

david higham

literary, film and tv agents

Bologna
Book Fair
2019
Children's
List

[Contents]

For more information please go to our website to browse our shelves and find out more about what we do and who we represent.

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Agents

UK + US Rights: Veronique Baxter; Georgia Glover; Anthony Goff; Caroline Walsh; Sara Langham (maternity cover for Laura West); Jessica Woollard

Film & TV Rights: Clare Israel; Penni Killick; Nicky Lund; Georgina Ruffhead

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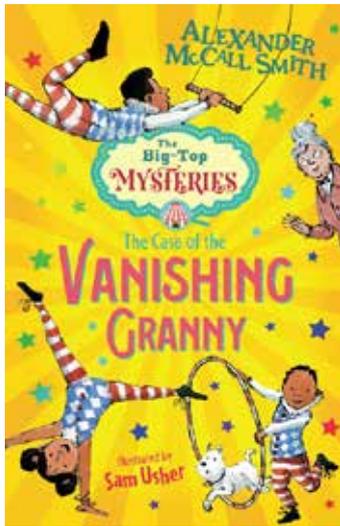
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www.davidhigham.co.uk

[The Case of the Vanishing Granny]

Ages 7-9

Alexander McCall Smith



UK: Barrington Stoke - April 2019

UK Editor: Ailsa Bathgate

US Rights: DHA (CW)

Primary Agent: CW

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (GR)

Additional Info:

Extent - 128 pages

Illustrations - YES (black-and-white illustrations by Sam Usher)

Material Available - final manuscript with illustrations

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg

Associates

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

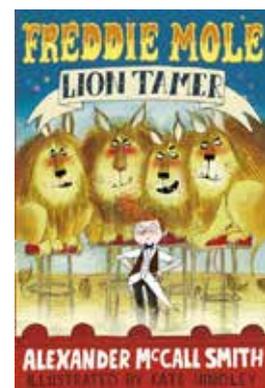
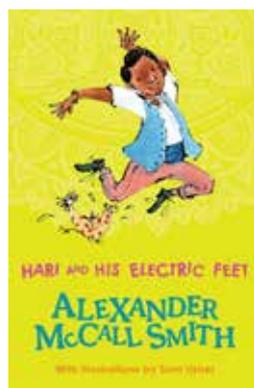
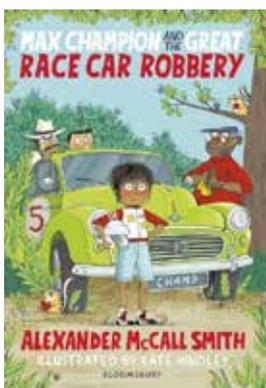
The first in the new *Big Top Mysteries* series following the Shortbread family – professional circus folk and now amateur sleuths!

All Billy, Fern and Joe Shortbread have ever known is circus life. Billy's knack for heights lends itself well to the trapeze act; Holly is a talented gymnast and masquerades as The Elastic Bouncing Girl; and the youngest, Joe, has a natural affinity with animals, particularly his troupe of ten West Highland Terriers.

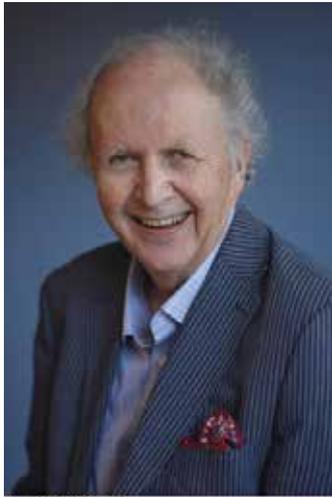
One day at the circus they meet a despondent boy called Tom, who explains that his granny, an avid lover of chocolates, has not been seen in two days. It's up to the Shortbread children and their highly unique skills to help Tom find his missing granny – a journey that takes them deep into the heart of a mysterious chocolate shop...

Alexander McCall Smith is best-known as the author of the internationally acclaimed *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series but has also written more than fifty children's books including *The Perfect Hamburger*, now a Puffin Modern Classic, the *Akimbo* series and the *School Ship Tobermory* series.

Also by Alexander McCall Smith...



Alexander McCall Smith



Alexander McCall Smith
PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Lionstar

UK: Birlinn

- #1 October 2015
- #2 September 2016
- #3 April 2018
- #4 August 2019

Editor: Neville Moir

Primary Agent: CW

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (GR)

Additional Info:

Extent - 240 pages

Illustrations - YES (black-and-white illustrations by Iain McIntosh)

Material Available - unedited manuscript in May 2019

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

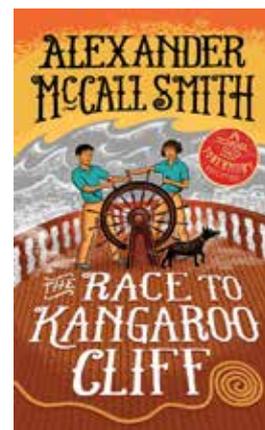
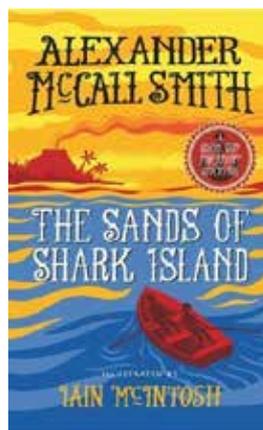
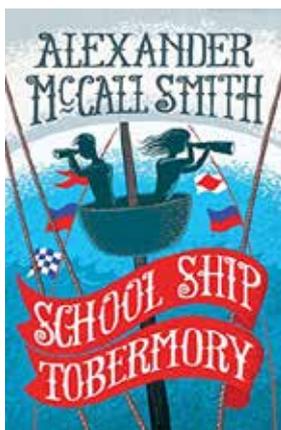
The next instalment in the *School Ship Tobermory* series - follow the exploits of the children who go to a most unusual sail-powered school!

#1 *School Ship Tobermory*: When a film crew arrives in Tobermory Bay, Ben is invited to be an extra. But their suspicions are soon aroused - is the film crew genuine, or are they up to something sinister? Ben and Fee soon discover the truth when they uncover a dastardly plan masterminded by a South American businessman...

#2 *The Sands of Shark Island*: It's not long before Ben and Fee find themselves, their fellow students and the crew of the Tobermory embroiled in another adventure. This one leads them thousands of miles from Mull to a small island in the Caribbean, where they learn extraordinary details about Captain Macbeth's past and come face to face with modern-day pirates...

#3 *The Race to Kangaroo Cliff*: The School Ship Tobermory crew head down under to take part in a tall ships race, but after a good start the Tobermory drops out to rescue a local boy, Will, stranded on the rocks. When the ship's dog Henry disappears, Will helps Ben, Fee and their friends find him. But as the trail leads them deeper into the Outback, they begin to realize that a missing dog is the least of their problems...

#4 *The Secret of the Dark Waterfall*: The students of School Ship Tobermory set sail for some remote Scottish islands. The mystery they uncover surrounds the fate of a long lost sunken Spanish galleon. Hundreds of years may have elapsed since it went down, but interest in the treasure it was carrying is far from over. The excitement of the last three books in the series is every bit as intense as we rejoin Ben and Fee and their friends on The Tobermory.



[Aribella and the Mask of Fire]

Ages 8-12

Anna Houghton



Aribella lives in a floating city of mystery and masks, but she is about to discover that the biggest mystery of all is hidden in her past

Aribella never feels like she fits in on Burano island, where she lives with her silent, mourning Papa and kind-hearted, best friend Theo. On her thirteenth birthday, she does the unbelievable - and sets herself on fire with nothing but her bare hands. That night, a man in a star mask appears and whisks Aribella away to initiate her into the secret world of the Cannovacci. A centuries-old society of people with special powers who protect Venice, they live at the enchanting Halfway Hotel. There's a guard lion, gondolas galore, magical masks, powerful friends, never-ending pastries, and a curious door in the dungeons...

UK: Chicken House - September 2019

UK Editor: Rachel Leyshon

US Rights: Chicken House

Primary Agent: CW

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (CI)

Additional Info:

Extent - 65,000 words

Illustrations - NO

Material Available - unedited manuscript

Rights Sold:

All Rights Available

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese - Japan Uni

Aribella is delighted to have found a home there but, under the glittering surface, a great darkness threatens Venice, and the Cannovacci are the only ones powerful enough to stop it. Can Aribella prove the threat to Venice is real and protect innocent people like Theo and Papa? And what happens when she uncovers secrets that even she would rather were left in the depths of the lagoon?

Anna Houghton has an MA in Writing for Young People from Bath Spa University and has worked as a bookseller. She was nominated for the Lancelot Andrewes Poetry Award by Carol Ann Duffy and, in 2016, she was one of fifteen leading U.K. poets commissioned by Bristol Festival of Ideas. Anna is also a filmmaker (writer/director), and her latest environmental-action short film, 'Never Land' won 'Best Narrative' in the shorts category at the 2018 Women in Film and Television International film festival.

Susie Day



Meet Max. He's got three little sisters, a missing dad, and now he has to slay a dragon...

Max is always in trouble. At school, it's for fighting, and at home he's always getting blamed by his younger sisters. Even his best mate's posh mum (her with the second home in Wales) thinks he's a bad influence. Only his bruiser of a Dad understands him. Dad's proud that Max is a proper boy's boy. Now Mum's gone (knocked down by a car less than a year ago), Dad says Max has to step up; look after the girls. But then Dad gets involved in handling stolen goods and has to disappear – leaving Max with a roll of cash and a promise to be back soon. When social services come knocking, Max takes off with the girls to his mate's Welsh holiday cottage: no one will look for them there.

UK: Penguin Random House - September 2019

UK Editor: Ruth Knowles

US Rights: DHA (CW)

Primary Agent: CW

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (PK)

Additional Info:

Extent - 256pp

Illustrations - NO

Material Available - edited manuscript

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Rights sold:

Italian - Mondadori

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

A damp little house in a tiny village isn't quite what he'd pictured, but with help from the locals they settle in. And Max has a plan: he's heard about the legend of the dragon that lives on the local mountain, guarding a lake of gold. Max will climb the mountain, slay the dragon, and scoop up the gold. His Dad will be so proud.

What could possibly go wrong?

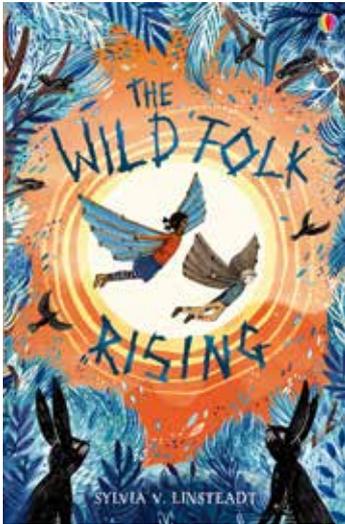
Susie Day grew up by the seaside in Penarth, Wales, and has a BA and Masters in English Literature from Oxford University. Her first book, *Whump!...In which Bill Falls 632 Miles Down A Manhole*, won the BBC Children's Fiction Prize and was serialised on Radio 4. She has since written many novels for middle grade, including the *Pea's Book of Best Friends* series and *The Secrets of the Superglue Sisters* series, both published by Random House. She has also written for teenagers, including *Big Wool!*, *Girl Meets Cake* and *The Twice-Lived Summer of Bluebell Jones*.

"A beautifully written, emotional story to make you laugh and cry." - Jacqueline Wilson

[The Wild Folk Rising]

Ages 8-12

Sylvia Linsteadt



UK: Usborne - May 2019
UK Editor: Anne Finnis
US Rights: DHA (JW)
Primary Agent: JW
Translation Rights: DHA
Film/TV Rights: DHA (PK)

Additional Info:

Extent - 350pp
Illustrations - NO
Material Available - copy-edited manuscript

Option Publishers:

German - WooW
Turkish - Yabancı Yayinlari

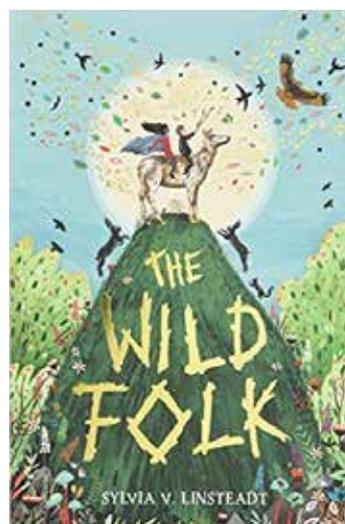
Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates
Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

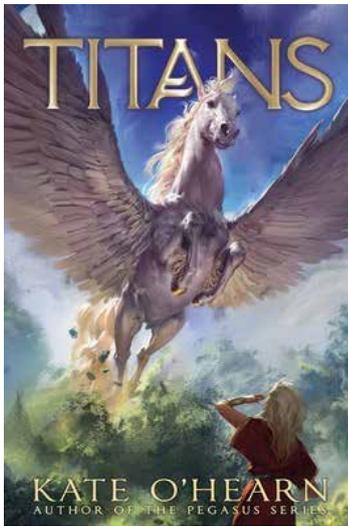
The second instalment in the magical Stargold Chronicles

The City Brothers thought the Country a barren place. Now they know it's teeming with stargold. Country girl Comfrey and City boy Tin must save the magical Wild Folk from their evil clutches. On a journey from the deadly Underworld to the highest mountain, they'll need all their courage and ingenuity to stop the devastation of the land they love.

Sylvia Linsteadt writes a column about land and myth for Earthlines and contributes to New California Writing and The Dark Mountain Project. She won the James D Phelan Literary Award from the San Francisco Foundation for her short story collection *The Gray Fox Epistles* and her novel *Tatterdemalion* illustrated by Rima Staines was published in the UK by Unbound (2017).



Kate O'Hearn



The hotly anticipated new opus from the author of the six-book *Pegasus* series

Fifteen years after Olympus was destroyed, there is peace between the Titans and Olympians – but it is shaky. So a new school to educate both Titan and Olympian students together is built. Could this be the solution?

Arcadia is about to open and hopes are high. But not everything is as it seems. Astraea, the strong willed granddaughter of Hyperion, overhears her parents talking – Hyperion has been seen with a human woman. But all routes to Earth are closed and humans are banned on Titus. How did the woman get there and are there more?

US: Simon & Schuster Children's
July 2019

Editor: Fiona Simpson

Primary Agent: VB

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (PK)

Additional Info:

Extent - 352 pages

Illustrations - NO

Material Available - copy-edited manuscript

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

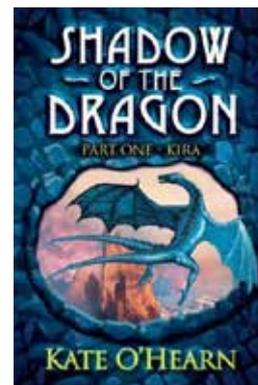
Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

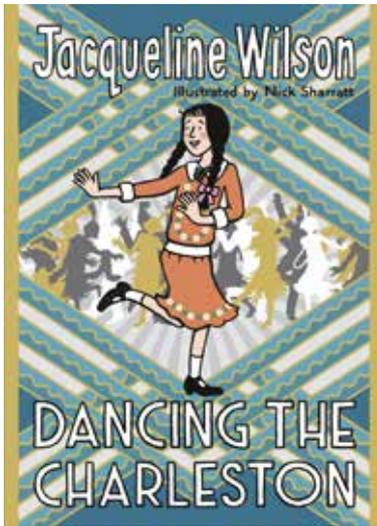
Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

With her friends, Zephyr (Pegasus's niece) and Jake, (a young human who appears on Titus with no idea how he got there) they uncover a deadly plot that could destroy everything unless they find a way to stop it. Titus has a new enemy. But is it an outsider, or a conspiracy from within?

Kate O'Hearn is the author of twelve novels which include the *Pegasus* series, the *Valkyrie* trilogy and the *Shadow of the Dragon* duology. The *Pegasus* series has sold over 700,000 copies to date in the English-language alone and been translated into nine languages. *Pegasus and the Flame* has over 6,000 ratings on Goodreads with an average of 4.24 stars; *Pegasus and the New Olympians* was chosen as part of the Richard and Judy Children's promotion in 2012; *Pegasus and the Origins of Olympus* was shortlisted for the Rotherham Children's Book Award in 2013 and *Valkyrie* won the Wirral Schools Library Service Award.



Jacqueline Wilson



UK: Penguin Random House - April 2019

UK Editor: Kelly Hurst

US Rights: DHA (CW)

Primary Agent: CW

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (GR)

Additional Info:

Extent - 480pp

Illustrations - YES (black and white illustrations by Nick Sharratt)

Material Available - final manuscript

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

A fantastic historical standalone that takes us to rural Britain in the roaring 1920s, in the tradition of *Hetty Feather* and *Wave Me Goodbye*

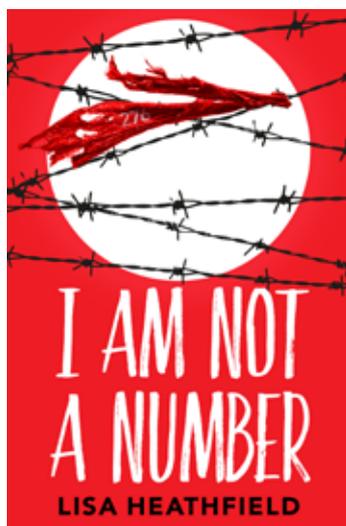
Mona and her aunt live in a little cottage on the edge of the Somerset estate, where her aunt sews wonderful dresses for the lady of the house. Mona never knew her mother or father, but Auntie has always looked after her - and Mona knows she can always talk to her mum where she lies in the village graveyard.

When Lady Somerset dies and a new member of the Somerset family inherits the house, things begin to change for Mona. She has never really fitted in anywhere, but the new Bohemian atmosphere at the house offers opportunities for her to shine - and to find new friends. Dancing at fancy Sea Creature balls and trips to London are wonderful new experiences - but new experiences sometimes bring revelations and Mona discovers there are secrets in her past she can't dance away from.

Dame Jacqueline Wilson is a multi-award-winning author and consistent favourite with children and critics. A former Children's Laureate, Jacqueline has won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award and the Children's Book of the Year Award. The CBBC adaptation of *The Story of Tracy Beaker* is one of the channel's highest-rating shows ever. Jacqueline is a visiting professor of creative writing at Roehampton University 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.

Nick Sharratt has now illustrated close to 250 books. He's worked with a number of exceptional authors including Julia Donaldson, Jeremy Strong, Michael Rosen, Giles Andreae, Kaye Umansky and most notably, Dame Jacqueline Wilson. He's also written around 40 of his own books and was the official World Book day illustrator in 2006. He's also the proud recipient of a gold Blue Peter badge.

Lisa Heathfield



The Traditional Party promised a happier future for everyone. They didn't promise this...

The Traditionals have been voted to lead the country, winning people over with talks of healing a broken society, of stronger families and safer streets. They promised a happier future for everyone. They didn't promise this.

When Ruby is swept up with protesters from the opposition, her life is changed forever. Locked in a prison camp far from home and with her belongings taken from her, she's now known by the number 276. With horror escalating in the camp, Ruby knows that she has to get her family out - and let the world know what's happening.

Set in the present day, *I Am Not A Number* is a powerful and timely book for both young adults and adults alike.

Lisa Heathfield lives in Brighton with her husband and three sons. Before becoming a mum, she was a secondary school English teacher and loved inspiring teenagers to read. Her debut novel, *Seed*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2016 as well as longlisted for the Branford Boase Award that same year. Her second novel, *Paper Butterflies*, was shortlisted for the YA Book Prize in 2017.

UK: Egmont - June 2019
Editor: Sarah Levison
Primary Agent: VB
Translation Rights: DHA
Film/TV Rights: DHA (PK)

Additional Info:
 Extent - 320 pages
 Illustrations - NO
 Material Available - edited manuscript available

Option Publishers:
 Czech - Albatros
 German - Carlsen
 Hungarian - Cicero
 Italian - Newton Compton
 Slovak - Albatros
 Thai - Post Publishing Group

Subagents:
 Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media
 Japanese - Tuttle-Mori



William Hussey



UK: Usborne - June 2020
UK Editor: Stephanie King
US Rights: DHA (VB)
Primary Agent: VB
Translation Rights: DHA
Film/TV Rights: DHA (CI)

Additional Info:

Extent - 288 pages
Illustrations - NO
Material Available - unedited manuscript

Rights Sold:

All Rights Available

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates
Japanese - Japan Uni

A blockbuster thriller, this is LOVE SIMON meets 13 REASONS WHY

When Dylan and Ellis' secret relationship is exposed on social media, Dylan is forced to come out. To Dylan's surprise they are met with support and congratulations, and an amazing reception at their high school dance. Perhaps people aren't as narrow-minded as he thought?

But Dylan's happiness is short-lived. Ellis suddenly becomes angry, withdrawn, and as they drive home from the dance, he loses control of the car, sending it plunging into Hunter's Lake. Barely conscious, Dylan is pulled free of the wreck, while Ellis is left to drown. Grief stricken, Dylan vows to discover what happened to Ellis that night and piece together the last months of his boyfriend's life – and realises just how little he knew about the boy he loved.

A love story that will prove stronger than either grief or hatred.

William Hussey is the award-winning author of six books for children and Young Adults. As a gay man and a visiting author, he has spoken to hundreds of LGBTQ+ students, both in UK schools and worldwide. Hearing their stories of modern intolerance, prejudice and the tragic consequences this has can lead to, he has written what he hopes is not only a moving love story but a raw and powerful reflection of the experience of gay teens today.

'A very addictive read, all of it woven together really cleverly. And such a poignant ending!'

Michelle Harrison, author of THE THIRTEEN TREASURES

'Bloody brilliant. The writing is very assured, and the characters are fantastic. Dylan is a wonderful creation. The twists and turns kept me guessing throughout. The YA world will welcome it with open arms!'

Jo Cotterill, author of JELLY

'I thought I'd read the first couple of chapters of your book this morning, and the next thing I knew it was lunchtime and my partner was asking why I was crying! I spent the rest of the day finishing it. I loved it! I think it's a wonderful novel. Honest and raw and powerful, as well as compulsively readable.'

Alex Bell, author of FROZEN CHARLOTTE

Jenny Valentine



UK: HarperCollins - Spring 2020
UK Editor: Rachel Denwood
US Rights: Philomel Books
US Editor: Liza Kaplan Montanino
Primary Agent: VB
Translation Rights: DHA
Film/TV Rights: DHA (GR)

Additional Info:

Extent - 45,000 words
 Illustrations - NO
 Material Available - unedited manuscript

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media
 Japanese - Tuttle-Mori



'11.33 was the quiet before the storm, the lull before the penny dropped, the last in-breath of life, as I knew it anyway. And then the miracle. Then Novo.'

Twins Jude and Dulcie can't believe their bad luck. They're moving from their home in London to a new life in Cornwall, to the house of an extremely odd and mysterious distant relative, Henry Lake, who lives right in the middle of it with his budgie, Charlie Parker, and the largest map of the World Jude has ever seen, jam-packed with colour-coded pins.

Dulcie is angry and Jude is bored, spending summer mornings hitting a tennis ball against the wall. All this changes at 11.34 exactly on the 1st July when a battered black car stops in the middle of the road and out steps Novo, the most beautiful boy Jude has ever seen. Jude is instantly attracted to him and thinks everyone else must feel it too. But to the people of the town Novo is simply a glimpse out of the corner of the eye and then gone from their thoughts forever. When Novo realises that Jude can both see and remember him, the two begin an intense and unforgettable relationship, Novo showing Jude things that were previously unimaginable. And Jude, named after the Patron Saint of Lost Causes, can't help but go along for the ride.

But why is Jude the only one who can see him? Who is Novo? Why is he here NOW and what will happen to Jude and to Novo when something so terrible occurs that time needs to be unpicked and begun all over again?

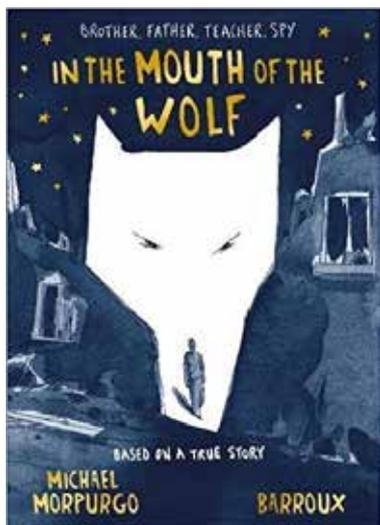
Jenny Valentine's previous careers include salesperson in a wholefood shop, teaching assistant and jewellery maker. Her debut novel, *Finding Violet Park* (2007), was awarded the annual Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, and sold into 16 territories. She followed this with *Broken Soup* (2008) which was shortlisted for the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize and the Costa Children's Book Award. She lives with her singer/songwriter husband and two children in Glasbury-on-Wye in Wales.

david higham

literary, film and tv agents

**Recent
Highlights**

Michael Morpurgo



UK: Egmont - May 2018

UK Editor: Ali Dougal

US Rights: DHA (VB)

Primary Agent: VB

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: Marc Berlin Associates

Additional Info:

Extent - 160 pages

Illustrations - YES (black-and-white illustrations by Barroux)

Material Available - final PDF

Rights Sold:

French - Gallimard Jeunesse

Italian - Rizzoli

Japanese - Akane Shobo

Korean - Balgeunmirae Publishing

Spanish (World) - Ediciones Siruela

Turkish - Cinar

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

One soldier. One spy. A true story of two brothers in a terrible war.

Michael Morpurgo's wonderful storytelling and Barroux's stunning artwork combine to tell the true story of Michael's uncles against the epic backdrop of World War Two.

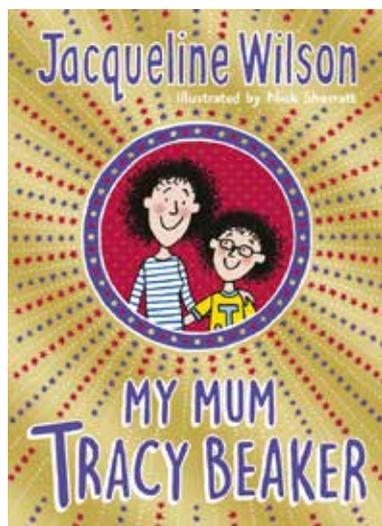
Francis and Pieter are brothers. As the shadow of one war lingers, and the rumbles of another approach, the brothers argue. Francis is a fierce pacifist, while Pieter signs up to fight. What happens next will change the course of Francis's life forever . . . and throw him into the mouth of the wolf.

This is the true story of Michael's uncle, Francis Cammaerts, as he experiences the devastating impact of WW2 and the knife-edge danger of life in the Resistance. A dream collaboration between an award-winning author and a critically-acclaimed artist, with over 100 breathtaking illustrations - *In the Mouth of the Wolf* will be an object to treasure.

Michael Morpurgo, OBE, is the best-selling author of over 140 books for children. Michael was appointed Children's Laureate in May 2003, a post he helped to set up with his friend Ted Hughes in 1999. He was awarded an OBE for services to Literature in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2007 and a knighthood in January 2018.

Barroux was born in Paris but spent much of his childhood in North Africa. He later attended art school in France. His books include *Uncle John and the Giant Cherry Tree*, which won the 2005 *Enfantaïsie Award*, and *Line of Fire, Diary of An Unknown*, which received widespread critical acclaim. His stunning book *Where's the Elephant?* was longlisted for the Kate Greenway Medal 2016.

Jacqueline Wilson



UK: Doubleday, Penguin Random House - October 2018

UK Editor: Kelly Hurst

US Rights: DHA (CW)

Primary Agent: CW

Translation Rights: DHA

Film/TV Rights: DHA (GR)

Additional Info:

Extent - 350 pages

Illustrations - YES (black-and-white illustrations by Nick Sharratt)

Material Available - final PDF

Rights Sold:

Czech - BB Art

Slovak - Slovart

Ukrainian - Navchalna Knyha

Enquire for All Titles and Previous Publishers

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

Imagine if Tracy Beaker was your mum...

Jacqueline Wilson's most famous creation, Tracy Beaker, is all grown up and now mum to Jess. But what is it like to have Tracy for a parent? Jess couldn't really be more different from her unpredictable mum, though - worst luck - she's inherited Tracy's untameable hair....

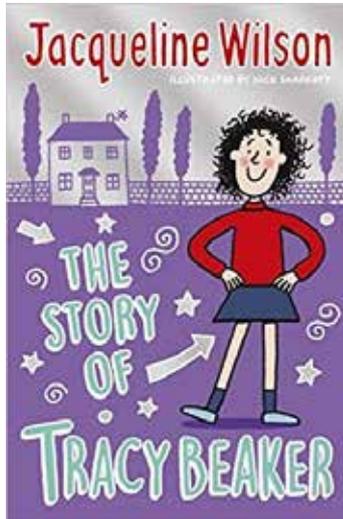
Dame Jacqueline Wilson is a multi-award-winning author and consistent favourite with children and critics. A former Children's Laureate, Jacqueline has won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award and the Children's Book of the Year Award. The CBBC adaptation of *The Story of Tracy Beaker* is one of the channel's highest-rating shows ever. Jacqueline is a visiting professor of creative writing at Roehampton University 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.

Nick Sharratt has now illustrated close to 250 books. He's worked with a number of exceptional authors including Julia Donaldson, Jeremy Strong, Michael Rosen, Giles Andreae, Kaye Umansky and most notably, Dame Jacqueline Wilson. He's also written around 40 of his own books and was the official World Book day illustrator in 2006. He's also the proud recipient of a gold Blue Peter badge.

This new instalment is the fourth title following the mischievous Tracy Beaker - have you read the others yet? Turn to the next page for a quick recap, recently reissued with shiny new covers...

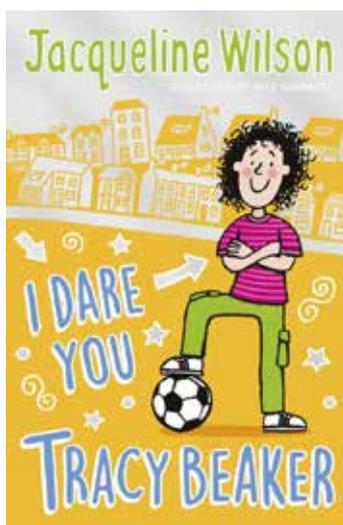
Jacqueline Wilson

More adventures with Tracy...



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

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



'I'm Tracy Beaker, the Great Inventor of Extremely Dangerous Dares - and I dare you to read a more brilliant story than this!'

I've bought a big fat purple notebook for writing down all my mega-manic ultra-scary stories in. But especially for my own story. Of how my foster-mum, Cam, has turned out to be a real meanie. No designer clothes, when I really need them. A pokey flat, and a horrible new school. No wonder I bunk off! Still, it will have to do until my real mum comes and gets me. And until then, no-one is going to be better at the Dare Game than Tracy Beaker!



Tracy Beaker is back - and she's just desperate for a role in her school play. They're performing A Christmas Carol and for one extremely worrying moment, the irrepressible Tracy thinks she might not even get to play one of the unnamed street urchins. But then she is cast in the main role. Can she manage to act grumpy, difficult and sulky enough to play Ebenezer Scrooge? Well, she does have a bit of help on that front from Justine Pain-In-The-Bum Littlewood...

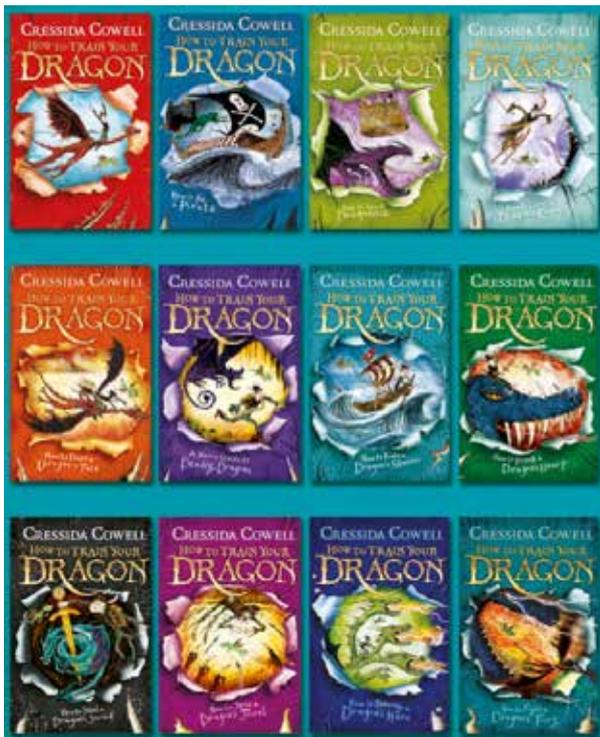
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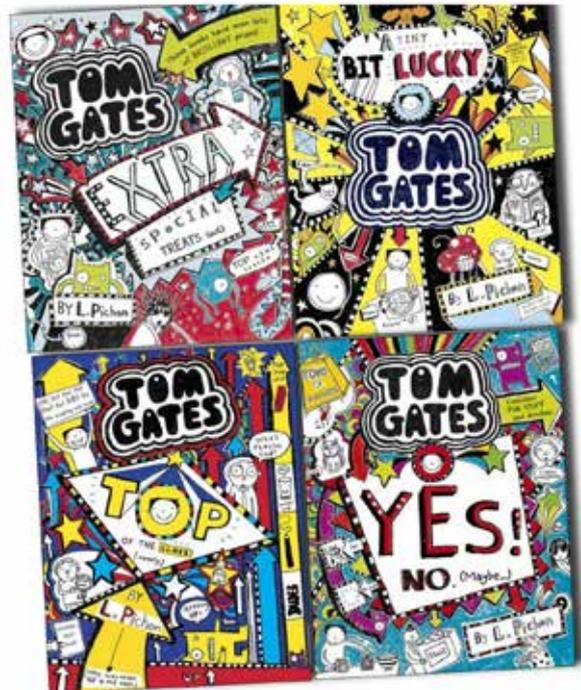
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The inspiration for three box office-busting films by Dreamworks Animation

'Pichon's books are bursting with humour and you can tell it comes from real experiences and observations.' Martin Chilton, The Telegraph

Currently touring the UK as Tom Gates Live on Stage with the Birmingham Stage Co.

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[Centenary Celebrations 2020]

**2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of renowned children's historical writer
Rosemary Sutcliff**



Rosemary Sutcliff was born in 1920 in Surrey, England, the child of a naval officer which led to the family's frequent relocation in her youth. Severely disabled by Still's disease, a form of juvenile arthritis, which resulted in wheelchair use for the rest of her life, Rosemary was home-schooled by her mother for most of her formative years, only fully learning to read at the age of 9. Her parents were avid readers and storytellers and this led to a childhood of immersion in Celtic and Saxon legends, Icelandic sagas, fairy tales and the stories of Rudyard Kipling.

At age 14, Rosemary enrolled in the Bideford Art School in Devon, where she spent three years specialising in painting miniatures. Although she passed the City and Guilds General Art Course and became a qualified miniaturist, she soon turned to writing. Shortly after the Second World War, she sent a retelling of Celtic and Saxon legends to Oxford University Press. Although the manuscript was rejected, they subsequently commissioned her to write a retelling of Robin Hood for children. This, along with another book, *The Queen Elizabeth Story*, was published in 1950.

This was the beginning of an illustrious and decorated career as a writer of historical fiction. In 1959 she won the prestigious Carnegie Medal for her novel *The Lantern Bearers*, set in Roman Britain, and was runner up again in 1972 for her retelling of the legend *Tristan and Iseult*. Her take on the legend of Arthur for adults, *Sword at Sunset*, was a bestseller in the UK. Her Roman saga, beginning with *The Eagle of the Ninth*, has never been out of print and was made into a major film adaptation in 2011, 'The Eagle', starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

In 1975, she was awarded the OBE for services to children's literature. She was awarded the CBE in 1992, the year of her death. With over 50 books to her credit, including her autobiography *Blue Remembered Hills*, Rosemary Sutcliff is now universally considered one of the finest writers of historical novels for children, young adults and, as she put it, all children aged 8 to 88.

Praise for Rosemary Sutcliff:

"An impish ... irreverent writer of genius" – *The Guardian*

"An extraordinarily rich, exciting and poetic writer" – *The Times*

"(Sutcliff has) an extraordinary capacity for recreating a visual and emotional picture, many textured ...her prose is palpably alive" – *Times Literary Supplement*

"Rosemary Sutcliff's mastery of her chosen vein of writing is complete, beyond praise..." – *Times Literary Supplement*

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