



The Huddle

A magazine about books for kids and young adults

Autumn Edition
ISSUE 3

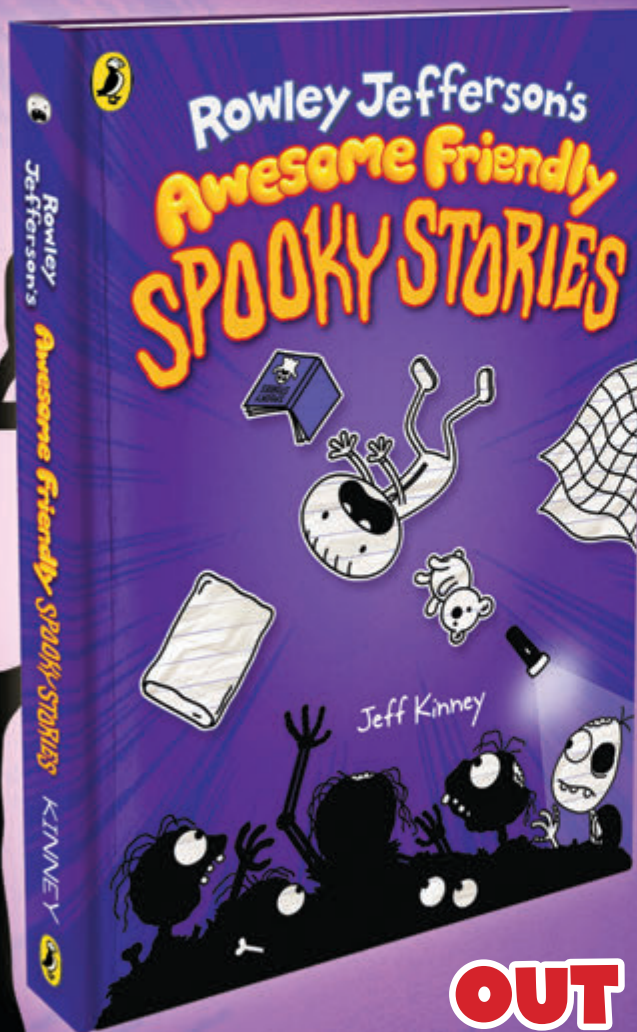
WELCOME

your
free
copy





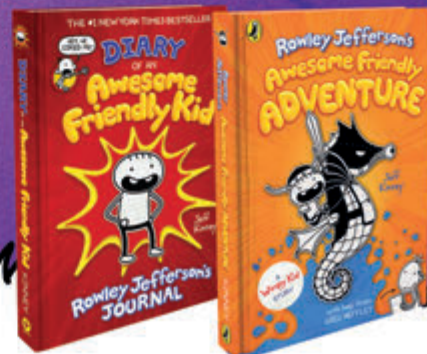
SCARE YOURSELF SILLY



New from
Jeff Kinney
#1 international
bestselling author of
Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Grab a flashlight, crawl under the covers, and dive into the twisted, unexpectedly hilarious world of Rowley Jefferson's imagination.

DON'T MISS THESE
Awesome Friendly
INSTANT
#1 BESTSELLERS



ALSO IN
AFRIKAANS

OUT
16.03.21

AVAILABLE 16 MARCH AT LEADING BOOKSTORES AND ONLINE

Letter from: the editor



Hello Readers

I can't believe it is March already! And although we still find ourselves in uncharted waters, I can't help but feel a little hopeful. Hopeful that this year will be better than the last, hopeful that the vaccine brings much needed relief to all those on the frontlines, and hopeful that we will be able to get back to some kind of normality in the near future.

In our new Autumn edition, you can look forward to reading an extract from *The Hatmakers* – a spellbinding world brimming with magic and wonder! And *proud moment* Tamzin is partly South African as she grew up here before moving to England in her early teens.

I love the article on page 7, entitled: '7 reasons why a book is the perfect gift for your child', written by Emma Baxter. I think we can all agree that this is indeed true! Whether it is a birthday, Easter, Christmas, or even a graduation, a book is always a good idea!

In other exciting news, Refiloe Moahloli is back! Her new book, *How Many Ways Can You Say Goodbye*, will teach children (and adults!) how to say goodbye in all of South Africa's 11 official languages. You can read more about Refiloe on page 8.

And if you're looking for inspiration when it comes to the kitchen, turn to page 12. Jax Moorcroft teaches us how to make delicious Butternut Chicken Subs – which even children are sure to like! Jax's new cookbook, *The Flexitarian Foodie* is out now.

And finally, make a note of our upcoming releases – you don't want to miss out. In the meantime, 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 us at thehuddle@penguinrandomhouse.co.za



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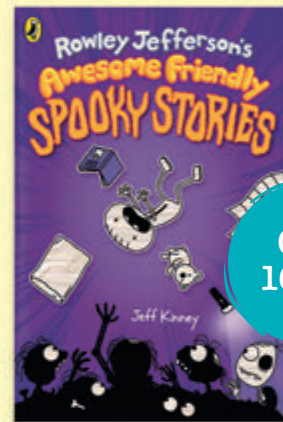
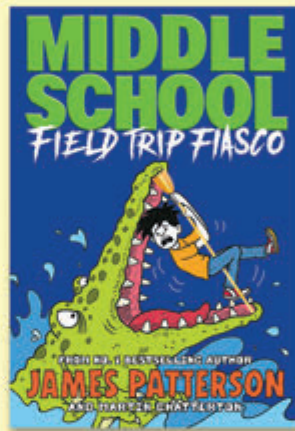
20 **Colour me in**
Colouring-in fun for kids

JUST IN...

Our top reads for 9-12-year-olds



Turn over for an exclusive extract!



Out 16.03



Now in Afrikaans





THE HATMAKERS

Keep wildness in your wits ...
and magic in your fingertips...



CHAPTER 1

It was a wild and lightning-struck night. The kind of night that changes everything.

Jagged forks of light ripped across the sky and thunder rolled in tidal waves over the rooftops and spires of London.

With the rain lashing down and the clouds crashing above, it felt like the whole city was under the sea.

But Cordelia Hatmaker was not afraid. In her candle-lit room at the very top of Hatmaker House, she was pretending to be aboard the *Jolly Bonnet*. The ship was being tossed by massive waves as she staggered across the deck (really her hearthrug), fighting a howling wind.

BOOM.

'Batten down those hatches, Fortescue!' she yelled. 'I've got to lash myself to the wheel!'

A tin soldier stared blankly from the mantel.

'Aye, aye, Cap'n!' Cordelia squeaked, out of the corner of her mouth.

BOOM.

'Enemy fire!' Cordelia cried, seizing the back of her wooden chair and heaving. Under her hands it became a great ship's wheel.

BOOM.

A violent gust of wind blew the window open. The candle sputtered out and Cordelia was

plunged into darkness.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM.

Echoing up the five storeys of Hatmaker House came the sound of somebody pounding on the front door.

Cordelia scrambled down the ladder from her bedroom and galloped along the top corridor. Aunt Ariadne emerged from her chamber, wrapped in a plum-coloured velvet dressing gown. Uncle Tiberius appeared, grizzle-headed from sleep.

'Father!' Cordelia cried, skidding past them. 'My father's home!'

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM.

Cordelia raced down the spiral staircase that twisted through the middle of Hatmaker House. She hurtled past Great-aunt Petronella, snoozing in front of the flickering lilac fire in her Alchemy Parlour. She rushed past the tall doors of the Hatmaking Workshop and, deciding that sliding down the corkscrew bannister would be quickest, in three heartbeats she reached the bottom floor.

Her bare feet slapped the cold tiles of the hallway. She shook her head to chase away the dizziness and ran (in not quite a straight line because she was still a little giddy) across the wide hall to the door.

White light flared across the sky as she turned the hefty key in the lock. A tall figure loomed through

the pebbly window.

Thunder clapped overhead as she pulled open the heavy oak door.

A crack of lightning split the sky in two.

A man stood on the front step of Hatmaker House. He was drenched, ragged and gasping in the wind.

It was not her father.

CHAPTER 2

Cordelia stumbled backwards as the man lurched through the door, bringing the rain and the unruly wind into the house with him. His rich brocade cloak smelled of sea spray and salt.

'Lord Witloof!' It was Aunt Ariadne, carrying a lantern down the stairs. 'What on earth has happened?'

Lord Witloof was dripping a puddle of rainwater on to the hall floor.

'Alas, not earth, Madam Hatmaker, but sea!' Lord Witloof wheezed. 'Something has happened at sea!'

Cordelia felt as though a Siberian Ice Spider was crawling down her neck.

'Please, my Lord, tell us what has occurred,' said Uncle Tiberius.

'Has something happened to the *Jolly Bonnet*?' Cook appeared

Who is Tamzin Merchant?

Tamzin Merchant has been an actor since the age of seventeen. Her acting work has taken her around the world and on a journey through time. She has been a Tudor, a Victorian, a Jacobean and a Georgian. She survived the Blitz in 1940 and succumbed to pneumonia in Edwardian times. She's been an alien, a witch, a doomed queen, a feisty Scottish warrior and a rebellious high-society runaway.

The Hatmakers is Tamzin's first book.



in the kitchen doorway, her hair in rag-rolls and a wooden spoon in her hand.

'Where is my father? Captain Hatmaker?' Cordelia's voice was thin and quivery with fear.

Lord Witloof took the black tricorne hat off his head and tipped out a large volume of water from its brim.

'The *Jolly Bonnet*,' he pronounced, 'has been sunk. She crashed on to those ghastly rocks that guard the entrance to Rivermouth.'

The wind howled through the house.

'But my father? Where is he?' Cordelia asked.

The Ice Spider was spinning a freezing web around her insides.

Lord Witloof looked down at his boots.

'I was there. Waiting at the top of the lighthouse to see that the ship was guided safely through the strait,' he muttered, gripping his hat, knuckles white. 'The palace has been most anxious for Captain Hatmaker to return with the final ingredient for the king's new hat. But tonight ...'

Lord Witloof stopped, eyes filled with horror.

'The sails came into view through the storm,' he went on, face grey. 'I was close enough to hear the crew's cries on the wind, saw Captain Hatmaker himself at

the wheel ... but before the ship could pass the rocks to reach the safe haven of Rivermouth, a terrible wave crested from the black ocean and cast the *Jolly Bonnet* upon them. The ship was matchsticks in a matter of moments.'

Cordelia was shaking her head. Then she realized her whole self was shaking.

'All went down with the ship,' Lord Witloof whispered.

'None survived.'

'But ... no,' Cordelia said. 'My father is the best swimmer I know. He can swim through storms and whirlpools. He can't have sunk!'

Lord Witloof looked seasick and sad.

'Captain Hatmaker is lost at sea,' he said. 'I am sorry.'

Cordelia's grief and fury, stronger than her shaking legs, carried her back up the stairs. Aunt Ariadne's voice was a ragged flag fluttering behind her. A treacherous tide of tears swelled in her eyes as she felt her way along the top corridor.

She wrenched open the door at the end and the achingly familiar smell of her father broke over her.

It was the smell of spices he brought back from his adventures, and cedar and woodsmoke and sea air. Cordelia launched herself on to his empty bed and buried herself in the scratchy wool blankets.

She lay with her face pressed

into the pillow, feeling as though the saddest song she had ever heard was trying to burst out of her. It howled through her stomach and into her chest and wound round her heart and up into her throat, where she could feel it juddering with despair.

'Cordelia?' whispered Aunt Ariadne, tiptoeing into the room.

The thunder rumbled overhead. It sounded like ships crashing on rocks.

'My poor Cordelia.'

Cordelia lay with her whole body tense, determined not to let the sad song out of her mouth. A warm hand rested on her back. Eventually her aunt said, 'This will help you sleep, my love.'

She stroked Cordelia's hair aside and Cordelia felt the velvet of a Moonbloom Nightcap being pulled gently on to her head.

The nightcap worked a dark-purple kind of magic and she was asleep in the space of a single sigh. Tentacles beckoned her from the deep and she called to her father, but her voice was lost among the shapes of waves. All night long the words *lost at sea, lost at sea, lost at sea* whispered to her in storm-tossed dreams, and an albatross keened and curled in a strange sky.

In the morning, she woke with an idea.

What is lost can be found.

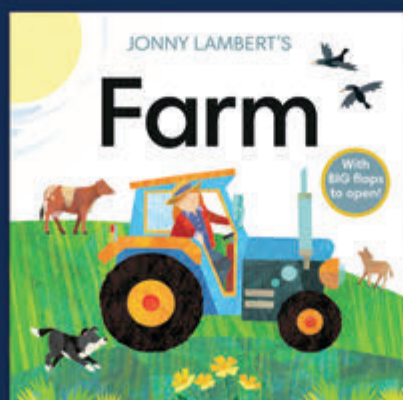
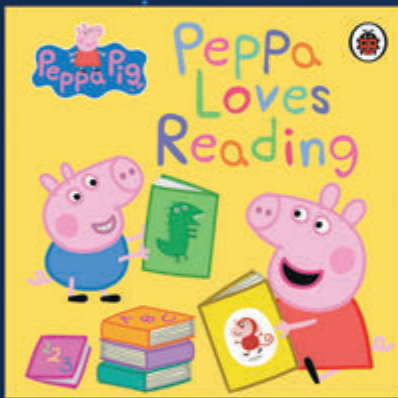


The best new books for little readers

Add an extra sprinkle of magic to bedtime with these beautiful books for little readers.

Ed says:

'Learn how to say goodbye in all of SA's 11 official languages!'





7 Reasons

why a book is the perfect gift

for a child



Written by Emma Baxter, Usborne's Global Content Creator

When you give a child a book as a gift, you're actually giving them so much more. Here are 7 reasons why a book is a wonderful gift for any child.

1 A book is a gift for life. Even as adults we can return to our childhood favourites and pass them down to our own children.

2 Books never go out of fashion. Loom bands and fidget spinners - remember them? Books never go out of fashion or lose their appeal.

3 A book encourages a life-long love of reading. Wrapped up beautifully and given with love sends the message that a book is something special, something to treasure.

4 Books help children relax. A study by Sussex University showed that reading reduces children's stress by 68%.

5 Books build empathy. Through reading, children learn about people, places and events outside their own experience. They are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs that may be different from those around them. Books help children chart their own moral course and reflect on what's right and wrong.

6 Books increase intelligence later in life. Numerous studies show that children who read from a young age develop higher intelligence later in life, as well as increasing their knowledge of the world.

7 There is so much choice, you can't fail to disappoint. Whatever a child's age or interests there is a book for them. Do they like computers? Jokes? Fantasy stories? Art and design? Unicorns? Dragons? Fun facts? There's so much to choose from!

Are you looking for that perfect gift? Here are some ideas!



0-3



6-9



9-12



9-12



Interview with Refiloe Moahloli

This month we speak to Refiloe Moahloli, the best-selling author of *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* The sequel, *How Many Ways Can You Say Goodbye?* is available now!



After Sara and her friends had an exciting journey in a hot air balloon to see the country and find out how to say 'hello' in *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?*, they are making a return trip across South Africa to see more sights and to drop off the friends, one by one. As they do so, they also need to find out how to say 'goodbye' to one another in all of the country's 11 official languages.

But just as Sara starts to feel sad, she discovers that 'goodbye' can be the start of something new, something wonderful. Join her and find this out for yourself too.

This is another delightful story of rhyming verse, accompanied by charming illustrations, and a must for all young South African children. And if parents/grandparents/carers aren't sure how to pronounce 'goodbye' in all 11 official languages, there is a digital link to the text, narrated by the author herself, to guide with authentic pronunciation.

Tell us a bit about yourself outside of being a writer?

Hmmm tricky one, lately I think writing is all I do. I do love to dance. And have very serious dance parties with family.

What is your favourite thing about being a writer?

I experience the world through words. I process through writing, words allow me to express who I am - and are a way for me to share who I am with others.

What or whom do you draw your inspiration from?

I draw inspiration from my own experiences, in relationships with others. What I write about usually has some personal connection - either something I have explored, am currently exploring or wish to explore.

What is your creative process?

The process is a cycle. Excitement at the idea, anxiety at having to get something down, blind panic as time ticks by, calm

as I write by my favourite tree in the garden, ease as I allow the story to flow through me, excitement as the story unfolds, devotion to see it through to completion, anxiety at having to submit it to the publisher, ease as we move into the editing phase. And then absolute joy.

Why did you decide to write a book about the different ways to say hello and goodbye in South Africa?

Hello was written with the intention that every South African child (and the inner child in adults) recognises their inherent worth and that of another. *Goodbye* is about embracing change, expressing the sadness in letting go, but also recognising the joy in being open to something new.

What is the one message you would like to convey to your readers?

Who you are is beautiful. What you feel is important.

Do you have any advice for aspiring authors?

For as long as your heart is in it, there is hope; and possibilities are endless.



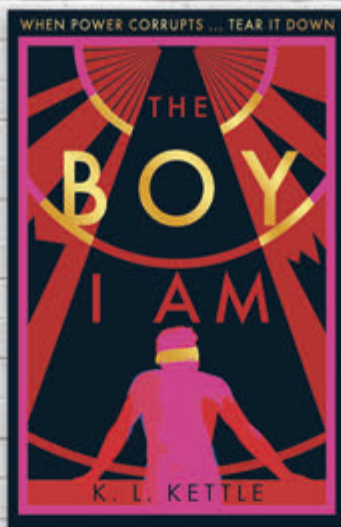
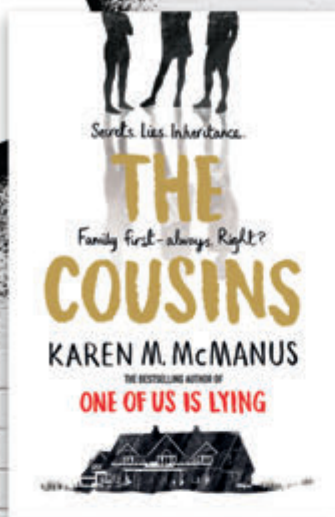
‘For as long as your heart is in it, there is hope; and possibilities are endless.’



How Many Ways Can You Say Goodbye? is available now at leading bookstores and online



The brand new thriller from international bestselling author of *One of Us is Lying*.

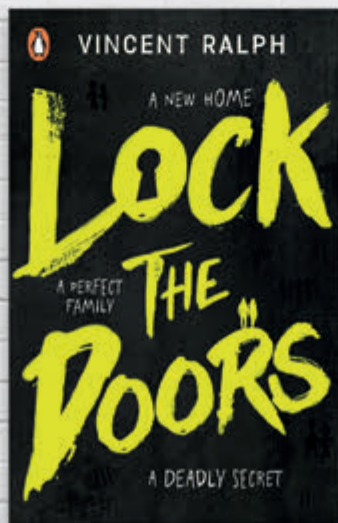


EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT...

these HIGHLY-anticipated
Young Adult reads.

DO. NOT.
MISS. OUT.

Ed says: "The must-read new bold and immersive West African-inspired fantasy series."



A new home. A perfect family. A deadly secret.

Add these to your TBR list ASAP!

THE EPIC YA FANTASY OF THE YEAR

THE
GILDED
ONES

NAMINA FORNA

"Fans of Children of Blood and Bone and Black Panther are going to adore this one."

BUZZFEED



COVER ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNNY TARAJOSU



USBORNE

Real food – conscious living

The Flexitarian Foodie is a collection of proudly South African, budget-approved, family-friendly recipes that show how achievable it is to eat delicious, real food and live consciously and mindfully, no matter the situation.



Butternut chicken subs

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2 whole butternuts, halved lengthways and seeds removed
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup shredded leftover cooked chicken
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- ½ cup pumpkin seeds, toasted
- ½ cup fresh basil, roughly chopped, plus extra to garnish
- ½ cup grated hard cheese (e.g. organic or grass-fed cheddar, parmesan)
- 1 teaspoon ground paprika

WHAT TO DO WITH IT

- 1 Preheat the oven to 180°C.
- 2 Rub the butternuts with olive oil and season the flesh with salt and pepper.
- 3 Place the butternuts skin side down on a baking tray and bake for 30–45 minutes, until a fork can easily be inserted.
- 4 Leave them to cool long enough so that they can be handled. Using a spoon, scrape out the flesh into a bowl, making sure to keep the butternut skins intact for use later.
- 5 Add the shredded cooked chicken, cinnamon, coconut oil, pumpkin seeds, more salt and pepper and the basil to the bowl of butternut and mix everything together until well combined.
- 6 Using a spoon, scoop the butternut and chicken mixture back into the butternut skins. Sprinkle over the grated cheese evenly and sprinkle over some paprika.
- 7 Increase the oven temperature to 200°C. Bake the filled butternuts until the cheese has melted and parts of the butternut start to crisp up. Garnish with extra basil before serving.

SERVES 4



Jax Moorcroft is a busy mom of two who moonlights as a blogger, recipe developer and all-round foodie enthusiast.

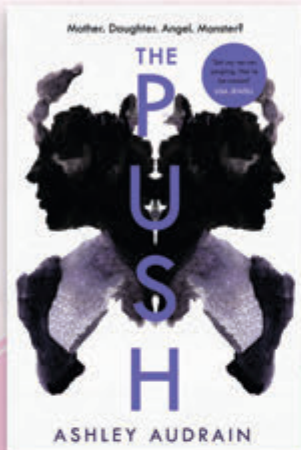


PALLARES
SOLSONA

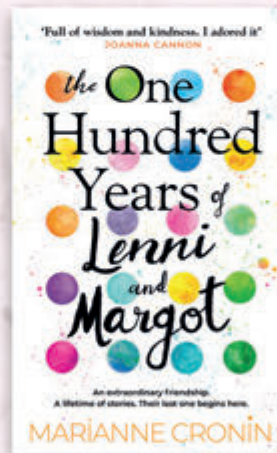
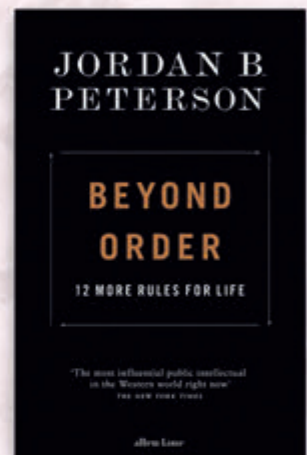
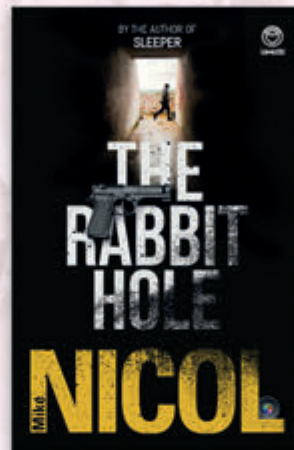
RELEASE RADAR

Books for grown-ups

Be the envy of your book club as you tell them all about your next favourite read...



What happens when your experience of motherhood is nothing at all what you hoped for, but everything you always feared?



Ed says: "Fiercely alive, disarmingly funny and brimming with tenderness, *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* unwraps the extraordinary gift of life even when it is about to be taken away, and revels in our infinite capacity for friendship and love when we need them most."



The Penguin Post

The Penguin Post is a Penguin Random House magazine aimed at book lovers. Sign up to receive *The Penguin Post*, delivered straight to your inbox every month! Visit www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za to subscribe.



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READER REVIEWS

This month, we asked Tammy February and Jerusha Behari what they're reading...



Reviewed by Jerusha Behari

 @jerubehari

Don't Be Shy, Bushbaby Avril van der Merwe

★★★★★



Too long has the bushbaby been side lined in literature!

These furry, nocturnal animals are perfect storybook heroes, as Avril van der Merwe demonstrates in *Don't be shy, Bushbaby*, aimed at kids aged three to six.

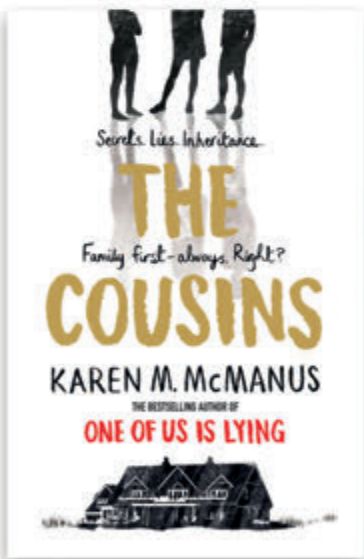
In fact, so powerful a protagonist is Bushbaby that he's the star of the show, even though his first appearance is only in the second half of the book.

The animals in the jungle are curious about Bushbaby; they never see him. They assume he's shy because he keeps to his hidey-hole all day. Giraffe, Monkey, Warthog and the others try to entice Bushbaby to come out


to play, but he doesn't respond. Meanwhile, Owl watches.


But when the other animals have gone to sleep, the big-eyed creature emerges to scamper, chatter, and snack the night away – like a true extrovert. His vibrant night-time activities jump off the page thanks to Heidi-Kate Greeff's warm, bold illustrations, which bring out the personalities of the colourful characters.


The message is clear: others may judge you but what they believe is irrelevant as long as you are true to your nature. And there will always be someone who gets you – just as Owl understands and accepts Bushbaby.



Reviewed by Tammy February

 bookfairhaven.blogspot.com

 @tammy_bookbell

 Tammy24_7



The Cousins Karen M. McManus

★★★★★

Vengeance, lies and family secrets cast a long shadow in Karen M. McManus's thrilling and twisty new mystery YA novel.

With her talent for creating riveting plot twists and unreliable characters, Karen M. McManus's *The Cousins* is told from the perspective of Milly, Aubrey and Jonah Story, three cousins who haven't seen each other in years.

And why would they, when their parents have barely spoken to each other after being disinherited by their mother for reasons they still struggle to understand years later.

When the grandchildren are invited to spend the entire summer at their elusive and enigmatic grandmother's resort, it's a chance

for the cousins to bond and finally meet the mysterious matriarch who has been such a puzzle to them all these years.

When they arrive all is not what it seems – and the teens soon discover that the Story family's legacy is one that's mired in deeply rooted secrets; secrets that some would prefer being left alone.

The Cousins by Karen M. McManus is a delightful and intricate mystery that's both clever in its set up and in its execution.

At its heart it's a story about vengeance, the dangers of buying into the hype of your own family legacy and the far-reaching consequences of being blinded by privilege and entitlement.

LAPA

LESIE MATHIAS | MARIË DE VRIES
LIZELLE VAN DER MERWE | PETER VAN DER MERWE

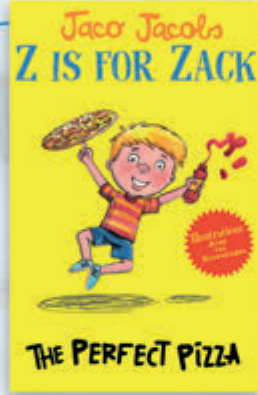
WAT'S LEKKER BY LAPA?

Nuut op die rakke



Hierdie 5-in-1 versamelbundel bestaan uit vyf geïllustreerde stories van vyf baie bekende skrywers!

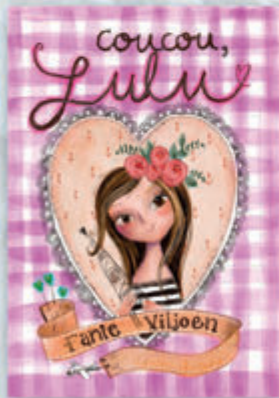
5+



Now available in English!



7+



Drome word waar in die laaste boek in hierdie gewilde meisiereeks!

7+



Wat sal jy doen as jy die LOTTO wen?

11+



Warno sal moet keer, want nou's daar méér. Meer skrikke. Meer skokke. Meer spoke.

13+



Hannah vlieg... op wiele!

13+

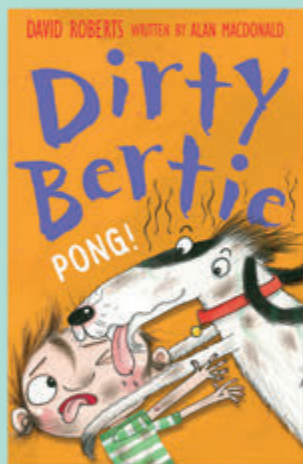


Dirty Bertie

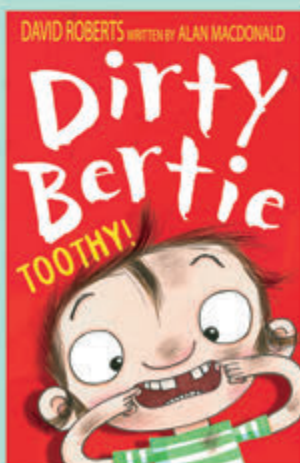
Dirty Bertie – the boy with nose-pickingly disgusting habits – continues to delight readers with his crazy plans and madcap ideas!

DAVID ROBERTS
WRITTEN BY ALAN MACDONALD

NEW!
Coming
April



Join Bertie as he has a brush with some angry bees, deals with his warring grannies and tries to smuggle Whiffer into a very smart hotel



Ed says:
'Dirty Bertie is perfect for readers aged 6-9.'

Slime Stress Balls

Make some clear slime and squeeze it into a balloon to make your own stress balls to play with!

YOU WILL NEED

FOR THE CLEAR SLIME

- * ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- * 120 ml (4 fl oz) warm water
- * 140 ml (5 fl oz) clear craft glue
- * eyewash – it must contain boric acid and sodium borate

FOR THE STRESS BALL

- * balloons
- * fruit or vegetable net bag



Put the bicarbonate of soda and water into a bowl and mix in the clear glue.



Beat in small amounts of eyewash until the mixture turns gloopy. Add more eyewash if it is too sticky!

TIME: **10 MINUTES** 

.....

DIFFICULTY: **EASY** 

.....

WARNING: **NON-EDIBLE** 

3



Push your clear slime mix into a balloon and tie up the end.

4



Wrap the net bag around the balloon. Enjoy squishing and squeezing your stress ball.



MAY STAIN!

TOP TIP!

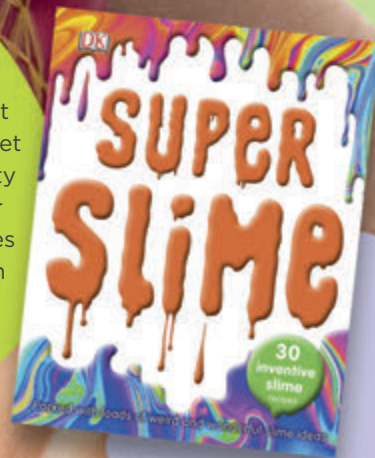
.....
Be careful not to overfill your balloon and make sure there are no big air bubbles inside before you tie it up.



SUPER SLIME

The most incredible, gooiest trend that's taking the internet by storm - slime! This activity book for kids contains over 30 squishy innovative recipes that are gross, sparkly, even smelly, for loads of fun!

OUT NOW!





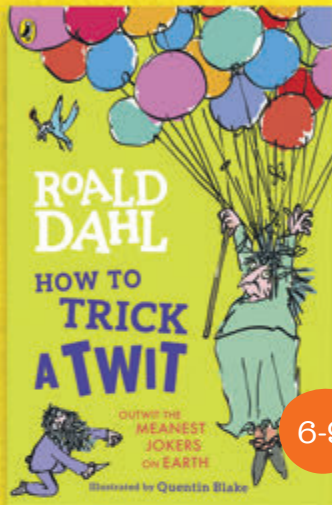
colour
me in



MAKE A NOTE!

For the ultimate booklover...
Diarise these dates so you don't miss out!

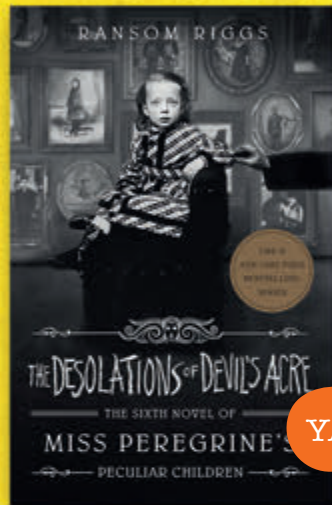
April



6-9

The ultimate guide to Twit trickery, stuffed with fun activities, stories, jokes and more!

April



YA

The epic conclusion to the internationally bestselling *Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children* series.

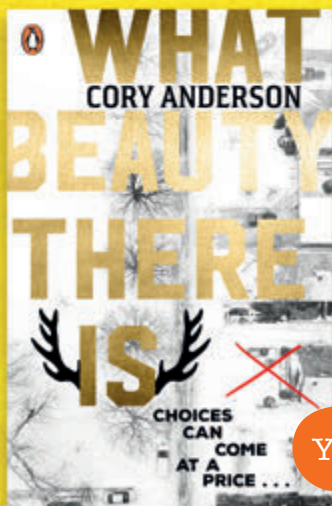
May



3-6

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May



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June



3-6

This story will help little ones everywhere settle down for a good night's sleep!

June



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