

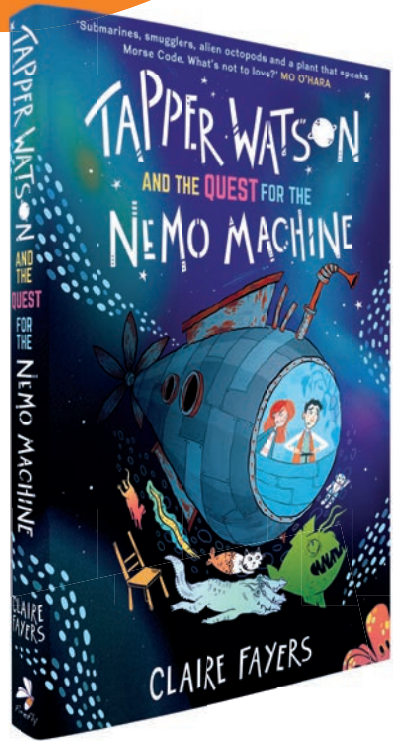


# Firefly Press

## SPOTLIGHT

AUTUMN | WINTER  
2023/24





## Tapper Watson and the Quest for the Nemo Machine

Claire Fayers

Cover art: Becka Moor

7th September 2023 | £7.99

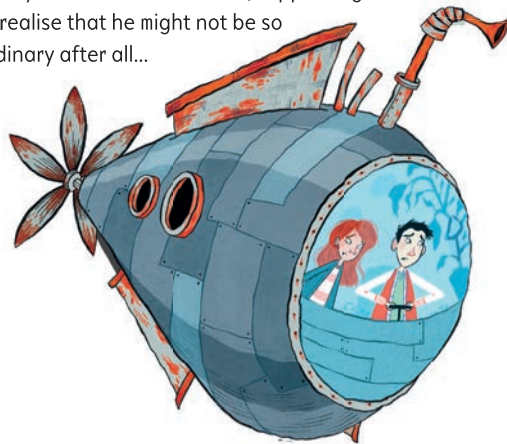
298pp | 9+ fiction

9781915444158 (paperback)

World rights

Tapper Watson is just an ordinary Erisean boy who loves adventure stories. But when one of his sixty-seven cousins sends him away on a smugglers' submarine through the River Lethe to other worlds, he just wants to go home again.

On an unscheduled visit to Earth he meets Fern Shakespeare and a talking plant called Morse, and their adventures begin. But chased through worlds by a pair of trigger-happy lobster mobsters in search of the mysterious Nemo Machine, Tapper begins to realise that he might not be so ordinary after all...



**Claire Fayers** writes comic fantasy featuring swashbuckling pirates, evil magicians, heroic librarians and man-eating penguins. She grew up in South Wales, studied English in Canterbury, and is now back in Wales where she spends a lot of her free time tramping around castles in the rain, looking for dragons. [@ClaireFayers](#)



## Skrimсли

Nicola Davies

Cover art: Jackie Morris

14th September 2023 | £14.99

416pp | YA

9781913102807 (gift hardback edition)

UK and Commonwealth rights

Skrimсли is the second fantasy adventure from author Nicola Davies set in a world where animals and humans can sometimes share their thoughts. It traces the early life of Skrimсли, the tiger sea captain who, along with his friends, Owl and Kal, must escape the clutches of a tyrannical circus owner, then stop a war and save the ancient forest.

## The Song That Sings Us

6th July 2023 | £9.99 | 416pp | YA

9781913102494 (paperback)

World English rights c/o Firefly Press

**Nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2023.**

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.



**Nicola Davies** trained as a zoologist and studied geese, bats and whales in the wild before becoming a TV presenter and a writer. A former presenter for *The Really Wild Show*, she has written more than eighty books for children of all ages, which have been translated into many languages. She lives in Pembrokeshire in West Wales.

[@nicolakidsbooks](#)



**Strange Tales**  
**Daniel Morden**

Cover design: Anne Glenn

**28th September 2023 | £10.99**  
**136pp | 9-12 fiction**  
9781915444172 (gift edition hardback)  
World rights

A boy who cannot feel fear... A girl pursued by a ghostly figure... Two sisters turned into beasts... A wild party where all the guests are skeletons... These extraordinary stories from long ago have been shaped over a lifetime of performance in schools, festivals and theatres by master storyteller, Daniel Morden into thrilling adventures, brimming with mystery and magic. To open these pages is to journey into a strange world where invisible beings move among us; animals speak, and luck, spells and fortune are never to be treated lightly!

‘...wickedly funny and deliciously dark...’  
Damaris Young



**Daniel Morden** Since 1989 Daniel Morden has made his living telling stories: folktales, fairytales, myths, legends – and fibs! He has travelled the world sharing stories, from Swansea to Sydney, from the Arctic to the Pacific to the Caribbean. His stories range from awful jokes to magical adventures and haunting myths. His books have twice won the Books Council of Wales’ Tir Na n-Og Prize and he was awarded the Hay Festival Medal in 2017. Daniel lives in Monmouthshire.



**Play**  
**Luke Palmer**

Cover design: Anne Glenn

**5th October 2023 | £8.99**  
**302pp | YA**  
9781915444318 (paperback)  
World rights

Four boys grow up together at school, itching to get out of their small town. They play games, scoring points from each other, anything to pass the time until they’re free.

Matthew slips into his imagination, Luc pushes his body to the limit, and Johnny ... well who knows what Johnny’s up to. But when Mark starts running errands for his older brother’s mysterious associate, he thinks he’s found the best game of all. There’s money in his pocket and his friends have started looking at him differently.

**Second book by Carnegie-longlisted and Branford Boase shortlisted poet and novelist Luke Palmer.**

An intensely gripping and masterly YA novel about the fates of four very different boys, as they navigate friendships and growing up in a small town.

Focuses on boyhood and male friendship, modern-day masculinity and innocence lost.

Then Mark breaks a rule, and quickly realises that the penalties in this game far outweigh the prizes. Can they all make it to the finish line before someone loses more than just face?

‘Astonishing.’  
Jo Nadin



**Luke Palmer** is a poet, author, secondary school teacher and a graduate of the Bath Spa Creative Writing course. He lives in Wiltshire with his young family. His debut YA novel *Grow* was shortlisted for the 2022 Branford Boase Award, Longlisted for the 2022 Yoto Carnegie Medal and featured on *The Sunday Times* 2021 Books of the Year list. [@lcpalmerpoet](https://twitter.com/lcpalmerpoet)

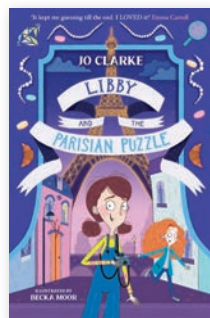


## Libby and the Manhattan Mystery

BOOK THREE  
Jo Clarke  
Illustrated by Becca Moor

4th January 2024 | £7.99  
224pp approx | 9-12 fiction  
9781915444394 (paperback)  
UK and Commonwealth rights

The travelling school arrives in New York, and Libby and her friends find themselves organising a charity auction alongside Hollywood star Eloise Fitzwilliam. But something isn't right. Why is Eloise's friend Count Alvarez acting so strangely and can a face from the past really have followed the school all the way to New York?



### Libby and the Manhattan Mystery BOOK ONE

9-12 | PB | £7.99  
ISBN 9781913102708



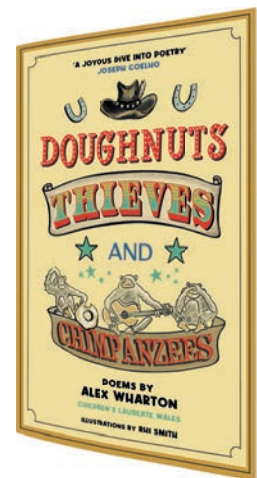
### Libby and the Highland Heist BOOK TWO

9-12 | PB | £7.99  
ISBN 9781915444011



**Jo Clarke** is an award-winning book blogger and primary school librarian. Her hugely successful blog, BookloverJo, keeps her actively involved in the children's book community and she has been involved in judging the British Book Awards and the Alligator's Mouth Book Awards. @bookloverjo

**Becca Moor** is a children's book illustrator living in Manchester. She studied at Glyndŵr University, graduating in 2012. Since then, she has worked on a variety of young fiction, non-fiction and picture books. @beckamoor



## Doughnuts Thieves and Chimpanzees

Alex Wharton  
Illustrated by Rhi Smith  
19th October 2023 | £6.99 | 80pp  
9781915444585 (paperback)

From Children's Laureate Wales Alex Wharton comes an innovative poetry 'how to' collection aimed at school pupils. Doughnuts, Thieves and Chimpanzees is packed full of fun poems, limericks, haiku, song and rap, plus brief introductions to each form, and tips on how to create your own poems and songs.

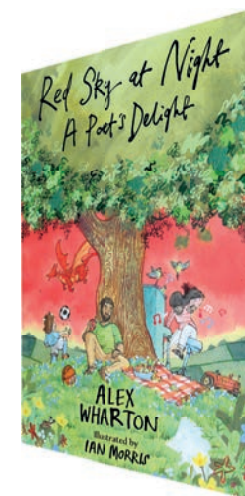
## Red Sky at Night: A Poet's Delight

Alex Wharton  
Illustrated by Ian Morris

1st February 2024 | £6.99  
64pp approx | 7-11 Poetry  
9781915444356 (paperback)  
World rights

From Children's Laureate Wales Alex Wharton comes *Red Sky at Night: A Poet's Delight* – a second collection of funny and thoughtful poems, aimed at developing a love of language and self-expression.

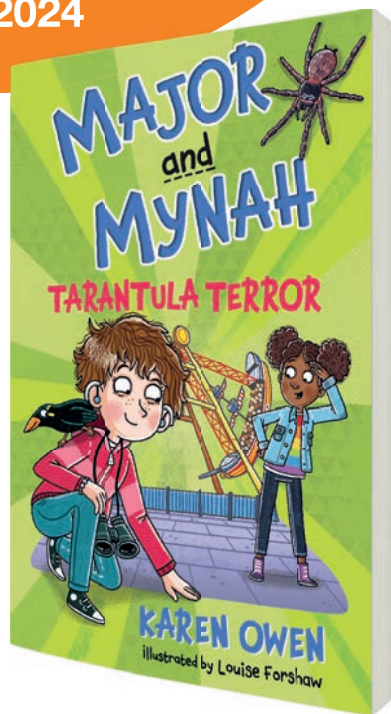
Readers will be excited by fun new characters like Mr Slime and the return of Hector the Horrible Hedgehog from *Daydreams and Jellybeans*, as well as being introduced to powerful and moving poems such as 'Young Oak', 'The Long Way Home', and 'For a Quiet Day'.



**Alex Wharton** is an award-winning writer and performer of poetry for adults and children. His first book of poetry for children, *Daydreams and Jellybeans*, was shortlisted for the Wales Book of The Year Award 2022, The North Somerset Teacher's Book Awards, The Laugh Out Loud Book Awards and was named as a National Poetry Day Recommended Read. He is a regular performer at school events, and has worked with many key organisations to promote literacy and poetry, as well as appearing in festivals such as Hay Festival and Edinburgh International Book Festival.

**Ian Morris** is a passionate illustrator with an authentic voice and is a lecturer at Manchester School Of Art on the Illustration with Animation course. Ian's debut picture book *The Library Book* was longlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize 2022, nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Illustration Medal 2023 and also endorsed 'Glorious' by Chris Riddell.



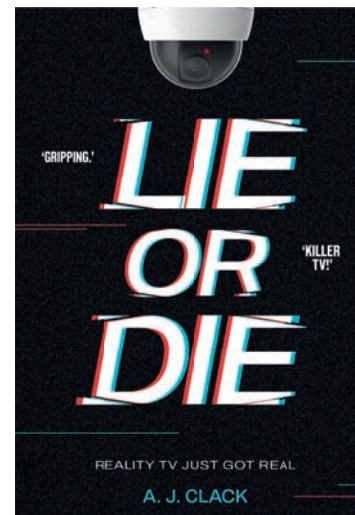


**Major and Mynah:  
Tarantula Terror**  
BOOK THREE  
Karen Owen  
Illustrated by Louise Forshaw

15th February 2024 | £6.99 |  
176pp approx | 7-9 fiction  
9781915444431 (paperback)  
World rights

SPUD – the Super Perceptive Undercover Detectives are back and they have another mystery to solve.

When Callie, Grace and Bo discover that a tarantula has escaped from the wildlife park, they must find the spider and reunite her with her spiderlings, before she dies from the cold. Can Callie's magical hearing aids and mynah bird Bo as the SPUD team's Spy in the Sky help to find the missing creature before it's too late?



DRAFT COVER

**Lie or Die**  
A. J. Clack  
Cover Design: Becka Moor  
7th March 2024

Ten strangers trapped in a television studio.

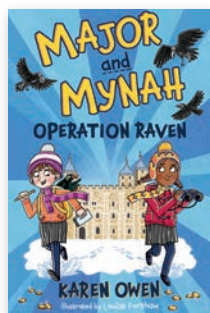
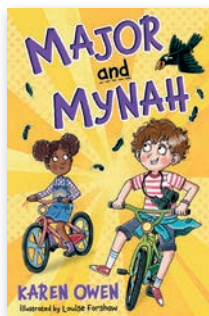
Forty-two remote cameras.

Five dead bodies.

One rule: Trust no one.

When a casting call is announced for new reality TV show *Lie or Die*, Kass is tricked into auditioning by her best friend. *Big Brother* meets *Mafia*, *Lie or Die* pits contestants against each other as they try to discover who is a murderous agent and who is an innocent player. But when contestants start to turn up dead (the real kind, not the fake kind), Kass realises that not being eliminated and winning the game is the least of her worries. No longer a game of truth and lies, Kass and her friends are in a fight for survival. 'Reality' just got very real.

**Major and Mynah**  
BOOK ONE  
7-9 | PB | £6.99  
ISBN 9781913102746



**Major and Mynah:  
Operation Raven**  
BOOK TWO  
7-9 | PB | £6.99  
ISBN 9781915444035

**The Doll Twin**  
Janine Beacham  
Cover Art: Nathan Collins  
4th April 2024



Una Wexford is thrilled to be adopted after the Great War, but an eerie secret lurks in her new home; the doll twin, a life-sized, animated copy of herself. Is 'Ani' as innocent as she seems, or does she want to steal Una's life?



**Karen Owen** fell in love with books and stories at a young age. When she couldn't read, she daydreamed – so it was only natural that when she grew up she should spend her days reading, writing and daydreaming for a living. Karen has been a journalist, a creative writing teacher, and an author.  
**@AuthorKarenOwen**



**Louise Forshaw** lives near Newcastle upon Tyne with her fiancé and three noisy Jack Russell terriers. To date, Louise has illustrated over seventy children's books.  
**@Munkey\_Pants**





**Noah Frye Gets Crushed**  
**Maggie Horne**

Cover Art: Luna Valentine

28th May 2024

Best friends Luna and Zoey can't stop talking about boys and kissing, but Noah just wants everything to go back to the way it was. To fit in, Noah pretends that she likes Archie, a boy from school, even though she's not quite sure. When new girl Jessa joins their group things get even more confusing. Can Noah admit to herself who she really likes, not who she thinks she should?

**Me and Aaron Ramsey**  
**Manon Steffan Ros**

11th April 2024

Me and Aaron Ramsey tells the story of Sam and his dad who both love football, which is always there for them however tough real life becomes, until Dad's dreams of football stardom go horribly wrong. Sam's love for the footballing legend becomes tangled with his relationship for his father as things go south in their family life.



Manon Steffan Ros is the winner of the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2023 with YA dystopian novel *The Blue Book of Nebo* (Firefly, 2022)



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