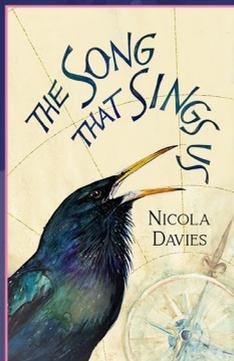
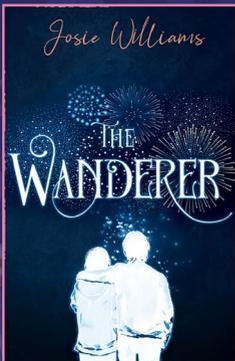
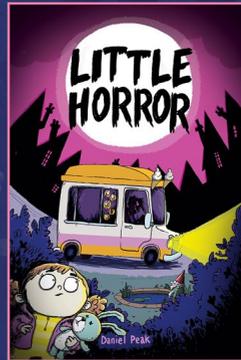
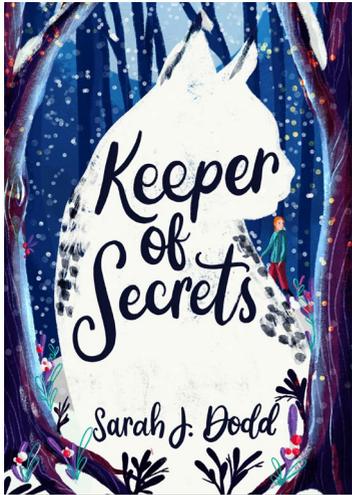


AUTUMN/  
WINTER



Firefly  
**SPOTLIGHT**  
2021





## Keeper of Secrets

Sarah J. Dodd

Cover Illustration: Becky Thorns

2nd September 2021 | £7.99 | 9-12

9781913102456 (paperback)

**A winter animal mystery.  
Can Emily save Lotta the lynx?**

Eleven-year-old Emily doesn't think Badgers Cottage – where she's had to move with her vet father after her mum died – will ever be home. But there is something out there that needs her; a bright pair of eyes in the darkness.

In the middle of a fierce battle between a conservation project to rewild the lynx in the woods, and the local farmers, Emily tries to shield a baby lynx she calls Lotta, afraid he'll be killed by the person who killed his mother.

**Can Emily work out who the illegal hunter is in time? Who can she trust?**



“A story of loss and loneliness, and finding new friends and hope in the bleak of winter – and of wild things that change everything. I loved it! Amy Wilson”

• An exciting new voice in middle-grade fiction. We love this story of a lonely, brave child risking everything to protect a baby wild animal.

• Promotion in UK press and nature magazines on how the book captures the difficulties and hope of rewilding projects, with a competition on social media to sponsor a UK lynx.

• Author based in Lancaster.

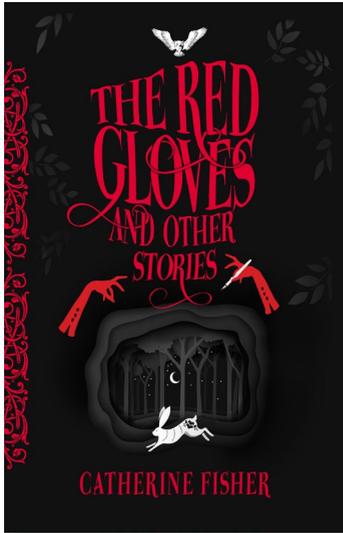
“A stunning story of love and loss, with a powerful conservation message.

Jacqui Sydney, Mrs Sydney's Famous World's Smallest Library”

“A perfect winter book and I do not doubt that *Keeper of Secrets* is going to be a book that helps and comforts younger children and teens who are going through loss and change in their lives.

Amelia Cameron”





## The Red Gloves and Other Stories

Catherine Fisher

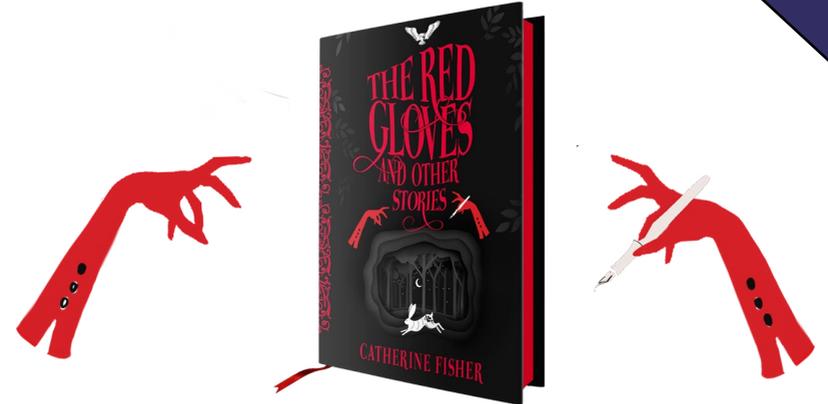
Design: Anne Glenn

16th September 2021 | £12.99 | 9-12

9781913102685 (gift-edition hardback with sprayed edges)

**Nine haunting tales from a prize-winning storyteller.**

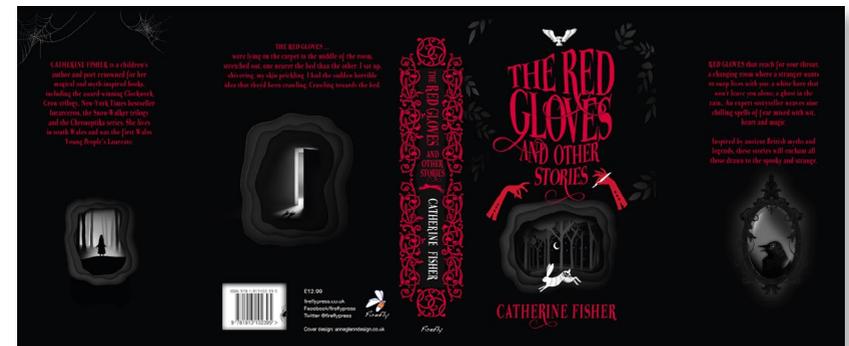
Two step-brothers share one nightmare; red gloves that reach for your throat; a changing room where a stranger asks to swap lives with you; and who is the ghost in the rain? An expert storyteller weaves nine spells. Fear mixed with wit, heart and magic.



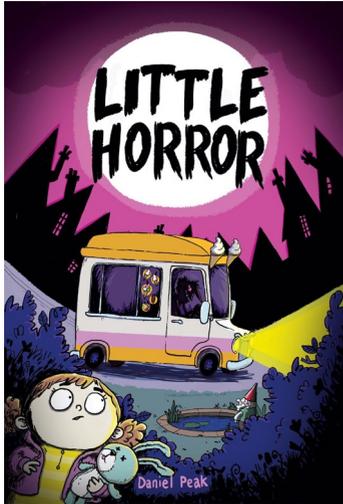
- Evocative, gripping stories of myth, ghosts and danger, perfect for the middle-grade and YA reader drawn to the spooky and strange.
- Gorgeous gift-edition hardback with sprayed edges.
- Catherine is a prize-winning author whose work is widely reviewed and greatly loved.
- Several of the stories are inspired by myths, including Arthurian legend, Old English tales and the story of Taliesin.
- Author based in Newport, south Wales.



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



[Video Playlist] - The Red Gloves and Other Stories



## Little Horror

Daniel Peak

Cover illustration: Seb Burnett  
30th September 2021 | £6.99 | 9-12  
9781913102517 (paperback)

**Rita Jeffrey is two years old, alone, and on the run.**

Rita may be a baby, but she has the mind (and attitude) of a teenager. She knows she is not a normal toddler but when her parents disappear and a sinister clown and an ice-cream van seem to be hunting her down, even a soft-play centre might not be safe...

It will take all Rita's cunning and resourcefulness, as well as a cat flap, a mobility scooter and a reluctant teenage sidekick, to defeat an evil conspiracy and a crazy genius villain. Imagine The Fugitive – if Harrison Ford was two feet tall and wearing Pampers.

“Fast paced and funny, this original adventure is my 9 year old daughter's favourite new book! Lee Mack”

- Hilarious debut by award-winning writer of *Horrible Histories*, *Not Going Out* and *Code: 404*.

- A cross between *Boss Baby* and a Lee Child novel – gripping, laugh-out-loud funny and highly original.

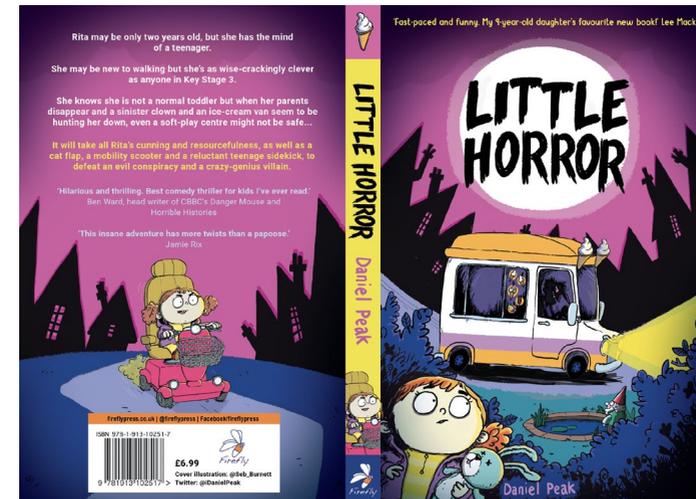
- Author based near Manchester.



“A fabulous story, beautifully and simply told. Jamie Rix, children's author and BAFTA winning TV writer/producer”

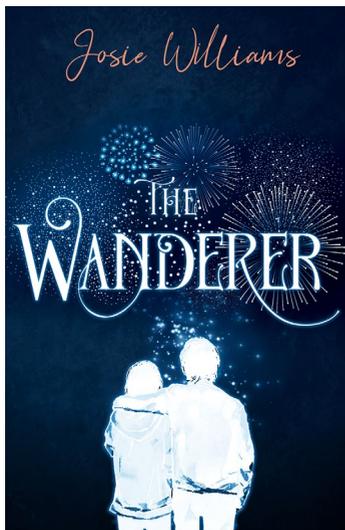
“Hilarious and thrilling. Best comedy thriller for kids I've ever read. Ben Ward, Head writer of CBBC's *Danger Mouse* and *Horrible Histories*”

“Reminiscent of *Boss Baby*, Rita's story hooked me from the very start. *Little Horror* is an original, funny, fast-paced adventure that kids will love. Jen Carney, author of *The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.*”



[Video] - All about Little Horror with author Daniel Peak

[Video] - Chapter one read by Daniel Peak



## The Wanderer

Josie Williams

Design: Anne Glenn

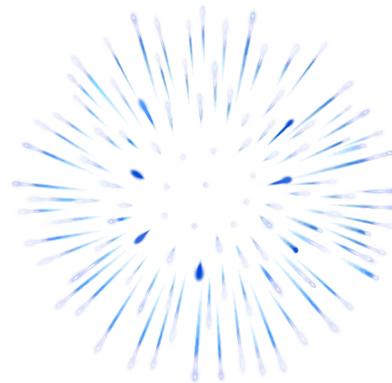
7th October 2021 | £8.99 | 14+

9781913102661 (paperback)

**Nothing can stand in the way of love, not even death.**

Alone in the world, Maggie only has her visits to her nan to look forward to. So when the most popular boy in school saves her life she has no idea why he is suddenly acting like a different person.

Stuck between life and death, Ryder spends his days wandering around unseen by the living. When the girl he loves walks into danger, Ryder breaks the number one Wanderer's rule: he saves her life. But how can a Wanderer and a living girl ever reach their happily ever after?



“ *The Wanderer* is a gut-wrenching, epic love story that I could not put down. I was addicted and rooting for Ryder and Maggie from the start. #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Natasha Preston ”

“ A poignant story about two teens dealing with loneliness and looking for a sense of connection. Moving and intense. Kat Ellis, author of *Harrow Lake* ”

“ A beautiful book about loss, longing, and love. Josie Williams paints a touching picture of two teens, separated by life and death, battling loneliness to find love for the first time. An original and beautiful story – thoroughly enjoyable! ”  
NJ Simmonds



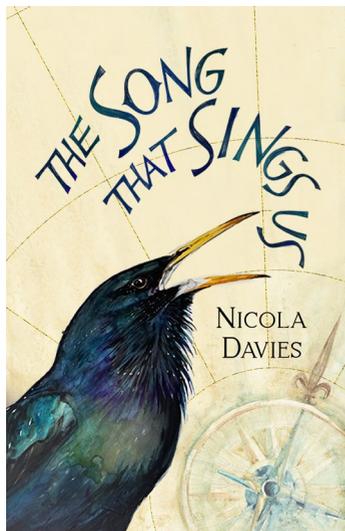
- Bestselling author of *The Boy Who Sneaks in My Bedroom Window* (over 280,000 copies sold).

- Will appeal to fans of the *City of Ghosts*, *Twilight* and *The Old Kingdom Series*.

- Author based in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

- Already 60+ requests on Netgalley since July 12th.





## The Song that Sings Us

Nicola Davies

Illustration: Jackie Morris

14th October 2021 | £14.99 | 12+

9781913102777 (gift-edition hardback)

**When animals speak, it's time humans listened.**

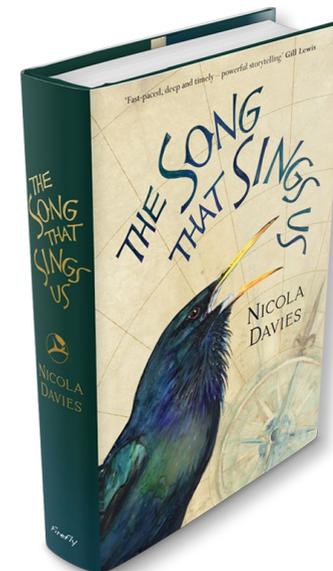
Harlon has been raised to protect her younger siblings, twins Ash and Xeno, and their outlawed power of communicating with animals. But when the sinister Automators attack their mountain home, Xeno is kidnapped and Harlon and Ash are separated. In a thrilling and dangerous environmental adventure they must all journey alone through ice fields and forests of Rumyc, and over oceans, to try to find each other and fulfil a mysterious promise made to their mother.

- Stunning environmental adventure on an epic scale from a world-class storyteller at a time of global climate emergency.

- POS will be available for bookshops – badges, patches.

- High profile national publicity campaign, festival events and advertising, based on the graffiti strapline, 'Green Thorn is coming'.

- Both author and illustrator based in west Wales.



“ Wild, powerful and passionate, *The Song that Sings Us* is an extraordinary weaving of fierce action and tender poetry, a heart-wrenching yet hopeful symphony of the threads that connect all life on Earth. Sophie Anderson ”

“ I love it. Cried my heart out. Oh my heart. It's amazing. A book to lose yourself in. Epic. It's extraordinary. It's phenomenal, powerful, exquisite writing. Liz Hyder ”

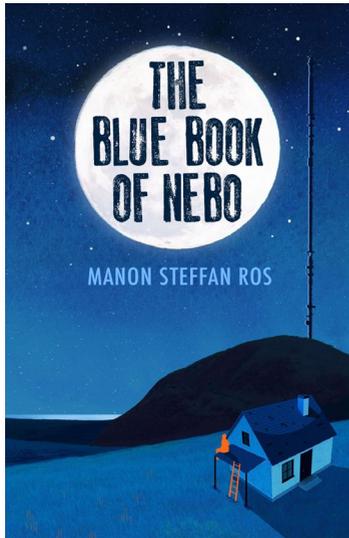
“ A captivating eco-fable with enough danger and action to please lovers of action adventure but also with the lyricism and wonder that comes from Nicola Davies' deep love of the natural world. Linda Newbery ”

“ A beauty to look out for. Fiona Noble ”



[\[Video\] - Extended teaser with Nicola Davies](#)

[\[Audio\] - Extract reading by Nicola Davies](#)



## The Blue Book of Nebo

Manon Steffan Ros

Design: Becka Moor

6th January 2022 | £8.99 | 14+

9781913102784 (paperback)

Dylan was six when The End came, back in 2018; when the electricity went off for good, and the 'normal' 21st-century world he knew disappeared. Now he's 14 and he and his mam have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales, learning new skills, and returning to old ways of living. Despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan must take on adult responsibilities.

Each have their own secrets, which emerge as, in turn, they jot down their thoughts and memories in a found notebook – **the Blue Book of Nebo**.

- A multi-award winning YA crossover novel from a superbly talented author.
- Translated from Welsh to English by the author in a first UK edition.
- Explores the human capacity to find new strengths faced with the need to survive.
- Author based in north Wales.



“ This first UK English edition of *The Blue Book of Nebo*, adapted by the author, has the hallmarks of a modern classic.

Publisher, Penny Thomas ”

“ A curiously sweet-tempered novel that finds the upside of global catastrophe.

*Kirkus Review* ”

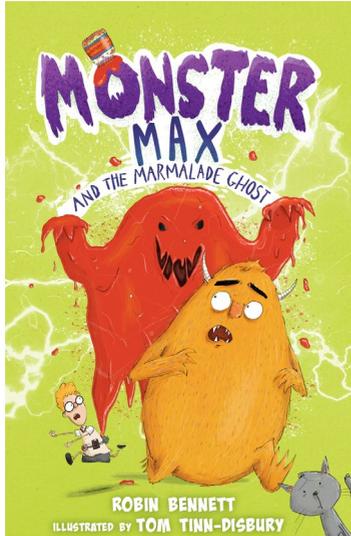
“ A spare and intimate story of a family surviving a near-future global apocalypse. In a time rife with and ripe for stories of the end, this one stands out.

*Publishers Weekly* ”

*The Blue Book of Nebo* (Llyfr Glas Nebo) won one of the highest awards for Welsh language writing: the prose medal at the National Eisteddfod.

It was also a triple award-winner at the Wales Book of the Year, winning the Welsh-language Fiction and People's Choice categories plus the overall Wales Book of the Year Award. It is being adapted for stage and film.





## Monster Max and the Marmalade Ghost

Robin Bennett

Illustration: Tom Tinn-Disbury

Design: Becka Moor

3rd February 2022 | £6.99 | 5+

9781913102821 (paperback)

### Second book in the hilarious *Monster Max* series

Max is an ordinary boy, except that he can turn into a monster when he burps...

Max and Peregrine are volunteering at an old people's home, when strange things start to happen. One resident is walking on the ceiling, one is riding their wheelchair through walls, and Reggie says his marmalade is haunted (no one listens). Can Max and his friends work out what's happening to protect his family and the local community?

Things aren't looking good: the Marmalade Ghost is turning into a sticky Godzilla, Max falls out with his (joint) best friend, and then just when it can't get any worse, someone kidnaps Max's cat, Frankenstein...

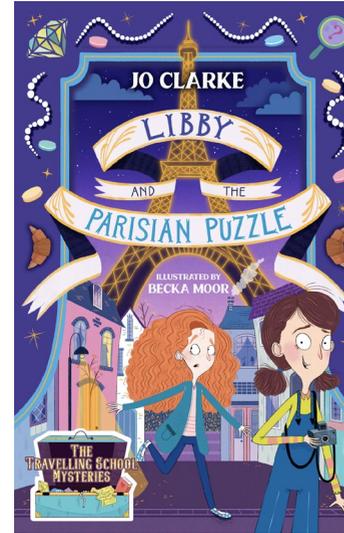
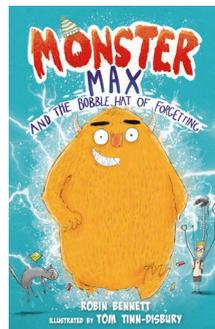
Time to **'Protect and Do Good Stuff!'**



### Praise for *Monster Max and the Bobble Hat of Forgetting*:

'Bonkers from start to finish. And I mean that in a GOOD way.' Philip Ardagh, author of *The Grunts* series

'I really enjoyed *Monster Max & the Bobble Hat of Forgetting*, a funnily monstrous & monstrously funny adventure.' Gareth P Jones, author of *Dragon Detectives* series



## Libby and the Parisian Puzzle

Jo Clarke

Illustration and Design: Becka Moor

3rd March 2022 | £7.99 | 9-12

9781913102708 (paperback)

Mystery-lover Libby is excited but nervous when she's sent to join her aunt Agatha's extraordinary travelling school in Paris. Just when she is starting to find her feet Aunt Agatha is arrested, accused of a daring jewel robbery. Can Libby and her new best friend Connie find the real thief in time to save her aunt?

### Why we love it:

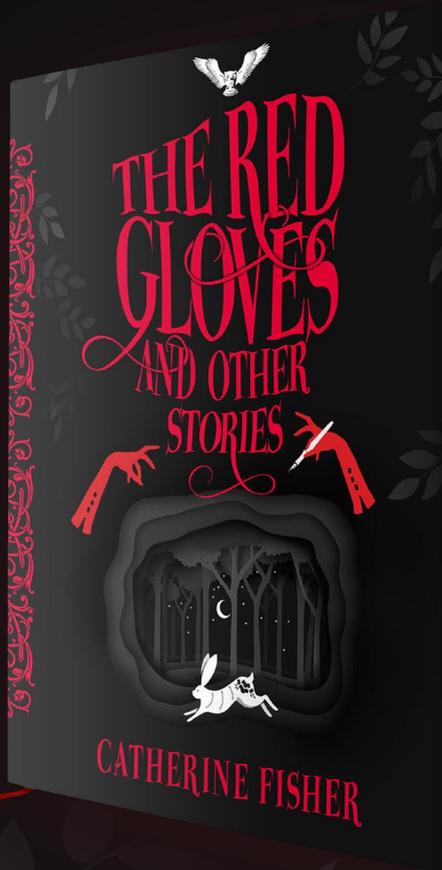
'Libby is everything a reader wants in a detective: brilliant at solving puzzles, brave and loyal. Jo has given her a genuinely satisfying mystery to solve, packed with vivid characters, perfect for Becka Moor to illustrate. And who wouldn't love to go to a school that travels the world?!' Janet Thomas, editor



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

*Imogen Russell Williams, The Guardian*

SEPTEMBER  
2021



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Distribution (Wales)  
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