



Children's Guide
Spring 2026

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DAVID HIGHAM ASSOCIATES LTD

Est. 1935

Literary, Film and TV agents

The Team



UK and US Rights

Veronique Baxter, Maddalena Cavaciuti, Molly Ker Hawn,
Lizzy Kremer, Christabel McKinley, Martha Perotto-Wills,
Jessica Woollard

Film and TV Rights

Clare Israel, Georgie Smith

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Allison Cole: allisoncole@davidhigham.co.uk

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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](#)



Normal, Definitely



Camilla Chester



WE Publisher: Firefly Press, February 2027 – Editor: Penny Thomas

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: 8 - 12 years

Extent: 36,000 words

Material: Draft manuscript

Illustrations: Black-and-white chapter headers

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates Japanese Japan Uni

Option Publishers

Chinese Complex Global Kids Czech Grada French Albin Michel
German Magellan Japanese Komine Shoten Korean Green Frog
Swedish Fyren Turkish Maxi Yayincilik

When ten-year-old January Keane sees herself reflected in an unwanted dog, she is determined to find her a home. It doesn't matter what the test for autism shows; they're both normal, definitely.

Jan lives in a loud, loving family who run a busy boarding kennel. Surrounded by dogs, she spends her time filming rescue videos and helping find new homes. But Jan is starting to realise she experiences the world differently, and after a meltdown at school her parents decide to get her tested for autism.

Then New Dog arrives. Quiet, sensitive, and unlike any of the others, New Dog forms an instant bond with Jan. With the help of her sister June, Jan makes it her mission to find New Dog a family who will love her quirks as much as they do.

But when New Dog is returned like faulty goods and Jan's test confirms she is on the spectrum, Jan shuts down completely. Now it's up to June and New Dog to help Jan find her way back, and to show her that being honest, open and truly herself is the only real way to gain acceptance.

Normal, Definitely is a heartwarming middle-grade novel about family, identity, self-acceptance, and the unconditional love that only dogs can give.

About the Author

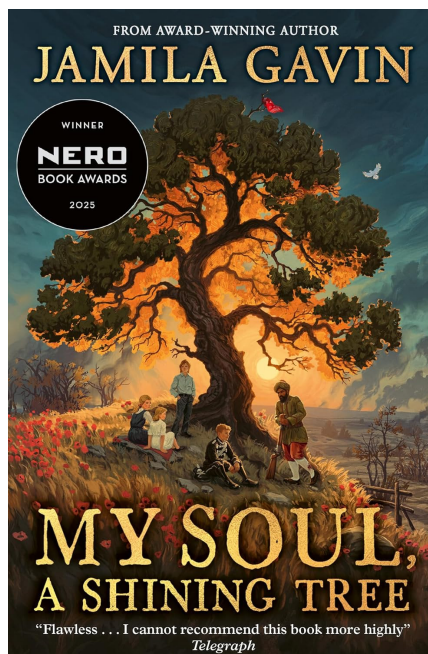
Camilla Chester is a dog walker who writes. She's been a finalist in two national children's writing competitions, for the National Literacy Trust and Mslexia, and has previously successfully self-published three novels. Her first traditionally published novel *Call Me Lion* (Firefly, 2023) was selected for the Summer Reading Challenge and shortlisted for the UKLA Children's Book Awards. Camilla lives in Hertfordshire.

Prize Winner Spotlight



My Soul, A Shining Tree

Jamila Gavin



World English Publisher: Farshore, 2025

Editor: Lucy Courtenay

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: Casarotto Ramsay

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 30,000 words, 160 pages

Material: Final PDF

Co-agents

Chinese: Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese: Tuttle Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

2025
Children's Fiction
**NERO BOOK
AWARDS**
Winner

A stunning and heartbreaking middle-grade novel from Jamila Gavin, the bestselling and award-winning author of Coram Boy and The Wheel of Surya.

Based on the true story of Indian WWI gunner and recipient of the Victoria Cross, Khudadad Khan. The story is told from four perspectives: Lotte, a Belgian farmgirl whose village is the flashpoint for a battle; Ernst, a German teenage cavalry soldier whose grandiose dreams of war lie in tatters; Khudadad Khan, the gunner fighting with the British Army; and a wild walnut tree.

When Lotte's farm is destroyed in the fighting, she and her sister flee with their young neighbour Michael, to take refuge beneath the walnut tree on the ridge – a ridge currently being defended from the encroaching Germans by Indian gunner Khudadad Khan. There, they are joined by traumatised German soldier Ernst, whose horse lies lost in the trenches of the battle raging below. As their perspectives converge, their shared humanity emerges as a light in the darkness of war, safe beneath the branches of the walnut tree that shelters them all.

About the Author

Jamila Gavin was born in Mussoorie, India, in the foothills of the Himalayas, to an Indian father and an English mother. Jamila has written many books with multicultural themes for children and young adults. Since her first book, *The Magic Orange Tree*, was 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 shortlisted 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 Prize in 1992. Her book, *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 shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.

Praise for *My Soul, A Shining Tree*

'This is a lyrical, flawless work of writing, in which Gavin seamlessly weaves together her haunting confluence of narratives, creating an epic of less than 150 pages.' – Emily Bearn, *The Telegraph* 50 Best Children's Books of All Time

'A superbly poignant and evocative historical novel from a much-loved author.' – Imogen Russell-Williams, *The Guardian*

'A quietly powerful novel that is a must-read for anyone interested in the lives behind the history. Superb.' – Lucy Bannerman, *The Times* Best Children's Books of 2025

'A sweeping war epic about love and courage... *My Soul, a Shining Tree* is a truly exceptional novel.' – Charlotte Eyre, *The Bookseller* Children's Book of the Month



The Wild Hunt of Hagworthy

Penelope Lively

Re-issue
coming
2027

NEW COVER TO BE
REVEALED

Original UK Publisher: Farshore, 1971

New World English Publisher: Faber, April 2027

Primary Agent: Lizzy Kremer

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 160 pages

Material: Final PDF

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

Lucy is spending the summer visiting her aunt in the rural Somerset village of Hagworth, where the planned revival of an ancient Horn Dance for a village fete awakens rumors of the Wild Hunt and stirs sinister supernatural forces from the past. As preparations for the dance intensify amid a backdrop of drought and mounting tension, Lucy senses the intrusion of ancient pagan traditions into modern village life, blending folklore with unease and subtle horror.

The novel explores themes of outsider status, the persistence of old myths in contemporary settings, and the subtle dangers of reviving forgotten rituals, all rendered through Lively's characteristic atmospheric prose that evokes the English countryside and the psychological pressures of adolescence.

New edition coming in April 2027 with Faber in collaboration with WeirdWalk as one of six republished classic titles.

About the Author

Penelope Lively is a 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 Carnegie Medal for *The Ghost of Thomas Kempe* in 1973, and the Whitbread Award for *A Stitch in Time* in 1976. She was awarded the OBE in 1989, the CBE in 2001 and the DBE in 2012.

By the same author...



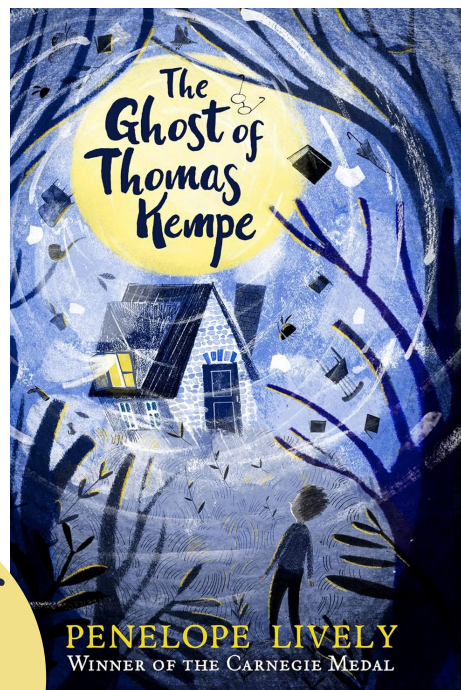
The Ghost of Thomas Kempe

The classic ghost story from Penelope Lively, one of the modern greats of British fiction for adults and children alike.

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.

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.

Winner of
the 1973
Carnegie
Medal



UK Publisher: Farshore, 2018
(originally published in 1973)

Extent: 40,000 words, 256 pages

Rights sold

Italian Salani Russian Volchok



A Stitch in Time

Maria likes to be alone with her thoughts. She talks to animals and objects, and generally prefers them to people. But whilst on holiday she begins to hear things that aren't there – a swing creaking, a dog barking – and when she sees a Victorian embroidered picture, Maria feels a strange connection with the ten-year-old, Harriet, who stitched it.

But what happened to her? As Maria becomes more lost in Harriet's world, she grows convinced that something tragic occurred...

Winner of
the 1976
Whitbread
Award

UK Publisher: HaperCollins Children's Books, 2017 (originally published in 1976)

Extent: 36,000 words, 224 pages

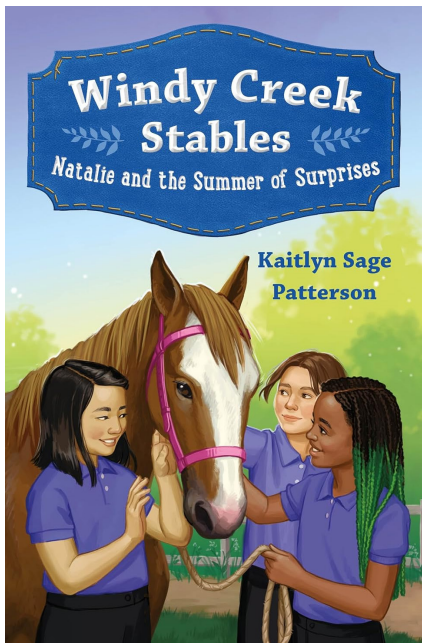
Rights sold

Chinese Simplified Shanghai Cai Qin Ren Culture Diffusion Company Italian Ugo Guanda

Windy Creek Stables series



Kaitlyn Sage Patterson



World English Publisher: Feiwel & Friends (Macmillan), May 2026

Editor: Rachel Diebel

Primary Agent: Molly Ker Hawn

Film/TV Rights: DHA

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 23,000 words, 176 pages

Material: Final PDF

Illustrations: Black-and-white by Kelley McMorris

Sold
at auction
in a 3-book,
6-figure
deal

Co-agents

Chinese Grayhawk Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

Hungarian Maxim

Natalie and the Summer of Surprises (Windy Creek Stables #3)

The third book in this middle-grade series centered on a rural American riding school and featuring a diverse cast of young equestrians as they navigate friendships, rivalries, and independence. The Saddle Club for a new generation.

Natalie is a city kid who loves indoor activities, so spending the summer stuck at her mom's riding school is the worst idea she's ever heard. But eleven-year-olds don't get to make the rules, so Natalie is at Windy Creek with a parent she barely knows and a bunch of horses she couldn't care less about.

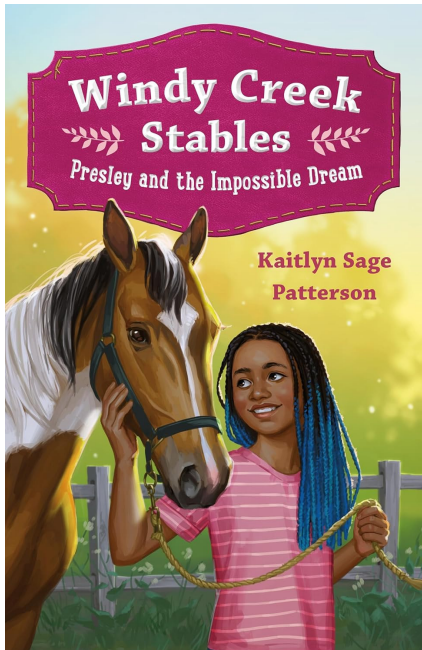
Windy Creek is full of horse-crazy kids Natalie has nothing in common with, and her mom clearly wishes she had one of them for a daughter instead. Natalie would give anything to go back to the city, and even more than that, she wishes her mom didn't expect her to be someone she's not – someone who rides.

Alongside her at Horse Camp are stuck-up Harper and energetic Presley. Slowly, Natalie learns that a little perseverance and grit go a long way, and if she gives the riders (and horses) at Windy Creek a chance, they'll give her one, too.

Praise for the series

'A charming story that embraces friendship, responsibility, and the pursuit of one's dreams.'
– *Publishers Weekly*

'This fast-moving, accessible read balances more serious moments . . . with scenes of Presley reveling in her love for all things equine. Riding lingo and other details make this a surefire hit for horse lovers, but anyone seeking an absorbing read will be pleased.' – *Kirkus Reviews*

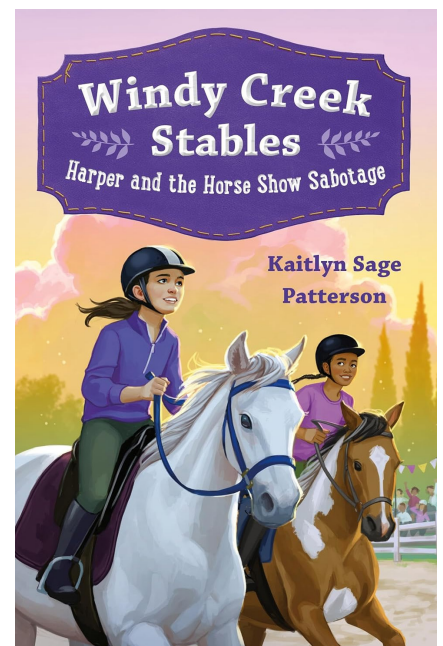


Presley and the Impossible Dream (Windy Creek Stables #1)

Presley's life is pretty great – she has a loving family, friends at school, and plenty of rambunctious rescue pets. But her mom has banned her from ever, ever, ever riding a horse, and Presley's always dreamed about learning to ride. So when she gets the opportunity to tag along with her vet stepdad to Windy Creek Stables, she jumps at the chance. And even after a run-in with Harper, a popular girl who's never given Presley a second glance, Windy Creek is everything she thought it would be... except, well, maybe it's a little messy? Clean and dirty saddle pads are all jumbled together, and there's a tangle of bridles hanging on a hook in the corner. Which gives Presley the perfect idea: In exchange for helping tidy up the barn, the stable owner, will give her lessons – but can she get her mom to agree to the deal?

Harper and the Horse Show Sabotage (Windy Creek Stables #2)

Every year, the team at Windy Creek Stables packs up the trailer and makes the trip to the famous Kentucky Horse Park for the best and biggest horse show of the year. Usually, the competition is Harper's favorite thing in the world, but it's her first time competing against the mean girls from her old team. Her anxiety only increases when the Windy Creek horses start to show signs of illness. One sick horse is just a sick horse, but two sick horses are a mystery. Harper and Presley must don their detective hats and figure out who's sabotaging the stables... and ace their competition, of course!



About the Author

Kaitlyn Sage Patterson grew up with her nose in a book outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in East Tennessee. She started begging her parents to put her on a horse as soon as she learned to talk. After six long years they finally relented, and Kaitlyn began learning to ride. By the time she was ten she was working off extra lesson time by mucking stalls and helping out around the barn. Kaitlyn never shook the riding bug, and she is currently training her first horse, an off-the-track thoroughbred named Boon, to compete in dressage and eventing.

Wayfinder: The Guardians of the Sea



Jonathan Stroud



FINAL COVER TO BE
REVEALED

UK Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's Books, April 2027

Editor: Alex Antscherl

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: The Haworth Agency

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 55,000 words

Material: Draft manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

Sold in
a 2-book
deal

Wayfinder is the brand-new Middle Grade fantasy series by bestselling author Jonathan Stroud. Combining classic storytelling with unique immersive interaction, these pick-your-path books offer a revolutionary reading experience to reluctant readers.

Fourteen-year old Ava is determined to become a Wayfinder, and sets off to begin her training at the Lightkeeper's legendary tower on Kittiwake Isle. But a night in a haunted ruin is just the start of the challenges she faces. When the Guardians of the Sea suffer a surprise attack, it isn't long before Ava and her fellow trainees are forced to leave the Isle and go on a perilous journey to stop the Undying Light going out forever.

In this unique interactive novel, the reader never returns to the start and can take it at their own speed. Possibilities are endless and Ava's destiny is determined by the choices the reader makes – for good or for ill! Can she succeed in her mission and win a coveted Green Tunic?

About the Author

Jonathan Stroud is the author of three internationally bestselling series: the award-winning *Bartimaeus* sequence, which has been published in 36 languages, the critically acclaimed *Lockwood & Co*, adapted into a hit Netflix series, and the Carnegie Medal-nominated *Scarlett and Browne* trilogy. He lives near London with his wife and three children.

Esme Pepper

Jacqueline Wilson



World English Publisher: PRH UK, August 2026

Editor: Kelly Hurst

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: The Haworth Agency

Age: 8 - 12 years

Extent: 60,000 words, 342 pages

Material: Final PDF

Illustrations: Black-and-white by Rachael Dean

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

Jacqueline Wilson's new character can rival Tracy Beaker for sassiness and poignancy. A moving story from a master storyteller.

Hot-headed Esme has a reputation and is often in trouble at school. But it's tricky when you live with your single mum and life is full of uncertainties, with frequent moves and new schools and social services on your case.

When Esme's mum is caught shoplifting, arrested and imprisoned, young social worker Alesha has to find somewhere for Esme to stay at very short notice. She calls in a favour from a reluctant older couple who've long since stopped fostering, Moira and Pops. It takes Esme a while to settle in, but she is intrigued by Pops' garden full of vintage garden gnomes and the pair are soon hitting it off.

Still, Esme is never far from trouble and when she starts at the new school she soon becomes the target of bully, Big Joseph. But a surprising turn of events sees Esme become the object of everyone's admiration...

About the Author

Jacqueline Wilson wrote her first novel when she was nine years old and she has been writing ever since. She is one of Britain's bestselling and most beloved children's authors. She is the creator of famous characters such as Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather and more than 40 million copies of her books have been sold. As well as winning many awards for her books, Jacqueline is a former Children's Laureate and in 2008 she was appointed a Dame for her services to children's literature.

Spindlewood series



Freddie Kölsch



US Publisher: Balzer + Bray (Macmillan Children's Books), Summer 2027

US Editor: Donna Bray

UK Publisher: Puffin, Summer 2027

UK Editor: Natalie Doherty

Primary Agents: Molly Ker Hawn, Martha Perotto-Wills

Film/TV Rights: CAA (Dana Spector)

Age: 10+ years

Extent: 70,000 words

Material: Draft manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Grayhawk Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

German Hanser Italian Mondadori Dutch Gottmer

Sold in a
2-book,
6-figure deal
in a 4-way
auction

Hollyheart (#2)

After a perilous start at the Spindlewood School for Seeing, Lilac Black just wants to do her schoolwork, hang out with her new friend Em, try to build a relationship with her long-lost dad... oh, and keep a lid on the fact that she's the only student on campus who can't see ghosts. Unfortunately, the Beyond has other ideas.

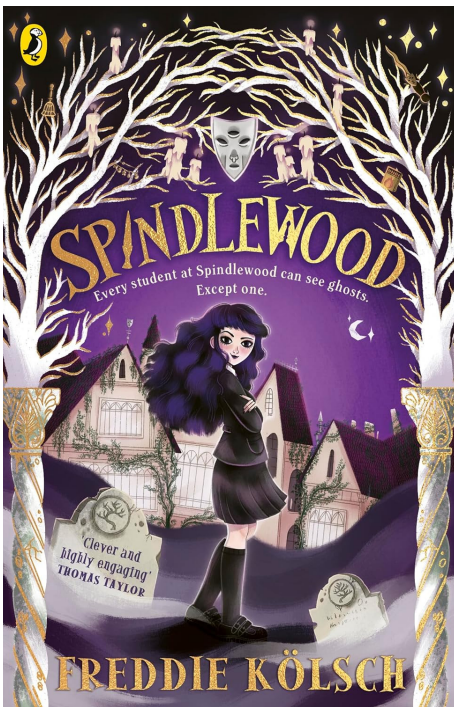
During preparations for Veilnight – a.k.a. Halloween, a night of terrible danger for Seers – Lilac infiltrates a secret organisation which upends everything she thought she knew about Seer society. Her investigations unearth a mystery dating back to the school's founding – which might reveal the origins of the monster she and Em barely escaped with their lives.

But Lilac isn't the only one interested in ancient history. A poltergeist from Spindlewood's founding family has resurfaced, determined to resolve its unfinished business – or destroy Spindlewood in the attempt. With the veil between worlds at its thinnest, on Halloween night the ghost is powerful enough to possess every Seer on campus and force them to do its bidding. Good thing Lilac isn't a Seer...

About the Author

Freddie Kölsch is a connoisseur and crafter of frightful fiction (with a dash of hope) for teens and former teens. She's the author of the YA novels *Now, Conjurers* (named a best book of 2024 by *Kirkus* and the New York Public Library) and *Empty Heaven* (2025). She lives in Salem, Massachusetts with her high school sweetheart-turned-wife, a handful of cats, a houseful of art, and a mind's eye full of ghosts.

Also in the series...



US Publisher: Balzer + Bray
(Macmillan Children's Books),
July 2026

UK Publisher: Puffin, August
2026

Extent: 69,000 words, 368 pages

Spindlewood (#1)

The first book in a gripping new series, perfect for fans of *The Swifts*, *Murder Most Unladylike*, *Lockwood & Co* and *Wednesday*.

Lilac Black does not believe in ghosts. So she's rather surprised to learn she comes from a long line of gifted Seers, all of whom attended Spindlewood: a top-secret boarding school for children with the power to see, hear and communicate with spirits.

And now, Lilac has an invitation to Spindlewood herself. The only problem? There's been a huge misunderstanding. Lilac does not have the gift.

Reluctant to disappoint her proud uncles, and curious to see this mysterious school for herself, she decides to play along. But as Lilac's web of lies becomes more tangled, one thing is clear: there is something wrong at Spindlewood. Something ancient and sinister, hidden beneath the library. Something connected to the long-ago disappearance of Lilac's parents.

Something waiting for her...

Praise for *Spindlewood*

'Clever and highly engaging... Think *Percy Jackson* meets *Wednesday*, with a huge dollop of originality on top.' – Thomas Taylor, author of *Malamander*

'A spectacularly spooky tale, I devoured *Spindlewood* and adored determined and clever main character Lilac Black from the first chapter. Full of warmth and humour but threaded with delicious darkness, it's a compulsive read and had me dying for a sequel as soon as I reached the last page.'

– Philippa Leathley, author of the *Inkbound* series

A note from the Agent

How fantastic to see editors get so excited over a new middle-grade project! Maybe it's the totally relatable main character whose lie gets her in way over her head, maybe it's the fresh take on a magic school that feels like it really could be out there somewhere, maybe it's the edge-of-your-seat scariness that feels just right for a middle-grade audience. It's probably all this and more. Freddie is such a talent – her first book for younger readers is just as skillful as her YA novels, and I fell in love on the first page.

Treason Castle

Julia Golding



UK Publisher: Usborne, January 2027

UK Editor: Rebecca Hill

Primary Agent: Molly Ker Hawn

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: 8 - 12 years

Extent: 60,000 words

Material: Draft manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates Japanese Tuttle-Mori

All rights available

UK rights
sold
in a 3-way
auction

Inspired by the international television sensation “The Traitors”, And Then There Were None meets The Mysterious Benedict Society in this new middle-grade mystery full of adventure, cunning and trickery.

The news is everywhere: thirteen children are to be chosen to participate in a murder-mystery competition run by the mysterious billionaire Dame Grimthorpe on her remote private island. And there's everything to play for: an absolute fortune for the winner's home region and a smaller fortune for the winner themselves.

Scrappy, neglected orphan Jenny Twistle is inexplicably chosen to be Scragland's competitor and travels to Dame Grimthorpe's island. The other competitors are their regions' best and brightest: talented, wealthy, and well-prepared – and they immediately size Jenny up as no threat whatsoever. Jenny soon realizes she was chosen because she was expendable, and that no one in Scragland expects her to come anywhere close to winning.

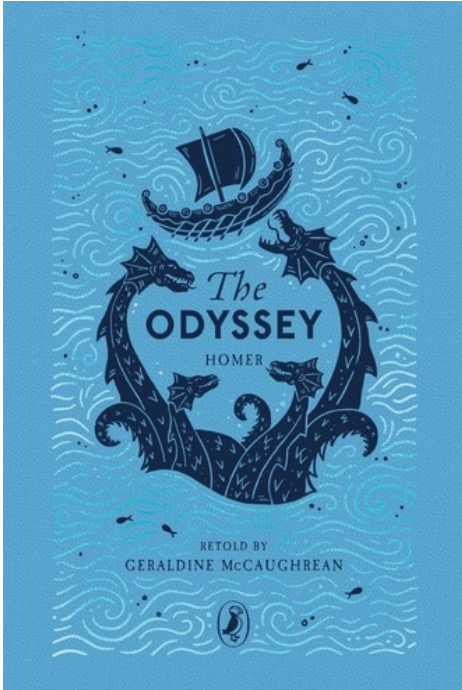
The players are soon divided up: the Innocents are tasked with uncovering the identities of the secret Murderers. But Dame Grimthorpe's game soon turns deadly. A real murderer is at loose on the island, and as the bodies pile up, it will take the most resourceful, fearless player to prevent more bloodshed, prove to the world that they've all underestimated her...and take home the prize.

About the Author

Julia Golding is the award-winning author of over sixty books for children, young adults and adults. Over a million and a half of her books have been sold around the world, with bestselling titles in a wide range of age categories, including *The Diamond of Drury Lane*, winner of the inaugural Waterstones Children's Book Prize. She is also Director of the Oxford Centre for Fantasy which uses the inspiration of Oxford Fantasy writers such as Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Lewis Carroll to inspire new creativity.

The Odyssey

Geraldine McCaughrean



Original UK Publisher: Oxford University Press, 1993

New Publisher (World English): Puffin Classics (PRH), 2015

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 12+ years

Extent: 144 pages

Material: Final PDF

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Rights sold

Brazilian Portuguese Somos Sistemas De Ensino S.A.

New
hardback
coming
this June

Embark on an epic adventure in this stunning Puffin Clothbound Classic edition of The Odyssey, the ancient Greek epic retold for young readers by Geraldine McCaughrean.

‘I am Odysseus, hero of Troy.’

After ten years of war, Odysseus turns his back on Troy and sets sail for home, eager to be reunited with his wife and son. But the voyage is long and dangerous, plagued by strange magic, monstrous enemies – like Polyphemus the greedy one-eyed giant and Scylla the six-headed sea monster – and the wrath of the gods themselves. Can Odysseus rise to the challenge?

Puffin Classics will be releasing a brand-new gift hardback edition in June 2026. Bound in high-quality cloth with dazzling new foil-stamped designs, this coveted and highly collectable hardback edition will be treasured forever. The perfect gift for book lovers and new readers alike.

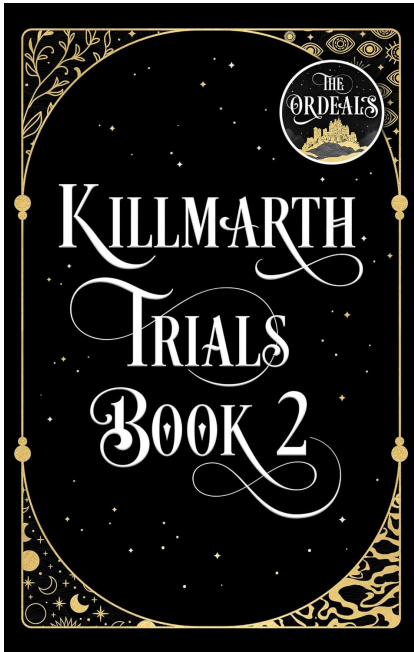
About the Author

Geraldine McCaughrean is one of today’s most successful and highly regarded children’s authors. She has won the CILIP Carnegie Medal twice: first in 1988 with *A Pack of Lies* and again in 2018 with *Where the World Ends*. She’s won the IBW Book Award 2018, the Whitbread Children’s Book Award three times, the Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize, the Smarties Bronze Award four times, the prestigious U.S. Printz Award and the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award. Geraldine lives in Berkshire with her husband John and the lingering shades of all those characters she has invented in her books.

The Killmarth Trials series



Rachel Greenlaw



UK Publisher: HQ (HarperCollins), October 2026 - Editor: Seema Mitra

US Publisher: Ballantine (PRH), October 2026 - Editor: Alicia Clancy

Primary Agent: Maddalena Cavaciuti

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: Young Adult / Crossover

Extent: 100,000 words

Material: Edited manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

Brazilian Portuguese DarkSide Books French Le MacGuffin German

Klett Cotta Italian Giunti Polish Swiat Ksiazk Spanish Editorial Alma

The Divines (Killmarth Trials #2)

Dangers and magics new and old build to God-like proportions as Sophia and her allies fight for their lives, and their very world, in this steamy, propulsive follow-up to The Ordeals.

The Great Hunt has begun. Still mourning the loss of her friends and mentors, and adjusting to her awakening powers, Sophia has no time to waste honing her abilities. As the waves of attacks by the Cold Ones continue to escalate, the group is led into dangerous territories and an even more dangerous need for vengeance. But when a loved one is attacked by a Cold One, Sophia and her closest allies must turn their attention to a new critical task: finding an antidote.

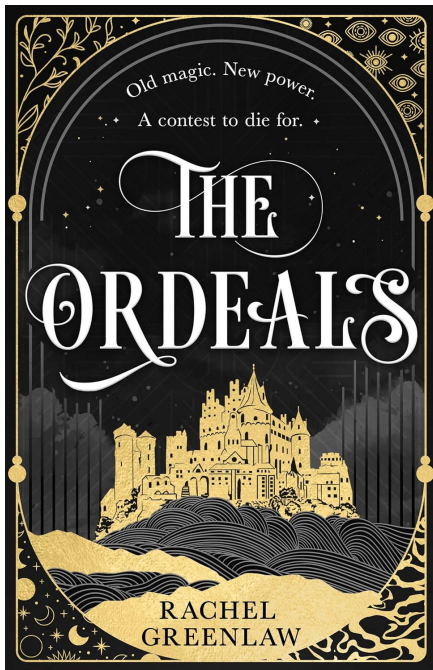
As Sophia and her friends learn more about the origins of the Cold Ones, they also uncover disturbing secrets being kept by the Crown. It's clear there's something even bigger at play than they could have ever imagined. As they navigate the maze of who can or cannot be trusted, new and unknown threats ambush them at every turn.

Sophia has always heard the stories of the Old Gods, long since gone from their world. But what if they weren't truly gone, just simply biding their time? What if the Great Hunt is only the beginning? For the gods are hungry and have a will of their own, and to save the world as they know it, Sophia will have to face their wrath.

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 Atlantic, where she lives with her husband and two children. *The Compass and Blade* trilogy is her first YA fiction series. Rachel's first novel for adults, *One Christmas Morning* was shortlisted for The Fantasy Romantic Novel Award 2024. Her other books, *The Woodsmoke Women's Books of Spells* and *The Ordeals*, have both featured on Waterstones' Best Romantasy Books of the year for 2025.

Also in the duology...



UK Publisher:

HQ (HarperCollins),
October 2025

US Publisher: Ballantine
(PRH), October 2025

Best
Romantasy
Books of
2025
Waterstones
Amazon

The Ordeals (Killmarth Trials #1)

For fans of dark academia and readers who loved the high stakes, rivalry and romance in *Fourth Wing*, *The Ordeals* is the first book in a duology.

Twenty-year-old Sophia DeWinter has only known life bound to her cruel uncle, the Collector, thanks to a blood bond he exacted from her as a child. When she learns of Killmarth College, an elite academy for magic wielders outside of the Collector's control, she knows it is her only chance to finally break free. But to gain entry, she will have to compete against other illusionists, masquiers, botanists and alchemists in a series of brutal trials that many hopefuls don't survive—the Ordeals.

Sophia knows her skills as an illusionist are weak; she only makes it through the first challenge by teaming up with a powerful (and insufferably sexy) botanist, Alden Locke. To make it out alive, she will have to hone her magic, and learn to identify who is a rival, who could be an ally, and who is a murderer.

Because now, not only does she have to protect her heart, but her very life. Hopefuls are being viciously picked off one-by-one between the challenges. In her haste to escape the Collector's trap, Sophia may have fled straight towards her own death sentence.

Praise for *The Ordeals*

'A rich romantasy ideal for fans of dark academia.' – *The Mirror*

'The magic system is captivating, and the ending will leave you yearning for the second book.' – *The Express*

'Sizzling and addictive romantasy.' – *Sunday Post*

'I absolutely treasured it from beginning to end.' – Cecelia Ahern, *Sunday Times* Number One bestseller for *The Woodsmoke Women's Book of Spells*

Too Hexed to Handle



Charlotte Ingham



UK Publisher: Hot Key Books, Autumn 2026

UK Editor: Ella Whiddett

US Publisher: S&S Books for Young Readers, Autumn 2026

US Editor: Nicole Ellul

Primary Agent: Maddalena Cavaciuti

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: Young Adult / Crossover

Extent: 100,000 words

Material: Copyedited manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

Option Publishers

Brazilian Portuguese Editora Record French Eilean

Books Hungarian Manó Könyvek Italian Mondadori

Polish Zielona Sowa Ukrainian Family Leisure Club

She'd die to kiss him. He'll die if she does.

Daisy has a secret: she's a Souleater, an outlawed magical being who can feed off of emotions. She's also hexed: her kiss cursed to kill. So she's built a quiet life running a crumbling inn on the edge of town, matchmaking guests while keeping her own heart firmly off-limits.

But when a mysterious contest promises a cure for Souleater magic and a reward big enough to save her inn, Daisy sets off on a perilous quest with Astin, her emotionally unavailable (and infuriatingly attractive) gardener.

There's just one problem: Astin hunts Souleaters. And he doesn't know Daisy is one of them.

As secrets unravel and feelings get far too complicated, Daisy must choose: the cure, the truth ... or the one man she might love enough to kiss.

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. Her first novel, *A Match Made in Hell*, sold in eight territories, was published by Hot Key Books (UK) and Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (US) in September 2025 and tells the story of a woman who makes a deal with the devil to escape hell—only to fall for him instead. When Charlotte's not writing, she can be found attempting to befriend every animal she meets (past accomplishments include hugging an alligator).

By the same author...



UK Publisher: Hot Key Books,
September 2025

US Publisher: S&S Books for
Young Readers, September
2025

Rights sold

Brazilian Portuguese Editora
Record French Eilean Books
Hungarian Manó Könyvek
Italian Mondadori Polish
Zielona Sowa Ukrainian
Family Leisure Club

A Match Made in Hell

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 *A Match Made in Hell*, a scorching fantasy romance 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 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 dead, and has 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. As the two work together, he confesses that he's losing his powers and the demons are plotting against him to unleash the worst of their kind.

The longer Willow spends in Asphodel, the less she wants to abandon the dead – or Sath – to an eternity of torment. But as the demons get closer to breaking free, she'll have to choose: finish the tasks and return home, or stay and help Sath stop them – even if it means admitting she belonged in Asphodel, with him, all along.

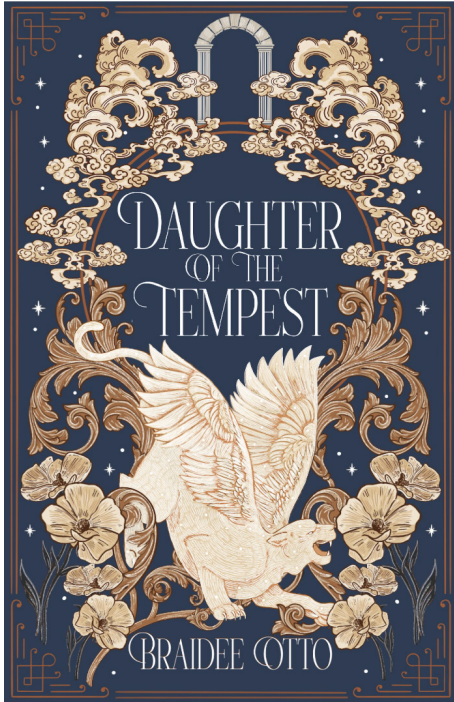
Praise for *A Match Made in Hell*

'Falling for the devil has never been more fun. *A Match Made in Hell* is a real page turner, hilarious, sexy and emotive in turn. Readers will love following Willow through all the levels of hell.' – Rachel Greenlaw, author of *The Ordeals*

'This searing, high-concept romantasy is not only a wickedly clever dance with the devil, but also a study in nuanced characterisation. Ingham's wry, relatable Willow is for every woman who's ever burned beneath the label of messy or too much, and the impossibility of perfection, and triumphed anyway. As for Willow and Sath's forced proximity (emphasis on proximity)? Tip: invest in a swoony fainting couch. Right now.' – Amy de la Force, author of *A Kiss of Hammer & Flame*

Myths of the Empyrieos series

Braidee Otto



US Publisher: Dial Press, Autumn 2026 – Editor: Katy Nishimoto

AUS Publisher: PRH, Autumn 2026 – Editor: Christine Ebbs

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: Young Adult / Crossover

Extent: 152,000 words

Material: Edited manuscript

Illustrations: Black-and-white map and chapter headings

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

German CBJ Hungarian Koussuth Italian Mondadori

Polish Wyndawnicwo Niezwykle Spanish V&R Editoras

Daughter of the Tempest (Myths of the Empyrieos #2)

Aella must learn to harness her powers and assemble allies to stop the cruel Prince Keres's rise to power in book two of the Songbird of the Sorrows trilogy.

Betrayed and abducted by the very man she sought to rescue; Aella finds herself bound for the northern kingdom of Arkhadia. After a disastrous confrontation reveals she has been branded a traitor by the Aviary, Aella and Lyxander forge a tenuous alliance. Together, they flee into the northern mountains, where Aella unearths secrets from her mother's past, begins to harness the potential of her own powers, and learns of a prophecy entangled with her own fate.

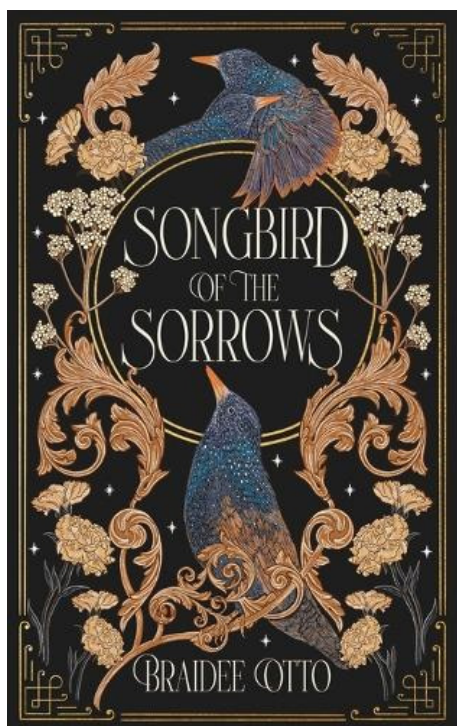
When news of Prince Keres' rise to power reaches her, Aella and Lyxander set out to gather allies amongst the political backdrop of the Empyrieos Games. But as the Games take a deadly turn, Aella makes a desperate bid to save her dearest friend, sparking the flame that sets fire to the fragile peace the kingdoms have maintained since the God War.

Daughter of the Tempest is the second title in the *Myths of the Empyrieos* trilogy, a luscious, vividly painted, Ancient Greece-inspired romantasy series by debut writer Braidee Otto.

About the Author

A self-proclaimed hopeless romantic, **Braidee Otto** combines her academic background in Literary Studies with a deep passion for storytelling to create heartfelt, immersive narratives. She lives in Adelaide, South Australia with her partner, two beloved dogs, and a cat that appeared in her backyard on the winter solstice.

Also in the trilogy...



US Publisher: Dial Press (PRH),
February 2026

AUS Publisher: PRH Australia,
February 2026

Extent: 120,000 words, 400
pages

Songbird of the Sorrows (Myths of the Empyrieos #1)

*Ask no questions. Obey your orders. Respect your masters.
But most of all... Love no one.*

Born without breath, Aella's life began with a solemn promise etched in fate. Ousted from the Palace of Sorrows and gifted to the Aviary at a young age, she was shaped to fit the mold they made for her.

Spy. Thief. Princess. Songbird.

After Aella completes her training and passes the Naming ceremony, she is assigned to the prestigious Alpha Flight, led by none other than her former flame. Everything about Raven calls to her. He is brave, loyal, and lethal. But love is forbidden within the Aviary.

When Alpha Flight is tasked with infiltrating the eastern kingdom's royal trials to seek a weapon hidden deep within its court, Aella struggles with the expectations placed on her. As old sparks reignite and the harsh realities of the realm reveal themselves, she must decide whether to follow orders or defy them.

Praise for *Songbird of the Sorrows*

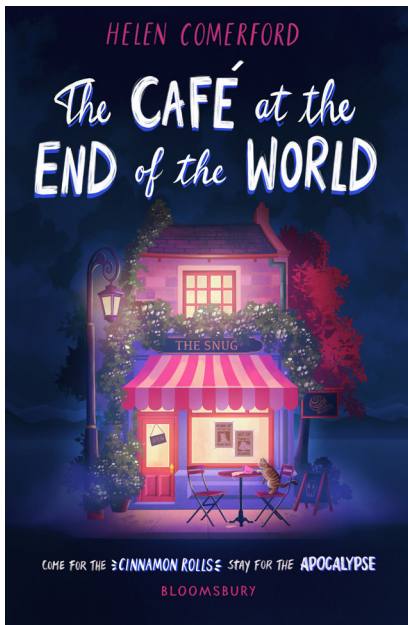
'Songbird of the Sorrows is an addictive new romantic fantasy that combines beautiful world building, a thrilling combination of heist and trials, and a toe-curling forbidden romance. Between the romantic intrigue and the unravelling mysteries, it kept me guessing until the very last page!' – Demi Winters, bestselling author of the *Ashen* series

'Simmering with tension and intrigue, Songbird of the Sorrows is about to become your new romantasy obsession. Braidee Otto has crafted a gorgeous tale with effortless writing and lovable characters who come alive on the page. Trials and heists, friendship and forbidden romance, secrets and banter – this has it all.' – Nisha J. Tuli, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Trial of the Sun Queen*

'An enticing blend of espionage, romance, and rebellion... With rich sensory descriptions, Otto crafts an immersive world of coded messages and whispered betrayals.' – *Publishers Weekly*

The Café at the End of the World

Helen Comerford



UK Publisher: Bloomsbury, July 2026
Editor: Katie Ager
Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley
Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)
Age: Young Adult
Extent: 80,000 words
Material: Copyedited manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates Japanese Japan Uni

All rights available

‘Helen Comerford is a writer to watch.’
CJ Skuse, author of the *Sweetpea* series

Come for the cinnamon rolls, stay for the Apocalypse.

Lydie, the daughter of Death, a retired Rider of the Apocalypse, is obsessed with ‘cosy’; cosy books, cosy summer job in the family café, cosy low-drama life.

But when secretive, attractive, and above all annoying Kai becomes her co-worker, Lydie’s cosy life is in jeopardy. Kai is the son of War, a very active Rider of the Apocalypse, who has some rather big world-ending plans.

Lydie wants nothing to do with all that, so she is forced to conceal her identity while dealing with the coffee shop dramas of Mr Henson’s lost cat and preparing for the town’s Autumn Fayre.

But big, decidedly non-cosy, magic is heading Lydie’s way. And teaming up with Kai might be the only way to protect her café – and the world. Provided she doesn’t fall for him first...

The Pumpkin Spice Café meets *Good Omens* in the YA cosy romance/supernatural mash-up you didn’t know you needed.

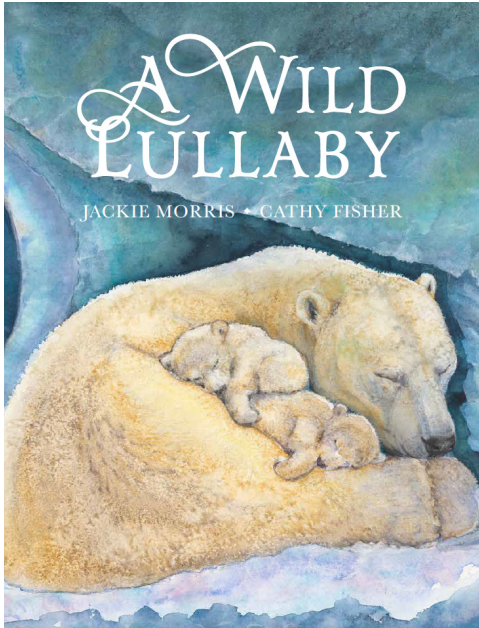
About the Author

Helen Comerford is a Black mixed-race British author and is passionate about Black British and mixed heritage representation. She centres her diverse cast of characters in narratives they have historically been excluded from and celebrates their joys, strengths and everyday teenage experiences. She is fuelled by a love of all things super-powered, feminism, and chocolate raisins. When she’s not writing, you can find Helen hiking around the Welsh countryside with her dog, Cocoa. Her debut novel *The Love Interest* was longlisted for the Branford Boase Award and nominated for the Carnegie Medal.

A Wild Lullaby



Jackie Morris, Cathy Fisher



World English Publisher: Otter Barry Books, September 2026

Editor: Janetta Otter-Barry

Primary Agent: Jessica Woollard

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 40 pages

Age: 3+ years

Illustrations: Full colour by Cathy Fisher

Material: Final PDF

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates Japanese Japan Uni

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Our complete
Jackie Morris
Guide
now available

'The time has come at close of day to seek and find the quiet adventures of sleep . . . Let me sing to you, my Child, a lullaby, gentle, wild.'

A mother sings to her child, evoking the ways in which wild creatures across the world are also lulling their babies to sleep – whales in the sea, fledgling ospreys in their nest, bear cubs in their ice den, seals on the shore, ponies on the heath, the snow leopard family in the high rocks, and tigers in the deepest jungle.

The lyrical story is enriched by Cathy Fisher's exquisite paintings of each scene, realistic yet magical. Together they create a rare sense of tenderness and peace across our wild world.

About the Authors

Jackie Morris is an award-winning writer and illustrator. She lives and works in Wales and her work is informed and inspired by wild places and creatures. She has illustrated over 40 books, and was shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal in 2016 for *Something About a Bear*. She won it in 2019 for *The Lost Words*. She was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2024 in the illustrator category.

Cathy Fisher is an artist, illustrator and picture book maker renowned for her sensitive and delicate depictions of childhood, animals and the natural world. Two of Cathy's books have been longlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal.

Come Along



Cosmo Sheldrake, Liniers



WE Publisher: Magic Cat, April 2026

Editor: Jenny Broom

Primary Agent: Jessica Woollard

Film/TV Rights: DHA

Extent: 40 pages

Age: All ages

Illustrations: Full colour by Liniers

Material: Final PDF

Co-agents

Chinese ANA Japanese Tuttle Mori

Rights sold

Brazilian Portuguese Under Offer

Spanish (LatAm) La Editorial Común

Based on Cosmo Sheldrake's viral hit sensation song 'Come Along', streamed more than 200 million times, this silly and whimsical book has an important message at its heart: time is precious, so get you gone now and have some fun!

Come along! Leave behind the ordinary and discover a world where anything is possible: catch a Heffalump, march with the borogoves, and cuddle up with a hesitant skeleton in this unique and joyful book.

Playfully blending sound, rhythm, and rhyme, this is a modern-day celebration of nonsense verse rooted in the timeless literary traditions of Dr Seuss, Edward Lear, and Lewis Carroll.

Praise for *Come Along*

'A glorious tumble of words and images – a joyful, foot-tapping, spirit-zinging extravagant gallivant of a story that torrents off the tongue and lifts the heart!' – [Robert Macfarlane](#)

'Embedded with references to children's classics, including the works of Lewis Carroll and A. A. Milne, this jaunty, irresistible picture book follows a singsong adventure through the funky-animal-populated wilds. Children will be inspired to "run away from the humdrum," escaping "greed, anger, and boredom" alongside their well-dressed rabbit guides, who go on a boating trip, have a raucous tea party, and encounter all manner of interesting beings along the way. This companion text to Cosmo Sheldrake's upbeat song is complemented by cheerful, detailed illustrations by the award-winning cartoonist Liniers; it stands to delight children and parents alike.' – [Foreword](#), [starred review](#)



About the Authors

Cosmo Sheldrake is a UK-based multi-instrumentalist, producer, composer, live improviser, and field recordist. His music ranges widely from celebratory anthems to soulful elegies to riotous party numbers, to sparse electronic production, to intoxicating, surrealistic stomps, to haunting polyphonic songs that have grown out of field recordings of birds, whales, fish, frogs, fungi and more. Running through all his work is a belief that the living world is a noisy and musical place with the power to change how we think, feel, and imagine. Together with his human and non-human collaborators, Cosmo creates music that speaks to the urgency and possibility of our times.

Liniers is the middle name of Ricardo Siri. He started making fanzines, published the comic strip *Bonjour* in the newspaper *Página 12* and, since 2002, he publishes *Macanudo* every day in the newspaper *La Nación* and weekly in the newspaper *El País* in Spain. In September 2018, *Macanudo* began to be published in US newspapers through *King Features Syndicate*. He has published more than 30 books worldwide and designed the cover art for albums by Kevin Johansen, Andrés Calamaro, Marcelo Ezquiaga, Cheba Massolo, Lisandro Aristimuño, and Kanaku y el Tigre. His work as an illustrator and cartoonist ranges from movie posters and wine labels to covers for the prestigious magazine *The New Yorker*.

