

The Huddle



A magazine about books for kids and young adults

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free
copy



ISSUE 10
Autumn
Edition



A swoon-worthy historical romance
for fans of bingeable Netflix smash hits
Bridgerton, *Emily in Paris* and
To All the Boys I've Loved Before



Inspired by the real-life story of the Patterson family, *The Davenports* is the tale of four determined and passionate young Black women discovering the courage to steer their own path in life – and love.

Letter from: the editor

Hello Readers



Our first issue of 2023 has arrived! We are so excited to show you what we have in store for you this year. From our big brand authors like Roald Dahl, Jeff Kinney, Rick Riordan, and wait for it... Jamie Oliver (yes, you read that right!) to our local treasures like Lori-Ann Preston, Jaco Jacobs, Fanie Viljoen and Makhosazana De Wette Dlodla, we really are spoilt for choice.

My favourite read of 2023 so far is *Fritz and Kurt*, a retelling of the *Sunday Times* bestselling *The Boy Who Followed his Father into Auschwitz*. This is the inspiring true story of a father and son's fight to stay together and to survive the Holocaust. Although harrowing at times, it is brilliantly researched and so beautifully written.

The next special mention goes to a new debut writer for young adults, Krystal Marquis, who has written *The Davenports*, a swoon-worthy historical romance for fans of bingeable Netflix smash hits *Bridgerton*, *Emily in Paris* and *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*. Inspired by the real-life story of the Patterson family, *The Davenports* is the tale of four determined and passionate young Black women discovering the courage to steer their own path in life—and love. Turn to

page 12 for a sneak peek.

We are so excited to be publishing *It's Wonderful Me* by Makhosazana De Wette Dlodla. Turn to page 4 to find out what inspired her to write *It's Wonderful Me* and to find out what her writing kryptonite is!

We also have a gorgeous range of Easter-themed books to choose from on page 8, from Roald Dahl to Spot to Peter Rabbit and Peppa Pig. And don't forget that Peppa Pig will be live in South Africa during March and April. Head on over to <https://www.peppapiglive.co.za/> to book your tickets.

And then we're very excited to bring you our range of new young adult books on page 11. From epic fantasies to charming love stories to brilliantly spooky thrillers... these are the books to usher in the Autumn season. Let me know which one is your 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 Peters



Get in touch

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

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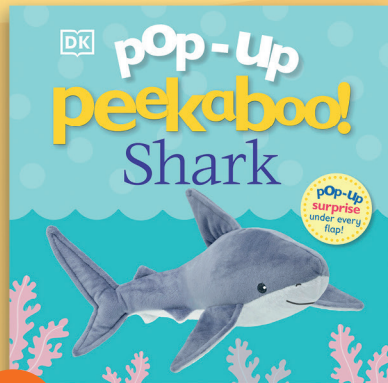
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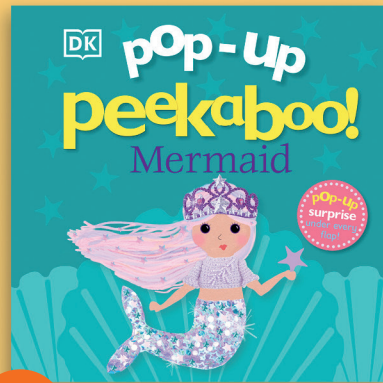
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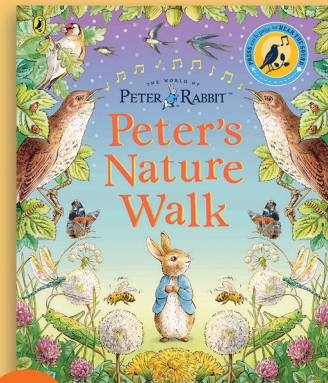
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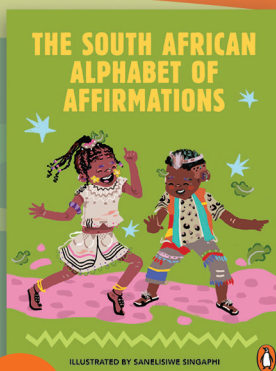
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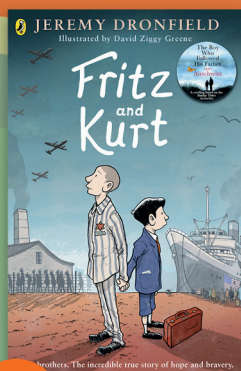
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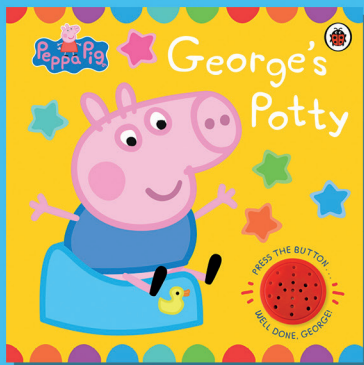
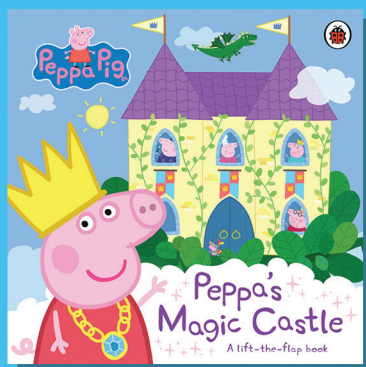
YA

Peppa Pig



Live in South Africa!

Join Peppa, George, Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig and more in a fantastic adventure filled with buckets of surprises and plenty of muddy puddles!



Seen the show?
Now read the books.



Interview with ...

Makhosazana De Wette Dludla

Makhosazana lives with her life partner David Lazarus, in the eclectic Arts town of Riebeeck Kasteel, where she strives to live generously, with a sense of gratitude, mixed with a good dose of humour.



Please tell our readers 5 fun facts about yourself?

- When I was young I was called Votolo in my Village till about the age of thirteen. This was due to the tiny shape of my head when I was born.
- I am now mainly called Max, and my name Makhosazana means "little princess".
- My very first job was selling African dolls on green market square in Cape Town.

- My favourite ice cream flavour is Rum and Raisin, otherwise a close second is peppermint crisp.



- If I could only eat one type of food for the rest of my life, it would be avocados.

We are so excited to be publishing *It's Wonderful Me!* What inspired you to write it?

I am passionate about being a part of giving a voice to the stories of the "African Girl child". The truth can often be less intrusive, when it comes through a little girl's voice.

I wanted to connect young South Africans with their heritage by painting a rich portrait of Zulu culture and life in rural Kwazulu-Natal.

The diversity story is not just for African children though, it is important for all children to understand and learn about other cultures. Books like these can show our differences and commonalities.

This book importantly

highlights the power of the "I am", explaining how, when a child refers to the "I am," they are talking about Self, in the context of their self-worth. We need to evaluate Wonderful me and value her individual personality, as self-belief is a key message in the book.

One of the most exciting elements about Wonderful me is that she is an African Shero, featuring on the cover of a children's picture book. There are still not enough of these in South Africa, Africa, or the world. If children don't feel like they are translated in a book, how can they form a sense of self, the "I am".

I also wanted a book that would evoke discussions about





traditional and cultural gender stereotypes, as Wonderful me and her best friend Lindi are bold, energetic and confident, and certainly not your conventional blonde hair and blue eye heroines in customary settings.

How many books have you written? Which is your favourite?

This is my second children's book, and the books are vastly different but necessary in the South African context. I enjoyed the experience of writing both books. Both books are based largely on my own personal story. They mutually speak about that sense of freedom, the love that the characters share with their family, and the characters adventures.

Both books are also about little girls whose grandparents act as a "safety net" and allow the girls to believe in their dreams. My stories will always be to uplift the youth and ultimately build confidence.

Both books are a visual sensory feast for young readers.

What do you think makes a good story?

Being able to effectively know which target market you are speaking to.

Keeping in mind that parents are also the target audience, so

you need to capture them too as they will be reading to the kids.

A good children's book should have a plot that grabs the reader's attention, and the structure must be good.

It is imperative to engage young readers with fascinating illustrations, which will support their reading comprehension skills.

One needs interesting and varied language for children – I make use of a glossary in both books, as I use a few basic Zulu words in my books.

A good story is relatable – Wonderful me and Lindi have their friendship. Throughout the book, the family thread is also recurring, giving rise to a sense of belonging/identity.

One has to be able to build fascinating characters and a good plot.

The characters need to go through valuable life lessons, and children should learn for themselves.

What is your writing kryptonite?

Being very active on Social Media, not being disciplined and being a perfectionist.

What do you do when you're not writing?

I am extremely passionate about cooking, specifically curries and interesting salads.

I am part owner of Julu guest house in Riebeek Kasteel, so I thoroughly enjoy meeting new people and am loving the hospitality industry.

I am also passionate about pottering in my gardening, but I do not have green fingers, except for having managed to proudly grow five avocado trees from seedlings, grow loads of granadillas and beautiful cacti.

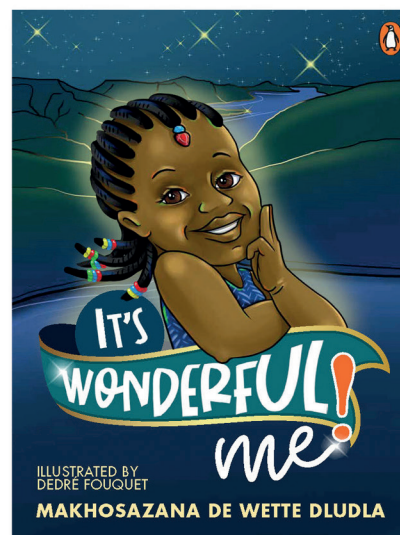
I am a board member of For Life centre in Riebeek West, which is a registered NPO Community Arts and Resource Centre, grounded in the principles and philosophy of Dr Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy.

What is your interesting writing quirk?

Before I send an unsolicited manuscript to a publisher, I close my eyes and imagine that it's going to be well received, and then I press the send button.

What is your favourite childhood book?

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats.



Animals of the past

The most famous prehistoric animals have got to be the dinosaurs – but they lived many millions of years after the first life forms appeared on Earth. It is thought that life first appeared on Earth around 3.8 billion years ago. They were small, single-celled organisms called prokaryotes. These organisms survive today in the form of archaea and bacteria.

FACT

In Precambrian times, prokaryotes grew in colonies that spread out like mats, absorbing sunlight so they could photosynthesize. Billions of years later, their fossilized remains still exist. These stony platforms are called stromatolites, and some can be found off the coast of northwest Australia.

WHAT WAS A DINOSAUR?

The word “dinosaur” means “terrible lizard”. These reptiles ruled the Earth for more than 160 million years until most of them were wiped out 66 million years ago. But they were not all terrible: many were timid plant eaters, and while some were huge and ferocious, others were no bigger than a modern chicken.

► **DINKY DINOSAUR**
The plant-eating *Lesothosaurus* was one of the smaller dinosaurs.



TIMELINE OF PREHISTORIC LIFE

PRECAMBRIAN
4,600–541 MYA

The first forms of life appeared on Earth: simple, single-celled prokaryotes.



CAMBRIAN
541–485 MYA

The first multi-celled and hard-bodied life developed, including molluscs and arthropods such as trilobites.



ORDOVICIAN
485–443 MYA

The first crustaceans and jawless fish evolved.



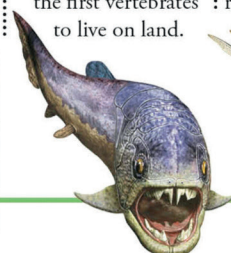
SILURIAN
443–419 MYA

Evolution of the first fish with jaws, and giant sea scorpion – the ancestors of modern arachnids.



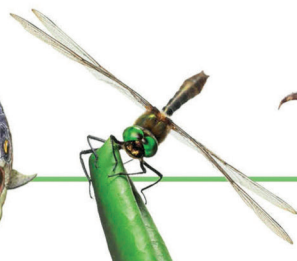
DEVONIAN
419–358 MYA

The “Age of Fishes”, when fish diversified rapidly. The first amphibians evolved from fish, becoming the first vertebrates to live on land.



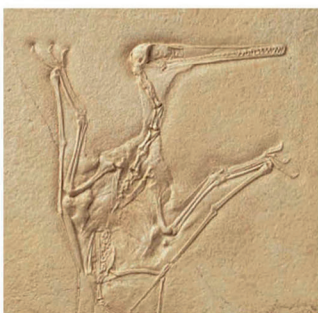
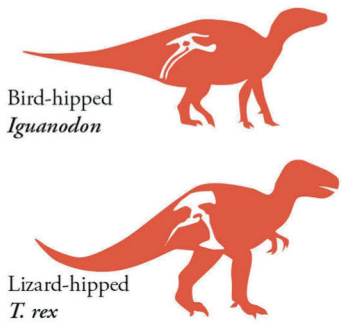
CARBONIFEROUS
358–298 MYA

Flying insects and amphibians lived in swampy forests during this warm period, but reptiles ruled the land.



HIP, HIP

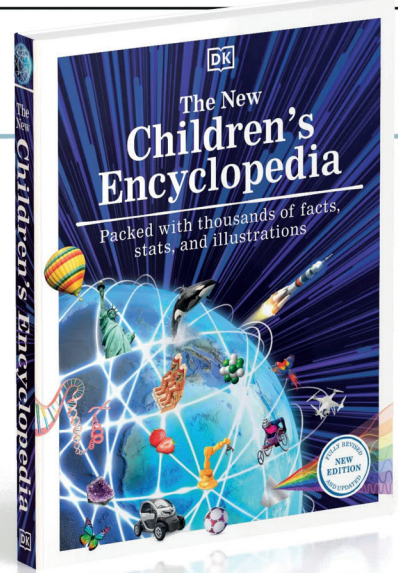
There were two types of dinosaurs, classified by the shape of their hip bones: bird-hipped (ornithischians), and lizard-hipped (saurischians). Birds actually evolved from the lizard-hipped dinosaurs (👁️ p244).



Fossil of a *Pterodactylus*

What is a fossil?

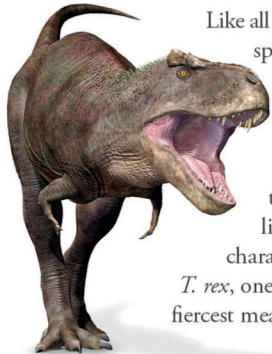
Palaeontologists use fossils to work out what early life forms would have looked like. Most fossils form when the remains of an animal or plant get buried in sediment (sand or mud). Over time, the remains are replaced by minerals in the sediment, which keep the shape of the animal or plant.



Discover the fully updated, new edition of DK's bestselling reference book – containing all the latest knowledge and current thinking in a fresh new design.

Tyrannosaurus rex "King of the tyrant lizards"

- **Length** 12 m (39 ft)
- **Time** Late Cretaceous
- **Fossil location** North America



Like all life forms, dinosaur species have scientific names, which are often Latin or Greek. The name may reflect what the species looks like, or one of its characteristics – as with *T. rex*, one of the largest and fiercest meat-eating dinosaurs.

Dimorphodon "Two-form tooth"

- **Wingspan** 1.2–2.5 m (4–8 ft)
- **Time** Early Jurassic
- **Fossil location** Europe and North America



Dimorphodon was not a dinosaur, but a pterosaur – a flying reptile. It had an enormous skull and differently sized teeth in its bill – large, pointy teeth at the front, and small teeth at the back. It ate fish, insects, and small animals, but no one knows if it caught its prey while flying or standing on all fours.

Dimetrodon "Two types of teeth"

- **Length** up to 3.5 m (11.5 ft)
- **Time** Early Permian
- **Fossil location** Europe and North America

Dimetrodon was a sail-backed synapsid. The sail probably helped it warm up and cool down. Synapsids were cold-blooded and scaly like reptiles, but they are actually the ancestors of mammals.

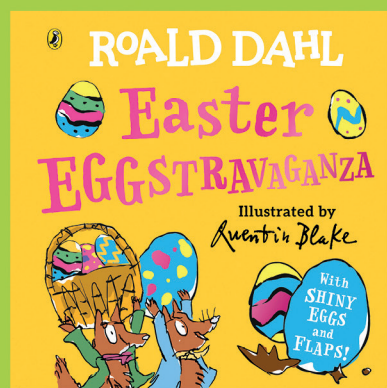


| PERMIAN 298–252 MYA | TRIASSIC 252–201 MYA | JURASSIC 201–145 MYA | CRETACEOUS 145–66 MYA | PALEOGENE 66–23 MYA | NEOGENE 23–2 MYA | QUATERNARY 2 MYA to present |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Sail-back synapsids appeared. | The first dinosaurs, early mammals, turtles, and frogs appeared. | The first bird, <i>Archaeopteryx</i> , evolved from the dinosaurs. | Giant dinosaurs died out, but birds and mammals survived. | Mammals evolved many bigger forms and spread out. | The first appearance of many of today's creatures, from dogs and apes to many modern birds. | The first modern human evolved. |
| | | | | | | |

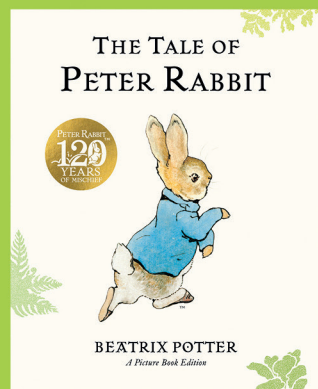
Easter

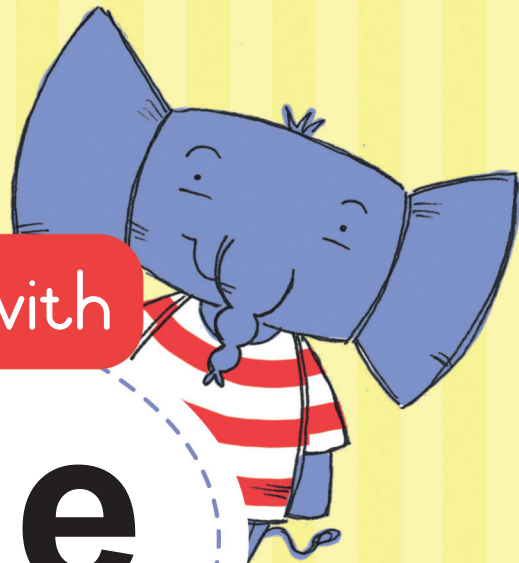
EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

Take a look at some of our favourite
Easter-themed reads...



Gift and share something less sugary with your little one this Easter

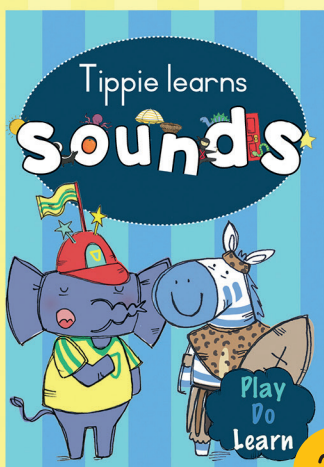




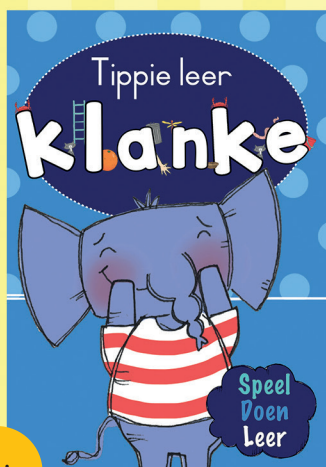
Learning is fun with

Tippie

the elephant



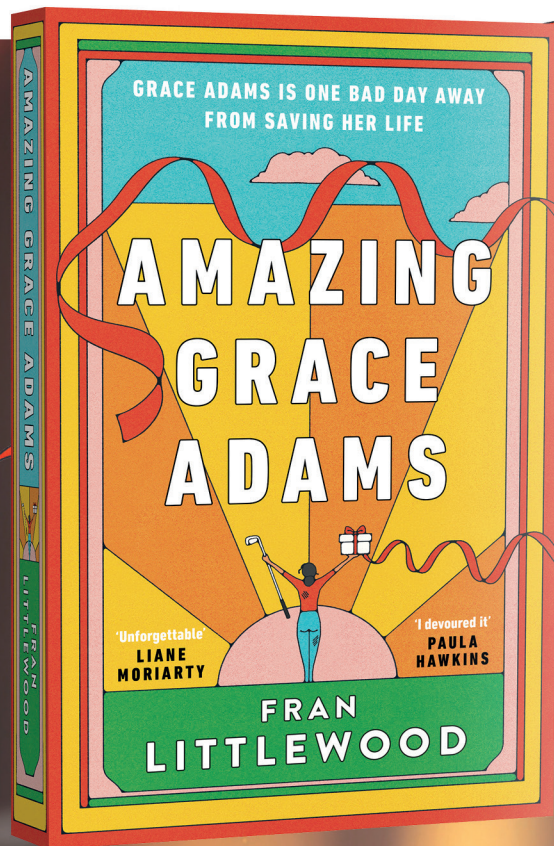
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5+



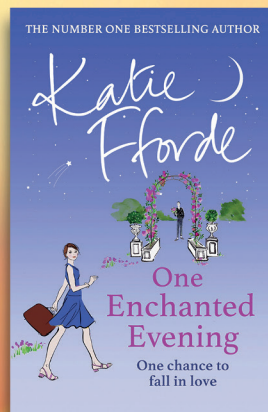
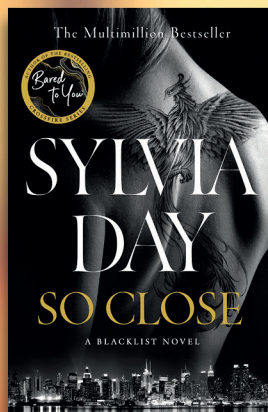
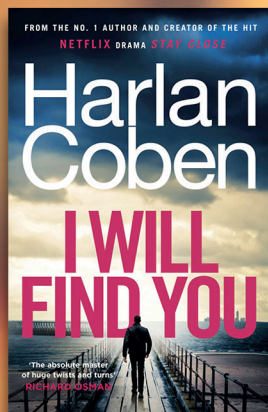
Both boxsets are
available in English
and Afrikaans



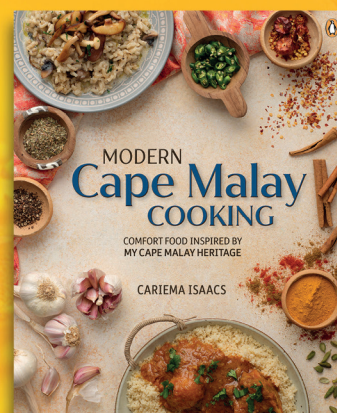
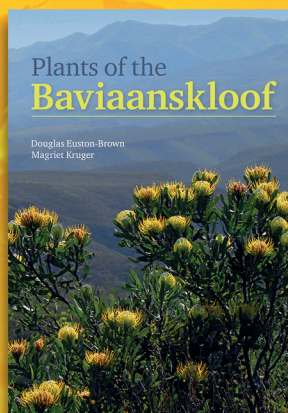
RELEASE RADAR



"Books may well be the only true magic."
– Alice Hoffman



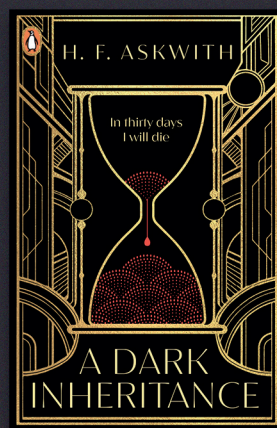
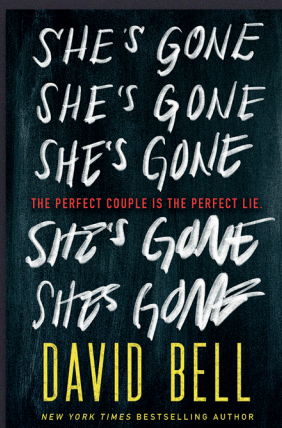
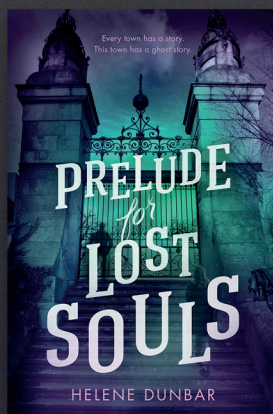
New Non-fiction



The best books to hide-away-with this Autumn

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

'Fantastic characters, fast-paced action, and truly alarming.'
- The Guardian



THE DAVENPORTS

CHAPTER 1

Olivia Elise Davenport pulled a bolt of vibrant yellow silk from the display and held it to her dark complexion. She was drawn to the bright fabric nearly hidden behind the muted pastels, a shock of sunshine peeking through the clouds, and wondered if it was too bright for so early in the season. In her free hand, she held a sample of beaded lace and tried to imagine the sound it would make whispering around her ankles while she danced. *There will be a lot of dancing*, she thought.

Anticipation bubbled in her chest. The season of ball gowns and champagne had arrived at the conclusion of the Easter celebrations.

Now that Olivia was out in society, it was time for her to find a husband. It was her second season, and she was ready.

Ready to do her duty and make her parents proud, as she'd always done.

The only problem? It was difficult to find eligible gentlemen—born into the right family, educated, and set to inherit a large fortune—who were also Black.

Olivia took a deep breath. The yellow silk fell from her arm.

She knew what her mother would say: It was too loud. Besides, she'd only come here to pick up a few finished alterations.

"May I help you?"

Olivia started at the voice over her shoulder. A shop attendant stood next to her with her hands clasped. Despite the smile on her face, her cold

blue eyes betrayed a different intent.

"I was just admiring the fabric selection." Olivia turned toward the display of broad-brimmed hats, ignoring the eyes of the shop girl digging into her back. "And waiting for my friend," she added.

Where is Ruby, anyway?

It was her best friend who insisted they send the servants ahead with their parcels and browse Marshall Field's unaccompanied. And now she was nowhere to be found.

The shop girl cleared her throat. "You may pick up your mistress's orders at the service desk. I could direct you, if you've lost your way."

"I know where the service desk is, thank you," Olivia said with a tight smile, ignoring the slight. All around them, pale faces watched the exchange with increasing curiosity. Someone behind her chuckled.

Chicago, 1910.
The Davenports have it all.
Wealth. Luxury. Status.

But while they are the toast of the social scene, they are also one of the few African American families to belong to this elite upper class. With the legacy of slavery threatening a future they have always taken for granted, and the world on the brink of unimaginable changes, can romance blossom for these four young women?

She remembered her mother's words: to always rise above. Because her family *was* rare. Wealthy. Beautiful. *Black*. Ruby wore her wealth like armor, usually in the form of jewels and furs. Olivia preferred the understated air she observed in her mother.

Today, those perfect manners didn't matter. Her beauty was no shield. All the young girl before her could see was the color of Olivia's skin. She stiffened her spine, pulling herself to her full height. Olivia pointed to the largest jeweled broach in the display in front of her. "I'd like this boxed, please. And I'd like that hat as well. For my sister. She always gets cross when I come home without something for her," she said conspiratorially to the other patrons—though she knew full well Helen would prefer a pair of pliers to a hat. Olivia walked slowly around the room.

"Those gloves." She tapped her chin thoughtfully. "Five yards of that yellow silk—"

"Excuse me—"

"Miss," Olivia provided.

The shop girl's cheeks reddened.

Good, Olivia thought, she's realized her mistake.

"Miss," the shop girl huffed, clearly frazzled. "Your choices are quite expensive."

"Yes, well," Olivia said, the playfulness vanishing from her tone, "I have expensive taste. You can charge it to my family's account."

Her eyes cut back to the shop girl. "The name is Davenport."

Extract taken from
The Davenports by
Krystal Marquis



These playlists
were curated
by the author
Krystal Marquis
for the characters
in her debut
historical
romance that is
sure to sweep you
off your feet.



Scan to listen to Amy's playlist



Scan to listen to Helen's playlist



Scan to listen to Olivia's playlist



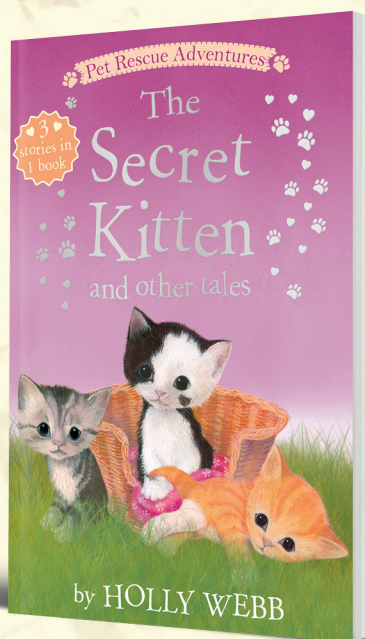
Scan to listen to Ruby's playlist



Reader reviews



This month, Emily Peters and Annica Hendricks, tell us what they're currently reading...



The Secret Kitten and Other Tales ★★★★★ Holly Webb

I love animals and Holly Webb's books! When I got *The Secret Kitten and Other Tales* for Christmas, I did a little happy dance. There are three gorgeous kitten stories to treasure in this collection and they are each so creatively written. Holly Webb is able to take us on incredible adventures and before you know it, you get sucked into the story and can't stop reading! It's hard to choose but my favourite story in this collection was *The Brave Kitten*. It's all about Helena who helps to care for an injured cat – but where will he go if his owner can't be found? There is so much to love in Holly Webb's stories. I love how her writing is easy to read and easy to understand so that I can read them all on my own. I hope you get to read a Holly Webb book too!



Reviewed by
Emily Peters,
9 years old

Love Radio ★★★★★ Ebony LaDelle



Reviewed by
Annica Hendricks
Instagram:
where.the.pages.bleed

The perfect read for romance and non-romance readers, *Love Radio* has you sorted!

You think two teenagers with some harrowing real-life problems can fall in love after only three dates? Let's try it!

Dani Ford is a force of nature; she has always looked up to strong BIPOC authors and dreams to be one herself. Until she meets the inevitable fork in her life – something that pushes her off track.

Prince has been the man of the house since his mom's MS diagnosis and his father's exit from his and his little brother's lives. He's also DJLoveJones, the 17-year-old with the best love advise.

We start with a hilarious first meeting in the library (let's just say a misunderstanding with kids' books), and we end with two people finding themselves. This debut novel by Ebony LaDelle knocked me off my feet. If you want to read an authentic book about two teenagers finding love, and most importantly, themselves *Love Radio* is the book for you.





Fritz and Kurt

BY JEREMY DRONFIELD

In 1938, the Nazis come to Vienna.

Fritz, along with his father, is taken to a Nazi prison camp, a terrible place, full of fear. When his father is sent to a certain death, Fritz can't face losing his beloved Papa. He chooses to go with him and fight for survival.

Meanwhile, Fritz's brother, Kurt must go on a frightening journey, all alone, to seek safety on the far side of the world.

In this extraordinary true story, Fritz and Kurt must face unimaginable hardships, and the two brothers wonder if they will ever return home...



The incredible true story of *The Boy Who Followed his Father into Auschwitz*, written for younger readers.



Understanding your child's emotions

and how to deal with them



Holly Doherty, parent, Primary School Teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator, gives her expert advice on helping children manage their emotions

All behaviour is communication. This can be challenging to remember at times, especially when the behaviour is negative and your child is having a meltdown in public! In younger children, we tend to accept this more until communication skills have developed. In such meltdown situations, take a deep breath and try to stay calm.

Know their triggers

Get to know your children's triggers. As their parent you are the person best placed to identify things that trigger unwanted or difficult emotions. As parents our tendency is to try to shelter our children from these, however helping our children develop skills to deal with these feelings when they come along is actually far more beneficial, as enabling them to become emotionally literate will help them deal with the bumps in the road that life presents.

Label the physical feelings

Helping children to label the physiological responses they are feeling is a key part of helping them to feel OK. Talking about having sweaty palms or a fizzy tummy when you feel anxious or a headache when you feel stressed again reminds your child these are normal responses and they will pass.



Develop a script for yourself

Have a script to help you deal with your child's emotions. This is one of the most helpful things I have found as both a parent and teacher. Your script must be appropriate for their age and developmental stage: "I understand you're feeling angry and that's OK. Can you tell me what made you feel like this?"

Exercise

Physical exercise is a great way to release/help children deal with tricky emotions. This can be something simple for younger children such as throwing bean bags into a hoop or bucket or running around in the park, to more meditative ideas such as relaxing yoga.

The fact remains that each of our children is different and so the way in which he or she experiences emotions will differ. Our own experiences as parents will also mean that we bring different responses and solutions to these situations as they occur. By trying and testing a variety of ideas, it enables us to find ways of coping that best suit our children and their needs.

Make a coping 'toolbox'

Help your child make their own physical 'toolbox' of things to help them cope with difficult feelings. It is very important that your child's toolbox contains stuff that works for them. It could look very different for different children and may not necessarily contain things that you think may work, which is why it is important to be led by your child.

an 'exit strategy' such as taking themselves to an agreed place in your home that they know is safe when situations become too tricky for them to manage. This could be under their bed or in a pop-up tent – whatever you agree with your child.

Recovery time

If children have experienced an extreme emotional reaction such as feeling very angry, then it is important to give them space and time to recover.

Create a safe place

As well as the physical items, it often helps to give children



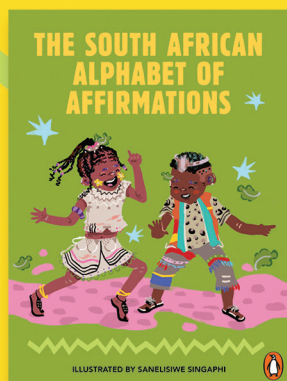
GETTING TO KNOW...

Nyasha Williams

The brilliant mind behind *The South African Alphabet of Affirmations*, a love letter to children in South Africa honouring their magic, worth, and power.

Nyasha is a social justice griot working to decolonize literature, minds, and spiritual practices one day at a time.

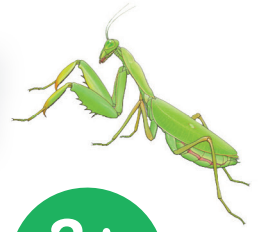
Nyasha is the author of the best-selling *I Affirm Me*; *Black Tarot / Ancestral Illumination*; *Keep Dreaming Black Child*; *I Am Somebody*, a 4-book series entitled *Ally Baby Can...*, and *Alchemist Elements Oracle Deck*, *Guidebook* and *Guided Journal*.



Nyasha's best-seller *I Affirm Me* has sold over 20,000 copies in the US.

Writing to Change the Narrative is Nyasha's way of bringing her passion for storytelling to life and helping us all to write our own stories. With her help, we can all find our voices and use them to write a better world.

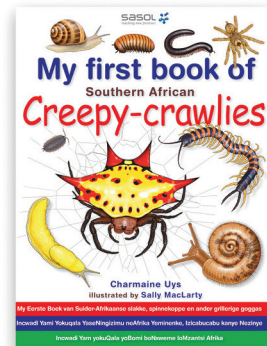
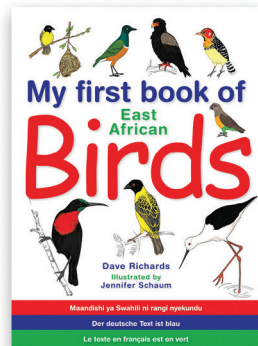
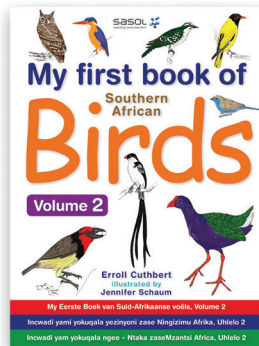
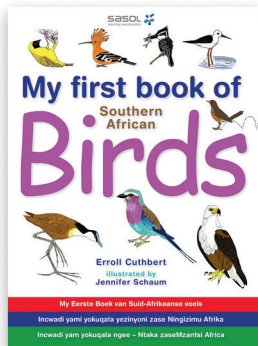
Nyasha grew up living intermittently between the United States and South Africa.



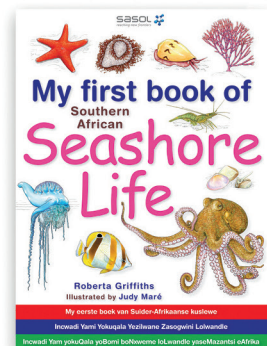
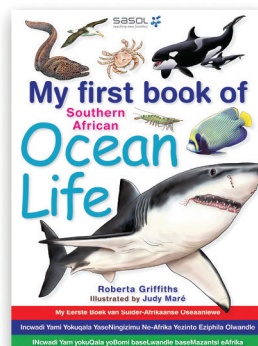
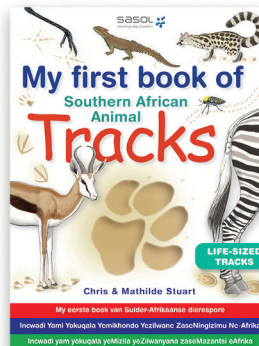
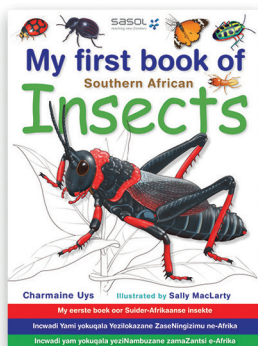
My first book of

The perfect series to learn all about
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mammals, ocean life... and more!

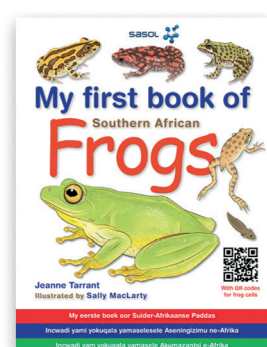
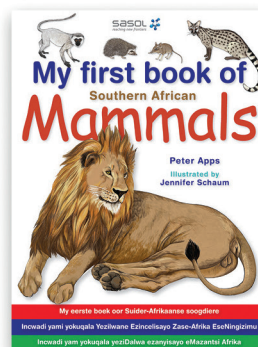
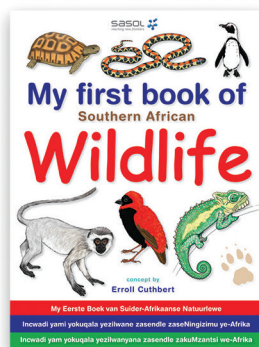
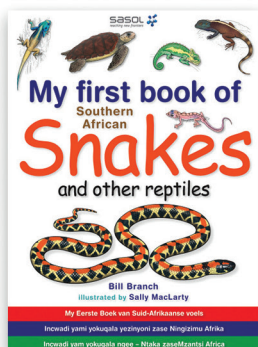
3+
years



Text in English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Xhosa



Collect them all!

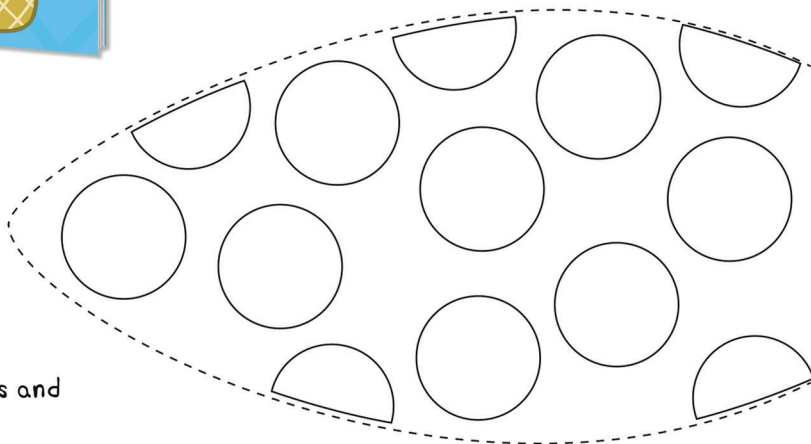




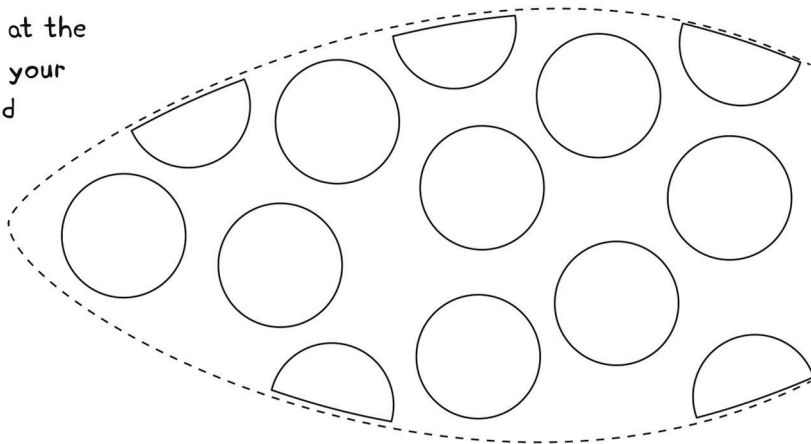
Make Peppa's Easter Bunny ears

HOW TO...

- Colour in your ears and headband
- Cut out along the dotted lines - remember to get a grown up to help!
- Use glue or sticky tape to stick the ear band and headband together at the the TABS to make your bunny ears headband



Ear band



TAB

TAB

Headband

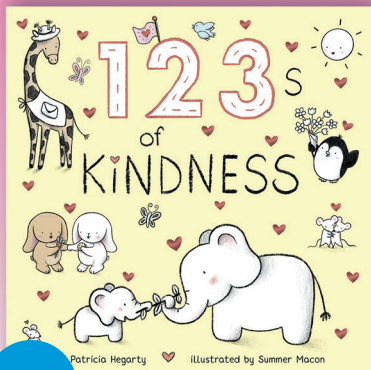
TAB

TAB



FUTURE

SHELF STOPPERS



0-3

APR



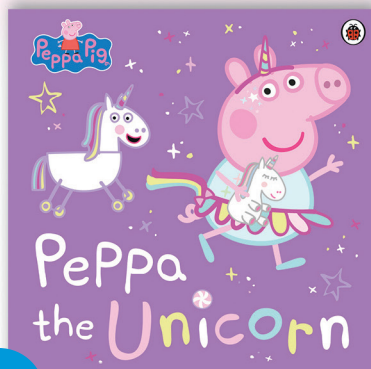
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APR



YA

APR



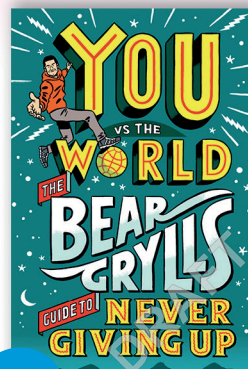
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MAY



6-9

MAY



9-12

MAY



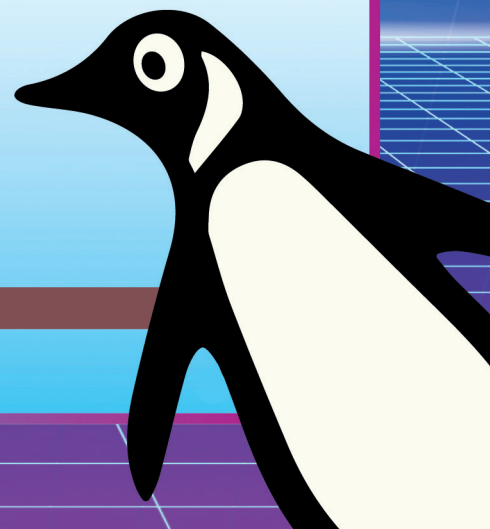
12+

JUN



12+

JUN

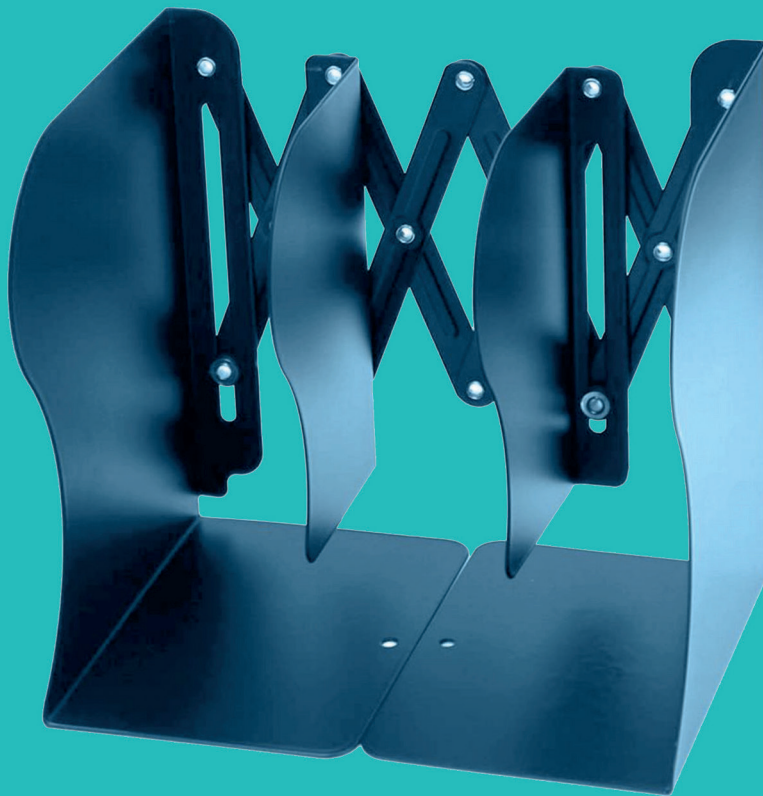


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Competition dates: 1 March 2023 – 30 April 2023.

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