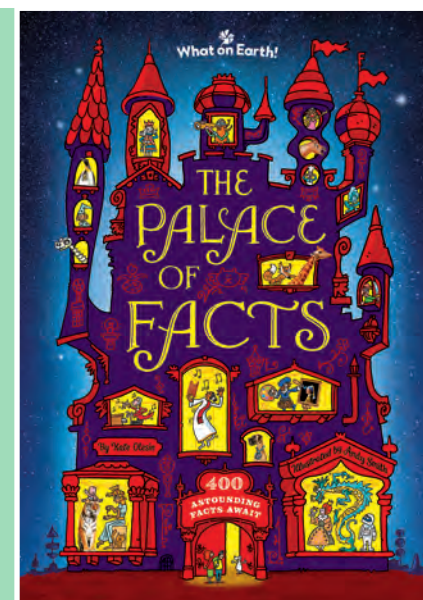
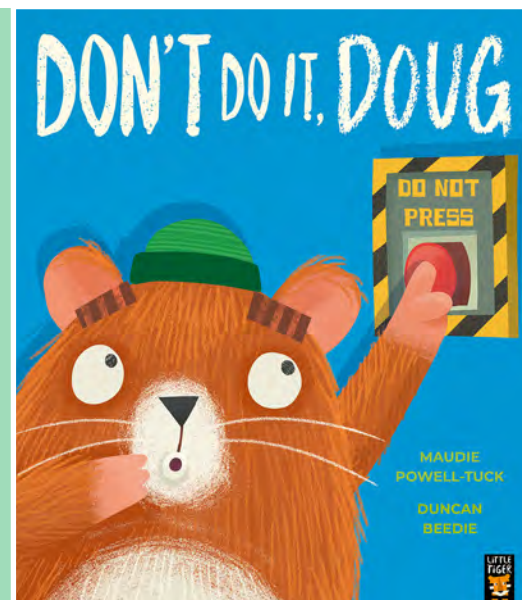
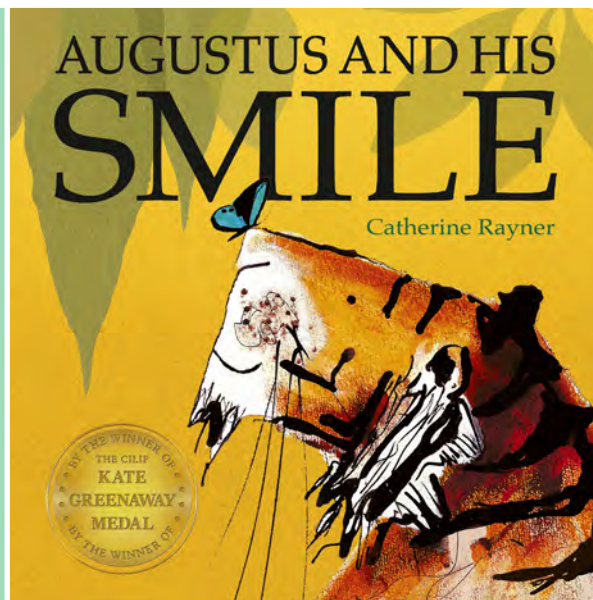
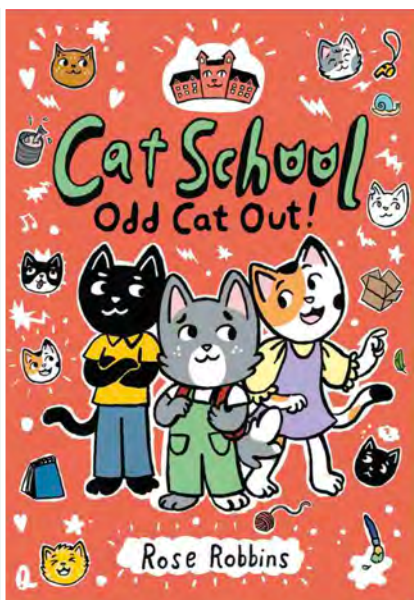


# AUGUST 2026 NEW TITLES

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MDL AND LTP

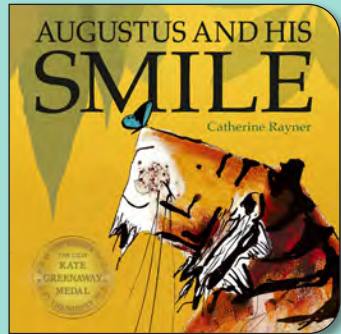




# Our Top Picks for August

A monthly selection of titles perfect for independent bookshops!

## Board Books



**Augustus and His Smile**  
9781801048170  
BB £7.99 Little Tiger

## Picture Books



**The Green Child**  
9781836270577  
HB £12.99 Post Wave

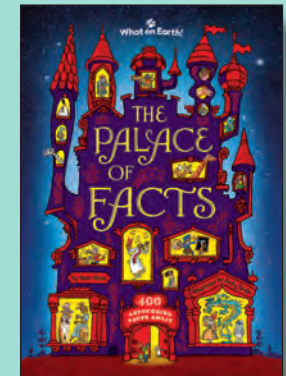


**The Monster in the Lake**  
9798348050580  
PB £8.99 Gecko



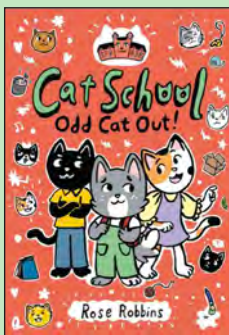
**Don't Do It Doug**  
9781801048620  
PB £8.99 Little Tiger

## Non-fiction



**The Palace of Facts**  
9781804661703  
HB £22 What On Earth!

## Chapter Books & Graphic Novels



**Cat School**  
9781836300397  
PB £8.99  
Scallywag Press



**Squirrel Shady**  
9780702343087  
PB £7.99  
Scholastic



**Wilomina**  
9780702340918  
PB £9.99  
Scholastic

## 9-12 Fiction



**Evie and Maryam's Little Lies**  
9781916558847  
PB £7.99 Guppy



**The Wild Ones**  
9780702349157  
PB £7.99 Scholastic

## Teen & YA Fiction



**Cut Him Out in Little Stars**  
9781915026163  
PB £8.99 Chicken House



**The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping**  
9780702349072  
PB £9.99 Scholastic



# Jump Back into School

Contact your local Bounce rep for more information or to place an order.

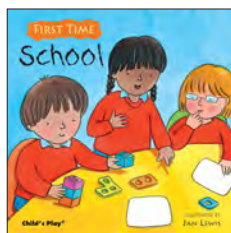
Extra Discount available! Ask your rep for more details



**Who's Let Loose At School?**  
9781837160167  
BB £6.99  
Three Wishes



**First Time: Nursery**  
9781846432811  
PB £5.99  
Child's Play



**First Time: School**  
9781846434907  
PB £5.99  
Child's Play



**King Of The Classroom**  
9781912650378  
PB £7.99  
Sallywag Press



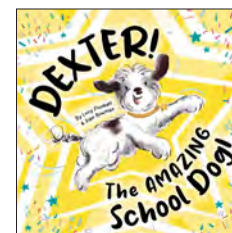
**Queen Of The Classroom**  
9781912650941  
PB £7.99  
Sallywag Press



**A New School For Charlie**  
9781786283412  
PB £7.99  
Child's Play



**Dexter The School Dog**  
9781913339500  
PB £7.99  
Owlet Press



**I Don't Want To Go To School**  
9781877579080  
PB £6.99  
Gecko



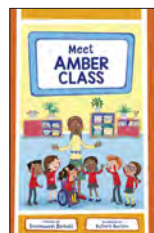
**When You Meet My Friend**  
9781801048446  
PB £8.99  
Little Tiger



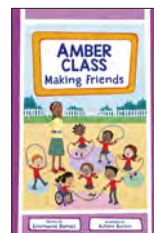
**Shu Lin's Grandpa**  
9781913074081  
PB £8.99  
Otter-Barry



**I'm Going To Make A Friend**  
9781801046619  
PB £7.99  
Little Tiger



**Meet Amber Class**  
9781915659576  
PB £8.99  
Otter-Barry



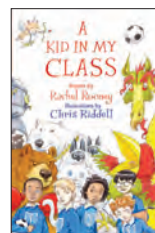
**Amber Class Making Friends**  
9781915659699  
PB £8.99  
Otter-Barry



**Midge And Moo**  
9781788951111  
PB £7.99  
Little Tiger



**My Happy Life**  
9798348030353  
PB £7.99  
Gecko



**A Kid In My Class**  
9781915659538  
PB £9.99  
Otter-Barry



**Smash Your Worries Bella**  
9781788953078  
PB £5.99  
Little Tiger

A group of friends learn the importance of sharing their feelings.

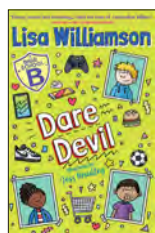
A humorous and heartfelt story of new friends and fresh starts.



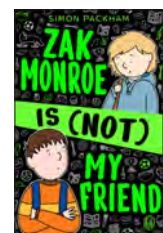
**Every Cloud**  
9781788953467  
PB £6.99  
Little Tiger



**Selfie Queen**  
9781916558526  
PB £7.99  
Guppy



**Dare Devil**  
9781916558700  
PB £7.99  
Guppy



**Zak Monroe Is (Not) My Friend**  
9781916747555  
PB £7.99  
Fox & Ink



**The Final Year**  
9781915659040  
PB £8.99  
Otter Barry



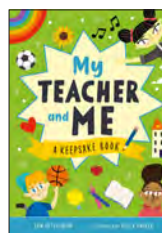
**The First Year**  
9781915659606  
PB £9.99  
Otter Barry



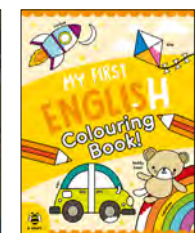
**Counting**  
9781835551776  
NB £3.99  
Two Windmills



**First Words**  
9781835551783  
NB £3.99  
Two Windmills



**My Teacher & Me**  
9781916851986  
HB £6.99  
B Small



**My First English Colouring Book**  
9781916851603  
PB £7.99  
B Small



**Ready Steady English**  
9781913918910  
PB £7.99  
B Small



**Ready Steady Maths**  
9781916851498  
PB £7.99  
B Small

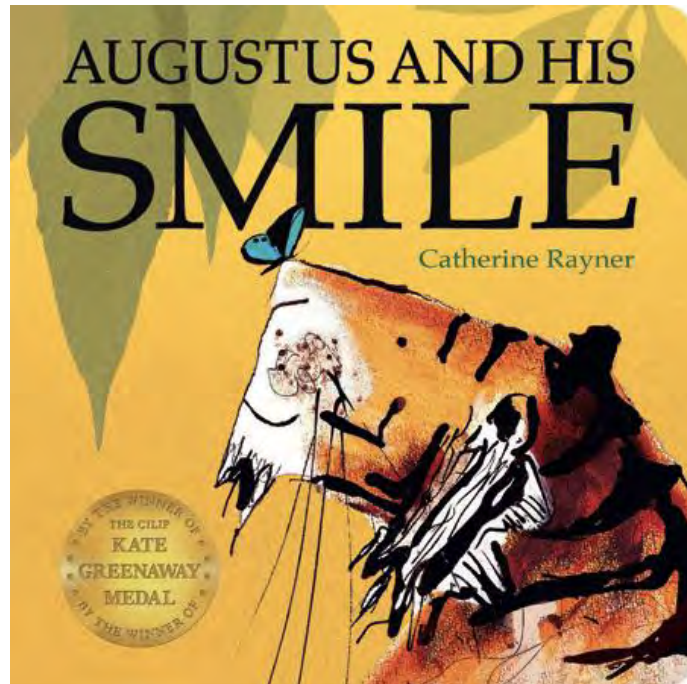


**Ready Steady Science**  
9781916851504  
PB £7.99  
B Small



August 2026  
Baby/Toddler Books

# Augustus and His Smile



Augustus is sad because he has lost his smile. After a HUGE tigery stretch, he sets off to find it, travelling over deserts and mountains — from the tops of the trees to the bottom of the ocean. Can he find his missing smile among the wonders of the world around him?

- Featuring gorgeous, richly-textured illustrations by CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal winner, Catherine Rayner.
- Follow Augustus the Tiger's story to find his smile again - a remarkable reminder for us all to celebrate the world around us, and the heartwarming happiness that life can bring.
- Now in a chunky board book format - the perfect addition for any child's nursery

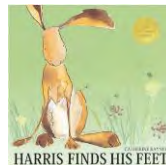
## Author Biography

Award-winning author and illustrator, Catherine Rayner, was born in Harrogate and now lives in Edinburgh. She has a BA Hons in Visual Communication and Illustration from Leeds College of Art and Edinburgh College of Art. Much of the inspiration for her illustration comes from her pets.

Written by Catherine Rayner

ISBN: 9781801048170  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £7.99  
Format: CBB  
Age: 3 to 6  
Dims: 180 x 180 mm  
Extent: 24 pp.

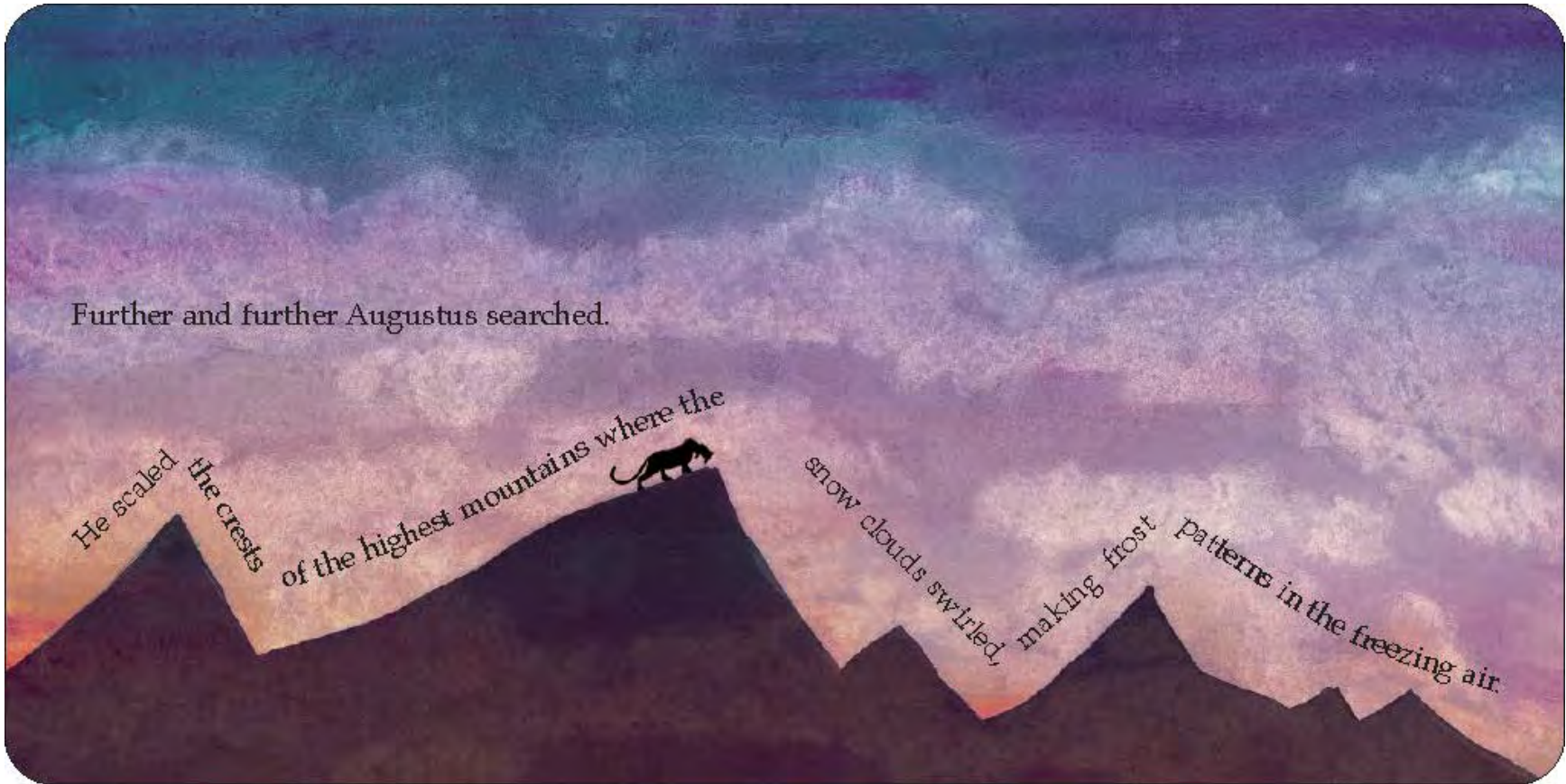
Also Available:



9781845065904  
£7.99 PB

LITTLE TIGER

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Further and further Augustus searched.

He scaled the crests  
of the highest mountains where the

snow clouds swirled,  
making frost patterns in the freezing air.

He pranced and paraded through the  
largest desert, making shadow shapes  
in the sun. Augustus padded further

and further

through shifting sand

until . . .



# Ghost Goes Boo!



Written by Becky Davies  
Illustrated by Mitch Miller

ISBN: 9781801049115  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £9.99  
Format: CBB  
Age: 1 to 3  
Dims: 201 x 181 mm  
Extent: 10 pp.

Discover five favourite Halloween characters doing funny things, then press the page to listen to the sound they make!

- A simple but funny, gently spooky book for the very young, with five different sounds!
- Press-page technology – no plastic buttons or sound modules – and a smaller trim size than is often seen for sound books.
- The start of a series with potential across seasonal and non-seasonal topics. *Santa Goes Ho Ho Ho!* is the next book.

## Author Biography

### Becky Davies (Author)

Becky is a children's book editor, and sometimes author, from the South West of England. Her favourite things are animals, books about magic, and anything sparkly.

### Mitch Miller (Illustrator)

Mitch is an illustrator and visual development artist based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The energy and storytelling of animation is something Mitch tries to bring into all of his work, marrying that with his unique shape-based style.

Ghost goes  
trick-or-treating.



Ghost goes ...**WAIT!**

Where  
did Ghost  
go?



Ghost  
goes



**BOO!**



Witch goes  
to pick  
out a hat.



HMMM ...



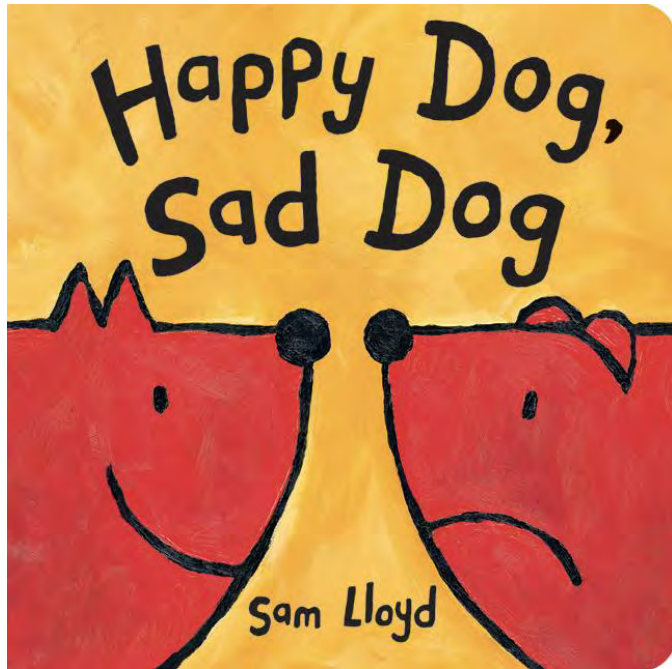
Witch goes hubble bubble, toil and trouble!



Witch goes **CAKLE!**



# Happy Dog, Sad Dog



Little ones will have so much fun learning first words and opposites with this paw-some board book by Sam Lloyd, illustrator of the classic *Calm Down, Boris!*. From a hairy dog to a bald dog, or a big dog to a little dog, discover the delightful doggy pairs on each page! Includes a handy guide for parents to explore how to read with their child, created by BookTrust, the UK's largest reading charity.

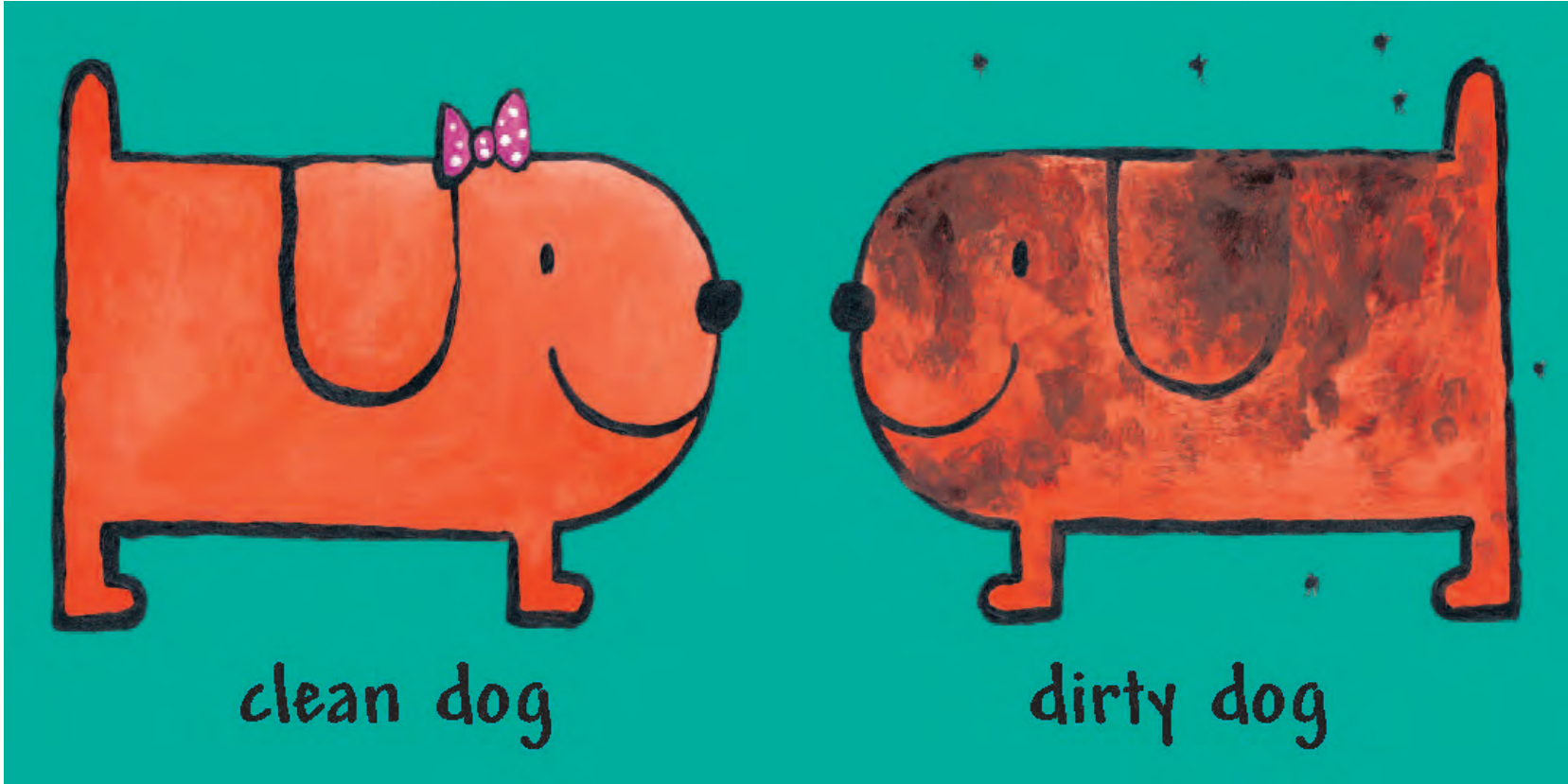
- Discover paw-some dog pairs throughout this chunky board book - a fun, simple design makes it easy for little ones to learn their first words and opposites.
- Features bright, adorable illustrations by Sam Lloyd, illustrator of the classic *Calm Down, Boris!*.
- Winner of the Sainsbury's Baby Book award in 2003, *Happy Dog, Sad Dog* was praised for the book's fun illustrations and creativity.
- Includes a handy guide for parents to explore how to read with their child, created by BookTrust, the UK's largest reading charity.

By Sam Lloyd

ISBN: 9781801048163  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £7.99  
Format: CBB  
Age: 1 to 3  
Dims: 170 x 170 mm  
Extent: 16 pp.

## Author Biography

Mr Pusskins', Sam's first hilarious book for Orchard, won the Booktrust Early Years Award for Best Pre-School Book, was a New York Times bestseller and was shortlisted for the V&A Illustration Award and Sheffield Book Prize. She also created the brilliant Whoops-a-Daisy World series of books for Orchard, which started with 'Doctor Miaow's Big Emergency'. Sam has written and illustrated a number of novelty books including the Richard and Judy prize-winning 'Calm Down, Boris' for Templar. In 2008 Sam was Highly Commended in the Big Picture Campaign's Best New Illustrator Awards. Sam lives in Brighton.



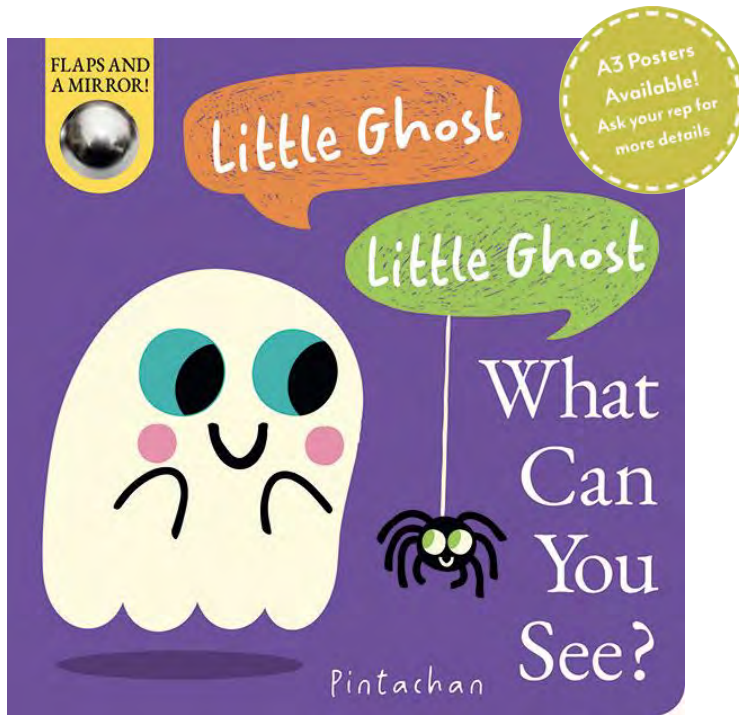


hairy dog

bald dog



# Little Ghost! Little Ghost! What Can You See?



Little hands will love this stylish series of board books with extra chunky pages, easy-to-lift flaps and a mirror hidden at the end. Perfect peekaboo fun for the very young!

- The seventh title in Pintachan's stunningly illustrated lift-the-flap series, this one featuring favourite Halloween characters!
- With chunky pages that are perfect for little hands and a surprise mirror ending!
- Perfect for fans of Nosy Crow's *Felt Flaps* series and Usborne's *That's Not My...*
- **POS (A3 posters) available**

## Author Biography

### Dee Costello (Author)

Dee Costello is a children's book editor and writer who grew up in London, spent a happy chunk of her life in Boston, USA, and is now living by the big, beautiful sea in Worthing, UK.

## Pintachan (Illustrator)

Pintachan's real name is Pablo! And he lives in the north of Spain with his family where he enjoys watching old sci-fi movies, eating liquorice and, of course, illustrating children's books. Pablo has worked for Hachette, Abrams Kids, Running Press, Quarto and McDonalds to name but a few.

Written by Dee Costello

Illustrated by Pintachan

ISBN: 9781801048279

Pub Date: 6 August 2026

Price: £7.99

Format: BB

Age: 1 to 3

Dims: 170 x 170 mm

Extent: 10 pp.



Also Available:



9781788818322  
£7.99 BB



9781788818353  
£7.99 BB



9781788818339  
£7.99 BB



9781788818346  
£7.99 BB



9781788818322  
£7.99 BB



9781838918323  
£7.99 BB



Little Ghost! Little Ghost!



What can you see?

Behind the door,  
who could it be?



Little Ghost! Little Ghost!

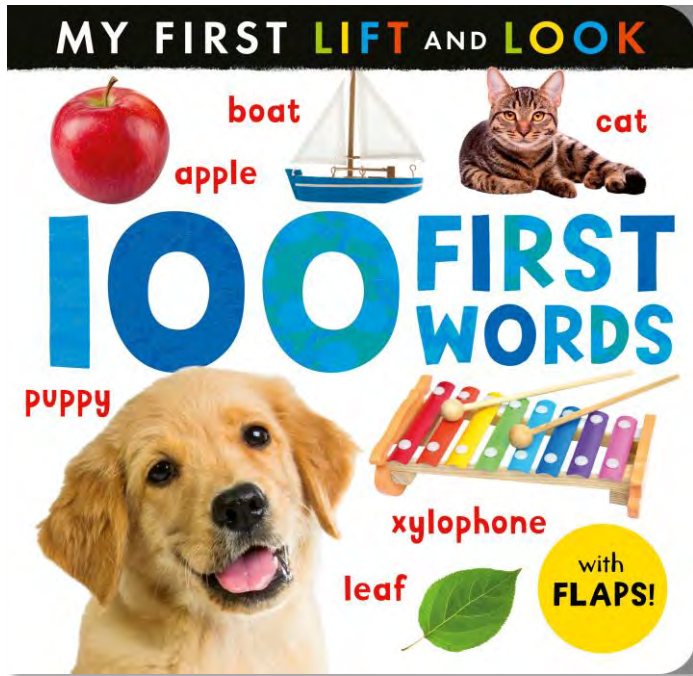


What can you see?

Inside the basket,  
who could it be?



# My First Lift and Look: 100 First Words



With 100 first words for little ones to learn, this interactive lift-the-flap book is an enjoyable introduction to a number of early learning topics, with colours, shapes, animals, things that go and more.

- Includes 100 first words to learn across a variety of topics, including colours, shapes, animals, things that go and more.
- With durable fold-out flaps, providing a fun interactive element for little ones whilst aiding the development of fine motor skills.
- Bright photographic imagery paired with educational prompts helps young learners get to grips with early-learning concepts.
- Previously published separately, now with new branding as part of the *My First* series.

## Author Biography

Hettie Cox originally hails from North London where she grew up with her family, two bunnies and cat Roxie. When she's not researching fun facts for children's books or looking over artwork, she's usually curled up with a cup of tea watching an animated movie (or three!) or practising her singing.

Written by Hettie Cox

ISBN: 9781801048910  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £7.99  
Format: CBB  
Age: 1 to 3  
Dims: 186 x 186 mm  
Extent: 12 pp.

Can you say these colors?



orange goldfish



brown teddy bear

What colors can you see outside?



*Whee-oo!*



red fire truck



yellow banana

These balloons are  
**pink** and **purple**.



A zebra is  
**black** and **white**.



Which of these wild animals do you know?



giraffe



monkey



elephant



snake



lion

Roar!



parrot

Who lives in cold places?



polar bear

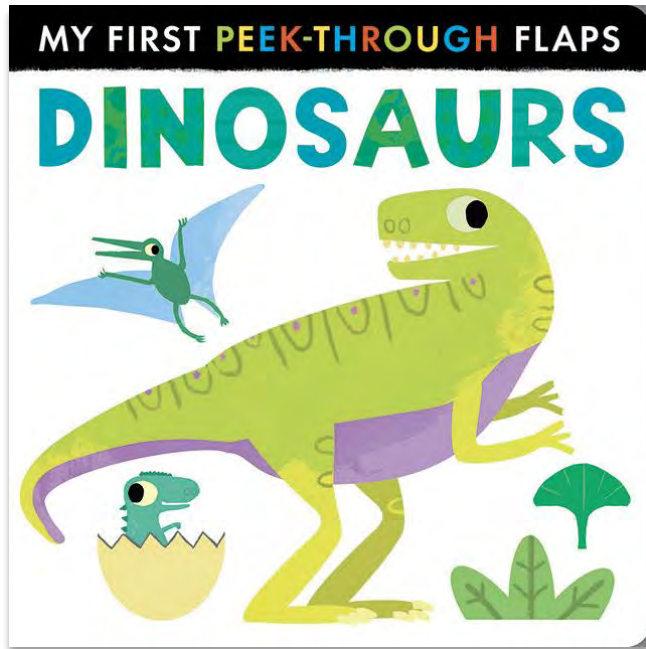


penguin

What animals live under the water?



# My First Peek Through Flaps: Dinosaurs



Walk with the dinosaurs and learn all about these creatures of the past! Little ones will love exploring the pages of this bright and bold board book full of peek-through holes, flaps and surprises.

- Highly interactive spreads with lots to spot, and layers of flaps with peek-through holes.
- Introduces key first words and encourages a love of learning.
- Part of the *My First* series, with its broad range of early-learning books in various interactive formats.
- Previously published as part of the *I Can Learn* series.

## Author Biography

### Lauren Crisp (Author)

Lauren Crisp is a children's book editor who is lucky enough to make beautiful books every day. She lives in London but grew up in Yorkshire, and loves long country walks with her dog, Ludo. She enjoys reading, writing and dreaming up fun rhymes for the books she works on.

## Thomas Elliott (Illustrator)

Thomas Elliott is an illustrator and designer with a keen love of nature. When he's not creating beautiful books, he likes to spend time with his family and two dogs.

Written by Lauren Crisp  
Illustrated by Thomas Elliot

ISBN: 9781801048903  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £7.99  
Format: BB  
Age: 1 to 3  
Dims: 180 x 180 mm  
Extent: 32 pp.

Also Available:



9781801048958  
£7.99 BB

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a Triassic landscape. The background is a light green field with yellow flowers. On the left, a blue river flows with a pink ammonite and a blue ichthyosaur. A red dinosaur (Herrerasaurus) is in the foreground, and a large green dinosaur (Plateosaurus) is on the right. A tree is in the center, and a blue dragonfly is flying above. A small bird is perched on a branch. The scene is filled with various plants and flowers.

## Triassic

Dinosaurs big,  
dinosaurs small.  
Who is hiding?  
Spot them all!

tree

Who is this?

What is  
here?

**Ammonite**  
(A-muh-nite)

**Ichthyosaur**  
(ICK-thee-uh-sawr)

**Herrerasaurus**  
(her-rer-uh-SAWR-us)

What is behind  
**Plateosaurus?**  
(PLAT-ee-uh-SAWR-us)

# Jurassic

Dinosaurs high, dinosaurs low.  
Which of these do you know?

Diplodocus  
(dih-PLOD-uh-kus)

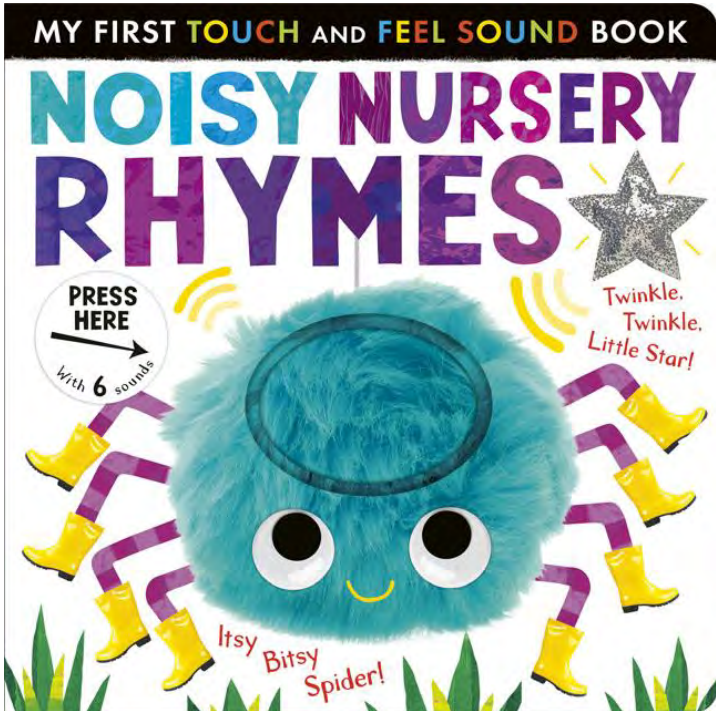
Brachiosaurus  
(BRAK-ee-uh-SAWR-us)

Who is here?

ferns

What is behind Stegosaurus?  
(STEG-uh-SAWR-us)

# Noisy Nursery Rhymes



Packed with appealing photographs, fun facts, exciting sounds and with a touch-and-feel element on every spread, this interactive board book series encourages children to learn with their senses.

- Features a touch-and-feel texture and sound button on every spread.
- Introduces little ones to classic nursery rhymes and their tunes.
- Includes an on/off switch on the back cover to extend battery life.
- With a bright, engaging mix of photography and artwork.

## Author Biography

Lauren Crisp is a children's book editor who is lucky enough to make beautiful books. She lives in London but grew up in Yorkshire, and loves long country walks with her dog, Ludo. She enjoys reading, writing and dreaming up fun rhymes for the books she works on.

Written by Lauren Crisp

ISBN: 9781801048897  
 Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
 Price: £14.99  
 Format: CBB  
 Age: 1 to 3  
 Dims: 216 x 216 mm  
 Extent: 12 pp.

## Also Available:





Row, row, row your boat,  
gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily,  
merrily, merrily,  
life is but a dream.



Row, row, row your boat,  
gently down the stream.  
If you see a crocodile,  
don't forget to scream!



The itsy bitsy spider climbed  
up the waterspout.  
Down came the rain and  
washed the spider out!



Out came the sun and  
dried up all the rain,  
and the itsy bitsy spider  
climbed up the spout again!



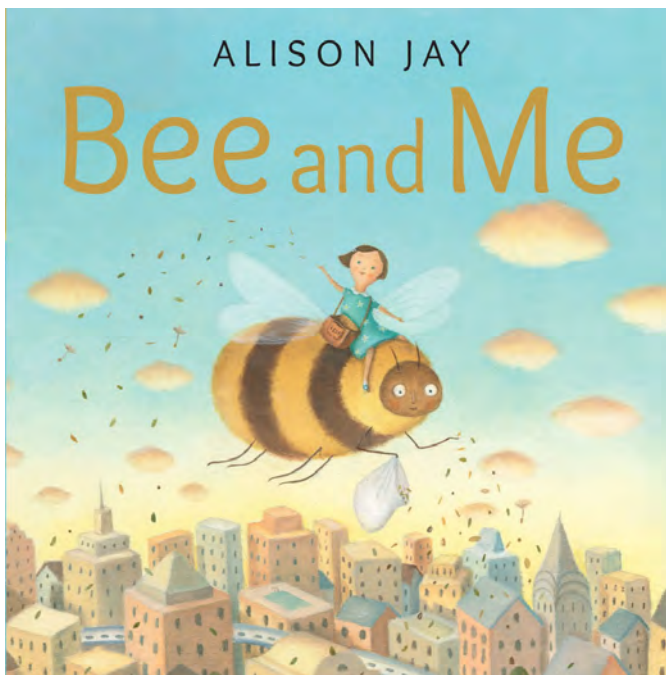
**Author:** Alison Jay  
**Availability:** 06 August 2026  
**Age guide:** 3+

## About Alison Jay

**Alison Jay** graduated from the London College of Printing with a first class degree in graphic design and, after a short stint in animation, has been an illustrator ever since. She has over 30 children's books to her name and has been listed for some of the world's most prestigious awards.

**Format:** Board book  
**Size:** 210 x 210 mm  
**Extent:** 32 pp  
**BIC Code:** YBCS  
**BISAC:** JUV029010  
**Thema:** YBLL  
**CBMC:** A3K79  
**ISBN:** 9781910646663  
**Price:** £9.99  
**Imprint:** Old Barn Books

## Bee and Me Board Book



## About Bee and Me

Fear turns to friendship as seeds grow into flowers in this new board book edition of Alison Jay's much-loved picture book.

A simple text has been devised for the board book edition to appeal to all young nature-lovers.

The picture book edition was nominated for the Carnegie Medal. It has sold over 10k copies in the UK and in 17 foreign editions and is frequently used in early years settings to support the environmental curriculum.

*A sweet bee idyll – Kirkus Reviews*



They gathered thousands and thousands  
of seeds from Bee's favourite flowers:

Poppy, Dandelion and Thistle. Clover, Mint, Dock and...  
Daisy!



Daisy climbed onto  
Bee's soft, furry back.  
Silvery wings beat  
faster and faster.  
They flew up out of  
the window  
and high above  
the towers.



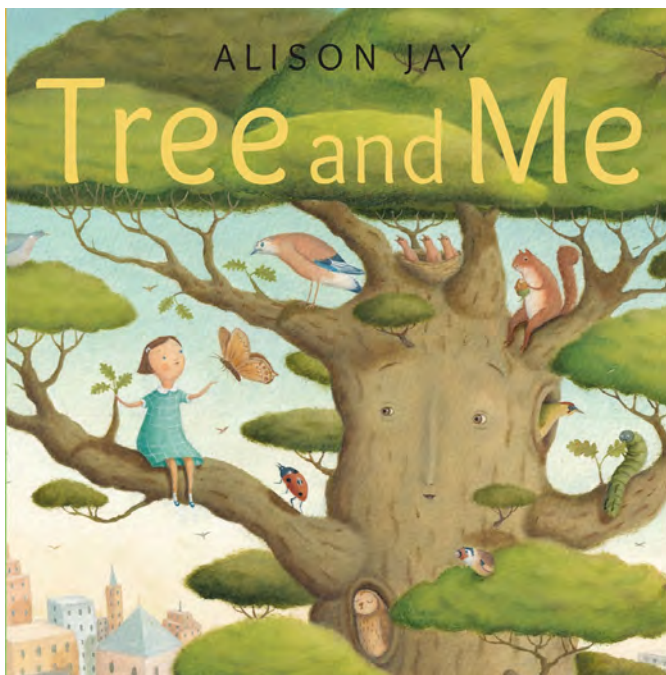
**Artist:** Alison Jay  
**Availability:** 06 August 2026  
**Age guide:** 3+

**About the artist:**

Alison Jay graduated from the London College of Printing with a first class degree in graphic design and, after a short stint in animation, has been an illustrator ever since. She has over 30 children's books to her name and has been listed for some of the world's most prestigious awards.

**Format:** Board book  
**Size:** 210 x 210 mm  
**Extent:** 32 pp  
**BIC Code:** YBCS  
**BISAC:** JUV029010  
**Thema:** YBC, YBLL  
**CBMC:** A3M79  
**ISBN:** 9781910646915  
**Price:** £9.99  
**Imprint:** Old Barn Books

**Tree & Me**



Did you know? Oak trees can be home to over 200 species and jays are thought to be responsible for planting more acorns than any other creature.

**About Tree & Me**

In this fantastical, dreamy, eco-tale, the acorn Daisy and Pedro have collected from the forest bursts out of its pot on their city windowsill, They replant it in the street outside. Like magic, their oak tree grows, spreading its branches to provide shade, food and shelter for thousands of creatures. When Autumn comes and acorns fall, Daisy and her friend fly on the backs of the jays to plant new trees all over the city. A sequel to *Bee & Me*, a firm favourite in nurseries and primary schools around the globe, *Tree & Me* carries an uplifting message about nature's life cycles and features Alison Jay's signature detailed and humorous artwork.

**About the Author:**

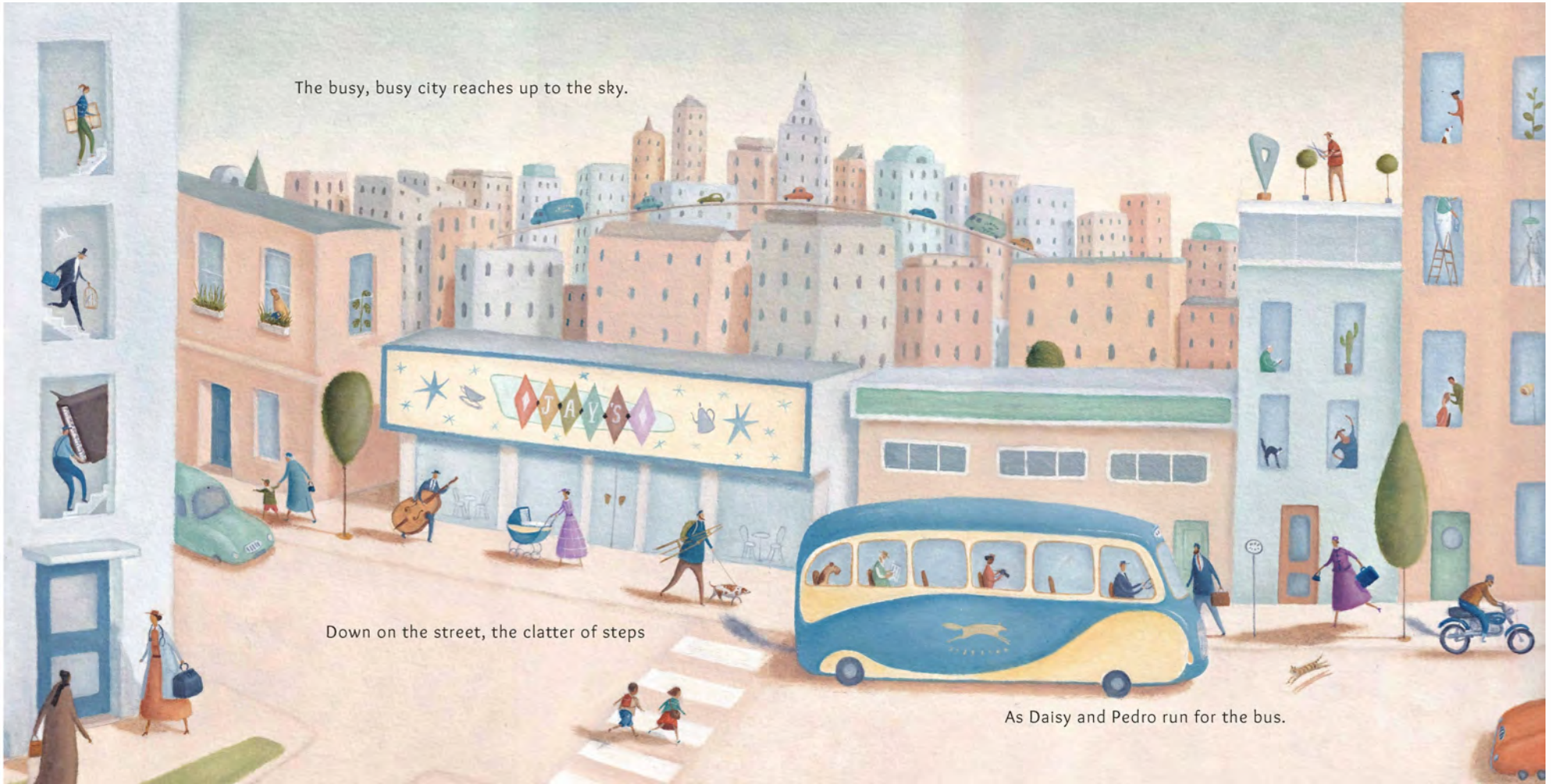
Ruth Huddleston has been a creator, publisher, salesperson and, sometime, author of books for children of all ages for over thirty-five years and has worked with Alison Jay for most of that time. She is in awe of Alison's eye for colour and detail and her ability to bring humour and empathy into everything she does.



The busy, busy city reaches up to the sky.

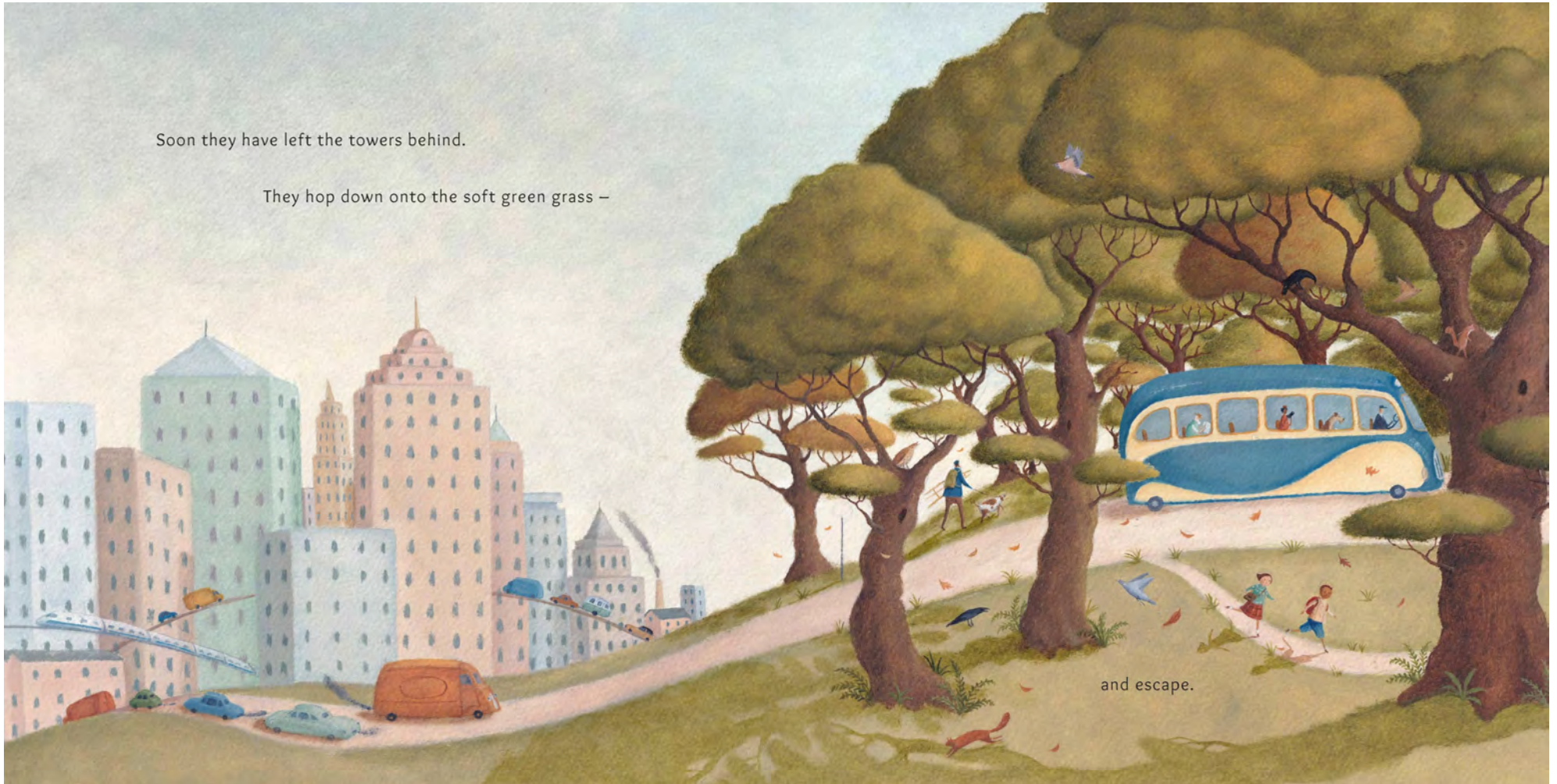
Down on the street, the clatter of steps

As Daisy and Pedro run for the bus.

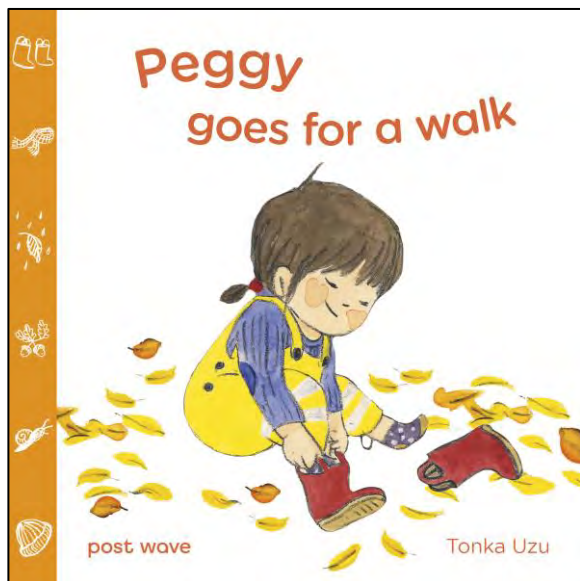


Soon they have left the towers behind.

They hop down onto the soft green grass –



and escape.



Coming in  
Board Book!

Pub Date: 06/08/2026

RRP: £7.99

Format: Board Book

ISBN: 9781836272113

Extent: 16 pages

Dimensions: 180 x 180 mm

Interest Age: Up to 3 years



9781836272106

£7.99 BB

# Peggy Goes for a Walk

Tonka Uzu

post wave  
children's books



Join Peggy and Grandpa on a walk through nature in this charming story about curiosity and the joys of everyday life.

Determined to explore, Peggy slides down little hills, splashes in muddy puddles and snuggles up in the crunchy fallen leaves. And when her little legs get tired, Grandpa is always there to carry her all the way home.

These charming board books celebrate the small joys of everyday life paired with heartwarming illustrations and endearing messages of persistence and determination.

Perfect for gifting to grandchildren and little ones discovering the great outdoors!

### Sales points:

- The second title in the gorgeous Peggy series
- Endearing watercolour artwork
- Perfect format for little hands
- Fosters an interest in nature and outdoor activities
- Supports the UK Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum by encouraging exploration and understanding of the natural world

**Tonka Uzu** was born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria, and has lived in Italy before relocating to Cambridge, UK. She holds a BA Hons in History and Theory of Art from the University of Bologna and a Master's degree in Children's Book Illustration from the Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University. Alongside her career as an illustrator, Tonka works as an artist facilitator. She has a passion for drawing children and animals, bringing her unique blend of cultural experiences and academic background to her enchanting illustrations.

Post Wave UK Ltd., Runway East Bloomsbury 24-28 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SN [www.postwavepublishing.com](http://www.postwavepublishing.com)

Distribution and Orders: Macmillan Distribution Services, Brunel Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 6XS Tel: 01256 302 692 Email: [orders@macmillan.co.uk](mailto:orders@macmillan.co.uk)

Bounce Sales and Marketing, 320 City Road, London, EC1V 2NZ Tel: 0201383650



Peggy can't wait to go  
for a walk with Grandpa.  
"Come on, Grandpa! Let's go!"



Peggy runs off quickly on her little legs. Grandpa takes his time. His legs are slower.

“Peggy, wait, look at all these beautiful mushrooms!” says Grandpa. “Come on, let’s go!” calls Peggy.



# Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Pumpkin!

Sarah Finan

post wave  
children's books



**A bright and bold board book all about the joy of eating pumpkins!**

There's only one thing this little baby loves to eat – pumpkin, pumpkin, pumpkin! Creamy mash, tasty pies, or fresh from the patch – every kind is delicious! With sweet rhyming text, bold, bright artwork, and clever die-cuts throughout, this board book is a delight to read aloud to little ones and is sure to be enjoyed time and time again.

### Sales points:

- A die-cut on every page, perfect for little hands
- Fun, vibrant artwork by an award-winning illustrator that kids will love
- Rhyming text that's perfect for reading aloud
- *Banana, Banana, Banana* was included in Amazon's Best Children's Books of the Year 2025
- The fifth book in a pre-school series which introduces favourite foods and all the delightful ways they can be eaten

Pub Date: 27/08/2026

RRP: £7.99

Format: Board Book

ISBN: 9781836271444

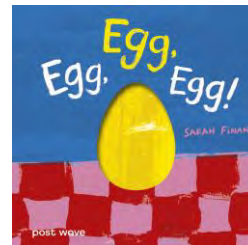
Extent: 20 pages

Dimensions: 180 x 180 mm

Interest Age: 0 – 3 years

**Sarah Finan** is a British designer and illustrator, living in Italy. Her first book, *Erik the Lone Wolf*, published in 2018, and was longlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize. She also won second place in the Macmillan Prize for Illustration 2015 for *Yankee Doodle Stanley*. In 2024, Sarah was longlisted for World Illustration Awards for her book, *What We Wear When We Take Care*.

Also available in  
Yum, Yum,  
Yum series



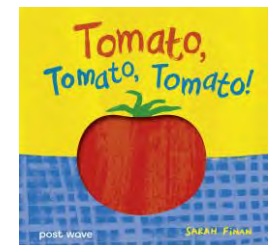
9781836270263  
£7.99 BB



9781836270287  
£7.99 BB



9781836270966  
£7.99 BB



9781836271062  
£7.99 BB



A little rinse is all it needs.



Scoop, scoop, scoop,  
out all the seeds.



You can eat them lots of ways.



In **yummy**  
soup or smooth  
purées.



Pub Date: 06/08/2026

RRP: £7.99

Format: Board Book

ISBN: 9781836271994

Extent: 14 pages

Dimensions: 180 x 180 mm

Interest Age: 0 - 3 years



9781836271123  
£7.99 BB

# Slide and Peek: Witch

Hector Dexet

post wave  
children's books 

What autumn surprise is hiding for the bat tonight? Which animal will discover a cosy new pair of pyjamas?

This playful and colourful novelty book is packed with autumnal fun and spooky-sweet surprises!

Can you guess what the witch has in store for the animals?

With every pull of the tabs, little hands will discover the magical gifts the witch has conjured, but not all is as it seems! A cosy chair transforms into a monster, a jar of cookies wriggles into spiders, an umbrella flaps into a bat, and more!

This fun Halloween board book includes big, satisfying sliders and joyful, colourful artwork from Hector Dexet.

#### Sales points:

- A fun, spooky gift book for toddlers
- Vibrant, cheeky artwork by popular artist, Hector Dexet
- Satisfying sliders with die-cut reveals
- Perfect for fans of Nosy Crow's 'Peekaboo' series

#### Marketing and Publicity:

- Extensive review mailing in an attention-grabbing Halloween package
- Family influencer social media promotion

**Hector Dexet** is a Paris-based author and illustrator known for his bold, bright graphic style that captivates toddlers and young readers.

Post Wave UK Ltd., Runway East Bloomsbury 24-28 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SN [www.postwavepublishing.com](http://www.postwavepublishing.com)

Distribution and Orders: Macmillan Distribution Services, Brunel Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 6XS Tel: 01256 302 692 Email: [orders@macmillan.co.uk](mailto:orders@macmillan.co.uk)

Bounce Sales and Marketing, 320 City Road, London, EC1V 2NZ Tel: 0201383650



These gifts aren't  
what they seem!

For you, Monkey,  
a lovely cosy armchair.  
Or is it?



Abracadabra!

Here's a scary apple  
for you, Little Worm.



Abracadabra!

3+

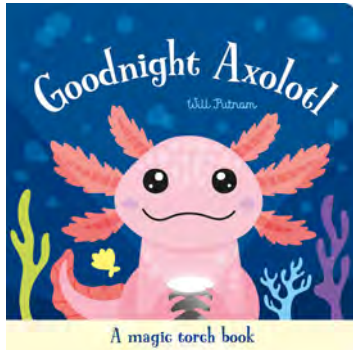


Two Windmills

## Magic Torch Books: Goodnight Axolotl

### Say 'goodnight' with this magical torch book series!

Author: Will Putnam | Illustrator: Charles Johnston



ISBN: 978-1-83555-458-6

Pub date: 06 August 2026

Price: £7.99

Format: Full colour casebound hardback

Cover finishes: Spot uv matt lamination

Additional Info: 5 pages with inset acetate and a card torch on a ribbon

Extent: 12pp

Dimensions: 206 x 206 mm

BIC Code: YBGT3

CBMC Code: A3J79

Age range: 3 to 5

### Sales & Marketing

Bounce Sales and Marketing  
320 City Road, London, EC1V 2NZ, UK  
T: 0202 7138 3650  
E: sales@bouncemarketing.co.uk

Magic torch novelty book format to wow little readers!

Simple illustrations and text are combined with a beautiful colour palette to create a perfect preschool look.

Collect the whole Magic Torch series to make bedtime reading interactive and fun!

A magical bedtime story book for children.

Axolotl is ready for bed, but first she wants to say good night to all her animal friends. Insert the magic torch between the pages to find Axolotl's friends in each night-time scene and watch children glow with delight!

Repetitive, rhyming text to help young children learn rhythm and tone. Clever windows throughout when the torch is inserted. Includes a handy to keep the magic torch attached to the book.

"So ingenious you'll wonder why you haven't seen it before." - *BookTrust*

"If you are after bedtime stories with the 'WOW factor' these are for you. Inside the books are cardboard 'torches' that help your child see extra things in the pictures. So clever and so exciting." - *The SEN Resources Blog*

"This is a lovely read. As well as the cheery illustrations and the interactive element, the rhythmic text makes for a fun read aloud. It highlights how different the sky and surroundings are when it is night time." - *Mamma Filz (Book blogger)*

### Illustrator: Charles Johnston

Charles Johnston graduated from Middlesex University with a degree in Illustration and shortly after began working in Children's Books. When he isn't illustrating he is happiest cooking in his tiny kitchen while listening to heavy metal or doting on his two perfect cats.



ISBN 9781835554586



9 781835 554586 >

twowindmills.com

Goodnight, goodnight,  
sleepyheads,  
Now it's time to go to bed.

But just before Axolotl's day ends,  
She'll say goodnight to all her friends.

Slide out the torch  
and use it to find  
Axolotl's friends.





Who is hiding,  
Where the currents flow?

Goodnight,  
Turtle!

See you tomorrow!

Can you find Turtle?



3+



Two Windmills

# Magic Torch Books: Goodnight Capybara

## Say 'goodnight' with this magical torch book series!

Author: Katie Button | Illustrator: Eleanor Lamb



ISBN: 978-1-83555-509-5

Pub date: 06 August 2026

Price: £7.99

Format: Full colour casebound hardback

Cover finishes: Spot uv matt lamination

Additional Info: 5 pages with inset acetate and a card torch on a ribbon

Extent: 12pp

Dimensions: 206 x 206 mm

BIC Code: YBGT3

CBMC Code: A3J79

Age range: 3 to 5

## Sales & Marketing

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320 City Road, London, EC1V 2NZ, UK  
T: 0202 7138 3650  
E: sales@bouncemarketing.co.uk

Magic torch novelty book format to wow little readers!

Simple illustrations and text are combined with a beautiful colour palette to create a perfect preschool look.

Interactive storytime - perfect for reluctant readers!

Repetitive, rhyming text to help young children learn rhythm and tone.

Clever windows throughout reveal hidden animals when the torch is inserted.

Includes a handy ribbon to keep the magic torch attached to the book.

Part of a range of adorable animal-themed bedtime novelty board books!

Capybara is ready for bed, but first he wants to say goodnight to all his animal friends.

Young children will love to help Capybara find his animal friends in this interactive novelty board book. There's a bear, an alligator, a jaguar, an armadillo, and many more popular animals waiting to be discovered in the scenes. From exploring the rainforest and searching along the Amazon river to looking in the muddy swamp, there's different places to search and different animals to look for on each magic page. Simply insert the included 'magic torch' between the pages to find Capybara's friends in each night-time scene and watch children glow with delight as hidden pictures appear!

## Illustrator: Eleanor Lamb

Eleanor graduated from the Norwich University of the Arts with a degree in illustration and has been drawing, illustrating and creating ever since. Eleanor has a passion for fine art and will never miss an opportunity to see works of Van Gogh during her travels. Eleanor is a super paws-itive person and loves drawing rabbits, ducks and cats, of course!



ISBN 9781835555095



9 781835 555095 >

twowindmills.com



Goodnight, goodnight,  
sleepyheads,  
Now it's time to go to bed.



But one last thing  
before Capybara's day ends,  
He'll say goodnight  
to all his friends.



Slide out the torch and use  
it to find Capybara's friends.



Above the rainforest,  
the stars shine bright.



Goodnight  
Jaguar!

Sleep well,  
sleep tight!



Can you find Jaguar?



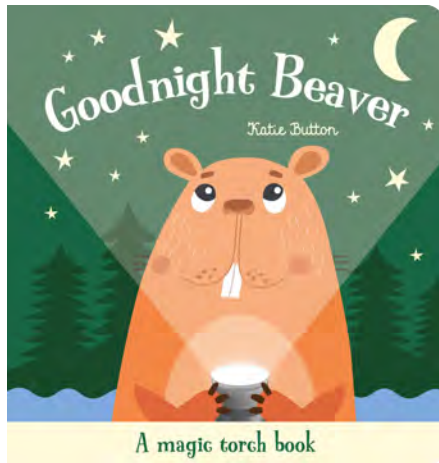
3+



Two Windmills

# Magic Torch Books

Say 'goodnight' with this magical torch book series!



9781801058643  
BB £7.99



9781801058469  
BB £7.99



9781801056113  
BB £7.99



9781801056120  
BB £7.99



9781801052559  
BB £7.99



9781801058483  
BB £7.99



9781787007505  
BB £7.99



9781835554838  
BB £7.99

# Hug & Snuggle Animals



Whale

9789465051154



Dinosaur

9789465051161



## MY BOOK BUDDIES

The cutest cuddly animals with books on their bellies; what could be better? Meet baby's new best friends: Whale and Dinosaur are taking over the hearts of little ones everywhere. More than just animal-shaped books with super-soft fabrics that tiny hands will love to explore, Whale and Dinosaur are the perfect companions for playtime, naptime and all the sweet moments in between! Time to cuddle up with your buddy.

<b>Publication</b>	AUGUST 2026
<b>Price</b>	£14.99
<b>Format</b>	Soft Book
<b>Size box</b>	Dinosaur: 235 x 140 x 180 mm Whale: 240 x 180 x 165 mm
<b>Extent</b>	8 pages
<b>BIC code</b>	YB
<b>Age</b>	From birth
<b>Features</b>	Cuddly toy with sewn-on soft book and embroidery

## KEY SELLING POINTS:

- The perfect book buddy: stuffed animal and book in one!
- Super-soft fabric for little hands.
- Comforting plushie stimulates baby's sensory development.

## ORDERS to MACMILLAN DISTRIBUTION

Door 1-7 High Bay / Door 10 Low Bay  
Lye Industrial Estate – Pontardulais  
SA4 8QD Swansea, UK  
T: +44 1792 885598  
E: orders@macmillan.co.uk

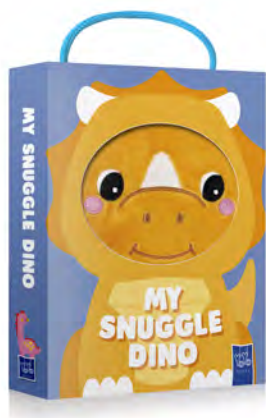
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# My Snuggle Buddy



**My Snuggle Kitty**  
9789465245508



**My Snuggle Dino**  
9789465245522



**My Snuggle Panda**  
9789465245515



**My Snuggle Bunny**  
9789465245539



## MY SNUGGLE KITTY · MY SNUGGLE DINO MY SNUGGLE PANDA · MY SNUGGLE BUNNY

Say hello to your new favourite snuggle buddies!  
With their bright illustrations and super-soft materials, these sweet animal-shaped books will stimulate your baby's senses to the fullest and provide the perfect comforter throughout the day.

<b>Publication</b>	AUGUST 2026
<b>Price</b>	£9.99
<b>Format</b>	Soft Book
<b>Size book</b>	150 x 200 mm
<b>Size box</b>	160 x 200 x 30 mm
<b>Extent</b>	6 pages
<b>BIC code</b>	YB
<b>Age</b>	+6 months
<b>Features</b>	Various fabrics, embroidery and a crinkly page.

### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- Super-soft animal-shaped book, pleasant to touch.
- Beautifully illustrated in different fabrics, with embroidery and a crinkly page.
- Comforts and stimulates sensory development.

### ORDERS to MACMILLAN DISTRIBUTION

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# My Snuggle Buddy



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# My Squeaky Snuggle Book



Mouse and Cat  
9789465245546



Chick and Hen  
9789465245553



Squeak! Squeak!  
What's that sound?  
It's your new play buddy,  
Chick!



Squeaky animal

Crinkly page

Soft cuddly book

## MOUSE AND CAT · CHICK AND HEN

These books, made of super-soft and crinkly fabric, are perfect for cuddle time, all day long! The little squeaker will certainly grab the attention of your little one and provide hours of fun. A sensory treasure for babies and toddlers!

<b>Publication</b>	AUGUST 2026
<b>Price</b>	£14.99
<b>Format</b>	Soft Book
<b>Size book</b>	140 x 140 mm
<b>Size box</b>	215 x 160 x 50 mm
<b>Extent</b>	8 pages
<b>BIC code</b>	YB
<b>Age</b>	+6 months
<b>Features</b>	Squeaky animal, crinkly page.

### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- Super-soft book for cuddles all day long.
- The squeaky animal is your new play buddy.
- Stimulates sensory development.

### ORDERS to MACMILLAN DISTRIBUTION

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# My Rolling Buddies



T-Rex races to victory  
9789465056128



Elephant needs a ride  
9789465056111



A Day at the Farm with Dog  
9789465056142



Sheep Goes on a Holiday  
9789462056135



## T-REX RACES TO VICTORY • ELEPHANT NEEDS A RIDE • A DAY AT THE FARM WITH DOG • SHEEP GOES ON A HOLIDAY

Toddlers love riding along with their wheely friends! Join the Rolling Buddies Elephant, Dino, Sheep and Dog on their speedy adventures and meet fun animal friends on the go. With four wheels and a handy handle, these books are built to be rolled and carried everywhere! These hilarious stories are told with vibrant illustrations, making them a must for toddlers. So, get ready to read and roll!

<b>Publication</b>	AUGUST 2026
<b>Price</b>	£ 9,99
<b>Format</b>	Board Book
<b>Size</b>	200 x 200 mm
<b>Extent</b>	24 pages
<b>BIC code</b>	YB
<b>Age</b>	2+
<b>Features</b>	4 turnable wheels and a handle

### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- The four wheels make reading a fun adventure.
- Stimulates toddlers' imagination: Children can play along with the story and take their book for a 'drive'.
- Fun at home and on the go.

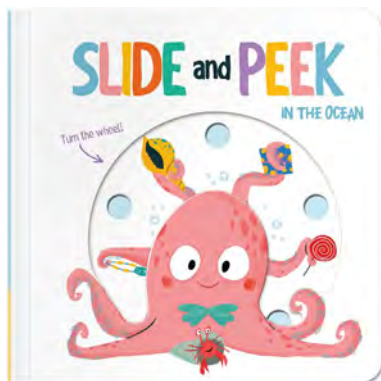
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# Slide and Peek



In the Ocean  
9789463600699



In the Wild  
9789463600682



On the Farm  
9789463600675



Small Creatures  
9789463600705

## IN THE OCEAN • IN THE WILD ON THE FARM • SMALL CREATURES

Slide, turn and pull the tabs for a fun surprise.

In an interactive and exciting way, children learn new words and practise their fine motor skills.

The tab in each cover immediately invites readers to delve into this hilarious series!

Publication	AUGUST 2026
Price	£ 7.99
Format	Board Book
Size	150 x 150 mm
Extent	10 pages
BIC code	YB
Age	3+
Features	Sliding tabs

### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- Surprising slides on every spread.
- Hilarious scenes to laugh and learn.
- Enrich vocabulary with ease.

### ORDERS to MACMILLAN DISTRIBUTION

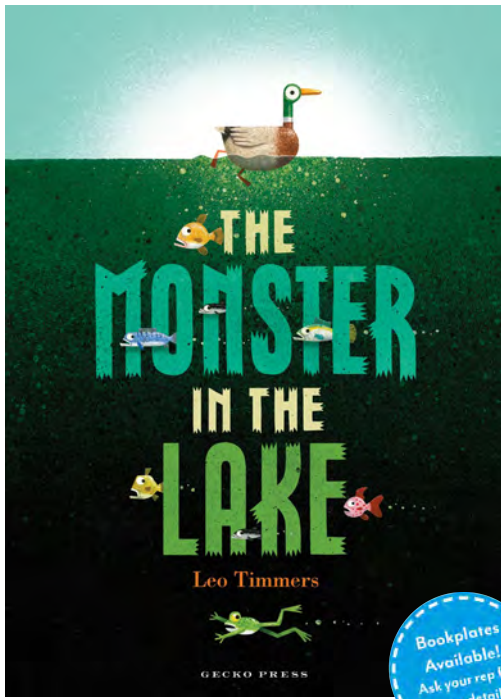
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August 2026  
Picture Books



# The Monster in the Lake

Author and Illustrator **Leo Timmers**

*A monstrously good picture book about a nervous duck who takes*

*his courage in hand and discovers a spectacular underwater wonderland*



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Four ducks are tired of their small pond and set out for an adventure in the big lake. Walking at the back, Eric isn't sure. He's heard there's a monster in the lake, but his friends don't believe a word of that old story! Eric reluctantly tags along, only to make a startling discovery and find himself in a wonderful underwater adventure. This large-format picture book features a detailed, fold-out, underwater world of mechanical marvels and sea creatures. The story of a nervous duck who finds courage and the overconfidence of groups will resonate with anyone who's nervously dipped a toe in unknown waters.

## SALES POINTS

- Foldout underwater page with intricate mechanical details
- Themes of peer pressure and overcoming fears
- Upcycling theme: undersea vehicles made of discarded objects
- Funny ducks with personality
- Two international prizes, rights sold in seven languages

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Leo Timmers** is a leading Belgian author and illustrator, whose many successful picture books have been published in thirty-two languages. He has a large following as one of Belgium's preeminent picture book artists.

## NEW IN PAPERBACK

### TITLE INFORMATION

**Release August 2026**

Ages **4-6**

Format **paperback**

Size **225 x 315mm portrait**

Pages **36 pp**

Illustrations **colour**

ISBN **9798348050580**

NZD **19.99** AUD **17.99** GBP **8.99**

Translator **Bill Nagelkerke**

Original Language **Dutch (Belgium)**

This book in 3 ideas **underwater world, overcoming fears, marvellous sea creatures**

## WHY I CHOSE THIS BOOK

“Leo Timmers’ relatable animal heroes and intricate artwork are reliably popular with children around the world.”

*Rachel Lawson, Publisher*

## CLICK THROUGH TO SEE MORE

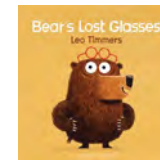
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Sales & Marketing **800-328-4929**

Publicity [ellen@publisherspotlight.com](mailto:ellen@publisherspotlight.com)

## UNITED KINGDOM

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Publicity [nicky@nickypotter.net](mailto:nicky@nickypotter.net)

## AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND

Sales & Marketing **Australia: Walker Books / New Zealand: Arotahi Agency**

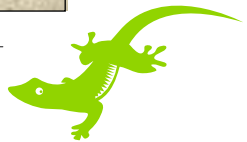
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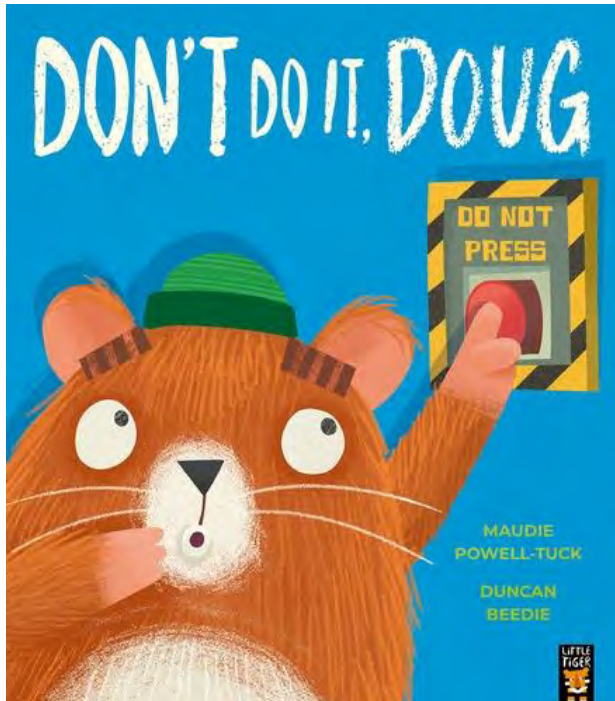
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Hey, let's go over to the lake.





# Don't Do It, Doug



Meet Doug.

Doug is a hamster with a taste for trouble.

From shaking fizzy pop (uh-oh) to pressing oh-so-tempting red buttons, Doug just cannot help himself. Look!

There he goes again . . .

Don't do it, Doug!

**A laugh-out-loud story about one hamster's battle with impulse control.**

- From the powerhouse pairing behind Hank Goes Honk.
- Stylish illustrations and a hilarious, non-traditional narrative style.
- Set in the 'The World of Hank', Don't Do it, Doug also has huge series potential

## Author Biography

### Maudie Powell-Tuck (Author)

Maudie Powell-Tuck has been writing, editing and dreaming about picture books for over 12 years. She has worked in a children's bookshop and as an editor for a children's publisher.

### Duncan Beedie (Illustrator)

Duncan is a children's author and illustrator from Bristol. He has worked on a number of Little Tiger titles, including the bestselling World of Hank series by Maudie Powell-Tuck and the Bush Baby Adventures by Karl Newson, as well as his own book Heavy Metal Badger, which has been nominated for several children's literature awards.

Written by Maudie Powell-Tuck

Illustrated by Duncan Beedie

ISBN: 9781801048620

Pub Date: 6 August 2026

Price: £8.99

Format: PB

Age: 3 to 6

Dims: 280 x 245 mm

Extent: 32 pp.



9781838918569  
£7.99 PB



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£7.99 PB

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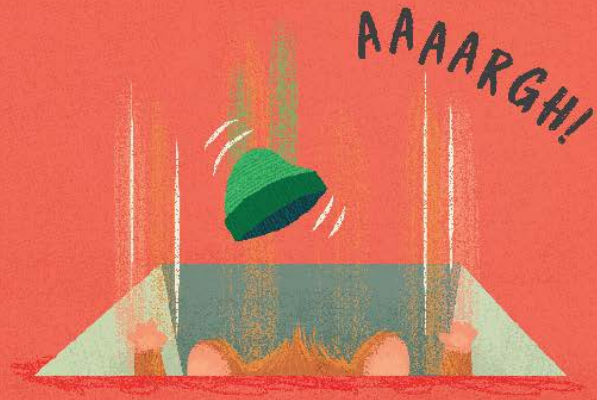
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This is Doug.

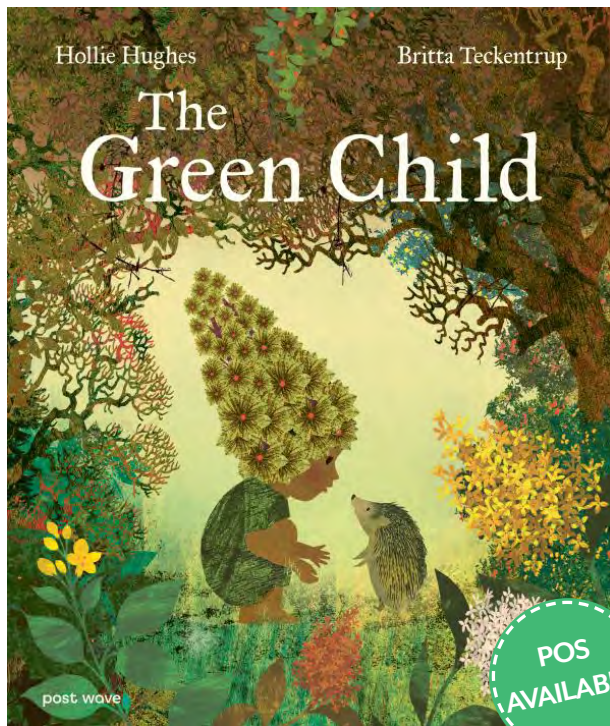


Doug is a hamster  
with a taste for trouble.

He has very little self-control!







# The Green Child

Hollie Hughes, Britta Teckentrup



post wave  
children's books 

**A heartfelt, hopeful story about how small changes can make a big difference to our planet**

In the deepest, darkest forest, where the trees twist gnarled and wild, along a winding path we find . . . a deep asleep Green Child. As winter shifts into spring, the Green Child rouses from slumber and breathes new life into the world. Through ever-brightening days, she ushers in the changing seasons until summer finally arrives. But as the days grow hotter and longer, the forest begins to wither away. The Green Child realises she has a job to do: to send a message to all of mankind . . . but will anyone listen?

Told in lyrical rhyme, this timeless modern classic celebrates the cycle of the seasons, sparking curiosity about the natural world and inspiring a new generation of environmental heroes. Perfect for eco-conscious families and young nature lovers, this is a gentle reminder to respect and live in harmony with our planet.

#### Sales points:

- A magical modern fable, blending timeless storytelling to a timely environmental message
- Celebrates the beauty and importance of nature's changing seasons
- Encourages children to protect our planet and live in harmony with nature
- Pairs Britta's atmospheric, collage-style artwork to gentle, rhythmic text

**Hollie Hughes** is the author of many much-loved picture books, including the bestselling, award-winning *The Girl and the Dinosaur*. She runs writing workshops for children and adults and regularly takes part in literary festivals and events.

**Britta Teckentrup** is an award-winning illustrator and author based in Berlin. She's published over 80 children's books in over 20 different countries. She uses both handmade and digital techniques to create beautiful collages.

Pub Date: 27/08/2026

RRP: £12.99

Format: Hardback

ISBN: 9781836270577


Extent: 32 pages

Dimensions: 285 x 245 mm

Interest Age: 3 – 5 years



In the deepest, densest forest,  
where the trees twist gnarled and wild,  
along a winding path we find . . .  
a deep asleep Green Child.



Sleeping squirrels slowly wake,  
the bats and hedgehogs too,

and even those that never stop,  
do more of what they do.

The Green Child leads the dance,  
through ever-brightening days,  
until...



# Penelope Rex vs. the New Kid

Ryan T. Higgins

Disney · HYPERION

**Penelope Rex is ready for the school year: new backpack, new crayons, new...dinosaur?!?! New York Times best-selling author-illustrator Ryan T. Higgins is back in this heartfelt and humorous new adventure about the doubts, anxieties, and ultimately joys of meeting the new kid in school.**

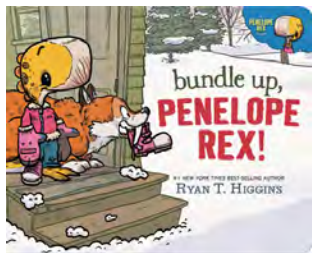
Penelope Rex loves her school, she loves her friends, and she loves that she's the only one in her class who can dunk a basketball. But when a new dinosaur arrives, Penelope Rex begins to doubt herself. Is she no longer special? What if her classmates like the new dinosaur kid more? Can Penelope learn to share the school or is there only room for one prehistoric kid on the playground?

**BELOVED CHARACTER TAKES ON NEW CHALLENGE:** Penelope Rex has been a smash hit with readers, educators and caretakers ever since her debut in *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*. Ryan's signature humor and visual comedy continues to charm readers across the country.

**PHENOMENAL AUTHOR - ILLUSTRATOR:** Ryan T. Higgins has brought to life iconic and beloved characters, from Penelope Rex to Mother Bruce. His books are a must-have addition to any home, classroom, or library.

**THE NEW KID IN SCHOOL:** A new twist on the ever-green new kid in school theme teaches kids how we can welcome nervous new classmates even if they're dinosaurs.

<b>18/08/2026</b>	
<b>Binding</b>	Hardback
<b>ISBN</b>	9781368108706
<b>Format</b>	305 x 229 mm
<b>Price</b>	£16.99
<b>Age</b>	3-5
<b>Extent</b>	48
<b>Publisher</b>	Disney Hyperion



9781368108720  
£7.99 BB

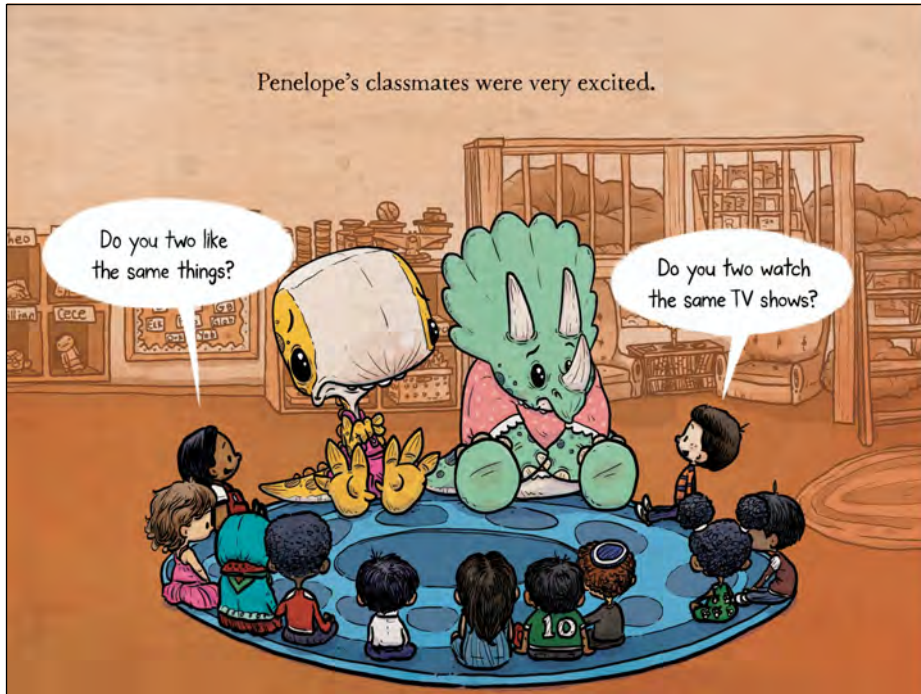


Just like that, Penelope was no longer  
the only dinosaur in her school.

Penelope's classmates were very excited.

Do you two like the same things?

Do you two watch the same TV shows?



Have you ever eaten a classmate?

Do your parents drive the same kinds of cars?





# Cass and the Beast

Author **Claire Mabey** Illustrator **Jill Calder**

*A sweeping and original picture book about a girl who chooses not to be afraid, a modern-day heroine in a story we feel in our bones like an ancient folktale*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

When a fearful beast arrives in the township, Cass finds her courage and is rewarded with a wild and magical journey. The creature takes her on a thundering ride through a forested landscape, leaving the town and people far behind. In the wilderness that is home to the beast, Cass finds adventure, ferocity, and gentleness. And the beast finds its name. Atmospheric illustrations complement an original narrative voice in this collaboration between an author and illustrator from opposite sides of the world.

## SALES POINTS

- A stubborn, curious hero determined to find things out for herself
- Adventure and emotion in a story that stays with you
- Vivid writing, original voice

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Claire Mabey** is a children's writer with a background in publishing and multi-arts festivals. Author of two novels, she founded two literary festivals and writes about books for leading media. She lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

**Jill Calder** is an award-winning illustrator based in Scotland. She studied at Edinburgh and Glasgow art schools and lectured at Edinburgh College of Art. Her prizewinning children's book illustrations include a shortlisting for the World Illustration Awards.

## TITLE INFORMATION

Release **August 2026**

Ages **4–8**

Format **hardcover**

Size **225 x 276mm portrait 8¾ x 10¾"**

Pages **32 pp**

Illustrations **colour**

ISBN **9798348030377**

NZD **29.99** AUD **27.99** GBP **12.99**

USD **18.99**

Original Language **English**  
**(New Zealand and Scotland)**

This book in 3 ideas **bravery, choosing for yourself, adventure**

## WHY I CHOSE THIS BOOK

“This is such good writing, and a vivid, lasting story that feels pulled from an ancient collective imagination.”

*Rachel Lawson, Publisher*

**CLICK THROUGH TO SEE MORE**

illustrator  
event info

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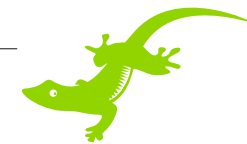
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# Red Snake Blue Snake

Author and Illustrator **Olivier Tallec**

*Two snakes out for a day's slither in the countryside find there's more than one way to see the world in this oversize picture book about the pleasure of a day spent with a friend, even if you agree on nothing*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Red Snake and Blue Snake have been friends since they were small but that doesn't mean they see things the same way. When Red Snake says the sky is grey, Blue Snake insists it's blue. The cactus looks just like a ghost—or a mitten. With so much to debate, can the snakes stay friends? The two stubborn reptiles start their morning with a little yoga, watch the clouds, bicker about this and that, narrowly escape being captured by a snake charmer, and end the day very nearly agreeing on something. Tallec's knack for high comedy is a highlight of this bright story that reminds us how opposite points of view can be equally true.

## SALES POINTS

- Original characters with inherent visual comedy
- Themes of friendship, rivalry, tolerance, and different points of view
- Extra talking point of the dangers of being taken in by a snake charmer
- Beautiful illustrations with broad appeal
- Winner of the Le Point book award

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Olivier Tallec** was born in Brittany, France. After graduating from the École Supérieure d'Arts Appliqués Duperré in Paris, he traveled extensively and now lives and works in Paris. He has illustrated more than sixty books for children.



## WHY I CHOSE THIS BOOK

“I love the physical comedy and expressive body language Tallec extracts from two simple figures without limbs.”

*Rachel Lawson, Publisher*

## CLICK THROUGH TO SEE MORE

author  
info sheet

## TITLE INFORMATION

Release **August 2026**

Ages **4–8**

Format **hardcover**

Size **223 x 300mm portrait 8¾ x 11¾"**

Pages **32 pp**

Illustrations **colour**

ISBN **9798348051358**

NZD **32.99** AUD **29.99** GBP **12.99**  
USD **19.99**

Translator **Antony Shugaar**

Original Language **French (France)**

This book in 3 ideas **points of view, friendship, tolerance**

## ALSO AVAILABLE



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Red Snake and Blue Snake begin every day with a little yoga.  
While they're at it, they watch the sky.



“See that cloud? It looks like a huge pirate hat,” says Blue Snake.

“No, it doesn’t. It looks like you when you’ve eaten too much,”  
Red Snake replies.

“Nonsense, it’s a pirate hat,” insists Blue Snake.

Red Snake and Blue Snake have been friends since they were small,  
but that doesn’t mean they see things the same way.





# The Brave Little Firework

Written by Carol Howard

Illustrated by Jen Chennell



Price £7.99

Pub date August 2026

ISBN 9781739192990

Category Children's

Age range 03 to 06 years

Extent 32pp

TPS 240 x 240

Binding Paperback

Language English

Rights World

## Sales Points

The debut picture book from writer Carol Howard and illustrator Jen Chennell.

*The Brave Little Firework* tells the story of Freya, a tiny firework who is afraid to fly, and her amazing pals who come up with a plan to help her overcome her fear.

This beautifully illustrated rhyming picture book explores themes of friendship, perseverance and bravery.

Perfect for celebrations all year round

## Description

When a tiny firework bursts into tears at the prospect of spiralling through the dark, her friends come up with a succession of ideas to encourage her to fly.

At the outset, they offer to stay by her side, but Freya is afraid she might lose them.

Undeterred, they promise to shine brightly in the darkness so that Freya knows where they are. However, she hides her eyes when she's frightened, and this plan is rejected.

The persistent fireworks finally suggest making lots of noise when they're up in the air, so even if Freya can't see them, she'll hear them.

Happy with this proposal, Freya is able to find the courage she needs to leap into the night sky.

## About the author

Carol Howard is an early years language teacher and spends most of her waking hours in the company of 3-year-olds. These fascinating little people provide her with all the inspiration she needs.

When she's not working or writing, Carol cherishes time spent with her two grown-up children and her granddaughter Freya, who loves picture books, teddies and dancing but doesn't like parrots.

Carol lives in the North West of England with her husband and a fine collection of houseplants.

*The Brave Little Firework* is Carol's debut picture book.

## About the illustrator

Jen Chennell is an illustrator with over eight years of experience in the design industry, working across retail, surface pattern, and children's products.

Her work is defined by vibrant colour, lively characters, and a joyful sense of storytelling, brought to life through digital painting. Jen's illustrations sparkle with imagination and heart, drawing young readers into playful worlds filled with adventure, friendship, and fun.

This is Jen's debut in children's book illustration, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in her creative journey.

Jen lives on the Wirral peninsula with her 3 dogs,

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As soon as the sunshine  
was tucked up in bed,



she stood on her tiptoes  
and lifted her head.

Then stretching her arms  
to touch indigo blue,



Freya the  
firework  
finally flew.

# The Bear Who Wanted to Dance



Written by Stephanie Stansbie  
Illustrated by Wendy J Warren

ISBN: 9781801048569  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £8.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 3 to 6  
Dims: 280 x 245 mm  
Extent: 32 pp.

Meet Rita, a big bear with an even bigger dream! Rita is a talented dancer - fuelled by a passion for ballet. And she's top of her class. But when she studies her ballet magazines, and compares herself to her friends, she realises - she's the wrong shape! Can Rita find her inner power and confidence in her beautiful big-bear body?

**A stunningly illustrated, lyrical take on body positivity and representation from a debut illustrator.**

- Conveys an important message of body positivity and self-acceptance at any size.
- Tackles the issue of representation with a light touch.
- For dance fans and any child who has ever felt out-of-place.
- With atmospheric illustrations from a brand-new illustrator.

## Author Biography

### Stephanie Stansbie (Author)

Stephanie has been a children's book editor, and then an author, for most of her adult life. The books she has written have been translated into more than 15 different languages. Stephanie lives in Oxford.

### Wendy J Warren (Illustrator)

From a young age Wendy has drawn, however in her early years she always drew people wearing ballet shoes as she couldn't do feet very well. Wendy's colourful illustrations are inspired by the people, quirky architecture and natural landscape around her, infusing her work with a vibrant and whimsical quality that captures the imagination



When I was a little bear, I saw my first ballet.  
And it changed my life forever!

So I practised  
every day.



Willing myself to get better.



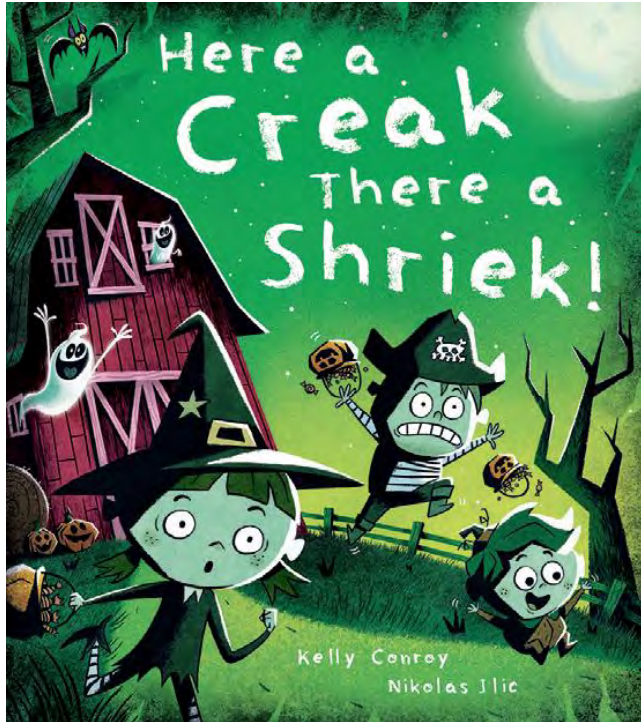
Pushing my body  
to be strong.



Because  
I had  
a  
dream.



# Here a Creak, There a Shriek!



Written by Kelly Conroy  
Illustrated by Nikolas Ilic

ISBN: 9781801048606  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £8.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 3 to 6  
Dims: 286 x 251 mm  
Extent: 32 pp.

Enter the haunted farm to discover howling beasts, cackling witches and ghostly ghosts, topped off with a creaaakky barn and a spooky surprise! Get ready for your spines to be tingled...

**Old MacDonald meets Halloween in this spooky seasonal mash-up.**

- Features everyone's favourite Halloween characters, from witches to ghosts and everything in between.
- Kelly's text is a joy to read aloud, and children will love to join in with the 'Eek-I, Eek-I, Oh!' refrain.
- With super stylish and spooky illustrations from Nikolas Ilic, and a special neon finish on the cover.
- Perfect for fans of the *Creepy Carrots* series and *Trick or Treat on Scary Street*.

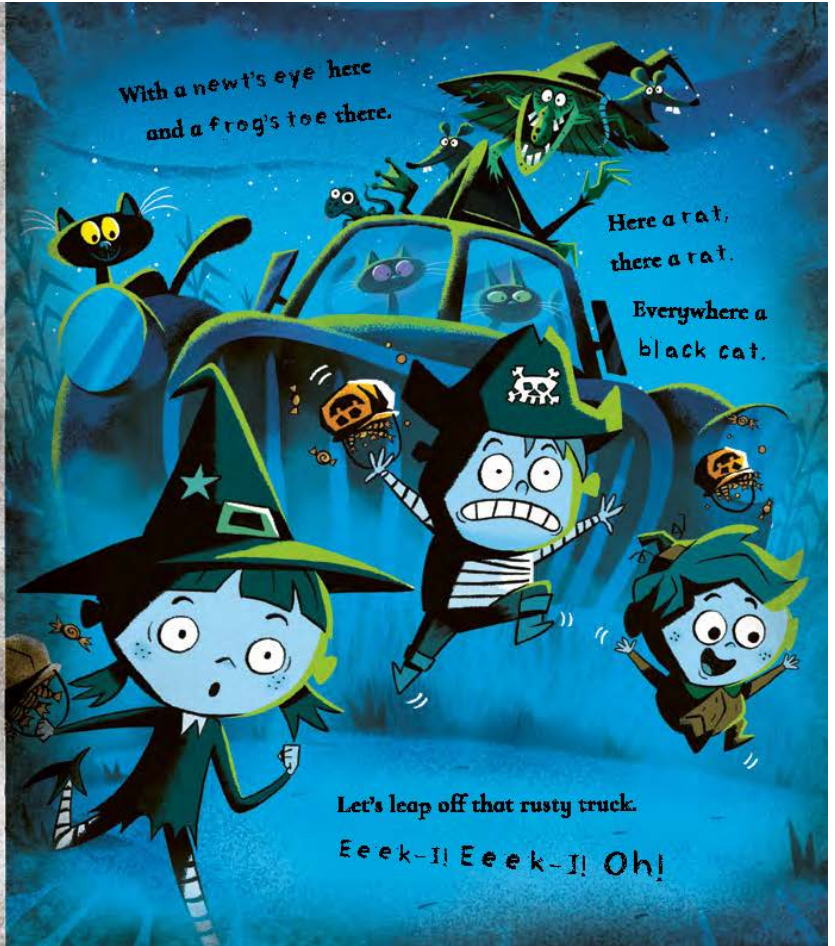
## Author Biography

### Kelly Conroy (Author)

Kelly Conroy is the author of several children's books and poems including *You Are My Everything*. She lives in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA, with her husband, two sons and mini goldendoodle, Chewy.

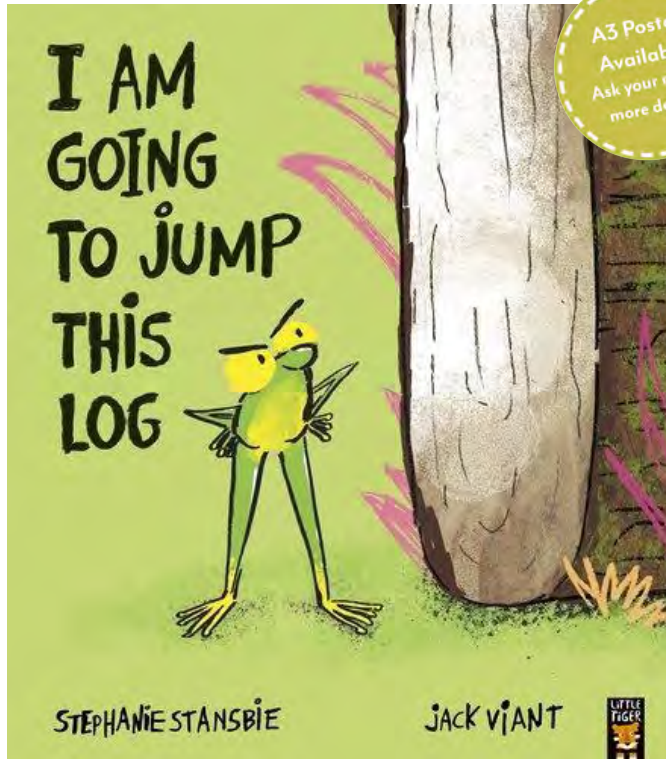
### Nikolas Ilic (Illustrator)

Nikolas Ilic is an Emmy Award winning artist working in both animation and children's books. Originally from Toronto Canada, he now resides in sunny Los Angeles.





# I Am Going to Jump This Log



Frog is going to jump this log. And it will be easy. Or so he thinks! Bursting with braggadocio, misplaced bravado and questionable sportswear, Frog's frustration builds as his feeble efforts fall short. Will he ever clear the log? And what awaits him on the other side ... ?

***An outlandishly illustrated parable of misplaced arrogance, with a hilarious twist.***

- Packed with wacky slapstick humour from debut talent Jack Viant.
- With bold, characterful and expressive artwork.
- For fans of the fabulously subversive humour of picture book creators like Jon Klassen, Chris Haughton and Lane Smith.
- **POS (A3 posters) available**

## Author Biography

### Stephanie Stansbie (Author)

Stephanie has been a children's book editor, and then an author, for most of her adult life. The books she has written have been translated into more than 15 different languages. Stephanie lives in Oxford.

### Jack Viant (Illustrator)

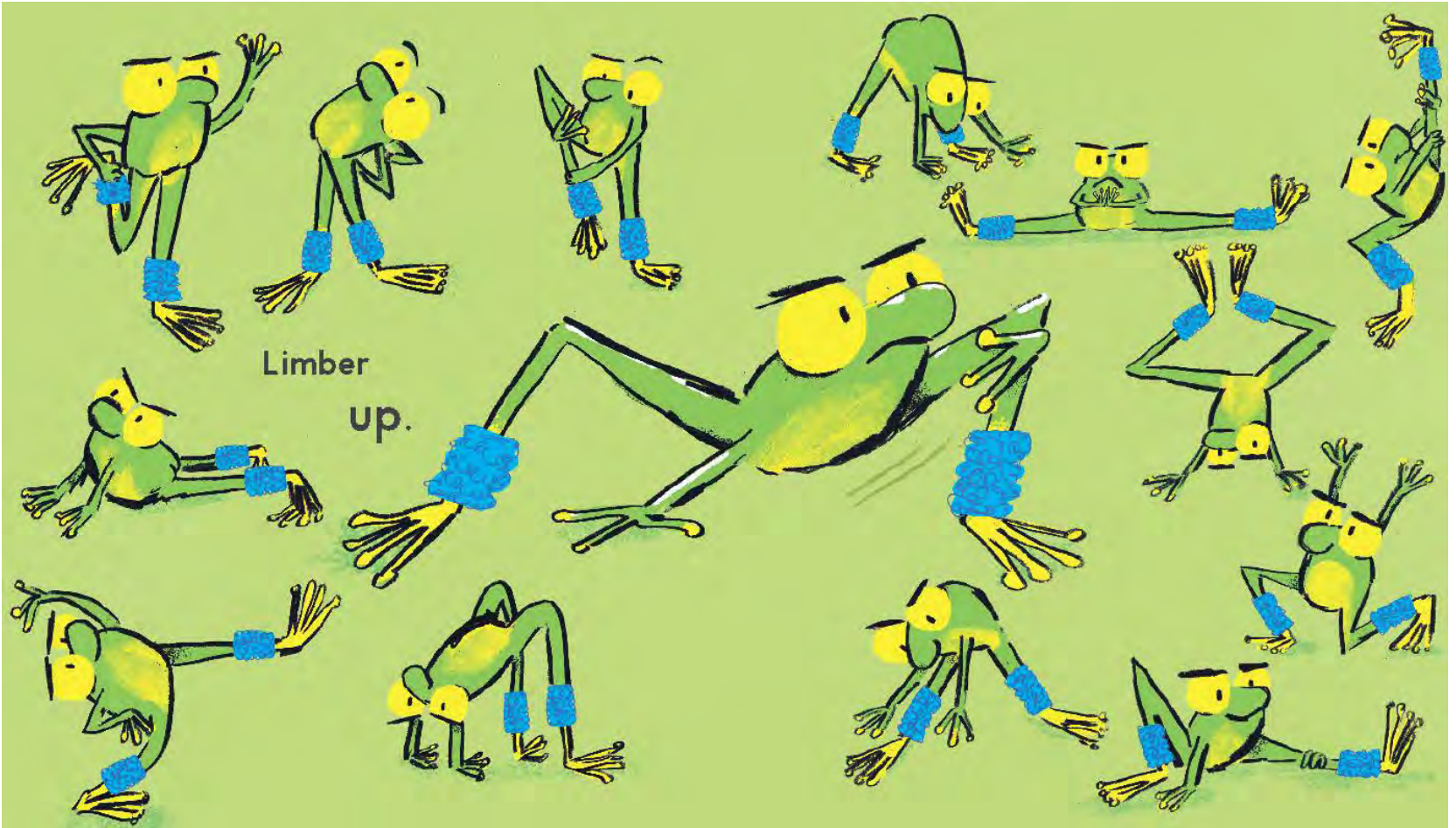
Jack Viant is an Illustrator and Educator who splits his time between drawing picture books and teaching students how to draw and make picture books at the university where he works in Plymouth.

Written by Stephanie Stansbie  
Illustrated by Jack Viant

ISBN: 9781801048637  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £8.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 3 to 6  
Dims: 281 x 231 mm  
Extent: 32 pp.

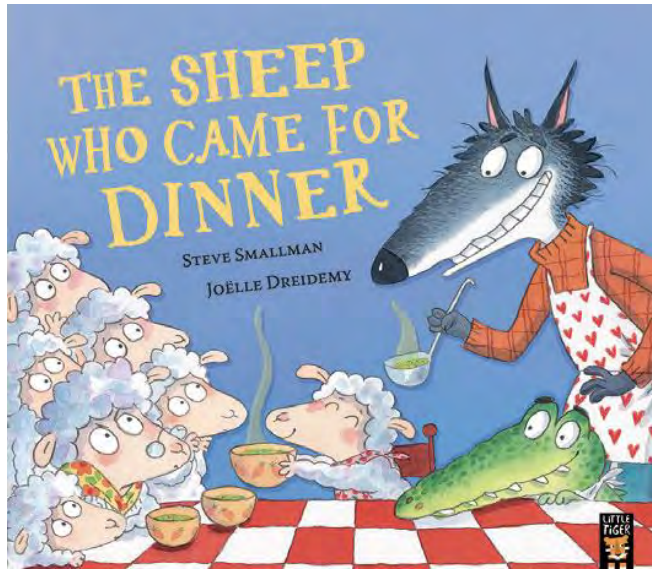


I am  
going  
to  
**jump**  
this  
**log.**



Limber  
up.

# The Sheep Who Came to Dinner



Dive into the world of Hotpot and Friends in this internationally bestselling series! Told with charm, warmth and a gentle, engaging humour, each Hotpot adventure introduces a new, stereotype busting character who helps to grow little readers' empathy towards others. With gorgeous, hand painted illustrations from Joëlle Dreidemy, this series is a modern classic in the making.

- The eighth title in the internationally bestselling The Lamb Who Came for Dinner series, which has sold 600,000 copies across 15 territories.
- A heartwarming story that celebrates the idea that non-traditional families can make the happiest of homes.
- Written by the inimitable Steve Smallman, and illustrated with warmth by Joëlle Dreidemy.

## Author Biography

### Steve Smallman (Author)

Steve Smallman worked as a children's book illustrator for 20 years before he decided to 'have a go' at writing his own. Now, over 100 books later, he's still at it! He visits schools, libraries and festivals, and paints murals too!

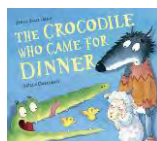
### Joëlle Dreidemy (Illustrator)

Joëlle Dreidemy was born in Saint-Avold in France. She gained diplomas from in Strasbourg in 2002 and from the famous Emile Cohl School in Lyon in 2004. Joëlle lives and works in Montpellier, producing illustrations for magazines and children's books.

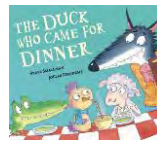
Written by Steve Smallman  
Illustrated by Joëlle Dreidemy

ISBN: 9781801048187  
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Format: PB  
Age: 3 to 6  
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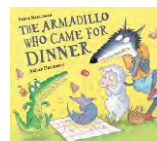
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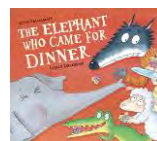
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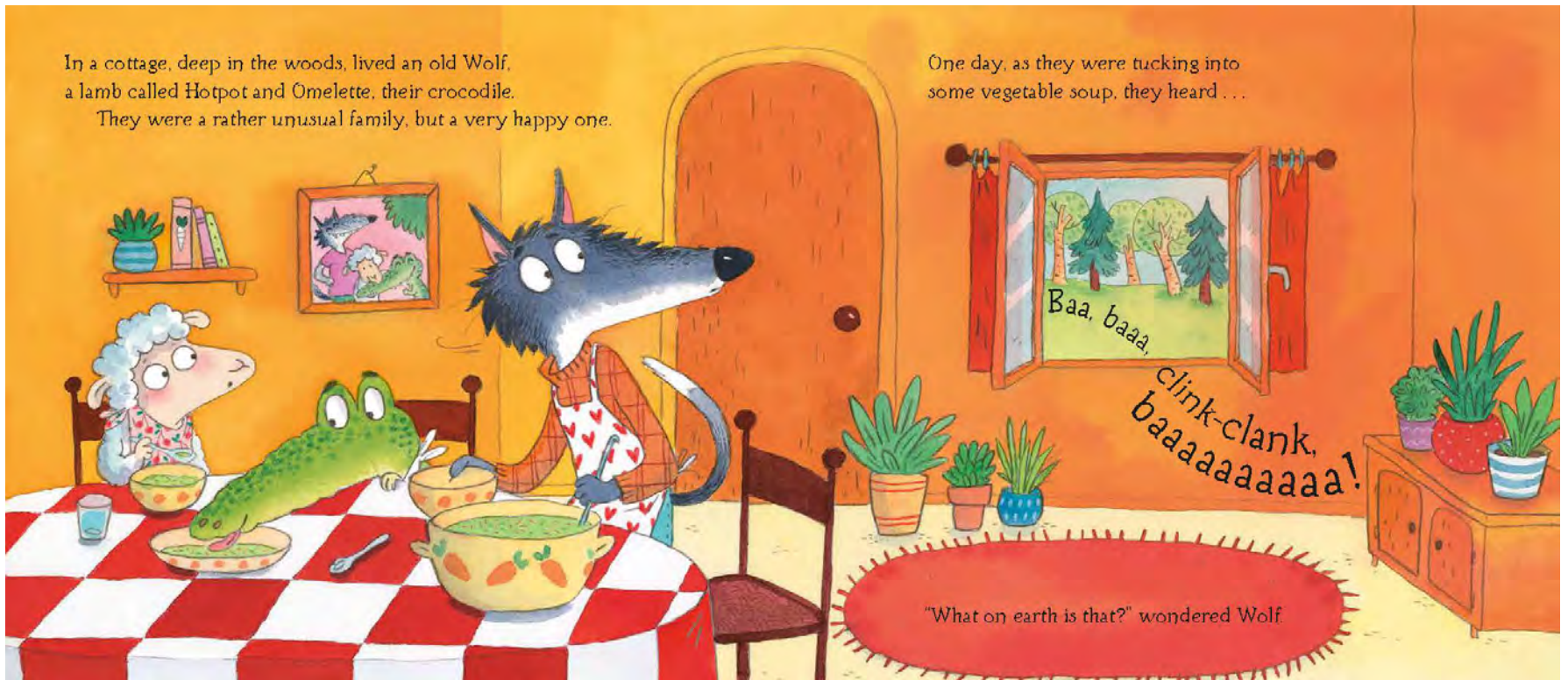


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In a cottage, deep in the woods, lived an old Wolf,  
a lamb called Hotpot and Omelette, their crocodile.  
They were a rather unusual family, but a very happy one.

One day, as they were tucking into  
some vegetable soup, they heard . . .



"What on earth is that?" wondered Wolf.

"Would you like to join us for dinner?" Wolf asked.



"Dinner with a wolf?"  
Nana wasn't sure.  
"Please, Nana!" cried Hotpot

"OK, DINNER EVERYONE!"

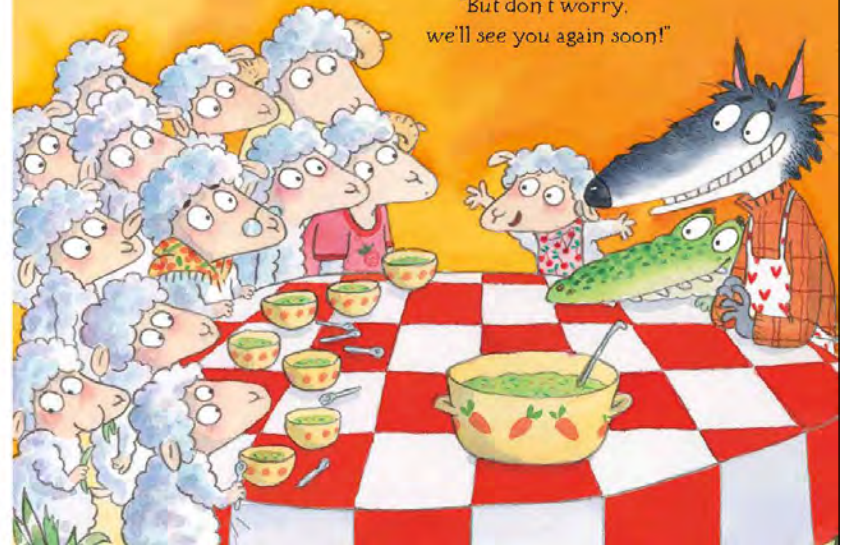
Nana called.  
The caravan doors burst open ...



and a whole flock of sheep  
tumbled into the cottage!

It was a little bit crowded, but Hotpot loved sharing her soup.

"Time to go!" said Nana.  
"But don't worry,  
we'll see you again soon!"





Otter-Barry BOOKS

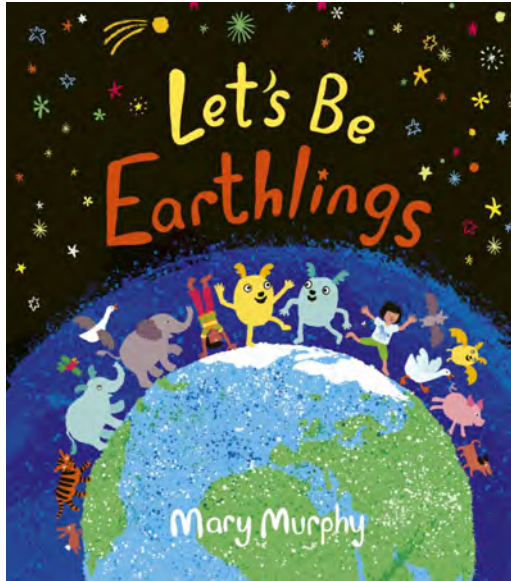
# Let's Be Earthlings

Mary Murphy



**A joyful celebration of life on planet Earth as experienced by one little alien**

[www.otterbarrybooks.com](http://www.otterbarrybooks.com)



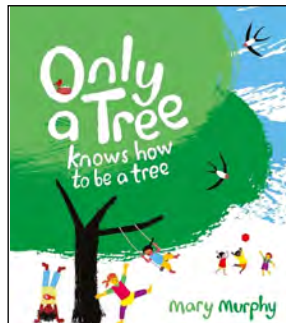
A little alien touches down on our amazing planet. Able to shape-shift into every form of Earth life, he becomes all kinds of Earth creatures, from a beaver to a chameleon, from a frog to a kangaroo, a puppy, even a flea - and then a flower-bud and a tree. The visitor finds a constant succession of exciting surprises on our Earth - there is only one thing missing. A friend to share it all with.

Mary Murphy's simple yet profound words and images show young children the beauty and diversity of life on Earth - and in doing so, help them understand that they need to look after our precious planet.

- A book full of **joy** and **delight** in **our natural world**, by a **much-loved creator** of picture books **for the very young**
- "What a joy to indulge in some childlike wonderment at all of the things that make our Earth a special place, particularly in these difficult times." *Irish Times*
- "Young readers will marvel at Earth's diversity and think deeply about how to care for it. It's a warm, thoughtful introduction to nature and our place within it. Highly recommended." *School Reading List*
- "A joyful introduction to the natural world for early years." *Armadillo*

## Author Information

**Mary Murphy** is celebrated internationally for her colourful, bold and simple images matched with words which speak directly to young children. She is the author-illustrator of over 50 books, which have been sold all over the world. Her previous book for Otter-Barry Books is *Only a Tree Knows How To Be a Tree*. Mary lives in her home city of Dublin, Ireland.



9781913074524  
£8.99 PB

**06 August 2026**

9781917865159

£8.99

Paperback

275 x 240 mm, 32 pages

Colour illustrations throughout

**Interest age:** From 3 years

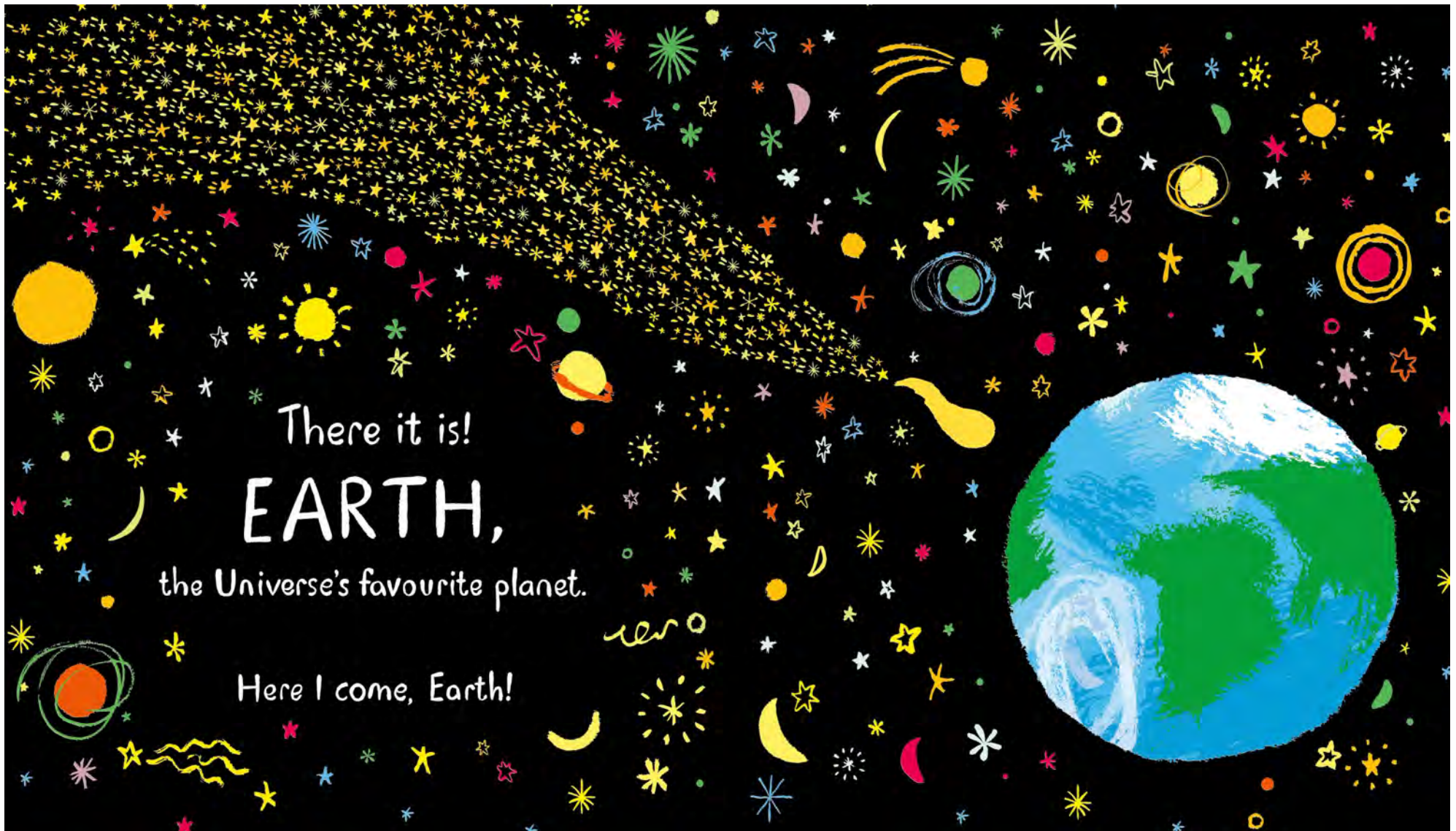
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There it is!  
**EARTH,**  
the Universe's favourite planet.

Here I come, Earth!

*zero*



As soon as I land, my transformer  
makes me into an Earthling.

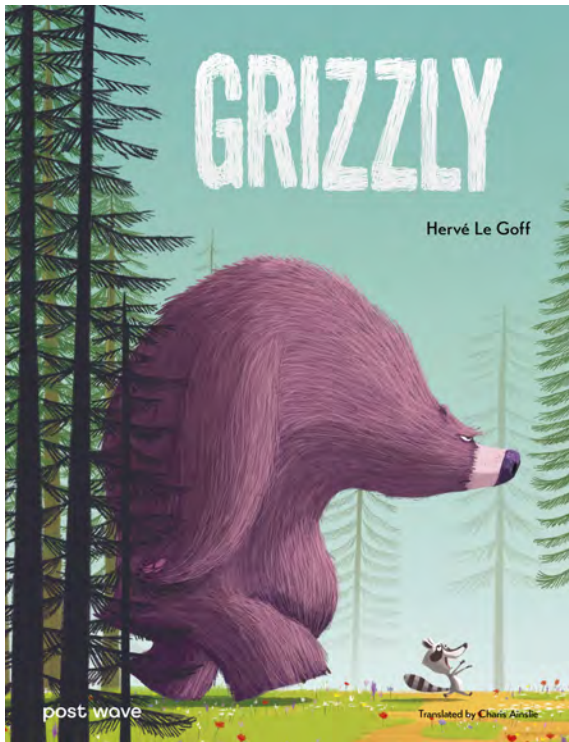


Eyes pop up on my front,  
with a nose and mouth underneath.  
Now I can see and smell and talk.  
Ears pop out, and hands and legs.  
Now I can hear, and touch, and walk.



Oh **WOW**,  
Earth is the best planet EVER!





Pub Date: 27/08/2026

RRP: £12.99

Format: Hardback

ISBN: 9781836272298

Extent: 32 pages

Dimensions: 215 x 281 mm

Interest Age: 3 - 5 years

# Grizzly

Hervé Le Goff

post wave  
children's books



**Join Grizzly, a grumbly bear, and Raccoon, his energetic best friend, in this hilarious ode to friendship and nature.**

A heartwarming friendship story between a grumpy grizzly and an exuberant raccoon!

It's the perfect day for a walk, thinks the raccoon. But this morning, the grizzly bear doesn't feel like doing anything... well, grrr, except for complaining! The raccoon doesn't give up and invites him to go swimming, eat berries, feel the breeze in his fur, and experience so many other wonderful things. Grizzly growls and grumbles, but in the end, he always does what the raccoon suggests because he loves being with his best friend the most.

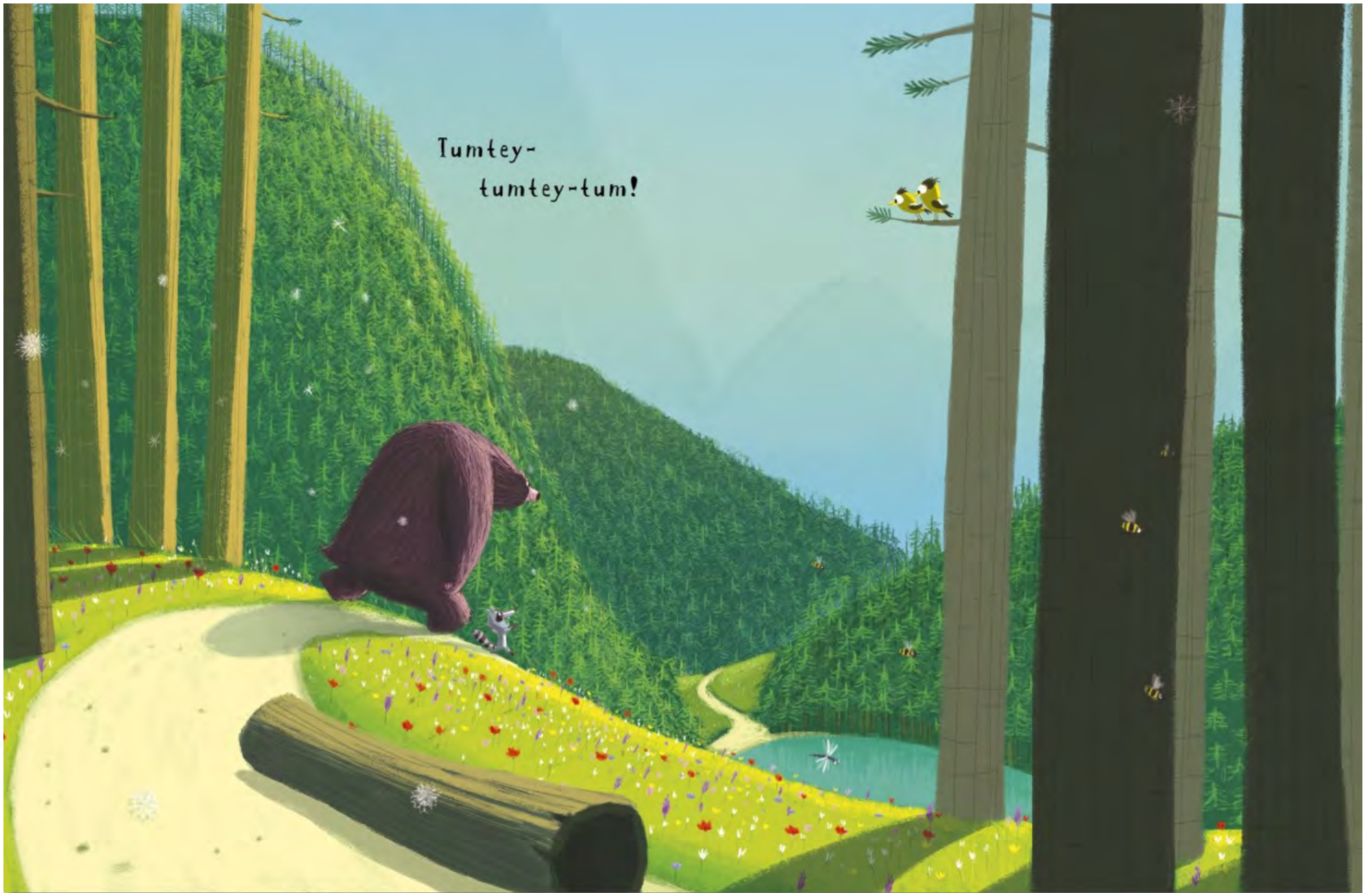
This story is so full of humour that it will make even the grumpiest of grumblers smile!

**Sales points:**

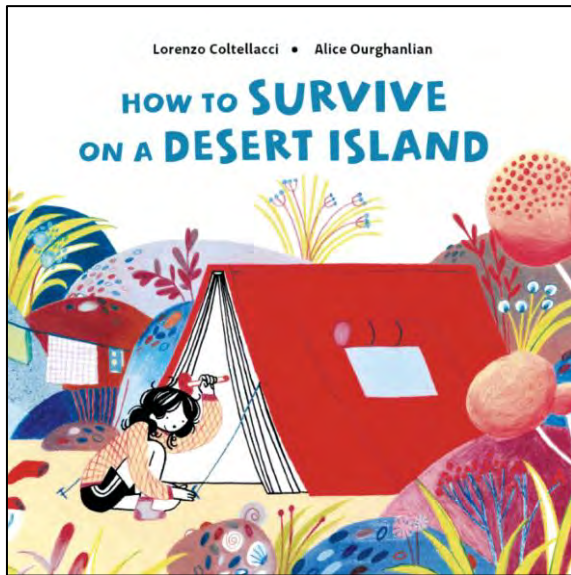
- A joyful picture book for grumpy children
- Perfect for fans of Steve Small

**Hervé Le Goff** was born in Saint-Brieuc, France. A graduate of the Beaux-Arts, he spent three years at the Beaux-Arts, in both Quimper and Caen, where he obtained a Diplôme National d'Arts Plastiques. He is the creator of the successful Mamie Poule series and the Entre dans le conte series, as well as the illustrator of *Boucle d'or et autres contes en musique* and *Le Manteau Rouge*, and the illustrator of dozens of children's books.

Tumtey-  
tumtey-tum!







Pub Date: 06/08/2026

RRP: £12.99

Format: Hardback

ISBN: 9781836272083

Extent: 32 pages

Dimensions: 247 x 247 mm

Interest Age: 3 - 5 years

# How to Survive on a Desert Island

Lorenzo Coltellacci, Alice Ourghanlian

post wave  
children's books 

Invites young readers to explore a new world one page at a time, showing how reading can open the door to possibility, imagination, resilience... and a love of stories.

Have you ever wondered if you could survive on a desert island? All it takes is a single book. Turn its pages and you'll find everything you need, from shelter and shade, to sustenance and escape. Explore the island from above, lounge in the shade of your favourite tale and find shelter from the rain. How much do you really need to survive on a desert island? As it turns out, just one thing... your favourite book!

## Sales points:

- A book that celebrates the magic of reading, showing young children that books can be a source of comfort, creativity and adventure
- Makes big ideas accessible and reassuring for young children, reframing a survival story as a tale of imagination rather than danger
- Encourages engagement with books in a variety of ways that stretch beyond the page and into play

**Lorenzo Coltellacci**, born in Rome in 1992, is a comic books and picture books writer, among which the appreciated graphic novels about M. C. Escher, Joy Division and The Cure. His books have been translated in more than 10 countries.

**Alice Ourghanlian** was born in France in 2002. A graduate of the Estienne School in Illustration and a Master's degree in Ars in Fabula from the Academy of Fine Arts in Macerata, she is a children's author and illustrator. In 2022, her work was awarded the Grant Award at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

Then, take a moment  
to rest and enjoy your  
new surroundings.





Climb up high for a bird's eye view and explore every nook and cranny below.





Imagine if we had a telescope to gaze  
at the moon, and the stars, and ALL  
the planets in the sky.



There's no Tilly in Tilly  
Land...





Pub Date: 27/08/2026

RRP: £12.99

Format: Hardback

ISBN: 9781836271307

Extent: 40 pages

Dimensions: 280 x 200 mm

Interest Age: 5 – 7 years

# Something in the Darkness

John Dougherty, Matt Shu

post wave  
children's books



A Halloween treat from an award-winning author, this spine-tingling tale brims with eerie suspense and a powerful message: sometimes what frightens us most in the dark is less fearsome in the light.

As night falls and strange whispers seem to follow your every step, the question lingers – what's out there in the dark? Packed with suspense, this unputdownable story will keep young readers on the edge of their seats, eventually revealing that some things are more frightening in the darkness than they are in the light. A must-have picture book for families who are looking for a thrilling tale this spooky season.

## Sales points:

- A modern classic in the spirit of Jon Klassen's *The Skull* and Oliver Jeffers' *There's a Ghost in this House*
- Suspense that deepens with every page, keeping readers captivated but with a funny twist at the end
- Reassures children that the dark isn't so scary
- Perfect for bringing families together, sharing spooky stories by firelight
- Written by an award-winning author celebrated for exceptional storytelling
- Striking limited palette artwork with award-winning appeal

Author and poet **John Dougherty** has been writing children's books for over twenty years. His work ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous, including the surreal *Stinkbomb* and *Ketchup-Face* series, and the hilariously zany *There's a Pig Up My Nose*. His beautiful, poignant picture book *The Hare-Shaped Hole* has won multiple awards. A former teacher, John is a passionate advocate for both public libraries and the importance of reading for pleasure. He was one of the first Patrons of Reading in the UK.

**Matt Schu** is a Portland, Oregon-based artist and children's book illustrator whose work includes *Cut!*, *My Cat Does Ballet*, the *Cosmic Collisions* series, and more with HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Candlewick, and MIT Press. He studied art at the University of Oregon and worked as a graphic designer before turning to illustration. His paintings and drawings have been shown at Nucleus galleries, and he was awarded the Regional Arts & Culture Council Catalyst grant.

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Bounce Sales and Marketing, 320 City Road, London, EC1V 2NZ Tel: 0201383650

It's the time of year when days grow short. The night will be here soon.  
Already in the clear blue sky there hangs a crescent moon.

Behind the hills, the blood-red sun is sinking slowly down.  
And a ghostly chill is settling on the solemn streets of town.



The evening-time is dressing  
in its dusky twilight cloak.  
The atmosphere is crisp and fresh  
and smells of bonfire smoke.

But you can't shake off the sense  
that something else is in the air.

As if some eerie, distant voice

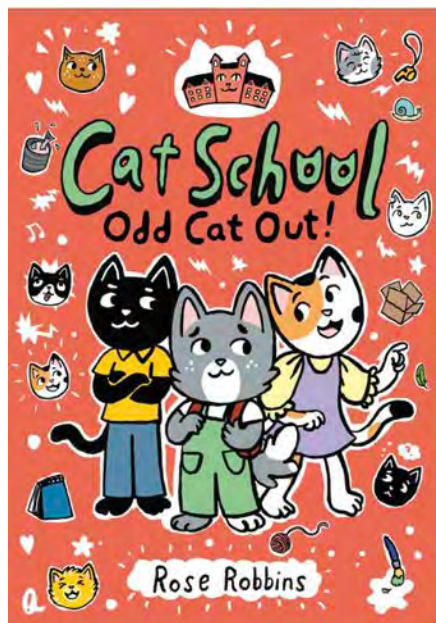
is murmuring,

**"BEWARE!"**





August 2026  
Early Readers



Publication	6 August 2026
Age	7-9
Price	£8.99
Format	PB, two colour
Size	203 x 140mm
Extent	144pp (TBC)
ISBN	978-1-83630-039-7
Territory	World ex USA, Can
Thema Code	YFS, YXW, YXHB, 5PHM
CBMC Code	D3N79

ROSE ROBBINS is based in North London. Rose is a qualified teacher and has taught people of all ages with disabilities. She is a young ambassador for Inclusive Minds. Rose has gained a reputation for creating upbeat books about disability, which have been short listed for the Waterstones Children's Book Award, nominated for the Greenaway and chosen as a 2021 IBBY Outstanding Book for Young People with Disabilities.



## Cat School: Odd Cat out!

by Rose Robbins



**First in a new graphic novel trilogy featuring young kittens Tangle and Eno, and their new and neurodivergent friend Pelly.**

It's a new year at Cat School! Tangle and Eno are anxious, but soon settle back in. New kitten Pelly arrives late, and seems strange. She feels alienated and stays home, but is sought out and brought back into the main mix by the efforts of Tangle and Eno. Now they are firm friends!

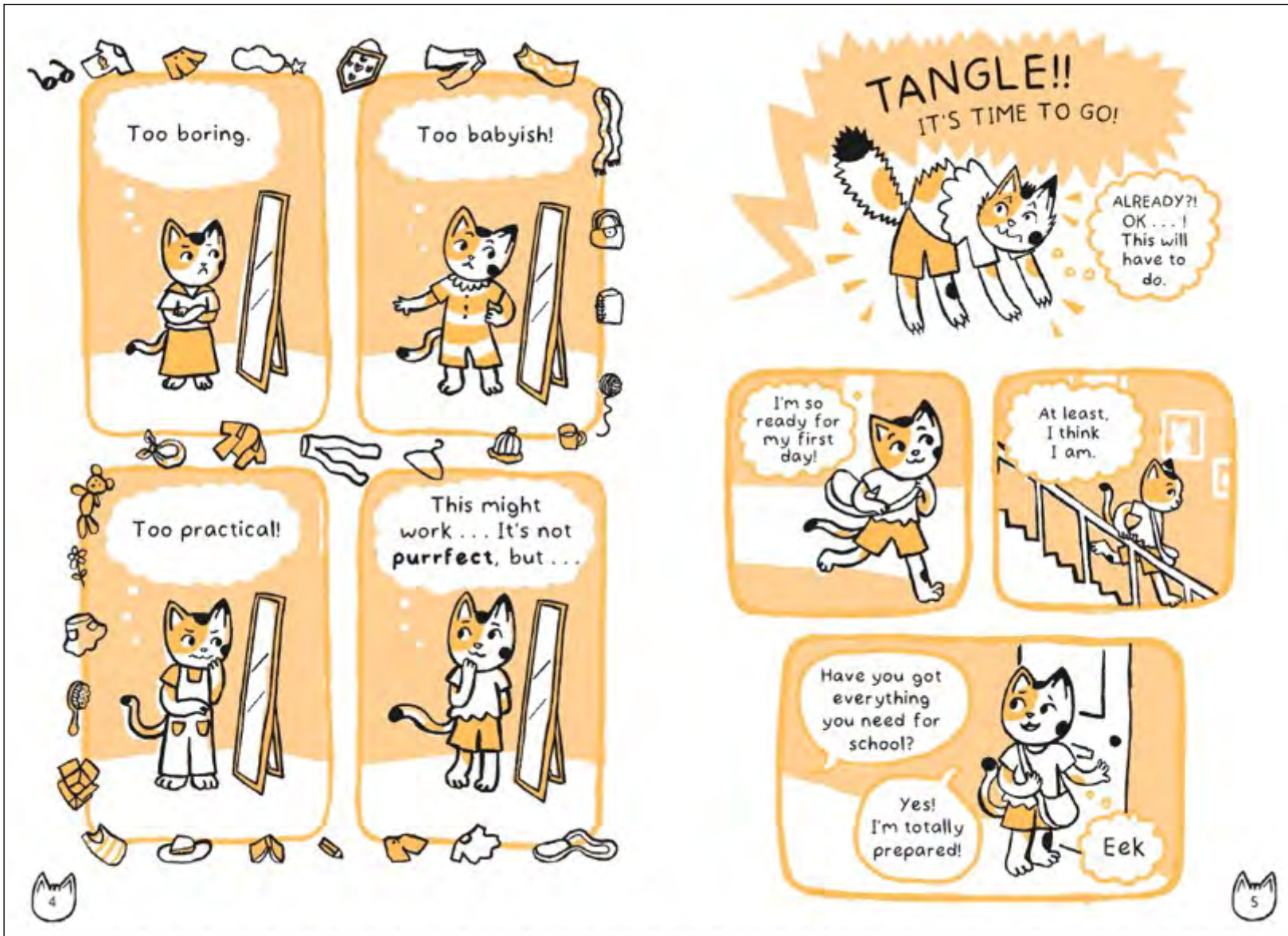
### Key Selling Points

- Boy and Girl characters dealing with new experiences, anxiety, feelings, friendship and community
- A storyline that welcomes a neuro-diverse character but is a fun narrative for a general audience, with lots of humour, empathy and inclusiveness
- Core age is primary / upper primary, but a secondary school library could see this getting a lot of use from nervous year sevens.
- Lots of fun extra features like a map of the school, Cat school rules, a Cat Herbarium...
- Graphic novel page layout that's easy to read.
- Matt laminated cover with embossing and spot uv

### Sales and Marketing

- Branded POS such as character cards, postcards with 'how to draw', book marks etc.
- Fun resources and teacher notes. Dedicated CAT SCHOOL newsletter
- Author is trained as a teacher with a speciality in SEN, and does events in schools and with educators.

Sales: Bounce Sales and Marketing, 320 City Road, London EC1V 2NZ T: 020 138 3650 [sales@bouncemarketing.co.uk](mailto:sales@bouncemarketing.co.uk) [www.bouncemarketing.co.uk](http://www.bouncemarketing.co.uk)  
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Too boring.



Too babyish!



Too practical!



This might work... It's not purrfect, but...



**TANGLE!!**  
IT'S TIME TO GO!



ALREADY?!  
OK...! This will have to do.

I'm so ready for my first day!



At least, I think I am.



Have you got everything you need for school?

Yes! I'm totally prepared!



Eek

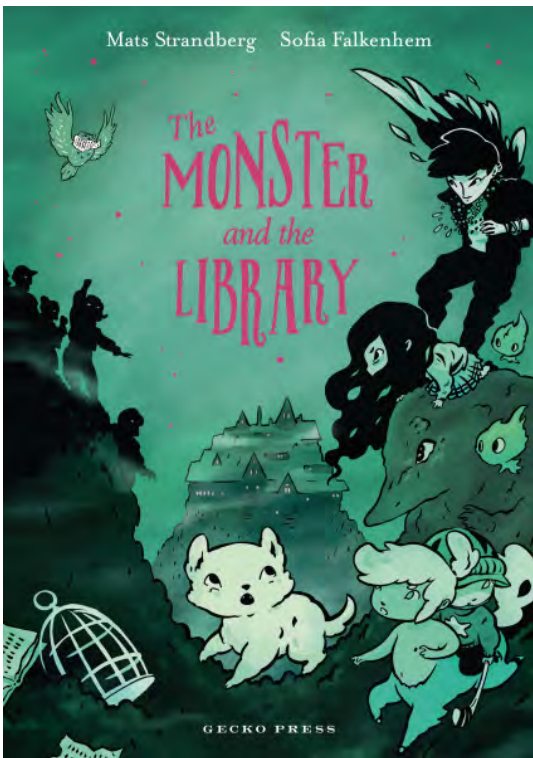


Scallywag Press



NEXT STOP: **CAT SCHOOL!!**





# The Monster and the Library

Author **Mats Strandberg** Illustrator **Sofia Falkenheim**

*Frank the Monster must decide if he is brave enough to reveal his true self as the showdown between monsters and humans looms in this just-scary-enough, illustrated chapter book series about a warm-hearted, shapeshifting boy trying to find his pack*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The people of Yrred are scared to death of monsters. Angry citizens have promised to deal with them once and for all. And a new rule bans books about monsters from the library, leading quickly to more sinister threats. Frank and his monster friends must stay hidden. Frank knows the monsters have good hearts—like his own monster inside—but their community is in terrible danger. A showdown between monsters and humans is inescapable. And Frank must decide what to say and what to keep inside. *The Monster and the Library* is a thrilling adventure about right and wrong—and about having a secret and finding the courage to tell it.

## SALES POINTS

- Explores themes of how we fear difference, trust, and finding your pack
- The sweet cast of monsters provides an emotional hook alongside the horror thrills
- A series with plot, pace, and emotion that has hooked children around the world

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Mats Strandberg** is one of Sweden's most acclaimed suspense and horror writers for children and adults, published internationally. His **Frank the Monster** series is an award-winning bestseller and book club choice, read by children around the world in more than fifteen languages.

**Sofia Falkenheim** is an artist in Malmö, Sweden, where she also works as a high school art teacher. Her work includes comics, traditional printmaking, and illustrations for children's books.

## NEW IN PAPERBACK

### TITLE INFORMATION

Release **August 2026**

Ages **6–10**

Format **paperback**

Size **144 x 204mm portrait**

Pages **168 pp**

Illustrations **2-colour**

ISBN **9798348042547**

NZD **19.99** AUD **17.99** GBP **8.99**

Translator **Julia Marshall**

Original Language **Swedish (Sweden)**

This book in 3 ideas **shapeshifter, outcasts, identity**

## WHY I CHOSE THIS BOOK

“This series comes to us highly recommended for its pace, warm heart and hint of Nordic noir.”

*Rachel Lawson, Publisher*

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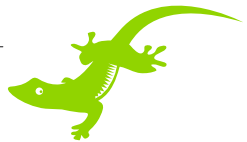


# 1

It was night and I was racing through the forest. My paws flew over the ground, my fluffy tail billowing behind me like a cloud. The chilly smells of night filled my nose to bursting.

My monster body could do so much that my human body couldn't.

I was a shapeshifter. I could change my body by chanting a magic rhyme. Just like that, I could choose when to be a monster and when to be a boy.



My ears were pricked and twitching in all directions as I listened for footsteps. But no one seemed to have noticed us.

We stopped in the open doorway. A dark, carpeted corridor stretched ahead.

“We’ll stay out here,” said one of the mountain trolls.

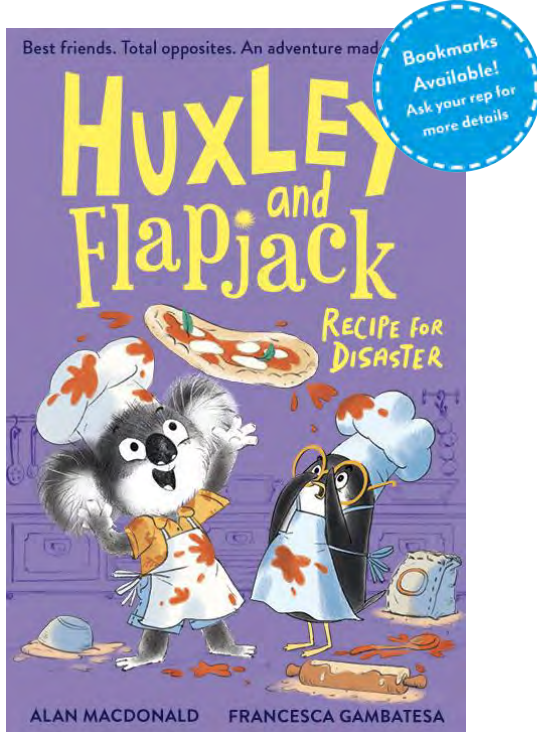
“Right. And keep a look out,” said the other.

Clearly, they didn’t dare enter, and that was probably a good thing. It would be hard for two enormous boulders to sneak along, despite the carpet.

The rest of us went ahead, into the darkness.



# Huxley and Flapjack: Recipe for Disaster



Meet Huxley, an irrepressible koala with BIG ideas, and his best friend, Flapjack, a rather jumpy penguin. Together they have the best adventures! When Sammy's café loses its customers to a new burger van, Huxley's sure that a Grand Pizza Night will bring them back – all he has to do is make the World's Biggest Pizza, and that'll be easy cheesy ...

- The fourth book in this pitch-perfect series for emerging readers, by the author of the best-selling DIRTY BERTIE series.
- Funny and child-friendly storylines divided into manageable chapters, with full-colour illustrations on every page.
- Perfect for fans of CLAUDE, RABBIT AND BEAR and ISADORA MOON.
- **POS (series bookmarks) available**

## Author Biography

### Alan MacDonald (Author)

Alan has written over eighty children's books, which have been translated into many languages and won several awards. Alan also writes for TV.

### Francesca Gambatesa (Illustrator)

Francesca works as an illustrator of children's books and as a designer and art director for animation projects. She makes her illustrations with drawings on paper and digitally and her favourite part of the process is creating appealing character designs. Francesca is Italian and lives in London.

Also Available:



9781788954174  
£6.99 PB



9781788956208  
£6.99 PB



9781788957403  
£6.99 PB

Written by Alan MacDonald

Illustrated by Francesca Gambatesa

ISBN: 9781788957601

Pub Date: 6 August 2026

Price: £7.99

Format: PB

Age: 5 to 8

Dims: 198 x 129 mm

Extent: 96 pp.



# The Elementals: Peo Saves the Trees



Written by Love Ssega  
Illustrated by Erika Meza

ISBN: 9781788958172  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £7.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 6 to 8  
Dims: 198 x 129 mm  
Extent: 144 pp.

Peo and her friends will do whatever it takes to keep Sealand - their island home - safe. They all have magical powers connected to the four elements: air, water, earth and fire. And fun and smart Peo is learning that her earth skills are stronger than she knew...

Peo is shocked to find that she can talk to trees when she hears a call for help from a nearby island. The Elementals set off straight away, but when they arrive, all the trees are gone... Can they work together to solve the mystery and save the trees?

**MOANA meets THE FAMOUS FIVE - THE ELEMENTALS is perfect for readers in search of adventure!**

- Perfect for readers aged 6+ with illustrations on every page.
- The stories focus on nature and how we can care for it in an exciting and engaging way, with characters all readers can relate to.

## Author Biography

### Love Ssega (Author)

Love Ssega is a musician, producer and performing artist of Ugandan heritage. He is Associate Artist at the Southbank Centre 2024-2027. He regularly does events and in 2023 participated in the Imagine a Story project.

Also Available:



9781788958165  
£7.99 PB

### Erika Meza (Illustrator)

Erika is an award-winning author and illustrator who is published in both the US and UK. Her picture book *To The Other Side* won the Diverse Book Award, and was shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal, the Jhalak Prize, the Inclusive Books for Children Award and the Little Rebels Award, and selected by Empathy Lab for The 2024 Read for Empathy Collection.

# Star Friends: Sister Trouble



*Do you believe in magic?*

*Lottie and her friends do! And when they meet the Star Animals, a whole world of adventure unfolds.*

Lottie is determined to win a spot on a junior baking TV show, and even when Maia has a vision that dark magic is coming to Westcombe, Lottie refuses to let it distract her.

But with all her practice bakes going wrong, an injury, and the threat of an old villain returning, Lottie and the other Star Friends cannot ignore that something bad is happening in Westcombe...

- A series with magic and friendship at its heart.
- Perfect for animal lovers - what would your star animal be?
- Five appealing girls for readers to identify with, facing realistic friendship issues.
- Gorgeous illustrations from Kim Barnes, new illustrator of the series.

## Author Biography

### Linda Chapman (Author)

Linda Chapman is the best-selling author of over 200 books for 5-14 year olds. Her series include MY SECRET UNICORN and STAR FRIENDS, among many others. She lives in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. Visit [lindachapmanauthor.co.uk](http://lindachapmanauthor.co.uk)

### Kim Barnes (Illustrator)

Kim Barnes is a UK based illustrator with a first-class degree in Illustration from the University of Lincoln. Kim lives on the Isle of Wight.

Written by Linda Chapman  
Illustrated by Kim Barnes

ISBN: 9781788957694  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £7.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 7 to 10  
Dims: 198 x 129 mm  
Extent: 160 pp.

## Also Available:



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Otter-Barry

BOOKS

# Jake Takes Charge

Maple Street

Michael Catchpool, illustrated by Shanarama



www.otterbarrybooks.com

Second title in the brilliant *Maple Street* first reader series

Four sparkling new stories about Jake and his family at 3 Maple Street, not forgetting Grandpa in the basement flat at 3a!

In *The Surprise Party*, how will Jake prevent Grandpa going home from the park while his special surprise birthday party is being prepared?

The Christmas Performance at school sees Jake as a shepherd, but disaster threatens when little brother Sam gets onto the stage!

In *A Great Adventure*, Jake takes Algy, the class bear, home for the weekend, and all goes well till Algy is carried off by a dog...

In *That Was Lucky*, Jake and his friend Jayden are chased into the garden by big sister Ellie – right onto Grandpa's precious vegetable seedlings. Whoops!

- Four more delightful stories starring middle-sibling Jake and his Black British urban extended family
- “Brilliant new chapter book series for early readers, written with warmth and humour” – *The Bookseller*
- Perfect for bridging the gap between picture books and middle grade fiction
- Funny, lively illustrations by Shanarama bring the characters to life

## Author Information

**Michael Catchpool** is an ex-headteacher, now an education consultant, and the author of several picture books, including *SuperJoe Does Not Say Sorry*. He has a Ph.D for his research on children's engagement with peer feedback and its effect on them as writers. He is also co-author of several resource books for primary schools. He lives in Cambridgeshire.

**Shanarama** is an illustrator with a background in architecture, film and TV. She is illustrator of *Jake in the Middle*, first in the Maple Street series. She is adept in a variety of genres, using both traditional and digital methods, often combining the two. Shanarama lives in London.



06 August 2026

9781915659996

£8.99

Paperback

198 x 129 mm, 96 pages

Black and white illustrations throughout

Interest age: From 5 years

BICs: YFN RIGHTS: WORLD



9781915659880  
£8.99 PB

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“That’s a shame,” said Grandpa. “No swings today. Let’s just go home.”



Jake was worried. If they went home now, Grandpa would see what was going on and it would spoil the surprise. Jake, had to think of something.

There was another sign on the fence a little further round.

“Perhaps that sign says when the swings will be open again,” said Jake. “Please could you check?”

Grandpa looked at Jake for a moment, then he walked off towards the sign.

When he had gone, Jake bent down and,

as quickly as he could, pulled off one of Sam’s boots. Then he stuffed it inside his own coat and pulled up the zip, so that the boot was hidden away.

Sam stirred a little, but he didn’t wake up.





The angels told us about his birth.” Jake spoke loudly and clearly, just like he had practised with Grandpa.

Then he helped Sam to put the lamb, very gently, next to the manger. Jake bowed his head to Mary and Joseph, and Sam copied him. Then Jake, still holding Sam’s hand, led him off the stage.



Someone in the audience shouted, “Bravo! Encore!”

It was Grandpa.

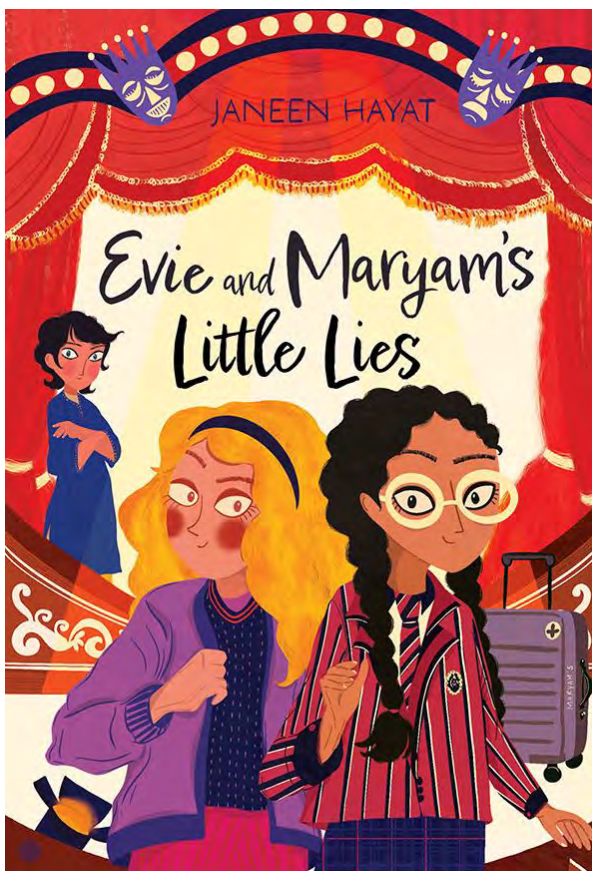
Everyone started clapping. There were even a few cheers.

“Bravo, Sam!” Jake whispered.





August 2026  
Middle Grade



**Publishing:** August 2026  
**Age:** 9+  
**ISBN:** 9781916558847  
**RRP:** £7.99  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Extent:** 336 pp.  
**Author Location:** North London

# Evie and Maryam's Little Lies

## Janeen Hayat



**Evie and Maryam are back in their second adventure!**

Maryam is thrilled to be awarded a scholarship to an esteemed boarding school but when she arrives, the other pupils are unwelcoming and she feels totally isolated. Evie is also struggling back at home, as the play she and Maryam wrote about their shared family history is being judged by an award-winning theatre director who takes an immediate dislike to the subject of India and partition. She and Maryam decide that they need to do something drastic - but before long the two girls have created a web of lies which get out of control... will they ever find their way back to the truth?

The second book about two friends from very different worlds with a lot in common - Evie and Maryam discover that telling fibs soon gets them into an awful spot of bother.

### Author Biography

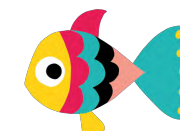
Janeen grew up in Florida, a place she loves and hates in equal measure, and now lives in London with her partner and three chaotic, incredible children. She's half-Pakistani, half-New Yorker, a lapsed lawyer, teacher, Muslim and Catholic. She's passionate about creating characters that are many things at once -- because she knows she's not alone in being a tangled mass of identities, always changing. When she's not writing, she's advocating for an education system that gives every kid a fair chance.



9781916558410  
£7.99 PB

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**GUPPY  
BOOKS**



**Book One**

978191771845



**Book Two**

9781917718448



**Book Three**

9781917718455

# Alex Sparrow Series

## Jennifer Killick

'A brilliantly bonkers, side-splitting, superhero story!' M. G. Leonard  
'Stuffed full of humour, mystery and the unexpected, this hilarious adventure is a laugh-out-loud extravaganza of a read.' Jo Clarke

- Rejacketed 2017 first series from best-selling author Jennifer Killick, with new cover artwork by *Crater Lake* cover designer Anne Glenn.
- A hilarious, fast-paced, middle-grade adventure series.
- Jennifer was a bestselling BookBuzz author with *Crater Lake*, which has now sold more than 100,000 copies and has been translated into four languages.

**Summary:**

Alex Sparrow is a super-agent in training. He is also a human lie-detector.

Working with Jess - who can communicate with animals - they must solve a series of hilarious mysteries, from strangely well-behaved students and missing animals to re-animated zombie zumba mums!

This series is packed with humorous tales full of farts, jokes and superhero references. Oh, and a rather clever goldfish called Bob. In a world where kids' flaws and peculiarities are being erased out of existence, Alex and Jess must rely on what makes them different to save the day.



**Jennifer Killick** always wanted to be a writer, but really started when she applied for a Creative Writing MA at Brunel University, which is where she got the idea for her first book *Alex Sparrow and the Really Big Stink*. Since then she has gone on to write many books, including two more in the Alex Sparrow series; *Mo Lottie and the Junkers*; Bookbuzz bestseller *Crater Lake* and sequel *Crater Lake Evolution*. Jennifer lives in **Uxbridge**, in a house full of children, animals and Lego.

Pub date: 27th August 2026

RRP: £8.99

Format: paperback

Size: 198 x 129 mm Extent:

256pp

Age: 8-12

Rights: World

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Van Road, Caerphilly CF83 3GG  
www.fireflypress.co.uk  
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**Trade UK representation:**  
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sales@bouncemarketing.co.uk

**Distribution (UK):**  
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Publishing: August 2026

Age: 10+

ISBN: 9781916558786

RRP: £14.99

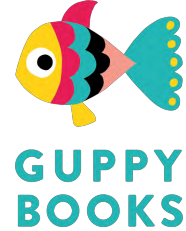
Format: Paperback

Extent: 320p

Author Location: Chile

# Raise the Bar

## Fernanda Frick



**A debut graphic novel about one girl's weightlifting dreams and how far she'll go for them, from a popular Chilean animator.**

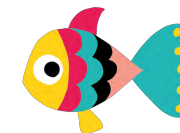
Sam Sanchez might not have a coach or proper equipment, but she's going to become Chile's first weightlifting gold medalist. She just knows it. When there's an opportunity to train at the high-performance centre with her weightlifting hero and Olympic gold medalist Eva Dos Santos . . . Sam can't let that opportunity pass. Even if it means going behind her parents' back. As she makes friends (and a rival) during training and tries to qualify for the Pan American Games, she'll find out how far hard work and perseverance can take her and just how much weight she's able to hold. A powerful graphic novel about holding on to your dreams.

### Author Biography

Fernanda Frick is a Chilean animation director, storyboarder, illustrator and comic artist. "Here's the Plan", her 4th short-film, was selected in various festivals around the world including Nashville International Film Festival, SANFIC, Chilemonos, Anima Mundi, CICFF and the Premios Quirino. It won the Jury Prize at SIGGRAPH ASIA . It was also longlisted for the 2017 Academy Awards. In 2019, she published "Trazos", her first graphic novel with Editorial Planeta and had a series project in development with Netflix. Currently, she manages her independent animation studio FFrick Studio.

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GUPPY  
BOOKS

**KAREN GUERRERO** (SHE/HER)  
Fencer // México's National Team  
Youth Olympics Bronze Medalist  
🇲🇽 🏅 10 🥈 5 🥉 1

It's an honor to be chosen. I carry my family and my country's dream with me.

I won't fail to deliver.

It took them long enough! But now the world will see what my Colombian fans already know.

Watch out, because here comes Ron, future champion!

**CRIS BURGOS** (HE/HIM)  
Triathlete // Argentina's National Team  
Youth Panamericans Silver Medalist  
🇲🇯 🏅 1 🥈 10 🥉 5

I'm so grateful to the HPC for the opportunity to compete as myself. So many trans athletes can't.

So, I won't let you down.

**RON ANDRADE** (HE/HIM)  
Swimmer // Colombia's National Team  
2-time Youth Freestyle Swim Champion  
🇨🇴 🏅 2 🥈 8 🥉 4

**JOJO JIMÉNEZ** (THEY/THEM)  
Judoka // Peru's National Team  
Judo World Championship Finalist  
🇵🇪 🏅 3 🥈 15 🥉 8

THIS is the moment I have been waiting for!

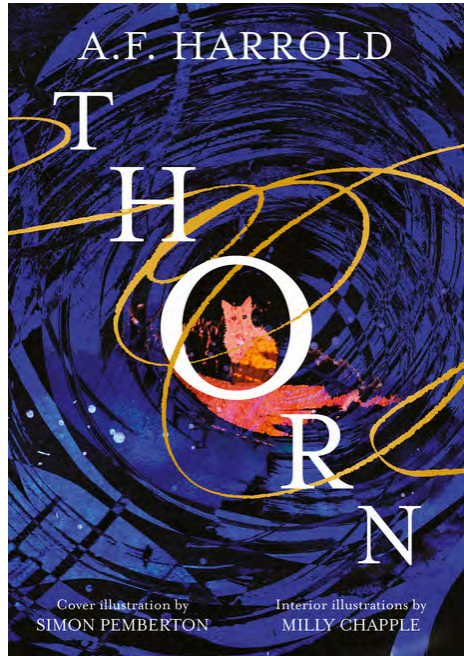
IT's my time to ETCH my name forever into the history books!

Wow.





August 2026  
Young Adult



# THORN

A.F. HARROLD, ILLUSTRATED MILLY CHAPPLE

## THE BOOK

**A story of love and imagination, of metaphysics and politics, of empathy and mystery, it's curious and compelling. Alice in Wonderland meets Kurt Vonnegut in a tale of surreal teenage turmoil.**

Shouldn't she be in her body?

Shouldn't she be her body?

That was the first clue she had that something had gone sideways. Thorn wakes up one morning hovering over her own body.

Watching herself go about her days from a distance, she bounces around her past, present and future, gradually putting together the pieces of her life. Through love and resistance, Thorn is faced with how she sees herself, and must figure out if the things that mattered before are what are really important.

Cover illustration by Simon Pemberton, interior illustration by Milly Chapple.

**In a world obsessed with body image and digital identity, Thorn asks the ultimate question: 'Shouldn't she be in her body?' It's a literal out of body experience that mirrors exactly how every teenager feels today - disconnected, searching, and rebellious.**

## THE AUTHOR

A.F. Harrold (1975 - present) is an English poet and children's author. Some of the things he makes (books, poems, faces) are funny, some are strange, some are sad, and many of them involve the privilege of working with amazing illustrators. He often visits schools, reading poems and running workshops and juggling ideas. He is the owner of many books, a handful of hats, a few good ideas and one beard. He lives in Reading with a stand-up comedian and two cats.

## KEY SALES POINTS

- **High-End Artistic Collaboration:** Features a visually stunning package with a cover by world-renowned illustrator Simon Pemberton and immersive interior illustrations by Milly Chapple.
- **Existential Stakes:** Beyond the surrealism, it's a deeply human story about "love and resistance" and the fundamental search for what actually matters when everything superficial is stripped away.
- **Radically Relatable Themes:** Taps into the universal teenage feelings of being disconnected, searching, and rebellious, ensuring a strong emotional resonance with both YA and adult crossover audiences.

Pub Date: 6th August 2026

Price: £9.99

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 9781917894159

Age Range: 12+

Subject: YFE (Speculative, dystopian and utopian fiction)

CBMC Code: E5N79

Extent: 232 pp

Dimensions: 129 x 185 mm

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Fox & Ink Books

# THORN

A.F. HARROLD, ILLUSTRATED MILLY CHAPPLE



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# The Introvert's Guide to Kissing in Europe

Disney · HYPERION

Brenda Janowitz

**13 Little Blue Envelopes meets Love and Gelato in this YA coming-of-age romance about Emily, who takes a gap year in Europe to learn about life, love, and working through grief—while following in her grandmother's footsteps.**

Everything in Emily Tannenbaum's life is going according to plan. Graduate high school as valedictorian? Check. Gain admission to Dartmouth? Check. Decide to pause everything to embark on a gap year adventure abroad? Wait, what? Ever since her sister died, Emily has done everything in her power to be the good girl, the safe girl, the one her parents don't have to worry about. She's worked hard, she's studied, she's attended school-approved functions.

But when her grandmother, a former member of the famous Flower Sisters music duo, proposes that Emily take time off to follow the European tour the Flower Sisters took in 1966, Emily impulsively jumps at the chance as a way to embrace the messy and unexpected parts of life.

As she travels from Spain to Sweden with stops in Paris and Rome along the way, Emily begins to experience all that life has to offer. She deals with pickpockets, dances the night away, has her heart broken, and learns more about herself and where she came from than she ever could have imagined.

**18/08/2026**

<b>Binding</b>	Hardback
<b>ISBN</b>	9781368107082
<b>Format</b>	140 x 210 mm
<b>Price</b>	£16.99
<b>Age</b>	12+ years
<b>Extent</b>	368
<b>Publisher</b>	Disney Hyperion

# ADVANCED INFORMATION

## *A Dangerous Crossing*

by Jane Mitchell

27 August 2026 | PB | 9781912417384 | 198 x 129mm | 224pp | £8.99 | Age 11+ | Thema: YXZM Refugees | BISAC: JUV039250 Refugees

*Previous Edition Cover*



**A new edition of Jane Mitchell’s moving story of courage and solidarity as a young boy flees the devastation of war – inspired by the real experiences of Syrian refugees.**

Ghalib doesn’t want to leave his home, but Syria has become too dangerous, and his family has no choice but to flee. Together they start out on a terrible journey that leads them through dark and dangerous places. They come under fire; they are fleeced by illegal border-breakers; they experience the wretched and hopeless life of a refugee camp. And they still have to face the perils of a voyage in a boat that is far from seaworthy.

Based on the experiences of real Syrian families, *A Dangerous Crossing* is a story of bravery and solidarity in the face of despair.

### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- 100,000+ copies sold in multiple languages worldwide
- A moving, meticulously-researched look at the refugee experience, one of the most urgent humanitarian crises of our time
- Emotionally connects readers with global issues of displacement and solidarity
- From the award-winning author of the Children’s Books Ireland Award-shortlisted *Run For Your Life*, a *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2023
- Original foreword in new edition

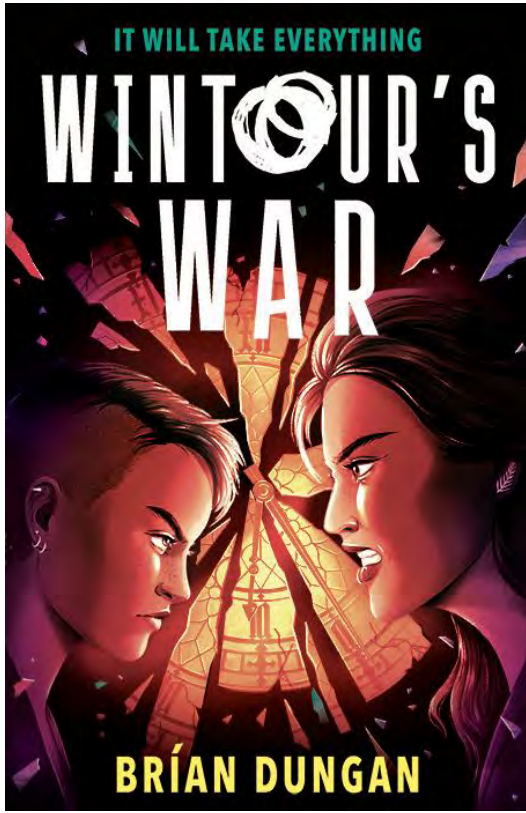
**Jane Mitchell** has written several books for children and young people. Her first novel, *When Stars Stop Spinning*, was Bisto Book of the Year, and her more recent *Chalkline* won not only a CBI Merit award but also the Children’s Choice award. She works in disability provision in Ireland and travels widely. While researching for *A Dangerous Crossing*, she worked at a refugee camp in Calais.

**Our books are stocked by all major suppliers, including MDL, Gardners and Argosy.**

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Written by Brían Dungan

ISBN: 9781788956727  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £9.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 13 to 18  
Dims: 198 x 129 mm  
Extent: 304 pp.

# Wintour's War

War has begun.

Temporal has turned against Temporal, and the existence of their powers has been exposed to the entire world. Alex's enemies and friends are being hunted by the government, and while half of them blame Alex for their downfall, the others see her as their only chance of salvation.

Reunited with old friends and a band of rebels, Alex must race against time and the forces rallied against them to stop a war that she fears she has created. The stakes could not be higher, but only Alex can bring the Wintour's Game to a close.

***The epic conclusion to a new action-packed trilogy, perfect for fans of ARTEMIS FOWL, ALEX RIDER and LOCKWOOD AND CO.***

- Perfect for readers of ALEX RIDER and ARTEMIS FOWL.
- A strong, well-rounded female protagonist, supported by a cast of diverse and relatable characters.

## Author Biography

Debut author Brían Dungan has worked for over twenty years as a camera assistant, working on television projects such as *Game of Thrones*, *Line of Duty* and *Black Mirror*, which have informed the engaging, action-packed scenes that take place in *Wintour's Game*. Brían lives in his hometown of Skerries.



9781788956727  
£8.99 PB



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£8.99 PB

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August 2026  
Poetry

# Our Earth is a Poem



This is a book of poetry for everyone.

Inside is a treasure trove of writing celebrating the natural world. Read the poems aloud or curl up with them in a quiet corner. Begin your journey into a lifelong love of poetry.

This beautifully illustrated collection features powerful poems written by a wide range of contemporary voices. They share their unique perspectives on the topic of nature, from a dreaming forest to bouquets of buried stars.

- A broad range of themes and voices makes this perfect for poetry lovers or as an introduction to the world of poetry.
- Beautiful artwork brings each poem to life and creates an immersive reading experience.
- The focus on nature and conservation makes this an ideal gift for young environmentalists.

## Featuring brilliant poetry by:

Margarita Engle, Diana Hendry, Grace Nichols, Robert Macfarlane, Ruth Awolola, Naomi Shihab Nye, Zoro Weil, Rachel Plummer, Joyce Sidman, Carol Ann Duffy, Jack Prelutsky, Mary Anne Hoberman, Nikki Giovanni, Jan Dean, Rebecca Perry, Tom Denbigh

## And awe-inspiring artwork from:

Annalise Barber, Mariana Roldan, Masha Manapov, Nabila Adani

ISBN: 9781838919801  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £8.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 6 to 12  
Dims: 260 x 210 mm  
Extent: 48 pp.

Also Available:



9781838919597  
£8.99 PB



9781838914400  
£12.99 HB



9781838915643  
£12.99 HB

## I Wonder

Does a butterfly miss  
its wiggly caterpillar days?

Do tadpoles suspect  
that they'll soon grow four  
jumpy legs?

How does the leafy future  
of an immense green tree  
fit inside this tiny  
seed?

I don't know, but I'm going to plant  
many seedlings anyway, so that by the time  
I'm old, a whole forest will wave  
happy branches.

*Margarita Engle*



## Otter

Otter enters river without falter – what a supple slider out of holt and into water!

This shape-shifter's a sheer breath-taker, a sure heart-stopper – but you'll only ever spot a shadow-flutter, bubble-skein, and never (almost never) actual otter.

This swift swimmer's a silver-miner – with trout its ore it bores each black pool deep and deeper, delves up-current steep and steeper, turns the water inside-out, then inside-outer.

Ever dreamed of being otter? That utter underwater thunderbolter, that shimmering twister?

Run to the riverbank, otter-dreamer, slip your skin and change your matter, pour your outer being into otter – and enter now as otter without falter into water.

Robert Macfarlane





Otter-Barry

BOOKS

www.otterbarrybooks.com

# The Flying Machine of Dreams



**Come Aboard for a Magical Poetry Ride!**

**Kate Wakeling, illustrated by Viviane Schwarz**

**First picture-book poetry collection for younger children from a prize-winning poet**

Who will win the Magnificent Race of the Animals? Frog on roller-skates or zebra on a scooter? Find a morning moon, six ways to look at a leaf, beautiful bubbles and amazing shapeshifters. Have a feast of words, make a den and then guess the names of the night animals...

Kate Wakeling's wonderful talent for revealing the excitement that hides in everyday things, combined with her soaring imagination and special way with words, make this a poetry book that fizzes with ideas and inspiration for young children, perfectly matched by Viviane Schwarz's exciting and inventive illustrations.

- First picture-book poetry collection for young children from a prize-winning poet
- Illustrated by internationally acclaimed illustrator Viviane Schwarz
- Perfect for sharing and reading aloud
- Kate Wakeling is a popular performer in schools, libraries and at book festivals

## Author Information

**Kate Wakeling's** first collection of children's poems, *Moon Juice*, won the CLiPPA Prize in 2017 and was nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Her second, *Cloud Soup*, was a Book of the Month in the *Guardian* and the *Scotsman* and was shortlisted for the 2022 CLiPPA. Kate has performed her poems at Shakespeare's Globe, Southbank Centre and the Cheltenham Literature Festival among others. Kate's most recent poetry collection is *A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop: Poems to have Fun with*, which was shortlisted for the 2024 CLiPPA Award, and won *The Week Junior* Best Children's Poetry Book of 2024. She lives in Oxford.

**Viviane Schwarz** is an author and illustrator, described by Chris Riddell as "One of the most innovative and creative picture book makers we have" (*Guardian*). Her many picture books include *There are Cats in this Book* and *I am Henry Finch* by Alexis Deacon. Viviane has been twice shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, has won the Little Rebels Award and gained an IBBY Honours nomination. She lives in Brighton.

**06 August 2026**

9781915659989

£12.99

Hardback

275 x 240 mm, 32 pages

Colour illustrations throughout

**Interest age:** From 3 years

**BICs:** YDP

**RIGHTS:** WORLD



9781913074203  
£8.99 PB

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**Otter-Barry Books**  
Tel.: 07976 047767 E: sales@otterbarrybooks.com



## Morning Moon

I like  
when I can spy  
a slice  
of morning moon,

when there it is,  
sat up,  
bright  
and white  
and wide awake  
in the sky.

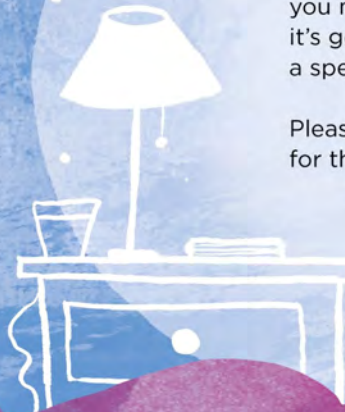
I like to say:  
Hello, morning moon.

It's good  
when you don't go away  
and choose  
not to snooze  
somewhere deep  
in the blue.



Morning moon,  
you mean  
it's going to be  
a special sort of day.

Please could you stay  
for the afternoon?





## The Flying Machine of Dreams

It's a bit like a car  
and a boat and a rocket.

It's as big as a house  
(but can fit in my pocket).

It has twenty-two wheels,  
plus propellers and sails.

It can whizz through the sky.  
It can bob beside whales.

There's a big curly slide  
and a tree you can climb.

It can fly to the moon.  
It can squirt bright green slime.

It's powered by carrots  
(not petrol or steam).

There's a whole separate room  
that is *just* for ice cream,

plus a huge comfy bed  
that is perfect for bouncing,

and a trumpetty hooter  
that toots when announcing:

*Seatbelts: click!  
Helmets: quick!  
Come for a ride  
in the flying machine of dreams.*





Otter-Barry

BOOKS

# Bison Rule, OK!

Sarah Ziman, illustrated by Nia Havilliard



www.otterbarrybooks.com

Exciting second solo collection from an acclaimed Welsh poet



They might not really twinkle,  
They might not be on trend,  
But you'll never be in trouble,  
With a bison as your friend!

Read about Hamish, the teacher's pet, and Aidan who's distracted in class; feel calm and peaceful in Forest School; find job opportunities for snakes, love a dragon, mint choc chipmunk ice-cream, a 'cwtch' from Nana Jean – and a very special bison! This is a sparkling and wide-ranging collection, including riddles and wordplay, from an exciting new voice in children's poetry.

- An exciting new voice on the Otter-Barry list
- Praise for Sarah Ziman's debut collection, *Why Did My Brain Make me Say it*: "What a fantastic, fun-packed collection" – Brian Bilston; "Humorous, thoughtful and surprising" – Brian Moses
- Sarah Ziman is a popular visitor to schools for performances and workshops
- Both the poet and the illustrator are Welsh, making this collection especially distinctive

## Author Information

**Sarah Ziman** was born and grew up in the South Wales Valleys. In 2021 she won the YorkMix children's poem competition, and has been highly commended for the Caterpillar poetry prize in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Her first collection, *Why Did My Brain Make Me Say It?* was published in 2024. and shortlisted in the Wales Book the Year awards and longlisted in the UKLA Children's Awards. She enjoys school and festival performances. She lives in Watford, Hertfordshire, with her husband and two sons.

**Nia Havilliard** is an award-nominated children's illustrator living in South Wales. Self-taught, her work is known for its warmth, texture, and playful character. She brings a strong sense of light, atmosphere, and off-beat humour to each project. Her work has been longlisted for the Carnegie Medal and the Klaus Flugge Prize, and she has been nominated for the Ezra Jack Keats Award (US). She has been recognised by Empathy Lab, BookTrust, and Kirkus, and featured in reading lists across schools and libraries in the UK and US.

06 August 2026

9781917865036

£8.99

Paperback

198 x 129 mm, 96 pages

Black & white illustrations

Interest age: From 7 years

BICs: YDP RIGHTS: WORLD

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## Forest School

For Gethyn

No stale class air, but cooling breeze  
No bells, but birdsong in the trees  
No whiteboard, just the changing leaves –  
Here in forest school.

No shiny shoes, but muddy boots  
No strangling tie, but spreading roots  
No concrete yard, but greening shoots –  
Here in forest school.

No "Back indoors!" come rain or snow  
No "Hurry up!", but take things slow  
No "Don't touch that!", but "Have a go" –  
Here in forest school.

Out here, I walk the trails deer roam  
I know where badgers built their home  
Out here, I never feel alone –  
Here in forest school.





## Medical Room

If you run into a tree  
and you slightly graze your knee –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

If your nose begins to bleed  
or your private parts get kneed –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

If you've come out in a rash  
or you think you've got whiplash –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

If you've fallen in the mud  
or an artery's spurting blood –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

If you've got a nasty cough  
or your left leg's fallen off –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

If your symptoms are quite vague  
or you may have caught the plague –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

If a bully's on the prowl  
or you've just been disembowelled –

**Wet Paper Towel!**

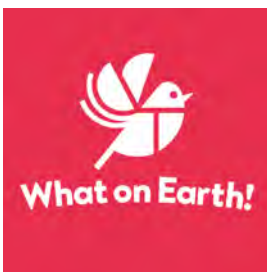
**Wet Paper Towel!**

**Wet Paper Towel!**





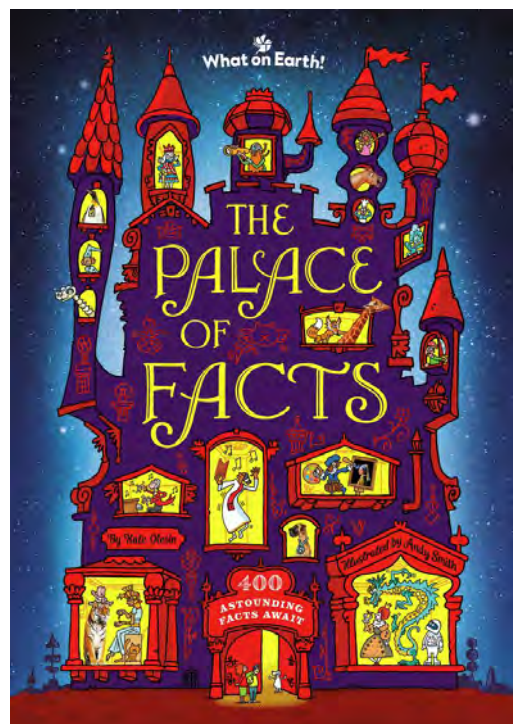
August 2026  
Non-Fiction



# The Palace of Facts

400 Astounding Facts Await...

Kate Olesin, Andy Smith



**Travel through a magnificent palace where the world's most mind-bending facts are on display!**

You are hereby invited to the Palace of Facts, where 400 astonishing facts await... Search the treasure room to find out facts about crystals; explore the fossil hall to dig up facts about dinosaurs; scale the observatory to spot facts about space; delve into the dungeons to discover hidden facts. On this marvellous journey, you will be accompanied by three characters – Pip, Alice and their dog Charley – who will lead you from room to room with witty and playful charm.

Every fact is woven into Andy Smith's lavishly illustrated scenes. Inspired by the idea of a memory palace – where facts are located in imagined physical spaces – this unique book makes information both beautiful and memorable.

- This lavishly illustrated, large-format book brings a unique, gifty offering to the fact-book market.
- Created by the same author-and-illustrator team behind *FACTopia!*, the first title in the beloved *FACTopia!* series which has sold 270,000 copies.
- Packed with 400 astonishing facts by Kate Olesin (formerly Kate Hale) as well as beautiful, playful illustrations by Andy Smith.
- Covers topics as diverse as dinosaurs, space, art, animals, history, geography, music, technology, architecture, literature, sport and more.
- Inspired by a memory palace – the idea, championed by memory experts worldwide, of locating facts in imagined physical spaces – this book makes information wonderfully memorable.
- The short facts written in clear, accessible language and eye-catching visuals make this title perfect for reluctant or struggling readers.
- Takes you on a journey around the world, from the golden gates of the Palace of Versailles, up the secret staircase in the US Capitol Building, through the 9,000 rooms of China's Forbidden Palace and all the way to Australia's hospital for bats.

## Author Information

Andy Smith is an award-winning illustrator who previously illustrated the *FACTopia!* series. Andy lives in Hastings, East Sussex. Kate Olesin (formerly Kate Hale) is a writer, editor and professional fun fact finder. A former executive editor for National Geographic Kids' Books, she's edited or written about everything from dog communication to inspiring scientists to wacky roadside attractions. She is the author of *FACTopia!*, *Return to FACTopia!*, and *Cute FACTopia!*. Kate lives in Portland, USA.

**06 August 2026**

9781804661703

£22.00

Hardback

370 x 270 mm, 96 pages

45 Colour illustrations

**Interest age:** From 8 years

**Thema:** 5AJ; 5AR; YNG; YNN; YNH; YNU;

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What on Earth!



# Henrietta Lacks by Dawne Allette

The inspiring true story of Henrietta Lacks, whose immortal HeLa cells transformed modern medicine and helped scientists develop lifesaving treatments used by millions of people worldwide.

This illustrated biography introduces young readers to the extraordinary story behind one of medicine's most important breakthroughs.

## Key sales points:

- **The true story behind a medical breakthrough:** Henrietta Lacks's cells transformed modern science.
- **Introduces key STEM concepts clearly:** Including cells, DNA and medical research.
- **A powerful story of legacy and ethics:** The human story behind scientific discovery.
- **Engaging and accessible for young readers:** Ideal for classrooms and curious readers alike.

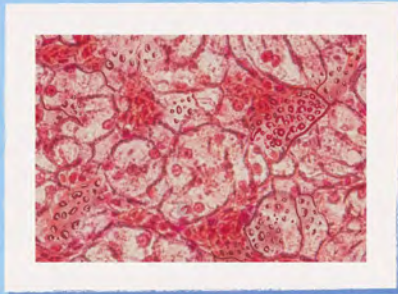


**Dawne Allette** is a Grenadian-born writer and the author of several children's picture books celebrated for their lyricism, humour and inspiration. She has lived in Britain and Iran and now lives in Baltimore, USA, where she teaches creative writing, runs literacy programmes for Baltimore Public Schools and writes for the *Baltimore Times*.

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*Every part of our bodies is made up of cells,*

which are so small you can only see them through a microscope. All cells contain the same basic elements and they are the building blocks of all living things. Human beings have trillions of cells all working together. Red blood cells, for instance, carry oxygen around the body, while white cells help the body fight infections. Cells also contain the body's hereditary material and can make copies of themselves. They take in nutrients from food and convert those nutrients into energy. They are the building blocks of our bodies.



NOT FINAL

### *Henrietta also loved to dance.*

She learned all the new dance steps – Tick Tock, Black Bottom, Carolina Shag, the Big Apple – before anyone else did. She enjoyed teaching her friends how to twist, swivel, twirl and dip to music played on the coin-operated nickelodeon at the ‘juke joint’ in town.

Dancing gave Henrietta release and joy at a time when little else came along worth celebrating. She and ‘Day’, which was David’s nickname, remained poor on the little ten-acre farm on the hill. The price of tobacco dropped from 86 cents a pound to just 9 cents a pound because of lack of demand and over-supply. This put a huge squeeze on farmers throughout the country, especially small farmers in rural districts like Clover.

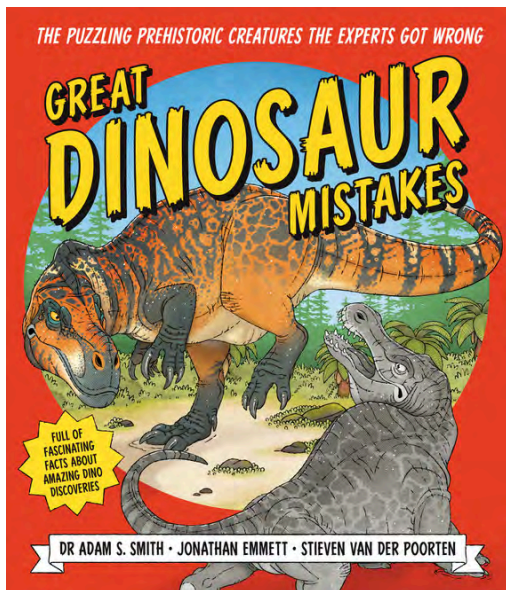
They lived from one crop to the next, never sure of what the future would bring. Day pushed the wooden plough through the fields and Henrietta followed him with a makeshift wheelbarrow, sprinkling seeds. She no longer took delight in the squishy earthworms that slithered around in the upturned earth.



#### **FACT BOX**

Dance brought black culture to white America during the Depression. In 1937, three white college students entered a black nightclub called The Big Apple in Columbia, South Carolina, and watched with fascination as a circle of dancers performed jazz steps like Truckin, Cakewalk and Suzie-Q. The students brought the steps back to campus. Within months a dance craze called The Big Apple, after the name of the nightclub, swept the country. Young people from coast to coast, including President Franklin Roosevelt’s family in the White House, were doing The Big Apple.

**NOT FINAL**



Pub Date: 6th August 2026

Price: £8.99

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 9781917894166

Age Range: 5 - 8

Subject: YBCS (Picture storybooks)

CBMC Code: B3M79

Extent: 32 pp

Dimensions: 2400 x 2800 mm

# GREAT DINOSAUR MISTAKES

DR ADAM SMITH & JONATHAN EMMETT, ILLUSTRATED STIEVEN VAN DE POORTEN

## THE BOOK

**The puzzling prehistoric creatures the experts got wrong.**

The first fossils found of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals were often incomplete. So, with many of the bones from its skeleton missing, early experts often had to guess how a complete animal looked when it was alive. Sometimes they guessed right, but sometimes they didn't!

Great Dinosaur Mistakes explores some of the most extraordinary errors early experts made and brings past and present versions of each prehistoric creature face to face in a fantastical time-travelling adventure full of fascinating facts.

## KEY SALES POINTS

- **The "Mistake" Hook:** Focusing on errors is a relatable and fun entry point that demystifies the scientific process, showing that even experts get things wrong.
- **High Visual Interest:** Bringing past and present versions together offers a unique and technical illustration style.
- **Educational Value:** Beyond just dino-facts, it teaches **palaeontology** and the importance of new evidence in correcting history.

## THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Emmett has written over 60 books for children. He developed his skills as a writer and illustrator while studying and working as an architect but left architecture to become a children's author in 1995. His work has been translated into over 30 different languages and has won several awards both in the UK and abroad.

Nottingham-based palaeontologist Dr Adam S. Smith has authored more than 20 peer-reviewed research papers and named several new Jurassic species. He teamed up with Jonathan Emmett in 2021 to write *The Plesiosaur's Neck*, Adam's debut children's book. Adam works as a part-time curator at the Nottingham Natural History Museum (Wollaton Hall) where he is co-responsible for the museum's collections and exhibitions. He also runs several websites including the Plesiosaur Directory and Dinosaur Toy Blog.

Also by Adam & Jonathan:



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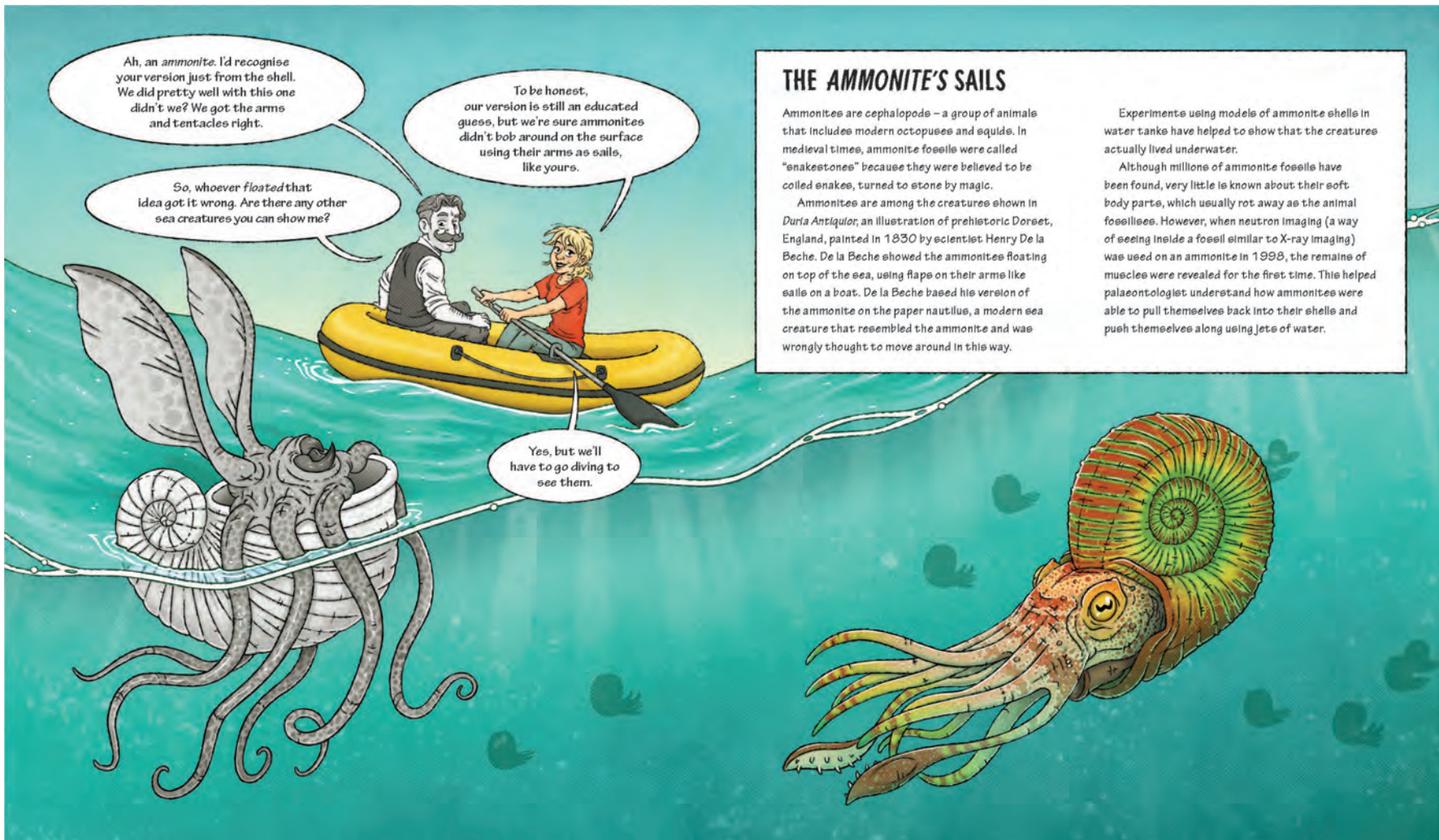
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# NOT FINAL



## THE AMMONITE'S SAILS

Ammonites are cephalopods – a group of animals that includes modern octopuses and squids. In medieval times, ammonite fossils were called “snakestones” because they were believed to be coiled snakes, turned to stone by magic.

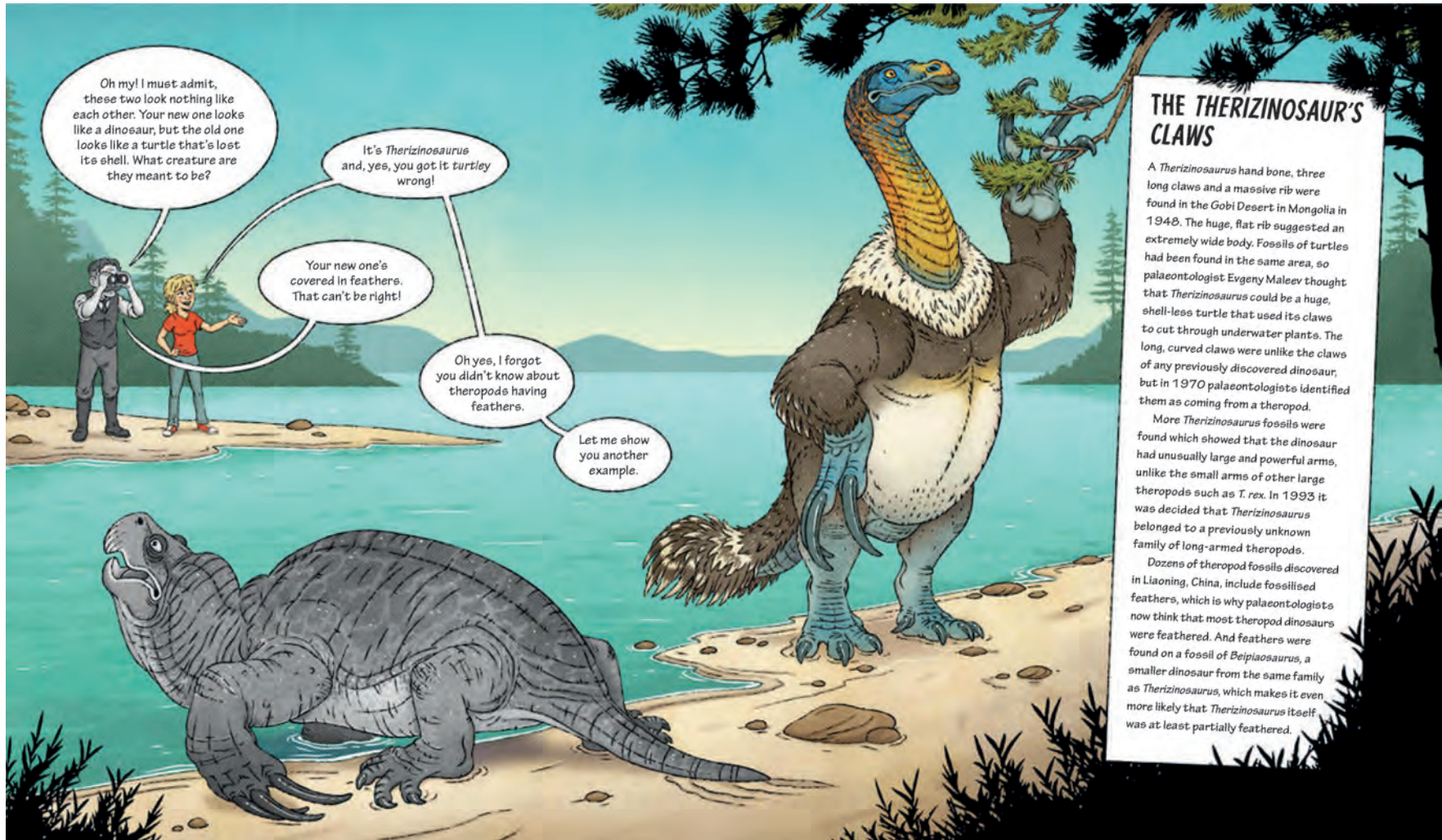
Ammonites are among the creatures shown in *Daria Antiquior*, an illustration of prehistoric Dorset, England, painted in 1830 by scientist Henry De la Beche. De la Beche showed the ammonites floating on top of the sea, using flaps on their arms like sails on a boat. De la Beche based his version of the ammonite on the paper nautilus, a modern sea creature that resembled the ammonite and was wrongly thought to move around in this way.

Experiments using models of ammonite shells in water tanks have helped to show that the creatures actually lived underwater.

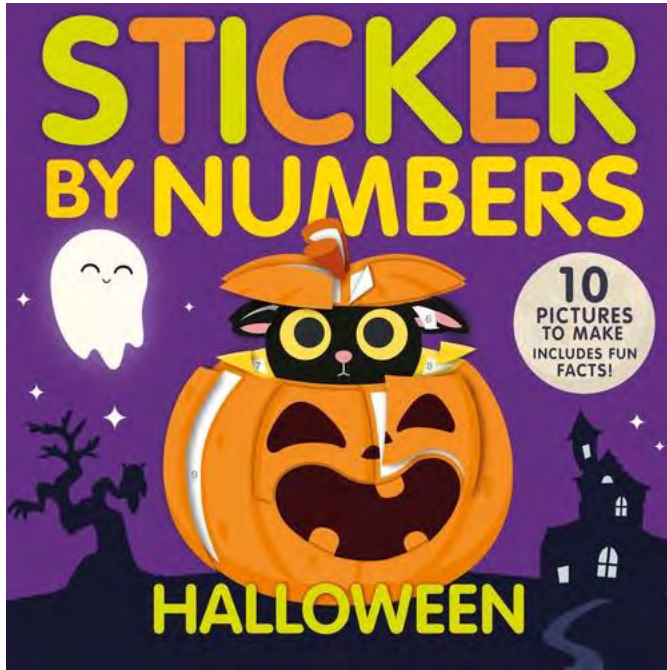
Although millions of ammonite fossils have been found, very little is known about their soft body parts, which usually rot away as the animal fossilises. However, when neutron imaging (a way of seeing inside a fossil similar to X-ray imaging) was used on an ammonite in 1998, the remains of muscles were revealed for the first time. This helped palaeontologist understand how ammonites were able to pull themselves back into their shells and push themselves along using jets of water.



# NOT FINAL



# Sticker by Numbers: Halloween



Welcome to a world of stickers and fun facts! Children can create exciting scenes by matching the numbered stickers in the back of the book to the numbers on each picture. Each one can be torn out to display and enjoy!


- A sweet seasonal activity book that makes a great gift.
- Featuring over 150 stickers.
- Pages can be torn out to display or gift.

## Author Biography

Beth is from the sunny Isle of Wight and works in children's publishing. She loves windy seaside walks, drinking coffee and daydreaming cool stories (preferably all at once!).

Written by Beth Hamilton


ISBN: 9781801049054  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £6.99  
Format: PB  
Age: 3 to 6  
Dims: 230 x 230 mm  
Extent: 36 pp.



# Happy Halloween!

'Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake.'

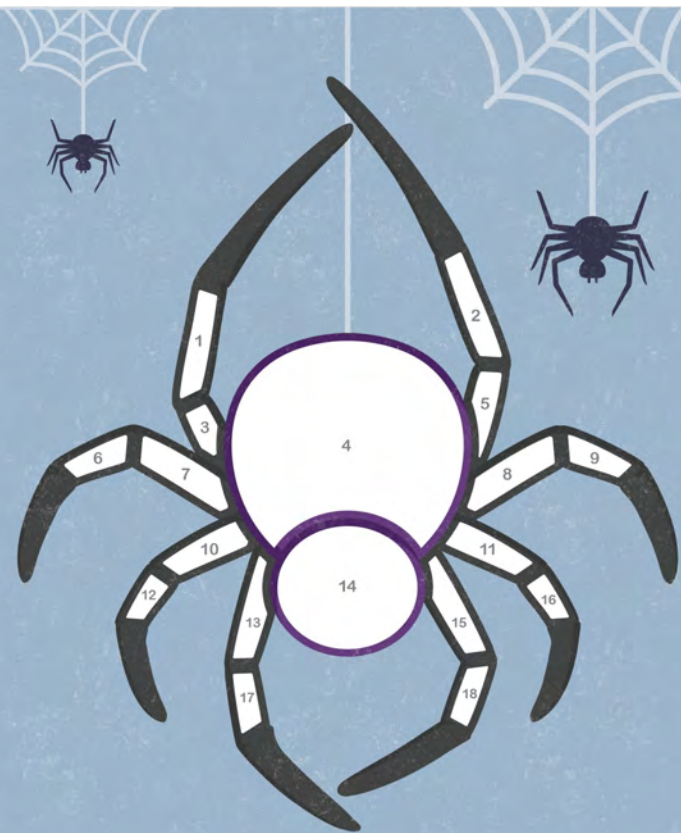
Excerpt from 'Song of the Witches'  
from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.



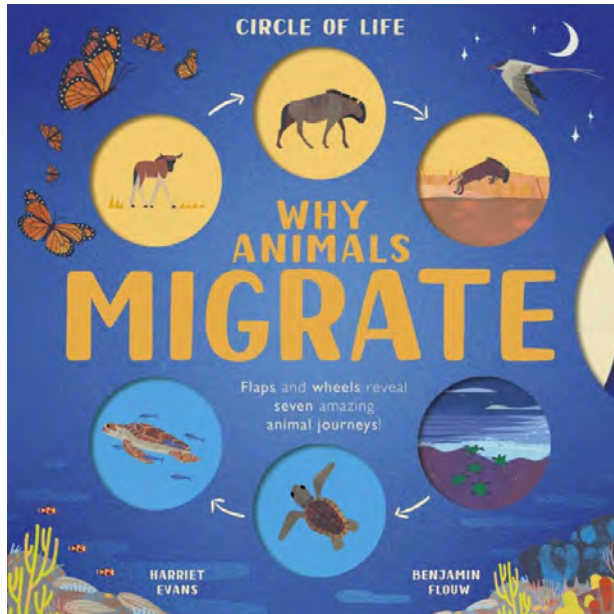
## Superstitions

In Japan, a black cat crossing your path is very lucky, but in Germany it is only good luck if the cat crosses in front of you from the left!

In Kenya owls are seen as unlucky, whereas in Japan they are a popular lucky charm. This is because the word for owl and the word for luck are almost identical in Japanese.



# Circle of Life: Why Animals Migrate



Discover why a wide variety of creatures make incredible journeys across our planet – by sea, land or sky. Packed with interactive novelties, this book offers a hands-on exploration of essential examples of animals on the move. Each spread includes a wheel mechanism, illustrating life's natural cycles, while lift-the-flaps add an extra layer of fun when learning.

A *wheel-y* exciting deep dive into a key science topic.

- The rotating wheels illustrate the cyclical patterns of nature, and flaps make reading a truly immersive experience.
- With fascinating facts about seven awe-inspiring animals – from a whale to a wildebeest!
- Stylish illustrations by Benjamin Flouw bring the wonders of the natural world to life!

## Author Biography

### Harriet Evans (Author)

Harriet Evans works in children's publishing and spends her days researching cool animal facts, imagining awesome adventures and drinking copious amounts of tea.

### Benjamin Flouw (Illustrator)

Benjamin Flouw is an artist and author based in Marseille, France. Inspired by wildlife documentaries and botany, his work features animals, plants, and landscapes through a distinctive style of colorful geometric shapes and dramatic lighting. His versatile talent spans children's publishing, press, advertising, and branding, collaborating with prestigious clients and publishers internationally.

Written by Harriet Evans  
Illustrated by Benjamin Flouw

ISBN: 9781801048118  
Pub Date: 6 August 2026  
Price: £12.99  
Format: CBB  
Age: 5 to 9  
Dims: 236 x 236 mm  
Extent: 16 pp.

Also Available:



9781838919443  
£12.99 CBB



# MONARCH BUTTERFLY

These beautiful butterflies journey from north to south, from their breeding grounds to mountainous forests, to avoid the freezing winter.

## DISTANCE

Some insects must travel as far as 4,800km (3,000mi)! They fly high, where there are stronger winds to propel them along.

## SUPER MONARCH

A special type of monarch butterfly is born to do the full journey south. They live for up to eight months, eight times longer than ordinary Monarchs.

Milkweed is the main food source for monarch butterflies, and it is where they lay their eggs.



When they reach Mexico, the butterflies enter a sleep-like state.



## 1. BEGINNING IN THE NORTH

The butterflies begin their journey from North America and Canada to south-western Mexico.

## 2. NAVIGATION

Scientists think that the butterflies use the sun's position on the horizon to find their way.

Spin and see the journey of a monarch butterfly.

## 4. SPRING RETURN

Once winter is over, the butterflies head back north. It can take several generations to complete the return trip.

## 3. THREATS

Along the way, migrating butterflies face threats such as weedkillers, which destroy the milkweed they eat.



# SALMON

Adult salmon return to the rivers where they were born to breed. Swimming upstream, they journey hundreds of miles in only two to three weeks. This is called a **salmon run**.

Salmon need to escape the clutches of hungry otters, herons, larger fish and bears.

Salmon wait until the first autumn rains because these raise the river's water level, making it easier to enter.

Some salmon change appearance during the salmon run.

### NESTS

Female salmon dig nests, called **redds**, in the gravel of riverbeds. It is safer for the fish to hatch here, away from the predators of the sea.

Salmon can travel 50km (30mi) a day – a distance longer than a marathon!

Spin the wheel to see their incredible journey!

4. When they are ready to breed, they return to their birth river and swim upstream.

### NAVIGATION

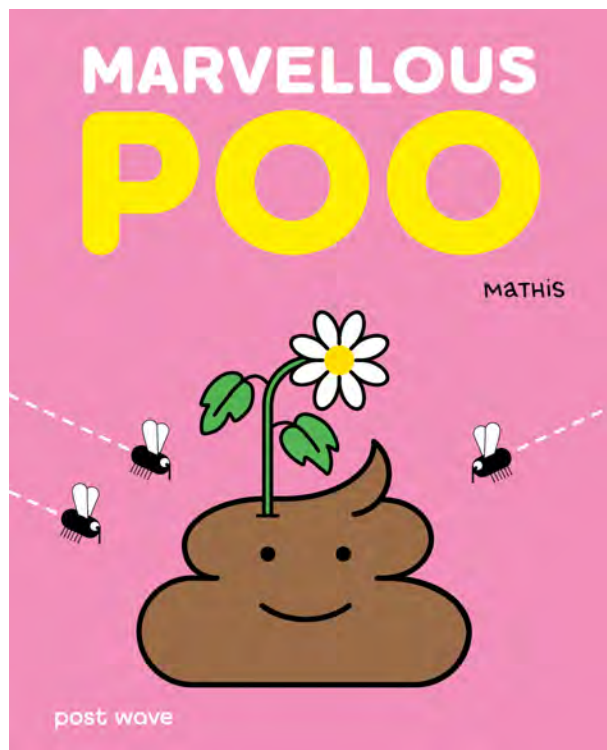
Salmon can remember the scent of where they grew up, helping them to return.

### SURVIVAL RATES

Salmon don't usually eat during the run. It is incredibly tiring, and less than 10% of Atlantic salmon survive.

### HOW TO HELP . . .

Salmon are at risk from river pollution. We can keep our rivers clear by cleaning up dog poo and choosing to use chemical-free products.



# Marvellous Poo

## MATHIS

post wave  
children's books 

**Think you know it all about poo? Think again! Discover the stinky inner workings of your body, take a deep dive into the sewers and find out what your poo is trying to tell you in this laugh-out-loud encyclo-poo-dia!**

Did you know that wombats are the only animal that do square poos? Or that your poo can be turned into pellets that feed plants? This hilarious book takes readers on a delightfully fragrant journey through the life of a poo, exploring the many uses for our poos, where poo goes when you flush it down the toilet and even what your poop is trying to tell you!

Bursting with stylish, bold and playful artwork, this book is guaranteed to make both children and adults laugh. With poos that talk directly to the reader, it's cheeky, engaging and hilariously informative – the perfect book to entertain curious kids from start to finish.

### Sales points:

- A funny, gross-but-true look at the world of poo, perfect for curious kids
- Ideal for families supporting the move out of nappies
- Bright, stylish artwork with plenty of humour
- A bestselling title in France

**Jean-Marc Mathis**, known as MATHIS, is a French comic book author, illustrator and children's author. Initially a draftsman in the construction and public works sector, and later a sailor, Jean-Marc Mathis eventually attended the École de l'Image in Épinal and then the Beaux-Arts in Nancy. Today, he devotes himself primarily to children's books. He is notably the author of *Le Roman de Renart*, the Boris series and the wordless *Coco* comics. He lives in Nantes, France.

Pub Date: 06/08/2026

RRP: £9.99

Format: Hardback

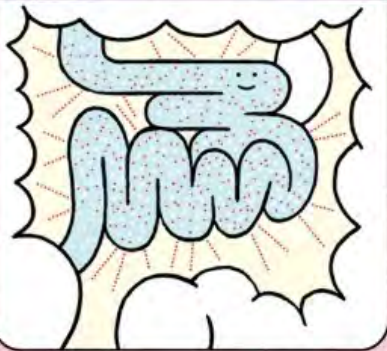
ISBN: 9781836272236

Extent: 24 pages

Dimensions: 236 x 190 mm

Interest Age: 3 - 5 years

**5** In the small intestine, the nutrients from food pass into the blood to feed the body.



**6** In the large intestine, what's left of the food turns into poo – waste that your body doesn't need anymore.



**7** The rectum is at the end of the intestine. This is where poo waits before coming out.



**8** The anus is a muscle that holds poo in and lets it out when you go to the toilet.



## WHERE DO WE POO?



In a nappy



In a potty



In a toilet



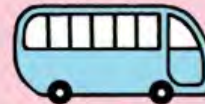
In a composting toilet



In a boat toilet



In a plane toilet



In a coach toilet



In a train toilet

BE KIND!  
BURY YOUR POO!

AND PLEASE DON'T LEAVE  
TOILET PAPER BEHIND!



In nature

# POO SHAPES (AND WHAT THEY MEAN)



# POO COLOURS





August 2026  
Related Product

# My Secret Kawaii Friendship Book



Purple

9789465245447



Blue

9789465245454



## PURPLE · BLUE

Keep your secrets safe from prying eyes! Use the invisible ink pen to write them down in this cute friendship book. Fill out fun quizzes and lists! The only way to read what you wrote is by using the UV light on the pen cap. Without it, the pages of your book will appear blank, leaving all uninvited readers none the wiser. Your and your friends' secrets stay safe!

<b>Publication</b>	JUNE 2026
<b>Price</b>	£ 6.99
<b>Format</b>	Board Book
<b>Size</b>	210 x 148 mm
<b>Extent</b>	64 pages
<b>BIC code</b>	YB
<b>Age</b>	5+
<b>Features</b>	Pen with invisible ink and UV light.

### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- Magic ink visible only with the UV-light on the cap.
- Lots of space to write and draw your secrets.
- Cute and colourful illustrations in kawaii style.

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# My Secret Kawaii Friendship Book



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