



Children's Guide
Spring 2024

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DAVID HIGHAM ASSOCIATES LTD

Est. 1935

Literary, Film and TV agents

The Team



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Veronique Baxter; Maddalena Cavaciuti;
Nicola Chang; Georgia Glover; Anthony
Goff; Christabel McKinley; Caroline Walsh;
Jessica Woollard.

Film and TV Rights

Clare Israel; Nicky Lund; Georgie Smith.

Translation Rights

Allison Cole: allisoncole@davidhigham.co.uk

Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Italy; Norway;

Mariam Quraishi: mariamquraishi@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Arab World; Albania; Brazil; Croatia; Estonia; Greece; Israel; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia; the Netherlands; Slovenia; Spain & Latin America; Ukraine; Vietnam.

Co-agented: China; Czech Republic; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Poland; Romania; Russia; Slovakia; Taiwan; Thailand.

Ellie Gratton: elliegratton@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Bulgaria; Iceland; Kazakhstan; UK (Scots, Gaelic, Welsh etc) and miscellaneous languages.

Co-agented: Hungary; Serbia; Turkey

Co-agents

China Andrew Nurnberg Associates / Bardon Chinese Media; Czech and Slovak Kristin Olson Literarni Agentura; Hungary Katai & Bolza; Indonesia Maxima Creative Agency; Japan Tuttle-Mori / Japan Uni; Korea Eric Yang Agency; Poland Anna Jarota Agency; Romania Simona Kessler Agency; Russia Van Lear Agency; Serbia Plima Literary Agency Thailand The Silkroad Agency;



Wishyouwas

Alexandra Page



UK Publisher: Bloomsbury, May 2024

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 320 pages Material: Final files

Illustrations: Black and white by Penny Neville-Lee

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Japan Uni

Publishers

Czech Albatros (book 1) Italian Piemme (book 1) Romanian

Editorial ART (books 1 and 2) Slovak Albatros (book 1)

Wishyouwas and the Secret Society for Very Important Post (#2)

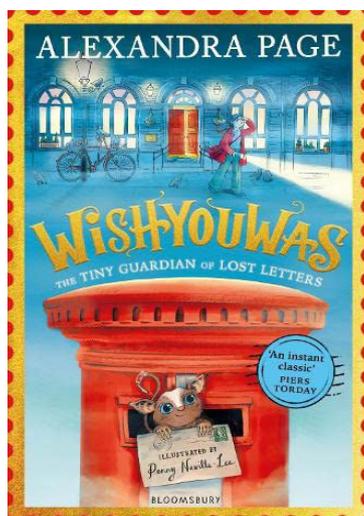
It's June 1953 and London is awl with anticipation in the run up to Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Instead of joining in the excitement, Penny Black is torn as she prepares to move to Scotland to start a new, better life with her mother. But then Wishyouwas arrives unexpectedly with a top secret mission - a special letter for the Queen has gone missing, presumed stolen by spies. Penny, Wishyouwas and some surprising new allies must go above ground and beyond their limits to piece together a parcel of clues. But everything may not be as it seems, and a web of suspicion soon encircles the Sorters instead. With their trust and loyalty hanging in the balance, can Penny and Wishyouwas uncover the truth and make the ultimate special delivery?

“A lovely and enchanting read. Letters, intrigue, cute furry creatures – nine-year-old me would have turned to this charming book over and over again!” – Lesley Parr, author of *The Valley of Lost Secrets* and *When the War Came Home*

About the Author

In a previous life, Alexandra Page worked in production at Penguin, Puffin and Walker. She now works in the City alongside her creative pursuits writing picture books, middle grade fiction and non-fiction. Her first picture book text, *The Fire Fox*, was published by the Two Hoots imprint at Macmillan in 2021, with *The Worry Tiger* following in 2022. The former was shortlisted for the Oscar's Book Prize in 2022. In 2019 *Wishyouwas* was shortlisted for the Times Chicken House prize and won the WriteMentor Children's Novel Award. It was then published by Bloomsbury in hardback in 2021, with the audio edition shortlisted for the CrimeFest Best Crime Novel for Children in 2022.

Also in the series...



UK Publisher:
Bloomsbury,
September 2021

Extent: 288 pages

Wishyouwas: The Tiny Guardian of Lost Letters (#1)

It's 1952 in smog-shrouded London. Christmas might be fast approaching, but with her mum away and Uncle Frank busy running the post office, Penny Black is lonelier than ever. All that changes when Penny discovers a small, fluffy, funny, springy and - most importantly - talking creature in the post office one night, trying to make off with a letter. But Wishyouwas is no thief. He's a Sorter, and he soon introduces Penny to a fascinating secret world hidden in the tunnels underneath the city's streets. Self-appointed guardians of lost mail, the Sorters have dedicated their lives to rescuing letters that have gone astray and making sure they get delivered to their rightful owners.

Penny is determined to protect the Sorters, but how long will she be able to keep them safe with Stanley Scrawl, the sinister Royal Mail Rat Catcher, on the prowl?

« “Has instant classic and Christmas wish-you-got written all over it”
– Piers Torday, author of the *The Last Wild* trilogy.



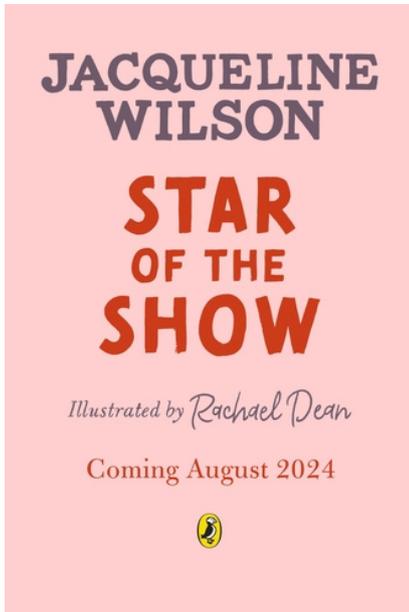
Stunning black and white illustrations by award-winning illustrator Penny Neville-Lee.

Please enquire for details.

Star of the Show



Jacqueline Wilson



UK Publisher: Puffin, August 2024

Primary Agent: Caroline Walsh

Film/TV Rights: The Haworth Agency

Extent: 409 pages

Material: Manuscript

Illustrations: Yes, black and white by Rachael Dean

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Enquire for previous titles and option publishers

Tess loves to dance – even when her tummy is empty and her boots are pinching. She and her brothers and sisters are all alone in the world after their mum dies and their pa abandons them. They have to eat bread and dripping, and take in washing to earn a few pennies.

How will they afford food – and milk for baby Ada? Tess's big brother and sister go out to look for work, but Tess has to stay in class at The Ragged School and look after Ada too. But Tess is determined that even though she is poor, she will still get to go to the ball . . . or at least to dance in the Cinderella pantomime at the Grand Theatre...

Fans of the fiery, spirited *Hetty Feather* and the curious, selfless *Edie Trimmer* will love this brand new historical novel from the much-loved Jacqueline Wilson.

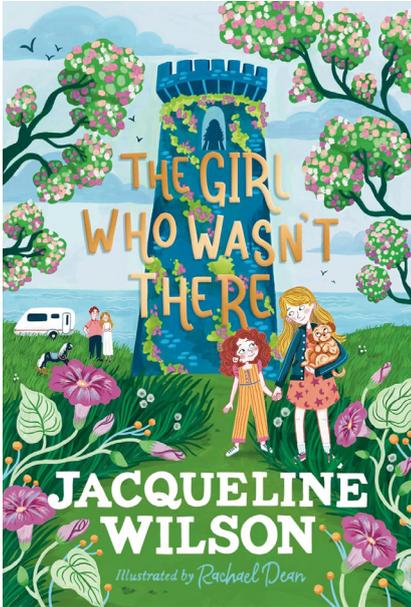
About the Author

Jacqueline Wilson is a multi-award-winning, bestselling author and the former UK Children's Laureate. She has won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award and the Children's Book of the Year Award, and was appointed a Dame for services to children's literature. The author of over 100 titles, Jacqueline has sold more than 40 million books worldwide.

The Girl Who Wasn't There



Jacqueline Wilson



UK Publisher: Puffin, March 2024

Primary Agent: Caroline Walsh

Film/TV Rights: The Haworth Agency

Extent: 336 pages

Material: Final files

Illustrations: Yes, black and white by Rachael Dean

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Enquire for previous titles and option publishers

When Dad tells Luna and her little sister Aurora that they're moving to live in a real tower, it's almost like they've stepped inside a fairytale.

But everything is not as magical as it first seems. The tower needs patching up, Dad still doesn't have a job and they're not even allowed in the room up at the very top.

When it's time to start at their new school, Luna quickly finds a friend, but six-year-old Aurora absolutely hates the children in her class. She prefers to spend her time with her imaginary friend Tansy. Aurora's make-belief life causes problems for them all - and it seems like Aurora really believes Tansy exists...

Is there really a curse on the tower - and will Luna be able to break it?



Hekate



Nikita Gill



UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster, 2025

US Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2025

Primary Agent: Nicola Chang

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Extent: 351 pages

Material: Manuscript

Illustrations: Yes, black and white

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Japan Uni

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

Hekate sings the story of its eponymous heroine. Born into a world on fire and at war, she and her mother are abandoned by the menfolk of their Titan family who must head into battle against the new Gods, the Olympians. Tragedy ensues when Hekate and her mother are forced to flee their home as the Olympians overpower and enslave the Titans, including Hekate's father, Perses, and gain dominion over the universe. It is a bitter civil war. In a bid to protect Hekate from the clutches of Zeus and Poseidon, her mother leaves her in the underworld with the goddess Styx and king of the underworld, Hades, where she must make a life for herself and discover her divine purpose. Here begins Nikita Gill's beautiful and propulsive reimagining of Hekate's myth which unfolds into a coming-of-age adventure story and quest in which our young protagonist – not yet a goddess – sets out to discover what has happened to her parents, heal from the trauma of her separation from them, make a new home for herself in the underworld, and, eventually, step into her true power as a woman and goddess, before it's too late.

About the Author

Nikita Gill is an Irish-Indian poet who has the attention of nearly 800,000 Instagram followers worldwide. Her work offers a shift of perspective which centres women in both Greek and Hindu myth as well as folklore. She has given a TEDxTalk, spoken at every major literary festival in the UK and been shortlisted for the Goodreads Choice Award in poetry three times, the Childrens Poetry Award two times and longlisted for the Jhalak Prize. Gill has written seven poetry collections and two verse novels. Her book of fables for children *Animal Tales from India* and her newest verse novel for Doctor Who were both out in October 2023.

The Ordeals



Rachel Greenlaw



On submission

Primary Agent: Maddalena Cavaciuti

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Extent: 95,000 words

Material: Unedited manuscript available May 2024

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Japan Uni

Sophia DeWinter leads a double life, spending her days in her uncle's antiques shop and her evenings on dangerous assignments for a crime boss, the Collector; a magic wielder who has trained her to do his bidding - to know when to run, when to steal and when to fight. That is, until one assignment goes horribly, brutally wrong. Shaken and determined to escape the Collector's control, Sophia sets off to follow in her parents' footsteps and attend the elite, hallowed halls of Killmarth College – a place of magic and learning where illusionists, masquiers, botanists and alchemists fight for limited places to become scholars.

But with only half the hopeful scholars making it through the first semester and a series of trials called The Ordeals designed to test their daring and power along the way, the college has a cut-throat reputation. Sophia realises she won't survive alone so goes against her better judgement and teams up with her rival, the illusive and insufferably handsome botanist, Alden Hughes; an expert in poisons who might just keep her alive if he doesn't irritate her to death – or murder her in the night. For there is a murderer on the loose at Killmarth, picking off hopefuls in between the Ordeals, and if Sophia isn't careful, she might just find herself the next target.

* For fans of dark academia and readers who loved the high stakes, rivalry and romance in *Fourth Wing*

About the Author

Rachel Greenlaw grew up in North Cornwall, surrounded by wild moorland. She studied English with Creative Writing at Falmouth University before moving to an island in the middle of the Atlantic, with all the allure of tropical palm trees in the summer and spine-tingling storms in the winter. Rachel's debut adult novel, *One Christmas Morning* was published by Avon in the US and HQ in the UK in October 2023. Her YA debut fantasy novel, *Compass and Blade*, was published in February 2024 by Quill Tree Press in the US and HarperCollins Children's Books in the UK.

A Match Made in Hell



Charlotte Ingham



Publisher: UK rights under offer

Primary Agent: Maddalena Cavaciuti

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 90,000 words

Material: Manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Japan Uni

The fiery sexual tension of Hannah Grace's *Icebreaker* meets the magic and humour of *A Witch's Guide to Fake Dating a Demon* in Charlotte Ingham's debut novel: a scorching romantasy where a woman makes a deal with the Devil to escape a hell dimension on the brink of collapse – only to fall for him instead.

Willow White is dead. She's annoyed about it. At twenty-one, Willow was supposed to be turning into a responsible adult, not proving her family right when they called her a failure. Now, thanks to one tiny (if fatal) mishap, she's landed in a dimension named Asphodel that looks suspiciously like hell.

Determined to redeem herself, Willow makes a deal with Asphodel's ruler, Sath: complete seven tasks, resist the seven sins, and he'll let her return to her human existence. But when Sath is sin itself, temptation may be hard to resist...

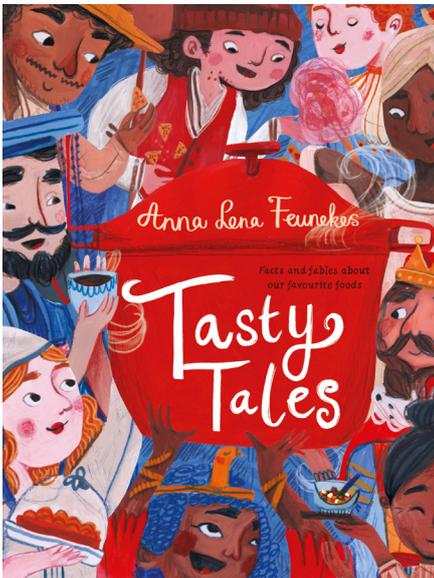
Unlike the animalistic demons residing alongside Willow, Sath is painfully human and unfairly attractive. Not that she's noticed. As the two work together, he confesses that Asphodel isn't really hell, but a middle ground. Or, it should be. He's losing his powers and the demons are plotting against him, desperate to open a set of gates and unleash the worst of their kind.

About the Author

Charlotte Ingham is a fantasy writer who loves stories with magic, humour, and plenty of romance. In 2023, she was selected as a RevPit winner. When she's not writing, she can be found attempting to befriend every animal she meets (past accomplishments include hugging an alligator).

Tasty Tales

Anna Lena Feunekes



UK publisher: UCLan, June 2024

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 60 pages

Age: 7+

Material: Final files

Illustrations: Full colour by Anna Lena Feunekes

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Drawing inspiration from both history and lore, this highly illustrated non-fiction title is a collection of stories centring around our worldwide love of food. Through these stories, the reader travels around the world to learn the origins of foods and dishes that kids know and love, as well as new offerings to discover.

With the help of beautiful mixed media illustrations, readers will learn such fun stories as: how the croissant got its curve, how the Hindu gods created basil from a tragic love story, and what mapu tofu has to do with a Chinese granny.

« The collected tales make this book a unique blend of fact and fiction – appealing to non-fiction readers with its historical and diverse cultural content, and fiction fans for the storytelling quality of each tale.

About the Author

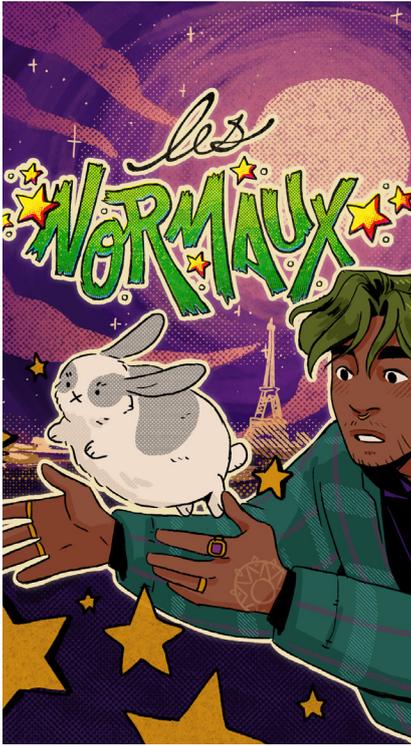
Anna Lena Feunekes is a self-taught illustrator and author based in Gouda, the Netherlands. Originally trained as an Industrial Designer, she quickly shifted to pursuing illustration, writing and teaching. In her artwork she uses a mix of collage, paint and digital tools, to add depth and a tactile sense to the work. She loves old buildings, books, nature, history, cooking and eating.



Anna
Lena

Les Normaux

Janine Janssen with S. Al Sabado



UK Publisher: Bloomsbury, February 2025

US Publisher: Avon

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 288 pages

Age: YA/crossover

Material: Sampler of first book available in May 2024

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Publishers

Brazilian Portuguese Companhia das Letras French Casterman Italian De Agostini Polish Foksal Portuguese PRH Spanish Planeta

A joyful, queer slice-of-life romance set in a fantastical version of Paris – perfect for fans of *Heartstopper*.

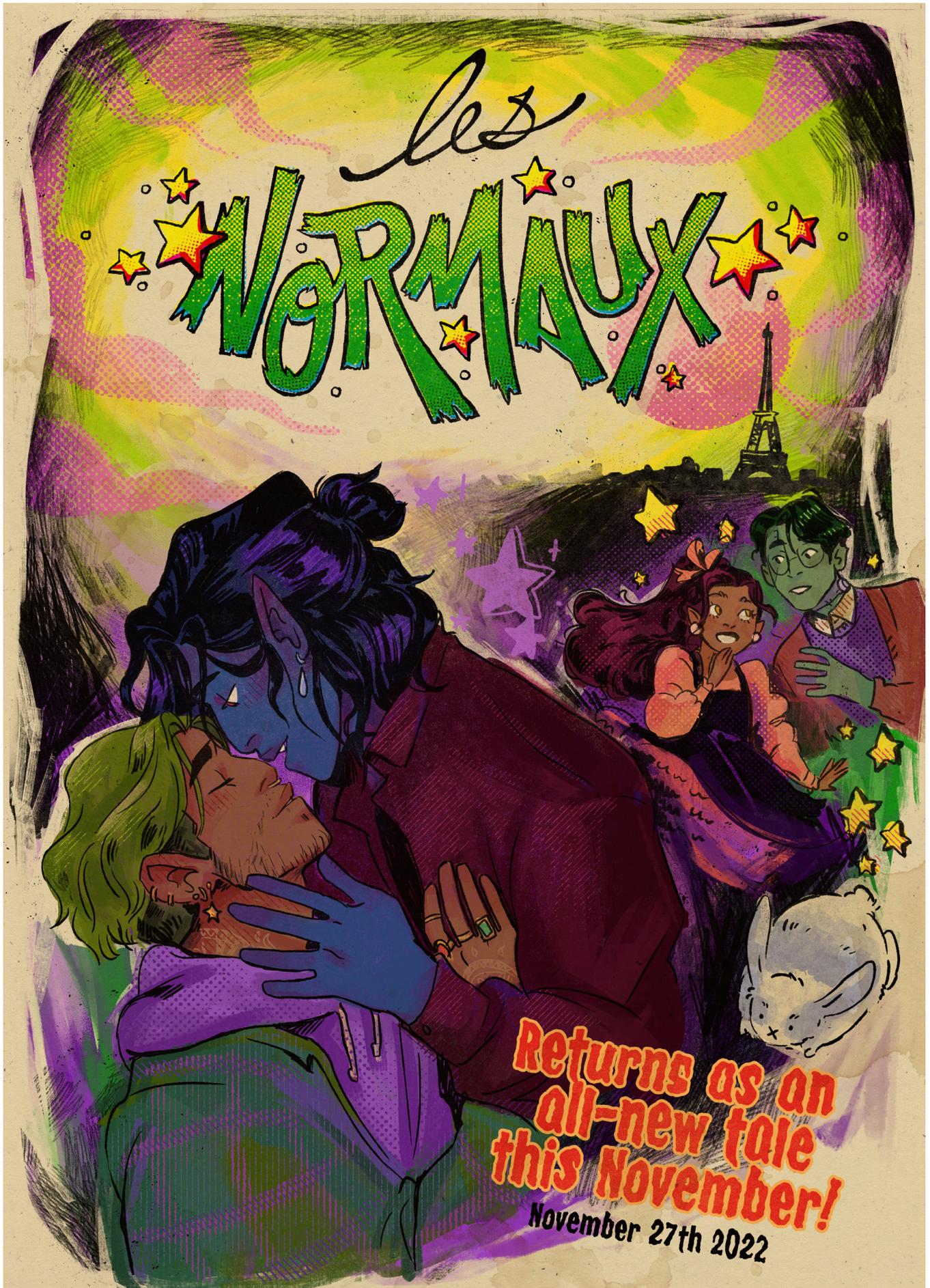
Sébastien has recently left the human world and moved to the supernatural version of Paris to attend magical university. He harbours a lot of guilt about leaving his family behind and is nervous about making friends and starting anew in the city. On a night out, he ends up kissing a handsome vampire and fleeing awkwardly – only to stumble upon the self-same vampire virtually on his doorstep the next morning. It turns out he and Elia live in the same building, and as their paths keep crossing they each feel an irresistible pull drawing them ever closer. But they both have insecurities holding them back – with a little help from their motley crews of friends, will they ever be able to finally muster the courage to give this romance a shot?

“The art style is so beautiful...I’ve been reading it for years...That’s one of my favourites.” Alice Oseman, author of *Heartstopper*

About the Authors

Al (he/she/they) is a teaching artist from O’ahu, Hawai’i with a background in graphic design that allows him to do most of the lettering and typography found in *Les Normaux* (in fact, the main font was designed by him!)

Janine (aka J.J.) has been drawing ever since she could hold a pencil, resulting in a BA in illustration and MA in animation. She loves telling stories about oddballs in society, and has been sharing them online as webcomics since 2013. She lives in the south of the Netherlands, but is travelling the world every day in her mind.



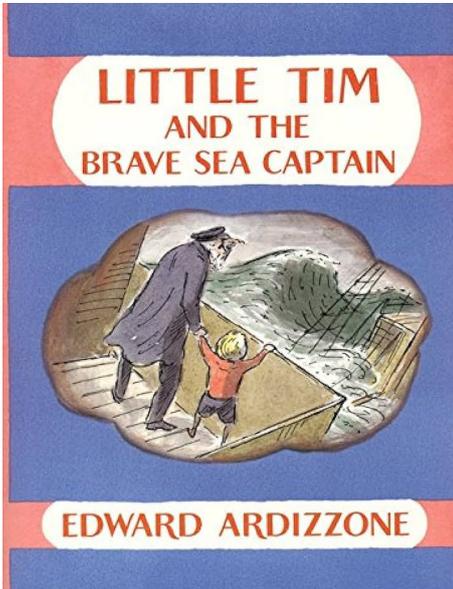
Returns as an
all-new tale
this November!
November 27th 2022

Classics Spotlight

Little Tim series



Edward Ardizzone



Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 60 pages

Age: 5-7

Material: Scans available

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Rights sold

Chinese simplified Under offer

Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain (#1)

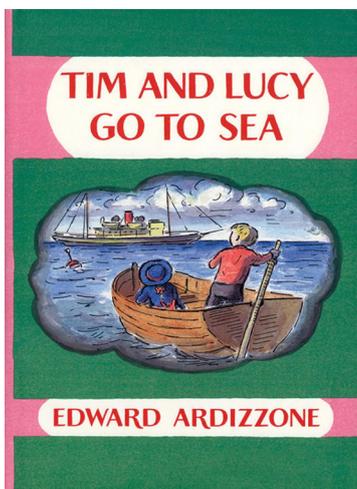
A young boy wants to be a sailor, but his parents say he is much too young. Tim grabs the chance to stow away on a steamer, but little does he expect the hard work, stormy sea and sinking ship to come! Little Tim's adventures at sea have delighted generations of children ever since the first book was published in 1936.

About the Author

Edward Ardizzone began his career as an artist and Illustrator in 1927. In 1936 he made a picture book of a story he had told his children – the classic *Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain*. This developed into the internationally loved *Little Tim* series, described by Maurice Sendak as “the saltiest and most satisfying picture books created in the last generation.”

Famous as a war artist and as a distinguished member of the Royal Academy, Ardizzone is also widely considered to be the foremost illustrator of his generation. He illustrated more than 170 books, and as well as his own work, he illustrated books by Eleanor Farjeon, Graham Greene, James Reeves and Dylan Thomas.

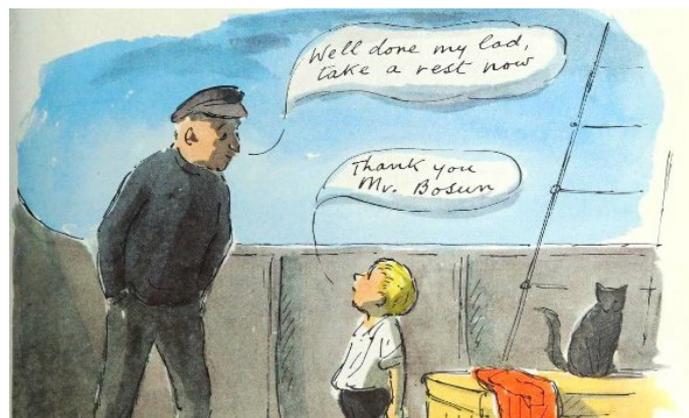
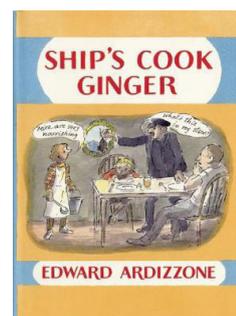
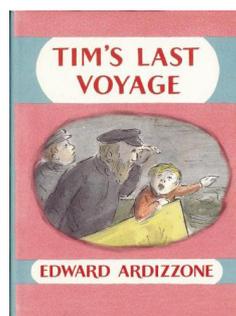
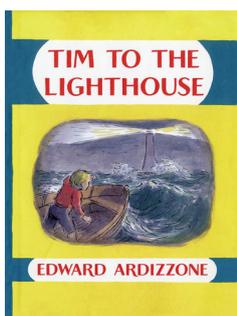
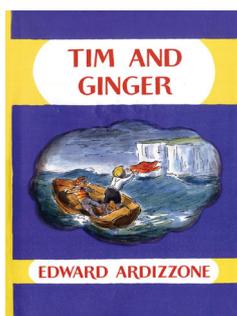
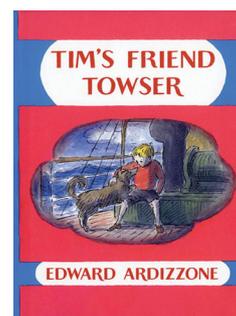
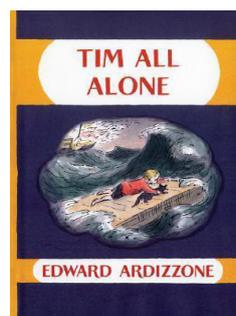
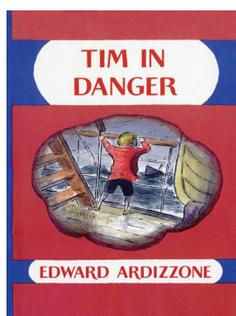
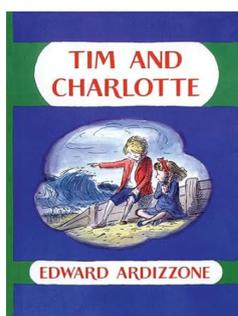
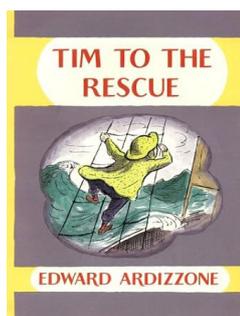
Also in the series...



Tim and Lucy Go to Sea (#2)

Things never quite go as planned on one of Tim's voyages. His new friend Lucy and her guardian Mr. Grimes are delighted when the enterprising five-year-old proposes they buy a boat and head out to sea. While cruising on the beautiful yacht *Evangeline*, they quickly fall into the clutches of villainous mutineers ...for what could be Tim's biggest adventure yet!

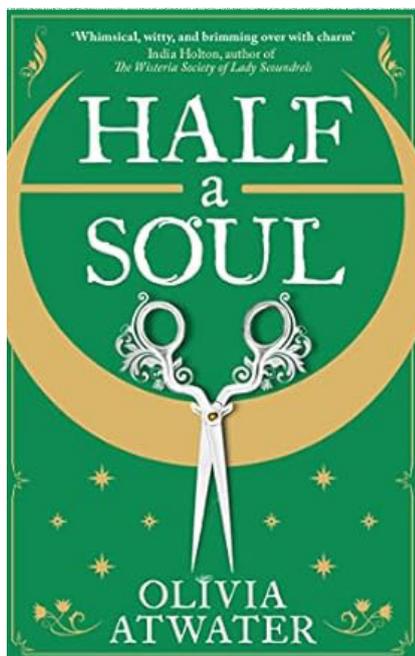
All titles:



Bookshelf Spotlight

The Regency Faerie Tales

Olivia Atwater



UK Publisher: Orbit, June 2022

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 320 pages

Age: YA

Material: Edited manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Publishers

Brazilian Portuguese Verus French Albin Michel German cbj Italian Rizzoli Serbian Vulkan Spanish Duermevela Turkish Ithaki

Half A Soul (#1)

It's difficult to find a husband in Regency England when you're a young lady with only half a soul.

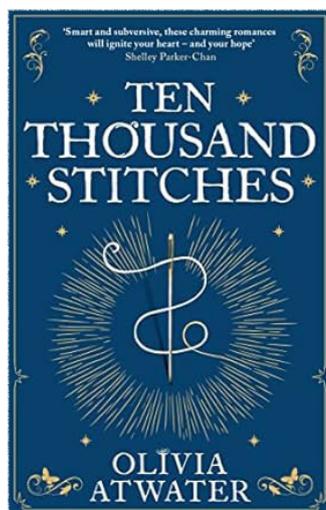
Faerie-cursed Theodora Etings has no sense of fear, embarrassment, or even happiness — a condition which makes her prone to accidental scandal. Dora's only goal for the London Season is to stay quiet and avoid upsetting her cousin's chances at finding a husband... But when the Lord Sorcier of England learns of her condition, she finds herself drawn ever more deeply into the tumultuous concerns of magicians and faeries.

« *Howl's Moving Castle* meets *Bridgerton* in this cosy Regency fantasy romance

About the Author

Olivia Atwater writes whimsical historical fantasy with a hint of satire. She lives in Montreal, Quebec with her fantastic, prose-inspiring husband and her two cats. When she told her second-grade history teacher that she wanted to work with history someday, she is fairly certain this isn't what either party had in mind. She has been, at various times, a historical re-enactor, a professional witch at a metaphysical supply store, a web developer, and a vending machine repairperson.

Also in the series...



UK Publisher:

Orbit, July 2022

Extent: 288 pages

Ten Thousand Stitches (#2)

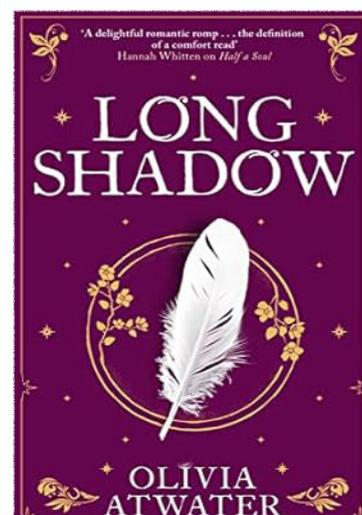
Faerie godfathers are supposed to help young ladies find love. Unfortunately, no one told Lord Blackthorn that.

Euphemia Reeves finds life as a maid so awful that she is willing to risk even her immortal soul for a chance at something better. Now, Effie has one hundred days and ten thousand stitches to make Lord Ashbrooke's son fall in love with her and propose... if her faerie godfather, Lord Blackthorn, doesn't wreck things by accident, that is. For Effie's greatest obstacle might well be Lord Blackthorn's overwhelmingly good intentions...

Longshadow (#3)

Proper Regency ladies are not supposed to become magicians - but Miss Abigail Wilder is far from proper.

The marriageable young ladies of London are dying mysteriously, and Abigail Wilder intends to discover why. Abigail's father, the Lord Sorcier of England, believes that a dark lord of faerie is involved - but while Abigail is willing to match her magic against Lord Longshadow, neither her father nor high society believe that she is capable of doing so.



UK Publisher:

Orbit, August 2022

Extent: 288 pages

