

**Little Island
Autumn 2025 Catalogue**



**Little
Island**

Books create waves

**Little Island publishes the best
new Irish writing for young readers.**

Books create waves

**We believe that books have the
power to change young minds
and stir the sea within.**

**And we create books
that make a splash!**



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Sales and Distribution

IRELAND

Sales: Conor Hackett
+353 (0) 86 851 8501
mail@hackettflynn.com

Distribution: Macmillan (MDL)
+44 (0) 1256 302692
orders@macmillan.co.uk

UK & EXPORT

Sales: Bounce Sales and Marketing
+44 (0) 20 7138 3650
sales@bouncemarketing.co.uk

Distribution: Macmillan (MDL)
+44 (0) 1256 302692
orders@macmillan.co.uk
exportorders@macmillan.co.uk

US & CANADA

Sales: Consortium Book Sales and Distribution

Distribution: Ingram (IPS)
+1 866 400 5351
ips@ingramcontent.com

**For all other enquiries,
please contact Little Island:**

+353 (0) 85 2283 060
info@littleisland.ie



**July-December 2025
New Titles**

The Wordsmith

by Patricia Forde

PB | 9781915071941 | 256pp | £8.99

Publishing 1 July 2025

Celebrate 10 years of *The Wordsmith* with this anniversary edition of Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde's classic novel – featuring a freshly imagined cover and an introduction from the Laureate herself.

How many words do you need to survive?

Letta loves her job as the Wordsmith's apprentice, giving out words to people that need them. It doesn't strike her as odd that the people of Ark are only allowed to use a few hundred words, and words like "love", "hope" and "freedom" are banned.

When her master disappears, Letta begins to understand that all is not well, and that the leaders of Ark want to destroy language forever. It is up to her to stop them silencing what is left of the human race. But she is only a young girl, and they are the leaders of the known world...

AWARDS & REVIEWS

Winner: White Raven Award

'An intriguing speculation about authoritarian futures'

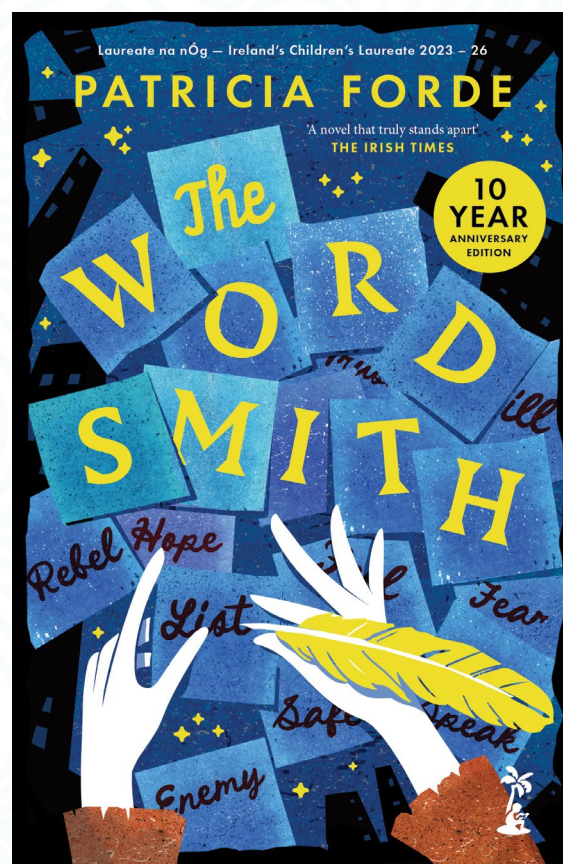
KIRKUS

'A novel that truly stands apart for its originality and relevance'

THE IRISH TIMES

'An intelligent, original and gripping read'

BOOKTRUST UK



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PATRICIA FORDE lives in Galway, in the west of Ireland. She has published five books for children, and written two plays, as well as several television drama series for children and teenagers. She has worked as a writer on both English and Irish language soap operas. In another life, she was a primary school teacher and the artistic director of Galway Arts Festival. Her novel *The Wordsmith* (published in the USA as *The List*) was awarded a White Raven award by the International Youth Library. Patricia is the current Laureate na nÓg (Ireland's Children's Literature Laureate).

Making It Up as You Go Along:

A Children's Guide to Writing Stories

by Patricia Forde
(illus. Mary Murphy)

HB | 9781915071903 | 296pp | £14.99

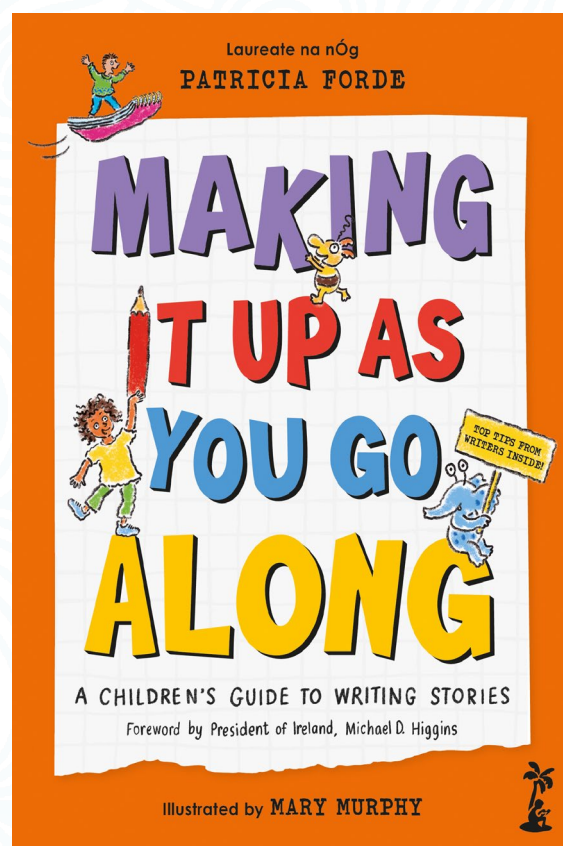
Publishing 1 October 2025

Learn creative writing skills and discover the art of storytelling from Laureate na nÓg (Ireland's children's literature laureate) and bestselling author of *The Wordsmith*, Patricia Forde, and the twelve leading Irish middle-grade authors.

In this fun and practical illustrated guide, young writers can learn from some of Ireland's most beloved writers, including Eoin Colfer (*Artemis Fowl*), Pádraig Kenny (*Stitch*) and Derek Landy (*Skullduggery Pleasant*), and discover how to:

- Find inspiration to start your story
- Craft and develop your plot
- Create and develop your characters
- Edit your work

Includes a range of interactive exercises, accessible definitions of writing terms, and engaging illustrations by beloved Irish artist Mary Murphy.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PATRICIA FORDE lives in Galway, in the west of Ireland. She has published books for children of all ages, and written two plays, as well as several television drama series for children and teenagers. She has worked as a writer on both English and Irish language soap operas. In another life, she was a primary school teacher and the artistic director of Galway Arts Festival. Her novel *The Wordsmith* (published in the USA as *The List*) was awarded a White Raven award by the International Youth Library. Patricia is the current Laureate na nÓg (Ireland's Children's Literature Laureate).

The Nightmare Club: Frankenkids

by Annie Graves

(illus. Glenn McElhinney)

PB | 9781915071842 | 64pp | £6.99

Publishing 21 August 2025

Welcome to the Nightmare Club, the sleepover that is definitely not for wimps. Annie Graves is your host, and she only invites guests who can tell really creepy stories.

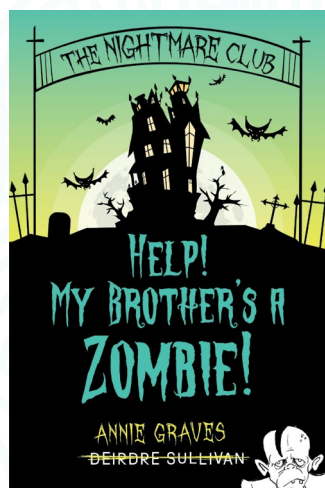
You've heard of Dr Frankenstein, right? Freaky guy who cobbled together a MONSTER out of bits of people – spare parts, you might say. Well, he's got nothing on Uncle Fraser, who's a real live 'mad scientist'.

Don't come snivelling to Annie if you're sorry you ever opened this book ... You've been warned!

PRAISE FOR 'THE NIGHTMARE CLUB'

'Maybe it would be super-scary if it were not so funny'

MEATH CHRONICLE



'The Nightmare Club' series features a dyslexic-friendly font and fun black-and-white illustrations throughout, making it an ideal tool to engage reluctant readers.

The Nightmare Club: The Weird Blood Bank

by Annie Graves

(illus. Glenn McElhinney)

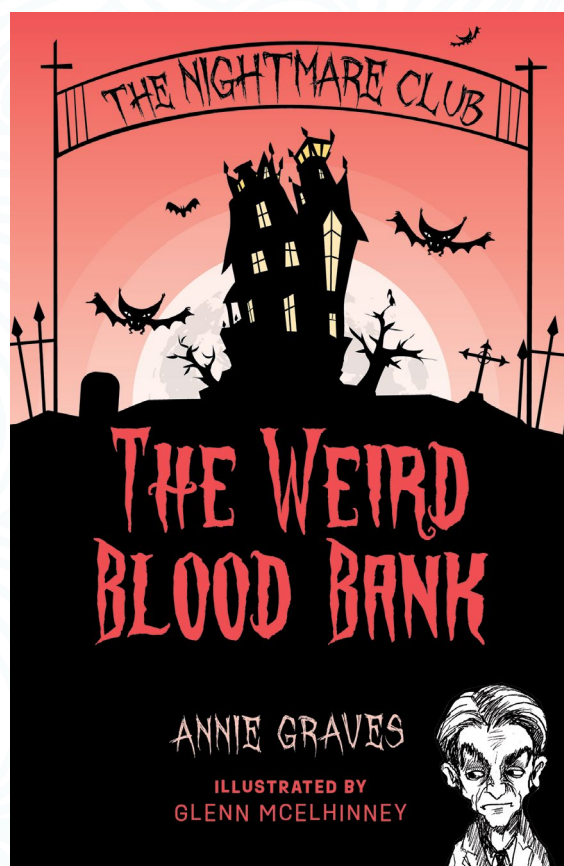
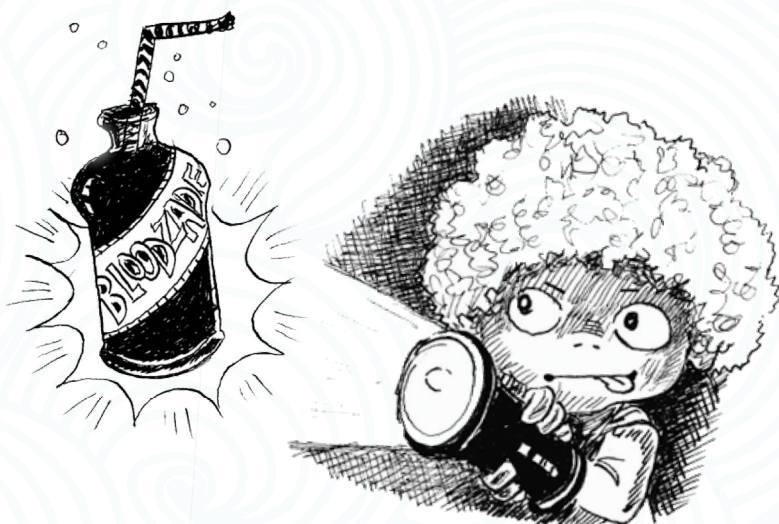
PB | 9781915071958 | 64pp | £6.99

Publishing 21 August 2025

Welcome to the Nightmare Club, the sleepover that is definitely not for wimps. Annie Graves is your host, and she only invites guests who can tell really creepy stories.

Alex gets taken to the doctor more often than Alex likes. Dr White takes an awful lot of blood samples – so greedy is he for blood that he uses a double syringe and he sends great big bottles of it to the ‘lab’. This makes Alex suspicious – and sure enough, the blood ‘samples’ are not going to a lab at all, but to the blood bank.

Alex decides to investigate, and it turns out that the blood bank has been taken over by flocks of white-coated vampires!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ANNIE GRAVES is twelve years old, and she has no intention of ever growing up. She is, conveniently, an orphan, and lives at an undisclosed address in the Glasnevin area of Dublin with her pet toad, Much Misunderstood, and a small black kitten, Hugh Shalby Nameless. You needn't think she goes to school – pah! – or has anything as dull as brothers and sisters or hobbies, but let's just say she keeps a large cauldron bubbling on the stove.



Wolfstongue

by Sam Thompson

(illus. Anna Tromop)

PB | 9781915071972 | 224pp | £8.99

Publishing 1 September 2025

The new, B-format edition of the award-winning, critically acclaimed children's debut by Booker-longlisted author Sam Thompson.

Silas is bullied at school because his words will not come. He wishes he could live in silence as animals do. Deep in the Forest, the foxes live in an underground city built by their wolf slaves. The foxes' leader Reynard controls everything with his clever talk.

One day, Silas helps an injured wolf. Then he enters the secret world of the Forest, where the last remaining wolves fight to survive. But even there, language is power.

Can Silas find his voice in time to help his wolf friends – can he become the Wolfstongue?

AWARDS & REVIEWS

A USBBY Outstanding International Book

Winner: Spark! School Book Awards (2022)

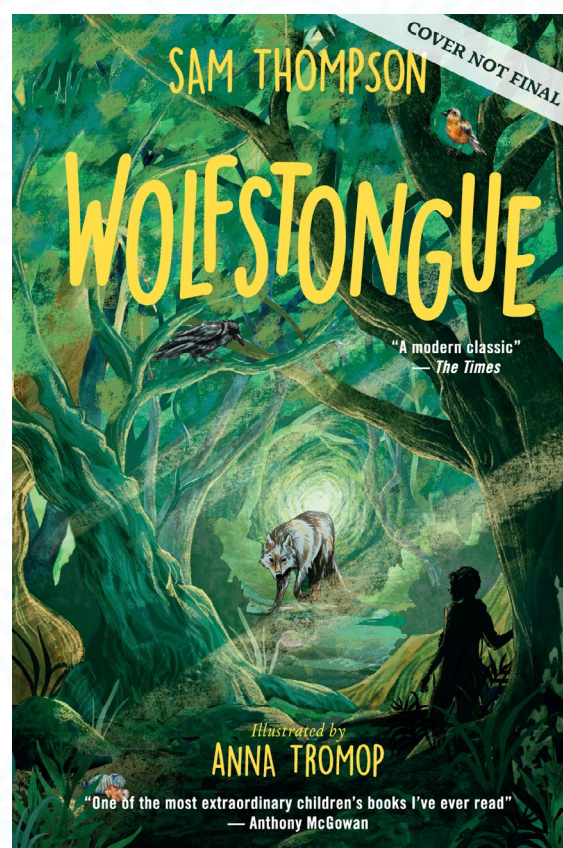
Winner: Literacy Association of Ireland Biennial Book Award (2023)

'The best animal adventure since *Watership Down*'

THE TIMES

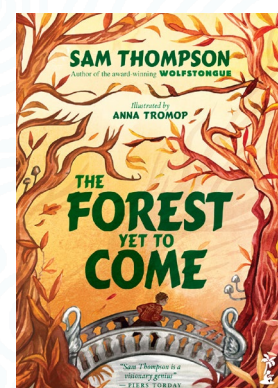
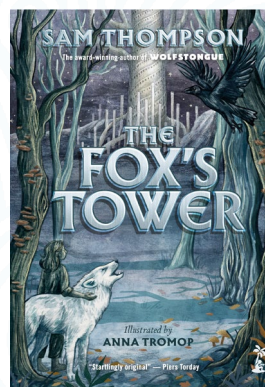
'A hugely original tale with classic influences and infrastructure'

THE IRISH TIMES



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SAM THOMPSON is the author of three novels for children, *Wolfstongue*, *The Fox's Tower* and *The Forest Yet To Come*, and several books for grown-ups. He lives in Belfast with his wife, three children, and a dog and cat who have finally admitted they are best friends.



Dino Mode Activated!

by Jen Wallace

(illus. Alan O'Rourke)

PB | 9781915071965 | 184pp | £7.99

Publishing 11 September 2025



First, Rory's mum fed him dinosaur pie and he turned into an actual dinosaur. Now, Oleg's new camera is turning people into dinosaurs!

Award-winning author Jen Wallace promises another 'roar-ing good time' (Kirkus) in this next hilarious dinosaur adventure...

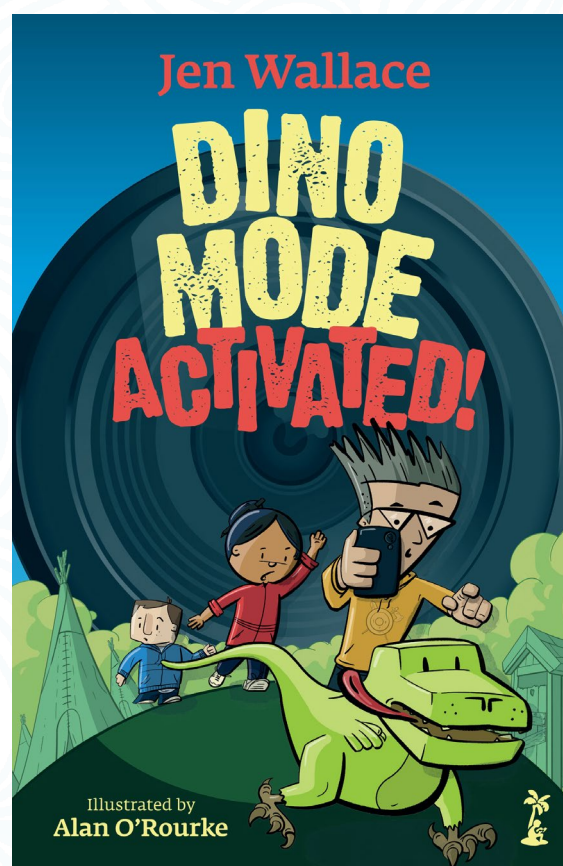
Oleg's new camera is definitely not ordinary. It has no instructions and no buttons, but it seems to know exactly what Oleg wants it to do. When Oleg goes on a camping trip with his friends, Rory and Daria, they soon discover the camera's most special function – Dino Mode.

Now, with dinos of all sizes running about the campsite and a nosey professor poking around, Oleg and his friends commence Operation: Hide the Dinosaurs.

AWARDS & PRAISE FOR DINOSAUR PIE

Winner: The Great Reads Award (2024)

'Great to read aloud, and genuinely funny'
THE NEW STATESMAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JEN WALLACE writes stories and poetry, for both children and grown ups. She loves to write neurodivergent characters so people like her can see themselves in books. She lives by the sea with her family and their cats, goats, chickens and rabbit. Jen has wanted to be a writer since she was very small, although she also wanted to be a superhero, a firefighter and the President of Ireland.

Oscar Wilde's Stories for Children

(illus. Lauren O'Hara)

HB | 9781915071897 | 96pp | £19.99

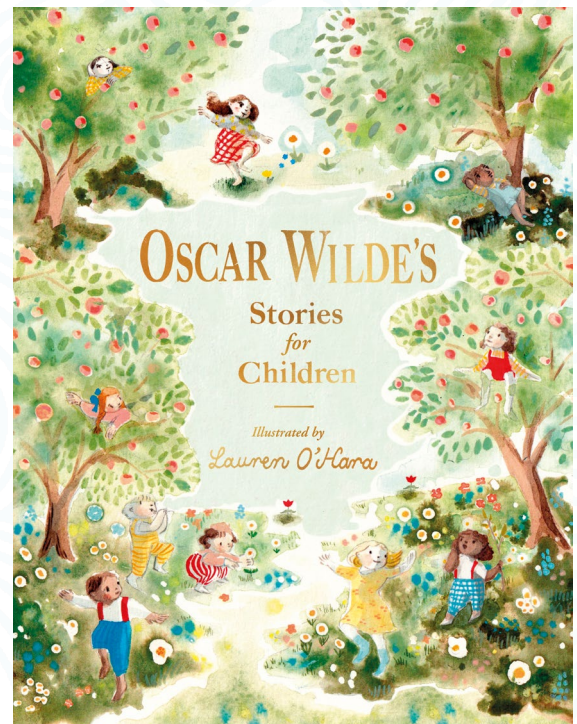
Publishing 18 September 2025

Introduce a new generation to Oscar Wilde's classic children's tales with this stunningly illustrated luxury gift edition – a must-have for young readers this Christmas.

Oscar Wilde has enchanted readers young and old alike for over a hundred years. In 1888, he published a collection of bedtime stories for children. This beautiful collection contains six of these classic tales, including 'The Happy Prince', 'The Selfish Giant', and 'The Nightingale and the Rose'.

For the first time, these beloved stories from the great Irish queer author are being published in a major new edition by an Irish publisher. With high-quality paper, a linen-effect cover, gold foil details, ribbon bookmark and classic binding touches, this keepsake hardback edition, printed and bound in Italy, is crafted to be treasured and shared.

Feeling both classic and fresh, timeless and modern, Lauren O'Hara's delicate, rich colour illustrations bring this cornerstone of children's literature to life for readers of all ages.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

OSCAR WILDE was a famous Irish writer born in 1854. He loved books, stories and making people laugh with clever words. He wrote plays, poem and magical fairy tales like 'The Happy Prince', as well as a famous novel called *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Many of his plays, including 'The Importance of Being Earnest', are still performed today. After his release from prison, where he was sentenced to hard labour because of his romantic relationship with another man, he died in France aged 46.

down his curls like rain-drops, and merely showed two little berries, who were just thinking of sitting up beside together, and were looking for a nice dry spot to lie in.

"The mice have a very romantic nature," said the Catoblep. "We have swept them out of the world at all to sweep about," and she showed a deep sigh, and thought about the dead lives.

But the Roman Candle and the Ring Light were quite indignant, and kept saying, "Humbly humbug!" at the top of their voices. They were extremely practical, and whenever they objected to anything they called it humbug.

Then the mouse rose like a wonderful silver shield, and the stars began to shine, and a sound of music came from the palace.

The Prince and Princess were looking the dullest. They danced so beautifully that the mice were like puppets in the window and watched them, and the game and puppet looked their heads and best time.

Then the clock struck, and then eleven, and then twelve, and at the last stroke of midnight every one came out on the terrace, and the King sat for the Royal Perambulator.

"At the moment begins," said the King and the Royal Perambulator made a low bow, and marched down to the end of the garden. He had his attendant with him, each of whom carried a lighted torch at the end of a long pole.

It was certainly a magnificent display.

"What? What? What? What?" said the Catoblep, as she spun round and round.

Round Round went the Roman Candle. Then the King looked all over the place, and the Ring Light made everything look queer. "Good-bye!" said the Ring Light, as he went away, dropping tiny blue sparks. Ring Light returned the Queen, who was sitting herself down to rest. Every one was a great success except the Roman Candle. He was so deep with crying that he could not go off at all. The best thing in his was the gasp, and that was so wet with tears that it was of no use. All his poor relation, so when he would meet speak, except

with a more, that up into the air like wonderful golden flowers with thousands of tiny flames. Prince cried the Queen and the King. Prince laughed with pleasure.

"I suppose they are coming out for some grand occasion," said the Queen. "You decide that is what it means," and he looked more surprised than ever.

The next day the women came to put everything into "This is evidently a deception," said the Queen. "I will receive them with becoming dignity" so he put his nose in the air, and began to form words as if he were thinking about some very important subject.

But they took no notice of him at all they were just going over. Then one of them caught sight of him. "Hid!" he cried. "What a bad racket!" and he threw his nose over the wall into the ditch.

"Bad Racket! Bad Racket!" he said, as he whistled through the air. "Impossible! Grand Racket, that is what the man said. But and Grand sound very much the same, indeed they often are the same," and he fell into the mud.

"It is not comfortable here," he remarked. "But no doubt it is some fashionable watering-place, and they have some very nice views of my health. My nose is certainly very much shattered, and I regret it."



Mixed Up: An Irish Boy's Journey to Belonging

by Leon Diop

PB | 9781915071880 | 198pp | £8.99

Publishing 16 October 2025

A groundbreaking memoir about growing up mixed-race in Ireland, by the Irish Book Award-winning author and media personality Leon Diop.

Mixed-race experience in Ireland has never been described so honestly. Diop, a charismatic public figure and strong positive male role-model for young Irish people, tells his story from his first day as the only brown boy in school to his powerful recent experience reconnecting with his African roots in Senegal.

Growing up, Diop struggled with his identity, got into trouble, and lost his way, before turning his life around and finding his mission: helping Black and mixed-race Irish people tell their own stories. He founded Black & Irish and developed it into an advocacy group, a podcast with RTÉ, and an award-winning book (published by Little Island in 2023).

Now it is Diop's turn to tell his own story, his journey from mixed-up kid to embracing his own identity, one that will inspire young Irish people and help counter dangerous political narratives in Ireland today.



Cover
to be
revealed

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LEON DIOP is from Tallaght, Ireland. Born to a White Irish mother and Senegalese father, he grew up in a mixed ethnic and religious household. He is the founder of the Black & Irish advocacy group, host of the Black & Irish podcast, activist, educator, public speaker, and was an Obama Foundation European Leader from 2024 to 2025.

The Experimenters

by Shane Bergin

(illus. Sayani Mukherjee)

HB | 9781915071088 | 64pp | £14.99

Publishing 29 September 2025

Get ready to learn, discover and have hands-on fun with science in this fun and cosy interactive story!

Ever wondered how boats float? Or which birds gather in your garden? Do you know what makes the perfect cake a perfect cake? Or how to make your own musical instrument?

When Luke and Ruby head to Nanny and Grandad's house for their mid-term break, they discover their grandparents' old science notebooks. But it turns out that science isn't just about blowing things up! With the help of Nanny and Grandad, they discover the role science plays in the world around them, whether that be birdwatching, telephone making, plant growing and beyond. They write all of it down in their new science notebook.

But what about the reader? Shouldn't they be doing this stuff too? Dr Shane thinks so. Interspersed between Luke and Ruby's cozy scientific adventures, is the reader's very own 'how to' science notebook. Filled with facts, hints and suggestions it encourages our young scientists to roll up their sleeves and give Luke and Ruby's experiments a go. Readers will be immersed in a world of science and discovery that is accessible right on their doorstep.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DR SHANE BERGIN is a scientist. He loves to use his imagination, to do experiments and play, and to figure out how the world works. He works at University College Dublin where he does research and teaches students who enjoy science. Shane enjoys going on the radio to talk about science, and appears regularly on RTÉ Radio 1 and Newstalk. He and his students run a science and music programme for children with the National Concert Hall called Quavers to Quadratics.



The Cloud Kingdom

by Máire Zepf

(illus. Andrew Whitson)

HB | 9781915071859 | 80pp | £16.99

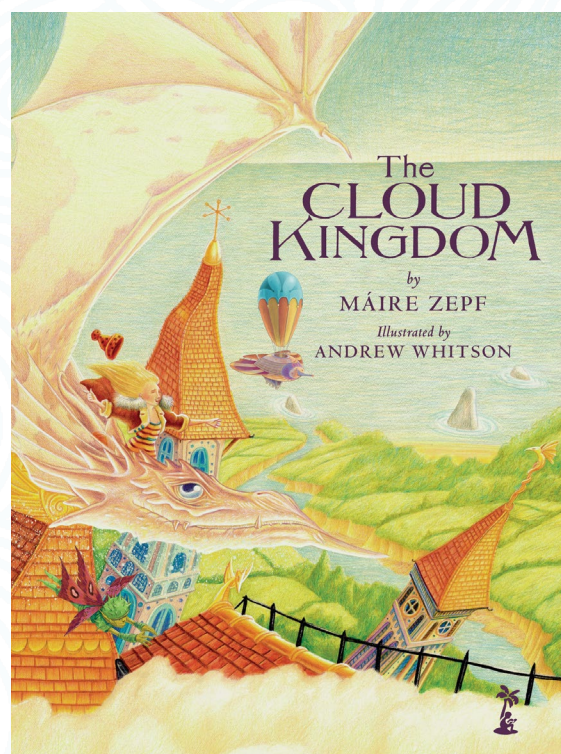
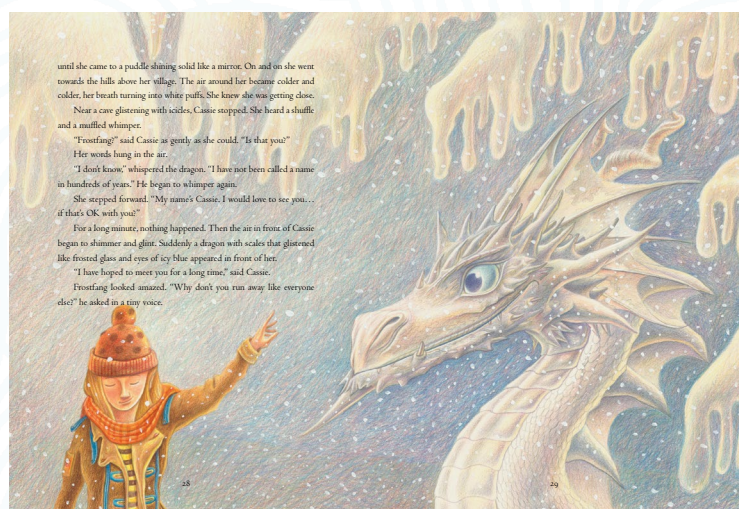
Publishing 4 October 2025

An archipelago of interconnecting stories and fables filled with the fantastical and a love of the craft of storytelling.

When Nancy's cat Pangur is stolen by the Faery people, she finds herself striking a deal like no other: she is now the one-and-only storyteller for the Faery Kingdom.

So starts Máire Zepf's enchanting story collection, reminiscent of fairytales and fables of past and present, but entirely new.

From ghost dragons to magical hats and a dream-weaving giantess, these are tales that awaken the senses and manage to connect with each other in a way reminiscent of 1001 Arabian Nights, perfect for voracious readers and bedtime story consumers alike.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MÁIRE ZEPF has written 16 books for children, from picture books to a YA verse novel. Winner of the Children's Books Ireland children's Book of the Year, 5 Literature Association of Ireland Children's Book Awards and 2 international White Ravens among many others, her books appear in 10 languages worldwide. Her 'Rita' series of picture books with illustrator Mr Ando has recently been adapted for television. She is screen-writer and co-creator of the celtic anime series 'Lí Ban'. The Co. Down author was the first Children's Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, based at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University Belfast. Máire loves sea-swimming and crisps.

AUTHOR FOCUS: DEIRDRE SULLIVAN

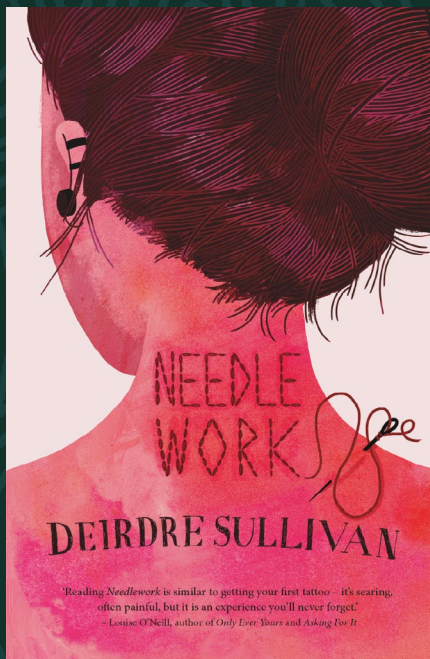


Deirdre Sullivan

‘No-one writes like Deirdre Sullivan. She is lyrical, poetic and thoroughly intoxicating.’

JUNO DAWSON

Deirdre Sullivan is one of Ireland’s most distinctive YA voices. Since publishing her first books with Little Island she has gone on to win major awards with hits *Tangleweed and Brine* and *Savage Her Reply*. She lives in Dublin with her husband and daughter and works as a teacher.

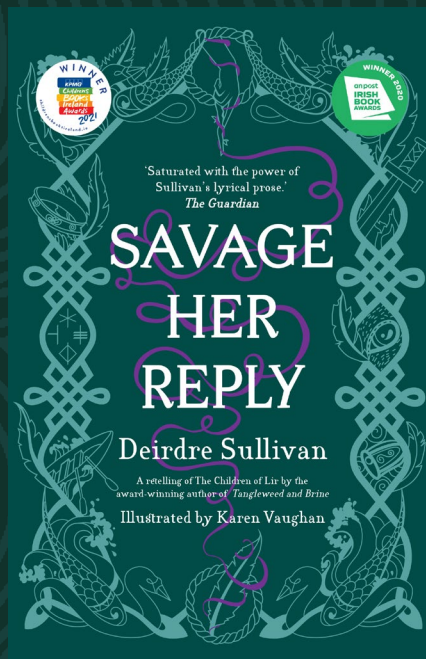


PB | 9781910411506 | 224pp
£7.99 | Age 15+

A girl’s meditation on her efforts to maintain her bodily and spiritual integrity in the face of abuse, violation and neglect.

**Children’s Books Ireland
Honour Award for Fiction 2017**

‘This is a powerful novel that haunts you long after you have read the final page’
THE IRISH TIMES



PB | 9781912417674 | 256pp
£9.99 | Age 14+

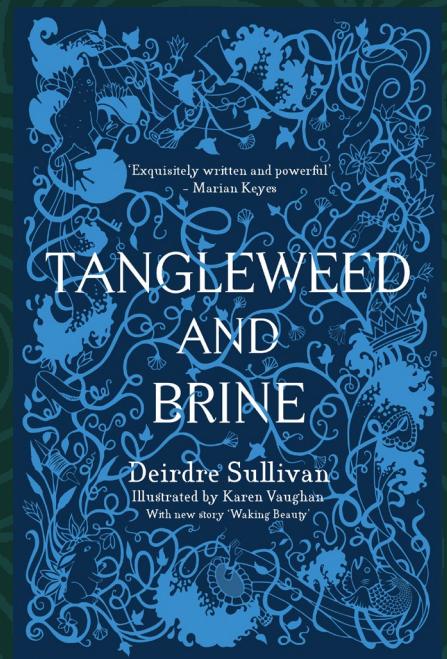
An award-winning feminist retelling of the classic Irish fairytale of The Children of Lir.

**Irish Book Awards YA
Book of the Year 2020**

**Children’s Books Ireland
Book of the Year 2021**

**Literacy Association of Ireland
YA Book of the Year 2021**

**Added to Junior Cert
syllabus in 2025**



PB | 9781912417117 | 196pp
£8.99 | Age 14+

Fierce feminist retellings of classic fairytales including Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella.

**Irish Book Awards YA
Book of the Year 2017**

**Children’s Books Ireland
Book of the Year 2018**

**Irish Times Ticket
Reader’s Choice
YA Book of the Year 2017**



Spring 2025 Highlights

Let's Play Rugby!

by Gordon D'Arcy & Paul Howard
(illus. Andrew Whitson)

PB | 9781915071774 | 32pp | £8.99

Hands-on and fully interactive, *Let's Play Rugby!* encourages all kids to get up and moving and give rugby a go.

Young readers can step into the boots of a rugby player as they play in the big final!

Jog on the spot! Do some star jumps! Then face off against your opponents in the game of your life.

This fully illustrated picture book is one for children and parents to tackle together.

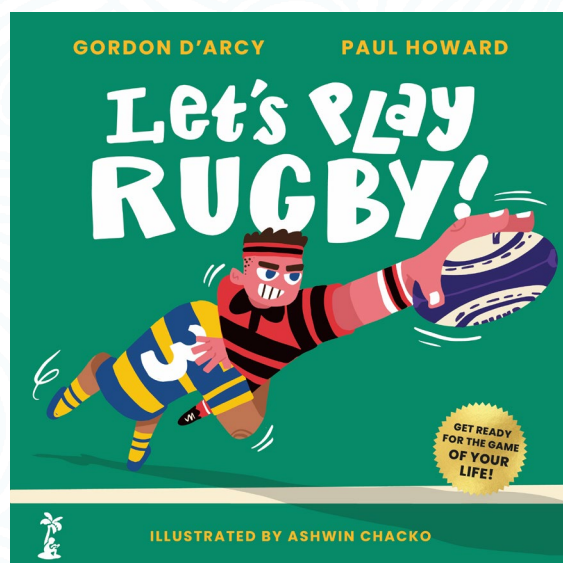
REVIEWS

'Fun and energetic'

FUN KIDS RADIO

'A delight to read aloud'

IRISH MAGAZINE



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

GORDON D'ARCY is a retired rugby player who won two Six Nations medals with Ireland, three Heineken Cups with Leinster and toured with the British and Irish Lions. He was named Six Nations Player of the Tournament in 2004.

PAUL HOWARD is best known for the bestselling Ross O'Carroll-Kelly series, which has sold over a million copies. He is a former Irish Sports Journalist of the Year, and holds the record for the most Irish Book Award wins. His previous children's books include the 'Gordon's Game' and 'Aldrin Adams' series, both published by Puffin.

Solo

by Gráinne O'Brien

PB | 9781915071798 | 280pp | £8.99

A novel in verse about teenage love and friendships, lost and found.

Daisy can feel like a solo act at home. On the outside of her twin brothers' intense relationship, she leans towards her parents, particularly her father, for support. As a passionate classical musician, she is not wildly popular at school, but she has one close friend and a life filled with musical performance. Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend suddenly breaks up with her, and Daisy is left disconnected from her one true love, music.

When she makes a new friend at school, mysterious Flora, Daisy finds a glimmer of peace in her chaotic life. Just as everything seems to be getting better, they all fall apart. Family tensions heighten as Daisy's dad falls ill and Daisy needs to decide should she find her way back to who she was or look towards who she is going to become.

REVIEWS

'A tightly written, incredibly well-characterized work: bravo.'

KIRKUS - STARRED REVIEW

'A deeply affecting novel that will leave you rooted to the floor'

LOVEREADING4KIDS

'Thematic richness is coupled with Gráinne O'Brien's skilful and original use of verse form'

JUST IMAGINE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

GRÁINNE O'BRIEN is a bookseller with Kennys Bookshop, Galway, Ireland. She was a member of the Irish Booksellers Association committee and was named a Bookshop Hero by *The Bookseller* in 2022. She is the founder of Rontu Literary Service, an agency dedicated to supporting writers of fiction for children as they seek publication. She completed the MA in Creative Writing from the University of Limerick in 2018 and received Arts Council Agility Awards in 2021 and 2022.

The Brightest Star

by Megan Grehan

PB | 9781915071804 | 200pp | £8.99

US HB | 9781915071910 | 168pp | \$16.99 US

The sequel to the award-winning novel in verse, *The Deepest Breath* – a beautifully written, warm and reassuring LGBTQIA+ story about a girl discovering who she is, and who she might love.

Stevie is about to start secondary school. She often gets anxious, but feels much better having her two best friends, Chloe and Andrew, by her side. Their new school is filled with exciting things, like the rainbow club, but also challenges, such as maths class. The biggest challenge of all though comes when Andrew suddenly becomes distant.

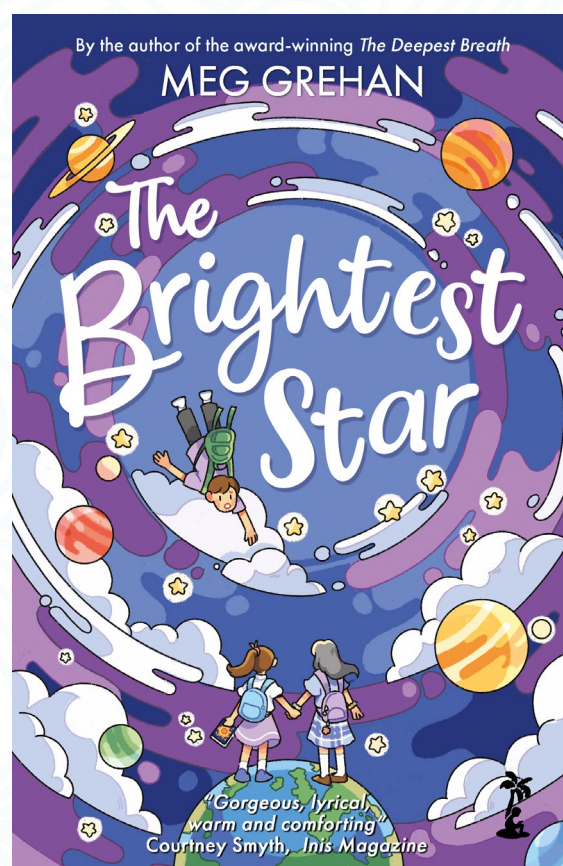
Andrew isn't quite sure who he is yet. This didn't matter much before, especially when he was hanging out with Stevie and Chloe. Now it seems to matter very much indeed, but he doesn't know how to begin talking about it with his friends, who seem to be much clearer about who *they* are.

REVIEWS & PRAISE

'Gorgeous, lyrical, warm and comforting'
IRISH MAGAZINE

'A warm hug for young readers'
THE IRISH TIMES

'A wholesome and affirming story suffused with warmth'
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY - STARRED REVIEW
(for *The Lonely Book*)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MEG GREHAN is originally from County Louth but now hiding away in Donegal in the north-west of Ireland, with a very ginger girlfriend, an even more ginger dog and an undisclosed number of cats (none of whom is ginger). Her first book, *The Space Between*, won the Eilís Dillon Award at the 2018 Children's Books Ireland Awards. *The Deepest Breath* won the Judge's Special Prize at the 2020 Children's Books Ireland Awards and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. It is published in the USA by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and in France by Talents Haut. *Baby Teeth* was a Kirkus Best YA Book of 2022 and was nominated for the 2023 Carnegie Medal.

A Fix of Light

by Kel Menton

PB | 9781915071743 | 288pp | £8.99

A powerful and moving YA novel that seamlessly blends queer romance and fantasy.

Hanan is supposed to be dead.

The forest outside Skenashogue sent him home alive – but changed. A strange new magic makes every emotion a physical force he can't control.

Bright and gentle, fox-like Pax is everything Hanan is not. And when he touches Hanan he mutes his secret power, quiets the curse.

To survive their own darkness they'll need to open up to each other. But Hanan isn't sure Pax will like what he finds out ...

Can their love help them find their way back to the light?

REVIEWS

'An ethereal and mysterious debut.'

KIRKUS

'An all-around masterpiece'

BOOKLIST

'An astonishing expression of feelings manifested in magic'

BOOKS FOR KEEPS

'Menton was already a writer to watch but their fiction debut underlines it'

IRISH TIMES



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KEL MENTON (they/them) is a non-binary, neurodivergent writer from Cork in Ireland. Kel works in youth theatre and has written, produced and published a number of plays for teen actors. They were selected as a Young Writer Delegate for the 2021 Dublin Book Festival. They hold a master's in medieval English from University College Cork. *A Fix of Light* is their first novel. They will be publishing three more books with Little Island.

Giant

by Judith McQuoid

PB | 9781915071828 | 224pp | £7.99

US HB | 9781915071637 | 224pp | \$17.99

Historical fiction blends with the biography of one of the world's favourite children's authors, CS Lewis.

Davy, a working-class boy living in East Belfast in 1908, is sent to work at the wealthy Lewis household. When he meets Jacks – the name by which CS Lewis was known to friends and family – Davy is captivated by his friend's world of books and stories. Together the boys plunge into imagining and adventuring, and Davy discovers his own artistic talent.

But when Davy is offered a job at the shipyard, and Jacks's mother falls gravely ill, their wondrous days of make-believe seem numbered. Will they lose their extraordinary shared world forever?

REVIEWS

'A quietly charming, warmhearted story of enduring friendship'

KIRKUS

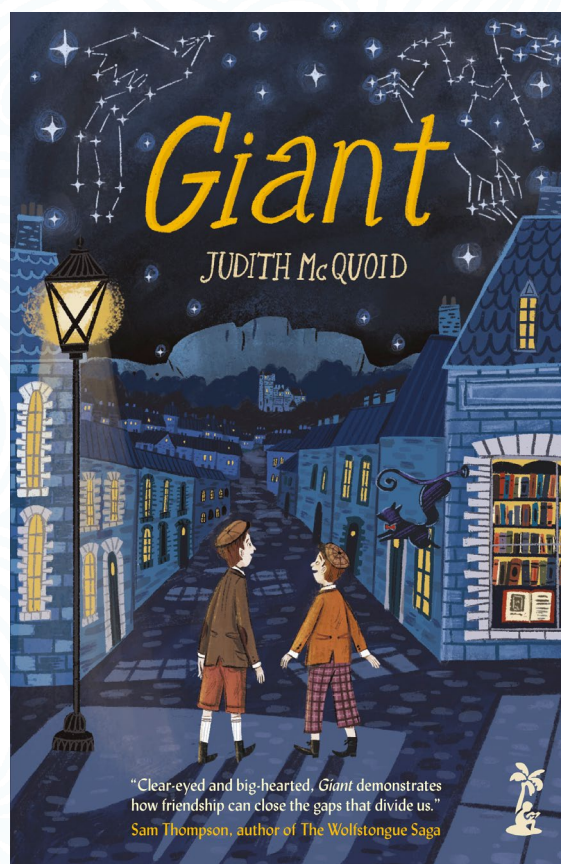
'[A] class-conscious ode to dreamers, which suggests that imagination can curb the sting of harsh everyday realities'

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

'A well-researched, imaginative, and satisfying narrative'

BOOKLIST

'A heartwarming and wonder-filled tale'
STEVEN ELMORE, PRESIDENT OF THE CS LEWIS FOUNDATION



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JUDITH MCQUOID was born in Belfast but grew up partly in Texas. She now lives in a small village in Northern Ireland, deep in the countryside but close to the city. Her homeland, its landscapes, and folklore inspire her to write authentic, enchanting stories for young people. *Giant* is her first book.

Meep

by Máire Zepf & Paddy Donnelly

PB | 9781915071668 | 32pp | £8.99

A whimsically illustrated picture book about robots, space, and the power of love.

Meet Meep, the hardest working robot in the solar system! Meep is on a mission to find alien life on Mars. She is tasked with sending photos back to Earth. But her mission is not an easy one.

Meep soon learns that even the bravest robots need a little support from those who love them.

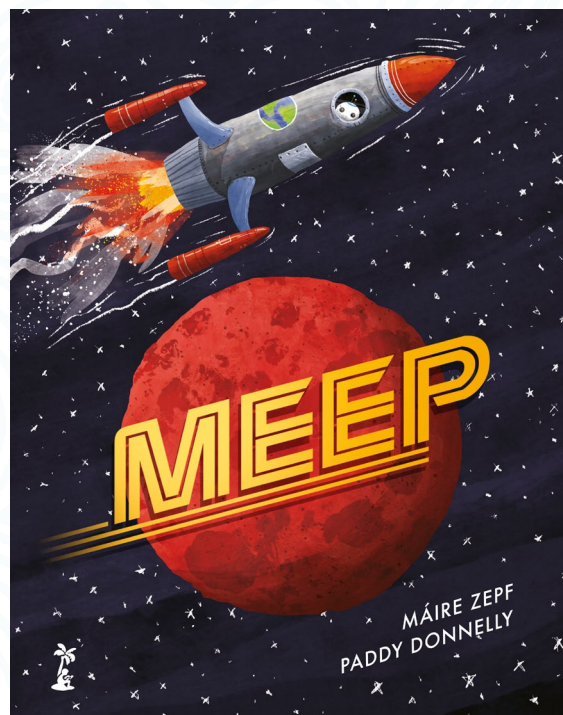
Meep was first published as *Míp* by Futa Fata, and won a Literacy Association of Ireland Book of the Year award. This English edition was translated from the Irish by the author.

REVIEWS

‘Quirky, offbeat, and sweet’
KIRKUS

‘A good book to share and read aloud’
BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘It’s sweet and it’s funny and it’s imaginatively illustrated’
MEATH CHRONICLE



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

MYRA ZEPF is the first ever Children’s Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland. Her picture book, *Ná Gabh ar Scoil!*, won a Children’s Book Award from the Literacy Association of Ireland. It was IBBY honours-listed and also nominated for CBI Book of the Year.

PADDY DONNELLY is an Irish author and illustrator living in Belgium. His books include *Fox & Son Tailers* and *The Golden Hare*. He was nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2022. Paddy’s first book as both author and illustrator, *The Vanishing Lake*, was awarded the gold medal in the picture book category of the IPPY Awards.

The Nightmare Club: Help! My Brother's a Zombie!

by Annie Graves
(illus. Glenn McElhinney)

PB | 9781915071842 | 64pp | £6.99

Did you ever hear that telling a nightmare makes it fade away? It doesn't. Not here anyway. Welcome to the Nightmare Club's Halloween Sleepover. You might not last till morning.

This is the story Jack told. His older brother Stephen was a great friend ... until he started to change. His smell. His face. His friends. His diet.



The Nightmare Club: The Wolfling's Bite

by Annie Graves
(illus. Glenn McElhinney)

PB | 9781915071842 | 64pp | £6.99

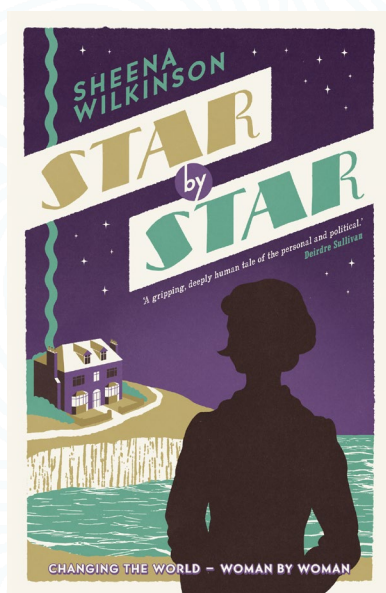
Jessie was nuts about her cute little Wolfling toy. But her brother had heard rumours about Wolflings: they could move without being switched on. They could turn nasty. He even heard that they could bite.

Read it, if you dare – and hang onto your nose!





**Backlist
Bestsellers**



Star By Star by Sheena Wilkinson

Winner of a Children's Books Ireland Award

A BookTrust Future Classic

PB | 9781910411537 | 180pp | £7.99 | Age 10+

Stella was raised by a suffragette mother to change the world. But in November 1918, the flu pandemic leaves her alone in a foreign country with an aunt she's never met.

As the war ends and Irish women prepare to vote for the first time, Stella wonders how she can make a difference. Slowly, she learns that change comes one person at a time—girl by girl, like stars lighting up the night sky.



Hope against Hope

by Sheena Wilkinson

PB | 9781912417421 | 240pp | £7.99 | Age 10+

The year is 1921. Ireland has been at war with Britain for two years. Communities are torn apart by bitter hatred – and now a hard border splits the island.

In Belfast, Helen's Hope hostel is a progressive space where young women live and work together – a haven of tolerance and diversity in a fractured city. But some people hate Helen's Hope and its values.



Bumpfizzle the Best on Planet Earth

by Annie Graves (illus. by Elina Braslina)

Winner of a White Raven Award

PB | 9781912417032 | 128pp | £6.99 | Age 8+

Bumpfizzle is on a secret mission to Earth from Planet Plonk. Told through his diary and reports back to Plonk, Bumpfizzle's take on human life is hilarious. From eating cat food (and throwing up) to biting his teacher (for research) and trying to sacrifice a goat, his misadventures are out-of-this-world ridiculous.



The Girl Who Fell To Earth

by Patricia Forde

PB | 9781915071439 | 192pp | £8.99 | Age 8+

Aria lives on a perfect planet where illness and death no longer exist. Earth, created as a human experiment, is now set to be destroyed.

Sent there with her scientist father to trigger its end, Aria is stunned to learn she's half human—and even more shocked by the depth and emotion of Earthly life. Now she must decide: can she save humanity—and herself—before it's too late?



I am the Wind: Irish Poems for Children Everywhere

by Lucinda Jacob & Sarah Webb
(illus. Ashwin Chacko)

Winner of an Irish Book Award

PB | 9781915071460 | 128pp | £19.99 | Age 8+

A fully illustrated collection of Irish poems, ranging from medieval to modern poems in English and Irish from old favourites and new voices.



Black And Irish

by Leon Diop & Briana Fitzsimons (illus. Jessica Louis)

Winner of an An Post Irish Book Award

PB | 9781915071231 | 176pp | £11.99 | Age 12+

In the first ever book about Black Irish identity, we take a look at the inspirational careers, dreams and achievements of legends, trailblazers and everyday heroes, including Ruth Negga, Gavin Bazunu, Dami Hope, Emma Dabiri, Rhasidat Adeleke and Phil Lynott.

A groundbreaking celebration of Black Irish life.



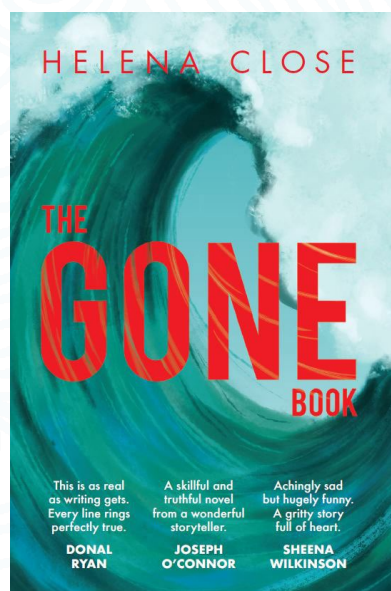
Run For Your Life

by Jane Mitchell

PB | 9781912417858 | 256pp | £8.99 | Age 12+

Azari's life is split in two—before and after fleeing to Ireland. Sometimes she runs for freedom, sometimes out of fear. Now in a Direct Provision Centre, she and her mother share a room with a stranger, eat unfamiliar food and face constant questions.

Azari carries secrets, but only by telling them can she stop running and start living life on her own terms.



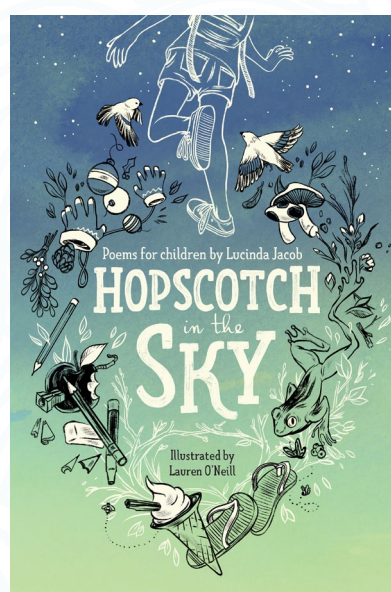
The Gone Book by Helena Close

Winner of a White Raven Award

PB | 9781912417445 | 304pp | £7.99 | Age 14+

Matt's mam left when he was ten. For five years, he's written unsent letters to her, hidden in his Gone Book. His dad stays silent, his brother's in deep trouble and Matt keeps pushing away the only friends he has. All he wants is to skate, surf, and forget.

But now his mam is back, and Matt knows it's time to find her—and tell her the truth.



Hopscotch In The Sky

by Lucinda Jacob

(illus. Lauren O'Neill)

PB | 9781910411933 | 48pp | £10.99 | Age 7+

A beautifully illustrated, full-colour hardback poetry book celebrating the magic of the seasons. From blooming spring flowers to snowy winter days, these poems capture nature, weather and the joys of childhood—from ice creams to Christmas trees.

Perfect for young readers year-round.

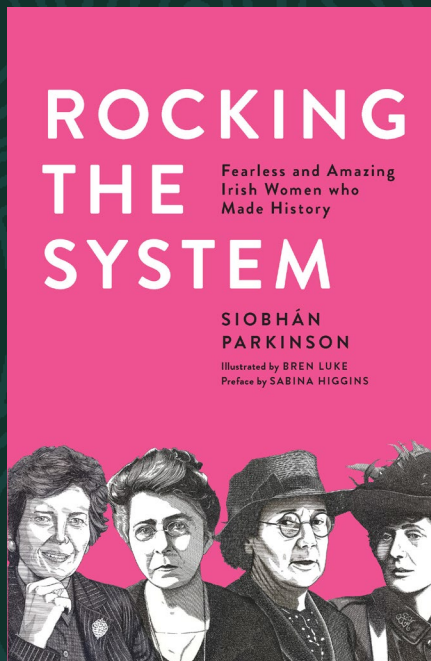
AUTHOR FOCUS: SIOBHÁN PARKINSON



Siobhán Parkinson

Siobhán Parkinson was Ireland's first ever Laureate na nÓg (Children's Laureate). She has published more than 30 books for children and adults, in English and Irish, with publishers including Puffin, Hodder, O'Brien Press and Little Island Books. She has won many awards and been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

In 2010 she founded Little Island Books.



PB | 9781912417438 | 208pp
£8.99 | Age 10+

Twenty illustrated essays on Irish women who have defied cultural norms around femininity and achieved great things.

'Essential reading for young history buffs'
THE IRISH TIMES

'This book is a MUST. Simply wondrous and inspiring!'
MARY ESTHER JUDY,
CHILDREN'S BOOKSELLER

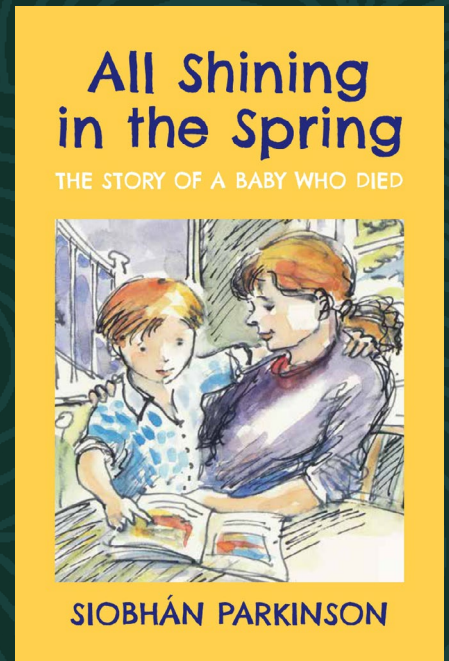


**A MUST-HAVE
THIS CHRISTMAS!**

HB | 9781912417797 | 32pp
£13.99 | Age 4+

Christmas is coming, and Evie can hardly wait. As she rehearses for the school play, decorates the tree, wraps presents, writes to Santa, she is wishing, wishing ...

Shortlisted for the
Irish Book Awards 2021



PB | 9781912417575 | 64pp
£6.99 | Age 4+

A book to help children and families cope with the loss of a baby. Based on the author's personal experience.



Little Island

Books create waves

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Matthew Parkinson-Bennett
CEO & Publisher

