

The Huddle



A magazine about books for kids and young adults

ISSUE 11 Spring Edition



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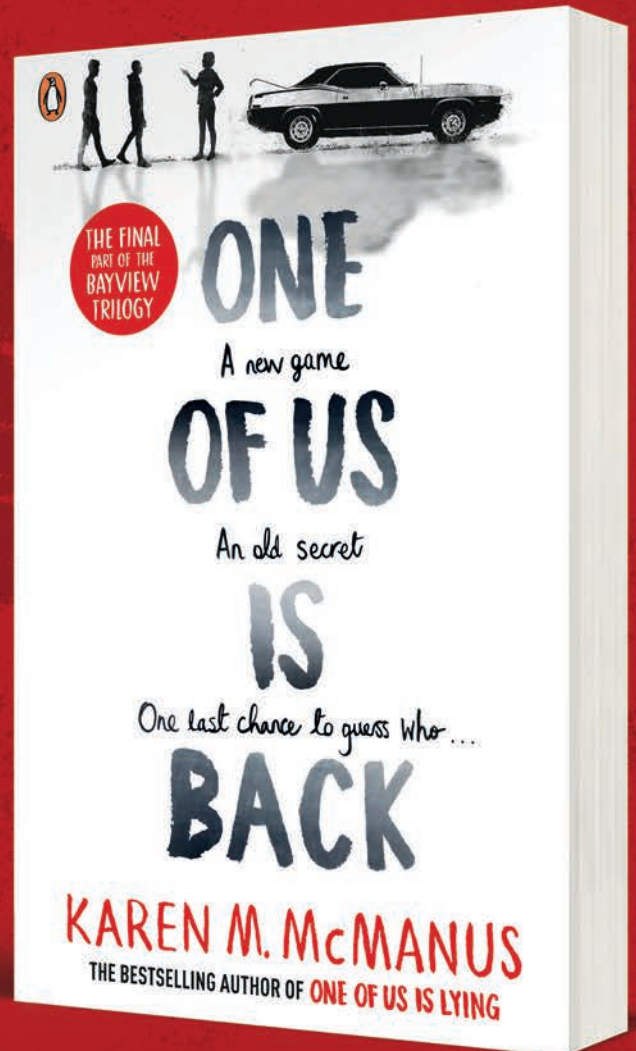
ONE OF US IS BACK

KAREN M. McMANUS

The global phenomenon returns
with the third book in the
ONE OF US IS LYING series, from
#1 *New York Times* bestselling
author Karen M. McManus.



WHEN SOMEONE FROM THE
BAYVIEW FOUR'S PAST RESURFACES,
HISTORY BEGINS TO REPEAT ITSELF -
AND THE CONSEQUENCES ARE DEADLY.



Letter from: the editor

Hello Readers

My favourite time of the year has officially arrived! We are finally over the winter slump, and it is so refreshing to see beautiful new flowers popping up everywhere. And this Spring season also promises to deliver on incredible new books – for all ages and stages. We have the delightful Bluey and her family teaching us all sorts of lessons; we have the greatest storyteller of all time, Roald Dahl; and we have the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twisty young adult thrillers, Karen McManus.

And while we're taking about young adult books, one of the most anticipated young adult books for 2023 is here! *Girl, Goddess, Queen* is a Hades and Persephone fantasy romance written by a growing TikTok superstar, Bea Fitzgerald. Do yourselves a favour and follow her on TikTok @chaosonolympus. You can read an extract on page 12.

And just in case you thought you knew everything about one of our favourite authors, Jeff Kinney, think again! Do you know who Jeff's favourite character is? Or how many hours a day he spends drawing these characters? Turn to page 4 to find out. We cannot wait for the brand new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 18: No Brainer*, coming out on 24 October!

But we have lots to look

forward to before then, including Roald Dahl Day on 13 September. We have loads of fun and fantabulous activities as we celebrate the kindness of James, the bravery of Matilda, the heart of the BFG, the imagination of George and the invention of Wonka. No matter where you're celebrating, you're sure to have a truly wonderful day! PS: If you haven't seen the movie trailer for *WONKA* yet, be sure to check it out soon.

And then we're very excited to showcase some of our future shelf stoppers on page 21. From search-and-find with Wonka to heroic escapades in a brand new Percy Jackson adventure; to *Murtagh*, an epic new fantasy from the internationally bestselling author of *Eragon*, Christopher Paolini. With all of these to choose from, plus many more, I'm not sure how you're going to choose a favourite!

And lastly, as always, if there's anything you'd like to know, please contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

Happy reading!

Kim

Kim Peters

Get in touch

For any queries, or for more information, contact us at thehuddle@penguinrandomhouse.co.za



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In this issue

02 **Spring into reading**
Brand new beauties

03 **New and Noteworthy Non-Fiction**
Quench your thirst for knowledge

Getting to know... 04
Jeff Kinney

06 **Where's Wonka?**
A search-and-find book

08 **An interview with Jan Braai**

Books to celebrate Heritage Day 10

Reader Reviews 11

12 **Girl, Goddess, Queen**
An exclusive extract

Books for Young Adults 14
What books are blooming on your Spring TBR?

15 **Release Radar**

16 **Roald Dahl**
Did you know?

Celebrating Usborne's 50th Birthday 18
50 years of books for curious kids

19 **Tippie's First Book of...**
Brand new board books!

Colouring in with 20
It's Wonderful Me

21 **Future Shelf Stoppers**

back page Win!



Spring into reading with these brand new beauties!



0-3



3-6



9-12



9-12



9-12



YA



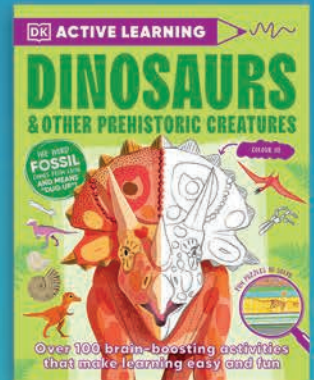
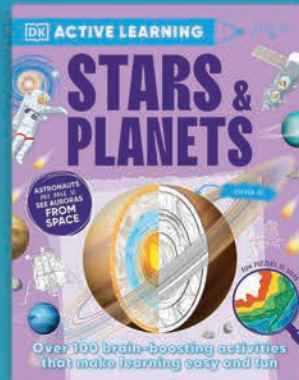
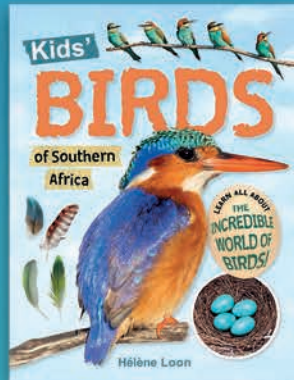
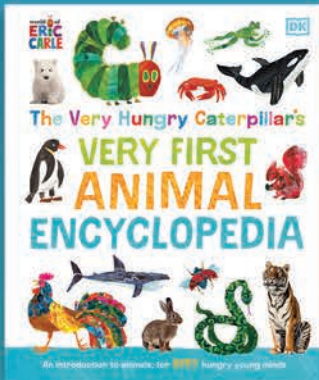
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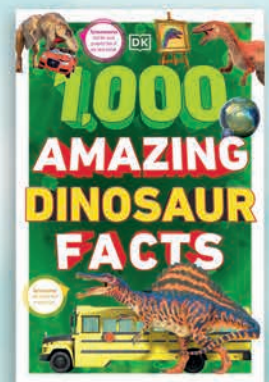
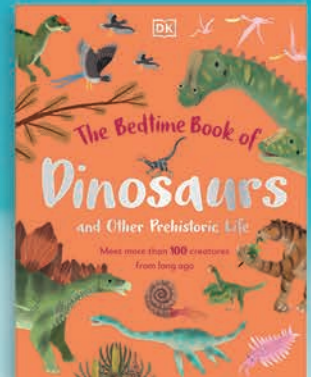
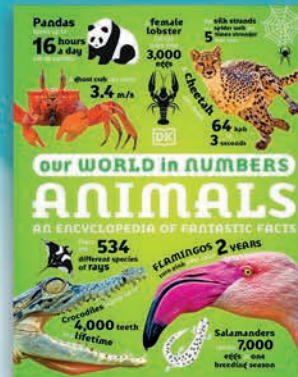
YA

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY NON-FICTION

Quench your thirst for knowledge!



Also available in
Afrikaans and Zulu!



Getting to know...

Jeff Kinney



Jeff Kinney is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and the Awesome Friendly Kid series. He is a six-time Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Award winner for Favourite Book and has been named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World. He spent his childhood in the Washington, D.C., area and moved to New England, where he and his wife own a bookstore named An Unlikely Story.

How much of Jeff Kinney is in Greg Heffley?

I'd say that Greg is a cartoon exaggeration of myself as a kid. So there would be no Greg without me.

What was your first idea? The character of Greg or his adventures?

My first idea was for Greg himself. I knew I wanted to write about a boy who felt powerless, and made lots of mistakes.

What is some of your favourite feedback you've received from readers?

My favourite type of feedback is hearing from readers who read and discuss the books with their parents. This has been especially pronounced over the past year, and I think kids and their parents found common ground in the stories about Greg Heffley and his family. I originally wrote *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* for grown-ups, so I love it that the books are reaching both adults AND kids. I've also loved

hearing from readers who are now young adults, but grew up on the series. Many have gone on to become budding writers, artists, and filmmakers, and some have written me to tell them that I helped inspire them to become creators. And of course, that's inspiring to me!

Do you enjoy writing one of the characters more than the others? If so, who and why?

My favourite character to write for is Rowley. He's a pure kid, and he's got a pure imagination. I started writing the Awesome Friendly Kid series to see how it felt to write for Rowley, and I love doing it. He writes with unbridled imagination, the way a young kid would. I wish I had been more like Rowley as a kid. I was a bit more like Greg, who is a complicated character!

What is the difference between Greg and other heroes in children's books?

I think what makes Greg special is his un-heroic qualities. Greg

is relatable to kids, because he makes the same mistakes they do.

Do you have as much fun drawing and writing as we have when we read your books?

Thank you! Illustrating these books is very hard for me. I draw for about 13 hours a day on average, and I do that for six or seven weeks.

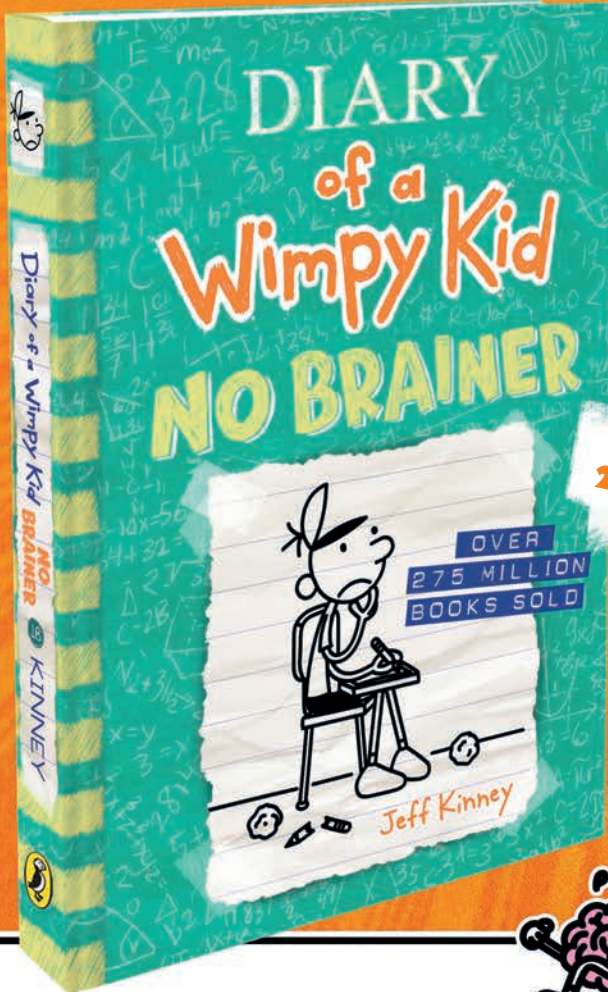
What would you say to readers who are just discovering the series?

I hope these books make you laugh and want to read more! It's so important for a kid to have a feeling of success when they read a book. I think that the format of my books, which is a mix of text and cartoons, is appealing to young readers, because it gives them little breaks as they work their way through the books. I think the books give them confidence, and something to talk about with their parents!



LAUGHTER GUARANTEED!

It's a **NO BRAINER**



**COMING
24 OCTOBER!**

THE **BRAND-NEW** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* **BOOK**

from #1 international
bestselling author

Jeff Kinney



Read all the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and **Awesome Friendly** books!



WHERE'S WONKA?

A Search-and-Find Book

ROALD DAHL

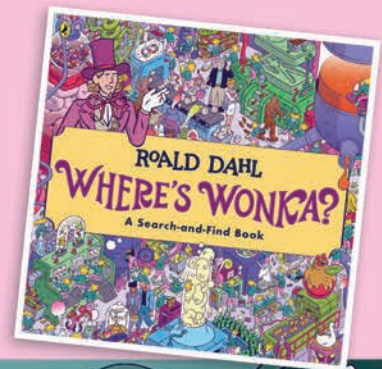


THE SWEET SHOP

Yippee! Charlie has found the final Golden Ticket, and tremendous things await him at Wonka's factory. What else might be hidden in the sweet shop?



Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory is opening at last, and only five lucky children will be allowed inside! But now you have the amazing chance to explore the factory in this incredible book, and you've been tasked with finding all your favourite characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



CAN YOU FIND:

- ☐ nine chocolate squirrels
- ☐ nine shiny silver coins
- ☐ a new bicycle
- ☐ a foam shrimp
- ☐ a pair of lollipop sunglasses
- ☐ the last bar of Wonka's Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight
- ☐ a chocolate palace
- ☐ a chess game
- ☐ a messy popped bubble
- ☐ Professor Foulbody and his Golden Ticket-finding machine
- ☐ a fish bowl
- ☐ an elephant teapot
- ☐ Willy Wonka

INTERVIEW WITH...

JAN BRAAI

For the past 18 years, Jan has been at the head of the National Braai Day initiative, aiming to unite all 60 million South Africans around fires on the 24th of September every year. Jan is the author of six bestselling books on the topic of braai, and he is also the presenter of the highly acclaimed television show *Jan Braai vir Erfenis* on DSTV's Kyknet and Showmax, which is now in its 12th season.

Why did you decide to publish a braai book for children? National Braai Day turned 18 last year and it got me thinking about the whole thing. It was therefore the first Braai Day where people who were born on Braai Day could, for example, legally drink a beer. But we are now also reaching a stage where adult South Africans who used to braai with their parents as children on Braai Day are now starting to have children of their own, with whom they can braai on Braai Day. We are absolutely in the next generation of braaiers, and I wanted to write a book for them. Mold them when they are young and make sure we create a whole generation that can all braai very well from an early age.

How many times a week do you braai for yourself? On tour and on vacation probably every day and mostly more than once a day; and in a "normal" week where I also have to open my laptop every now and then, about 3 or 4 times a week.

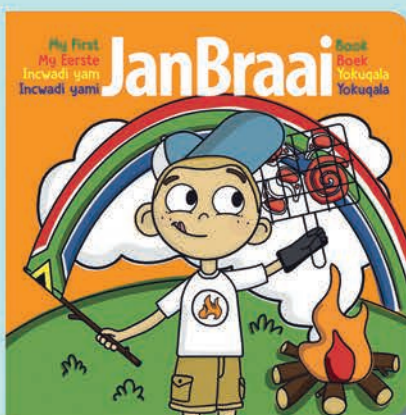
What is the tastiest thing you have ever prepared on an open fire? Jan Braai Boerewors, exclusively available at Food Lovers Market.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever braai'd? When you look from a far, probably crocodile on a spit. Of course, also most normal animals' respective organs. But what I think is the

weirdest, silliest thing is those fake sausages and patties that aren't really meat.

Why did you initially decide to do the braai thing? To establish National Braai Day in South Africa and encourage every South African to braai on 24 September every year and promote the day as our country's day of celebration and nation building.

What do you do in your spare time or when you are not standing behind a fire? That's when I braai. I also like sport, more specifically cycling, jogging, rowing and surfing.



Who is your favourite local food expert/chef/food personality?

Why? Jan Braai, ie. myself. There are many excellent cooks, chefs and food experts in the country, but I get up every morning and of course do exactly what I want that day, so logically I think that my direction is optimal. Of course, if there are things that any of the many culinary heroes do that I don't understand or have mastered then I ask their advice to build that part of the whole into my arsenal as well.

Who is your favourite overseas food expert/chef/food personality?

Myself, when I travel overseas, for all the reasons mentioned above! Hahaha.

What would you choose as your last meal?

Freshly braai roosterkoek with salted butter and Jan Braai Boerewors. And an incredible amount of brandy, because a hangover won't be a problem.

What are your favorite dishes that cannot be made on a fire?

Croissant. Cappuccino. Ceviche. Cold white wine.



JAN BRAAI PIZZA

I first made this on my TV show, *Jan Braai vir Erfenis*, many years ago and it became famous overnight. In those first few weeks after the episode aired, many supermarkets sold out of ready-made pizzas on a daily basis, it was that in demand! The possibilities for toppings are endless and you can use any of your favourite off-the-shelf pizzas, even two different ones. Enjoy!

WHAT YOU NEED (FEEDS 2-4)

2 store-bought pizzas (uncooked but prepared, with the toppings of your choice)

extra toppings (like feta cheese, mushrooms, ham, pineapple, salami or whatever you like on your pizza)

WHAT TO DO

- 1** Light a fire and wait until the coals are medium heat. You want the same heat level that you would braai your braaibroodjies over.
- 2** Add any extra toppings you like to one of the pizzas, then cover with the second pizza so the fillings face inwards and you end up with a pizza 'sandwich'.
- 3** Place the pizza sandwich in your hinged grid, close the grid tightly, then braai the pizza, turning it often, just like you would do with a braaibroodjie. You want the outside to be toasted and crispy and the cheese on the inside to be completely melted.
- 4** Once you have achieved the perfect pizza, take it off the grid, slide it onto a wooden board and slice. Serve immediately.

This extract is taken from *JanBraai Junior – Recipes, techniques and advice: a braai guide for the next generation*.



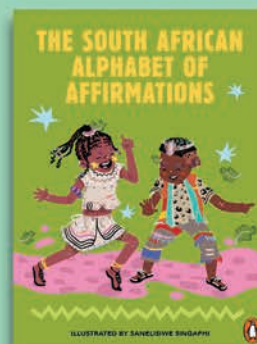
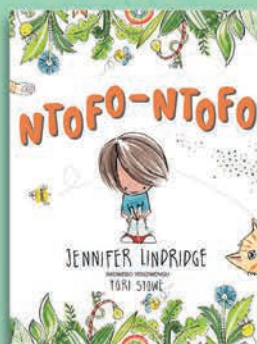
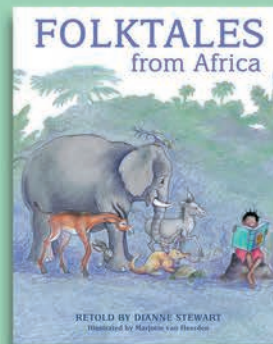
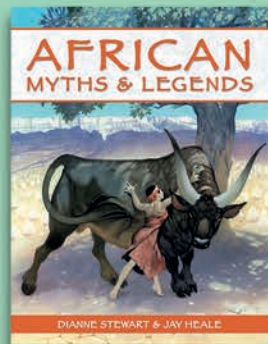
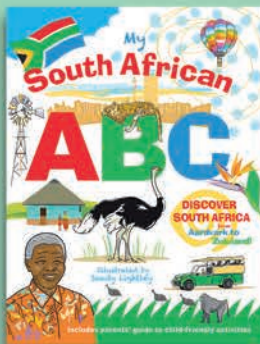
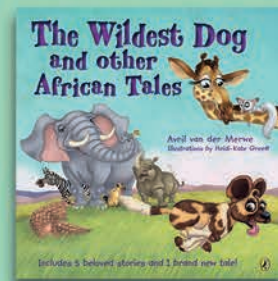


Books to celebrate

24
September

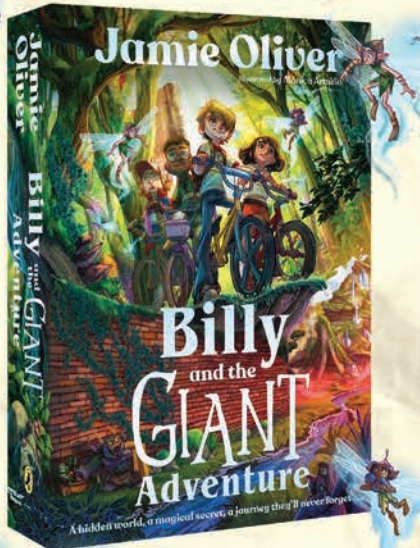
Heritage Day!

A day that celebrates South Africa's roots,
and our rich, vibrant, and diverse cultures.



Reader reviews

This month, some pupils at King Edward VII Preparatory School, tell us what they're currently reading...



Billy and the Giant Adventure ★★★★★ Jamie Oliver

This book is about four friends that go exploring and find themselves on a great adventure in the magical Waterfall Woods (which they are not allowed to enter!). There's a mystery that the friends need to solve – something is wrong in the forest and they need to get to the bottom of it. Together they can do it, because the four friends always have each other's back. Billy is my favourite character because he is the leader and a good friend.

I enjoyed this book because I love stories and adventure, and there are fairies and goblins and trolls, and because it's a fairytale full of adventure.



Reviewed by Patrick Visser, a Gr 3 pupil at King Edward VII Preparatory School



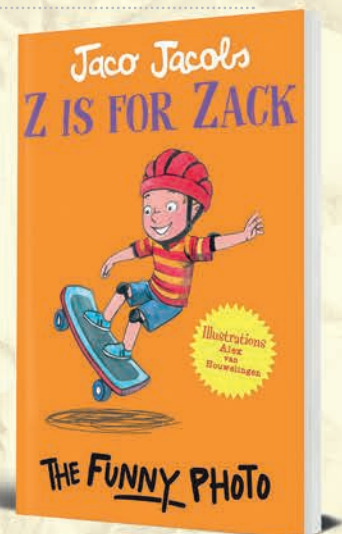
Reviewed by Dimaad Chothia and Oratile Molefe, Gr 3 pupils at King Edward VII Preparatory School

Z is for Zack: The Funny Photo ★★★★★ Jaco Jacobs

The Funny Photo is about a competition where people can send photos to the newspaper to win a prize. Zack and his friend Vincent use Vincent's dad's camera to take some photos for the competition.

Brett the Bully is one character we don't like in the book. He likes to hurt other kids and make fun of them, like when Brett gives Zack a fright. Zack falls in the pond and Brett laughs at him, even though he is sad and wet.

But there are some funny parts. In the end, Vincent takes a photo of Zack in the pond and it wins first prize for being the funniest photo.



Sunshine Simpson ★★★★★ GM Linton

Sunshine Simpson is a happy girl who likes to skip, but some things stress her out, like when she experiences bad luck and gets bullied by a boy at her school. The bully grabs her bag and takes everything, including her lunch money.

I think Sunshine could be my friend in real life because she's very nice and has respect and manners. I liked the first book in the *Sunshine Simpson* series because the lead character is nice, and I think other kids will like this book too. I don't like the part where she is bullied.



Reviewed by Breakthrough Ekwujuru, a Gr 3 pupil at King Edward VII Preparatory School

Exclusive
Extract

GIRL, GODDESS, QUEEN

A Hades and Persephone fantasy romance
from a growing TikTok superstar

WHEN THEY ASKED ME WHAT I wanted, I said: 'The world.'

'And what would you do with the world?' my father asked. His words were lined with sharp edges but I didn't catch their threat until Mother squeezed my shoulder. Her fingers were too hard to be a comfort – a warning, perhaps? Or a threat of her own?

I stared from god to god, no one giving me any indication of what I'd done wrong. They had asked me a simple question. I had given a simple response. Now everyone watched me from the shaded porticoes of the megaron, their faces distorted in the reflections on the bronze pillars that ringed the throne hall. I had no idea what they wanted, no idea why everyone suddenly seemed tense. A few people glanced to my father, whose glower was so fierce he could have passed for one of his own statues.

I considered his question, my mother's nails digging deeper with every passing second that I remained wordless.

'I'd fill it with flowers,' I decided.

A heartbeat as the words landed.

Then my father laughed. Long. Loud. The kind of noise that had me shrinking into my chair. The assembled gods joined in a split second too late.

I wanted to turn to my mother, to see if I'd answered correctly, but her hands held me in place,

though her nails were less piercing.

She hadn't let me out of her sight all evening.

'It is good practice to be wary around strangers, my child,' she had said. But these people weren't strangers – at least not to my mother. They were her sisters and brothers, in arms if not in blood. They were gods she had known her entire life.

I'd wanted to know more, but 'Don't ask questions, my child' was Mother's favourite saying.

Still, at least all this 'my child' nonsense would stop soon. I was eight years old – or thereabouts. It's hard to keep track when you're immortal, and all the other gods had, until that point, been locked in a war against the lord of time, who shifted it about as he pleased.

But regardless of my age, it was my amphidromia, the day a child receives their name. And, as I was a goddess, I was also due to receive my domain – the aspect of the world that I would be responsible for.

'Very well,' Father said, rising from his throne. The laughing strangers fell silent at once. 'Let it be so.' He paused, the corners of his lips twitching as he took in the concerned expressions of the other gods, particularly the other members of the council who sat either side of him. They were his advisors, and now they nudged each other and whispered, keen to hear his judgement.

Then Father smiled, though nothing about it

TO HELL WITH LOVE – THIS GODDESS HAS OTHER PLANS.



eased the tension. 'Goddess of the flowers it is.'

My jaw dropped and my mother's grip became vice-like once more, holding me back. She knew me well enough to sense I was just shy of screaming, my rage intensified by the confusion of having asked for something so large and received something so small. All my hopes, all my lofty ambitions crumbled away. But I kept my mouth closed and curled my hands into fists that I hid in the folds of my dress. My anger was not worth challenging the king of the gods.

'And I name you ... Kore.'

My eyes widened as the meanings of the name ran through my head: pure, beautiful maiden, little girl. Apparently that was all I would ever be to him.

'Goddess of the flowers and of beauty –' Aphrodite made an almost imperceptible noise of discontent before Father continued – 'in nature.'

As the ceremonial fire was lit, I fought back tears. This felt like a punishment.

And I had no idea what I had done wrong.

I'm thinking about my amphidromia now, while trying not to wince as Mother tugs my hair into place. My thoughts often return to it. There was a lot at play – and I've had years to unpack it bit by bit. But now my thoughts linger where they rarely have before: on the sea of faces lost in the shadows.

Mother told me certain things about them back

then – things to keep me safe, but also stupid. Now that she's told me more, the memory is drenched in fear.

So many people, all watching me. Two of the three courts gathered, gods from Olympus and Oceanus surrounding me. None from Hades, of course. I hadn't been near that many people before, and I haven't since. Now, in a matter of days, I'll be married to one of them – and I can't even remember them well enough to imagine who might be waiting for me at the end of the aisle.

According to everyone I know, it's natural to be nervous before you are married, but no one has told me whether it's natural to be terrified, filled with such abject horror at the thought that you can't breathe properly.

'Please hold your head still, Kore.' Mother sighs, her fingers loosening the tangled mess of my hair.

My head is attached to my hair, Mother. Pull it and the head goes with it.

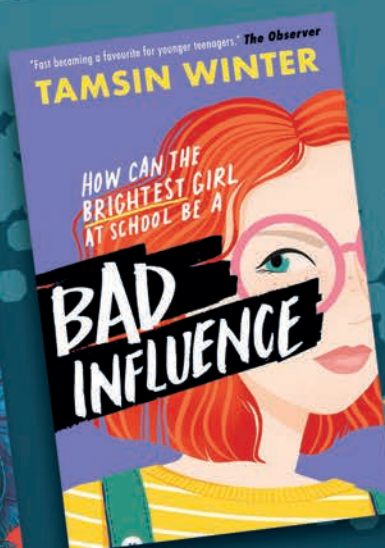
'Put whatever sarcastic comment you're thinking out of your head.'

In her weary words lies the echo of the lecture she's given a dozen times: *'Men don't take sarcasm well, Kore. They take it as a challenge to their authority.'*

Extract taken from *Girl, Goddess, Queen*
by Bea Fitzgerald

WHAT BOOKS ARE blooming ON YOUR SPRING TBR?

From epic fantasies to charming love stories to brilliantly spooky thrillers... these are the books to usher in the season.

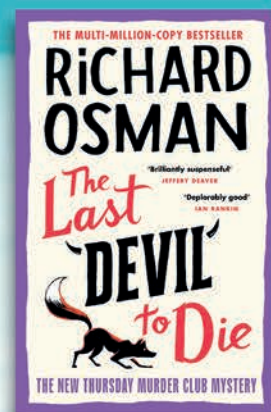
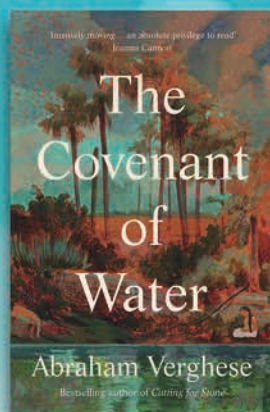


RELEASE RADAR

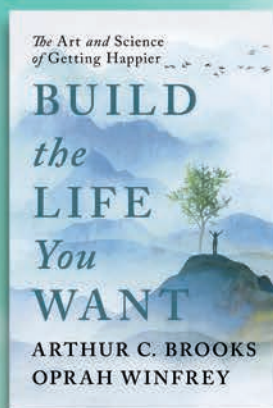
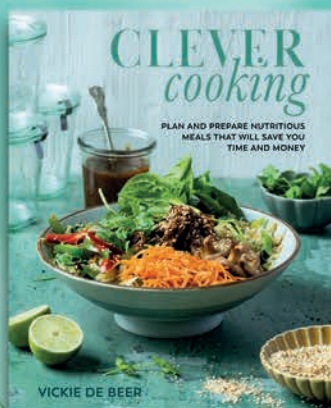
"Think before you speak.

Read before you think."

– Fran Lebowitz

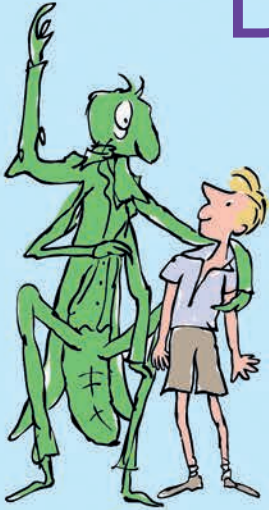


New Non-fiction



ROALD DAHL

DID YOU KNOW?



In my opinion, Roald Dahl is the greatest storyteller of all time. I grew up on stories like *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *George's Marvellous Medicine*. And who can forget *Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes*, told in a way that left you gobsmacked but also in hysterics. If you're a fan, like me, then here are 10 phizz-whizzing facts about Roald Dahl that you may not have known.



1 Roald Dahl was a spy, ace fighter pilot, chocolate historian and medical inventor.

2 Roald Dahl was exceptionally tall, reaching over 6 feet!

3 Roald Dahl wrote many of his stories in a little shed at the bottom of his garden.

4 Roald Dahl's first children's book was *The Gremlins*, published in 1943, about mischievous little creatures that were part of Royal Air Force folklore.



5 Roald Dahl's first moment of inspiration came when he was at boarding school, when a local chocolate factory invited pupils to trial new chocolate bars – 35 years later, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was published.

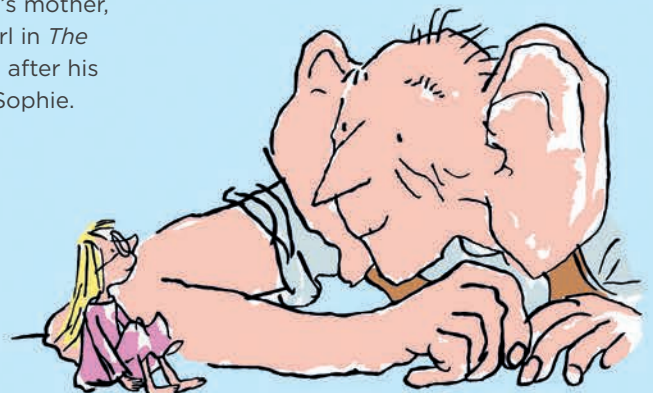
6 Roald Dahl invented over 250 new words, published in the official *Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary*.

7 Many of Dahl's characters were based on people he'd met in real life. The grandmother in *The Witches* is said to be based on Dahl's mother, and the little girl in *The BFG* was named after his granddaughter, Sophie.

8 In 1971, a real man named Willy Wonka wrote to Roald Dahl (he was a postman from Nebraska!)

9 The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre is an independent charity, founded in 2001 by Roald Dahl's widow, Liccy.

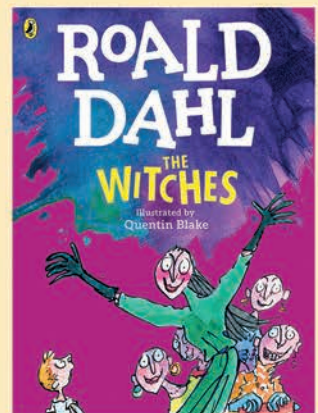
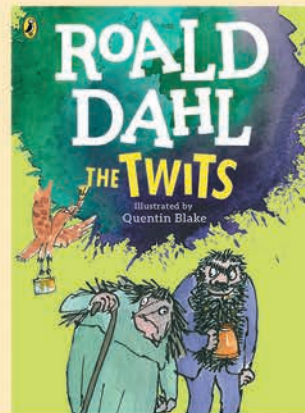
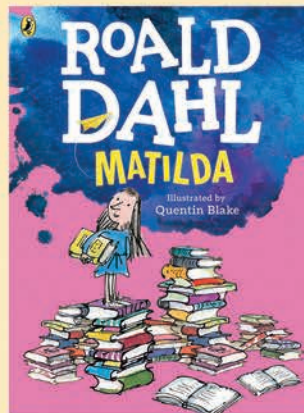
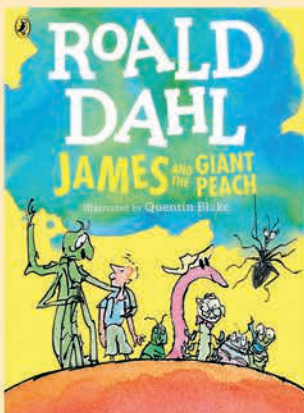
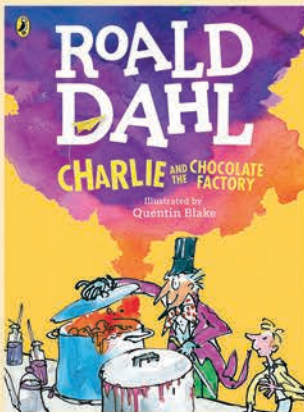
10 With 300 million books sold, and one new book sold every 2.5 seconds, the Roald Dahl brand continues to grow in popularity globally, attracting new audiences with innovative developments in book, theatre, entertainment and beyond.





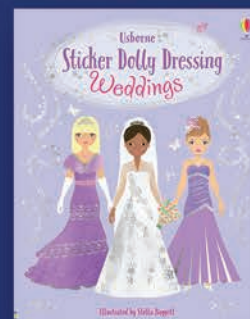
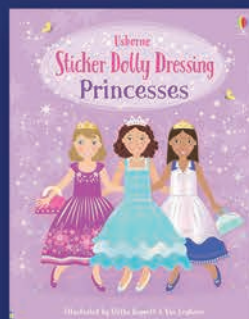
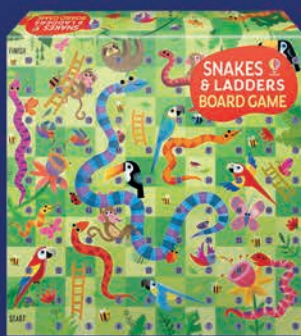
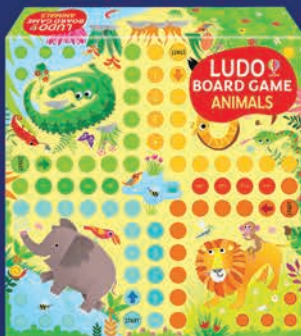
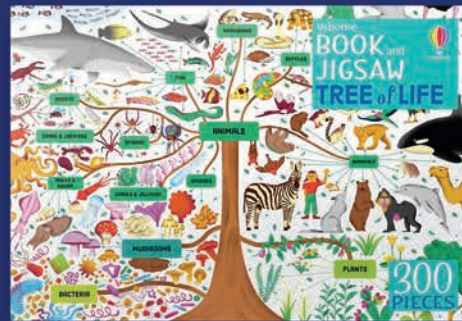
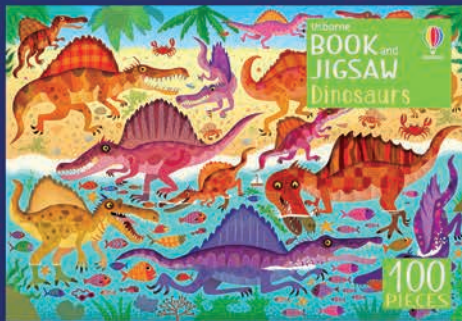
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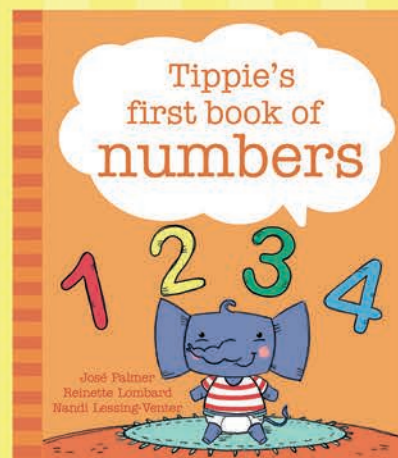
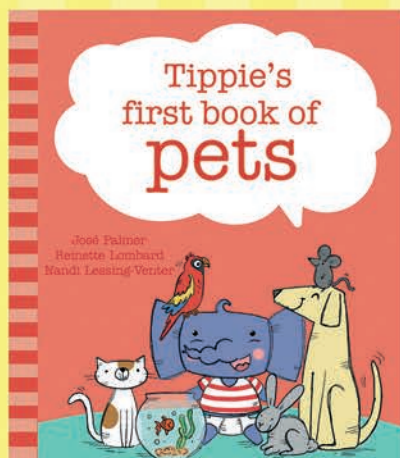
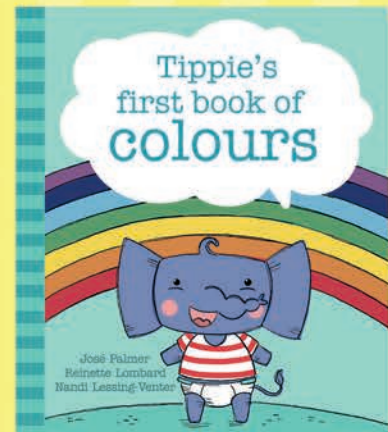
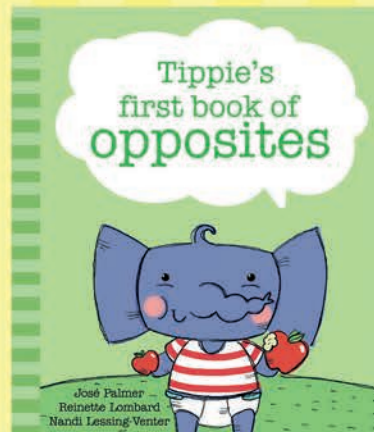
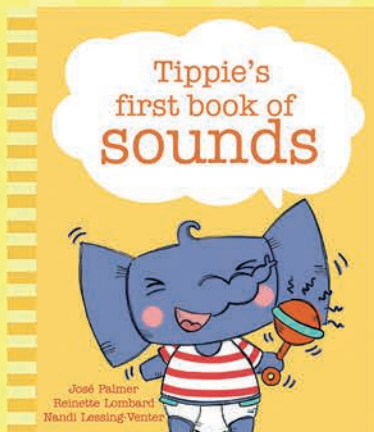
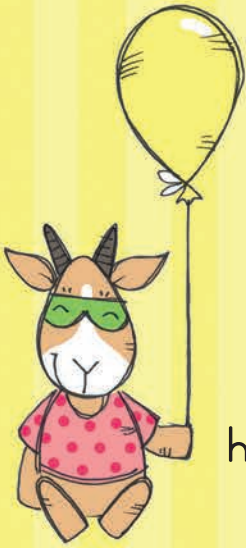


Learning is fun with

Tippie the elephant

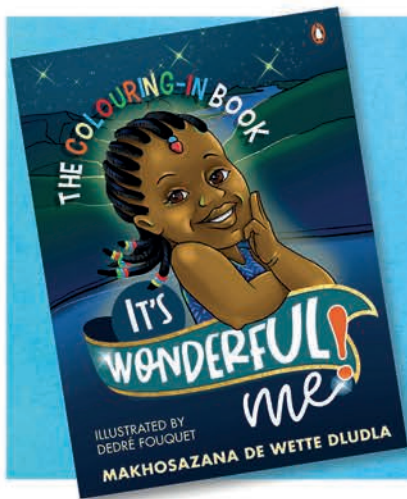
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This series is packed with colourful illustrations, hilarious characters, and silly stories that will make both toddlers and parents giggle with delight.



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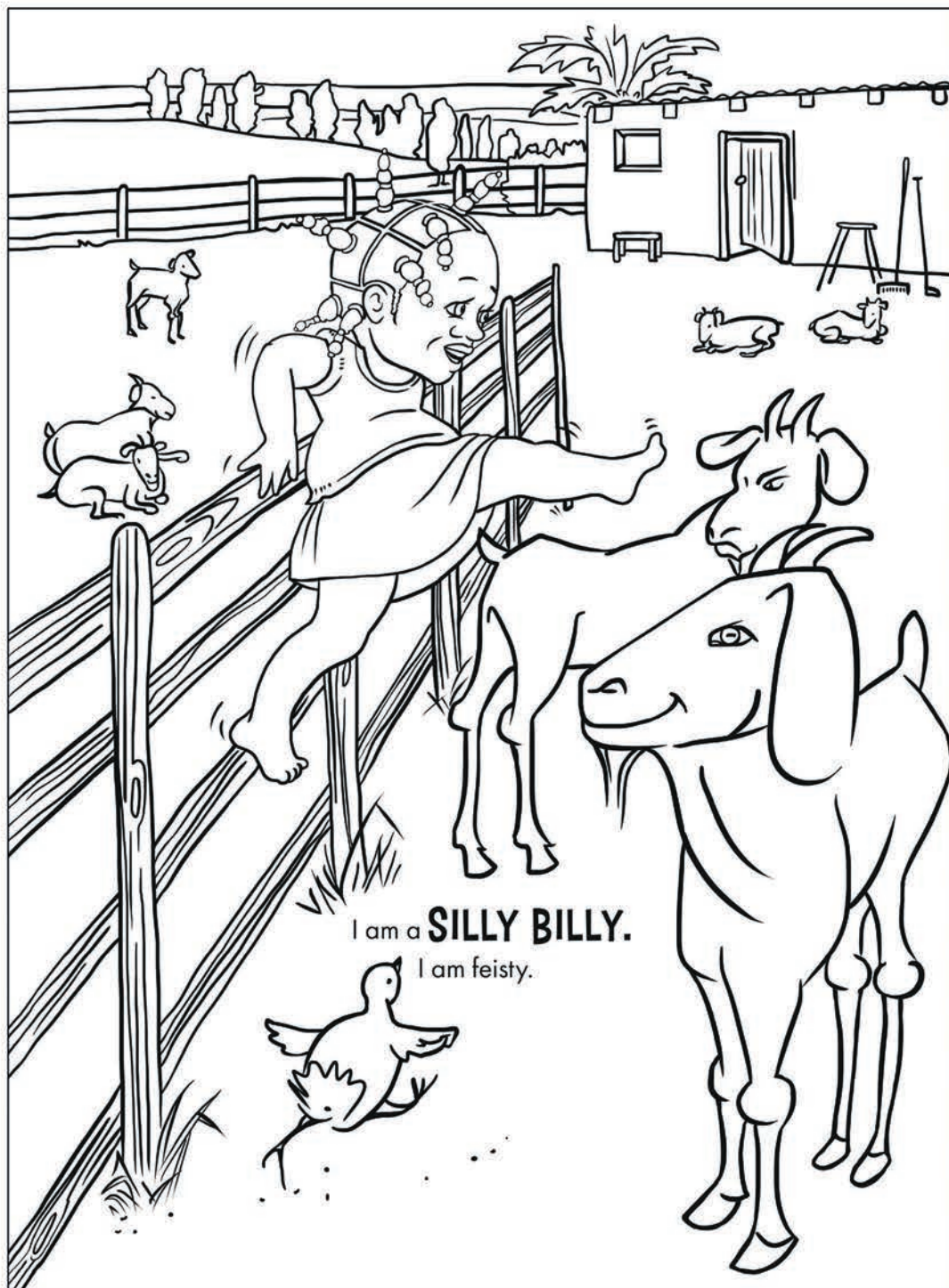




IT'S
WONDERFUL!
me

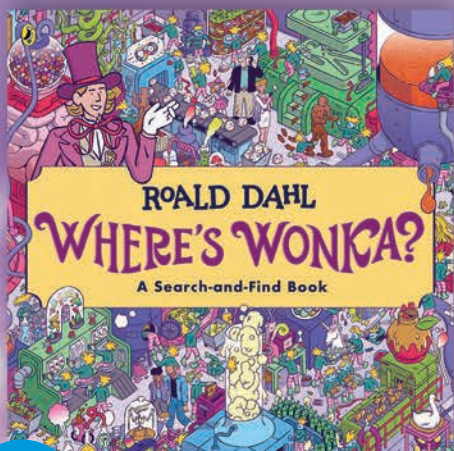
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Get ready to bring this enchanting story
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Future shelf stoppers



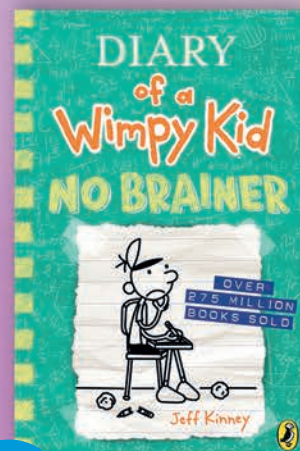
9-12

October



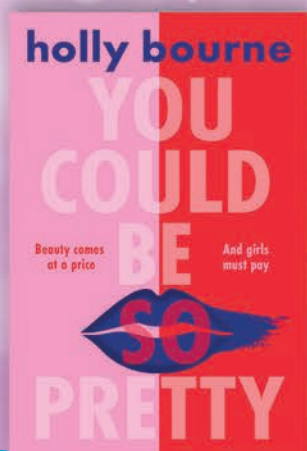
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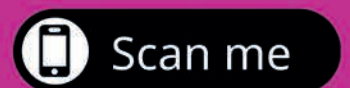


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