



Children's
Modern Classics Guide

DI-IA

DAVID HIGHAM ASSOCIATES LTD
Est. 1935

Literary, Film and TV agents

The Team



UK and US Rights

Veronique Baxter, Isobel Boston, Georgia Glover, Andrew Gordon, Molly Ker Hawn, Lizzy Kremer, Christabel McKinley

Film and TV Rights

Clare Israel, Nicky Lund, Georgie Smith

Translation Rights

Allison Cole: allisoncole@davidhigham.co.uk

Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden

Emma Lagarde: emmalagarde@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Iceland, Netherlands, Spain & Latin America

Co-agented: China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Poland, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

Mariam Quraishi: mariamquraishi@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Arab World, Brazil, Greece, Israel, Portugal, Slovenia and miscellaneous languages

Co-agented: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine

Emilie Forlacroix: emilieforlacroix@davidhigham.co.uk

For all general inquiries

Co-agents

Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro,

Serbia: [Andrew Nurnberg Associates Sofia](#)

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia,

Lithuania, Ukraine: [Eastern European and Asian Rights Agency](#)

China and Taiwan: [Andrew Nurnberg Associates / Bardon Chinese Media / The Grayhawk Agency](#)

Croatia and Hungary: [Andrew Nurnberg Associates Budapest](#)

Czech Republic and Slovakia: [Kristin Olson Agency](#)

Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam: [The Grayhawk Agency](#)

Japan: [Japan Uni / Tuttle-Mori](#)

Korea: [Eric Yang Agency](#)

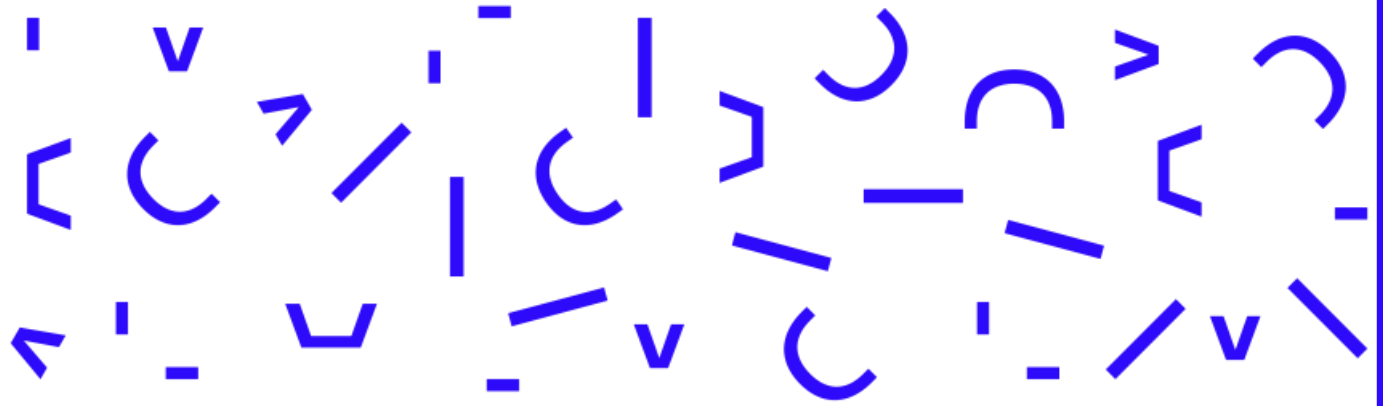
Poland: [Andrew Nurnberg Associates Kyiv](#)

Romania: [Simona Kessler Agency](#)

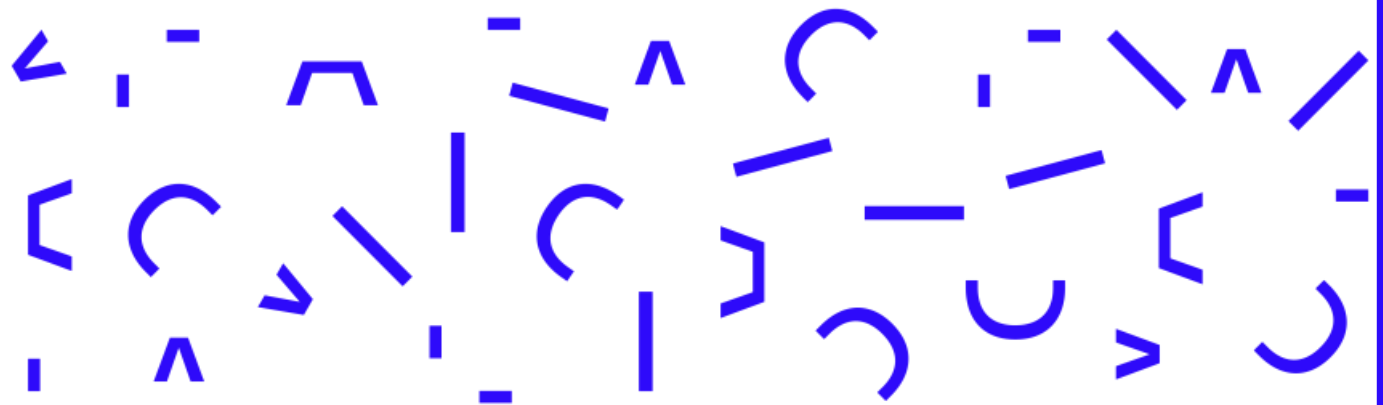
Russia: [Van Lear Agency](#)

Turkey: [AnatoliaLit Agency](#)





Middle Grade



B.B.

Carnegie Medal Winner

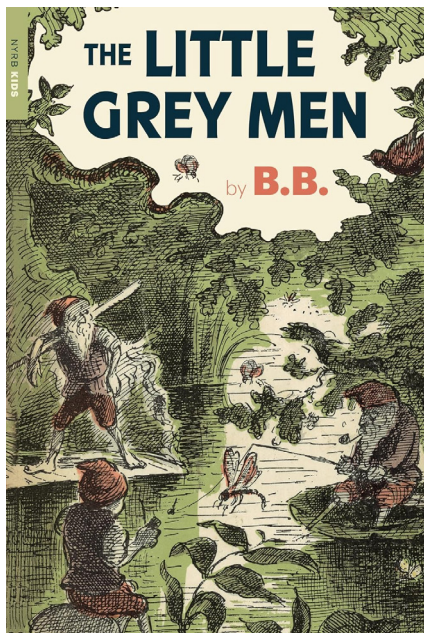
‘There can be few other combinations of text and illustration that work so harmoniously, revealing such a powerful imagination and such an intimate relationship with the minutiae of the natural world.’ – Helena Drysdale



Denys Watkins-Pitchford (1905–1990), who wrote under the pseudonym ‘B.B.’, was the author of more than sixty books for adults and children. B.B. was both a writer and illustrator, and his charming original illustrations decorate these books. But above all he was a countryman, whose intimate and unsentimental knowledge of animals, birds and plants, as well as his gifts as a storyteller, make these books unique.

Growing up in a rural Northamptonshire rectory and thought too delicate to go to school, B.B. roamed the countryside alone. His nostalgic evocation of the unwrecked England of his childhood, inhabited by the last survivors of an ancient and characterful tribe of small people who live in total harmony with their surroundings, is magical.

He is best known for his *Bill Badger* series as well as *The Little Grey Men* for which he won the prestigious Carnegie Medal in 1942. Its sequel, *Down the Bright Stream*, was published in 1948.



The Little Grey Men

The last four gnomes in Britain live on the banks of the bubbling Folly brook. They are perfectly happy with their quiet life, except, that is, for one . . . Cloudberry.

Restless and longing for adventure, Cloudberry sets off to follow his dream. But when he doesn't return, the remaining gnomes must set off on their own adventure to find him.

This is the story of the brothers' epic journey in search of Cloudberry and is set against the background of the English countryside, beginning in spring, continuing through summer, and concluding in autumn, when the first frosts start to arrive.

This enchanting tale was the winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal and features the author's own beautiful illustrations throughout.

‘[A] terrifically moving elegy for an England now almost extinct, it is gladdening in the extreme to know that other people have also been beguiled by the beauty of a meticulously observed countryside inhabited by gnomes with a passion for pipe-smoking.’ – *The Guardian*

UK Publisher: Oxford University Press

US Publisher: The New York

Review of Books

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Nicky Lund)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 256 pages

Illustrations: B/W by B.B.

Romanian Paralela 45 Russian Dobraya Kniga

Antonia Barber

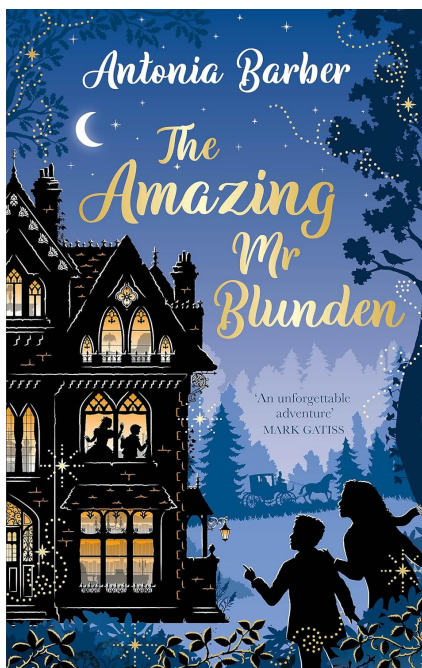
British Book Award Winner



Antonia Barber (1932–2019) wrote many books for children. Her second novel *The Ghosts* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal and was later made into the popular film *The Amazing Mr Blunden* (and readapted by Mark Gatiss for Sky in 2021). *The Ring in the Rough Stuff* also reached the Carnegie Medal shortlist and *The Mousehole Cat*, a picture book illustrated by Nicola Bayley, is a perennial bestseller that was the Nestle Smarties Book Prize children's choice. In addition, it won the British Book Award as Illustrated Children's Book of the Year in 1991 and has been made into an animated film and adapted as a stage musical.

A gifted reteller, Antonia retold seven little-known folk-tales from Eastern Europe in *Hidden Tales From Eastern Europe* amongst numerous other collections.

The Ghosts (or *The Amazing Mr Blunden*)



WE Publisher: **Virago**
Primary Agent: **Isobel Boston**
TV/Film Agent: **DHA (Clare Israel)**
Age: **8-12 years**
Extent: **256 pages**

Italian **Giunti**

An enthralling ghost story with a time travelling twist. Now a Sky Original film, starring Mark Gatiss, Simon Callow and Tamsin Greig.

It's 1918 and Lucy and Jamie live in a small flat in Camden Town with their widowed mother. One day, a mysterious stranger named Mr Blunden appears at their door with an unbelievably attractive offer: a job as caretaker for a rundown but once magnificent house in the countryside. They hastily relocate, only to discover the local villagers are afraid of the house, with claims they have seen the figures of two child ghosts wandering about the grounds.

Lucy and Jamie's encounter with the supernatural whisks them through time to the same spot, 100 years earlier. It may be out of the usual time, but the clock is ticking – in only a few short days, the dreadful accident will play out once again, claiming the lives of their two new friends. That is, unless Lucy and Jamie can find a way to stop it...

'Charming, magical and life-affirming, Antonia Barber's clever and moving tale has become a much-loved favourite.' – Mark Gatiss

'I'm still trying to write a novel as brilliant as this one – and as deliciously creepy.' – Kate Saunders, author of *Five Children on the Western Front*

Sheila Burnford

‘I adore Sheila Burnford.’
– Jilly Cooper, author of *Rivals*

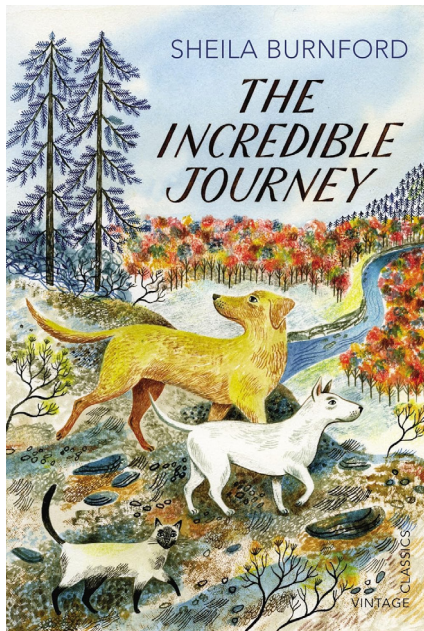


Sheila Burnford was a Scottish author born in 1918, known for her contributions to children’s literature.

Growing up in the scenic Scottish Highlands, Burnford’s early experiences in nature and her education across Scotland, France, and Germany shaped her literary career. After marrying David Burnford in 1941, she served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment during World War II, which influenced her writing themes of companionship and loyalty.

In 1948, Burnford moved to Canada, where she began writing after her children started school. Her interactions with her pets, including a cat and two dogs, inspired *The Incredible Journey*, published in 1961, which tells the tale of animals navigating their way home across Ontario. This work not only became an international bestseller but also garnered critical acclaim, being named an ALA Notable Book and recognised in Canada with the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award. Burnford also explored other genres, writing novels for both children and adults, including essays and accounts of her time with the Inuit in the Arctic.

She passed away in 1984, in England, leaving behind a legacy celebrated for its heartfelt portrayal of animal characters and connection to the natural world.



The Incredible Journey

Fans of *Old Yeller*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and *Shiloh* will love this timeless classic about two dogs and a cat that embark on a journey to return to their owner and which inspired the movie *Homeward Bound*.

An inquisitive Labrador retriever, friendly bull terrier, and courageous Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness to find their owner in this truly *incredible* adventure.

Instinct tells them that the way home lies to the west and together the three house pets face hunger, the natural elements, and wild forest animals as they make their way home to the family they love.

This beloved classic has captured the hearts of generations of readers. The lengths to which these three animals will go for each other and for their owner make for a thrilling and thoroughly unforgettable tale.

‘Captivating! A tale of charm [and] high drama.’ – *The New York Times*

‘A sensitive, beautifully written story celebrating heroism and loyalty.’
– *The Irish Times*

UK Publisher: Vintage

UK Publisher: Bantam Dell

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 140 pages

Illustrations: B/W chapter headers by George Heaven

Chinese Simplified Thinkindom Indonesian PT Gramedia Italian Mondadori Japanese Kumon Institute of Education Co. Ltd Korean Sigongsa Turkish Beyaz Balina

Eleanor Farjeon

Hans Christian Andersen Medal Winner

‘Warmest, liveliest and most expansive of our storytellers.’ – Anne Harvey

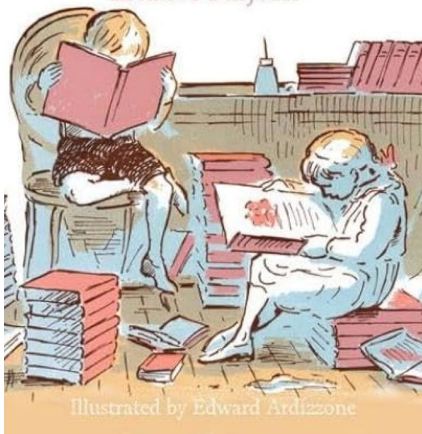


Poet and celebrated children’s book writer Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) was born into an artistic family: her father was a novelist and her mother was the daughter of the American actor Joseph Jefferson. Farjeon’s family home was a literary and artistic hub. Though she never received a formal education, Farjeon was tremendously influenced by the creative energy around her, an experience she recounted in her best-selling memoir, *A Nursery in the Nineties* (1935).

Over her lifetime, Eleanor Farjeon wrote and edited over eighty books for children and adults, including hundreds of poems many of which remain popular in anthologies today. She received the Carnegie Medal in 1955 for her collection of stories, *The Little Bookroom*, and her body of work was honoured in 1956 by the international Hans Christian Andersen Medal and in 1959 by the US Catholic Library Association’s Regina Medal. The Children’s Book Circle give their annual award for outstanding services to children’s literature in her name.

The Little Bookroom

Eleanor Farjeon



Illustrated by Edward Ardizzone

UK Publisher: Oxford University Press

US Publisher: The New York

Review of Books

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 300 pages

Illustrations: B/W by Edward Ardizzone

The Little Bookroom

A girl sits in a dusty room, crammed to the rafters with books. Sunlight dances on the covers, between which are stories of magical worlds and faraway places, lands of princesses, kings, giants, and real children too.

Eleanor Farjeon was that girl, who was so enchanted by her little bookroom that she recreated it by writing this wonderful collection of short stories.

This charming book was the winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal and is beautifully illustrated throughout by Edward Ardizzone, whose exquisite pictures immediately bring to mind the magical atmosphere of the stories.

‘27 heartwarming tales...’ – *Publishers Weekly*

‘Eleanor Farjeon’s stories and poems have been a delight to children for many years, and here she has brought together a new collection of some of her own favorite stories... Storytellers will welcome it.’

– *Library Journal*

Anne Fine

Twice Carnegie Medal Winner

‘This author is too much of a treasure to be reserved for children alone.’

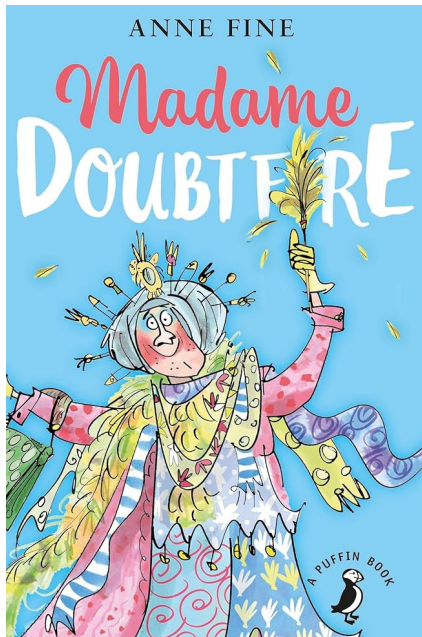
– *The Independent*



A distinguished writer for children of all ages, and former Children’s Laureate, Anne Fine has written over 70 books for children, including two Carnegie Medal winners, *Goggle-Eyes* (1990) and *Flour Babies* (1994).

Adaptations of *Bill’s New Frock* and *Goggle-Eyes* have been screened by the BBC and Twentieth Century Fox filmed her novel *Madame Doubtfire* as *Mrs Doubtfire*, now a smash-hit musical on the West End.

Her works have been translated into more than 25 languages.



UK Publisher: Puffin

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 230 pages

Chinese Simplified New Buds Publishing French Editions de l’Ecole des Loisirs Georgian Bakur Sulakauri
Italian Salani Romanian Editura ART

Madame Doubtfire

Madame Doubtfire by bestselling author Anne Fine is a wonderfully funny, punchy story about family life.

Lydia, Christopher and Natalie are used to domestic turmoil. Their parents’ divorce has not made family life any easier in either home. The children bounce to and from their volatile mother, Miranda, and their out-of-work actor father, Daniel. Then Miranda advertises for a cleaning lady who will mind the children after work - and Daniel gets the job, disguised as Madame Doubtfire.

This bittersweet, touching and extremely funny book inspired the highly successful film *Mrs Doubtfire*, starring the late Robin Williams.

‘A lively look at common family problems, observed with crisp wit and a slightly jaundiced eye.’ – *Kirkus Review*

Eve Garnett

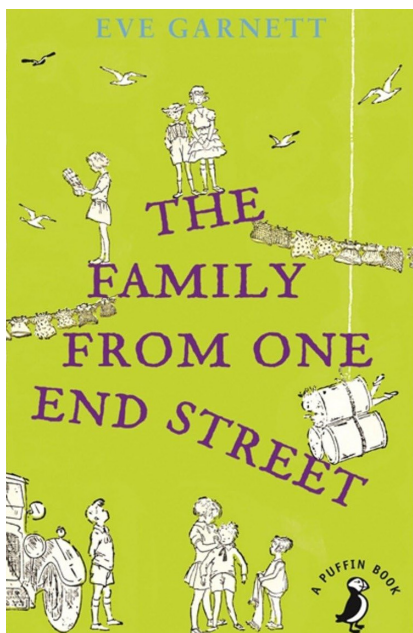
Carnegie Medal Winner



Eve Garnett (1900–1991) was born in Worcestershire and studied art at Chelsea Polytechnic and the Royal Academy School of Art. Whilst a student, she sketched the people of the East End slums and was haunted by the poverty she had witnessed, resolving to do something to bring the plight of the working-class family to people's attention. Ill health curtailed her painting career and thus she became a very successful children's book writer and illustrator.

Her first book, *The Family from One End Street*, was originally published by Frederick Muller in 1937 and was awarded the Carnegie Medal. It has been in print ever since and was also adapted for radio in 1999.

The Family from One End Street



WE Publisher: Puffin
Primary Agent: Georgia Glover
TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)
Age: 8-12 years
Extent: 320 pages
Illustrations: B/W by Eve Garnett

The Family from One End Street is the story of everyday life in the big, happy Ruggles family who live in the small town of Otwell. Father is a dustman and Mother a washerwoman. Then there's all the children - practical Lily Rose, clever Kate, mischievous twins James and John, followed by Jo, who loves films, little Peg and finally baby William.

A truly classic book awarded the Carnegie Medal as the best children's book of 1937.

The sequels, *The Further Adventures of the Family from One End Street* and *Holiday at the Dew Drop Inn*, were published in 1956 and 1962. The series was reissued by Puffin in 2019.

'It was as if *The Family From One End Street* had given me permission to write about ordinary urban children in an honest, natural way. [...] One of the most original and outstanding stories for children. [It] thoroughly deserved to have won the Carnegie Medal.' – Jacqueline Wilson in *BookTrust*, "The Book That Made Me"

Chinese Simplified Beijing Diaoyuan Culture Communication Co. Japanese Iwanami Shoten
Vietnamese Vietnam Women's Publishing House

Jamila Gavin

Nero Book Awards Winner

‘Jamila Gavin is one of our greatest writers.’

– *The Bookseller*

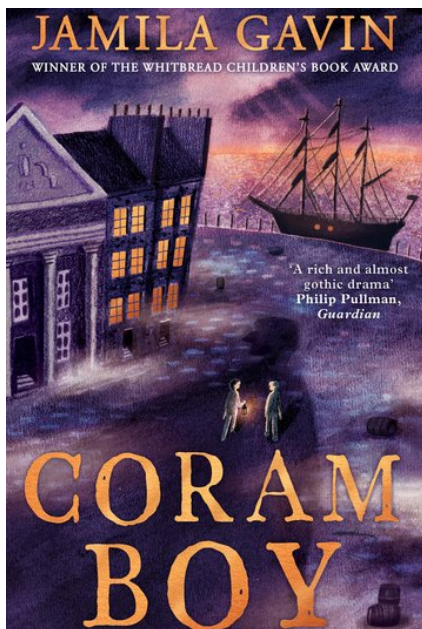


Jamila Gavin was born in 1941 in Mussoorie, India, in the foothills of the Himalayas. With an Indian father and an English mother, she inherited two rich cultures which ran side by side throughout her life, and which always made her feel she belonged to both countries.

Since her first book, *The Magic Orange Tree* published in 1979, she has been writing steadily, producing collections of short stories and several teenage novels for the whole age range from six to sixteen, including *Grandpa Chatterji*, which was short-listed for the Smarties Award and was dramatised for television on Channel 4 Schools, and *The Surya Trilogy* of which the first, *The Wheel of Surya*, was runner-up for the *Guardian* Children’s Fiction Award in 1992.

Coram Boy, a novel for young adults, was published to critical acclaim in 2000 and won the Children’s Whitbread Award, as well as being short listed for the Carnegie Medal. It was subsequently adapted for the stage and had two highly successful runs at the National Theatre in 2005/6.

Her latest book, *My Soul, A Shining Tree* (Farshore, 2025), won the 2025 Children’s Fiction Nero Book Awards and was nominated for the 2026 Carnegie Medal.



Coram Boy

The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish.

Mish saves one, Aaron, who grows up happily unaware of his history, proving himself a promising musician. As Aaron’s new life takes him closer to his real family, the watchful Mish makes a terrible mistake, delivering Aaron and his best friend Toby back into the hands of the Coram man.

A haunting and captivating work of historical fiction, depicting a dark time in English history. Fans of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and *Goodnight Mr Tom* will love this.

‘This is a really original and thought provoking book and I loved it.’

– *The Guardian*

UK Publisher: Farshore

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

TV/Film Agent: Casarotto Ramsay

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 370 pages

All rights available

Elizabeth Goudge

Carnegie Medal Winner

‘Her fictional world is devoid of malice, which is why it was such balm to our childish spirits.

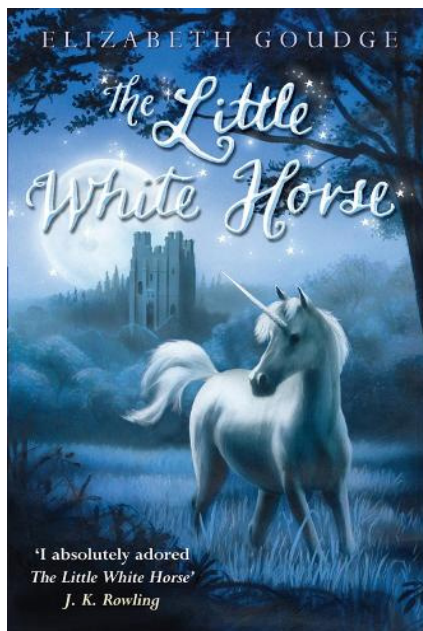
Loyalty, kindness, affection, the wonder of nature [...]. In Goudge’s children’s books, [...] there is ‘sunlight on the garden.’ – *Slightly Foxed*



Elizabeth Goudge (1900–1984) was a British author celebrated for her deeply spiritual novels and enchanting children’s books. The daughter of an Anglican clergyman and theologian, she grew up in Somerset, Ely, and Oxford, settings that later inspired her richly descriptive fiction.

Elizabeth gained international recognition with *The Little White Horse* (1946), a magical children’s novel that won the Carnegie Medal and later influenced J.K. Rowling. She also wrote bestselling adult novels like *Green Dolphin Country* and *The Dean’s Watch*, blending romance, faith, and moral themes with a strong sense of place.

Known for her lyrical prose and compassionate worldview, Elizabeth’s work explores love, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal. Her books continue to resonate with readers seeking beauty, hope, and quiet wisdom.



The Little White Horse

The beautiful valley of Moonacre is shadowed by the memory of the Moon Princess and the mysterious little white horse. When Maria Merryweather comes there on a visit, she finds herself involved with an ancient feud. She is determined to restore peace and happiness to the whole of Moonacre Valley. And Maria usually gets her own way. . .

A timeless tale of wonder and redemption, *The Little White Horse* is a beautifully written classic that continues to charm readers of all ages.

‘A Gem of a book.’ – *The Times*

‘One of the most magical stories in the world.’ – *The Independent*

UK Publisher: Lion Hudson

US Publisher: Viking

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 224 pages

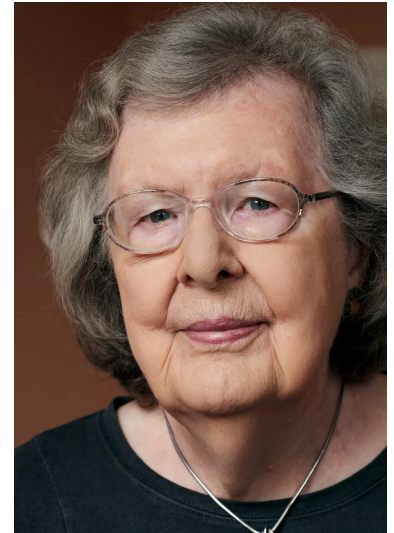
Illustrations: B/W by Edward Ardizzone

Chinese Simplified News Buds German Freies Geistesleben

Penelope Lively

Carnegie Medal winner

‘One of our most gifted writers.’
– *The Sunday Express*



Penelope Lively is a widely translated novelist, short story writer and author of children’s books. Her novels have won several literary awards, including the Booker Prize for *Moon Tiger* in 1987. *The Road to Lichfield* and *According to Mark* were shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Her children’s book *The Ghost of Thomas Kempe* was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1973, and *A Stitch in Time* (1976) won the Whitbread Award. *Family Album* was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2010.

Penelope is a former Chairman of the Society of Authors and has been a member of the Boards of the British Library and the British Council. She is an Hon. D. Litt of Tufts University, Mass. U.S.A. and of Warwick University and an Hon. Fellow of the University of Swansea.

She was awarded the OBE in 1989, the CBE in 2001 and the DBE in 2012.

The Ghost of Thomas Kempe



The Ghost of Thomas Kempe is a timeless thriller, with a ghostly mystery and all the fun and mischief of being nine years old. It is adored by generations of readers and perfect for fans of Eva Ibbotson, *Tom’s Midnight Garden* and Helen Cresswell’s *Moondial*.

James is fed up. His family has moved to a new cottage – with grounds that are great for excavations, and trees that are perfect for climbing – and stuff is happening. Stuff that is normally the kind of thing he does. But it’s not him who’s writing strange things on shopping lists and fences. It’s not him who smashes bottles and pours tea in the vicar’s lap. It’s a ghost – honestly. Thomas Kempe, the 17th century apothecary, has returned and he wants James to be his apprentice. No one else believes in ghosts. It’s up to James to get rid of him. Or he’ll have no pocket money or pudding ever again.

Winner of the 1973 Carnegie Medal.

“A book more profound than most written for grown-ups.” – *The Guardian*

UK Publisher: Farshore

Primary Agent: Lizzy Kremer

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 256 pages

Italian Salani Russian Volchok

Jan Mark

Twice Carnegie Medal Winner

‘Her prose was beautiful and plain, her sentences shortish but elegant, and her novels woven together so well that any editor would be nervous of suggesting an alteration in case by pulling on a thread they would unravel the whole piece.’

– *The Guardian*



Jan Mark (1943–2006) was an astute writer of fiction for all ages. She won the Carnegie Medal twice, for *Thunder And Lightnings* in 1976 and *Handles* in 1983, the Angel Literary Award for *Feet And Other Stories* and *Zeno Was Here*, and the Rank/Observer Prize for *Aquarius*. *Thunder And Lightnings* also won the Penguin Guardian Award for a first children’s book.

Jan died suddenly at the beginning of 2006 shortly after the publication of *Voyager*, a sequel to *Riding Tycho*. Published posthumously was *The Museum Book* (Walker), an exploration of the history and meaning of museums of all kinds. Thirty of her most beloved stories are now available in the collection *The One That Got Away* (Roffo Court Press, 2020).



UK Publisher: Puffin
Primary Agent: Isobel Boston
TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)
Age: 8-12 years
Extent: 222 pages
Illustrations: B/W by Jim Russel

Chinese Simplified Jieli Publishing House

Thunder and Lightnings

When Andrew’s family moves house, he strikes up an unexpected friendship with his neighbour Victor. There isn’t a thing Victor doesn’t know about the RAF planes flying overhead and the two boys are soon busy tracking their movements. Then Andrew discovers that Victor’s beloved Lightnings are due to be scrapped...

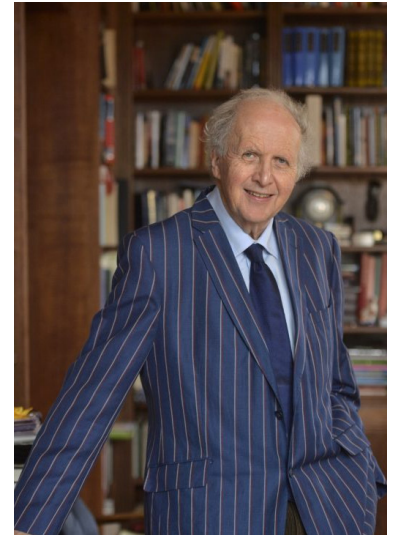
Thunder and Lightnings won the Carnegie Medal in 1976.

‘This spare, rich book [...] has an absorbing external dimension.’
– *Kirkus*

‘A series of contrasts: between appearance and reality, official estimation and real worth, formal schooling and out-of-school learning, artificial projects and genuine interests, fear and love.’
– Graham Hammond in *Children’s Literature in Education*

Alexander McCall Smith

‘A master of charming, gentle storytelling.’
– *The Guardian*



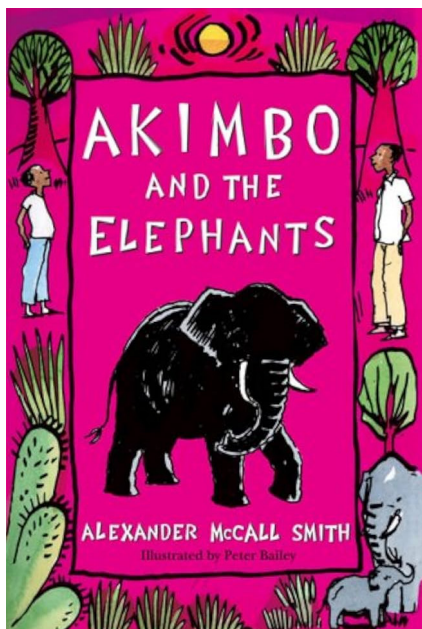
Alexander McCall Smith CBE was born in Zimbabwe in 1948 and educated there and in Scotland. He enjoyed a distinguished career as Professor of Medical Law at Edinburgh University, and it was in this role that he first returned to Africa to work in Botswana and Swaziland. In 2005, he left the University to concentrate on his writing and he is now the author of over a hundred books.

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency was published in 1998. The series has sold over twenty million copies in the English language alone and was adapted for television and radio.

Winner of three Author of the Year awards in 2004, Alexander McCall Smith has served as Vice-Chairman of the Human Genetics Commission of the UK and Chairman of the Ethics Committee of both the British Medical Journal and the Roslin Institute.

In 2007, he received a CBE for services to literature and, in 2011, was honoured by the President of Botswana with the Presidential Order of Merit for services through literature to the country. He has received Lifetime Achievement awards from the Saltire Society and Strang Magazine, was awarded a Medal of Honour for Achievement in Literature from the National Arts Club of America.

He was awarded a knighthood for services to literature, academia and charity in 2024.



UK Publisher: Farshore
Primary Agent: Andrew Gordon
TV/Film Agent: The Haworth Agency
Age: 8-10 years
Extent: 90 pages
Illustrations: B/W by Peter Bailey

Japanese Bunken Shuppen Sinhalese Susara Publication

The *Akimbo* series

In the heart of Africa, where the sun rises every morning over blue mountains, Akimbo and his parents live on the edge of a game reserve. It's his father's task to protect the thousands of amazing animals who make it their home, and wildlife-loving Akimbo dreams of helping him. Throughout the series, Akimbo protects elephants from poachers, saves a lion cub from a trap, and rescues a man from a crocodile!

‘An attractive choice for reluctant readers.’ – *Publishers Weekly*

‘Satisfying page-turners that celebrate kids’ curiosity, love of adventure, and capacity to care for the world they inhabit.’
– *Parenting magazine*

‘A straightforward plot, spare storytelling and avuncular tone create a contemporary chapter book with an old-fashioned feel.’
– *Kirkus Reviews*

Hilary McKay

Costa Children's Book Award Winner

'Picking up a book by Hilary McKay is like slipping on warm bed socks on a chilly night.'

– *The Times*

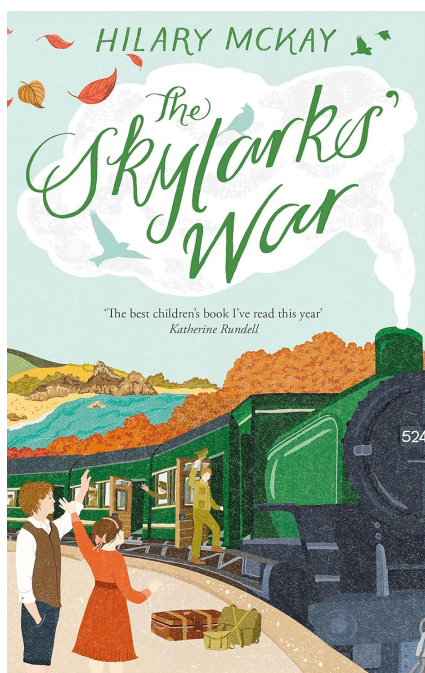


Hilary McKay is a British author known for her contributions to children's literature. She was born in Boston, Lincolnshire, and pursued a degree in Botany and Zoology at the University of St Andrews. Before becoming a full-time writer, McKay worked as a biochemist.

McKay's debut novel, *The Exiles*, was published in 1991 and won the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize. This book marked the beginning of a successful series that includes *The Exiles at Home* and *The Exiles in Love*. Her writing is often characterised by its humour and exploration of family dynamics.

Another notable series by McKay is the *Casson Family* series published from 2001 to 2007, for which she won the 2002 Whitbread Children's Book Award.

Amongst many other awards, she won the 2018 Costa Children's Book Award for *The Skylarks' War*. Her books have been translated into multiple languages, reaching a large audience worldwide.



The Skylarks' War

The Skylarks' War is a beautiful story following the loves and losses of a family growing up against the harsh backdrop of World War One, from the award-winning Hilary McKay.

Clarry and her older brother Peter live for their summers in Cornwall, staying with their grandparents and running free with their charismatic cousin, Rupert. But normal life resumes each September – boarding school for Peter and Rupert, and a boring life for Clarry at home with her absent father, as the shadow of a terrible war looms ever closer.

When Rupert goes off to fight at the front, Clarry feels their skylark summers are finally slipping away from them. Can their family survive this fearful war?

'Beautifully written, witty, observant... Merits a place in the canon of children's classics.' – *The Sunday Times*, Children's Book of the Year

'Chime, resonance and sparkle – a truly great read.' – Costa Children's Book Award judges

UK Publisher: MacMillan

Children's Books

US Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Primary Agent: Molly Ker Hawn

TV/Film Agent: The Artists Partnership (Emily Hayward-Whitlock)

Age: 9-12 years

Extent: 320 pages

Chinese Simplified China South Booky Culture Media Co Czech Albatros Farsi Porteghald Hungarian Mano Italian Giunti Polish Dwie Siostry Romanian Editorial Art Spanish (LatAm) Ediciones Castillo S.A. de C.V.

Michael Morpurgo

‘His style is remarkably uncluttered: neither poetic nor edgy with contemporary vernacular, it simply conveys a story in plain prose.’

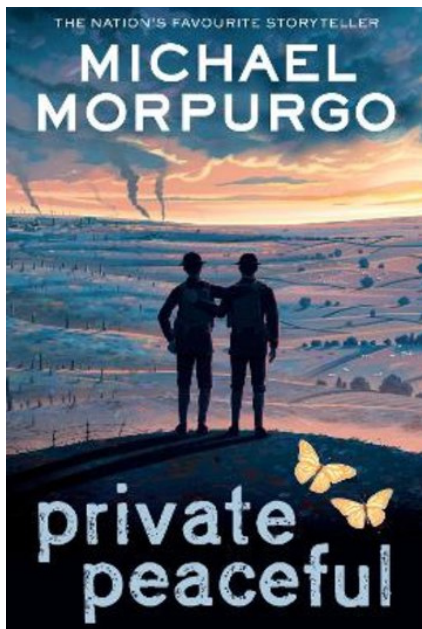
– *The Independent*



Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain’s best loved writers for children. He has written over 130 books including *The Butterfly Lion*, *Kensuke’s Kingdom*, *Why the Whales Came*, *Private Peaceful*, *Shadow* and *War Horse*, which was adapted for a hugely successful stage production by the National Theatre and then, in 2011, for a film directed by Steven Spielberg. Michael was Children’s Laureate from 2003 to 2005.

The charity Farms for City Children, which he founded thirty years ago with his wife Clare, has enabled over 70,000 children to spend a week living and working down on the farm.

His enormous success has continued with his most recent novels *Flamingo Boy*, *In the Mouth of the Wolf* and *The Snowman*, inspired by the classic story by Raymond Briggs. He was knighted in 2018 for services to literature and charity. His latest book, *Cobweb*, was published by HarperCollins Children’s Books in 2024 and his first non-fiction for adults in almost 40 years, *Spring*, was published by Hodder in 2025.



Private Peaceful

Heroism or cowardice? A stunning story of the First World War from a master storyteller.

As young Thomas Peaceful looks back over his childhood from the battlefields of the First World War, his memories are full of family life deep in the countryside.

But the clock is ticking, and every moment Tommo spends remembering how things used to be, means another moment closer to something that will change his life for ever.

‘Full of warmth as well as grief, conveying vividly how precious it is to be alive.’ – *The Sunday Times*

UK Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

US Publisher: Scholastic

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

TV/Film Agent: Berlin Associates

Age: 9-14 years

Extent: 192 pages

Chinese Complex Hsiao Lu Publishing Chinese Simplified China CITIC French Gallimard Italian Salani

Turkish Tudem Egitim Hizmetler

Jenny Nimmo



‘Jenny Nimmo writes with incredible vigour and passion.’ – *The Guardian*

Jenny Nimmo studied drama and then taught English in Italy. She joined the BBC and worked as a director/adaptor for children’s programmes.

Her first novel, *The Bronze Trumpeter*, was published in 1975. This was followed by *The Snow Spider* which won the Nestle Smarties Prize and together with its

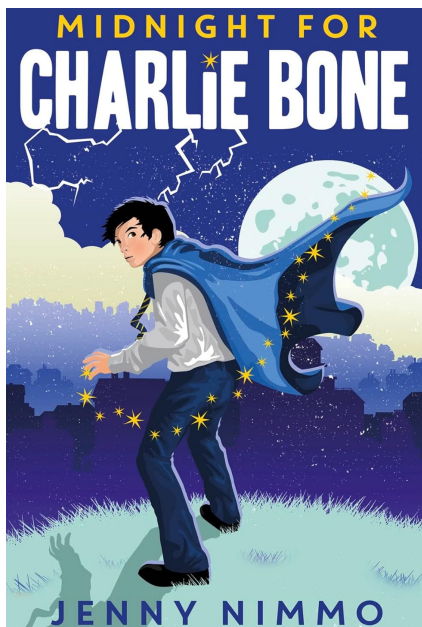
sequels, *Emlyn’s Moon* and *The Chestnut Soldier*, was successfully adapted for television. Some of her other titles include *The Stone Mouse*, which was Highly Commended for the Carnegie Medal and *Griffin’s Castle* which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Award, the Carnegie Medal, the Nestle Smarties Prize and the WH Smith’s Mind-Boggling Books Award. *The Owl Tree*, published by Walker Books, won the Nestle Smarties Prize.

Midnight For Charlie Bone and its sequels have enjoyed much success, not only in the UK and abroad (it was translated in over twenty languages) but especially in the US where the series was a *New York Times* Bestseller.

Jenny is currently writing a spin-off title from the Charlie Bone series.

Jenny lives in Wales with her husband, the artist David Wynn Millward.

Children of the Red King series



UK Publisher: **Farshore**

US Publisher: **Scholastic**

Primary Agent: **Christabel McKinley**

TV/Film Agent: **DHA (Georgie Smith)**

Age: **8-12 years**

Extent: **290 pages**

German **Bastei Lübbe**

An Academy for magic and special talents. A destiny unfulfilled. A secret legacy.

Charlie has a gift – he can hear voices. Although he tries to hide it, Grandma Bone and her scary sisters soon find out, and send him to Bloor’s Academy. Charlie quickly finds life at Bloor’s pretty tough, with its strict rules and the malevolent head boy, Manfred, set against him. When Charlie discovers that a child is being held, hypnotised, against her will in a photograph, he and his new gifted friends try to awaken her. But can they overcome Manfred’s sinister hypnotic gifts?

Classic magic and mystery from one of Britain’s best-loved authors of fantasy adventure. Perfect for fans of *Harry Potter*, Eva Ibbotson, Cornelia Funke’s *Inkheart* and Shane Hegarty’s *Darkmouth*. *Midnight for Charlie Bone* is the first instalment of the international best-selling fantasy series.

‘Dark, funny, crackling with magic.’ – Artemis Cooper, author

‘A fast moving, dialogue driven romp with plenty of cliff-hangers for those first hooked into reading by *Harry Potter*.’ – *The Bookseller*

Geoffrey Trease



‘He was a born writer [...]. Over the years he tried every sort of writing except fantasy [...]. But it is as a historical novelist for children he will be best remembered.’ – *The Independent*

Robert Geoffrey Trease (1909-1998) was a prolific writer, publishing 113 books between 1934 and 1997. His work has been translated into 20 languages. His grandfather was a historian, and was one of the main influences towards Trease’s work. He is best known for writing children’s historical novels, whose content reflects his insistence on historically correct backgrounds, which he meticulously researched. When he began his career, his radical viewpoint was a change from the conventional and often jingoistic tone of most children’s literature of the time, and he was one of the first authors who deliberately set out to appeal to both boys and girls and to feature strong leading characters who were both male and female.



UK Publisher: Puffin

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 340 pages

All rights available

Cue for Treason

Fleeing from the evil Sir Philip Morton, Peter Brownrigg finds himself on the wrong side of the law. On the run to London he meets Kit and the two decide to stick together. But a chance discovery endangers their lives and soon Peter is deep in murderous plots, secrets and even treason.

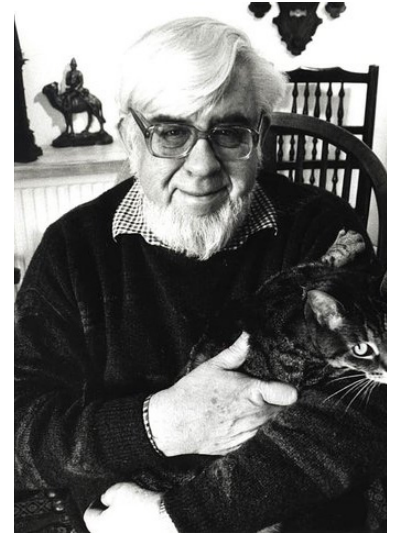
Set in the turbulent days of Elizabeth I, this classic story of danger and intrigue conjures up a world of mystery, twists and turns and thrilling action.

‘If you only ever read one book set in Elizabethan England, make it this one [...]. From Shakespeare, theatres, a heaving London, and horseback pursuits down the Great North Road, to encounters with miners and risky scrambles across the peaks and valleys of the Lakeland Fells being pursued by ruthless assassins. [...] Sparklingly written, wonderfully paced, and SO hard to put down[...]. His books have truly stood the test of time [...]. He’s a master storyteller!’ – *The Reading Rebellion*

Robert Westall

Twice Carnegie Medal Winner

‘His writing was gutsy and energetic, grippingly plotted and, at its finest, inspiringly moral and compassionate.’ – *The Guardian*



Robert Westall (1929–1993) made a sensational debut with *The Machine Gunners* in 1975. It won the Carnegie Medal that same year and Westall established an international reputation. His books have been translated into many languages and dramatised for television. He won The Smarties Prize, the *Guardian* Award and was awarded a second Carnegie Medal in 1982 for *The Scarecrows*.

In 2006 an exhibition devoted to Westall’s work was on show at Seven Stories, the Centre for the Children’s Book, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, close to where he was born and brought up. Published to coincide with the exhibition, the story of his childhood is told in his autobiographical writings *The Making of Me*.



The Kingdom by the Sea

The Guardian Award-winning novel about courage, friendship and war.

When a bomb during an air raid destroys Harry’s home and kills his family, he knows that he is all alone in the world and has only himself to rely on. Anxious that he will be sent to live with his fussy Cousin Elsie he goes on the run across the war-battered land of North East England, his only friend in his journey a stray dog that he meets on the beach.

Will Harry ever find a place to call home again, or will he be on the run forever?

‘A fine survival story’ – *Kirkus Review*

UK Publisher: HarperCollins Children’s Books

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 256 pages

Italian Piemme Japanese Tokuma Russian Volchok

Jacqueline Wilson



‘She has become one of the country’s best-known, best-loved, best-selling children’s authors.’ – *The Guardian*

Jacqueline Wilson wrote her first novel when she was nine years old, and she has been writing ever since. She is now one of Britain’s bestselling and most beloved children’s authors. She has written over 100 books and is the creator of characters such as Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather. More than forty million copies of her books have been sold. As well as winning many awards for her books, including the Children’s Book of the Year, Jacqueline is a former Children’s Laureate, and in 2008 she was appointed a Dame. Wilson is also a great reader, and has amassed over 20,000 books, along with her famous collection of silver rings.

The Story of Tracy Beaker



UK Publisher: Puffin

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

TV/Film Agent: The Haworth Agency

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 218 pages

Illustrations: B/W by Nick Sharratt

For full rights sales, please enquire.

‘I’m Tracy Beaker. This is a book all about me. I’d read it if I were you. It’s the most incredible dynamic heart-rending story. Honest.’

Tracy is ten years old. She lives in a Children’s Home but would like a real home one day, with a real family. Meet Tracy, follow her story and share her hopes for the future in this beautifully observed, touching and often very funny tale, all told in Tracy’s own words.

‘Tracy is lively and spirited and her narrative funny and moving.’
– *The Bookseller*

‘Told in the zany, entirely convincing voice of Tracy Beaker herself... The strains of communal life with other children, rivalries and friendships and jokes, all spring to life, and Tracy’s prose is decorated throughout with cheeky line drawings.’ – *The Sunday Times*

‘An appealing mix of events and reactions that are both entertaining and moving. A book that lingers in the mind long after it is put down.’
– *The Guardian*

Diana Wynne Jones



‘She is the best writer of magical fantasy for children.’ – *Evening Standard*

Diana Wynne Jones (1934–2011) had an unsettled childhood against the background of the Second World War. She and her two sisters were deprived of books but, armed with a vivid imagination and an insatiable appetite for stories, Wynne Jones wrote them herself to read to her sisters.

She never ceased writing and from 1973 onwards published numerous children’s books, which have been published worldwide in thirty nine languages. Wynne Jones’s numerous awards include the *Guardian* Award for Children’s Fiction, the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award (twice) and a Life Achievement award at the World Fantasy Convention 2007.



Howl's Moving Castle

In this beloved modern classic, young Sophie Hatter from the land of Ingary catches the unwelcome attention of the Witch of the Waste and is put under a spell...

Deciding she has nothing more to lose, Sophie makes her way to the moving castle that hovers on the hills above her town, Market Chipping. But the castle belongs to the dreaded Wizard Howl, whose appetite, they say, is satisfied only by the souls of young girls...

There Sophie meets Michael, Howl's apprentice, and Calcifer the fire demon, with whom she agrees a pact. Her entanglements with Calcifer, Howl and Michael and her quest to break her curse come alive with Diana Wynne Jones's unique combination of magic, humour and imagination.

‘A true original.’ – Katherine Rundell, author of *Impossible Creatures*

UK Publisher: HarperCollins

Children's Books

US Publisher: Greenwillow Books

(HarperCollins US)

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

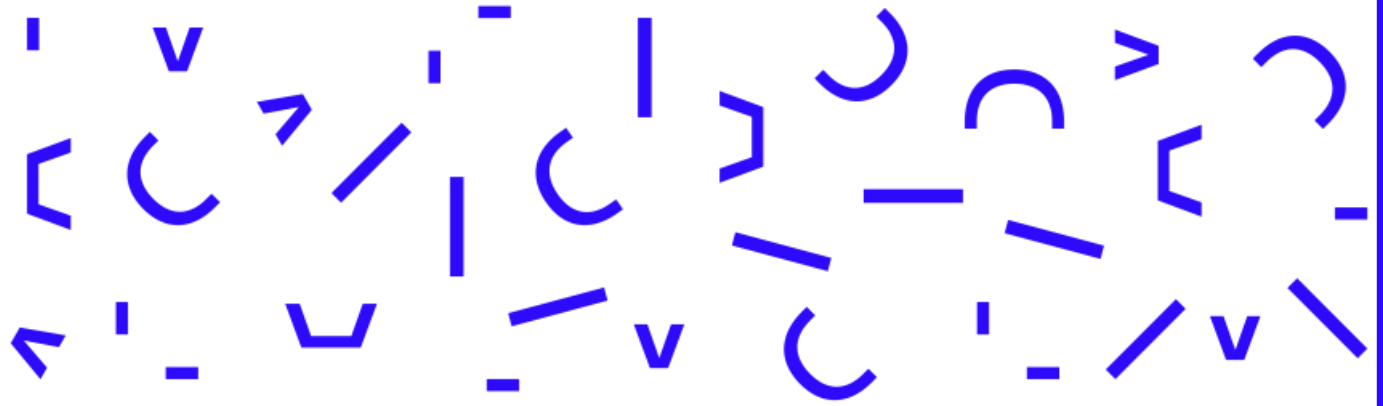
TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8-12 years

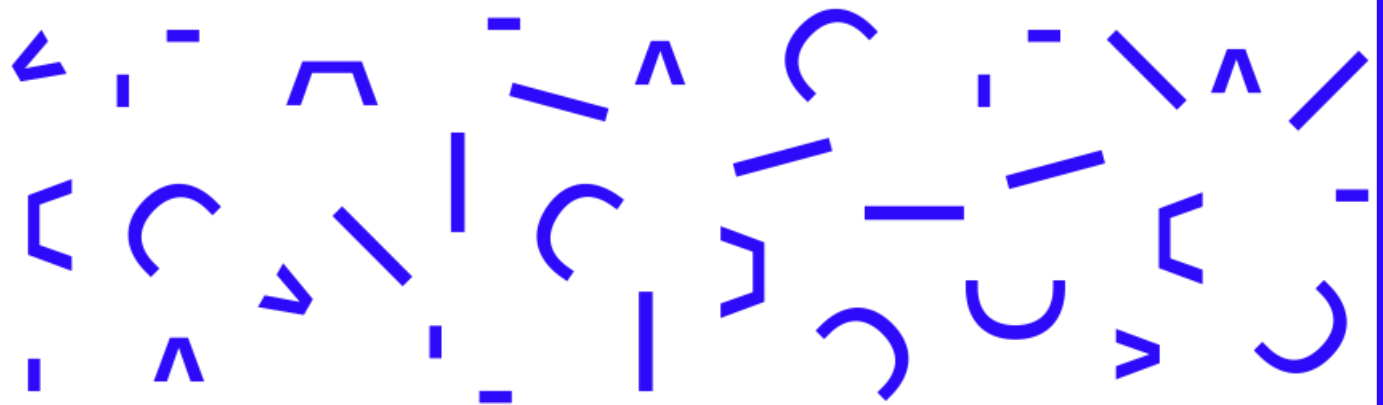
Extent: 320 pages

Illustrations: B/W chapter headers by Tim Stevens

For full rights sales, please enquire. Rights free in Albania, Croatia, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.



Teen & YA



Theresa Breslin

Carnegie Medal winner



Theresa Breslin is a prolific author and the recipient of many high profile awards for writing for young people.

Her first novel, *Simon's Challenge*, won the Kathleen Fidler Award. This was followed by more prize-winning books, including *Remembrance* and *Divided City*. Her highly acclaimed *Whispers in the Graveyard*, a powerful and insightful story about a dyslexic boy facing bullies, family problems and a vengeful spirit, was awarded the prestigious Carnegie Medal in 1994. Alongside these, Theresa has written over 50 books for young people across a wide range of genres and ages, with work dramatised for television, stage and radio, and translated into over 25 languages.

A former Youth Librarian, in 2019 Theresa was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by Scottish Book Trust, recognising her exceptional contribution to literacy and libraries. As a passionate advocate, she has held the position of President of CILIPS, is an Honorary Fellow of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies and was project manager of the BAFTA nominated Scottish Writers programme.

In 2019, Theresa was awarded an O.B.E. for her services to children's literature.



Remembrance

Scotland, 1915. A group of teenagers from two families meet for a picnic, but the war across the Channel is soon to tear them away from such youthful pleasures. All too soon, the horror of what is to become known as The Great War engulfs them, their friends and the whole village. From the horror of the trenches, to the devastating reality seen daily by those nursing the wounded, they struggle to survive, and nothing will ever be the same again.

A powerful and engrossing novel about love and war, from Carnegie Medal-winning author Theresa Breslin.

'Breslin brilliantly weaves themes of emancipation, class, love, propaganda and the machinations of war into the story [...] with a light touch that belies the seriousness of the subject.' – *The Financial Times*

'A novel that will stay with me for a long time.' – *The Bookseller*

UK Publisher: Random House
Children's Books

US Publisher: Random House

Primary Agent: Isobel Boston

TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 12-17 years

Extent: 300 pages

All rights available

Berlie Doherty

Twice Carnegie Medal Winner

‘We should treasure writers like Berlie Doherty who are incapable of writing a mediocre sentence.’ – *Sunday Telegraph*



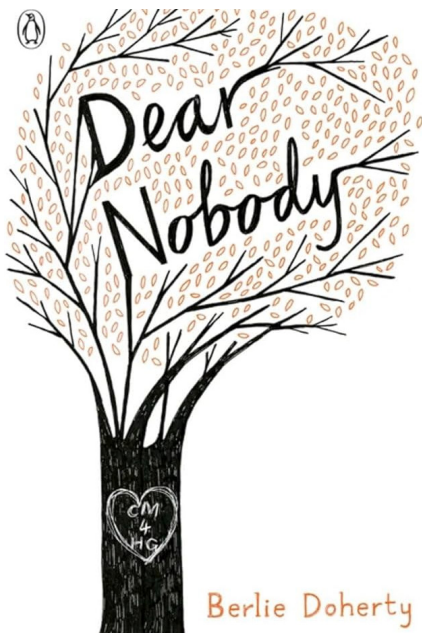
Berlie Doherty has been a compulsive writer of novels, plays, stories and poetry for all ages since 1982. She has written over fifty books, and is translated into twenty one languages. Many of her books have been dramatised for radio, television and the stage.

She has won numerous awards around the world, including the Carnegie Medal, twice, for *Granny Was A Buffer Girl* (1987) and *Dear Nobody* (1992). She was also runner-up for the Carnegie with *Willa and Old Miss Annie*.

She has written libretti for operas, including the Sheffield Crucible Music in the Round production of her novel *Daughter of the Sea*. Her dramatisations of her novels *Dear Nobody* and *Street Child* are frequently performed in schools and theatres around the world.

She has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate at Derby University for excellence in her field.

Many of her books are set in the Peak District, where she now lives, and where she spends her spare time walking, day-dreaming, and enjoying music.



UK Publisher: Puffin Teenage Books
Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter
TV/Film Agent: DHA (Georgie Smith)
Age: 12-17 years
Extent: 150 pages

German Ernst Klett Korean Changbi

Dear Nobody

Helen and Chris are in their last year at school. In October, Helen should be going to Music College and Chris to University. Now, October is the month when their baby will be born.

Desperate not to lose Helen, Chris can't begin to think about the baby. But Helen, unable to talk to her mother, turns to her unborn baby, her little Nobody, and writes down her thoughts.

Somehow, Helen and Chris have to find a way to face the future – together or apart.

‘Doherty’s genius, in her second Carnegie winner, is to go beyond the familiar, beyond earnest explanation, to the unique blend of heritage, character, and circumstance that shape Helen’s and Chris’s responses to their classic dilemma. [...] Wise, lyrical, and graced with rare insight and intelligence; not to be missed.’ – *Kirkus*

Jonathan Stroud



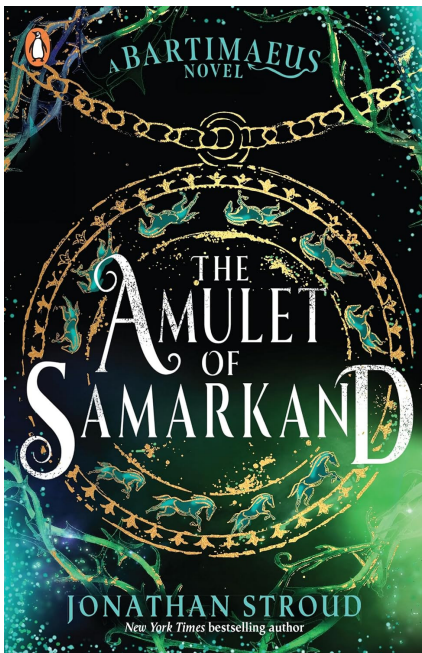
‘One of the smartest and most talented writers around.’ – Rick Riordan, author of the *Percy Jackson* series

Jonathan Stroud is the author of three internationally bestselling series: the award-winning *Bartimaeus* books, which have been translated in 36 languages, the critically acclaimed *Lockwood & Co.*, which has been turned into a No. 1 hit Netflix series, and the adventures of the outlaws *Scarlett and Browne*.

His other novels include *Buried Fire*, *The Leap*, *The Last Siege* and *Heroes of the Valley*. His latest project, *Wayfinder*, is a unique interactive middle-grade adventure series which will be published by Bloomsbury in 2027.

Jonathan lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and three children.

The Bartimaeus Sequence



UK Publisher: Puffin

US Publisher: Miramax

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

TV/Film Agent: Knight Hall Agency

Age: 10-14 years

Extent: 496 pages

The first volume in the brilliant, bestselling *Bartimaeus Sequence*. Elected one of the best books of the 21st century (so far) by *Kirkus Review*.

When the 5,000-year-old djinni Bartimaeus is summoned by Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, he expects to have to do nothing more taxing than a little levitation or a few simple illusions. But Nathaniel is a precocious talent and has something rather more dangerous in mind: revenge. Against his will, Bartimaeus is packed off to steal the powerful Amulet of Samarkand from Simon Lovelace, a master magician of unrivalled ruthlessness and ambition. Before long, both djinni and apprentice are caught up in a terrifying flood of magical intrigue, murder and rebellion.

Set in a modern-day London controlled by magicians, this hilarious, electrifying thriller will enthral readers of all ages.

‘Not since *Gulliver's Travels* has a children's writer managed to combine a thrilling tale of magic and adventure with such deliciously pointed comedy.’ – *The Times*

‘Drama, humour and hypnotically engaging storytelling.’ – *The Independent*

Danish Lindhardt & Ringhof German CBJ Italian Salani Japanese Sayzansha Turkish Arkadas
Ukrainian A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha

Angie Thomas

‘An assured, powerful voice in young adult fiction.’ – *The Guardian*

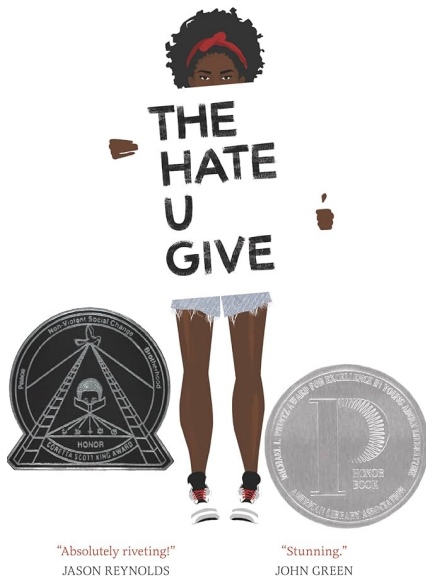


Angie Thomas was born and raised in Mississippi, but now calls Atlanta her home. She is a former teen rapper whose greatest accomplishment was an article about her in *Right-On Magazine* with a picture included. She holds a BFA in Creative Writing from Belhaven University and an unofficial degree in Hip Hop. She can also still rap if needed.

She is an inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant 2015, awarded by We Need Diverse Books. Her award-winning, acclaimed debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, is a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and major motion picture from Fox 2000. Her second novel, *On the Come Up*, is a #1 *NYT* bestseller as well, and was adapted on screen too. In 2020, Angie released *Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal to Writing Your Truth* as a tool to help aspiring writers tell their stories, and in 2021 Angie returned to the top of the *NYT* bestseller list with *Concrete Rose*, a prequel to *The Hate U Give*.

Her latest work, the middle-grade fantasy series *Nic Blake and the Remarkables* explores a magical world heavily influenced by Black history and folklore, and earned Angie another #1 spot on the *NYT* bestseller list. A film adaptation is forthcoming with Angie helming the script and producing.

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller
ANGIE THOMAS



UK Publisher: Walker Books

US Publisher: Layman Poupard

Primary Agent: Molly Ker Hawn

TV/Film Agent: WME (Mary Pender)

Age: 14-18 years

Extent: 464 pages

For full rights sales, please enquire.

The Hate U Give

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.

#1 *NYT* bestseller, Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Goodreads Choice Awards Best of the Best, National Book Award Longlist, British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year, *Teen Vogue* Best YA Book of the Year. Now a major motion picture, starring Amandla Stenberg.

‘This story is necessary. This story is important.’ – *Kirkus*, starred review

‘Heartbreakingly topical.’ – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

