





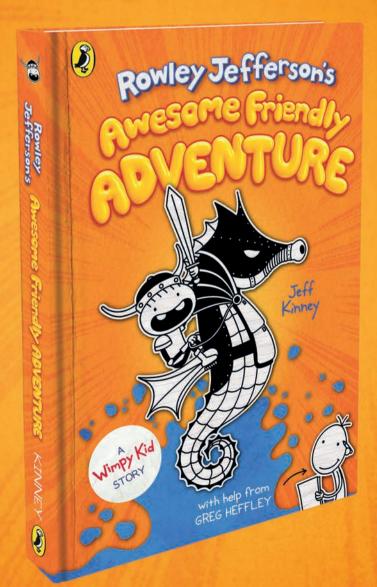








From the imagination of Rowley Jefferson comes an adventure of epic proportions!





Join Roland and his best friend,
Garg the Barbarian, as they leave
the safety of their village and
embark on a quest to save Roland's
mom from the White Warlock.

Will our heroes survive? Find out in Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Adventure!

ON SALE 20 AUGUST

OOK BESKIKBAAR
IN AFRIKAANS





Letter from: the editor

Hello Readers

Welcome to the very first issue of *The Huddle*, a magazine for everyone who loves books (and penguins) as much as we do! Did you know that penguins huddle together in tightly-packed groups to keep warm? And even though there's been no actual huddling in our offices lately, we are still stronger than ever, and we'll continue to bring you the absolute best books for your reading pleasure.

We are so excited to get this magazine off the ground and show you all the incredible titles that we have coming up this month.

In this issue, you'll meet
Kevin van Whye, author of *Date Me, Bryson Keller* – an upbeat
and heartfelt boy-meets-boy
romance that feels like a modern
twist on a '90s rom-com! You'll
also be able to impress your
family when you perform the
science experiments on page 9 –
just remember to always practice
safety first! And then feast your
eyes on the delicious recipe
on page 7 from well-known
cookbook author and TV
personality, Sarah Graham.



We are so lucky that even in these times of doubt, we can still travel to the most amazing places in our minds through the power and magic of reading stories. We can conjure up the most interesting characters and go with them on their epic adventures – right from the comfort of our warm beds.

I hope you enjoy this first issue as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. If there's anything you'd like to know, please contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

Happy Reading!

Kim Peters

Get in touch

For any queries, or for more information, contact Kim at

KPeters@penguinrandomhouse.co.za

In this issue

O2 Freshly squeezed

Brand new books out this month

Author interview C

We speak to Kevin van Whye, author of *Date Me, Bryson Keller*

Perfect books to encourage little ones to express their emotions

Managing our emotions

How books can help children understand their feelings



Reader reviews

We ask two readers what you should be reading right now

Cooking with Sarah Graham

The author of *Super Natural* shows us how to cook a delicious pasta

∩ A Thrill me

The best YA thrillers you need on your bookshelf



Eureka!

An experiment for science whizzes

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10 When in doubt... READ

Top reads for adults

Interview

We go inside the Penguin colony to chat to staff member, Ingrid Playandi

Binge reading

You've watched the series...
now read the books

Nuut op die rakke 1 LAPA Uitgewers se nuwe boeke

Ones to watch
Some must-read books

to add to your pile

Exclusive extract 7

The Unadoptables is out!

16 September releases

coming next month

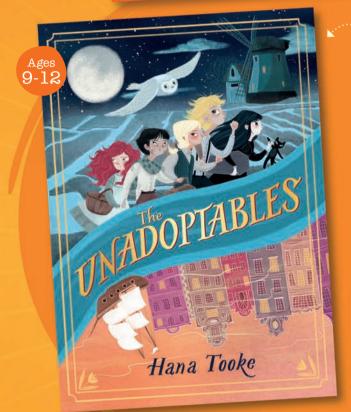
A sneak preview to what's

Johannesburg • Rosebank Office Park, Block D, 181 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parktown North, 2193 • 011 327 3550 Cape Town • Estuaries No 4, Oxbow Crescent, Century Avenue, Century City, 7441 • 021 460 5400 Lapa Uitgewers: Bosmanstraat 380, Pretoria, 0002 • 012 401 0700

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Freshly squeezed

Brand new books hitting the shelves in August!



Ed's pick:

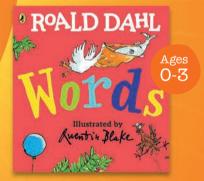
'A gorgeously written magical mystery about five "unadoptable" orphans who are determined to fight for their freedom.'



ROALD DAHI
Ages
0-3
Shupe

Illustrated by
Aventin Blake

9780241439999



9780241440001





9781432310691



9781432310684



9781788952217



9780241458815 Also available in Afrikaans



Date Me, Bryson Keller!

We spoke to local author, Kevin van Whye, about his recently released young adult novel, *Date Me, Bryson Keller* and this is what he had to say.

veryone knows about the dare: Each week, Bryson Keller must date someone new - the first person to ask him out on Monday morning. Few think Bryson can do it. He may be the king of Fairvale Academy, but he's never really dated before. Until a boy asks him out, and everything changes.

Kevin, what inspired you to write this book?

Date Me, Bryson Keller had many inspirations. Aside from my own lived experience, the '90s rom-com She's All That played a major role in inspiring this story. Just like the movie, I wanted to centre a romance around a dare. Another great source of inspiration was the manga Seven Days: Monday-Sunday by author Venio Tachibana and illustrator Rihito Takarai. Overall, I wished to tell a story with gay characters that were fully immersed in the LGBTQ+ narrative. Date Me, Bryson Keller is a story for the LGBTQ+ reader that reflects the world we live in. Other inspirations were the Norwegian web series *Skam* (particularly season 3), To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han, Simon VS. The Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli (as well as the film adaptation, Love, Simon). All of these things are woven into the tapestry of my novel Date Me, Bryson Keller.

Do you have any advice for aspiring authors?

My biggest advice is "never give up." Believe that your story has worth, because it does. You are the only person in this world able to write the story you want to tell, the way you want to tell it. So never give up on yourself. Some days it'll feel like your self-belief is all that's keeping you going. We all have those moments, but you have to keep at it! The world deserves your stories!

How long did it take you to write Date Me, Bryson Keller?

I'm a very fast drafter and the first draft of *Date Me, Byrson Keller* was done in two weeks – which is funny because the book's timeline spans two weeks.

Editing is my favourite part of writing, so that took a bit more time, and now working with my editor – we made so many great changes that made this story so much stronger. I'm forever grateful because this is a story that I am proud of. So, all-in-all it's been a year of work to get it to where it is now.

Being a South African author, what made you decide to set your story in California?

I knew that this story unfolded in America but because I am from South Africa, I found it easier for me to create a fictional town. With Fairvale I was able to pluck bits and pieces of places I researched on the internet with towns/cities from here. With my editors help I was able to further ground this fictional town.

L.A has always fascinated me to be honest. I think growing up and watching all the stuff coming out of Hollywood, it's always held a sort of allure to me. So, I don't think it was really a conscious decision on my part. I knew Fairvale was a beach town and that screamed California to me. When it came to a concert and nightlife and the indie music scene that screamed L.A and thanks to some research I found the perfect spot in L.A for the concert to unfold in.

I am very excited that my second book is partly set in South Africa, so that's been fun.

Is this the kind of book you wish you had read as a young queer person?

Yes. Growing up, I never really got to see myself in the stories I read. So it was my goal with this book to tell a story that young me would have needed and devoured.

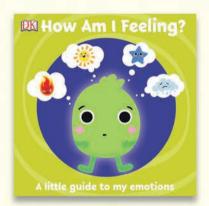
Date Me, Bryson Keller is available now at leading bookstores and online



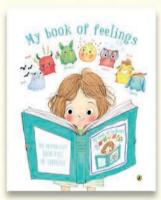


How are YOU feeling today?

The perfect introduction to encourage little ones to explore their feelings and manage their emotions...



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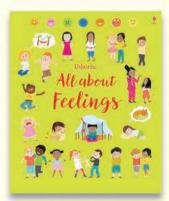
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Ed says:

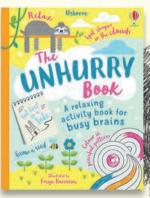
Nou in **Afrikaans**

'This is the perfect introduction to mindfulness. This box of 40 cards teaches children how to be mindful and handle stress by focusing their thoughts using fun activities.'





9781474950770



9781474970495



Managing our emotions

How books can help children understand their feelings

r. Sasha Lillie Lyons, clinical psychologist and expert consultant for Usborne's What are Feelings? book, explains how the universality of emotions portrayed in books can show a child that whatever they're feeling, they're not alone.

Books are a great way for children to learn about the world around them, to inspire their imaginations, and hopefully to create a life-long love of reading. But books can also be a fantastic tool for helping children to understand more about themselves, including their feelings. Learning to describe, express and manage their emotions – even from a young age – is an essential part of children's social and emotional development.

Young children may not always understand exactly what they're feeling and why. Their emotions can be confusing and feel overwhelming at times. Through reading about the characters in a book, children can develop the ability to describe what they're feeling, learn that it's okay to feel big feelings, and that it's okay to talk about them. They also start to explore different ways they might cope with more difficult emotions.

Feelings are something universal that we all experience, whatever our culture, background, ethnicity or religion. Children can learn this through reading a wide variety of books, which may show different characters in very different situations experiencing similar feelings. A sad rhino who needs a hug or a scared raccoon wanting their teddy will be instantly relatable to young children. The universality of emotions portrayed in books shows a child that whatever they're feeling, they're not alone, and this can be enormously comforting.

Picture books are a great way to show even very young children what feelings look like. A worried expression on a crocodile or



What are Feelings? (9781474948180) is available now at leading bookstores and online

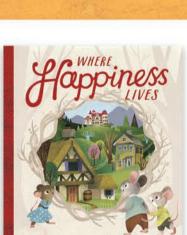
a grumpy face on a monkey can help children learn to recognise emotions in others and provide a great way for parents to start conversations about feelings: "Wow, he looks really angry in that picture, doesn't he? What do you think made him feel angry? What makes you feel angry?

Books are also a great way for parents to connect with older children around feelings. It's easy to ask an older child more factual questions about a book they're reading: "What's the book about?" Try asking follow-up questions about the characters' emotional lives: "That sounds like a tough situation for X - what do you think she was feeling? How would you have felt if that happened?"

Once they start to understand more about their feelings, it's helpful for children to learn different ways of coping with difficult feelings, too. We know that drawing and writing can be great tools for this. Others may prefer to spend time in nature or keep busy with their hands. Children and parents could come up with a list of "feel good" books together that help to lift the spirits and build resilience through life's inevitable ups and downs.

READER REVIEWS

This month, we asked Bianca Noel-Barham and Triston Alblas what they're reading...



Review by Bianca Noel-Barham

© @biancaleenoelbarham

@iambiancalee



9781848699526

I would like to share a beautiful dream that contains a poignant, positive, and powerful reminder.

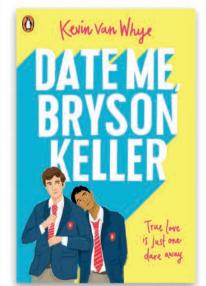
During the lockdown, I was lucky enough to receive a link to Barry Timms sharing his heartwarming tale of appreciating what you have, Where Happiness Lives. This gorgeously illustrated Little Tiger Press title with flaps to lift and peep-through pages is not only a smile-inducing picture book but also a wonderful way to engage children in discussions of

happiness. It explores contentment, materialism and teaches us that more is not always better. I especially loved that it reminds us that you might just have all that you already need. It made me take time to pause, take stock of what I already have, and find happiness there. In a world of "too much", a title like this reminds us of what really matters. A terrific addition to any home

your bookshelf!



or classroom bookshelf.



Review by Triston Alblas

@booktris

Date Me, Bryson Keller Kevin van Whye

9780241435267

To All the Boys I've Loved Before but make it gay! Date Me, Bryson Keller is a guirky and lighthearted story that will melt the heart of any reader! With the loveable and extremely relatable Kai, and the layered and swoon worthy Bryson, both at the centre of a High School Dare that leads to them "fake" dating for a week, makes for a drama filled funny and adventurous journey that will give you all the feels! The writing style is easy to digest and within seconds you will find yourself lost between the pages of Kai and Bryson's story! The author does an excellent job of balancing important discussions around identity, race and religion with the lighthearted atmosphere of teen RomCom, something rarely seen in literature. One aspect of this book that I personally appreciated was Kai's South African roots and his relatable inner dialogue as he navigates the messy situations he finds himself in. Overall I found this story to be wholesome, joyous and romantic and I highly recommend this, if you like classic coming of age romances with a contemporary angle!



CREAMY BROCCOLI PASTA BOWS

This might be Sophie, Isla and Emily's favourite dinner, and believe me it's worth shouting from the rooftops when all three are happy to eat the same thing, at the same time. We often serve it with sweet little grains of pasta rice (orzo) and they gobble it greedily and then I feel smug that I've managed to pack in so much green goodness without them noticing. Try it soon, I think it'll be a new family favourite for you too.

WHAT YOU NEED

200g your favourite pasta
(I like pasta bows for this)
grated parmesan or pecorino
to serve

a little lemon zest, to serve (optional)

Sauce

½ head broccoli, roughly chopped

2 courgettes, roughly chopped1-2 Tbsp full-fat cream cheese or feta or ricotta

2–3 Tbsp warm water to loosen if necessary

salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

WHAT TO DO

- 1. Cook the pasta according to packet instructions.
- 2. While the pasta cooks, boil or steam the broccoli and courgettes until tender, then leave to cool for a few minutes before blitzing together with the cheese, adding a dash of olive oil or warm water to loosen if necessary. Adjust the seasoning, toss through the warm pasta and serve immediately with a generous sprinkling of shaved parmesan or pecorino, and lemon zest, if using.

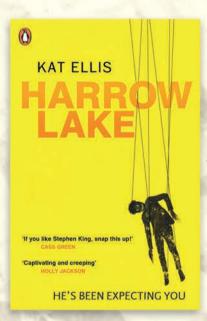
Serves **2** Ready in **15 minutes**



Recipe taken from *Super Natural* by Sarah Graham, published by Struik Lifestyle, 2020 9781485900658

THRILL ME

YA thrillers you won't be able to put down...



9780241397046 Welcome to Harrow Lake. Someone's expecting you...

Ed says: 'Warning: this one will keep you up

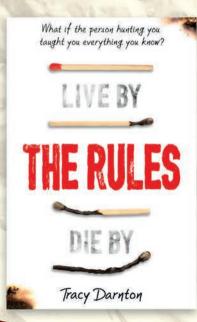
all night."

Good
Girl,
Bad
Blood
HOLLY JACKSON
Bestselling author of A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

9781405297752 **More dark**

secrets are exposed... and this time everyone is listening.

9781788952149
What if the
person hunting
you taught you
everything you
know?





9781405294911 Can a girl who can't see find a boy

who's in danger?



Which one is on your #TBR pile?

Prepare to discover the wonders of science

Quicker than Quicksand



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

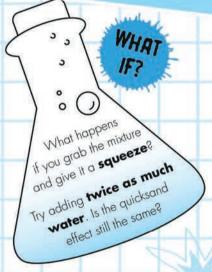
- Cornflour
- Water
- A plastic tub or jar



Pour one good-sized cup of cornflour into your container.



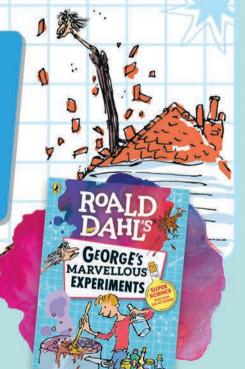
Add half as much water. Mix it up.



WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE:

This quicksand is similar to the dancing gloop experiment. If you stir the mixture slowly, it stays liquid-like. This is because the water is able to flow between the cornflour grains fairly easily. Stir it quickly, though, and the grains have no room to

move, so they get stuck together, turning the mixture thick, clumpy and almost solid. Try jabbing a pencil into it to see your quicksand instantly harden in that one spot. If you want to really impress people, you can tell them that this is an example of a non-Newtonian fluid, which defies the laws of (Newtonian) physics.



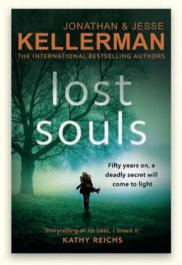


CLICK HERE to watch Greg Foot demonstrate for us four hands-on experiments you can easily recreate at home

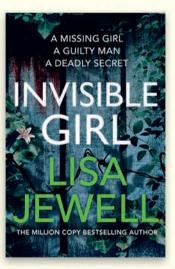
When in doubt,

READ

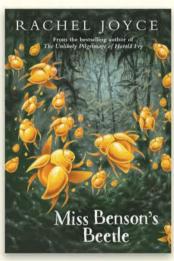
As a parent of two amazing, but very busy little girls, I know how difficult it is to find time to do the things we love - including reading! If you do manage to find that moment for yourself, these books deserve to be read.



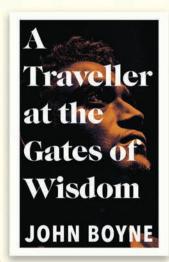
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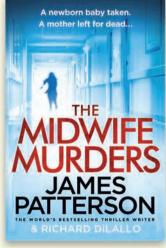
9781780899237



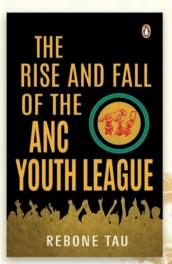
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9780857526205



9781787461994



9781776093700

Inside the Penguin colony...



Name:

Ingrid Playandi

Occupation:

Product Co-ordinator Children's Department

very now and again we get asked the question:
"How did you end up in Publishing?" For some of us, it was a natural calling, and for others, fate some way or another, placed us here. Whatever the reason, we are so happy to be here inside this colony, that we're glad to call our home.

In this issue, we speak to our Children's Department Product Co-ordinator, Ingrid Playandi...

How did you get started in publishing? My mum worked in publishing, so I was born in to it, in a sense. I love books so I wanted to follow in her path.

What qualities / qualifications do you think are necessary for your position? Passion, love and dedication.

What do you enjoy most about working for Penguin Random House? The range of diverse books that we publish. Before having my kids I loved books

by Sophie Kinsella and Nigella Lawson. Now that I have kids it's the DK and Usborne Phonics and Reader range that I favour most.

How did becoming a mother change your attitude towards children's books? I've learnt to appreciate and respect them.

Mohana-Li, my eldest daughter, does not allow her brother, Avery, to touch her books, so it's good that she has adopted the same attitude as I have.

Which books have you found most useful to share with your children during lockdown?

Apart from the Readers, the two books that have been most helpful are the Sticker Dolly Dressing series of books and the Totally Brain-Bending Puzzles.

What books or authors would you recommend to children interested in reading stories with strong female characters? Max Einstein by James Patterson, Matilda by Roald Dahl, Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens and Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery.

Which are your favourite children's books and why?

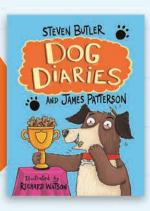
Dog Diaries by James
Patterson - I always wonder
what my dogs are thinking so
this somewhat answers that for
me. It's from a dog's perspective
and is quite funny.

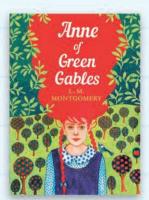
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery – I just love this story. It's a classic that stays with you forever.

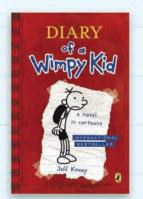
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by
Jeff Kinney - the series is
funny, quirky and packed with
adventure.

Which books are you currently reading? The children and I are reading Disney's 365 Stories, as well as the Storytime Lap Books Series from DK which include The Ugly Duckling, Jack and the Beanstalk, Pinocchio, and Jonah and the Whale. I am reading Reverie by Ryan Ia Sala.

Ingrid's top 3 children's books









You've binge-watched the series...

Now read the books!



Cursed

Whosoever wields the Sword of Power shall be the one true King. But what if the Sword has chosen a Queen?

Nimue grew up an outcast. Her connection to dark magic made her something to be feared in her Druid village, and that made her desperate to leave... That is, until her entire village is slaughtered by Red Paladins, and Nimue's fate is forever altered. Charged by her dying mother to reunite an ancient sword with a legendary sorcerer, Nimue is now her people's only hope. Her mission leaves little room for revenge, but the growing power within her can think of little else.

Nimue teams up with a charming mercenary named Arthur and refugee Fey Folk from across England. She wields a sword meant for the one true king, battling paladins and the armies of a corrupt king. She struggles to unite her people, avenge her family, and discover the truth about her destiny. But perhaps the one thing that can change Destiny itself is found at the edge of a blade.



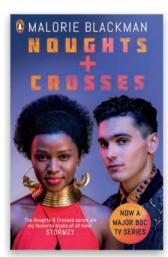
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As seen on:

Showmax



CLICK HERE to watch the trailor



9780241388396

Noughts & Crosses

Sephy is a Cross: dark-skinned and beautiful, she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her.

Callum is a nought: pale-skinned and poor, he's considered to be less than nothing – a blanker, there to serve Crosses – but he dreams of a better life.

They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question.

As seen on:

Netflix

Then – in spite of a world that is fiercely against them – these star-crossed lovers choose each other.

But this is a love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger... and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.



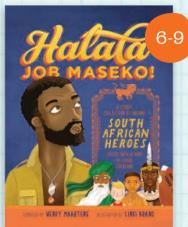
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Nuut op die rak van LAPA Uitgewers

Boeke vol avontuur met 'n sprokiesverhaal-kinkel... 9780799398939 Halala, onbesonge helde! 9780799398847

Lag nog meer en nog harder! 9780639600628







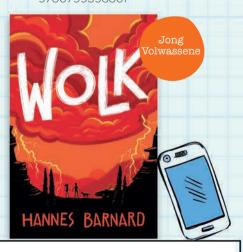
Wil jy graag 'n prinses word? 9780799397765



'n Buitengewone reis na die buitenste ruim... 9780799399752



Wat gebeur as jy die apokalips misloop? 9780799398861







Ones to watch

These books may not be new, but they definitely are ones worth their weight in gold!



Brave, clever and never more than a whisker away from adventure!

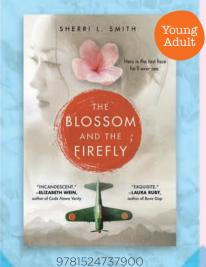
9781788951876

June, 1905. Helena is swept off to Cambridge when her father is appointed clock-winder to one of the wealthiest men in England. There is only one rule: the clocks must never stop...



9781474959568

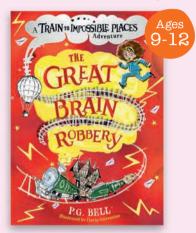
A powerful WWII romance between two Japanese teens caught in the cogs of an unwinnable war.



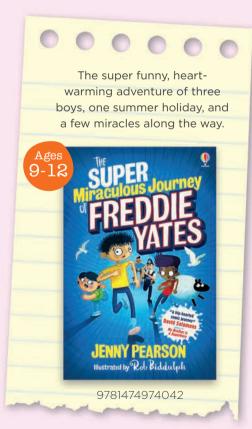
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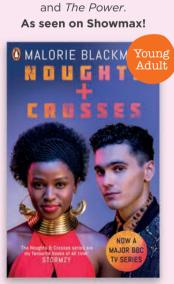
'Add these to your reading pile now - you can thank me later!'

Join Suzy for her highlyanticipated second journey in *The Great Brain Robbery*.



9781474972215





Perfect for fans of

The Handmaid's Tale

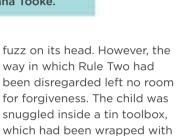
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Editor's Choice

Do yourself a favour and get a copy of *The Unadoptables* by Hana Tooke as soon as possible! I loved this story from the very first page... this mesmerising middle-grade debut is gorgeously-written and tells about the power of friendship and the true meaning of family.



Read on for an exclusive extract from The Unadoptables by Hana Tooke.



'Ugh!' Elinora Gassbeek squawked, looking down at the toolbox-baby in disgust. She signalled a nearby orphan to retrieve it. 'Put it upstairs.'

emerald green ribbon, as if it

were a present.

The orphan nodded. 'What name shall I put on the cot, Matron?'

The matron curled her lip. Naming children was tedious, but necessary.

'She's got a lotta fingers, Matron!'

The baby was sucking its thumb, making loud slurping noises that sent ants crawling up the matron's spine. She counted the child's fingers. Sure enough, it had an extra digit on each hand.

'Name it ... Lotta.'

The second baby arrived on a blustery evening in September, as a mischievous wind rattled the orphanage's many wooden shutters.

An orphan walked into the dining hall, cradling a coal bucket as if it were a bouquet of flowers. Something was whimpering inside the bucket. Peering in, the matron was displeased to find a raven-haired infant, wrapped in a sootstained shawl, blinking up at her.

UNADOPTABLE

Hana Tooke

9780241417461

'Poor thing was abandoned beside the coal bunker,' the orphan said.

'Disgraceful!' Gassbeek screeched, referring to the breaking of Rule Two and Rule Three. 'Take it away.'

'A name for him. Matron?' the orphan asked nervously.

Elinora Gassbeek took another reluctant look at the coalbucket baby, its charcoal-blackened nose and the shabby shawl that was wrapped snuggly round it. The cotton shawl looked like it had, possibly, been brightly coloured once.

Now, however, it was a mottled shade of grev, with a barely discernible pattern of darker grey ovals. Like rotten eggs, the matron thought. 'Name it ... Egbert.'



AMSTERDAM, 1880

Little Tulip Orphanage Rules of Baby Abandonment **RULE ONE:** The baby should be wrapped in a cotton blanket. RULE TWO: The baby should be placed in a wicker basket.

RULE THREE: The baby should be deposited on the topmost step.

In all the years that Elinora Gassbeek had been matron of the Little Tulip Orphanage, not once had the Rules of Baby Abandonment been broken. Until the summer of 1880. Five babies were abandoned at the Little Tulip Orphanage in the months that followed and, despite the rules being clearly displayed on the orphanage's front door, not one of these babies was abandoned sensibly.

The first baby arrived on a bright morning at the end of August, as dew glistened on the city's cobblestone streets.

Swaddled in a pink cotton blanket, and placed on the appropriate step, was a baby with cocoa-bean eyes and blonde



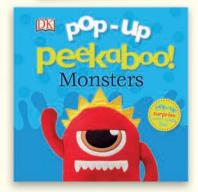
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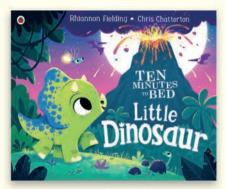
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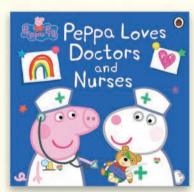


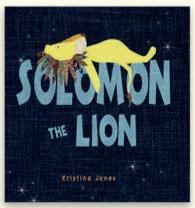
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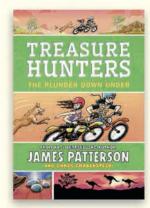


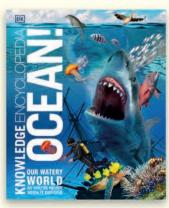


















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