it be?' Julian, Dick and Anne are spending the holidays with their tomboy cousin George and her dog, Timothy. One day, George takes them to explore nearby Kirrin Island, with its rocky little coast and old ruined castle on the top. Over on the island, they make a thrilling discovery, which leads them deep into the dungeons of Kirrin Castle on a dangerous adventure. Who - and what - will they find there?

**Author**  
**Enid Blyton**



The Goldfish Boy  
The London Eye Mystery  
The Secret Seven

## Reviews

If you enjoy being scared out of your wits, then this is the book for you Independent A splendid, spooky story with good characterisation, a believable setting, humour and the ability to make the unreal seem real. I recommend it to children of ten to thirteen without reservation The School Librarian

## Extract

George stared at him. 'I'll see,' she said. 'I don't make friends with people just because they're my cousins, or something silly like that. I only make friends with people if I like them.'

'So do we,' said Julian. 'We may not like *you*, of course.'

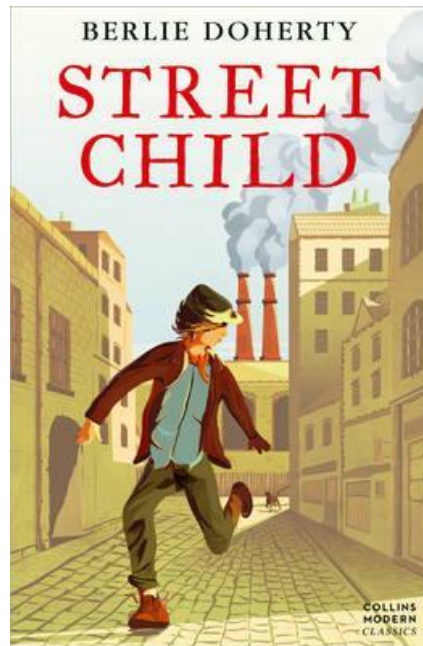
'Oh!' said George, as if that thought hadn't occurred to her. 'Well – you may not, of course. Lots of people don't like me, now I come to think of it.'

Anne was staring out over the blue bay. At the entrance to it lay a curious rocky island with what looked like an old ruined castle on the top of it.

'Isn't that a funny place?' she said. 'I wonder what it's called.'

'It's called Kirrin Island,' said George, her eyes as blue as the sea as she turned to look at it. 'It's a lovely place to go to. If I like you, I may take you there some day. But I don't promise. The only way to get there is by boat.'

**Street Child**



When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls. Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends...only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe. Will Jim ever manage to be free?

**Author**  
**Berlie Doherty**



**For Fans Of:**

The Diamond Of Drury Lane  
Oliver Twist  
Kensuke's Kingdon

## Reviews

A brilliant and moving book. Julia Golding, award-winning author of 'The Diamond of Drury Lane'

## Extract

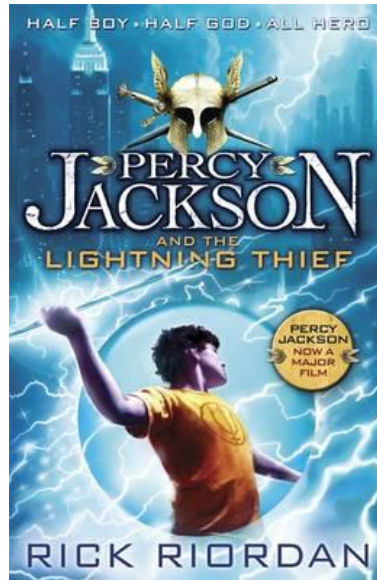
JIM JARVIS. WANT to know who that is? It's me! That's my name. Only thing I've got, is my name. And I've give it away to this man. Barnie, his name is, or something like that. He told me once, only I forgot it, see, and I don't like to ask him again. "Mister", I call him, to his face, that is. But there's a little space in my head where his name is Barnie.

He keeps asking me things. He wants to know my story, that's what he tells me. My story, mister? What d'you want to know that for? Ain't much of a story, mine ain't. And he looks at me, all quiet.

"It is, Jim," he says. "It's a very special story. It changed my life, child, meeting you."

Funny that, ain't it? Because he changed my life, Barnie did.

# Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief



Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek God. I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. Now I spend my time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.

**Author**  
**Rick Riordan**



## For Fans Of:

Who Let The Gods Out  
Harry Potter  
The Hobbit

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Great book**

By [Pendragon](#) on 29 Sept. 2010

Format: Paperback | **Verified Purchase**

My husband read this book to our eleven year old Grandson. They both thoroughly enjoyed it. It gave him a glimpse into Greek Mythology without being too heavy. It was hard to get them to stop reading so our Grandson could go to sleep. He is anxiously waiting to hear the next book in the series.

## Extract

Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood.

If you're reading this because you think you might be one, my advice is: close this book right now. Believe whatever lie your mom or dad told you about your birth, and try to lead a normal life.

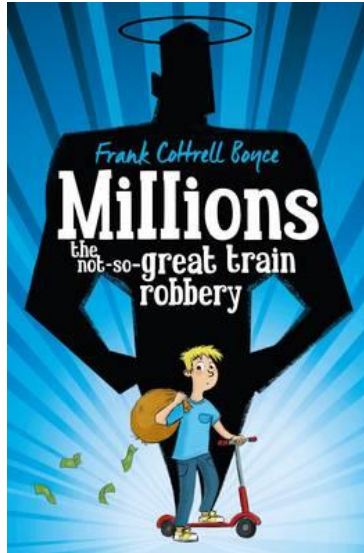
Being a half-blood is dangerous. It's scary. Most of the time, it gets you killed in painful, nasty ways.

If you're a normal kid, reading this because you think it's fiction, great. Read on. I envy you for being able to believe that none of this ever happened.

But if you recognize yourself in these pages – if you feel something stirring inside – stop reading immediately. You might be one of us. And once you know that, it's only a matter of time before *they* sense it too, and they'll come for you.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

# Millions



Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless.

Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For not only is the clock ticking - the bungling bank robbers are closing in too. Pizzas or World Peace - what would you choose?

**Author**  
**Frank Cottrell-Boyce**



## For Fans Of:

Framed  
The London Eye Mystery  
Holes

## Reviews

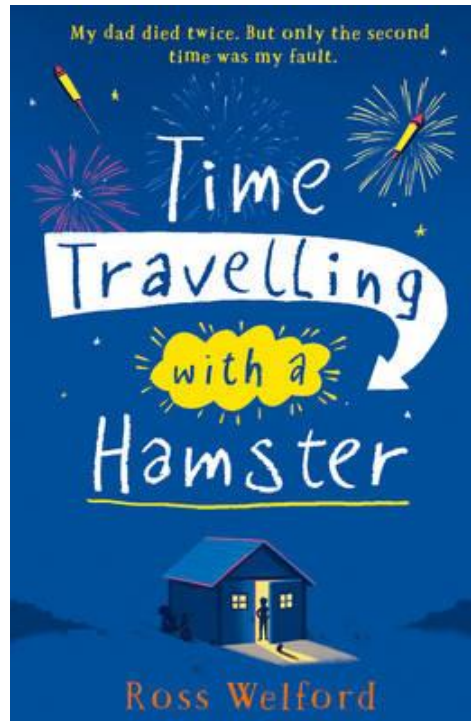
- 👤 Evie Aconley, age 10 - 'A book full of saints and riches, if you enjoy money, you'll love this book.'
- 👤 Matthew Kirk, age 11 - 'I enjoyed this book. I would give it 9 million pounds out of 10.'
- 👤 Emma Corden, age 11 - 'I would fully recommend this book to everyone whether they like reading or not.'

## Extract

Moving House  
by  
Damian Cunningham, Year Five

We have just moved house to 7 Cromarty Close. The patron saint of moving house is St Anne (1st century). She was the Mother of Our Lady. Our Lady did not die but floated up into Heaven while still fairly young. St Anne was upset. To cheer her up, four angels picked up her house and took it to the seaside in Italy, where it can be seen to this day. You can pray to St Anne for help with moving house. She will watch over you, but not do actual removals. Anne is also the patron saint of miners, horse-riding, cabinetmakers and the city of Norwich. While alive, she performed many wonders.

# Time Travelling With A Hamster



My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty nine and again four years later when he was twelve. The first time had nothing to do with me. The second time definitely did, but I would never even have been there if it hadn't been for his 'time machine'...

When Al Chaudhury discovers his late dad's time machine, he finds that going back to the 1980s requires daring and imagination. It also requires lies, theft, burglary, and setting his school on fire. All without losing his pet hamster, Alan Shearer...




**Author**  
**(and why he thinks you should read his book)**  
**Ross Welford**



## For Fans Of:

The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright  
Phoenix  
George's Secret Key To The Universe

## Reviews

-  Anastasia Abdian, age 11 - '*Time Travelling With a Hamster* is a fantastic book. You will laugh and cry as you read about Al Chaudhury's adventure to prevent an accident and save his father. You must read this amazing novel.'
-  Isaac Phelan, age 12 - 'Time travel, presently the most excitable science the world has ever seen. Ross's intriguing novel is almost better than time travelling itself.'
-  Georgie Docwra, age 10 - 'I really enjoyed reading *Time Travelling with a Hamster* as it is a very funny book, which made me laugh out loud.'

## Extract

My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty-nine, and again four years later when he was twelve. (He's going to die a third time as well, which seems a bit rough on him, but I can't help that.)

The first time had nothing to do with me. The second time definitely did, but I would never even have been there if it hadn't been for his 'time machine'. I know – that sounds like I'm blaming him, which I'm totally not, but... you'll see what I mean.

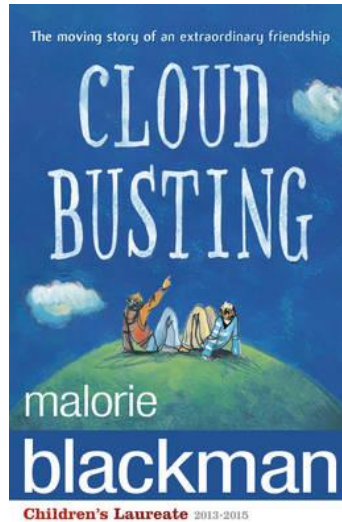
I suppose if you'd asked me before, I'd have said a time machine might look something like a submarine? Or perhaps a space rocket. Anyway, something with loads of switches and panels and lights, made of iron or something, and big – I mean, *really* big, with thrusters, and boosters, and reactors...

Instead, I'm looking at a laptop and a tin tub from a garden centre.

*This* is my dad's time machine.

It's about to change the world – literally. Well, mine at any rate.

# Cloud Busting



Despite his Mum's insistence, Sam doesn't want to be friends with Davey, he thinks Davey's a first class, grade A, top of the dung heap moron. But one day Davey saves Sam's life and a bond is formed between them. Sam is still embarrassed to be seen with Davey, but little by little he has to admit, when it's just the two of them, Davey is a lot of fun. But then something terrible happens to Davey...

**Author**  
**Malorie Blackman**



## For Fans Of:

Wonder  
The Crossover  
Inside Out and Back Again

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Brilliant**

By [J Field](#) on 14 Aug. 2005

Format: Hardcover

This is a lyrical story, written in verse, that celebrates friendship and individuality. Using a number of different techniques (all explained at the end of the book) it is not only a great story but also a great demonstration of the different techniques used in poetry. Each chapter of this book is told in a different type of verse

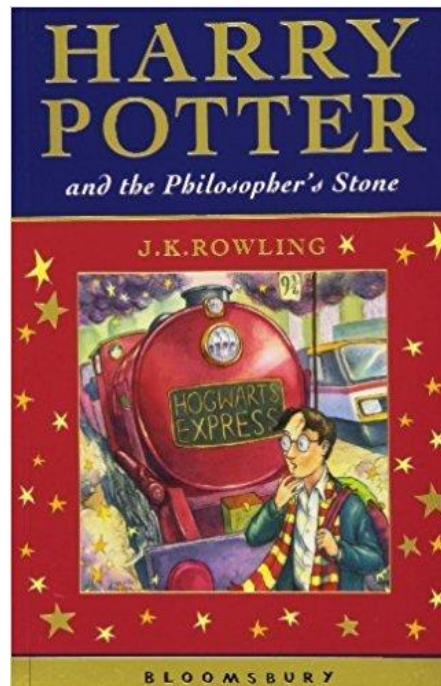
The theme of bullying is often told from the viewpoint of the victim; in this highly readable poem-novel, it is the turn of the perpetrator to tell his side of a bullying story. Surprisingly by the end of the book you understand that maybe there is not only one victim, and maybe a lot of the problems with bullying is peer pressure.

I am training to be a teacher and would recommend that every child hear's this at least once during their school life.

## Extract

Mr Mackie said,  
'Write a poem  
About  
Someone near to you,  
Dear to you.  
A pet,  
A family member,  
A friend.'  
Funny, I thought,  
How pets come first.  
'That's your homework,'  
Said Mr Mackie.  
And the whole class groaned.

# Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone



When a letter arrives for unhappy but ordinary Harry Potter, a decade-old secret is revealed to him that apparently he's the last to know. His parents were wizards, killed by a Dark Lord's curse when Harry was just a baby, and which he somehow survived. Leaving his unsympathetic aunt and uncle for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry stumbles upon a sinister mystery when he finds a three-headed dog guarding a room on the third floor. Then he hears of a missing stone with astonishing powers, which could be valuable, dangerous - or both.

**Author**  
**JK Rowling**



## For Fans Of:

Who Let The Gods Out  
Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief  
The Hobbit

## Reviews

'The most handsome and desirable gift book of the year. It is stunning ... with full colour illustrations throughout from Greenaway Medal winner Kay, who breathes incredible life into these much-loved characters and locations, staying faithful to Rowling's vision but revitalising the story for a new generation **Bookseller**

I've yet to meet a ten-year-old who hasn't been entranced by its witty, complex plot and the character of the eponymous Harry **Independent**

Spellbinding, enchanting, bewitching stuff **Mirror**

## Extract

'Well,' said Dumbledore finally, 'that's that. We've no business staying here. We may as well go and join the celebrations.'

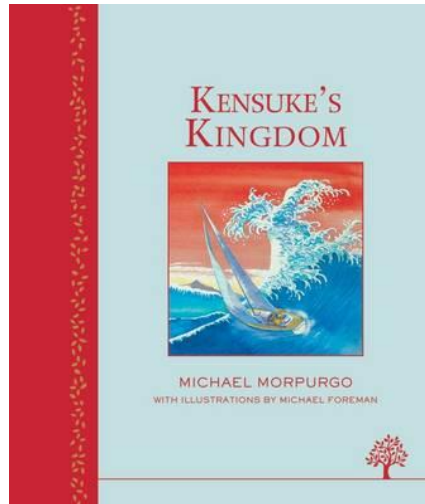
'Yeah,' said Hagrid in a very muffled voice. 'I'd best get this bike away. G'night, Professor McGonagall – Professor Dumbledore, sir.'

Wiping his streaming eyes on his jacket sleeve, Hagrid swung himself on to the motorbike and kicked the engine into life; with a roar it rose into the air and off into the night.

'I shall see you soon, I expect, Professor McGonagall,' said Dumbledore, nodding to her. Professor McGonagall blew her nose in reply.

Dumbledore turned and walked back down the street. On the corner he stopped and took out the silver Put-Outer. He clicked it once and twelve balls of light sped back to their street lamps so that Privet Drive glowed suddenly orange and he could make out a tabby cat slinking around the corner at the other end of the street. He could just see the bundle of blankets on the step of number four.

# Kensuke's Kingdom



I heard the wind above me in the sails. I remember thinking, this is silly, you haven't got your safety harness on, you haven't got your lifejacket on. You shouldn't be doing this...I was in the cold of the sea before I could even open my mouth to scream. Washed up on an island in the Pacific, Michael struggles to survive on his own. With no food and no water, he curls up to die. When he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, of fruit, and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone...

## Author

**Michael Morpurgo**



## **For Fans Of:**

Robinson Crusoe  
Journey To The River Sea  
Treasure Island

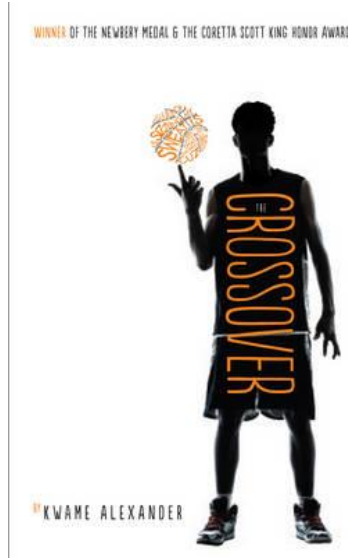
## **Reviews**

"This is a wonderful book, a modern day Robinson Crusoe and is simply too good to miss."  
Wendy Cooling

## **Extract**

Until I was nearly eleven, until the letter came, life was just normal. There were the four of us in the house: my mother, my father, me and Stella – Stella Artois, that is, my-one-ear up and one-ear-down black and white sheepdog, who always seemed to know what was about to happen before it did. But even she could not have foreseen how that letter was going to change our lives forever.

# The Crossover



12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps. Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother. In this heartfelt novel in verse, the boys find that life doesn't come with a play-book and it's not all about winning.

## Author

**Kwame Alexander**



## For Fans Of:

Jamie Johnson  
Cloud Busting  
Wonder

## Reviews

'This novel in verse is rich in character and relationships . . . Poet Alexander deftly reveals the power of the format to pack an emotional punch' - **Kirkus, starred review**

'Alexander has crafted a story that vibrates with energy and heat and begs to be read aloud. A slam dunk.' - **School Library Journal, starred review**

'The poems dodge and weave with the speed of a point guard driving for the basket . . . swings from moments of swagger-worthy triumph to profound pain.' - **Publishers Weekly, starred review**

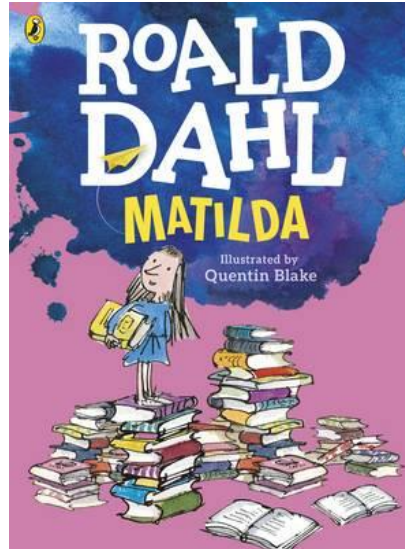
## Extract

### Josh Bell

is my name.  
But *Filthy McNasty* is my claim to fame.  
Folks call me that  
'cause my game's acclaimed,  
so downright dirty, it'll put you to shame.  
My hair is long, my height's tall.  
See, I'm the next Kevin Durant,  
LeBron, and Chris Paul.

*Remember the greats,*  
my dad likes to gloat:  
*I balled with Magic and the Goat.*  
But tricks are for kids, I reply.  
Don't need your pets  
my game's so  
fly.

# Matilda



Matilda Wormwood's father thinks she's a little scab. Matilda's mother spends all afternoon playing bingo. And Matilda's headmistress Miss Trunchbull? Well, she's the worst of all. She is a big bully, who thinks all her pupils are rotten and locks them in the dreaded Chokey. As for Matilda, she's an extraordinary little girl with a magical mind - and now she's had enough. So all these grown-ups had better watch out, because Matilda is going to teach them a lesson they'll never forget.

**Author**  
**Roald Dahl**



## For Fans Of:

Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief  
Who Let The Gods Out  
Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone

## Reviews

★★★★★ **The best book I have read so far!!!**

By A Customer on 20 Oct. 2001

Format: Paperback

This is a really exciting book for 8 year olds.I have really enjoyed this book I think others will aswell.Some parts made me laugh,and others made me very ,very happy!!!!

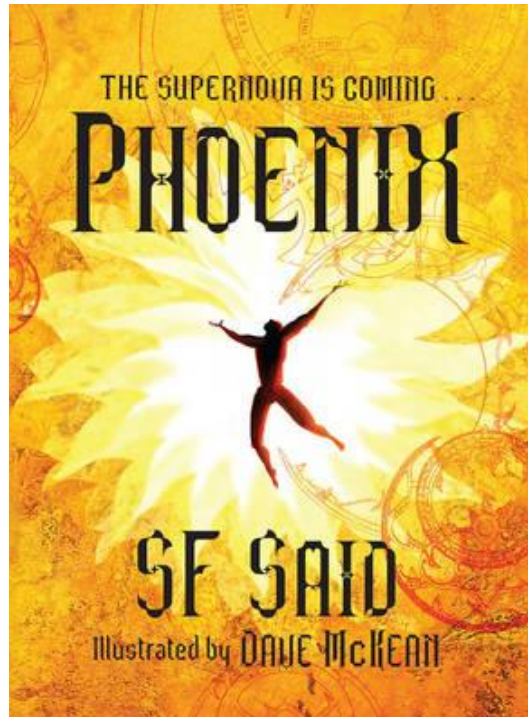
Matilda is a special little girl with magical powers. Her parents are miserable but she finds happiness with Miss Honey,her teacher.It is full of adventures that allows her to escape from her parents.You can't put the book down once you have started.

Rebecca Moss, aged 8.

## Extract

School teachers suffer a good deal from having to listen to this sort of twaddle from proud parents, but they usually get their own back when the time comes to write the end-of-term reports. If I were a teacher I would cook up some real scorches for the children of doting parents. 'Your son Maximilian,' I would write, 'is a total wash-out. I hope you have a family business you can push him into when he leaves school because he sure as heck won't get a job anywhere else.' Or if I were feeling lyrical that day, I might write, 'It is a curious truth that grasshoppers have their hearing-organs in the sides of the abdomen. Your daughter Vanessa, judging by what she's learnt this term, has no hearing-organs at all.'

# Phoenix



The supernova is coming ...one boy alone can save the galaxy! Lucky thinks he's an ordinary Human boy. But one night, he dreams that the stars are singing - and wakes to find an uncontrollable power rising inside him. Now he's on the run, racing through space, searching for answers. In a galaxy at war, where Humans and Aliens are deadly enemies, the only people who can help him are an Alien starship crew - and an Alien warrior girl, with neon needles in her hair. Together, they must find a way to save the galaxy. For Lucky is not the only one in danger. His destiny and the fate of the universe are connected in the most explosive way...

**Author**  
**SF Said**



## For Fans Of:

The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright  
George's Secret Key To The Universe  
Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief

## Reviews

Brilliant ... a total pageturner... gloriously produced **Jacqueline Wilson**

Completely absorbing ... The book is beautiful - lavishly illustrated by **Dave McKean**, with words and pictures working seamlessly together. -- **Julia Eccleshare Guardian**

Breathlessly paced ... A powerful story of great scope and ambition, from an expert storyteller. And with these gorgeously deep black-and-white illustrations, the great **McKean** is on absolutely top form here. -- **Daniel Hahn The Independent on Sunday**

## Extract

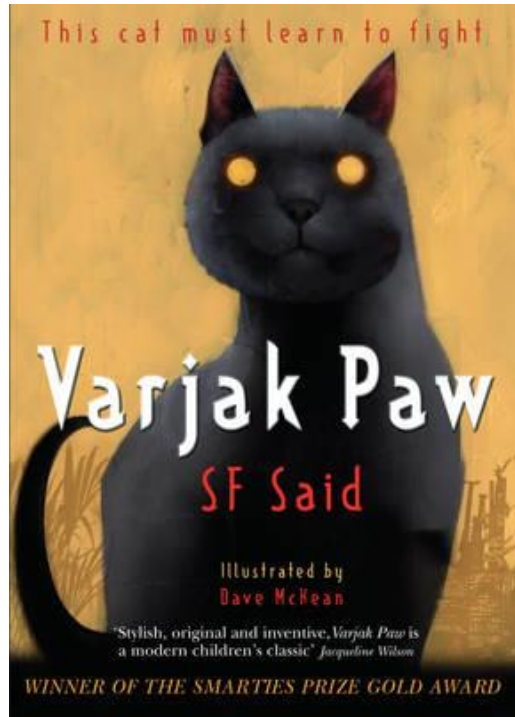
Lucky dreamed of the stars again that night. He loved the stars, and dreamed about them most nights. A million points of silver light, shining in the black.

But this dream was different. This time, the stars were calling him. They were trying to tell him something. They were making a small, soft, silvery sound, like the chime of a faraway bell.

The sound grew. It surged and swelled, rising up into the sky. Lucky's blood surged with it. His feet lifted off from the floor.

And in his dream, Lucky flew. He rose up and soared through space, into the stars and constellations.

# Varjak Paw



Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He's never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way - a secret martial art for cats. Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all the mysterious Vanishings.

**Author**  
**SF Said**



## For Fans Of:

The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright  
George's Secret Key To The Universe  
Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief

## Reviews

"A beguiling tale that sticks in the memory. The cat's whiskers" (*The Sunday Times*)

"Stylish, original and inventive, *Varjak Paw* is a modern children's classic"

"Dazzling" (*The New York Times*)

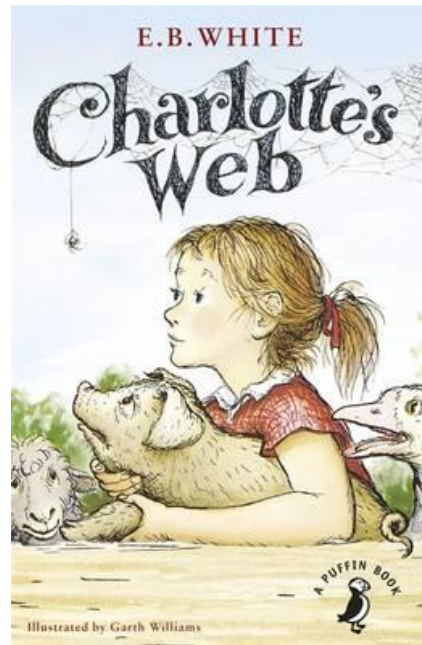
## Extract

The Elder Paw was telling a story.

It was a Jalal tale, one of the best. Varjak loved to hear his grandfather's tales of their famous ancestor: how Jalal fought the fiercest warrior cats, how he was the mightiest hunter, how he came out of Mesopotamia and travelled to the ends of the earth, further than any cat had been before.

But today, the Elder Paw's tale just made Varjak restless. So what if Jalal had such exciting adventures? Varjak never would. Jalal had ended his days in the Contessa's house. His family of Mesopotamian Blues had stayed here ever since.

# Charlotte's Web



This is the story of a little girl named Fern who loved a little pig named Wilbur and of Wilbur's dear friend, Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful large grey spider. With the unlikely help of Templeton the rat, and a wonderfully clever plan of her own, Charlotte saves the life of Wilbur, who by this time has grown up to be quite a pig.


**Author**  
**EB White**



## For Fans Of:

The Sheep Pig  
The Last Wild  
Matilda

## Reviews

-  **Lola Frary, age 10** - This is an excellent classic which will be remembered forever and a definite must read.' [Read full review >](#)
-  **Milind Kowsik, age 7** - '*Charlotte's Web* is a really great classic because it used to be my mum's favourite when she was little and now it is also one of my favourite books.' [Read full review >](#)
-  **Matilda Greenacre, age 8** - 'This is a fascinating story about a spider, pig and little girl...It's happy, it's sad, it's exciting, it's BRILLIANT!' [Read full review >](#)

## Extract

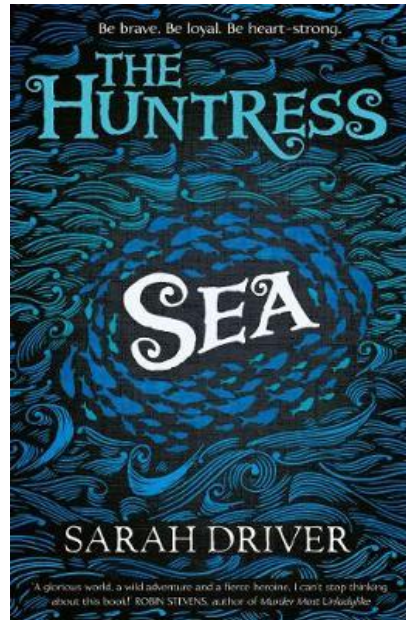
‘**W**HERE’S Papa going with that axe?’  
said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

‘Out to the hoghouse,’ replied Mrs Arable.  
‘Some pigs were born last night.’

‘I don’t see why he needs an axe,’ continued Fern, who was only eight.

‘Well,’ said her mother, ‘one of the pigs is a runt. It’s very small and weak, and it will never amount to anything. So your father has decided to do away with it.’

# The Huntress: Sea



In the sky, the fire spirits dance and ripple. Grandma says they showed our Tribe that I'd be a captain, before I was even born. Ever since Ma died, Mouse has looked after her little brother, Sparrow, dreaming of her destiny as captain of the Huntress. But now Da's missing, Sparrow is in danger, and a deathly cold is creeping across Trianukka

## Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Sarah Driver



**Sarah Driver** @SarahDriver10 · 4m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

If they want to roar defiantly in the face of evil, if they think girls & boys should be treated equally, if they want to howl at the moon!

## For Fans Of:

The Girl Of Ink And Stars  
Cogheart  
Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief

## Reviews

'Moonsprites. Terrodyls. Beastchatter. The Huntress @SarahDriver10 is a heart-thumpingly brilliant adventure. Paver meets Pullman. A real gem'

## Extract

The beasts are coming.

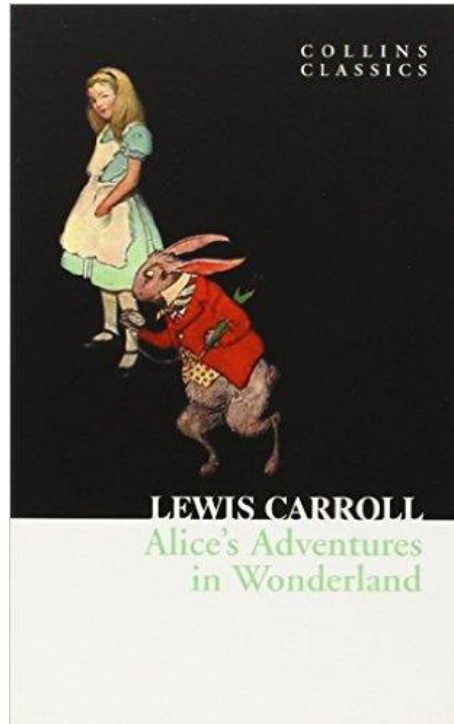
I'm below decks in the gloomy kitchens, helping Pipistrelle salt raw reindeer steak, when the first call hacks through the air. As the sound fades, my fingers stop dead and cold chunks of salt dig into my skin. My bones turn to water but I won't let my knees buckle. Pip stops his tuneless whistling and scowls. My heart barely thuds before the clanging of the alarm bell shatters the silence.

Grandma always tells me I'm not to go out on deck when the great winged terrodyls come near. Two summers gone, they killed Grandpa. But this time I've got to keep our ship safe.

I stick my knife in my belt and let out my fiercest battle-howl.

'Mouse!' Pip grabs for me but his hands are slimy with reindeer blood and I wriggle free.

# Alice's Adventures In Wonderland



The tale of Alice, who follows a curious White Rabbit down a hole and falls into Wonderland, a fantastical place where nothing is quite as it seems: animals talk, nonsensical characters confuse, Mad Hatters throw tea parties and the Queen plays croquet. Alice's attempts to find her way home become increasingly bizarre, infuriating and amazing in turn.

**Author**  
**Lewis Carroll**



## For Fans Of:

Matilda  
The Secret Garden  
Harry Potter

## Reviews

*Though there are many video versions and a lot of simplified retellings of this story, all kids deserve to know this wonderful adventure as Lewis Carroll wrote it. [Full review](#)*



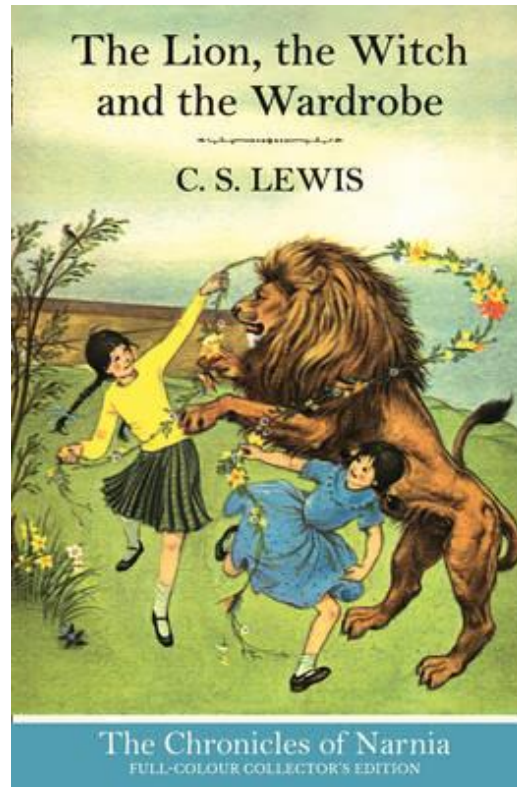
Monica Wyatt  
Common Sense Media

## Extract

There seemed to be no use in waiting by the little door, so she went back to the table, half hoping she might find another key on it, or at any rate a book of rules for shutting people up like telescopes: this time she found a little bottle on it (“which certainly was not here before,” said Alice), and tied round the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words “DRINK ME” beautifully printed on it in large letters.

It was all very well to say “Drink me,” but the wise little Alice was not going to do *that* in a hurry. “No, I’ll look first,” she said, “and see whether it’s marked ‘*poison*’ or not”; for she had read several nice little stories about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild beasts, and other unpleasant things, all because they *would* not remember the simple rules their friends had taught them: such as, that a red-hot poker will burn you if you hold it too long; and that, if you cut your finger *very* deeply with a knife, it usually bleeds; and she had never forgotten that, if you drink much from a bottle marked “poison,” it is almost certain to disagree with you, sooner or later.

# The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe



Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie— step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

**Author**  
**CS Lewis**



## For Fans Of:

Alice In Wonderland  
The Hobbit  
How To Train Your Dragon

## Reviews

Rating: 

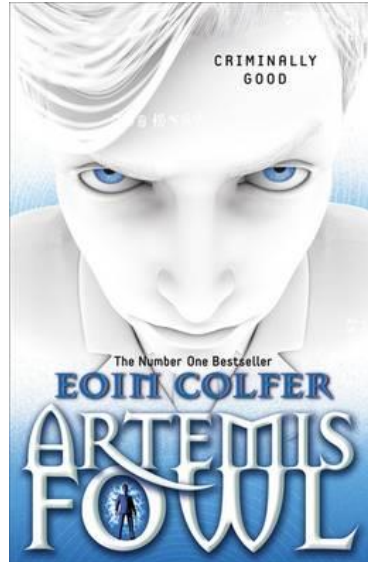
It may not be as intense as [The Lord of the Rings](#) trilogy, but C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia spin a fantastical tale of [magic and wonder](#). The second book in the series, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* has been made into a [feature film by Disney](#). Get the scoop on the book the movie is **based on!**

## Extract

“This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!” thought Lucy, going still further in and pushing the soft folds of the coats aside to make room for her. Then she noticed that there was something crunching under her feet. “I wonder is that more mothballs?” she thought, stooping down to feel it with her hand. But instead of feeling the hard, smooth wood of the floor of the wardrobe, she felt something soft and powdery and extremely cold. “This is very queer,” she said, and went on a step or two further.

Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. “Why, it is just like branches of trees!” exclaimed Lucy. And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

# Artemis Fowl



Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. But he's taking on more than he bargained for when he kidnaps Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon (Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance Unit). For a start, leprechaun technology is more advanced than our own. Add to that the fact that Holly is a true heroine and that her senior officer Commander Root will stop at nothing to get her back and you've got the mother of all sieges brewing!

**Author**  
**Eoin Colfer**



## For Fans Of:

Harry Potter  
Phoenix  
The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Great Reading For Smart People**

By [Gianella](#) on 18 July 2003

Format: Paperback

Hey there!!!! If you don't know if you should buy Artemis Fowl, well, I reccomend you to. It is one of the best books I have read. I liked it even better than Harry Potter, aand that is saying much. Artemis is a genius boy that, aided by his bodyguard, Butler, decides to aabdduct a fairy and hold him for ransom. What he doesn't expect is that the fairy turns out to be a girl. Not a submissive one, really, and she makes Artemis' plan much more complicated.

Artemis Fowl is for open-minded people, who don't mind technology, fantasy and humor blended together making a delicious mix.

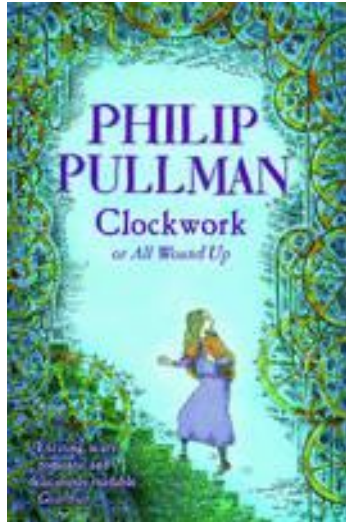
In other words, Artemis Fowl is the best fantastic book from moddern times. Don't hesitate. Buy it now. Trust me.

## Extract

How does one describe Artemis Fowl? Various psychiatrists have tried and failed. The main problem is Artemis's own intelligence. He bamboozles every test thrown at him. He has puzzled the greatest medical minds and sent many of them gibbering to their own hospitals.

There is no doubt that Artemis is a child prodigy. But why does someone of such brilliance dedicate himself to criminal activities? This is a question that can be answered by only one person. And he delights in not talking.

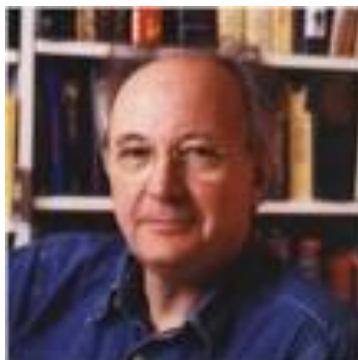
# Clockwork



Tick, tock, tick, tock! Some stories are like that. Once you've wound them up, nothing will stop them ...A tormented apprentice clock-maker, a deadly mechanical knight in armour - and the sinister Dr Kalmenius, who some say is the devil ...Wind up these characters, fit them into a story on a cold winter's evening, with the snow swirling down, and suddenly life and the story begin to merge in a peculiarly macabre - and unstoppable - way. Almost like clockwork...

## **Author**

**Philip Pullman**



## For Fans Of:

Cogheart  
Eren  
A Monster Calls

## Reviews

"A thrilling masterwork on stories that become real" (Amanda Craig *The Times*)

"It has the feel of a classic fairy tale. It's the most elegantly constructed, chilling story that makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck" (Jacqueline Wilson)

"Deeply satisfying and deserves to become a classic" (TES)

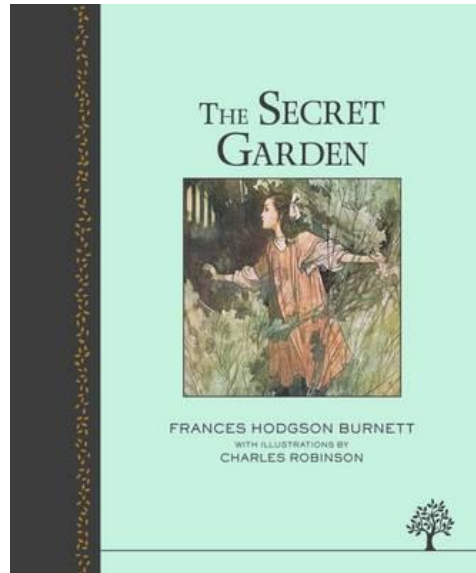
"Exciting, scary, romantic and deliciously readable" (*Guardian*)

"It is Pullman's talent for creating an atmospheric mood and tugging at your emotions to add pace and suspense that really keeps you entranced" (*Junior*)

## Extract

Once upon a time (when time ran by clockwork), a strange event took place in a little German town. Actually, it was a series of events, all fitting together like the parts of a clock, and although each person saw a different part, no-one saw the whole of it; but here it is, as well as I can tell it.

# The Secret Garden



It was the sweetest, most mysterious-looking place any one could imagine. When spoiled, rude Mary Lennox is sent to live in her uncle's lonely house on the moors, she is miserable and alone. Then one day she discovers the key to a locked garden, and she discovers the beauty that life can offer.

## Author

**Frances Hodgson Burnett**



## **For Fans Of:**

The Secret Of Nightingale Wood  
Cogheart  
A Little Princess

## **Reviews**

**A timeless tale The Guardian**

## **Extract**

‘Barney!’ he cried out. ‘There is a child here! A child alone! In a place like this! Mercy on us, who is she?’

‘I am Mary Lennox,’ the little girl said, drawing herself up stiffly. She thought the man was very rude to call her father’s bungalow ‘a place like this!’. ‘I fell asleep when everyone had the cholera and I have only just wakened up. Why does nobody come?’

‘It is the child no one ever saw!’ exclaimed the man, turning to his companions. She has actually been forgotten!’

‘Why was I forgotten?’ Mary said, stamping her foot. ‘Why does nobody come?’

# Skellig



When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital. But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes for ever ...

**Author**  
**David Almond**



## For Fans Of:

Eren  
A Monster Calls  
Clockwork

## Reviews

This modern classic has been reissued in a beautiful 15th anniversary edition (Lorna Bradbury *The Sunday Telegraph*)

An exquisitely crafted book with a mystical core (*The Daily Telegraph*)

The sort of children's book that makes adults find excuses to read more of them (*Times Educational Supplement*)

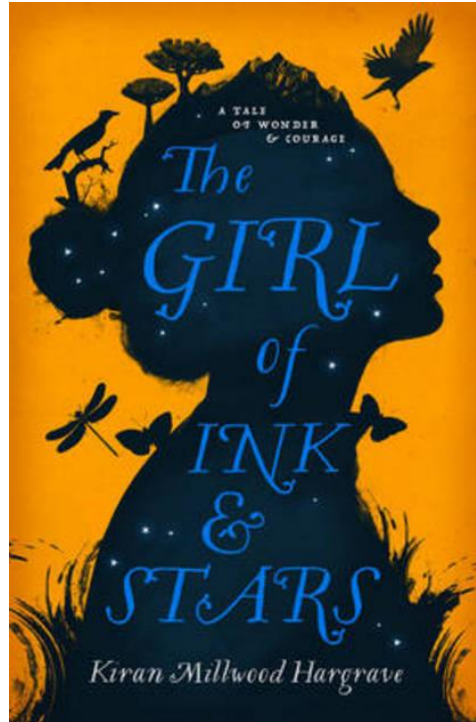
Hard to put down (Liz Lightfoot *The Daily Telegraph*)

## Extract

I found him in the garage on a Sunday afternoon. It was the day after we moved into Falconer Road. The winter was ending. Mum had said we'd be moving just in time for the spring. Nobody else was there. Just me. The others were inside the house with Doctor Death, worrying about the baby.

He was lying there in the darkness behind the tea chests, in the dust and dirt. It was as if he'd been there forever. He was filthy and pale and dried out and I thought he was dead. I couldn't have been more wrong. I'd soon begin to see the truth about him, that there'd never been another creature like him in the world.

# The Girl Of Ink And Stars



Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.

## Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Kiran Millwood Hargrave



**K Millwood Hargrave** @Kiran\_MH · 2m

Replying to @MrBoothY6

To go on a magical adventure full of maps, myths, and maybe a few monsters! Expect unexpected twists, friendship, and a comedy chicken.

## For Fans Of:

The Dreamsnatcher  
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe  
Cogheart

## Reviews

- 📖 **Annie Sherratt, age 11** - '*The Girl of Ink and Stars* is an excellent book - the best I've ever read. There is a lot of adventure and it's full of unexpected surprises.'
- 📖 **Sidney Greenslade, age 12** - '*The Girl of Ink and Stars* is a rich, involving yet terrifying story and I was practically holding my breath by the last few chapters! An emotional and fantastic story about magic, maps, true bravery and friendship - I would highly recommend it.'
- 📖 **Anastasia Abdian, age 11** - '*The Girl of Ink and Stars* is a fantastic book! Where's the sequel? Was my question when I finished. There is adventure, action and an ancient myth, what more could you need?! It is a must read!'

## Extract

**T**hey say the day the Governor arrived, the ravens did too. All the smaller birds flew backwards into the sea, and that is why there are no songbirds on Joya. Only huge, ragged ravens. I'd watch them perch on the rooftops like omens, and try to squint them into the chaffinches and goldcrests Da drew from memory. If I imagined hard enough, I could almost hear them singing.

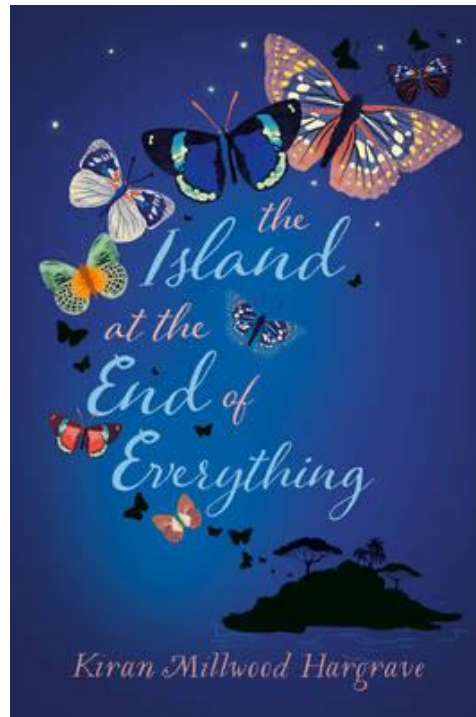
'Why did the songbirds leave, Da?' I'd ask.

'Because they could, Isabella.'

'And the wolves? The deer?'

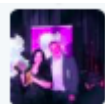
Da's face would darken. 'Seems the sea was better than what they were running from.'

# The Island At The End Of Everything



Amihan lives on Culion Island, where some of the inhabitants - including her mother - have leprosy. Ami loves her home - with its blue seas and lush forests, Culion is all she has ever known. But the arrival of malicious government official Mr Zamora changes her world forever: islanders untouched by sickness are forced to leave. Banished across the sea, she's desperate to return, and finds a strange and fragile hope in a colony of butterflies. Can they lead her home before it's too late?

## Author (and why she thinks you should read her book) Kiran Millwood Hargrave



**K Millwood Hargrave** @Kiran\_MH · 37s

Replying to @MrBoothY6

Set on a beautiful island under a dark cloud, with friends on a mission to get home. Contains butterflies, boats, and a dastardly villain.

## For Fans Of:

The Dreamsnatcher  
The Girl Of Ink And Stars  
A Monster Calls

## Reviews

★★★★★ **A beautiful portrait of human nature and the natural world**

By [elliepod](#) on 13 April 2017

Format: Paperback

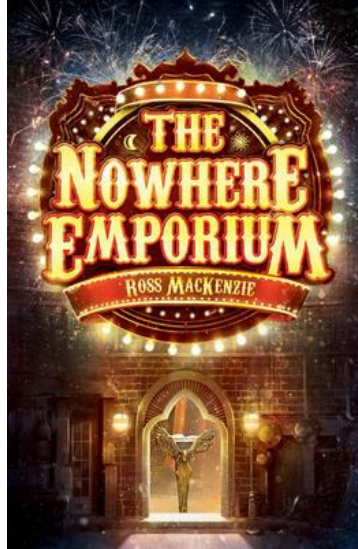
Wonderful. This book carries you to the distant shores of the Philippines. In one breath, you are taken on a journey through the life of Amihan and her Mother, who live on the island of Culion.

But this book is about more than life in a beautiful place. As Barry Cunningham at Chicken House says, it's a story about characters, characters who are strong willed, characters who know what is important to them, and characters who are more complicated than 'good' or 'bad'. Most importantly, characters who feel real.

## Extract

I am luckier than most. I was born here, so I never had to know the name-calling, the spitting in the street. My *nanay* was already carrying me when they came for her, though she didn't know it until she stepped from the boat a month after leaving home and felt a flutter in her stomach, like wings. Me, growing.

# The Nowhere Emporium



When the mysterious Nowhere Emporium arrives in Glasgow, orphan Daniel Holmes stumbles upon it quite by accident. Before long, the 'shop from nowhere' -- and its owner, Mr Silver -- draw Daniel into a breathtaking world of magic and enchantment. Recruited as Mr Silver's apprentice, Daniel learns the secrets of the Emporium's vast labyrinth of passageways and rooms -- rooms that contain wonders beyond anything Daniel has ever imagined. But when Mr Silver disappears, and a shadow from the past threatens everything, the Emporium and all its wonders begin to crumble.

Can Daniel save his home, and his new friends, before the Nowhere Emporium is destroyed forever?

**Author**  
**Ross Mackenzie**



## For Fans Of:

Ned's Circus Of Marvels  
Harry Potter  
Cogheart

## Reviews

- 👤 Alex Hall, age 9 - 'This book is a page turner. The main character is an orphan and befriends a magician with an emporium which is full of mystery and magic and fantasy. It has a lot of action and is a very gripping.'
- 👤 Lindsey Hall (Alex's mum) - loved it, a fabulous book and one that I think will many young people (and adults) will find enthralling.'
- 👤 Isaac East, age 8 - 'Have you ever walked into a midnight maze where imagination takes over? Join Mr. Silver in he wonders from lands of sweets to a room of secrets. Then ride a roller coaster to defeat his arch enemy.'

## Extract

The shop from nowhere arrived with the dawn on a crisp November morning.

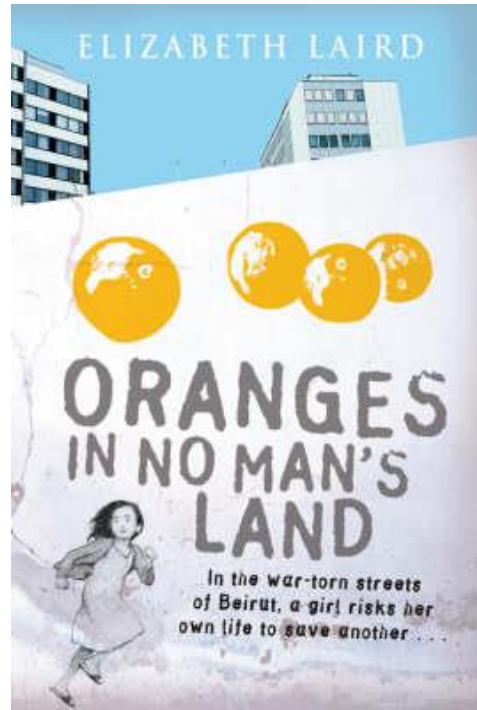
Word travelled quickly around the village, and by midday the place was abuzz with rumour and hearsay.

*"There were four shops in the row yesterday. Today there are five!"*

*"Did you hear? It sits between the butcher's and the ironmonger's..."*

*"The brickwork is black as midnight, and it sparkles strangely in the light!"*

# Oranges In No Man's Land



Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. When Granny falls desperately ill Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey across no man's land to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.

## **Author**

**Elizabeth Laird**



## For Fans Of:

Once  
A Long Walk To Water  
The Island At The End Of Everything

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Brilliant - used for Y5 Literacy**

By [ffriday](#) on 5 April 2012

Format: Paperback | **Verified Purchase**

[Oranges in No Man's Land](#) Great book for evoking feelings of a child in a country at war (Lebanon). Not too heavy but some great narrative writing for effect. Y5 were gripped and were inspired to write. Nice to have a heroine who held the attention of the boys as well as girls..

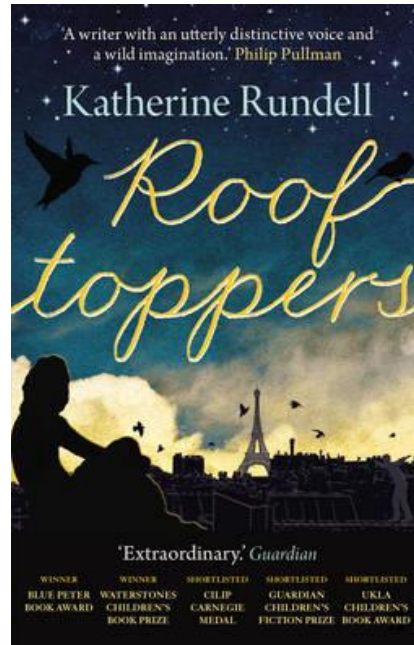
## Extract

My father built a little house with his own hands in the poorest part of town, where everyone was crowded together in narrow lanes. All our neighbours were like us – refugees from southern Lebanon – trying to manage on nothing, but thankful at least to be safe.

But just after I was born, all that changed. A terrible civil war tore the city of Beirut apart. I pray that those years never come again! I can never forget the horror of them.

And yet, in among all the sad things, the fear and destruction and loss, there are wonderful memories too, of kindness and courage and goodness.

# Rooftoppers



Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. True, there were no other recorded female survivors from the shipwreck which left baby Sophie floating in the English Channel in a cello case, but Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help. Her guardian tells her it is almost impossible that her mother is still alive, but that means still possible. You should never ignore a possible. So when the Welfare Agency writes to her guardian threatening to send Sophie to an orphanage, she takes matters into her own hands and flees to Paris to look for her mother, starting with the only clue she has - the address of the cello maker. Evading the French authorities, she meets Matteo and his network of rooftoppers - urchins who live in the sky. Together they scour the city for Sophie's mother before she is caught and sent back to London, and most importantly before she loses hope.

## Author

**Katherine Rundell**



## **For Fans Of:**

The Last Wild  
The Girl Of Ink And Stars  
Cogheart

## **Reviews**

A writer with an utterly distinctive voice and a wild imagination (Philip Pullman 2013-01-18)

## **Extract**

On the morning of its first birthday, a baby was found floating in a cello case in the middle of the English Channel.

It was the only living thing for miles. Just the baby, and some dining-room chairs, and the tip of a ship disappearing into the ocean. There had been music in the dining hall, and it was music so loud and so good that nobody had noticed the water flooding in over the carpet. The violins went on sawing for some time after the screaming had begun. Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.

# George's Secret Key To The Universe



Allows readers to take a roller coaster ride through the vastness of space and discover the mysteries of physics, science and the universe with George, his new friends next door - the scientist Eric and his daughter, Annie - and a super-intelligent computer called Cosmos, which can take them to the edge of a black hole and back again.

## Authors

**Lucy and Stephen Hawking**



## For Fans Of:

Phoenix  
The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright  
Cosmic

## Reviews

"Gripping, informative and funny" (*The Bookseller*)

"A true beginner's guide to *A Brief History of Time*" (*Publishers Weekly*)

"A delightful book for young readers" (*Independent*)

## Extract

Pigs don't just vanish, thought George to himself as he stood staring into the depths of the very obviously empty pigsty. He tried closing his eyes and then opening them again, to see if it was all some kind of horrible optical illusion. But when he looked again, the pig was still gone, his vast muddy pink bulk nowhere to be seen. In fact, when George examined the situation for a second time, it had got worse, not better. The side door of the pigsty, he noticed, was hanging open, which meant someone hadn't shut it properly. And that someone was probably him.

'Georgie!' he heard his mother call from the kitchen. 'I'm going to start supper in a minute so you've only got about an hour. Have you done your homework?'

'Yes, Mum,' he called back in a fake cheery voice.

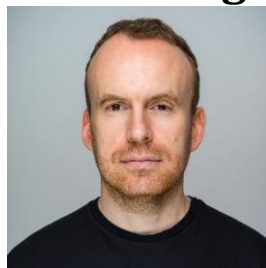
'How's your pig?'

# Shadow Forest



Samuel Blink is the hero of this story, but he doesn't know it yet. Right now, he and his sister Martha are in the back of his parents car. He has no idea a giant log is about to fall from the sky and change his life forever. He doesn't know that he and Martha will be forced to move to Norway and eat their Aunt Eda's smelly brown cheese. He hasn't the slightest clue Martha will disappear into Shadow Forest. It is a forest full of one-eyed trolls, the sinister huldrefolk, deadly Truth Pixies and a witch who steals shadows - a forest ruled by the evil Changemaker. It is a forest so dangerous that people who enter never return. No. Samuel Blink doesn't know any of this. So don't tell him. It might ruin the book ...

**Author**  
**Matt Haig**



## For Fans Of:

Ned's Circus Of Marvels  
The Island At The End Of Everything  
The Many Worlds Of Albie Bright

## Reviews

"A fascinating and magical tale. This is an outstanding piece of literature" (*The Times*)

"Enough twists to keep children gripped" (*The Daily Telegraph*)

"Matt Haig has crafted a children's classic" (*Yorkshire Evening Post*)

## Extract

'Reindeer? That's disgusting.'

Ugh, he thought. Rudolph soup.

'It is really werry nice,' said Aunt Eda. 'I think you'll find it tastes like beef.'

Samuel watched his sister take a sip from her spoon, with no visible pleasure or disgust. He did the same, and nearly wretched.

'That is disgusting,' he confirmed.

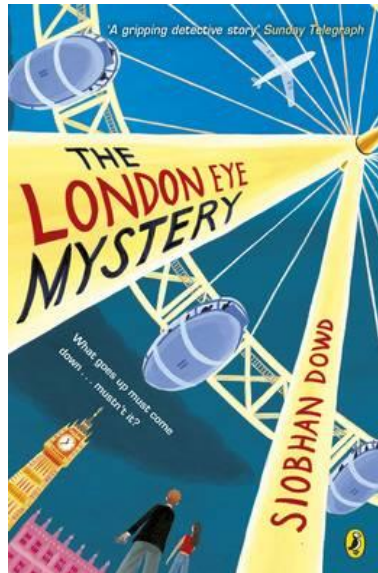
'It was Henrik's favourite,' said Aunt Eda.

'Well, Henrik must have had very bad taste,' said Samuel.

Aunt Eda leaned across the table. 'Don't talk that way about Uncle Henrik. Do you hear me?'

Her voice wasn't much louder than a whisper, but it had the sudden quiet anger of a cat's hiss. It wasn't her voice that worried him though, it was the expression on her face. Her eyes looked so hurt that, for the first time since he had arrived, Samuel felt guilty for being so rude.

# The London Eye Mystery



11.32am. Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city. 12.02am. The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim. Has he spontaneously combusted? (Ted's theory.) Has he been kidnapped? (Aunt Gloria's theory.) Is he even still alive? (The family's unspoken fear.) Even the police are baffled - so it's up to Ted, whose brain runs on its own unique operating system, to solve this mystery and find Salim. Teaming up with Kat, Ted follows a trail of clues across London - while time ticks dangerously by...

**Author**  
**Siobhan Dowd**



## For Fans Of:

The Goldfish Boy  
Wonder  
The Diamond Of Drury Lane

## Reviews

A thoroughly gripping detective story - *Sunday Telegraph*

Compulsive reading - *Independent*

Grips the reader from the opening chapter - *Sunday Times*

Dowd transforms disability into a gift - *The Times*

## Extract

Kat and I tracked Salim's capsule as it made its orbit. When it reached its highest point, we both said, 'NOW!' at the same time and Kat laughed and I joined in. That's how we knew we'd been tracking the right one. We saw the people bunch up as the capsule came back down, facing northeast towards the automatic camera for the souvenir photograph. They were just dark bits of jackets, legs, dresses and sleeves.

Then the capsule landed. The doors opened and the passengers came out in twos and threes. They walked off in different directions. Their faces were smiling. Their paths probably never crossed again.

But Salim wasn't among them.

# The Dreamsnatcher



Twelve-year-old Molly Pecksniff wakes one night in the middle of the forest, lured there by a recurring nightmare - the one with the drums and the rattles and the masks. The Dreamsnatcher is waiting. He has already taken her dreams and now he wants her life. Because Moll is more important than she knows...The Oracle Bones foretold that she and Gryff, a wildcat that has always been by her side, are the only ones who can fight back against the Dreamsnatcher's dark magic. Suddenly everything is at stake, and Moll is drawn into a world full of secrets, magic and adventure.

**Author**  
**Abi Elphinstone**



## For Fans Of:

Harry Potter  
The Girl Of Ink And Stars  
Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief

## Reviews

- 👤 Lily, age 11 - 'This book is really mysterious and gripping - I couldn't put it down. The descriptions of the surroundings were very vivid and Abi really makes you care about the characters.'
- 👤 Joshua Zinkin, age 9 - 'The book was exciting once you got into it but lots of the language was quite difficult.'
- 👤 Millie Barrett, age 8 - 'I enjoyed the mysteries and cliff-hangers in the book. It is also very detailed so even though there are no illustrations, it creates pictures in your mind!'

## Extract

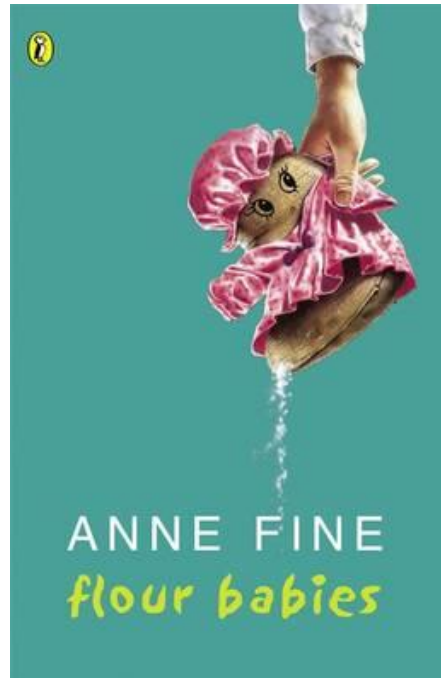
There are footprints in the snow, sunken marks picked out by the moonlight. They weave a path through the forest, round the ring of ancient oak trees and on towards the wooden hut. But there they stop, and the smoke curling out of the chimney is the only sign that anyone is inside.

Seven cloaked figures sit round a table, their hoods pulled up despite the fire crackling in the grate. At first, they whisper together, their voices low and guarded. And then the whispers fade, heads drop and lips curl back. A chant begins. There are no words, just grunted sounds scratching at the back of throats.

One of the figures pushes back her hood and long grey hair falls about her shoulders.

'Not this!' she cries. 'You said it wouldn't be this . . .' She shakes her head and makes as if to stand. 'I – I won't do it. It's not right!'

# Flour Babies



When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class don't get the soap factory, or the maggot farm, or the exploding custard tins. They get the flour babies - sweet little bags of flour that must be treated gently.

**Author**  
**Anne Fine**



## For Fans Of:

Millions  
Ballet Shoes  
Holes

## Reviews

The boys in a class of no-hopers take part in a science project in which each must look after a bag of flour as if it were a real baby. They can't leave it unattended and it musn't gain or lose weight. Simon becomes particularly attached to his flour baby and learns much about the responsibilities of parenthood. Hilarious episodes are balanced by some very touching moments.  
(8-11 yrs) (Kirkus UK)

## Extract

'And the experiment Dr Feltham has chosen for this topic is –'

He glanced round. He hadn't even said it yet, and already a sea of disgusted faces was staring back at him.

'Flour babies!'

Now scorn was supplanted by confusion.

'Sir?'

'Is that *flour* babies or *flower* babies?'

'They both sound weird to me.'

–'What *are* they?'

'Whatever they are, they don't sound much like proper *Science*.'

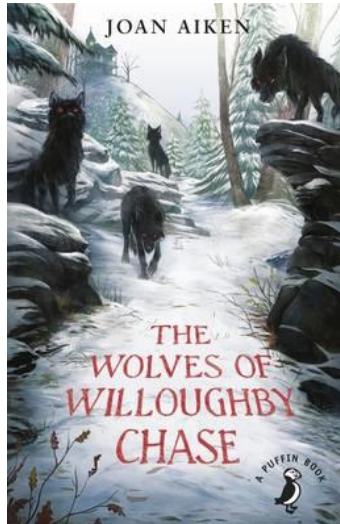
Secretly, that was what Mr Cartright thought. He glanced at the list again. Could it be a mistake? Another clerical error?

No. There it was, clear as paint.

Flour babies.

Right.

# The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase



Set in 1832, at a time in English history that never happened, when Good King James III was on the throne and the frozen North Country was full of wolves, a little girl called Bonnie was waiting at dusk for her orphan cousin Sylvia to come from London to keep her company, and for the arrival of her new guardian who is in charge when her parents go abroad.

The guardian Miss Slighcarp turns out to be as wicked as the wolves that roam outside. She shuts Bonnie in a cupboard, put some orphans in the dungeons and dismisses all the kind servants. And then she sends Bonnie and Sylvia far away where they would never be found in order to steal their home, but she doesn't know how clever and resourceful the little girls are

**Author**  
**Joan Aiken**



## For Fans Of:

Wolf Brother  
Journey To The River Sea  
Flour Babies

## Reviews

"Joan Aiken is a marvel" (Philip Pullman)

"She was a consummate story-teller, one that each generation discovers anew" (Amanda Craig *The Times*)

"Dickensian in flavour ... rich in atmosphere and intrigue" (Julia Eccleshare *Guardian*)

"A genuine small masterpiece" (Time)

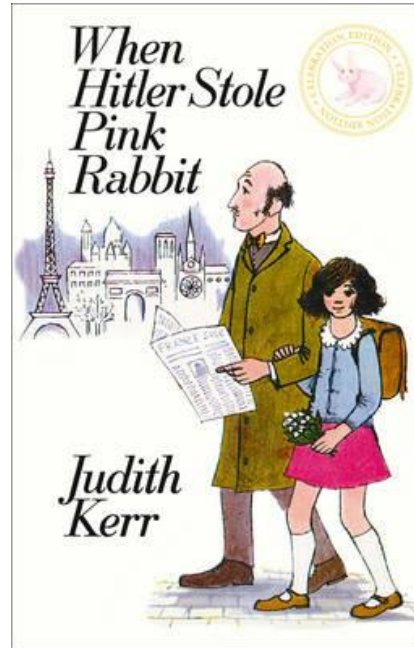
## Extract

Bonnie sprang back in an instant, all her violent temper roused, and seized the brush from Miss Slighcarp's hand, hurling it recklessly through the plate-glass window. She picked up a jug of warm water which a housemaid had just brought, and dashed it full in the face of her new instructress.

Miss Slighcarp reeled under the impact – her bonnet came off, so did her grey hair, which, apparently, was a wig, leaving her bald, dripping, and livid with rage.

'Oh dear – I am so sorry!' said Bonnie in consternation. 'I did not mean to do that. My temper is a dreadful fault. But you must not strike Pattern. She is one of my best friends. Oh Pattern – help her!'

# When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit



That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe – starting with her own small life.

**Author**  
**Judith Kerr**



## For Fans Of:

Carrie's War  
Once  
The Boy In The Striped Pajamas

## Reviews

"An extremely exciting adventure story." - Daily Express

"A charming and touching book, often very funny" - Daily Mail

"Exact, intelligent and unsentimental." - Sunday Telegraph

## Extract

grad when Elsbeth stopped to look at the picture.  
"It's another picture of that man," said Elsbeth. "My little sister saw one yesterday and thought it was Charlie Chaplin."

Anna looked at the staring eyes, the grim expression. She said, "It's not a bit like Charlie Chaplin except for the moustache."

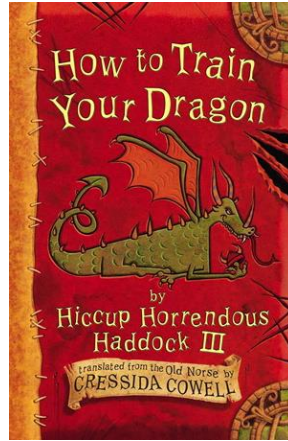
They spelled out the name under the photograph.

*Adolf Hitler.*

"He wants everybody to vote for him in the elections and then he's going to stop the Jews," said Elsbeth. "Do you think he's going to stop Rachel Lowenstein?"

"Nobody can stop Rachel Lowenstein," said Anna. "She's form captain. Perhaps he'll stop me. I'm Jewish too."

# How To Train Your Dragon



The story begins in the first volume of Hiccup's How to Train Your Dragon memoirs...Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was an awesome sword-fighter, a dragon-whisperer and the greatest Viking Hero who ever lived. But it wasn't always like that. In fact, in the beginning, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was the most put upon Viking you'd ever seen. Not loud enough to make himself heard at dinner with his father, Stoick the Vast; not hard enough to beat his chief rival, Snotlout, at Bashyball, the number one school sport and CERTAINLY not stupid enough to go into a cave full of dragons to find a pet...It's time for Hiccup to learn how to be a Hero.

**Author**  
**Cressida Cowell**



## For Fans Of:

Harry Potter  
The Hobbit  
The Dreamsnatcher

## Reviews

'This book is great fun and has a Blackadderish sense of humour ... full of the sort of jokes that will make schoolboys snigger.' -- Nicolette Jones, *The Sunday Times*

'Bulging with good jokes, funny drawings and dramatic scenes, it is absolutely wonderful.' -- *Independent on Sunday*

'If you haven't discovered Hiccup yet, you're missing out on one of the greatest inventions of modern children's literature.' - Julia Eccleshare, *Guardian children's editor*

## Extract

Long ago, on the wild and windy isle of Berk, a smallish Viking with a longish name stood up to his ankles in snow.

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, the Hope and Heir to the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, had been feeling slightly sick ever since he woke up that morning.

Ten boys, including Hiccup, were hoping to become full members of the Tribe by passing the Dragon Initiation Programme. They were standing on a bleak little beach at the bleakest spot on the whole bleak island. A heavy snow was falling.

'PAY ATTENTION!' screamed Gobber the Belch, the soldier in charge of teaching Initiation. 'This will be your first military operation, and Hiccup will be commanding the team.'

# Pax



Pax was only a kit when his family was killed and he was rescued by 'his boy', Peter. Now the country is at war and when his father enlists, Peter has no choice but to move in with his grandfather. Far worse than leaving home is the fact that he has to leave Pax behind. But before Peter spends even one night under his grandfather's roof he sneaks out into the night, determined to find his beloved friend.

## Author




**Sara Pennypacker**



## For Fans Of:

War Horse  
Beetle Boy  
Stig Of The Dump

## Reviews

-  **Sam Harper, age 11** - 'The heartbreaking story of a boy, a fox and their journeys towards each other which come together in a devastating finale. This is captivating, exciting and very, very sad.'
-  **Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 10** - 'A really moving story about a boy and his pet fox. This is on similar lines to *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo. Brilliant story. Highly recommend to children and adults!'
-  **Emily Price, age 13** - '*Pax* is an amazing book and has been my favourite so far.'

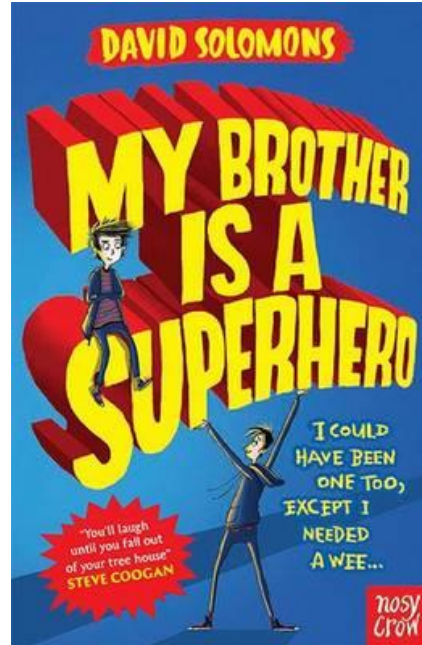
## Extract

The boy sensed something now, too. He pulled his pet back to him and gripped his baseball glove more tightly.

The boy's anxiety surprised the fox. The few times they had travelled in the car before, the boy had been calm or even excited. The fox nudged his muzzle into the glove's webbing, although he hated the leather smell. His boy always laughed when he did this. He would close the glove around his pet's head, play-wrestling, and in this way the fox would distract him.

But today the boy lifted his pet and buried his face in the fox's white ruff, pressing hard.

# My Brother Is A Superhero



Luke is a comic-mad eleven-year old who shares a treehouse with his geeky older brother, Zack. Luke's only mistake is to go for a wee right at the wrong time. While he's gone, an alien gives his undeserving, never-read-a-comic-in-his-life brother superpowers and then tells him to save the universe. Luke is massively annoyed about this, but when Zack is kidnapped by his arch-nemesis, Luke and his friends have only five days to find him and save the world...




**Author**  
**David Solomons**



## For Fans Of:

Time Travelling With A Hamster  
Demon Dentist  
The Astounding Broccoli Boy

## Reviews

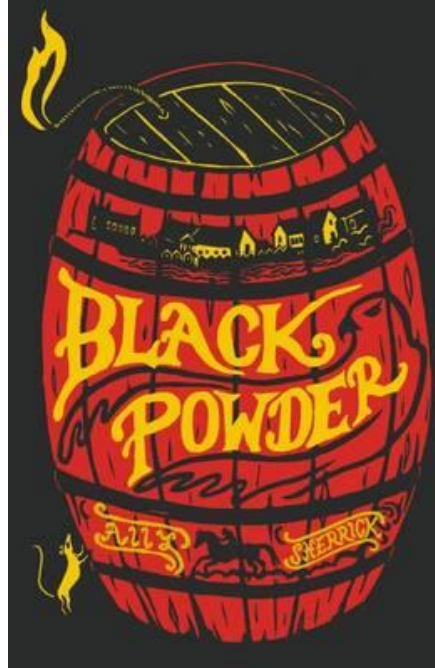
-  **Nicholas Butler, age 9** - '*My Brother Is a Superhero* is a really exciting book, really funny and packed with outstanding vocabulary.'
-  **Joseph Harris-Hart, age 13** - 'A book definitely for children who like superheroes with a bit of witty banter throughout the story.'
-  **Sam Harper, age 11** - 'A brilliantly funny adventure with twists, turns, crazy characters and a really hilarious ending. Fantastic!'

## Extract

My brother is a superhero, and I could have been one too, except that I needed to go for a wee.

My name is Luke Parker, I'm eleven years old and I live in a mild-mannered part of London with my mum, dad and big brother, Zack. He wasn't always a superhero, but with a name like Zack you've got to wonder if my parents had a hunch that one day he'd end up wearing a mask and cape and saving orphans from burning buildings. I mean, come on! It's not a name, it's a sound effect. It's what you get in a comic when a superhero punches a supervillain. Pow! Blam! Zack!

# Black Powder



England, 1605. 12-year-old Tom must save his father from hanging. He falls in with a mysterious stranger - the Falcon - who promises to help him in exchange for his service. But on the long journey to London, Tom discovers the Falcon's true mission - and a plot to blow up Parliament with barrels of black powder. Tom faces a terrible decision: secure his father's release, or stop the assassination of the king ...

**Author**  
**Ally Sherrick**



## For Fans Of:

Cogheart  
Strange Star  
The Last Wild

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Couldn't put it down!**

By [Shelley M](#) on 27 Aug. 2016

Format: Paperback

When a story starts with "The Hangman stood hunched at the top of the wooden scaffold like a hungry black crow...." you know you're in for a thrilling roller-coaster ride of a read. This is as fast paced as one of these rides with highs and lows for young Tom, a warmly drawn character I really liked. The story slips seamlessly into the well researched historical context. Read it, you won't be disappointed.

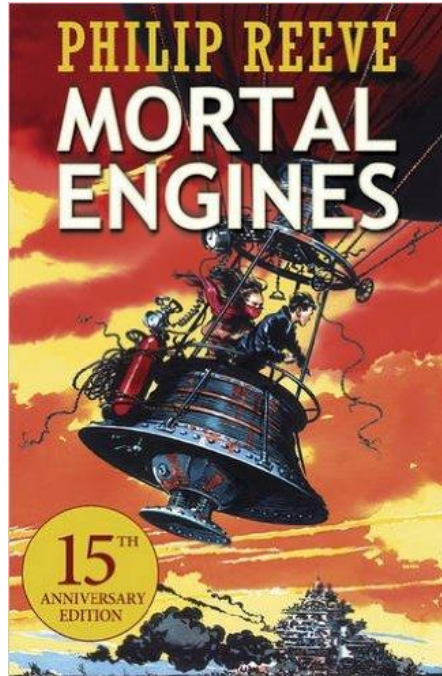
## Extract

The hangman stood hunched at the top of the wooden scaffold like a hungry black crow. A mob of screaming gulls wheeled above him, but his eyes stayed fixed on the noose as it swayed to and fro in the cold sea breeze.

Tom's heart jolted. He didn't want to watch a man die, but if he ran away now, everyone would know he was a Catholic for sure. He gripped the handle of the pail and steeled himself.

A murmur rippled through the crowd. He craned his neck but his view was blocked by a mass of sweaty bodies.

# Mortal Engines



In a world where moving cities trawl the globe, Tom and Hester have been thrown out of theirs and left them stranded and starving in the wastelands of the Great Hunting Ground. Hester is desperate for revenge while Tom is only desperate to get back on board his beloved London.

**Author**  
**Philip Reeve**



## For Fans Of:

Cogheart  
Northern Lights  
Treasure Island


## Reviews

'A masterpiece' - Sunday Telegraph

'A majestic achievement' - Sunday Times

'Marvellous... utterly captivating in its imaginative scope and energy' - Daily Telegraph

## Extract



**I**t was a dark, blustery afternoon in spring, and the city of London was chasing a small mining town across the dried-out bed of the old North Sea.

In happier times, London would never have bothered with such feeble prey. The great Traction City had once spent its days hunting far bigger towns than this, ranging north as far as the edges of the Ice Waste and south to the shores of the Mediterranean. But lately prey of any kind had started to grow scarce, and some of the larger cities had begun to look hungrily at London. For ten years now it had been hiding from them, skulking in a damp, mountainous, western district which the Guild of Historians said had once been the island of Britain. For ten years it had eaten nothing but tiny farming towns and static settlements in those wet hills. Now, at last, the Lord Mayor had decided that the time was right to take his city back over the land-bridge into the Great Hunting Ground.

# Strange Star



Switzerland, 1816. On a stormy summer night, Lord Byron and his guests are gathered round the fire. Felix, their serving boy, can't wait to hear their creepy tales. Yet real life is about to take a chilling turn - more chilling than any tale.

Frantic pounding at the front door reveals a stranger, a girl covered in the most unusual scars. She claims to be looking for her sister, supposedly snatched from England by a woman called Mary Shelley. Someone else has followed her here too, she says. And the girl is terrified.




**Author**  
**Emma Carroll**



## For Fans Of:

Frankenstein  
The Secret Garden  
The Secret Of Nightingale Wood

## Reviews

-  **Jack Smith, age 11** - 'This book is full of tension and I couldn't put it down! This book can be scary so watch out when reading at night!'
-  **Georgie Docwra, age 11** - 'This story is gripping, thrilling and slightly scary!! Superb!'
-  **Amina Hassan, age 10** - 'I was spellbound. Your blood is sure to freeze. You are sure to be excited sad and shocked. Follow Lizzie on her journey of freedom love and bravery, if you have the guts!'

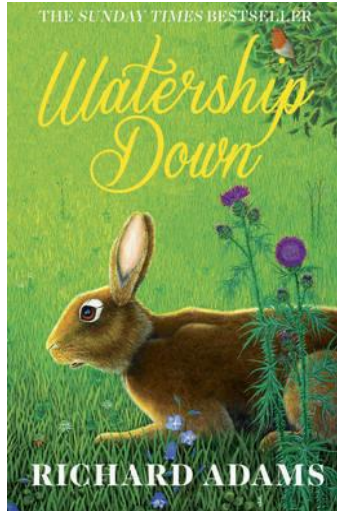
## Extract

It was Felix's job to deliver the invitation. On such a sparkling, sunny morning after weeks of cold rain he was glad to be outside, stretching his legs. Not that he had far to go – Mr and Mrs Shelley's villa was just a short walk through the apple orchard. He'd be back at Diodati again in less than twenty minutes, the job done.

Yet this wasn't just any job. Or any invitation. And despite knowing it was a servant's responsibility to deliver messages, not read them, Felix couldn't resist glancing at the card in his hand. Lord Byron's words, in still-wet ink, read more like a challenge than an invitation. Felix prickled with excitement.

Tonight was going to be spectacular.

# Watership Down



A phenomenal worldwide bestseller for over forty years, Richard Adams' spellbinding classic *Watership Down* is one of the best-loved novels of all time. Set in the beautiful English countryside of the Berkshire Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special rabbits fleeing the destruction of their home by a developer. Led by a stout-hearted pair of brothers, they leave the safety of Sandleford Warren in search of a safe haven and a mysterious promised land, skirting danger at every turn.

## Author

**Richard Adams**



## For Fans Of:

The Wind In The Willows  
Charlotte's Web  
Stig Of The Dump

## Reviews

'A masterpiece. The best story about wild animals since The Wind in the Willows. Very funny, exciting, often moving.' **Evening Standard**

'A great book. A whole world is created, perfectly real in itself, yet constituting a deep incidental comment on human affairs.' **Guardian**

'Quite marvelous... A powerful new vision of the great chain of being.' **New York Times Book Review**

## Extract

The two rabbits went up to the board at a hopping run and crouched in a patch of nettles on the far side, wrinkling their noses at the smell of a dead cigarette end somewhere in the grass. Suddenly Fiver shivered and cowered down.

“Oh, Hazel! This is where it comes from! I know now—something very bad! Some terrible thing—coming closer and closer.”

He began to whimper with fear.

“What sort of thing—what do you mean? I thought you said there was no danger?”

“I don't know what it is,” answered Fiver wretchedly. “There isn't any danger here, at this moment. But it's coming—it's coming. Oh, Hazel, look! The field! It's covered with blood!”

# Carrie's War



Albert, Carrie and young Nick are war-time evacuees whose lives get so tangled up with the people they've come to live among that the war and their real families seem to belong to another world. Carrie and Nick are billeted in Wales with old Mr Evans, who is so mean and cold, and his timid mouse of a sister, Lou, who suddenly starts having secrets. Their friend

Albert is luckier, living in Druid's Bottom with warm-hearted Hepzibah Green and the strange Mister Johnny, who can talk to animals but not to human beings. Carrie and Nick visit him there whenever they can for Hepzibah makes life exciting and enticing with her stories and delicious cooking. Gradually they begin to feel more at ease in their war-time home, but then, in trying to heal the rift between Mr Evans and his estranged sister, and save Druid's Bottom, Carrie does a terrible thing which is to haunt her for years to come.

Carrie revisits Wales as an adult and tells the story to her own children.

## **Author** **Nina Bawden**



## For Fans Of:

Once  
Goodnight Mister Tom  
The Boy In The Striped Pajamas

## Reviews

★★★★★ **A children's classic**

By A Customer on 22 Feb. 2002

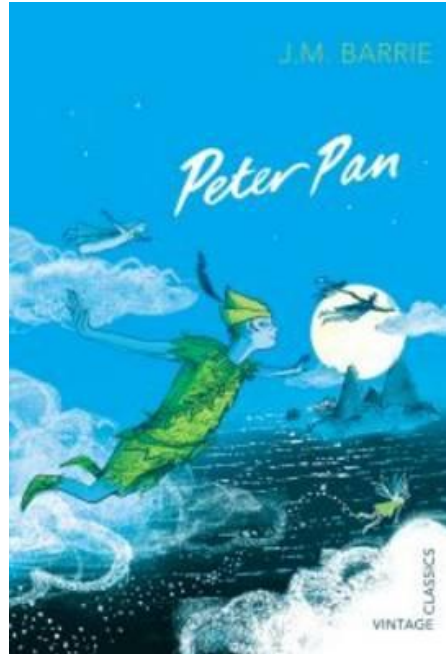
Format: Paperback

I first read Carrie's War after it was published in the early '70's when I was about 10. I loved it and remember watching the TV dramatisation of it also which really mirrored the book. I am just discovering the book again after nearly 30 years and have bought it in England for my son as I have not been able to find it in America. Nina Bawden really depicts what life was like for some WWII evacuees. The characters are unforgettable and the story is original and heartwarming. A must-read for every child.

## Extract

CARRIE had often dreamed about coming back. In her dreams she was twelve years old again; short, scratched legs in red socks and scuffed, brown sandals, walking along the narrow, dirt path at the side of the railway line to where it plunged down, off the high ridge, through the Druid's Grove. The yew trees in the Grove were dark green and so old that they had grown twisted and lumpy, like arthritic fingers. And in Carrie's dream, the fingers reached out for her, plucking at her hair and her skirt as she ran. She was always running by the end of this dream, running away from the house, uphill towards the railway line.

# Peter Pan



Come Away! Come Away! The Darling children are tucked up in bed when Peter Pan bursts in to their nursery. Peter and his mischievous fairy Tinker Bell entice Wendy and her brothers to fly away with them to a magical world called Neverland. There you can swim with mermaids and play all day with the Lost Boys. But you must watch out for pirates, especially Captain Hook. And how do you find Neverland? Second to the right and straight on till morning of course...

**Author**  
**JM Barrie**



## **For Fans Of:**

Cogheart  
The Jungle Book  
Treasure Island

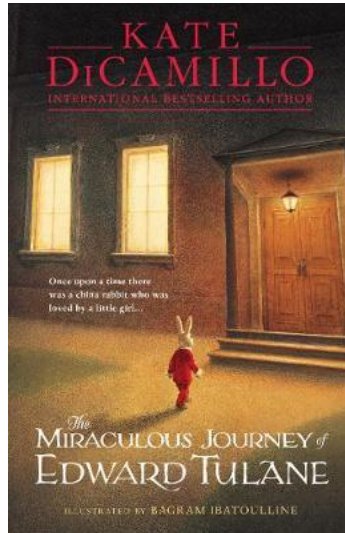
## **Reviews**

Intensely moving as well as enchanting in its evocation of childhood, the heartlessness of youth and parental grief as children grow older. - **Daily Telegraph**

## **Extract**

All children, except one, grow up. They soon know that they will grow up, and the way Wendy knew was this. One day when she was two years old she was playing in a garden, and she plucked another flower and ran with it to her mother. I suppose she must have looked rather delightful, for Mrs. Darling put her hand to her heart and cried, "Oh, why can't you remain like this for ever!" This was all that passed between them on the subject, but henceforth Wendy knew that she must grow up. You always know after you are two. Two is the beginning of the end.

# The Miraculous Journey Of Edward Tulane



The Incredible Journey meets The Mouse and His Child, an enchanting tale that begs to be read aloud. The magical story of the adventures of a lost toy rabbit from a New York Times bestselling author, twice winner of the Newbery Medal. Abilene loves her blue china rabbit, but Edward Tulane is extremely vain and only loves himself. On a voyage from New York to London, Edward falls overboard and from there finds himself on an amazing journey. He travels with tramps, works as a scarecrow, comforts a dying child ...and finally learns what it is to truly love.

**Author**  
**Kate DiCamillo**



## For Fans Of:

Peter Pan  
Varjak Paw  
The Secret Garden

## Reviews

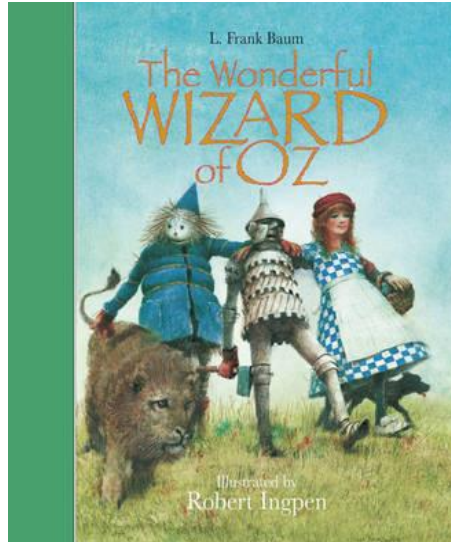
This book is a delight to read aloud -- Sue Magee

## Extract

ONCE, IN A HOUSE ON EGYPT STREET, there lived a rabbit who was made almost entirely of china. He had china arms and china legs, china paws and a china head, a china torso and a china nose. His arms and legs were jointed and joined by wire so that his china elbows and china knees could be bent, giving him much freedom of movement.

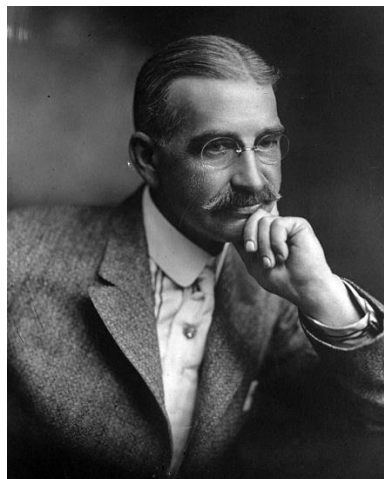
His ears were made of real rabbit fur, and beneath the fur, there were strong, bendable wires, which allowed the ears to be arranged into poses that reflected the rabbit's mood – jaunty, tired, full of ennui. His tail, too, was made of real rabbit fur and was fluffy and soft and well shaped.

# The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz



Dorothy is a young girl who lives on a Kansas farm with her Uncle Henry, Aunt Em, and little dog Toto. One day the farmhouse, with Dorothy inside, is caught up in a tornado and deposited in a field in the country of the Munchkins.

**Author**  
**L Frank Baum**



## For Fans Of:

Peter Pan  
Varjak Paw  
The Secret Garden

## Reviews

★★★★★ **Not like I remember!**

By [Mrs Jonesy](#) on 2 May 2014

Format: Kindle Edition | **Verified Purchase**

First time reading the book having seen the movie many many times.

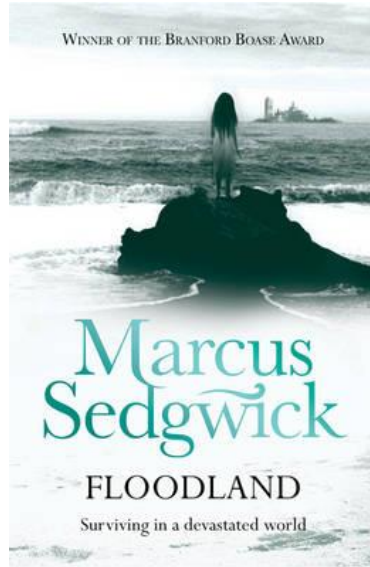
it's not how you expect it to be and in fact is more interesting than the film with a lot more quirks and story twists.

i very much enjoyed it and have recommended it to friends if only for them to see what the story is really like!

## Extract

When Dorothy stood in the doorway and looked around, she could see nothing but the great gray prairie on every side. Not a tree nor a house broke the broad sweep of flat country that reached to the edge of the sky in all directions. The sun had baked the plowed land into a gray mass, with little cracks running through it. Even the grass was not green, for the sun had burned the tops of the long blades until they were the same gray color to be seen everywhere. Once the house had been painted, but the sun blistered the paint and the rains washed it away, and now the house was as dull and gray as everything else.

# Floodland



In an England covered by water, Zoe lives alone in the island of Norwich, lost by her parents in the rush to escape. Desperate to survive the marauding gangs, she digs a derelict boat out of the mud and makes her way to Eels Island, only to find that this island is dominated by danger too.

**Author**  
**Marcus Sedgwick**



## **For Fans Of:**

Cogheart  
The Island At The End Of Everything  
Rooftoppers

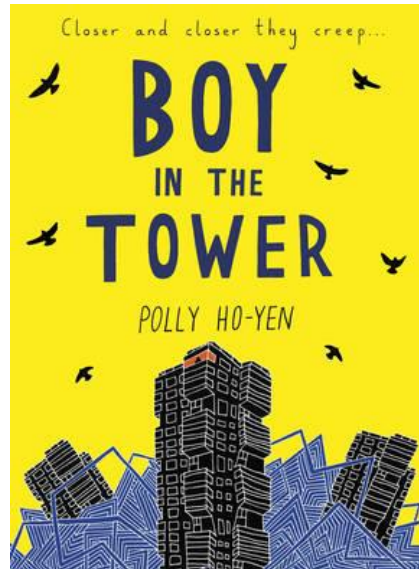
## **Reviews**

Entirely deserving of the Branford Boase Award, Floodland is a stunning debut novel that precluded more literary brilliance to follow. Marty Mulrooney, ALTERNATIVE MAGAZINE ONLINE

## **Extract**

Zoe ran. Harder than she had ever run in her life. Her feet pounded through the deserted streets of derelict buildings. Somewhere, not far behind, she could hear the gang coming after her. It felt as if her heart would burst, but she didn't slow down. She'd been planning to leave the island for a long time, but had been putting it off. It was a big decision to set out to sea in a tiny rowing boat. Now she had no choice.

# Boy In The Tower



When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way. Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him. His mum doesn't really like looking outside - but it's going outside that she hates. She's happier sleeping all day inside their tower, where it's safe. But one day, other tower blocks on the estate start falling down around them and strange, menacing plants begin to appear. Now their tower isn't safe anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there's no way out...

**Author**  
**Polly Ho Yen**



## For Fans Of:

Cogheart  
The Wolf Wilder  
Rooftoppers

## Reviews

This matches a dystopian plot with a hugely engaging narrator ... An unusual and very impressive debut. -- **Fiona Noble** *The Bookseller*

Haunting and compelling, with characters you really care for -- **Vanessa Lewis** *The Bookseller*

## Extract

When you wish that a Saturday was actually a Monday, you know there is something seriously wrong.

I look at the ceiling. At the spot of flaky paint and the stain that looks like a wobbly circle, and at the swaying, wispy spider's web, and I think of all those cold, grey Mondays when I had to make myself get up for school. I would have to force my legs off the mattress and I'd dress in a daze, unwilling to believe it was time to be upright again.

I wish I could wake up to another Monday like that.

Those days are gone now that the Bluchers are here.