



**FIREFLY PRESS**

Children's and YA publisher

Autumn|Winter 2024/25

# CRATER LAKE



Jennifer Killick is the bestselling author of six books for Firefly. She lives in Uxbridge, in a house full of children and animals.

@JenniferKillick



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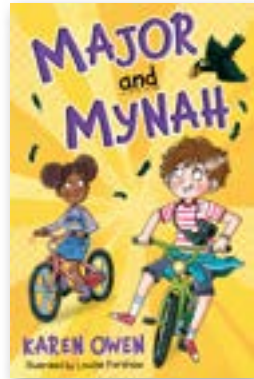
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9-12s



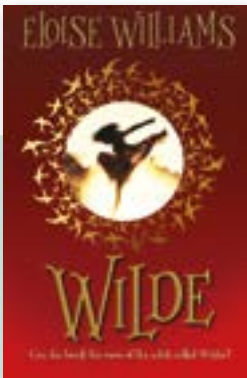
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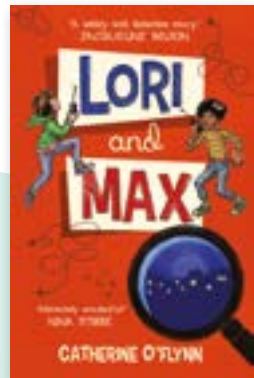
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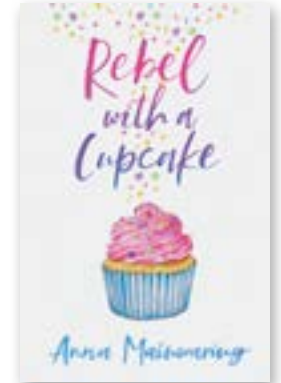
YA



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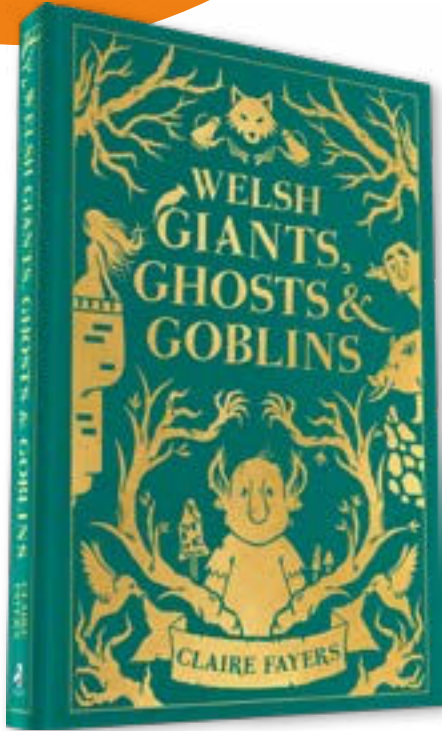
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Josie Williams  
**The Wanderer**  
YA | PB | £8.99  
ISBN 9781913102661








**Welsh Giants, Ghosts & Goblins**  
**Claire Fayers**  
 Cover art: Becka Moor


1st August 2024 | £10.99  
 208pp | 8+  
 9781915444707 (hardback)  
 World rights

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 stories of vengeful goblins lurking beneath the garden, a ghoulish tea-party, a lonely shepherd and a terrifying midnight hunt!



 Seventeen adventures, fairy tales and ghost stories from across Wales, retold and reimagined by the author of *Welsh Fairy Tales, Myths and Legends*.

 Traditional stories are given new life through a contemporary storyteller's lens – a feisty, inclusive and relatable cast in a mix of traditional and contemporary settings.

 Beautiful, decorative hardback limited edition – perfect as a gift or keepsake and for reading aloud.



**Claire Fayers | @ClaireFayers**

- Claire writes comic fantasy featuring swashbuckling pirates, evil magicians, heroic librarians and man-eating penguins. Her novel *Tapper Watson and the Quest for the Nemo Machine* was published by Firefly in 2023.
- 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.



**Starspill**  
**Catherine Fisher**  
 Cover art: Anne Glenn

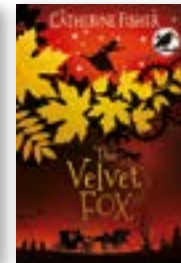
5th September 2024 | £7.99  
 288pp | 9-12  
 9781915444684 (paperback)  
 World rights

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!

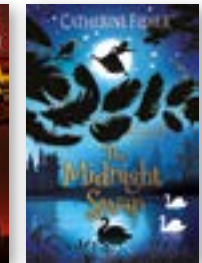
Also by  
**Catherine Fisher**



**The Clockwork Crow**  
 8-12 | PB | £7.99  
 ISBN 9781910080849



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 ISBN 9781913102081



**The Midnight Swan**  
 8-12 | PB | £6.99  
 ISBN 9781913102371

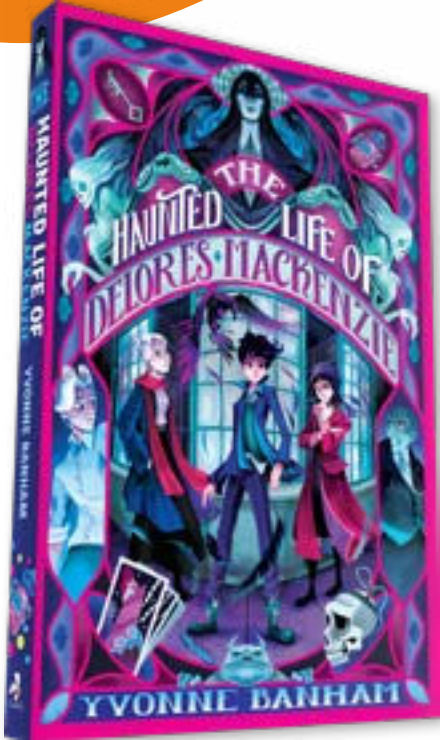


**The Red Gloves**  
 9-12 | HB | £12.99  
 ISBN 9781913102685



**Catherine Fisher | @FisherAuthor**

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



**The Haunted Life of Delores Mackenzie**  
Mackenzie BOOK TWO  
Yvonne Banham  
Cover art: Nathan Collins

12th September 2024 | £7.99  
288pp | 9-12 fiction  
9781915444660 (paperback)  
World rights

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 to save them both, she attracts the unwelcome attention of a murderous Boçan, 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?

**The Dark and Dangerous Gifts of Delores Mackenzie**  
BOOK ONE

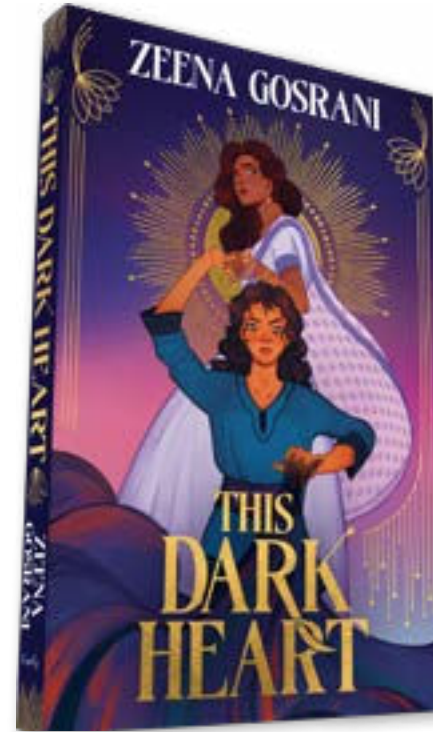


9-12 | PB | £7.99  
ISBN 9781915444073



Yvonne Banham | @Eviewriter

- Yvonne Banham has appeared at the Edinburgh Festival and has been supported by Scottish Book Trust and Creative 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.



**This Dark Heart**  
Zeena Gosrani  
Cover art: Cynthia Paul

3rd October 2024 | £8.99  
320pp | YA  
9781915444721 (paperback)  
World English rights

In a world where the shadow-like 'daayan' stalk the night, the mages of Agraal are the only ones able to defend the realm. So, when Princess Thiya discovers she has the extraordinary powers of a healing mage, she captures the attention of earth mage Isaac. In order to lure Thiya to the frontline to help defeat the daayan, Isaac does the unthinkable, he takes Thiya's true love Amara hostage.

Thiya must make a perilous journey to rescue Amara. But not everything is as it seems and the powers at work behind Amara's abduction might come from the darkest heart of them all.

A poignant, moving debut novel set in a rich and vivid world inspired by Indian folk tales.



Zeena Gosrani | @ZeenaGos

- Zeena is a writer and pharmacist based in London.
- Winner of the The Bent Agency Scholarship to the SCBWI conference in 2019. *This Dark Heart* is her first novel.







**Feather**  
Manon Steffan Ros

10th October 2024 | £7.99  
112pp | 9-12 fiction  
9781915444370 (paperback)  
World English rights

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. *Pluen* won the Tir na n'Og Welsh children's literature award in 2017.



**The Blue Book of Nebo**  
14+ | PB | £8.99  
ISBN 9781913102784



**'Uplifting and thoroughly heart-warming.'**  
Lauren James



**Manon Steffan Ros | @ManonSteffanRos**

- Manon Steffan Ros won the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023 with *The Blue Book of Nebo* (Firefly, 2022), which also won the UKLA children's book award people's choice, and was selected as a Read for Empathy recommendation in English and Welsh by EmpathyLab.
- She has 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.
- Her middle-grade novel *Me and Aaron Ramsey* was published by Firefly in May 2024.

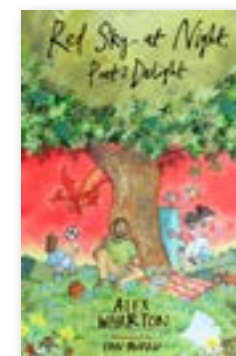


**Red Sky in the Morning** BOOK TWO  
Alex Wharton  
Illustrator: Ian Morris

9th January 2025 | £7.99  
96pp | 7-11 Poetry  
9781915444806 (paperback)  
World rights

*Red Sky in the Morning, Poet's Warning* is the fourth collection of mysterious, humorous, philosophical and charming poetry for young people by Alex Wharton, Children's Laureate Wales.

From poems that describe 'Wild Boys' who live alone in the woods to poems about 'Time' and meeting an astronaut! These poems reflect on nature's happenings, through observation and experience, but not forgetting to transport the reader to many magical, musical and imaginative worlds.



**Red Sky at Night, Poet's Delight** BOOK ONE  
Poetry | PB | £6.99  
ISBN 9781915444356



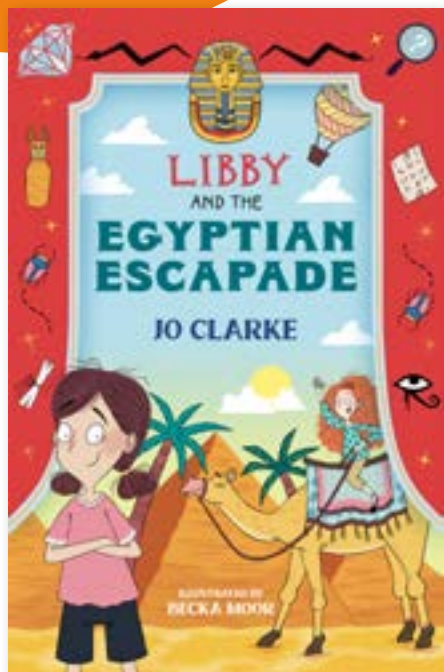
A companion piece to *Red Sky at Night, Poet's Delight* published exactly a year earlier, this ambitious volume reveals Alex as an evolving and maturing children's poet whose vibrant work will resonate deeply with his readership.



**Alex Wharton | @AlexWhartonPoet**



- Alex's 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.
- A regular performer at school events, Alex 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.
- Children's Laureate Wales 2023-2025.



### Libby and the Egyptian Escapade

BOOK FOUR  
Jo Clarke  
Illustrated by Becca Moor

16th January 2025 | £7.99  
224pp approx | 9-12 fiction  
9781915444769 (paperback)  
UK and Commonwealth rights



When the travelling school arrives in Egypt, the students soon get caught up in a sequence of strange and dangerous events. Have they truly awakened a mummy's curse, or is somebody trying to scare them away? Libby and her friends must use all their detective skills to exhume the truth.



**Libby and the Parisian Puzzle** BOOK ONE  
9-12 | PB | £7.99  
ISBN 9781913102708



**Libby and the Highland Heist** BOOK TWO  
9-12 | PB | £7.99  
ISBN 9781915444011



**Libby and the Manhattan Mystery** BOOK THREE  
9-12 | PB | £7.99  
ISBN 9781915444394



Jo Clarke | @BookLoverJo



- Jo is an award-winning book blogger and primary school librarian.
- She runs a hugely successful blog, BookLoverJo, which keeps her active in the children's book community.
- As well as writing the Libby books, Jo has been a judge for the British Book Awards and the Alligator's Mouth Book Awards.



### Major and Mynah: Project Puffin

BOOK FOUR  
Karen Owen  
Illustrated by Louise Forshaw

6th February 2025 | £7.99 |  
160pp approx | 7-9 fiction  
9781915444783 (paperback)  
World rights



SPUD - the Super Perceptive Undercover Detectives - are on holiday, but find themselves in a race to solve a new mystery.

When they discover puffins coated in waste oil that has been dumped in the sea, they must find out who is to blame. Can they crack the case before more damage is caused to precious sea life and the Welsh coastline?

Book four in the hugely successful Major and Mynah series about a young girl with mild hearing loss whose hearing aids give her the ability to communicate with her pet Mynah bird.



**Major and Mynah** BOOK ONE  
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ISBN 9781913102746



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



**Major and Mynah: Tarantula Terror** BOOK THREE  
7-9 | PB | £6.99  
ISBN 9781915444431



Karen Owen | @AuthorKarenOwen



- Karen has been a journalist, a creative writing teacher and an author.
- *Major and Mynah* was selected for the Blue Peter Book Club 2024 and the Summer Reading Challenge, and shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards.





Zillah Bethel has published three novels for adults and four novels for children. Her novel *The Song Walker* was shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2024. She lives in South Wales with her family.

**Vanishing Edge**  
Zillah Bethell  
6th March 2025  
YA

**A postcard to the love-hate relationship between best friends, and with your hometown.**

One morning Apricot Jones wakes up to graffiti on her front door and a man in a black Jaguar who calls himself the Baglan Giant looking for her mum. Apricot wishes she were anywhere else, maybe heading over the horizon on a speedboat for a new life! But her best friend Charlie knows she will always be here, cleaning up the mess the others leave behind.

Set between the Sandfields estate and the sea's edge, and structured by the omnipresent steelworks, this is a darkly comic tale of what it means to be alive, seventeen and living in Port Talbot.



**DRAFT COVER**

**Snails of the Unexpected**  
Terrie Chilvers  
Illustrator: Brenda Figueroa  
3rd April 2025  
7-9

Shapeshifting snails on a mission to save the world! Struck by lightning one fateful night, Fergus and Shelby receive the power to transform into whatever they want: custard, crisp packets, giant plastic crabs – you name it, they can change into it. And with a slug uprising taking place, things are about to get even stranger...

Can Fergus and Shelby save humankind from being turned into lettuces by an evil slug masquerading as the Prime Minister?

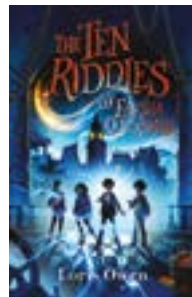
**Expect the unexpected in the best thing since sliced cucumber!**

**The Cyber Ciphers of Eartha Quicksmith**

Loris Owen  
13th March 2025  
10+

In a fantastical, dangerous new quest, best friends Kip, Albert, Leela and Timmi must solve the riddles of renaissance genius and college founder Eartha Quicksmith to save the world from the evil Grittleshank Corporation once and for all.

The journey sees the team follow Eartha's clues to a 'spaceship' which can travel through the earth's crust and into the transparent Smouldersphere in pursuit of their goal. Captured by the mysterious Nexus organisation in the ice flows of the North they must use all their wit and skills to escape. But when Kip discovers his mum is a hostage of the Grittleshanks, can anything stop the Corporation's devastating raid on the world's energy, and his family?



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ISBN 9781913102319



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ISBN 9781913102876

**Third in the Quicksmiths trilogy, which also includes *The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith* and *The Myriad Mysteries of Eartha Quicksmith*.**

**Fishfolk**  
Steven Quincey-Jones  
10th April 2025  
10+

The High-and-Dry is a windswept land that is being fast lost to the ever-growing sea. The only things left are seagulls, seaweed, twins Luna and Oona, and their Grandad Mull.

Luna and Oona have grown up listening to Grandad Mull's stories about the dastardly shapeshifting fishfolk who live in the sea around them and cause the waves to swallow the shore with their spells. Storms sent by fishfolk are the reason why Grandad Mull is all that is left of their family, he says. But when Luna and Oona meet a fishfolk for real, Luna begins to question her grandfather's stories much to Oona's confusion.

**A stunning debut novel, and a fable for our times, beautifully illustrated by Hannah Doyle.**



Steven Quincey-Jones grew up in Poole, in Dorset, where he spent much of his childhood on the beach or boating around the harbour. Steven is currently teaching English at a school in Newham, living with his family in Ramsgate, Kent, where he still spends most of his time on the beach or by the harbour. *Fishfolk* is his debut novel.

# The Firefly Team



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