

FIREFLY PRESS

London & Bologna Rights Guide 2020

Represented by Margot Edwards Rights Consultancy

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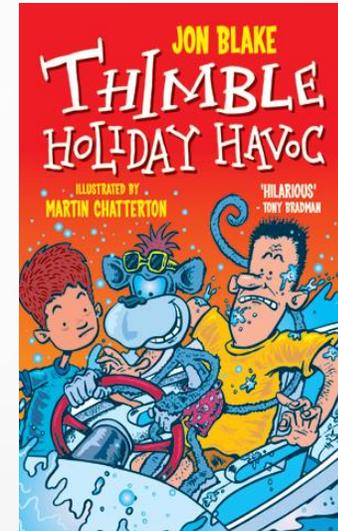
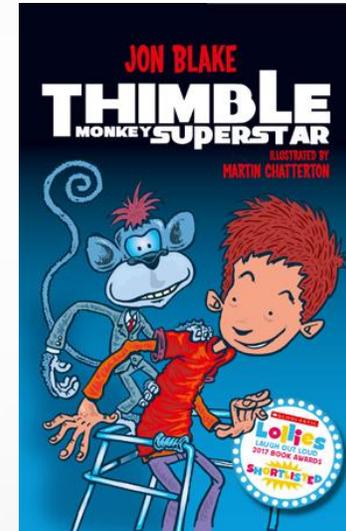
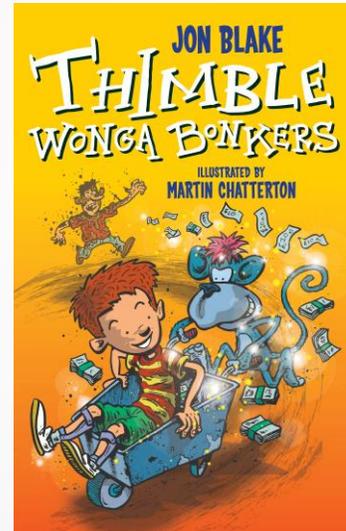
THIMBLE WONGA BONKERS

by Jon Blake Illustrated by Martin Chatterton

ages 7-9 world Rights

- Third hilarious slapstick comedy in the 2017 Lollies (Laugh-out-loud Award) shortlisted *Thimble Monkey Superstar* series.
- Positive depiction of a disabled protagonist, based on the author's own son.
- Readers will love the madcap antics of Thimble the monkey and his victim, the hapless Dad.
- **Summary:**

Mum goes away on a spa week, leaving Dad to look after their son Jams, and pet monkey Thimble. But after Mum gives Thimble the shopping money everything goes bananas! Can Jams save the day when Dad decides to sell his soul to repay their debts?



Why we love this book:

Disabled protagonist Jams is the one who must rescue Dad, when he fails to see the funny side of Thimble's laugh-out-loud, but very expensive, adventures, and who manages the apparently impossible by bringing his family together in a heart-warming display of unity.

Pub date: February 2020; 168 pp, Rights: World ex audio (Audible)

THIMBLE MONKEY SUPERSTAR

- Selected for the **Summer Reading Challenge 2017** and **Toppsta Summer Reading Guide 2017**
- 'Madcap humour, corny one-liners and ludicrous situations abound in this light-hearted chapter book... The illustrations are suitably wild and wacky and the short, snappy text make this an accessible and fast-paced adventure.' **BookTrust**
- 'It's very funny and the text positively bristles with jokes and snappy one-liners, the butt of most of them being Jams' hapless dad. Nicely divided into satisfying chapters and full of Martin Chatterton's wonderful bug-eyed illustrations, this is easy and addictive reading.' **Andrea Reece, Lovereading4kids**
- 'A charming and funny book' **Toppsta**

THIMBLE HOLIDAY HAVOC

- **Shortlisted for the Sully Diversity Book Awards 2019**
- 'Hilarious! Another great book from a great author and illustrator team.' **Tony Bradman**
- 'Written in short episodic chapters full of the off-the-wall, wacky humour that children just love. Witty one liners, plays on words, cringeworthy incidents, ludicrous situations and comical misunderstanding will have readers laughing out loud at the silliness of it all.' **Carousel**

THIMBLE WONGA BONKERS

- "Some books come perfectly pitched at children's humour ... and the adventures of Jams and his mischievous monkey certainly hit the spot! There won't be a dry eye (tears of laughter, not tears of despair) in the house as one boy and his manic monkey steal the show again in Jon Blake's third riotously funny Thimble the monkey story which comes packed with brilliant one-liners, zany antics and the funniest dad this side of story time ... And what makes these stories extra special is that Jams has cerebral palsy and is based on Blake's own son who has the same condition. But Jams' disability does not define him in these adventures, instead offering a positive portrayal of a boy with the neurological disorder." – **Lancashire Post**

CRATER LAKE

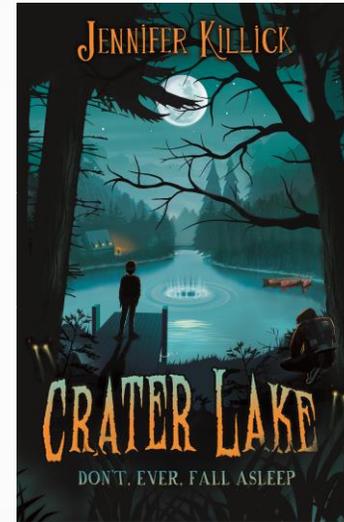
by Jennifer Killick

middle-grade World Rights ex audio (Bolinda), French rights in negotiation
March 2020: 8-12: 286 pp

- First in a potential series MG scifi 'horror'; featuring a bunch of very brave Year Sixes and one very scary outdoor activity centre
- For fans of *Stranger Things* – weird, edge-of-the-seat adventure
- Fifth title by topselling Firefly author Jennifer Killick (Alex Sparrow series, *Mo*, *Lottie and the Junkers*)
- Author selected four times for the Summer Reading Challenge
- **Summary:**

It could be the mysterious bloodstained man who tries to stop their coach, or the fact no one seems to be around at the brand-new activity centre when Lance and the rest of his class arrive for the Year 6 school trip, but something is definitely not right at Crater Lake!

What follows is a fight for survival that sees five pupils band together to save their classmates from an alien fate far worse than death. But whatever happens, they must Never, Ever fall asleep!



**It's your first day at Crater Lake, and possibly your last.
Just make sure you Never. Ever. Fall asleep!**

Why we love Jennifer Killick:

However funny, scary and compelling her MG adventures, her Year Six protagonists can learn from their differences and overcome their foes with bravery and heart-warming loyalty. This is a stand out, stand alone, edge of the seat adventure from a first-class children's writer.

******Times Children's Book of the Week: Howlingly funny horror for beginners. A joyous novel ... with a fine ear for comic dialogue.* Alex O'Connell, The Times**

MY NAME IS RIVER

by Emma Rae

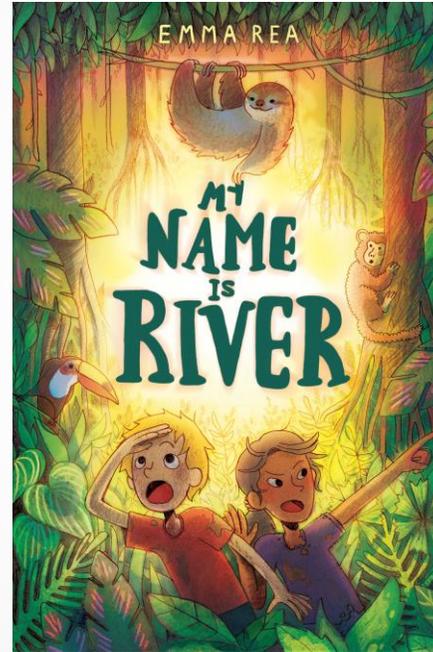
middle-grade 8-12 World & audio rights June 2020 304pp

Dylan's mum thinks he's with his friends on a residential geography trip.

His geography teacher thinks he's at home with flu.

In fact, Dylan is 33,000 feet above the ocean on his way to Brazil...

When Dylan overhears his dad say that their farm has been sold to a global pharmaceutical company, he decides he has to make them change their minds. In Brazil, things don't go at all to plan. Only when Lucia – a street child armed with a puppy and a thesaurus – saves his life, do they start to uncover the shocking truth about what the company is up to, and Dylan's home problems suddenly seem dangerously far away.



- Thrilling adventure story – with brilliantly researched and evocative locations
- Powerful ecological theme
- Strong and funny lead characters – Dylan, a farmer's son from Wales, and Lucia, a Brazilian street child
- For readers of Katherine Rundell, Christopher Edge, Michael Morpurgo

THE MIDNIGHT SWAN

by Catherine Fisher

middle-grade World Rights

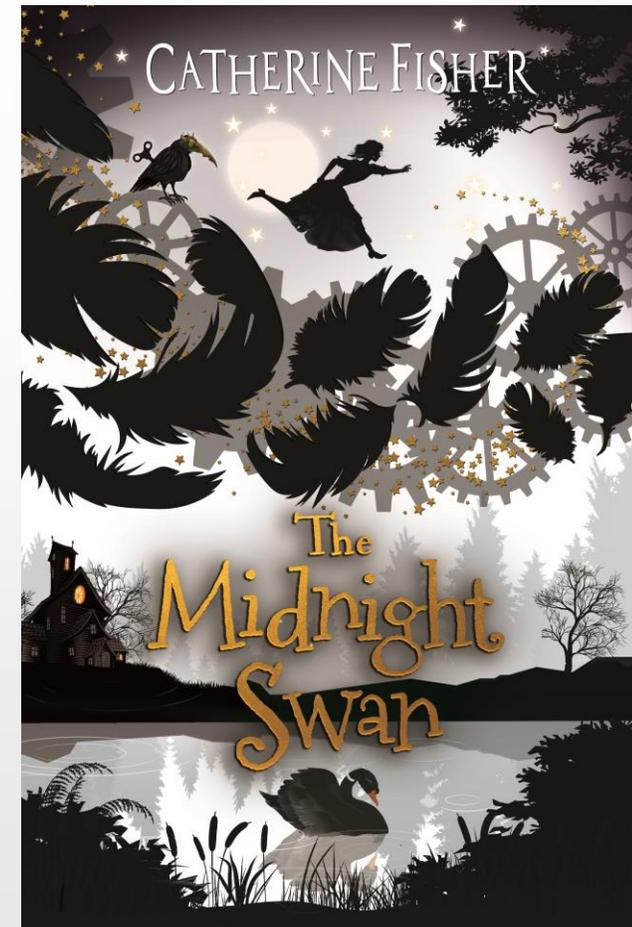
October 2020: 252pp; World rights ex [see list below]

- **Third in the magical Clockwork Crow trilogy**
- The series has so far sold into the US, China, Russia, Scandinavia, Turkey and Iran.

Summary:

- With an invisible girl, a parliament of owls and a pen that writes by itself, the journey to the garden of the Midnight Swan might be Seren's most dangerous adventure yet.
- in this third book of the award-winning *Clockwork Crow* series, Seren and Tomos must try to help the Crow find the way back to his human form. But why is Captain Jones enquiring about Seren's past? How have the sinister Fair Family gate-crashed the Midsummer Ball, and what is the one desire of the mysterious Midnight Swan?
- **Praise for the series:**

'Full of deep fairytale resonance, Fisher's writing stands out in the mind's eye like blood drops on snow.' Imogen Russell Williams, *Guardian*



THE VELVET FOX

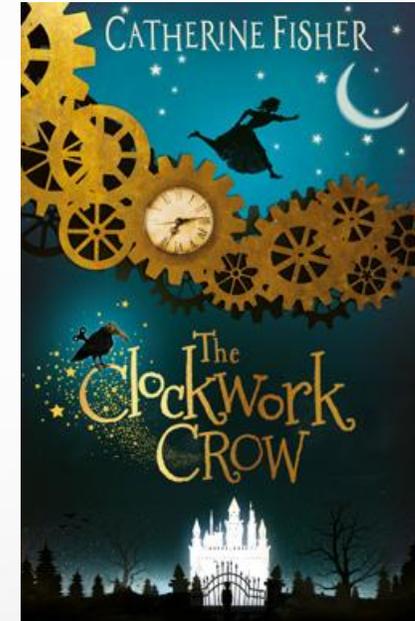
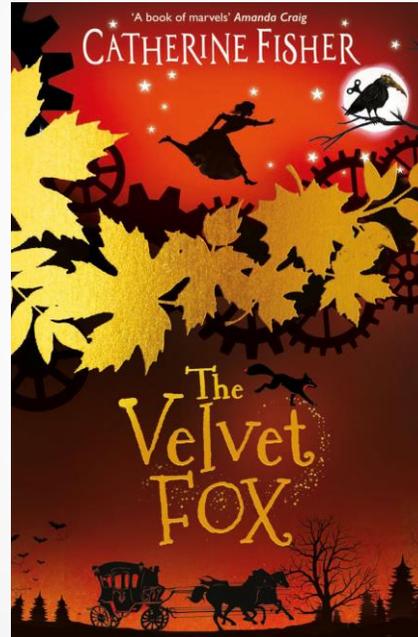
by Catherine Fisher

middle-grade World Rights see sales below

- Sequel to the highly acclaimed, Blue Peter Book Award shortlisted *The Clockwork Crow* (Firefly Oct 2018), with sales of more than 8000.
- Thrilling magical story for 8-12s by top fantasy writer Catherine Fisher (*Incarceron*)

After rescuing Tomos from enchantment, orphan Seren Rhys is enjoying her first summer at Plas-y-Fran. But as autumn arrives, it brings with it a mysterious new governess who seems intent on drawing Tomos away from Seren and his family. Dangerous figures from a bewitched toy carousel stalk the house and, fearing the worst, Seren calls on the clockwork crow to help her. But can he reach her in time, and will Tomos be able to escape the magical creatures threatening to ensnare him, led by the Velvet Fox?

- Rights sold : Audio, China, Finland, Germany, Iran, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, USA

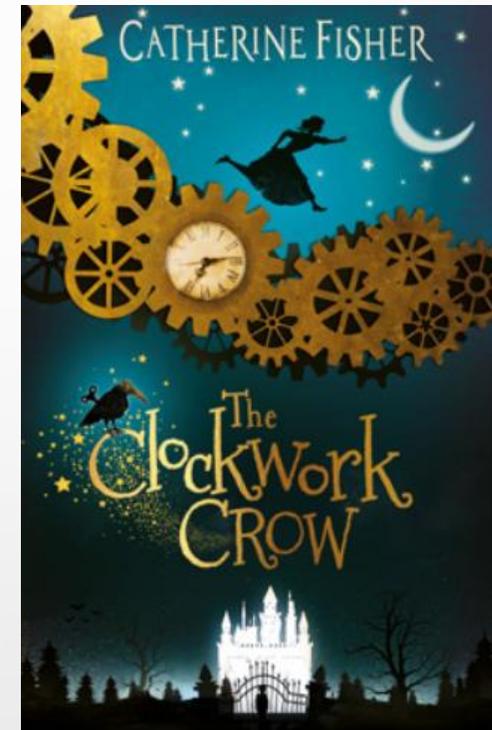


- Shortlisted for the Independent Bookshop Week Book Award 2019 (Children's category) and winner of the Tir na n-Og 2019 (best English language title award)
- 'A marvellous book and a book of marvels,' Amanda Craig
- 'An enchanting, candlelit delight,' *The Literary Review*
- 'Full of deep fairytale resonance, Fisher's writing stands out in the mind's eye like blood drops on snow.' *The Guardian*

The Clockwork Crow

Awards and shortlistings for awards

- won the Tir na n'Og Welsh Children's Book Award
- was shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award 2019 and for the Independent Bookshop Week Book Award
- was nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2020
- was a Sunday Times Children's Book of the Week
- was reviewed in The Guardian, The Spectator, The Daily Mail, The Literary Review and The New Statesman.



FLIGHT

by Vanessa Harbour

middle-grade World rights ex USA (Feiwel & Friends) & audio (Audible)

9-12; 224 pp

- A Jewish boy, his guardian and a Roma girl must lead a group of precious stallions across dangerous mountains to escape a Nazi officer.
- Inspired by the real mission to rescue the Lipizzaner horses of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna.
- A treat for horse story fans and all MG readers will love the page-turning adventure, danger and Jakob and Kizzy's friendship.

- **Summary:**

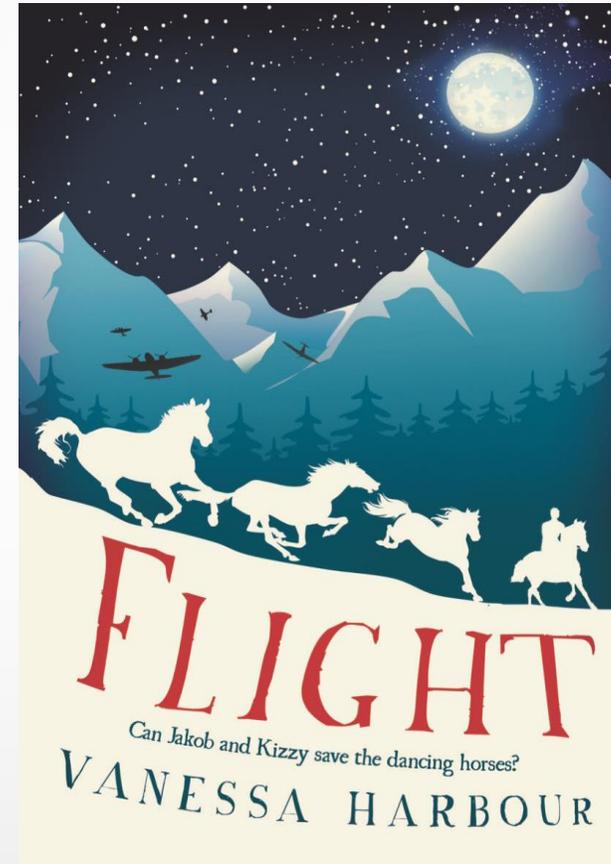
If Jakob sneezed, he could die.

Austria 1945. Jakob has to hide when Nazi officers arrive at the Spanish Riding School stables, tipped off that a Jewish boy is being sheltered there. Frustrated at finding nothing, the officer shoots one of the rare Lippizzaner horses out of spite, before threatening to return soon.

Heartbroken Jakob and his guardian know they must get the other stallions to safety, but the only way is straight through Nazi territory.

Kizzy, an orphan Roma girl, joins them to help. Can three people guide a group of stallions across the perilous Austrian mountains? If they do, what will be waiting for them on the other side?

- US rights sold.



Why we love it: 'Vanessa really understands action. She makes you feel the danger the characters are in all the time. Every time I read it, I still have my heart in my mouth.' Editor Janet Thomas

TOO DARK TO SEE

by Chloë Heuch

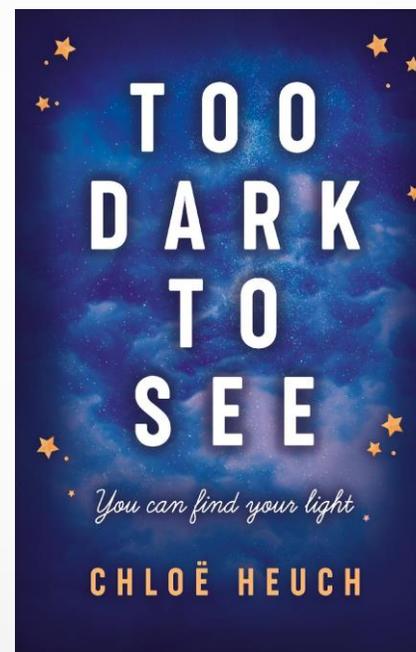
y.a. 15+ World & audio Rights June 2020
264pp

An Intense YA novel of love and survival

After the death of her mother, 16-year-old Kay is on a mission to self-destruct, risking her friendships, her school work and herself in her drive not to feel anything. Needing to save money, her father moves them to Blackmoss Mountain, to Kay's disgust. But she finds new freedom in this barren landscape, befriending the semi-wild ponies that live there, and meeting Sion, the son of the farmer who owns the ponies, who is also roaming the mountains to escape home.

Sion and Kay are drawn slowly into a secret and intense relationship, meeting in a ruined cottage on the mountain. But when Sion's terrifying, abusive father finally finds them, will Kay lose everything again?

Chloë's inspiration: I wanted to create a character who survives, changes and grows. As a teacher of teenagers, I see many trying to function 'as normal' while processing incredibly difficult events. I think the gift of story can be a real lifeline at those times.



A beautiful, evocative debut novel of how a lost teenage girl finds new hope in a wild landscape
Covers grief, sex, destructive behaviour, love and resilience in a powerful, convincing, non-judgemental way



TITLES TO WATCH OUT FOR!

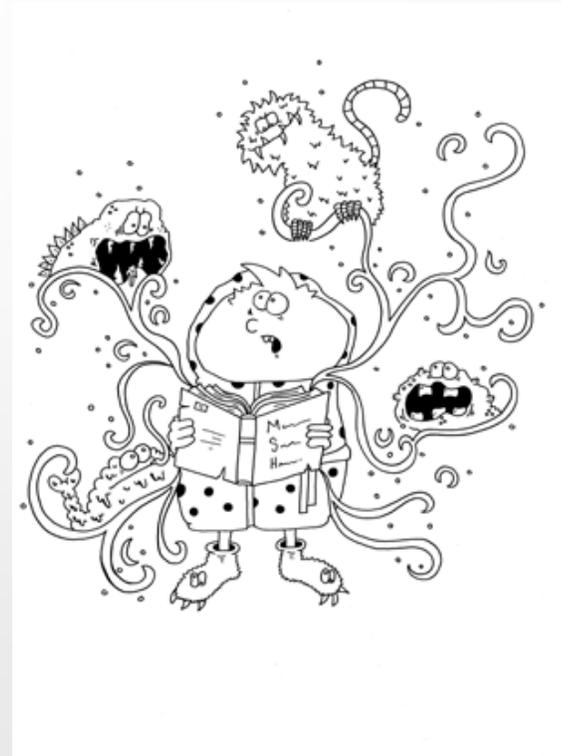
Coming in 2021

The Monster Spotter's Handbook

written and illustrated by Matt Cherry
5-9 fiction, 206pp. World & audio rights

When the mysterious Monster Spotter's Handbook is passed down to Edwin Spook, the last of the Monster Spotters, a brain boggling world of monsters is opened before him. But something is amiss in the monster world; there's a monster catcher about! Can Edwin be the one to save this strange but endangered species?

Matt Cherry grew up writing and drawing about monsters before he was told to stop wasting pencils and get a job. He now lives on the Kent coast with his wife and two pet children where he still writes and draws everyday ... only now with a pen.

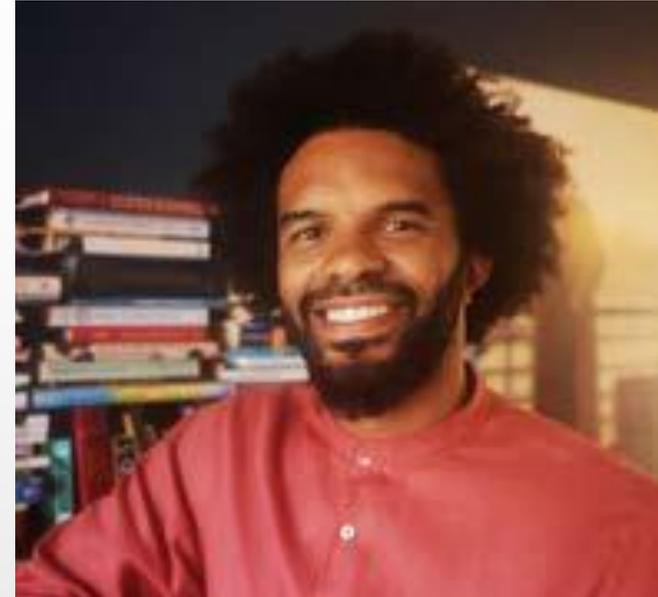


Daydreams and Jellybeans

by Alex Wharton, Poetry 7-12, 68pp. World & audio rights

Alex's poetry is funny, thoughtful and revels in the natural world. Already an experienced performer of poetry for adults and children his debut collection will delight primary school children everywhere.

A senior building surveyor when not writing, Alex, from South Wales, is the winner of the Rising Stars Poetry Award run in conjunction with Literature Wales and Firefly Press.



Sample poems from DAYDREAMS and JELLYBEANS

Jellybean

There's a Jellybean
stranded at the top of the stairs,
It's blue beany body
is covered in hairs,

and it's *bean* there for days
just gathering dust,
and people walk by
with a look of disgust!

so I pick the bean up,
and walk to the bin,
but I change my mind
before I throw it in,

you see, the bin was full-
and I do hate to waste,
so I chewed the bean up,
And what a wonderful taste!

The Paint Job

Nobody sees him
and nobody knows,
the man who paints
the lines on the roads,

My road was bare,
not a single line there,
until one day I woke to find
that they were everywhere!

White dashed lines,
struck sweet through the middle,
perfectly straight,
without a single squiggle,

He must have swimming pools
full of paint, Gleaming white!
to fill his tins and head off
in the dead of night,

with a single brush,
and a simple code,
PAINT STRAIGHT WHITE
LINES ON EVERY ROAD!

BIGFOOT MOUNTAIN

by Roderick O'Grady

8-12 fiction, 220pp, World & audio rights



The recent loss of her mother is made easier for Minnie to bear as the forest shares its secrets. Giant footsteps in the wood lead Minnie and her detached stepfather Dan to forge a friendship after sharing extraordinary encounters with forest beings.

Roderick O'Grady is an actor and playwright who has worked in London and New York. Bigfoot Mountain is his first novel.

Grow

Luke Palmer

February 2021 304pp ~YA 15+ fiction
World & audio rights

A white supremacist group and its violent leader target Josh, who is struggling to cope with his father's recent death. Will he find the strength to resist and plant something good in the space grief has left inside him? Or will he go under?

Grow is a tense and compelling YA novel of our current social landscape woven through with moving portraits of friendship, love and nature.

Luke Palmer is a school teacher and has a Creative Writing MA from Bath Spa University. *Grow* is his first novel.



KEEPER OF SECRETS

Sarah J Dodd 220pp 8-12 fiction World & audio rights

Eleven-year-old Emily doesn't think Badgers Cottage – where she's moved with her father after her mum died – will ever be home. But there is something here that needs her: a bright pair of eyes in the darkness. In the middle of a fierce battle between a project to rewild lynx in the woods, and local farmers, Emily tries to save a motherless baby lynx.

She has no idea how far she'll have to go to save him.



Sarah J Dodd grew up in the north of England and gained a PhD in plant ecology before becoming a primary school teacher. *Keeper of Secrets* is her first novel

Little Horror

Daniel Peak

220pp 8-12 fiction World & audio rights

He may look like a baby, but he has the mind (and attitude) of a teenager. Enough attitude to realise it's best not to let grown-ups in on the secret! But when his life is threatened this baby finds himself on the run from a sinister international conspiracy...



A Fast-paced and funny children's debut from Manchester-based Daniel Peak. A BAFTA and International EMMY award-winning TV scriptwriter, one of the lead writer on CBBCs *Horrible Histories* and Lee Mack's *Big Night Out*,

Daniel's new show, spoof police procedural, *Code 404* airs in Spring 2020 on Sky and NOW TV.



BACKLIST

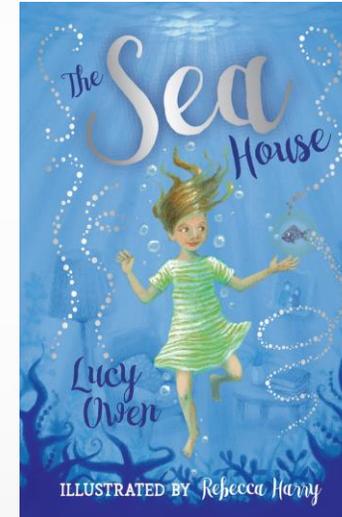
The Sea House

by Lucy Owen

illustrated by Rebecca Harry

5+ World & audio rights

- Coral finds a magical world when she wakes to find her house underwater.
- A beautifully illustrated fantasy story for 5+ with huge heart, a strong female lead and underwater creatures with the appeal of *Finding Nemo*.
- 'A wonderful book ... It brings the marine world literally into our living rooms and I sincerely hope helps awaken a respect and understanding of the marine environment in its readers, young and old alike.' Iolo Williams, naturalist and TV presenter (including *Springwatch*).
- 'heart-warming, encouraging, uplifting, empowering' Elin Manahan Thomas
- 'Thrilling, edgy and exciting, this underwater fantasy works both as an adventure story and/or an original take on loss, grieving, survival and hope.' Booktrust review



Summary:

One night grieving nine-year-old Coral cries so much, she fills her house with tears and wakes to find a magical underwater world packed with exciting sea creatures, right inside her own home!

But there are some terrifying creatures who have come to the sea house too. Can Coral find the strength to overcome their darkness, with the help of her new friends?

GRACE-ELLA series 2) WITCH CAMP

by Sharon Marie Jones, illustrated by Adriana J Puglisi 7+ World ex audio rights (Audible)

Grace-Ella is excited to be going to camp. There will be new friends and new spells, but is she ready for the huge test she's going to face?

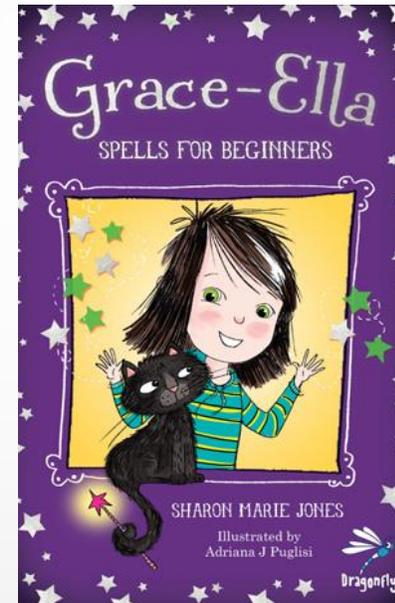
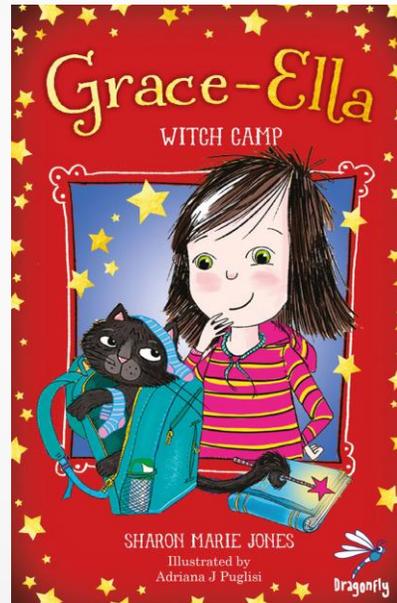
Funny, heart-warming story about friendship and magic, perfect for the 7-9 age group.

Beautiful illustrations from Adriana J Puglisi.

Sequel to very popular first adventure of Grace-Ella and Mr Whiskins.

Summary:

Grace-Ella is nervous and excited to go to Witch Camp, with her cat Mr Whiskins, of course. She is put in a cabin with Dilys, Mati and Aisha. Grace-Ella likes them all. But when Dilys's broomstick flying goes very wrong, and Mati convinces them breaking the rules and going into the woods at night is the only way to help her, Grace-Ella finds herself on a real adventure. Will she be able to save her friends?



Praise for Grace-Ella: Spelling for Beginners:

'Grace-Ella is a super amazing and very imaginative book.' familybookworms
'a lively helping of fun, magic, friendship and being true to yourself.' Andrea Reece, Lovereading4Kids

'A delightful book and a superb main character in Grace-Ella' Topsta review
'a fun, delightful read... I imagine children 7+ will adore this book. I can't wait to read

DRAGON GOLD, DRAGON WHITE, DRAGON RED

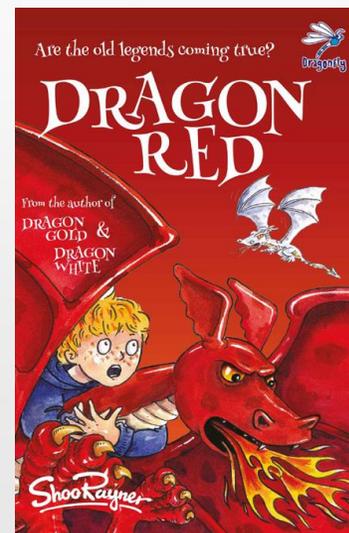
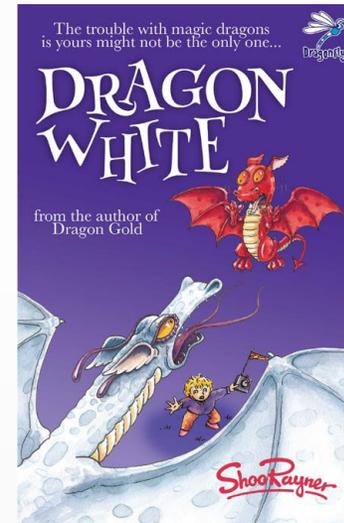
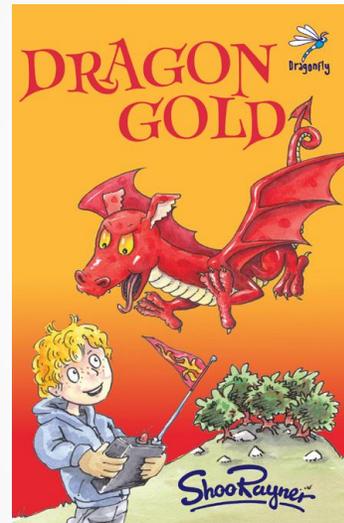
by Shoo Rayner

ages 7-9 World Rights, audio: Schofield & Sims

- A magical comedy school series, based on Arthurian legend, that will make you wish you had your own dragon.
- *Dragon Gold* was chosen for the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge 2016 and is always one of our top-selling titles.
- Shoo has over 268,000 subscribers on his two YouTube 'how to draw' channels and is a regular at live events across the UK.
- More than 7,000 sold in the Dragon gold series.
- **Summary:**

What would you do if there was a school competition to make a dragon – and you had a dragon? A real dragon? But you can't tell anyone...

Harri tries to pretend his dragon is a toy to win a school competition, but as it gets harder and harder to hide him, and other people want their own, the Merlin legend of the red dragon starts to come true again. Harri finds himself in a dragon battle, whether he wants it or not.



WALKER the boy who can talk to dogs

by Shoo Rayner

ages 7-10 World & audio rights

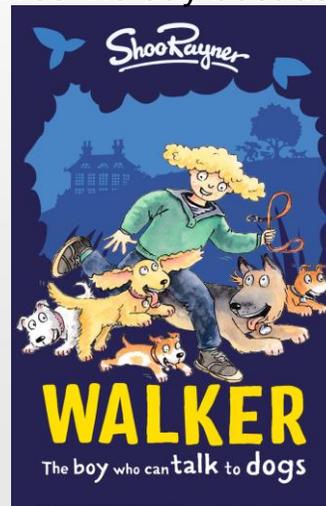
- Can one boy and his dogs beat the most powerful man in the village, free the puppies and save his friend's home?
- Perfect younger MG adventure: comedy, danger, a mystery to solve, friendship, magic and dogs, all illustrated with Shoo's unmistakable energetic drawings.
- *Dragon Gold* was chosen for the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge 2016 and is one of our top-selling titles. Over 9,000 copies of the Dragon series sold.

Shoo has over 268,000 subscribers on his two YouTube 'how to draw' channels and is a regular at live events across the UK.

Summary:

All Walker wants is a dog, but his mother is allergic. So he decides to set up his own business walking his neighbours' dogs. This works better than he could have imagined when he finds he can talk to the dogs and understand what they say to him! The dogs lead him to a terrible puppy farm hidden in the wood by Arlington Wherewithall, a famous TV star and owner of a pet food company, the richest man in their area. He knows nobody will believe him, so it is down to Walker and the dogs to stop the farm and save the puppies.

The beginning of a series of stand-alone mysteries where Walker saves the day because he can talk to dogs.



ALEX SPARROW AND THE ZUMBIE APOCALYPSE

by Jennifer Killick

middle-grade World Rights, audio and Farsi sold

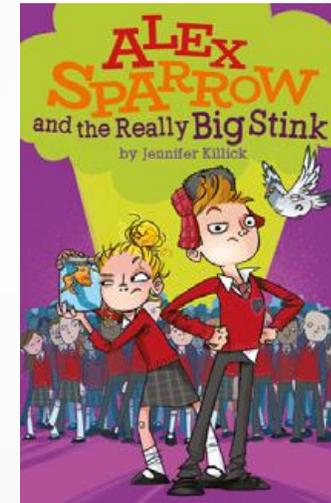
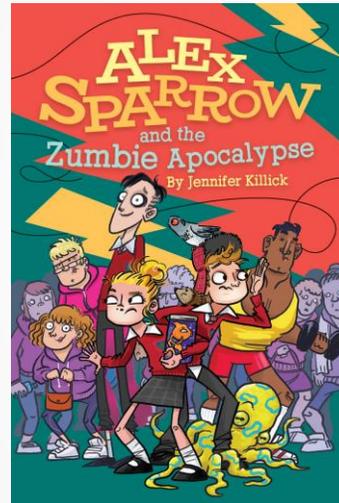
- Third in the hilariously bonkers Alex Sparrow series about Alex, Jess and their antisocial superpowers. 'A brilliantly bonkers, sidesplitting superhero story.' M.G. Leonard
- Books 1 and 2 both selected for the Summer Reading Challenge, with combined sales of 8000 +
- Strong family friendly and empathetic twist makes this a perfect if unusually action-packed Christmas story.

Summary:

The Zombies are on the rampage – members of the Cherry Tree Lane zumba class are apparently dying and then mysteriously coming back to life!

Alex, Jess and Dave have to put a stop to it before Alex's mum and nan join the living Zumba dead or there'll be no family Christmas.

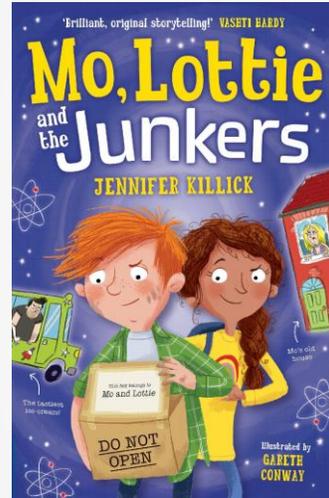
But why are the Zombies curiously drawn to the Christmas lights? What does the Octopus sign mean? And who is the evil genius behind it all?



MO LOTTIE AND THE JUNKERS

by Jennifer Killick

middle-grade 9-12 World Rights,



Mo Appleby's ordered life is turned upside down when he and his mum move in with his new stepdad and stepsisters, Lottie and Sadie. The home he left behind is just across the street, and there's something not quite right about the new occupant. Other strange new people keep popping into his life, too: a bonkers lollipop man and a boy called Jax, who seems to understand Mo better than anyone else, especially Lottie. Who are the weird new people in their town? Do they have any involvement in the disappearance of Mo's dad many years ago? And why does the ice cream taste so good? Lottie is determined to find out exactly what's going on, even if it makes Mo mad, and even if it leads them both into serious danger...

- Selected for the Summer Reading Challenge 2019
- Featured in The Guardian Best New Kids Books Summer 2019 Guide
- Shortlisted for the Cumbria Primary School Book Award 2020
- Shortlisted for the TVED Book of the Year 2020
- 'Brilliant, original storytelling!' **Vashti Hardy**
- 'Tension, humour and a good story line with new characters to meet! Just please don't get so distracted by the story that you forget to watch out for junkers... and oh don't eat the ice cream!' **Fiona Sharp, Waterstones Durham**
- 'It's quirky, funny and full of Jennifer's trademark banter between friends, so sure to make you laugh out loud.' **Victoria Dilly, National Literacy Trust**
- 'Packed with peril, bursting with bonkerness and outstandingly original this book is a total joy from start to finish.' **Booklover Jo**
- 'a fantastic cracking little novel full of laughs and shocks that will leave the reader giggling and checking their own community for tell tale signs of Junkers as the plot progresses too!! Highly recommended for 8+ who love a bit of science fiction and fun.' **Lily and the Fae**

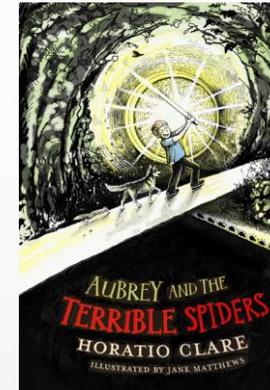


WEL & UKC rights

AUBREY AND THE TERRIBLE SPIDERS

(also (1) Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot (2) Aubrey and the Terrible Ladybirds)
by Horatio Clare WEL rights ex audio 23rd April 2020

- Third in the award-winning Aubrey series. The first novel, *Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot* won the Branford Boase Award 2016 and was longlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017. The second in the series was selected for the Just Imagine's Reading Gladiators and shortlisted for the UKLA Children's Book Awards 2017.
- Passionate, entertaining and highly topical environmental storyline about how much is expected from children in this era of climate change
- Superb black and white illustration from nature artist Jane Matthews throughout.
- **Summary:**
- When the animals start rebelling, and Aubrey is stung by a very polite wasp, he realises there is something weird going on in the valley below Rushing Wood. And as he's the only boy he knows of who can talk with animals, he is determined to find out what. With help from his friends Ariadne the house spider, Silvio the silverfish and Lupo the Huskey pup, the young warrior sets out to find the terrible robospiders and their genius creator Big Xe and, just maybe, save the world.
- **Why we love this book:**
- A brilliantly told environmental anti-epic for 8-12s featuring children and animals. It's funny, adventurous and might just save the world...

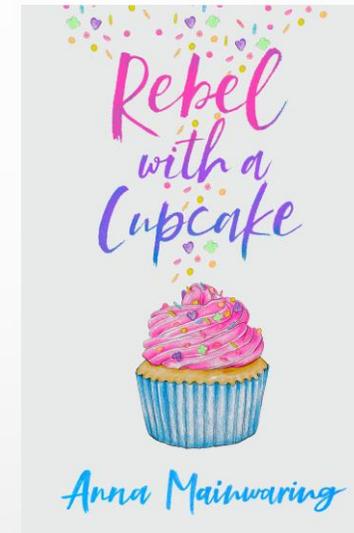


- **Horatio Clare's** first book, *Running for the Hills* won a Somerset Maugham Award, was longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and he was shortlisted for the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year. Books include *Truant*, *A Single Swallow*, and the bestselling travelogue, *Down to the Sea in Ships*, winner of the Standford Dolman Travel Book of the Year 2015. His essays and reviews appear regularly in the national press and on BBC radio.

REBEL WITH A CUPCAKE

by Anna Mainwaring 12+ UK& Comm inc audio rights 2 April 2020

- A great, fun, feminist read for girls with attitude
- A sensitive and empowering portrayal of the weight and dieting concerns that can face teenagers in a social-media obsessed world
- Striking cover from LA fashion artist Niki Pilkington, with the same branding as Anna's first Firefly book *Tulip Taylor* (ISBN 9781910080979 June 2019)
- **Summary:**
- Jesobel Jones is bold and beautiful. The daughter of a hand model and a washed-up rock star, she sees no need to apologise for her rambling house, her imperfect family, her single status ... or her weight. Jess makes her own cupcakes and she eats them, too. That is, until Own Clothes Day when a wardrobe malfunction leaves Jess exposed, and a mean girl calling her the one thing that's never bothered her before: fat.
- **Praise for Tulip Taylor:**
- 'Tulip - a heroine with such heart ... Funny and clever, compulsively readable: I absolutely loved this novel.' Louisa Reid.
- 'Clever and contemporary situations; gripping, compelling story and a character you will be rooting for every step of the way. Simply a great read.' Fallenstarstories
- 'A fun YA contemporary with a serious message about discovering who you are and being true to yourself.' The United Book Blog
- 'Funny, gripping and with an inspirational feel-good feminist theme, this will have readers rooting for Tulip every step of the way.' Lovereading

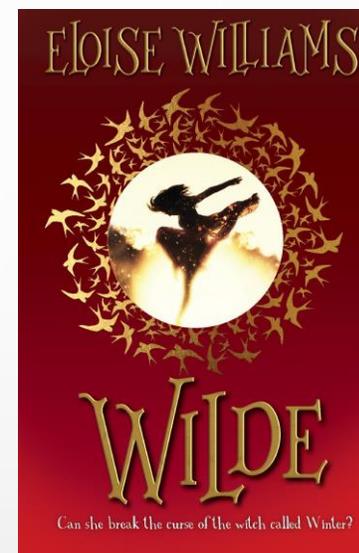


- **Anna Mainwaring** read *The Lord of the Rings* when she was seven and hasn't stopped reading since. After studying English Literature she spent a brief time as a banker before becoming an English teacher. She lives in Cheshire, UK, with her family and a very dangerous goldfish. Find out more at annamainwaring.com and [@annamainwaring1](https://twitter.com/annamainwaring1)

WILDE

by Eloise Williams 9-12 UKC ex audio (Ulverscroft) 1st May 2020

- 'Being different can be dangerous'
- **Children's Laureate Wales (2019-2021)**
- A spooky contemporary MG adventure of witches and curses, and at its heart a beautiful tale of how we all deserve to belong.
- *Gaslight* won the Wales Arts Review's Young People's Book of the Year. *Seaglass* was shortlisted for the NE Book Awards 2019 and was the September #PrimarySchool BookClub pick. Both were shortlisted for the Tir na n'Og best children's book from Wales.
- **Summary:**
- Wilde is afraid strange things are happening around her. Are the birds following her? Is she flying in her sleep? Moving to live with her aunt seems to make it all worse. Wilde is desperate to fit in at her new school, but things keep getting stranger. In a fierce heatwave, in rehearsals for a school play telling the old, local legend of a witch called Winter, 'The Witch' starts leaving pupils frightening letters cursing them. Can Wilde find out what's happening before everyone blames her? Or will she always be the outcast?
- **Praise for *Seaglass*:**
- 'a brilliantly atmospheric and shiver-some ghost story.' Abi Elphinstone
- 'A fascinating mystery wrapping a sensitive portrayal of adolescence.' Celia Rees
- 'Brilliant. So atmospheric, and chilling, and gripping, but with real warmth at its heart.' Kiran Milwood-Hargrave
- 5 star 'wonderfully gripping, it dazzles like sea glass itself.' Scott Evans, The Reader Teacher and #PrimarySchoolBookClub



Eloise Williams grew up in Llantrisant and lives in West Wales, very close to the sea. Having studied Drama, she went on to work as an actor for over ten years before studying for a Masters in Creative Writing at Swansea University. *Wilde* will be her fourth book with Firefly.

ASKING FOR A FRIEND

by Kate Mallinder 12+ UKC inc audio 21st May 2020

- A feel-good friendship story from the author of *Summer of No Regrets*
- Three friends tackle loneliness, fear of illness and social media bullying, in a character-driven story about valuing the friends who value you.
- Kate's previous book is shortlisted for the Bristol Teen Book Awards 2019. She chaired a panel at YALC 2019.
- **Summary:**
- Agnes, Hattie and Jake travel on the school bus together, but don't know each other well. They plan a week in Weston, as a 'study break' before exams, but none of them admit the real reasons they need to get away. Agnes must find her sister. Hattie can't bear being home now all her friends have ghosted her. And Jake is afraid he's ill and has absolutely no idea how to tell anyone. In one amazing week, they'll risk their lives, face their fears and find themselves.
- **Praise for *Summer of No Regrets*:**
- 'Bucketloads of summer fun... warm, funny, utterly delightful story about friendship, taking chances, and living life to the full!' Simon James Green
- 'A perfect summer read to share with your best friends.' Keris Stainton
- 'Summer of no Regrets is a complete page turner ... I loved spending summer with the gang!' Jenny McLachlan
- 'A wonderful summery, happy-ending story about friendship. I raced through it.' Perdita Cargill
- 'a great uplifting story, perfect for teen readers' AM Dassu
- 'Highly recommended, this is one to dive into.' Fallen Star Stories



- **Kate Mallinder** lives with her husband, four children and two cats near Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire. She grew up in Solihull and went to college in Leeds. If left to her own devices, she'd live on a window seat with a good book and a never-ending cup of tea. Her first book, *Summer of No Regrets*, was published by Firefly in 2019

Monster Max and the Bobble Hat of Forgetting

by Robin Bennett, Illustrated by Tom Tinn-Dinsbury

WEL inc audio, 176pp 24th September 2020

- An irresistible mix of slapstick comedy and action adventure, packed full of chases, inventions, battles and bum jokes. First in a series for 7-9s.
- Superb, madcap, b&w illustrations from Tom Tinn-Dinsbury throughout.
- **Summary:**
- *This is Max. Everything normal here. Nothing weird about Max ... until he burps.*
- When Max burps he becomes a huge monster, with teeth like swords, who can jump over buildings, roar and eat whole dustbins. It's great being a monster and saving people, his aim 'to protect and do good stuff', unless he sneezes when he didn't mean to, changes back, and finds himself far from home in just his pants.
- But something starts causing a lot of damage in their quiet suburb, and it isn't Max. His nemesis, a boy his age, Peregrine, is relentlessly on the trail of this monster, and has invented his POOP (Portable Operating Omni Prison) machine to trap it. Max has to catch the real culprit, before Peregrine can catch him...



LORI AND MAX AND THE BOOK THIEVES

by Catherine O'Flynn 9-12 UKC ex audio 2nd October 2020

- First title in the series is longlisted for the 2020 Branford Boase Award and was longlisted for the Blue Peter Awards 2020.
- The first Lori and Max book was widely reviewed, including in The Times (Children's Book of the Week), Telegraph and Guardian.
- Catherine O'Flynn is a Costa award-winning author.
- **Summary:**
- A stolen phone and an unruly dog; a buried lunchbox and an antique children's book. Lori and Max must dig through layers of lies to solve two mysteries.
- **Why we love this book:**
- 'Lori and Max are two of the funniest, cleverest and most original sleuths in children's crime fiction. It's a joy to get back into their world. And this time, along with tricky crimes to solve, Max has a longed-for dog – though Lori isn't too sure he's an asset. It's gripping, touching and made me laugh and cry.'
- Editor, Rebecca Lloyd



- **Praise for the first *Lori and Max* story:**
- 'A wittily told detective story about two eccentric and endearing girls – it's a real page-turner.' Jacqueline Wilson
- 'This thrilling, funny, perceptive detective story is in a class of its own.' *The Times* Children's Book of the Week
- 'Classic mystery mixes with contemporary themes ... pacy, gripping story.' *The Guardian*
- 'The classic detective story gets a modern twist ... Flynn finds similarity in two very different characters, who are brilliantly drawn in brief and vivid detail.' Sara Keating, *The Irish Times*
- 'Absolutely wonderful' Nina Stibbe

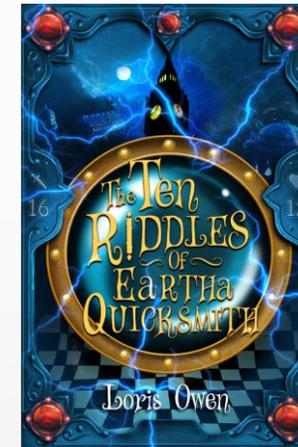
THE TEN RIDDLES OF EARTHA QUICKSMITH

by Loris Owen

UKC & audio 10th September 2020

- Ten Riddles. Ten days to solve them...
- A thrilling debut, full of danger, magic and friendship, first in the Quicksmiths series
- Middle-grade mystical science adventure that will appeal to boy and girl readers of Artemis Fowl and Harry Potter
- Supported by an interactive marketing campaign of riddles and quizzes based around the website www.quicksmithsinvitesyou.com and social media. Giveaways and POS to include samplers, 'candle' badges and bookmarks
- **Summary:**
- **Welcome to the dazzling new world of Quicksmiths, where you will encounter Strange Energy, the Mowl, Wormholes, Dark Forces and the tantalising riddle of the Ark of Ideas.**
- When Kip Bramley receives a cryptic invitation, delivered by a beetle-shaped drone which appears to be *breathing*, his world will change forever. Soon he finds himself chasing riddles and solving puzzles on a crazy treasure hunt set 400 years earlier by a mysterious genius.

As things get dangerous, it seems much more is at stake for Kip and his family than winning top marks at his strange new school...



- **Loris Owen** has lived in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. A former communications and content specialist, her home is now in Kent where she runs a small business and also spends her days hunting for interesting combinations of words. *The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith* is her first novel.