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Children's Guide Spring 2025

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DAVID HIGHAM ASSOCIATES LTD

Est. 1935

Literary, Film and TV agents

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Turkey AnatoliaLit Agency; *US* Adams Literary.

Project Pony

Camilla Chester



UK Publisher: Firefly, May 2025

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Extent: 204 pages

Age: 7-11 years

Material: Final manuscript

Illustrations: B/W chapter headers by Irina Avgustinovich

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Option Publishers

French Albin Michel German Magellan Japanese Komine

Shoten Korean Green Frog Swedish Fyren Publishing

Project Pony, Camilla Chester's new heartwarming story about friendship and family, is perfect for horse lovers and young readers alike.

When Nat, aged ten, and her best friend Ashlin book into an Own Your Own Pony week, Mum has to come too. Nat is sure this will be the chance she needs to get Mum onside with Project Pony, and see the back of Mum's unwelcome boyfriend Vik at the same time. But nothing goes to plan: Mum is waylaid, Vik takes her place, the other girls are unkind.

Will Nat's friends and family and cheeky pony Loki come through for her when she most needs them?

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.

The Seaside Sleepover



Jacqueline Wilson



UK Publisher: Puffin, April 2025

Primary Agent: Caroline Walsh

Film/TV Rights: The Haworth Agency

Age: 7-9 years

Extent: 224 pages

Material: Final files available

Illustrations: Black and white illustrations by Rachael Dean

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Enquire for previous titles and option publishers

Daisy and Lily return in the sparkling third title in the bestselling *Sleepovers* series!

The summer holidays have finally arrived, and Daisy is bored. She is glad she won't have to see her worst enemy Chloe for a while but she longs for a proper holiday at the seaside, building sandcastles, eating lots of ice-cream and maybe even spotting a mermaid in the sea. Daisy's sister, Lily, wants to come too but she uses a wheelchair which can make trips to the seaside tricky. Especially with all that sand!

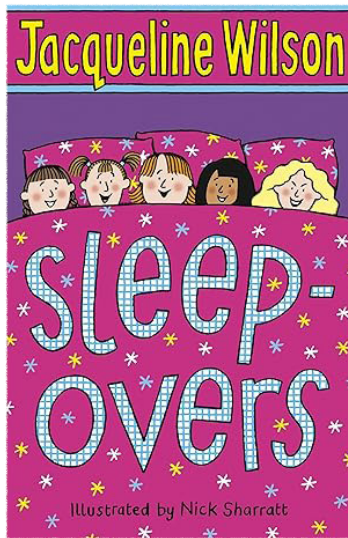
Daisy's summer gets more exciting when she starts looking after her neighbour's dog, Scruff. Daisy has always wanted a dog of her own to walk and cuddle! She knows Scruff would love a trip to the seaside just as much as her.

Daisy, Lily, Scruff and all the family get their ice-cream-filled dream holiday when their favourite uncle, Gary, arranges a very special treat for them all...

Jacqueline Wilson's bestselling *Sleepovers* series is perfect for newly-confident readers who are navigating primary school friendship issues. Full of relatable details and gentle confidence-building messages, these books are a great introduction to the World of Jacqueline Wilson.

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.



UK Publisher:
Puffin, 2001
Extent: 112 pages

Sleepovers (#1)

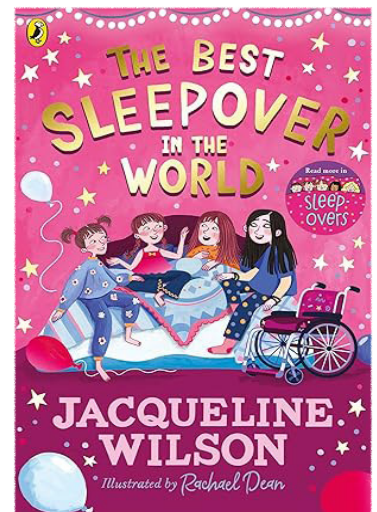
You're invited to the ultimate sleepover!

Amy, Bella, Chloe, Daisy and Emily are best friends at school, they even have their own Alphabet Club (just look at their initials!). Daisy is the newest member, she's desperate to fit in, even though Chloe is VERY unfriendly to her at times. And, when the girls start planning sleepovers for their birthdays, Daisy starts dreading her own. She doesn't know what her friends will make of her older sister...

The Best Sleepover in the World (#2)

Daisy's worst ever enemy Chloe is desperate to win back her friends so she announces she's going to have **THE BEST SLEEPOVER IN THE WORLD**. There's going to be a swim in a luxury pool, a special makeover for every guest, and a real live meeting with a social media superstar. All Chloe's old friends are invited, even Daisy's best friend Emily. But Daisy is left out.

Daisy's sister Lily is non-verbal but she's learned sign language at her new special school. She signs to Daisy that she wants a sleepover. Will family and friends somehow make Lily's party **THE BEST SLEEPOVER IN THE WORLD**?



UK Publisher:
Puffin, 2023
Extent: 220 pages



The Thing About Giants



Christopher Galvin



UK Publisher: Walker Books, April 2026

US Publisher: Candlewick Press

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: 8 - 12 years

Extent: 60,000 words

Material: Edited manuscript expected in Spring

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

In the city of Fathach, giant hunters are equivalent to local heroes. This is because the city's very walls are built from giants' bones, and the townsfolk rely on their elite hunters to keep them not only prosperous, but also safe. For, as everybody knows, giants are wild, violent, senseless creatures...aren't they?

13-year-old Jacq Dyer is the daughter of two renowned giant hunters – although she's never had much stomach for what they do. After her mother, Cassie, disappeared on a hunt six months ago, Jacq has been sorting through her grief and confusion all alone. And the pain of losing a parent is still fresh for young Under Hill giant Corman, whose father has just been taken by human hunters.

After an unexpected event lands Jacq far outside the city walls and deep in giant territory, she finds herself unexpectedly allied with Corman. Together, the two must try to plot a path through the uncharted wilderness to bring Corman back home to Under Hill and Jacq back to the safety of Fathach's walls. But the lines between safe/dangerous, good/bad and giant/human are all beginning to blur – and the world as they know it may be about to change forever.

The Thing About Giants takes us through a vividly imagined world, introducing us to the various colourful tribes of Giants – and the chilling city of Fathach, with closer parallels to our world than we may like to admit.

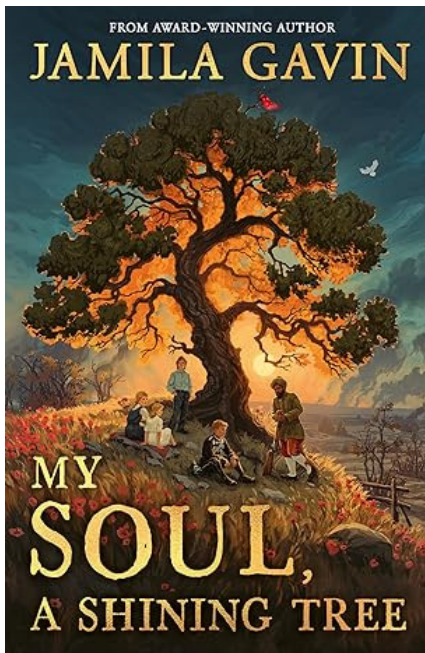
About the Author

Christopher Galvin lives in Dublin, and keen-eyed Irish enthusiasts will spot the influence of his home country in linguistic elements of this story. A passion for film and TV took him to the capital to study scriptwriting, where he also took classes in acting and directing, with several of his short films being presented in festivals around the world. Earlier drafts of *The Thing About Giants* were shortlisted for the WriteMentor Children's Novel Award and the Guppy Middle Grade Open Submission Competition.

My Soul, A Shining Tree



Jamila Gavin



UK Publisher: Farshore, July 2025

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: Casarotto Ramsay

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 288 pages

Material: Copyedited manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

A stunning and heartbreaking new 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 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 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. 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 short listed for the Carnegie Medal.

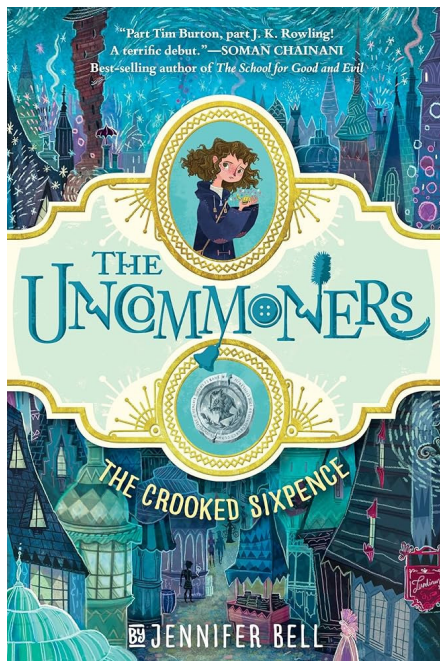
Bookshelf Spotlight

The Uncommoners

Jennifer Bell



Turning
10
next year!



UK Publisher: Penguin Random House, 2016

US Publisher: PRH (Crown)

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 384 pages

Age: 9-12 years

Material: Final files

Illustrations: B/W interior illustrations by Karl Mountford

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Rights sold

Danish Rosinante German Arena Thai Nanmeebooks

The Uncommoners: The Crooked Sixpence (#1)

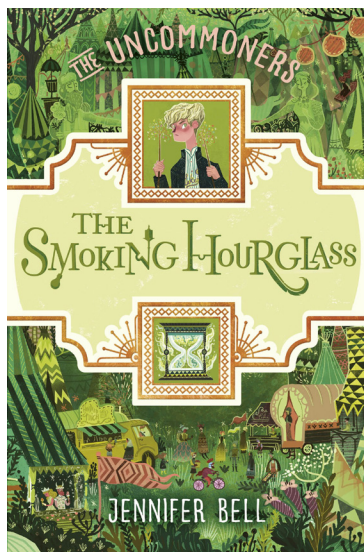
Welcome to a world where nothing is quite as it seems...

Dive head first into the world of Lundinor in this magical adventure series.

When their grandmother Sylvie is rushed to hospital, Ivy Sparrow and her annoying big brother Seb cannot imagine what adventure lies in store. Returning to Sylvie's house, they find it has been ransacked by unknown intruders – before a mysterious feather scratches an ominous message onto the kitchen wall. A very strange policeman turns up on the scene, determined to apprehend them... with a toilet brush. Ivy and Seb make their escape – only to find themselves in a completely uncommon world, where ordinary objects have amazing powers. The forces of evil are closing in fast, and Ivy and Seb must get to the bottom of a family secret... before it's too late.

About the Author

Londoner Jennifer Bell worked as a children's bookseller at a world-famous bookshop before becoming an author. Her debut series, *The Uncommoners*, was an international bestseller and has been translated into sixteen different languages. She is also the author of *Agents of the Wild*, a wildlife-rescue series for younger readers, and the time-travel duology *Wonderscape* and *Legendarium*. The second instalment of her latest series, *Magicalia*, was recently published by Walker.



UK Publisher: Penguin
Random House, 2017
Extent: 400 pages

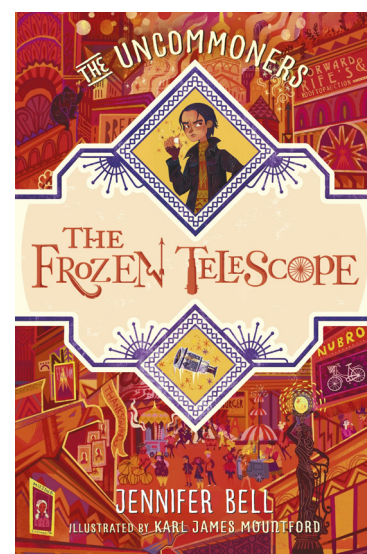
The Uncommoners: The Smoking Hourglass (#2)

As soon as Ivy and her brother Seb set foot back in the mysterious underground city of Lundinor, they know that something has changed...Where before there were cobbled streets, now the squares and lanes between the city's enchanted shops are lush with spring blooms – but something dark is stirring just below the surface, and uncommon traders are uneasy. Ivy and Seb have stumbled into a plot that could condemn every uncommoner to a disastrous fate... With the help of Valian, their extraordinary friend – and some exceptional uncommon objects – can Ivy and Seb put a stop to the sinister Dirge's plans?

The Uncommoners: The Frozen Telescope (#3)

Ivy and Seb can't wait to join Valian for their first ever overseas uncommon adventure - they're meeting in Nubrook, the completely astonishing and totally-different-to-Ludinor trading market hidden underneath New York. But there's no time to enjoy looking round all the incredible sights - they're on a mission to find Valian's long-lost sister, Rosie.

But it seems they're not the only ones looking for her. Once again the Dirge rear their terrifying heads, and it appears they're after not only Rosie, but another enormously powerful Great Uncommon Good object. But what do they want it for? And can Ivy, Seb and Valian stop them from finding it?



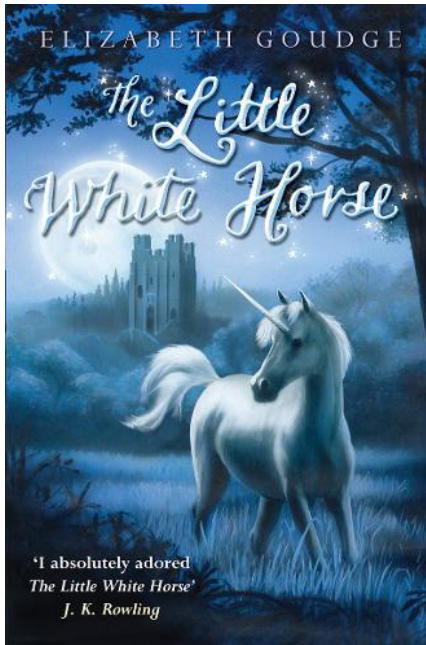
UK Publisher: Penguin
Random House, 2018
Extent: 320 pages

'Moves at the speed of magic... Part Tim Burton, part J.K. Rowling.' – Soman Chainani, author of *The School of Good and Evil*

'An unputdownable treasure of a book.' – *The Guardian*

The Little White Horse

Elizabeth Goudge



UK Publisher: Lion Hudson, originally published in 1946

Primary Agent: Georgia Glover

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: 8-12 years

Extent: 224 pages

Material: Final files

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Rights sold

Chinese Simplified News Buds German Freies Geistesleben

Italian Bompiani

'For a fleeting instant Maria thought she saw a little white horse with a flowing mane and tail, head raised, poised, halted in mid-flight, as though it had seen her and was glad.'

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. . .

About the Author

Elizabeth Goudge (1900-1984) was born in Somerset. She had a long and distinguished literary career writing novels for adults and children, which were best-sellers throughout the world. She was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1946 for *The Little White Horse*, perhaps her best-known work, a film version of which was released in 2009 under the title *The Secret of Moonacre*.



The Little White Horse
is turning 80!

'A gem of a book.' - *The Times*

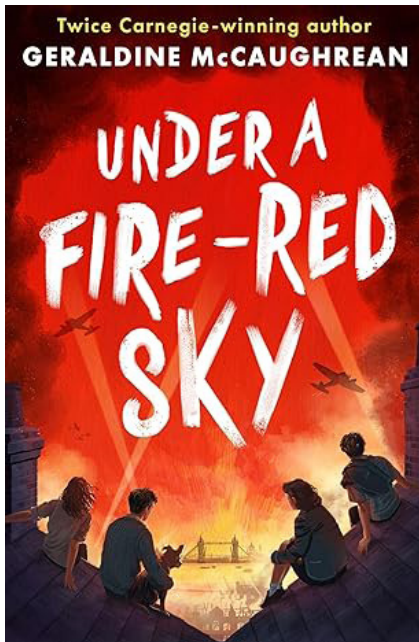
'...one of the most magical stories in the world.' - *The Independent*

'The Little White Horse was my favourite childhood book. I absolutely adored it. It had a cracking plot. It was scary and romantic in parts and had a feisty heroine.' - JK Rowling

Under a Fire-Red Sky



Geraldine McCaughrean



UK Publisher: Usborne, April 2025

US Publisher: Flatiron Books, November 2025

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 300 pages

Age: 12+

Material: Final manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

From the award-winning and New York Times bestselling author Geraldine McCaughrean comes an utterly immersive and unforgettable novel set during the London Blitz, inspired by her firefighter father.

With World War II looming, four young people sit on a train waiting to be evacuated to a safer place...but they don't want to go. They climb out of the carriage window and head back to Greenwich, forming an unlikely friendship.

They spend their days trying to be useful. Laurence is building a secret machine. Gemmy searches bombed-out homes for things of value - only to find an adorable mutt she can't even give away. Franklin wants to join the Fire Service, although it means lying about his age. Olive looks after her father, who is broken by the deaths of his fellow firefighters. And together, the four roam the streets of London, discovering their resilience amongst the secrets of the city.

But as the Blitz unleashes a barrage of bombs on London, turning the sky ragged with flame, can the friends keep each other safe and survive?

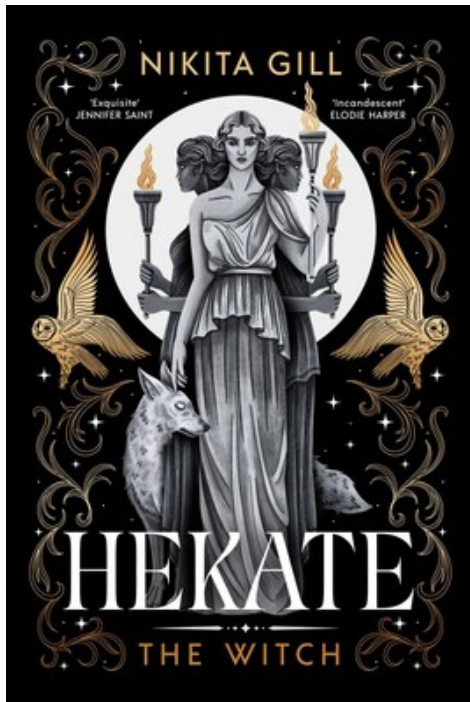
About the Author

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.

Hekate



Nikita Gill



UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster, September 2025

US Publisher: Little, Brown, September 2025

Primary Agent: Nicola Chang

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Extent: 416 pages

Age: YA/crossover

Material: Page proofs

Illustrations: B/W

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

A propulsive, electrifying and enraging retelling in verse of the myth of *Hekate*, child of war turned all-powerful goddess of witchcraft and necromancy, by internationally bestselling poet Nikita Gill.

Born into a world on fire, Godling Hekate has never known safety. After her parents are on the losing side of the war between the ruling Titans and new Olympian Gods, Hekate is taken by her mother Asteria to the Underworld, where Styx and Hades agree to raise her.

Orphaned and alone, Hekate grows up amongst the horrors and beauties of the Underworld, desperate to find her divine purpose and a sense of belonging in the land of the dead.

About the Author

Nikita Gill is an Irish-Indian poet who has the attention of over 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 TEDx Talk, spoken at every major literary festival in the UK and been shortlisted for the Goodreads Choice Award in poetry three times, the Children's 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*, won highly commended in Week Junior Kids Awards and her novel in verse, *The Angel of Redemption*, was published for Doctor Who's 60th Anniversary in 2023. *Hekate* is the first novel in a loosely connected trilogy about the Greek goddesses of the Underworld.

The Ordeals

Rachel Greenlaw



UK Publisher: HQ, October 2025

US Publisher: Ballantine/Dell, October 2025

Primary Agent: Maddalena Cavaciuti

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: YA/crossover

Extent: 384 pages

Material: Final manuscript available

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

German Klett Cotta

For fans of dark academia and readers who loved the high stakes, rivalry and romance in *Fourth Wing*, *The Ordeals* will be 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.

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 has written two adult novels, *One Christmas Morning* (2023), which was nominated for an RNA, and *The Woodsmoke Women's Book of Spells* (2024), which was a Waterstones Hardback Top 10 Bestseller. Both were published by HQ (UK) and Avon (US). Rachel is also the author of the YA fantasy trilogy, *Compass and Blade*, the first instalment of which was a YA Top 10 Bestseller. HarperCollins Children's are to publish the second instalment *Shadow and Tide* in the UK and US on 27 February 2025.

A Match Made in Hell

Charlotte Ingham



UK Publisher: Hot Key Books, September 2025

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

Primary Agent: Maddalena Cavaciuti

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: YA/crossover

Extent: 400 pages

Material: Final manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

Brazilian Portuguese Editora Record Hungarian Manó Könyvek

Italian Mondadori

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.

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).

Redemption Ark



Eilis O'Neal



On submission

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Age: YA

Extent: 100,000 words

Material: Manuscript ready for submission

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Japan Uni

All rights available

Welcome to the Redemption Ark, the intergalactic cruise ship and gameshow where teenage criminals compete to win a literal 'get-out-of-jail free card'

Dez 'The Hacker', Ishaan 'The Thief', Cutter 'The Terrorist' and Lane 'The Killer' are four of the teenagers reluctantly participating in the newest season of the smash hit show, Redemption Ark. Each season, a new set of juvenile delinquents are given a chance to earn a fresh start – if they can prove to the viewers at home that they, above all their competitors, have demonstrated a true redemption arc.

They have seven days to win the hearts of the solar system – or else end up in ultra-high security prison, The Vault. Their fates are at the hands of viewers across the galaxy – that is, of course, if everyone is as good as gold...

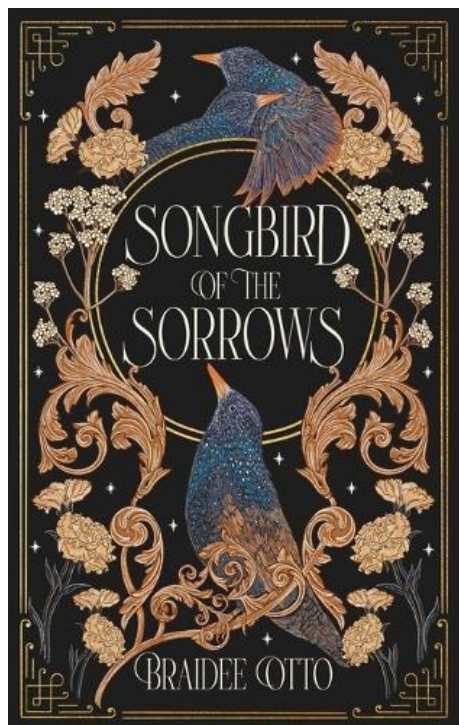
About the Author

Eilis O'Neal wrote her first story when she was three years old (though it was only four sentences long), and her middle name is Arwen, which is what sometimes happens when Tolkien-obsessed parents name children. She is an avid reader, hiker, puzzle-worker, board-gamer, and general geek. Her debut novel, *The False Princess*, was an American Library Association YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Selection, among other honours, and she also worked at the literary magazine Nimrod International Journal for many years. She lives with her husband and two very silly dogs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is always trying to find space for more bookcases in her house.

Songbird of the Sorrows



Braidee Otto



UK Publisher: KDP, June 2024

US Publisher: Dial Press, October 2025

AUS Publisher: PRH Australia, October 2025

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Age: YA/crossover

Extent: 433 pages (UK), 120,000 words (US/AUS)

Material: Final files

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media Japanese Japan Uni

Rights sold

Italian Mondadori Polish Wydawnicwo Niezwykle

Spanish V&R Editoras

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.

Songbird of the Sorrows is the first title in a luscious, vividly painted, Ancient Greece-inspired romantasy quadrology by debut writer Braidee Otto. The saga continues in book two, publishing in Spring 2025.

About the Author

As a self-described hopeless romantic, Braidee Otto's writing style paints vivid imagery, bringing to life lush landscapes, complex characters, and intricate relationships to immerse readers in a world where love, loss, and redemption intertwine. Braidee lives in Adelaide, South Australia, with her partner, two dogs and a recently acquired rescue kitten, and works full-time in the events and arts industries.

Magic No More



Joss Stirling



UK Publisher: KDP, February 2025

Primary Agent: Caroline Walsh

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Clare Israel)

Extent: 516 pages

Age: YA/crossover

Material: Final manuscript

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

Enquire for previous titles and publishers

The City of Oxford, the future... For centuries, the world has been ruled by magicians. The invention of the magic particle solved the environmental problems of the Electric Age, but now that resource is fast running out.

Soon there will be no more magic.

When a dragon belonging to dangerous nobleman, Lord Druze, sets fire to his student rooms in Oxford, college servant Marah is not only injured but unfairly blamed and forced out of her job and her lodgings. With her estranged father having disappeared while overseas, Marah sees no other option than to join Druze's expedition to the Aegean, whereby he intends to find the means to reverse magic's decline. According to him, the solution may lie on the volcanic island home of the dragons. He gathers allies: a shy scholar, a drunken mermaid diver, a taciturn sword master, a crew of pirates, and an irrepressible princess. However, the voyage will be anything but plain sailing as their enemies in the anti-magic faction, the Lamplighters, will do anything to stop them finding the answers they seek.

The journey will change and challenge them all, not least Marah, who discovers that the connection between dragons and magic has bigger personal consequences for her than anyone could possibly have imagined as the injuries she sustained in the fire begin to tip her inexorably from young woman to dragon-winged hybrid...

About the Author

Julia Golding is the award-winning author of over fifty books for children, young adults and adults. She worked as a British diplomat before obtaining a doctorate from Oxford University and deciding to write full-time. Her titles include the award-winning *Cat Royal* series, beginning with *The Diamond of Drury Lane* and, most recently, *The Tigers in the Tower*. An avid Jane Austen fan, Golding's Jane Austen-themed podcast 'What Would Jane Do?' offers a 19th century take on modern life.

Les Normaux: Volume 2

Janine Janssen with S. Al Sabado



UK Publisher: Bloomsbury, October 2025

US Publisher: Avon, October 2025

Primary Agent: Christabel McKinley

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 288 pages

Age: YA/crossover

Material: Final files available June 2025 (available on Webtoon)

Co-agents

Chinese Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese Tuttle-Mori

Rights sold

Brazilian Portuguese Companhia das Letras Dutch Luit-
ingh-Sijthoff French Casterman German Loewe Italian De
Agostini Polish Foksal Spanish Planeta

Option publishers

Portuguese PRH

Les Normaux (Volume 2)

The second instalment in this joyful, queer slice-of-life romance, set in a fantastical version of Paris.

Elia and Sébastien have been spending quality one-on-one time together and growing closer, but the arrival of Elia's loving but controlling family in Paris for a big campaign sweeps him up into their drama and expectations once again. Will their matchmaking attempts drive a wedge between Elia and Sébastien, or will they help Elia finally realise what it is he really wants?

In the meantime, Ronnie and Drew are thrown into one another's orbits again as it turns out Drew is the new bartender at Ronnie's favourite venue. An unofficial turf war begins: but are they squabbling so hard because they can't stand one another – or is it something else entirely?

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.

Also in the series...

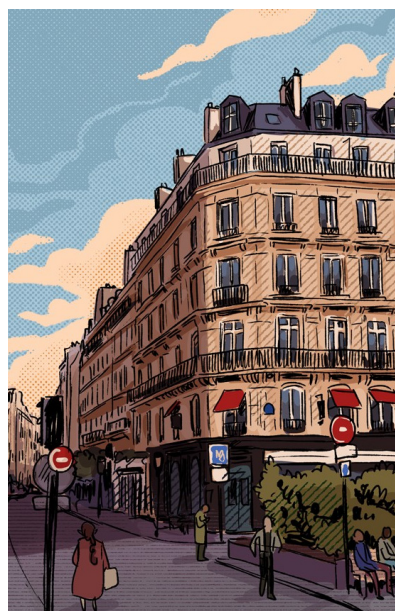


UK Publisher: Bloomsbury,
February 2025

Brazilian Companhia das Letras
Portuguese Luitingh-Sijthoff
Dutch Casterman
French Loewe
German De Agostini
Italian Foksal
Polish PRH
Portuguese Planeta
Spanish

Les Normaux (Volume 1)

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?



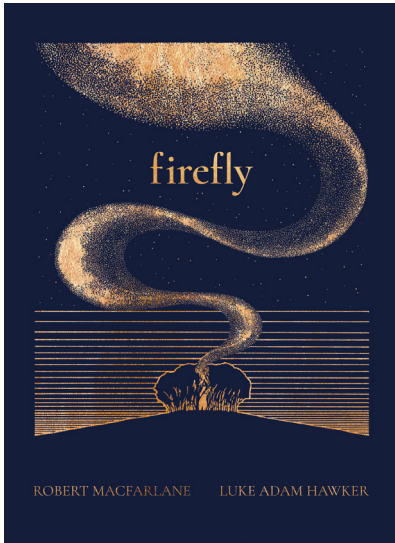
‘*Les Normaux* is one of my favourite webcomics of all time. Featuring a gloriously diverse cast of characters, this story is a celebration of love, friendship, community, and self-expression.’ - [Alice Oseman](#), author of *Heartstopper*

‘With gorgeous art and characters you’ll fall in love with, *Les Normaux* is a delight that will leave readers clamouring for more. It perfectly captures the first flutters of budding romance along with the pure joy of building a found family who love you as you are.’ - [Jessie Mihalik](#), author of *Hunt the Stars*

Night Creatures: Firefly



Robert Macfarlane and Luke Adam Hawker



UK Publisher: Magic Cat Publishing, October 2025

Primary Agent: Jessica Woollard

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Georgie Smith)

Extent: 32 pages

Material: Final files due May 2025

Illustrations: B/W illustrations by Luke Adam Hawker

Co-agents

Chinese Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese Tuttle Mori

All rights available

The first title in the trilogy, *Firefly*, explores the power of hope in a world of shadows and darkness.

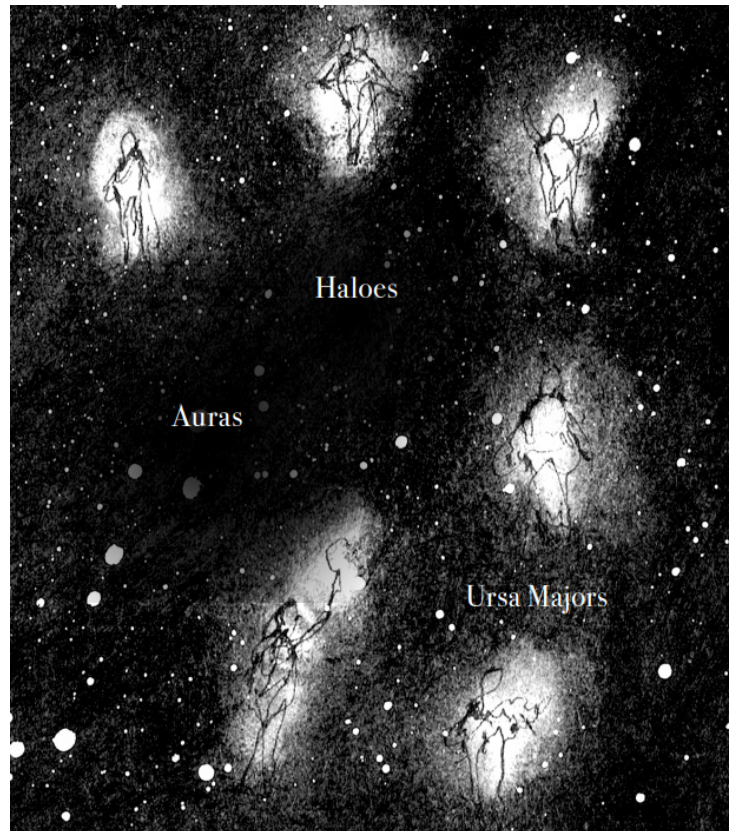
Written in lyrical text and accompanied by Hawker's spellbindingly detailed engravings, the book follows a light-seeking child who one winter night discovers a meadow illuminated by glow-worms: "fallen constellations" that shine like stars among the grasses, setting fears to flight.

Enchanting to read aloud and exquisite to hold in the hand, this book will ignite wonder and hope in readers young and old alike.

About the Authors

Robert Macfarlane is a best-selling, multi-award-winning author who is internationally renowned for his writing on nature, people and place. His work has been translated into thirty languages, won prizes around the world, and his books have been adapted for film, stage and music. Robert is a Fellow and Professor of Environmental Humanities at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Robert has been awarded the Wainwright Prize, E.M. Forster Award and the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal for his collaboration with Jackie Morris. Macfarlane is also this year's winner of the prestigious Thoreau Prize .

Luke Adam Hawker is an artist with a background in Architecture and Design. In 2021, Luke published his first book, *Together* and it quickly became a Sunday Times Best Seller, sold over 130,000 copies in eleven different languages. With a growing presence on social media, Luke has cultivated a loyal audience of over 500k followers.



Film & TV Adaptations



How To Train Your Dragon

Cressida Cowell



A new *How to Train Your Dragon* is getting ready to take flight — in live action!

The film stars Mason Thames, Nico Parker, Nick Frost, Julian Dennison, Gabriel Howell, Bronwyn James, Harry Trevaldwyne, and Ruth Codd, with Gerard Butler reprising his role as Stoick the Vast from the animated films.

How to Train Your Dragon is produced by DreamWorks and distributed by Universal Pictures. It will hit cinemas in the US and the UK on **13 June 2025**.

UK Publisher: Hodder, 2003

Primary Agent: Veronique Baxter

Film/TV Rights: DHA (Nicky Lund)

Extent: 240 pages

Enquire for all publishers and rights sold

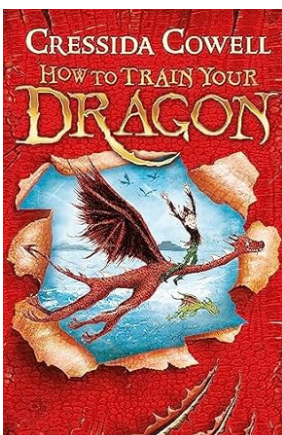
‘The world will need a Hero, and it might as well be you ...’

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third is a smallish Viking with a longish name. Hiccup’s father is chief of the Hairy Hooligan tribe which means Hiccup is the Hope and the Heir to the Hairy Hooligan throne - but most of the time Hiccup feels like a very ordinary boy, finding it hard to be a Hero.

In the first *How to Train Your Dragon* book Hiccup must lead ten novices in their initiation into the Hairy Hooligan Tribe. They have to train their dragons or be banished from the tribe forever!

But what if Hiccup’s dragon resembles an ickle brown bunny with wings? And has no teeth? The Seadragnus Giganticus Maximus is stirring and wants to devour every Viking on the Isle of Berk ...

Can Hiccup save the tribe - and become a Hero?



‘A mix of old-fashioned adventure and delightfully quirky comedy, *How to Train Your Dragon* kick-starts Cowell’s remarkable fantasy series featuring hapless Vikings and their flying reptilian steeds.’ - *Waterstones*

‘Funny, thrilling and ideal for children needing to discover the hero inside themselves.’
- *The Times*

‘Perfect for tricky boy readers, as the action scenes are first-class.’ - *The Sunday Telegraph*

‘Quite simply, Cressida Cowell has an exceptional ability to give children what they like. Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III is a Viking who doesn’t fit in: gawky and geeky, his adventures with his hunting-dragon Toothless are madcap and marvellous. Give it to a child, and see them become engrossed immediately.’ - *The Independent*

