



FIREFLY PRESS

CATALOGUE 2024



From the fantastic to the fantastical, Firefly is delighted to bring you its sumptuous 2024 catalogue with more books and stories this year than ever before!

Here the fiery golden flame birds of **Flame Chasers** (Julie Pike) mingle with some seriously demanding cats in the fog-draped world of **Starspill** (Catherine Fisher). And all manner of mythical creatures spring from the pages of **Welsh Giants, Ghosts and Goblins** (Claire Fayers) this autumn.

For those who love a properly spooky story, **The Doll Twin** by Janine Beacham is a must for April. And don't miss the creepy paranormal shenanigans in the second book of the Delores Mackenzie series, **The Haunted Life of Delores Mackenzie** (Yvonne Banham) in Edinburgh later in the year!

Young adult readers get more than their fair share of chills in twisty, *Traitor-esque* thriller **Lie or Die** from A. J. Clack this spring, followed by a stunning Indian myth-based romantasy debut **This Dark Heart** from Zeena Gosrani in the autumn.

For younger readers, Michael the sausage dog of Blue Peter Book Club fame returns with a laugh-out-loud Hollywoof adventure in **Michael the Incredible Super-Sleuth Sausage Dog** (Terrie Chilvers and Tim Budgen), while the ticklish among you may twitch as you join the SPUD detectives for the third in the acclaimed **Major and Mynah** series – **Tarantula Terror** (Karen Owen and Louise Forshaw)!

Football lovers have plenty of middle-grade fiction to enjoy this year, with **Me and Aaron Ramsey** from Yoto Carnegie Medal Winner Manon Steffan Ros highlighting the relationship of a football-mad father and son, while hard-hitting **Raz Beri** by Matt Stephens tells the story of two 13-year-olds with cerebral palsy, as they also encounter their footballing heroes.

We have poetry too, with a third, funny and thoughtful collection from Wales Children's Laureate Alex Wharton – **Red Sky at Night; Poets' Delight**, illustrated by Ian Morris, and a middle-grade anthology of poems from across Wales, **And I Hear Dragons**, edited by Wales Poet Laureate Hanan Issa, with illustrations by Eric Heyman publishing in English, Welsh and bilingually at the end of May.

Add to this **A History of My Weird** (Chloë Heuch) – which sees autistic student Mo, navigating the transition to secondary school while she and new friend Onyx investigate their town's murky past – and we hope you'll find a whole bookshelf full of stories you'll love to read in 2024!

PENNY THOMAS, PUBLISHER

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Major and Mynah: Tarantula Terror

Karen Owen



Major and
Mynah

BOOK ONE

PB | £6.99

ISBN 9781913102746



Major and
Mynah

BOOK TWO

PB | £6.99

ISBN 9781915444035



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 – the SPUD team's Spy in the Sky – help to find the missing creature before it's too late?

The **THIRD** hilarious instalment in the Major and Mynah series.

15th February 2024 | Paperback | 128pp | £6.99

ISBN 9781915444431



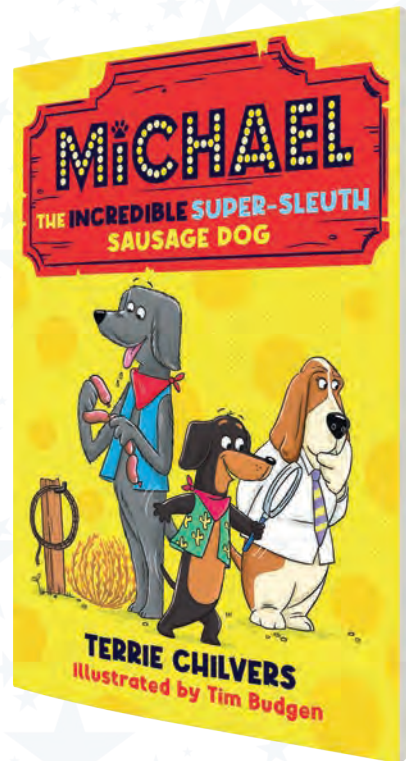
Karen Owen fell in love with books and stories at a young age. When she couldn't read, she daydreamed – so it was only natural that when she grew up she should spend her days reading, writing and daydreaming for a living. Karen has been a journalist, a creative writing teacher, and an author. [@AuthorKarenOwen](#)

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](#)

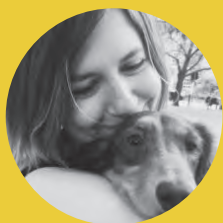




Michael the Incredible Super-sleuth Sausage Dog
Terrie Chilvers



Michael the Amazing, Mind-reading Sausage Dog
BOOK ONE
PB | £6.99
ISBN 9781915444134
Selected for the Blue Peter Book Club



Terrie Chilvers writes funny middle-grade fiction and non-fiction. She works freelance as a copywriter and social media consultant but is most happy when teaching a dog to high-five. Terrie lives in London where she is the doting aunt to two long-haired sausage dogs. [@cowfishdreams](#)

Tim Budgen is a freelance illustrator. For much of his life he has been scribbling down ideas and can usually be found with a pencil in one hand and a sketchbook in the other! His illustration work has been described as 'story telling with whimsical charm, warmth and humour' and he'd like to think that is pretty true!
[@mrtimdraws](#)

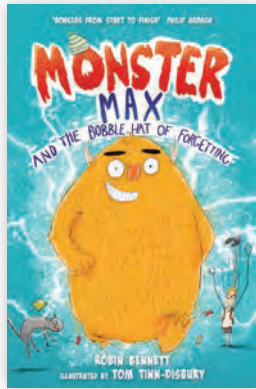


Being a su-paw-star isn't working out quite like Michael had planned. So when Susan the Chocolate Labrador gets dognapped, Michael jumps at the chance to boost his TV ratings and wow his fans by becoming not just a mind-reading sausage dog, but a detective mastermind as well ... oh, and he should probably try and save Susan from her dognappers too.

SECOND in the series.

2nd May 2024 | Paperback | 176pp | £6.99
ISBN 9781915444516

Monster Max and the Bobble Hat of Forgetting BOOK ONE



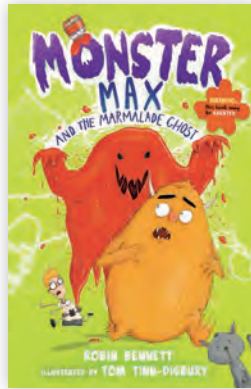
ROBIN BENNETT

PB | £6.99

ISBN 97819131023333

Illus. Tom Tinn-Disbury

Monster Max and the Marmalade Ghost BOOK TWO



ROBIN BENNETT

PB | £6.99

ISBN 9781913102821

Illus. Tom Tinn-Disbury

Monster Max: This Time It's Sirius BOOK THREE



ROBIN BENNETT

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ISBN 9781915444271

Illus. Tom Tinn-Disbury

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SHARON MARIE JONES

PB | £5.99

ISBN 9781913102067

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Grace-Ella: Pixie Pandemonium BOOK THREE



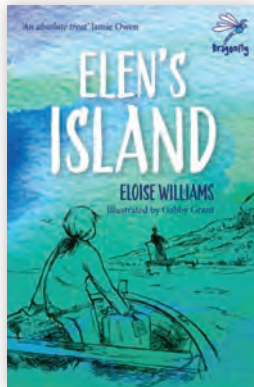
SHARON MARIE JONES

PB | £5.99

ISBN 9781913102623

Illus. Adriana J. Puglisi

Elen's Island

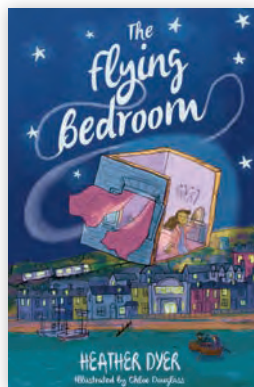


ELOISE WILLIAMS

PB | £6.99

ISBN 9781910080207

The Flying Bedroom



HEATHER DYER

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ISBN 9781910080023

Illus. Chloe Douglass

Arthur and Me



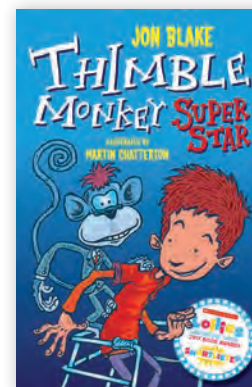
SARAH TODD TAYLOR

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Illus. Peter Stevenson

Thimble Monkey Superstar BOOK ONE



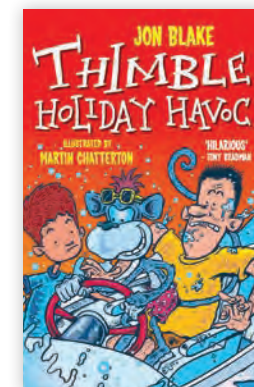
JON BLAKE

PB | £6.99

ISBN 9781910080344

Illus. Martin Chatterton

Thimble Holiday Havoc BOOK TWO



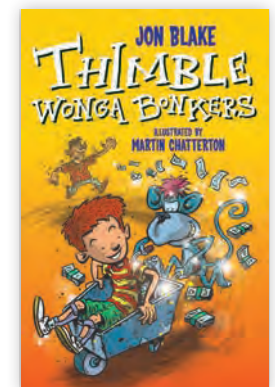
JON BLAKE

PB | £6.99

ISBN 9781910080665

Illus. Martin Chatterton

Thimble Wonga Bonkers BOOK THREE



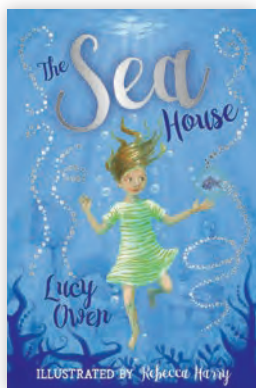
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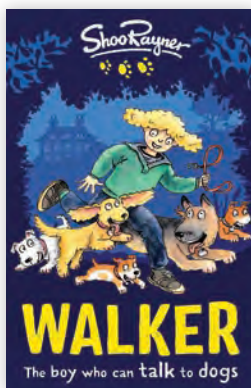
ISBN 9781913102104

Illus. Martin Chatterton

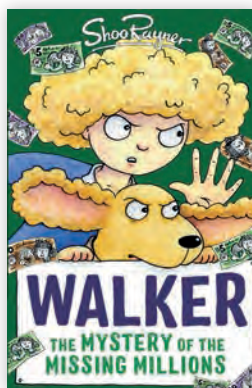
Lollies laugh-out-loud Book Awards shortlisted

The Sea House**LUCY OWEN**

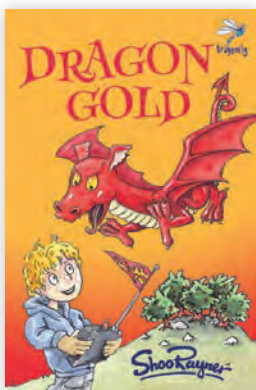
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Illus. Rebecca Harry

Walker: the boy who can talk to dogs BOOK ONE**SHOO RAYNER**

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Illus. Shoo Rayner

Walker: The Mystery of the Missing Millions BOOK TWO**SHOO RAYNER**

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ISBN 9781913102531
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Dragon Gold BOOK ONE**SHOO RAYNER**

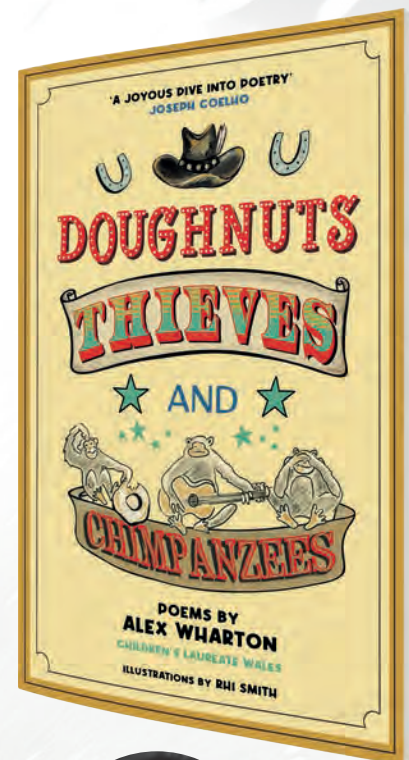
PB | £5.99
ISBN 9781910080047
Illus. Shoo Rayner

Dragon White BOOK TWO**SHOO RAYNER**

PB | £5.99
ISBN 9781910080306
Illus. Shoo Rayner

Dragon Red BOOK THREE**SHOO RAYNER**

PB | £6.99
ISBN 9781910080481
Illus. Shoo Rayner

Doughnuts, Thieves and Chimpanzees Alex Wharton

'A joyous dive into poetry'
Joseph Coelho



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 from Children's Laureate Wales Alex Wharton, illustrated by Rhiannon Smith.

17th October 2023 | Paperback | £6.99

ISBN 9781915444585

Red Sky at Night, Poet's Delight

Alex Wharton



'His poems chime and sing from the page.'

A. F. Harrold

From Children's Laureate Wales Alex Wharton comes *Red Sky at Night, Poet's Delight* – a third collection of funny and thoughtful poems, aimed at developing a love of language and self-expression and perfect for reading aloud or in class.

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'.

1st February 2024 | Paperback | 64pp | £6.99

ISBN 9781915444356



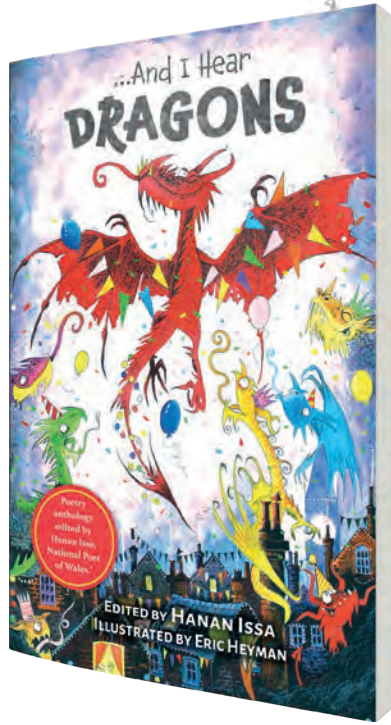
Alex Wharton is an award-winning writer and performer of poetry for adults and children. His first book of poetry for children, *Daydreams and Jellybeans*, was shortlisted for the Wales Book of The Year Award 2022, The North Somerset Teacher's Book Awards, The Laugh Out Loud Book Awards and was named 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. [@alexwhartonpoet](https://twitter.com/alexwhartonpoet)

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 and nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Illustration Medal 2023. [@IanMorris_22](https://twitter.com/IanMorris_22)



And I Hear Dragons

Hanan Issa Ed.



Dragons are everywhere in this ground-breaking anthology: in the bath, the back garden, in your pocket, your family, or a part of the landscape itself.

Conceived and edited by the National Poet of Wales, Hanan Issa, *And I Hear Dragons* explores the concepts of identity and belonging, and the title poem celebrates the children of Wales as ferociously brave mythical beasts, taking on discrimination, pollution and more, and upholding Wales' tradition of croesawgar (welcoming). Featuring twenty or more poets from communities across Wales, including Alex Wharton, Casi Wyn, Ifor ap Glyn and Sarah Ziman, this is a refreshing and energetic collection, perfect for use in schools and reading for pleasure, and will be available in English, Welsh, and bilingually.

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30th May 2024 | Paperback | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444578

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Hanan Issa is a writer, poet and artist, as well as the co-founder of the Where I'm Coming From open mic collective, whose debut pamphlet *My Body Can House Two Hearts* was published by Burning Eye Books. Her work has been performed and published on platforms such as BBC Wales, ITV Wales, Huffington Post, Stanza Festival, *Poetry Wales*, Wales Arts International and the British Council.

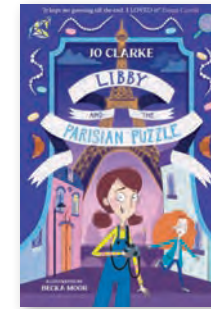
'A fantastic blend of intrigue and adventure that's perfectly pitched for young readers who love sleuthing.'
Andy Shepherd



**oyful, fun and brilliantly
otted! Perfect for young
armchair detectives
everywhere.'**
A.M. Howell

Libby and the Manhattan Mystery

Jo Clarke



Libby and the Parisian Puzzle
BOOK ONE
PB | £6.99
ISBN 9781913102746



Libby and the Highland Heist
BOOK TWO
PB | £6.99
ISBN 9781913102746

**'Another delightful
page-turner
from the queen of cosy
crime for kids!'**
Rashmi Sirdeshpande

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?

THIRD in the series.

4th January 2024 | Paperback | 224pp | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444394



Jo Clarke is an award-winning book blogger and primary school librarian. Her hugely successful blog, BookloverJo, keeps her active 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**





The Doll Twin

JANINE BEACHAM

MG | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781915444479

Cover: Nathan Collins

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?



Janine Beacham has written all her life. A former journalist, she is the author of the Rose Raventhorpe Investigates series. When not writing, Janine works in a bookshop and occasionally gets to sign her own books. She lives in Australia with her family. *The Doll Twin* is Janine's first book with Firefly Press.

@BeachamJanine



Me and Aaron Ramsey

MANON STEFFAN ROS

MG | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781915444493

Cover: Cynthia Paul

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. That is, 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.

ALSO BY MANON STEFFAN ROS

Winner of the Yoto
Carnegie Medal 2023

The Blue Book of Nebo

14+ | PB | £8.99

ISBN 9781913102784

Cover: Becka Moor



Manon Steffan Ros was born in Snowdonia and worked as an actress before becoming a writer. She writes for adults and children and won the Yoto Carnegie Medal last year with *The Blue Book of Nebo* (Firefly, 2022). She also won the Wales Book of the Year for her adult fiction as well as being four-times winner of the *Tir na n'Og* Welsh children's literature award. She has also won Eisteddfod and National Theatre Wales awards for her drama writing. She lives in north Wales with her sons.

@ManonSteffanRos



Noah Frye Gets Crushed

MAGGIE HORNE

MG | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781915444530

Cover: Luna Valentine

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?



Flame Chasers

JULIE PIKE

MG | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781915444554

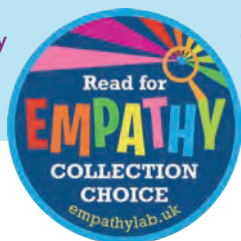
Cover: David Dean

All Ember wants is to fly with the golden flamebirds who stop every year at Bright Beacon before heading west across the seas to their mysterious home. Their fiery arrival is also the signal for the waiting flame chasers in the harbour below to get ready to follow the birds, whose glowing tail feathers grant the finder a wish. But when Pa tells Ember he is chasing without her, she is devastated. Can she find a ship and captain to help her find her father, and the flamebirds secret home?



ALSO BY MAGGIE HORNE

A Read for Empathy
2024 selection



**Hazel Hill is
Gonna Win This One**

PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781913102975

Cover: Luna Valentine



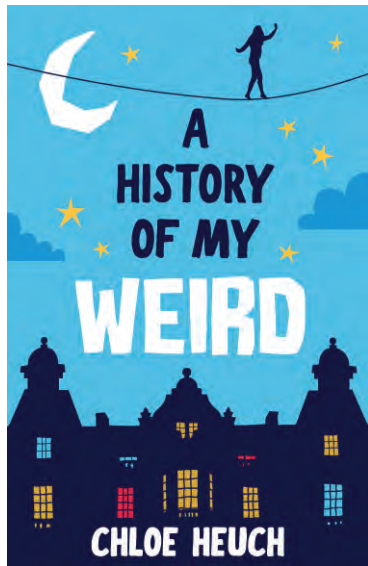
Maggie Horne is a writer who grew up near Toronto, Canada. She now lives in the UK with her wife, where they keep a collection of dogs and children. She is the author of books for middle grade and young adult readers. Her first novel, *Hazel Hill is Gonna Win This One*, was a 2023 LGBTQ+ Middle Grade Lambda Literary Award finalist and a Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts (NCTE) nominee.

[@MaggieHasHornes](#)



Julie Pike grew up on a council estate in Neath, nestled in the Welsh valleys. This inspired her debut novel *The Last Spellbreather* (OUP 2019), longlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book of the Year. Julie now lives in the Forest of Dean where she works as an environmental consultant.

[@Juliepike](#)



DRAFT COVER

Starting high school was never going to be easy for Mo, but a fall out with her so-called friends leaves her lonelier than ever. Then she finds Onyx. Exploring an abandoned Victorian asylum may seem a weird way to develop a friendship, but then Mo has always found she does things a bit differently. Together they help each other accept their own differences even when others struggle to do the same. Determined to keep the pair apart, Onyx's dad's actions force them back to the secrecy of Denham asylum. On Halloween night, with the old building due for demolition, the two friends enter for the last time...

A History of My Weird

CHLOË HEUCH

MG | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781915444639

ALSO BY CHLOË HEUCH

Too Dark To See

YA | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781913102166



Chloë Heuch is a neurodivergent author, writer and educator. In 2021 she was shortlisted for the Rhys Davies Short Story Competition and published by Parthian Press. Her YA debut novel *Too Dark to See* came out in 2020 with Firefly Press. She teaches English at Ysgol Friars secondary school in Bangor. She lives in North Wales with her family. When she's not reading and writing, she can be found wandering the mountains of North Wales with her cocker spaniel and her adventurous cat.

@clogsulike



DRAFT COVER

Raz Beri

MATT STEPHENS

MG | PB | £7.99

ISBN 9781915444615

Billy has Cerebral Palsy and he's had enough of his classmates treating him differently. But then Mia arrives and announces a school visit from her uncle: a famous footballer. Maybe being a star footballer in front of his classmates will help Billy prove that he can be just like them. But when even his hero turns out to be just as bad as the school bullies, Billy begins to realise that perhaps he doesn't need to prove anything to anyone but himself.



Matt Stephens lives in Bristol. He derives joy and inspiration from his two daughters and three granddaughters. A turbulent past has been soothed by yoga, meditation and the realisation that human good outweighs human evil.

He writes for adults under the name Ed Trewavas and currently works in a major supermarket. Previous employment has included warehouse work, farm labouring and nursery/infant teaching. He enjoys cooking, sport (well, Bristol Rovers) and, most importantly, spending time with family and friends.



DRAFT COVER

Welsh Giants, Ghosts, and Goblins

CLARE FAYERS

MG | HB | £10.99
ISBN 9781915444707

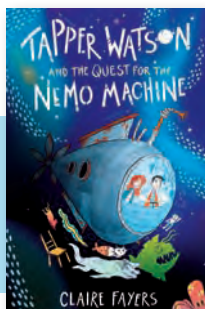
A wealth of Welsh myths, legends and ghost stories are reimagined for contemporary younger readers.

Meet Idris, the teenage giant king on a quest to collect stories. As he travels across Wales in this anthology, readers encounter a vengeful house goblin, a ghost that steals life from the living, dwarves that have moved in beneath someone's garden, a tea party of Lady ghosts, a furry trickster goblin and many other fascinating and devious fairy folk besides!

ALSO BY CLAIRE FAYERS

Tapper Watson and the Quest for the Nemo Machine

9-12 | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444158
Cover: Becka Moor



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



Starspill

CATHERINE FISHER

MG | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444684

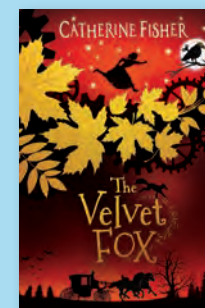
It's been 140 years since the Wolf swallowed the Sun, so why are all the cats in the dark, fog-shrouded town of Starspill bothering Zac about it now? He just wants to stay warm, listen to stories, and work hard for his brother as an apprentice starsmith.

But the cats have other ideas. They want Zac to steal one of the three legendary Embers of the Sun from the town museum for them, and they've taken his precious secret map to make sure he'll agree!



The Clockwork Crow

8-12 | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781910080849



The Velvet Fox

8-12 | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781913102081



The Midnight Swan

8-12 | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781913102371



The Red Gloves and Other Stories

9-12 | HB | £12.99
ISBN 9781913102685

ALSO BY CATHERINE FISHER



Catherine Fisher is a poet and children's author who lives in Newport, South Wales. A leading fantasy writer, her bestselling books include the Snow-Walker trilogy, the Oracle trilogy, the Incarceron series and the Chronoptika series. She was the first Wales Young People's Laureate.

@FisherAuthor

COVER TO
BE REVEALED

The Haunted Life of Delores Mackenzie

YVONNE BANHAM

7-9 | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444660

Paranormal students Delores and Prudence are being hounded by inquisitors after they broke the rules and helped rescue fellow student Maud from death at the hands of an evil spirit.

Cruel inquisitor Magoria Jepp is searching for secrets at their home in Edinburgh's Tolbooth Bookstore, but does she have an uncanny history of her own to hide? As Delores tries save

them both, she attracts the unwelcome attention of a murderous Boçain, or evil spirit, intent on stealing her paranormal gifts. Can she defeat her enemies, and maybe her own family too, to save everyone she loves at the Tolbooth?

ALSO BY YVONNE BANHAM

The Dark and Dangerous Gifts of Delores Mackenzie

PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444073
Cover: Nathan Collins



First in series



Yvonne Banham has completed two years of study with the Golden Egg Academy and is one of the network organisers for SCBWI Scotland. She grew up on a small island off the Cumbrian coast and spent lots of time huddled on blustery beaches with a book or three.

@Eviewriter

COVER TO
BE REVEALED

Feather

MANON STEFFAN ROS

MG | PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444370



Huw always pops in to see his nan on the way home from school – she bakes him cakes and never fusses about his homework. So it's a great shock when, one day, Nan forgets his name, and calls him Johnny – the long-unmentionable name of her late brother. As Nan slowly slips into the grip of dementia, Huw and his friends go on a quest to learn more about Johnny and what happened to him. Exploring themes of friendship, family bonds and

the history of conscientious objection in WW2, *Feather* is both modern and historical. Aimed at ages 9-14, the original Welsh edition, *Pluen* won the Tir na n-Og Wales children's fiction Award.



The Sleeping Stones



BEATRICE WALLBANK

PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444059
Cover: Laura Borio

Fireblood



SAM STEWART

PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444196
Cover: Keith Robinson

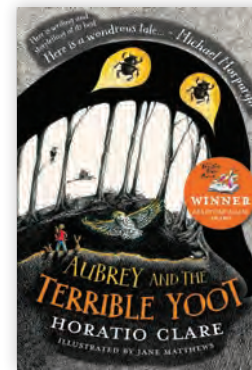
The Dark and Dangerous Gifts of Delores Mackenzie



YVONNE BANHAM

PB | £7.99
ISBN 9781915444073
Cover: Nathan Collins

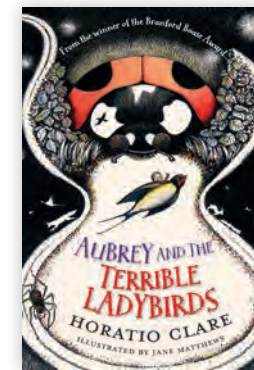
Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot
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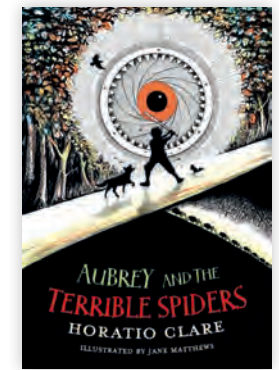
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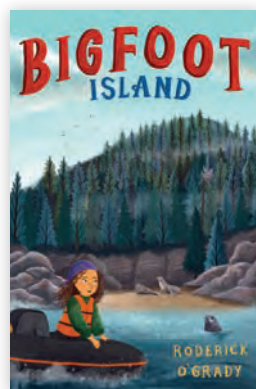
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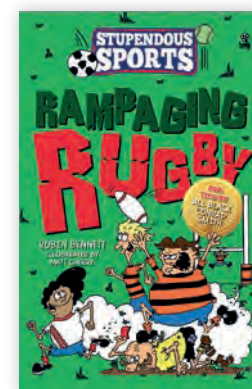
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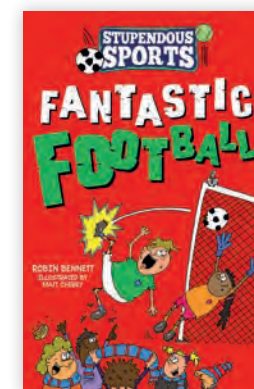
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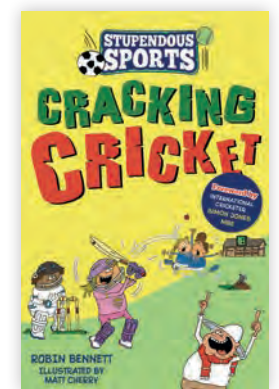
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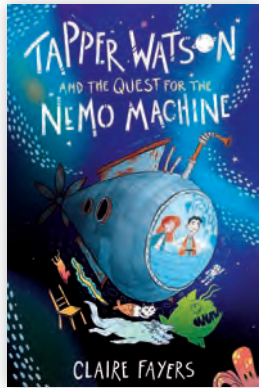
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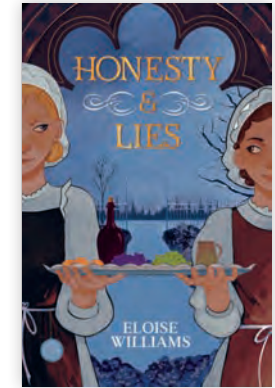
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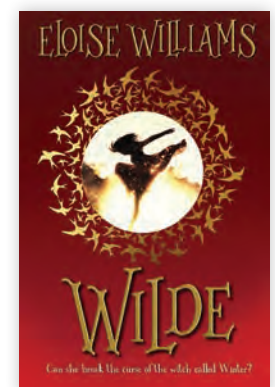
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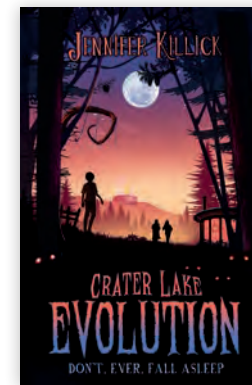


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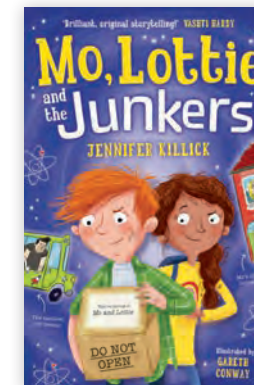
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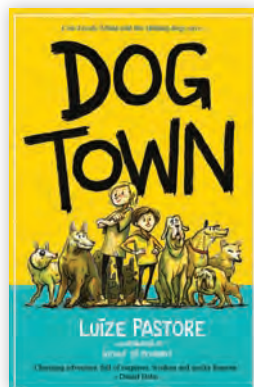
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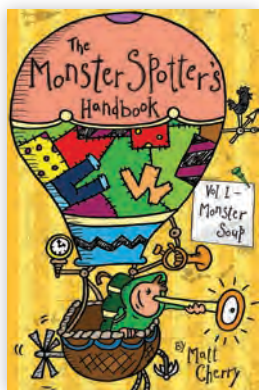
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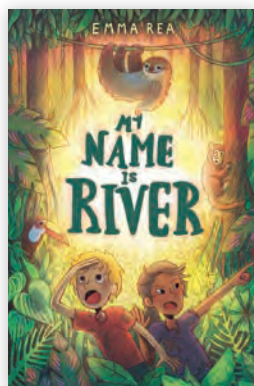
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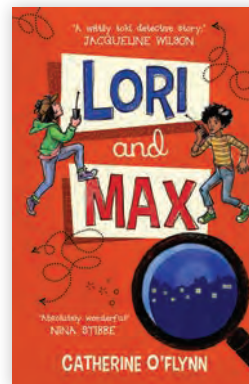
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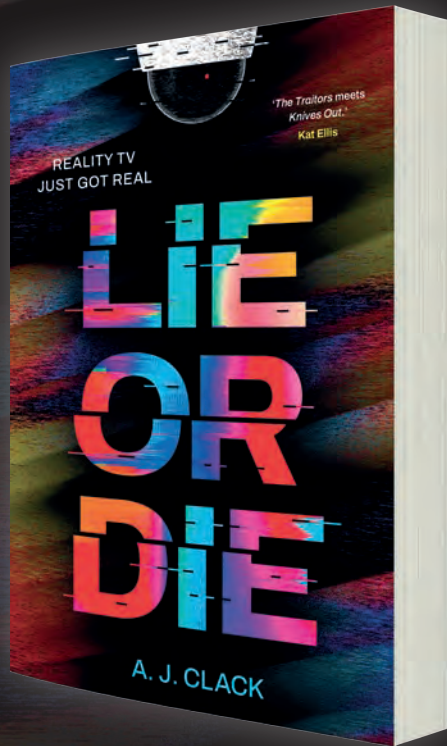
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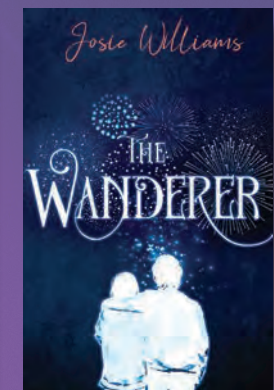
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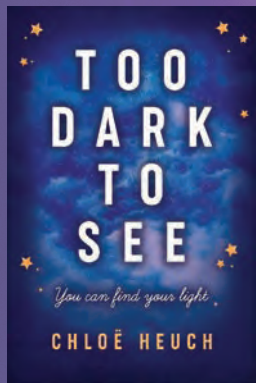
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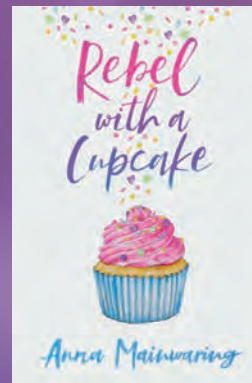


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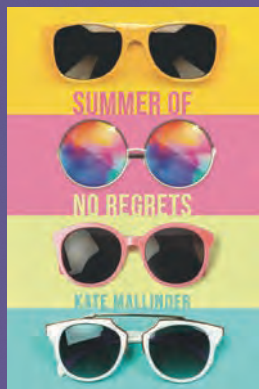
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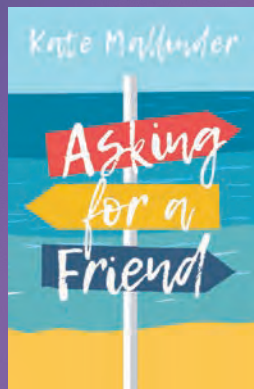
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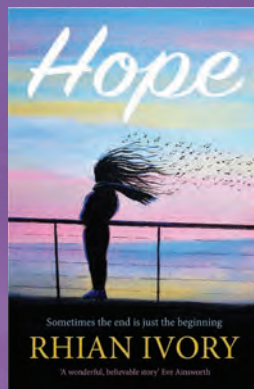
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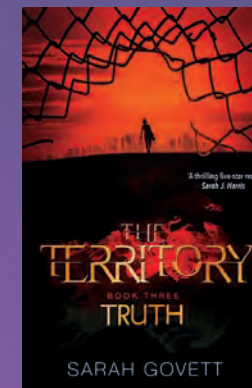
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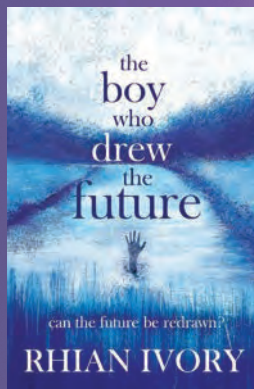
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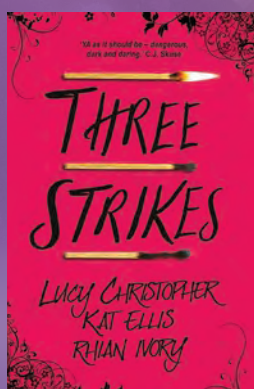
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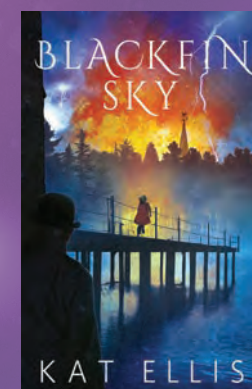
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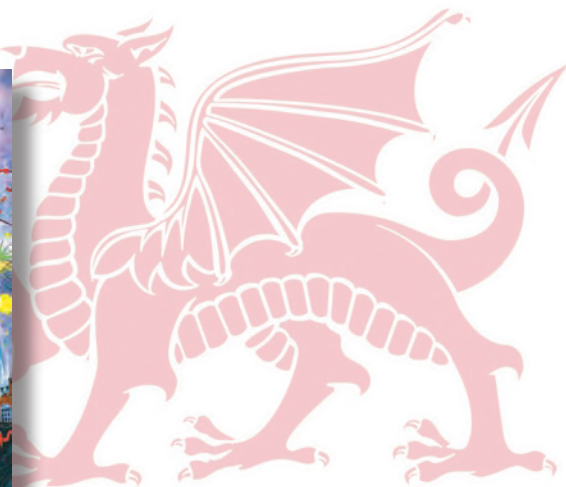
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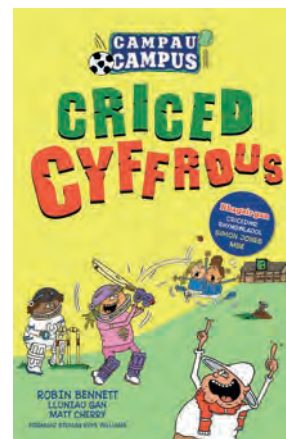
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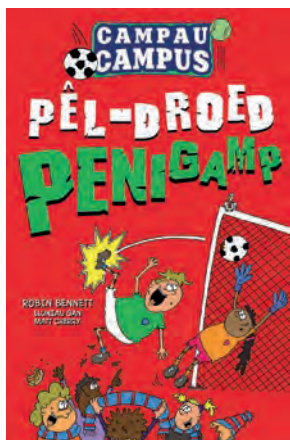
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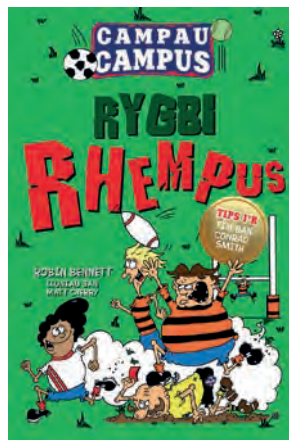
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