

The Huddle



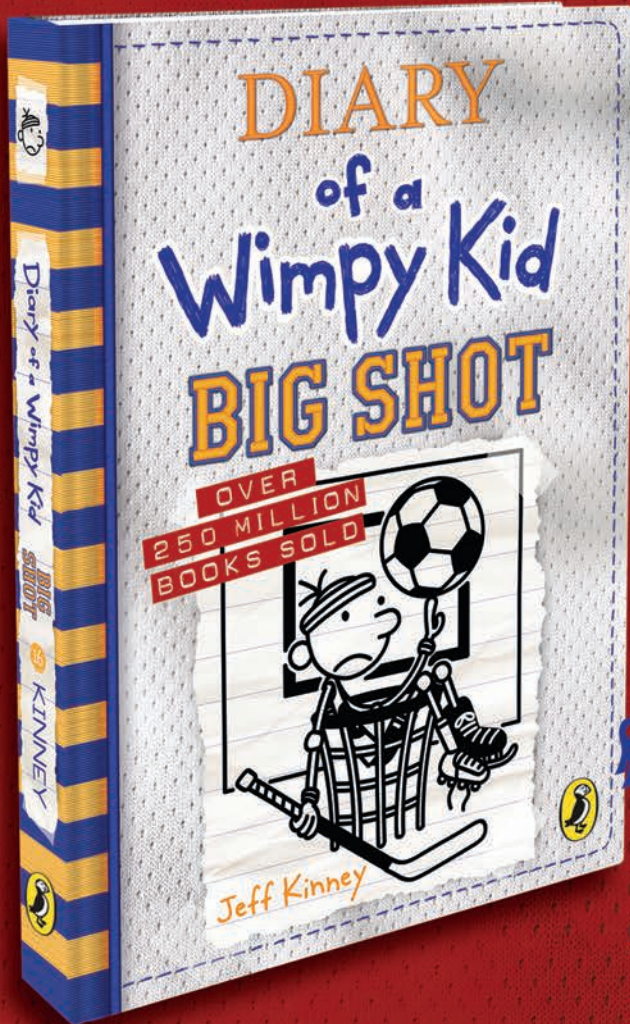
A magazine about books for kids and young adults

MERRY
EVERYTHING
& HAPPY ALWAYS



ISSUE 5 Special Festive Edition

your
free
copy



BIG SHOT

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

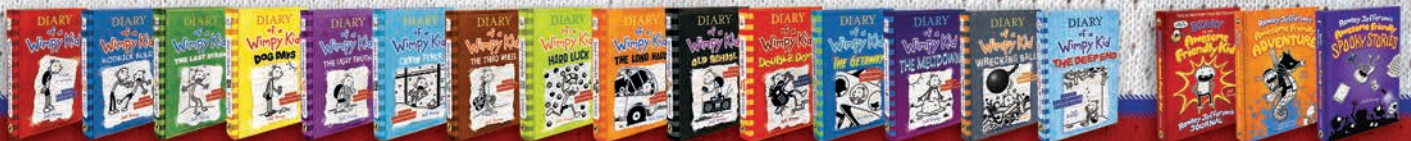
from #1 international bestselling author

Jeff Kinney

OUT NOW!



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



AVAILABLE NOW AT ALL GOOD BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE AND ONLINE
www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za



wimpykid.com | #WimpyKid

Letter from: the editor



Hello Readers

And just like that, the most wonderful time of the year has arrived. I am a complete sucker for all things festive – from the tinsel and lit-up Christmas trees to the magic and complete merriment that I see in my children's eyes. For me, it is also a time for reflection. To look back on the year that has passed and even though it has had its ups and downs, I also know that I have so much to be truly grateful for... health, family, love, and the opportunity to spread joy to so many in need.

And talking of spreading joy... Jeff Kinney's brand-new book in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series is out now! In *Big Shot*, Greg Heffley and sports just don't mix. But in sports, anything can happen. When everything is on the line and the ball is in Greg's hands, will he rise to the occasion? Or will he blow his big shot?

Karen McManus is very quickly becoming a 'big shot' author here in SA as she continues to climb our charts every week! Our Children's Sales Representative, Lynne Fisher, asks her some

interesting questions on page 4.

If you're looking for gifts over the festive season, you've come to the right place! We have books for everyone in this edition, no matter their age or stage. And while you're browsing, make sure to turn to page 6 where Parenting Coach, Teacher, and Mom, Susan Gregor-Harlen, explains the importance of believing in a little magic.

True to form, our very own colony of Penguins have been very busy reading over the course of this year. Turn to page 15 to find out their favourite reads of 2021. Disclaimer: the hardest part for them was choosing just one!

And lastly, on page 21, we are so excited for you to have a sneak peek at the very best of our titles coming in 2022! 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



Johannesburg • Growthpoint Business Park, Unit 12A (ii), 162 Tonetti Street, Halfway House Ext 7, Midrand, 1685 • 011 327-3550 Cape Town • Estuaries No 4, Oxbow Crescent, Century Avenue, Century City, 7441 • 021 460 5400

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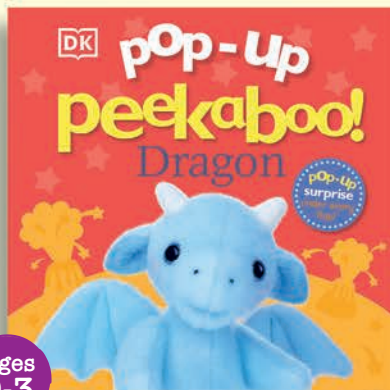
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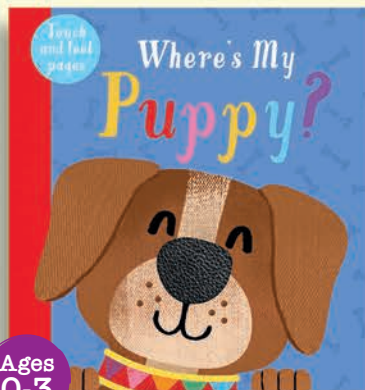
We can't wait for these 2022 titles!

TOP PICKS OUT NOW!

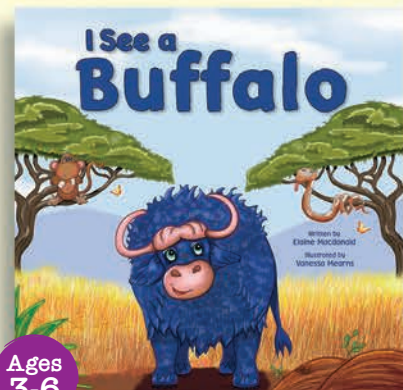
Brand new books for
all ages and stages...



Ages
0-3



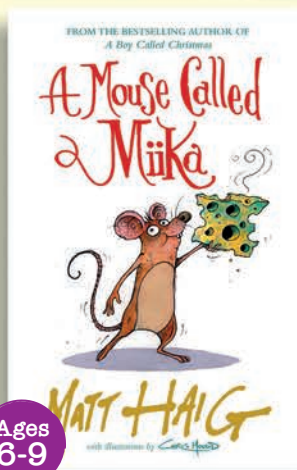
Ages
0-3



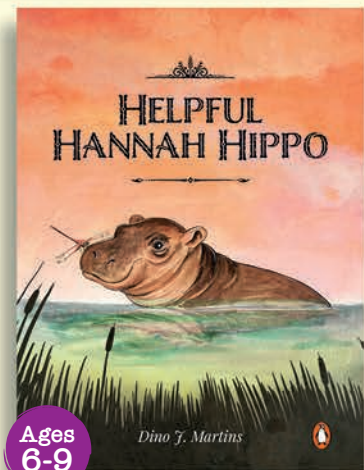
Ages
3-6



Ages
3-6



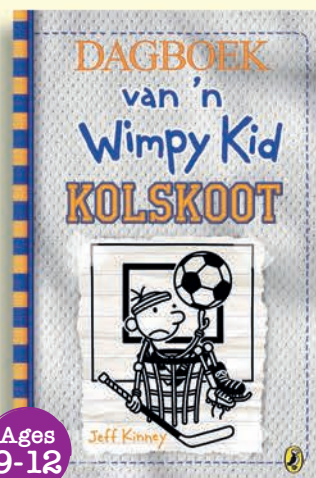
Ages
6-9



Ages
6-9



Ages
9-12



Ages
9-12



DIVE INTO AN ALL
NEW ADVENTURE



RICK
EPIC HEROES • LEGENDARY ADVENTURES
RIORDAN
AVAILABLE NOW

We speak to **Karen M. McManus**

Our very own Sales Rep, Lynne Fisher asks Karen McManus some interesting questions



***You'll Be The Death of Me* has been compared to *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* meets a murder mystery. Do you agree with the comparison?**

Yes, and in fact it's how I pitched the book to my agent and editor a couple of years ago. The spark for the concept happened back in 2017 while I was in Ireland at an event with other YA authors, and they joked that because *One of Us Is Lying* is like *The Breakfast Club* with murder, I should add crime to all the big 80s movies: *Sixteen Candles* with murder! *Pretty in Pink* with murder! I can't remember if someone suggested Ferris Bueller or if I just thought it, but I remember thinking how that one is actually a good jumping off point for the kind of books I write, because it starts with the protagonist doing something they shouldn't. The idea marinated in my brain for a couple of years while I wrote *Two Can Keep a Secret*, *One of Us Is Next*, and *The Cousins*, and eventually started to form more fully.

Once again you have a varied cast of characters in *You'll Be The Death of Me*. One of the main characters, Ivy has a fear of public speaking. Do you enjoy being interviewed and talking about your books?

Unlike Ivy, I have no fear of speaking in front of a crowd, and

I often enjoy it – especially when I have the chance to interact with my readers. But because I'm more introverted than not, it does tend to wear me out, and I need time to recharge afterward.

Brian "Boney" Mahoney is a drug user, a thief and a drug dealer. Do you think he has any redeeming personality traits?

The reader doesn't get to see much of Boney in the book – he mostly exists in the recollections of other characters who have conflicts with him, or who are recounting how he wound up at the centre of a crime. So it's not a complete picture. But we see flashes of a young man who dreamed big, looked out for his friends, and had an offbeat sense of humour. As with most people, there was more to Boney than meets the eye.



Just like the last line of *Two Can Keep A Secret* gave me goosebumps, the last page of *You'll Be The Death Of Me* had the exact same effect. Do you know exactly where the red herrings and shocking unexpected revelations will appear before you write your books?

Sometimes, but not always, and not in this case. *You'll Be the Death of Me* was an interesting book because when I first started

writing, I had a very clear vision for the first half of the book, but all I knew about the ending was the whodunit part. My outline said something vague like, "They break apart, come back together, and solve the crime." I wrote a full draft without knowing how I'd get my characters out of the mess they created, which of course resulted in a deeply lacklustre end. But I knew it was just a placeholder while I was building the foundation of character and plot, and once that was done, I had a much better sense of how to layer in surprise and tension.

'*You'll Be The Death Of Me*' is a phrase Mateo's Grandma says to him a couple of times in the book. What made you use this as the title of the book?

It's a phrase that gets used in my own family a lot, and I've always thought it would make a good title. It's usually said to express annoyance or concern but often – as is the case of Mateo's grandmother – there's affection behind it, too. His grandmother wouldn't worry so much if Mateo weren't so important to her, and that's true of his friend group as well; Ivy, Mateo, and Cal frustrate one another in part because their friendship means a lot to each of them, even when they pretend it doesn't. And of course, the saying also applies in a literal sense for certain characters within the book.



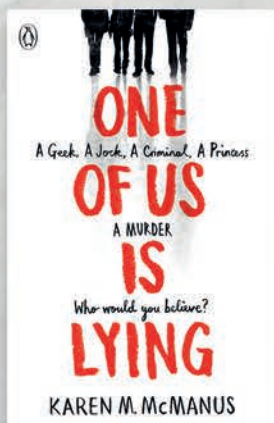
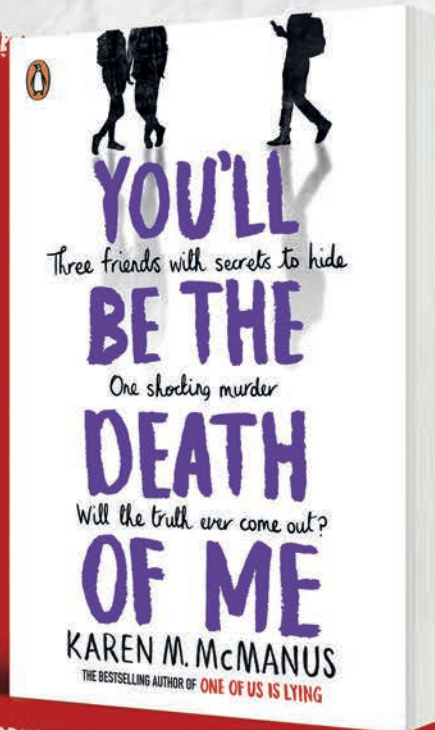
KAREN M. McMANUS

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF

ONE OF US IS LYING

SECRETS. LIES. MURDER.

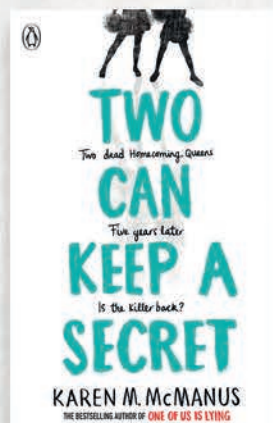
Three friends with
secrets to hide.
One shocking murder.
Will the truth ever
come out?



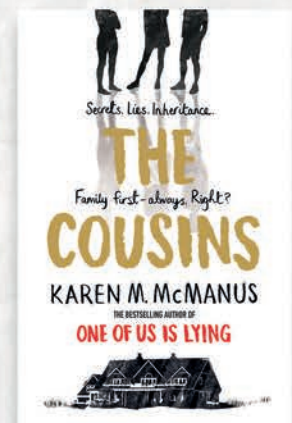
Five students go to
detention. Only four
leave alive.



Truth or dare turns
deadly. Who would you
believe?



Two dead
homecoming queens.
Who's next?



Secrets. Lies.
Inheritance. Family first
always. Right?

**'IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY QUEEN OF TEEN CRIME KAREN McMANUS
IS A BESTSELLER ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC'.**

- GUARDIAN

It's the most wonderful time of the year

Parental Coach and mom,
Susan Gregor-Harlen, speaks
to us about the importance of
believing in a little bit of magic.

"It was Christmas eve and all in the house was quiet. With a sparkle and a flash of light, a big burly man, dressed all in red and carrying a sack of presents, suddenly appeared in the living room. No one saw him, but all believed."

As one of the most magical times of the year for children draws closer, it has made me think about the importance of having and the belief that children need to have in magic in their lives. Believing in something or someone good comes

so naturally to children and they do so without question.

The joy and excitement that such a belief creates in little ones is infectious and captivating and something, we as adults, wish we could prolong for them for as long as possible. Once that belief ends, a certain sparkle seems to disappear from their eyes and we then know that they are no longer our "little ones" and have woken to a world that is often filled with a degree of harshness and disappointment.



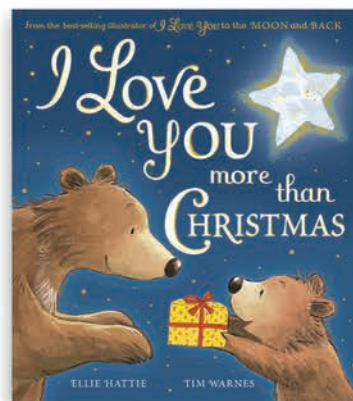
Books to keep the magic alive in our little ones



Ages 0-3




Ages 3-6



Ages 3-6





So, you may ask, why is it so important that children be allowed to believe in the magic of the world, the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, Father Christmas, as well as a world of fairies and unicorns? Having a belief often implies that one has an unwavering faith in something/ someone that one cannot see, or which cannot be explained. As adults, we understand that such characters, as mentioned above do not exist and yet many of us have a belief in a "Higher Power".

It is this thought that has made me realise that a child's belief in magic is often the starting point of their faith, hope and dreams. Even as adults, we have our dreams and hopes and cling to our faith in times of need. It is these beliefs that help us get through the difficulties and harsh realities of life, something little children have not yet experienced.

When a child believes in the magic of something such as Father Christmas, they start with

a **dream** of the toy they would like, to **hope** it will be delivered and then have complete **faith** that he will do so. Yet even if he doesn't bring them exactly what they wanted, the fact that he brought them a toy is enough to keep the magic alive, to keep them hoping, believing and keeping the faith.

But this is not the only reason that believing in magic is good not only for children, but for us adults too, it allows a person to have a flexible and curious mindset. Furthermore, it allows for possibilities, creativity and playfulness, engendering a feeling of empowerment and happiness - without the belief in the impossible, there would be no spaceships, no electric vehicles and little advancements in societies.

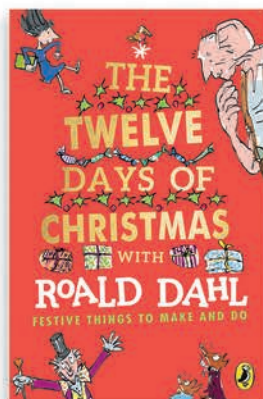
So, let us as adults continue to hear those sleighbells and be shocked by the mess the reindeer have left behind. Let's all continue to believe in a little magic!



For more information contact
susan.parentalcoach@gmail.com



Ages 6-9



Ages 6-9



Ages 9-12

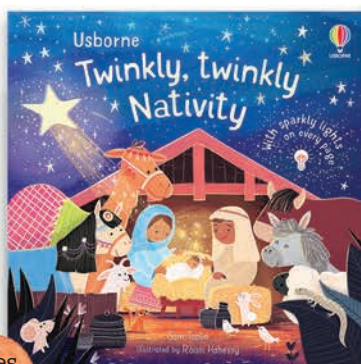


Ages 9-12

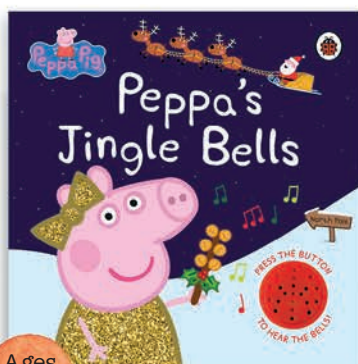


Merry everything & happy always

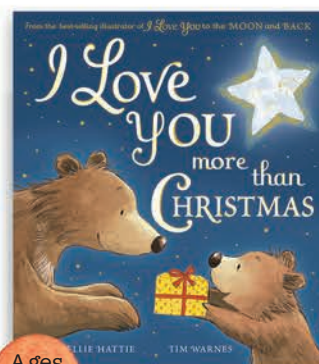
Which one will be on your wish list?



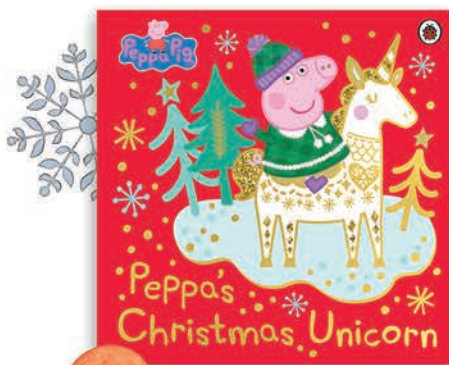
Ages
0-3



Ages
0-3



Ages
3-6



Ages
3-6



Ages
6-9



Ages
6-9



Ages
9-12



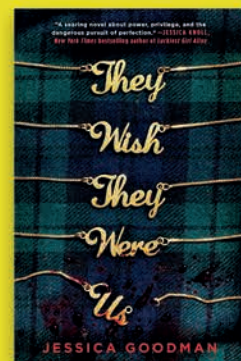
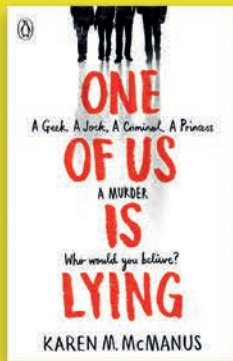
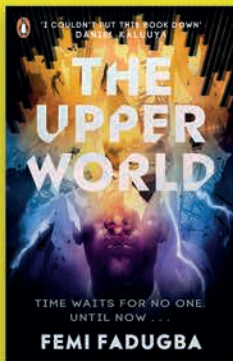
Ages
9-12



Books to read **BEFORE**

you watch the screen adaptation

When your eyes inevitably begin to glaze over on your 29th episode of *Gossip Girl* in almost as many hours (yes, we speak from experience), picking up a book is the perfect way to escape. These recommendations will help you find the perfect read based on shows you just can't live without, whether you're addicted to crime fiction, fantasy, or simply, a hopeless romantic.



NOW SHOWING

- *The Kissing Booth*
- *Dear Evan Hansen*
- *One of Us is Lying*

COMING 24 NOV

- *A Boy Called Christmas*
- *Words on Bathroom Walls*

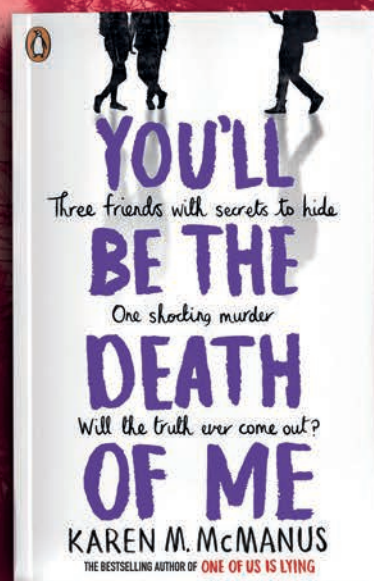
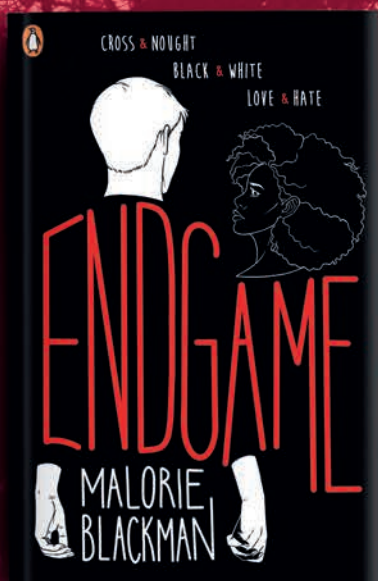
COMING 2022

- *The Upper World*

ONES TO WATCH OUT FOR...

- *The Gilded Ones*
- *They Wish They Were Us*





UN-PUT-DOWNABLE YOUNG ADULT READS

Once you start, you won't be able to stop.
Consider yourself warned.

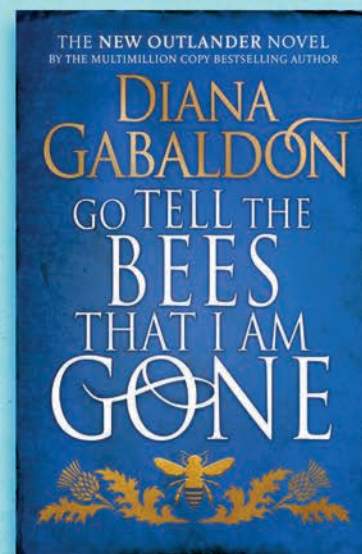
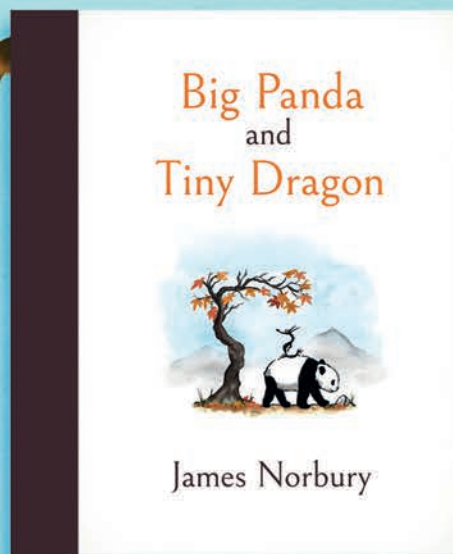
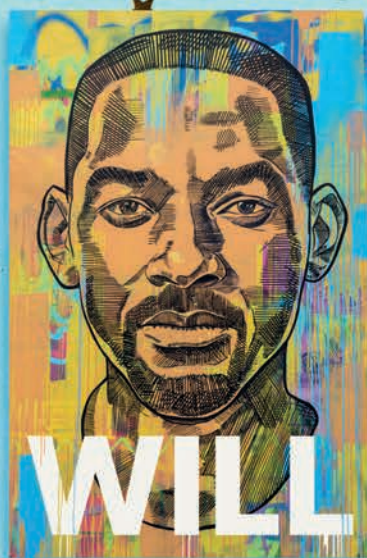


Out in
Dec

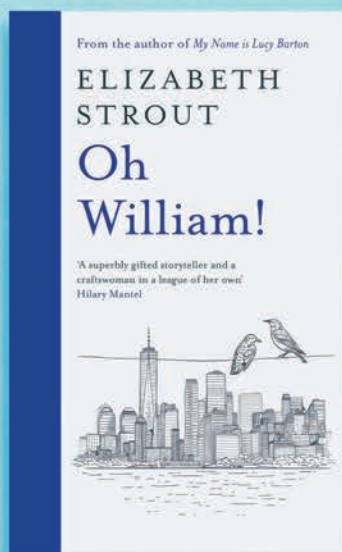
The perfect

stocking filler

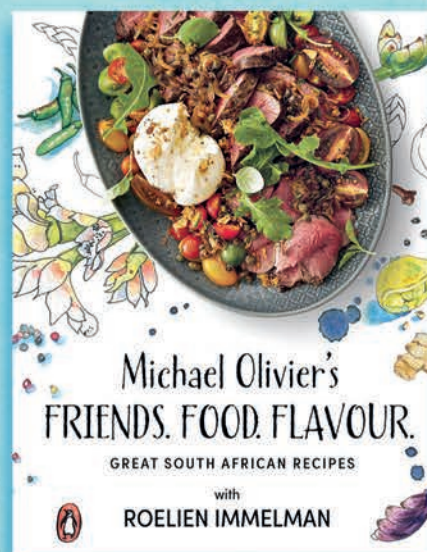
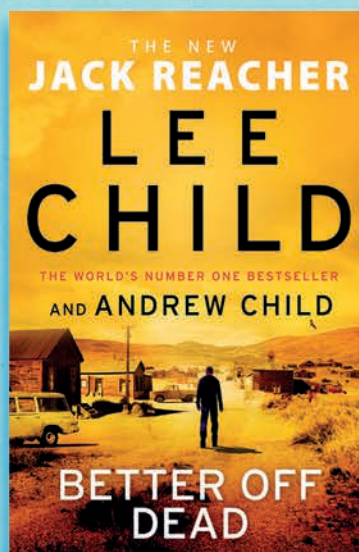
A little something for
everyone on the 'nice' list...



AVAILABLE 23.11

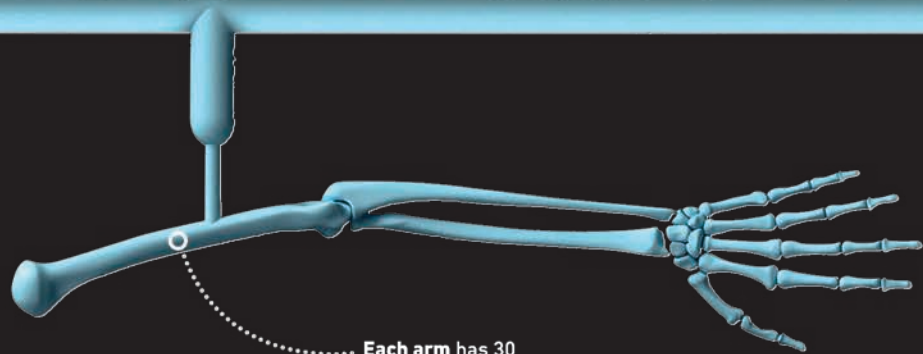


AVAILABLE 01.12

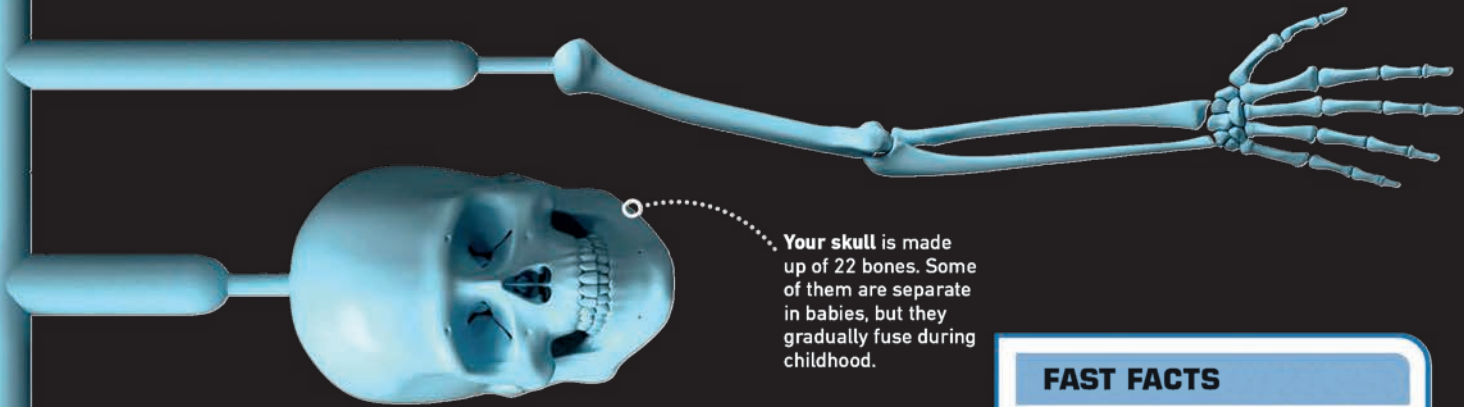


The Huddle Festive Edition

The number of bones in your body depends on your age. A newborn baby has about 300 bones, but some of these fuse together as the skeleton grows. By the age of 25, the human skeleton has only 206 bones.



Each arm has 30 bones, including 27 in the hand and wrist.



Your skull is made up of 22 bones. Some of them are separate in babies, but they gradually fuse during childhood.

HOW MANY BONES HAVE YOU GOT?

Without a skeleton to hold you up, your body would collapse into a wobbling mound of flesh. Your skeleton is made of up to 300 bones, which are connected by joints and tightly wrapped with more than 600 muscles. This living framework allows you to walk, dance, climb trees, and ride bikes. It also protects your organs, stores minerals, and produces 95 per cent of your blood cells.

FAST FACTS

Most large animals have an endoskeleton – a skeleton inside the body. Many small animals, however, have an exoskeleton – a skeleton on the outside.



Endoskeletons

Exoskeletons

Sharks have zero bones.

Their internal skeletons are made entirely of a tough, rubbery tissue called cartilage.



The two hip bones are each made of three parts that fuse during teenage years, forming a sturdy platform to carry your body's weight.

Your spine is a stack of 33 bones called vertebrae.

Twelve pairs of ribs make up your ribcage. One in 500 people has an extra pair.

An adult human has 206 bones, but a baby's skeleton has about 300.

The longest and strongest bone in your body is your femur (thighbone).

Each leg has 30 bones, including 26 in the foot and ankle.

HOW IT WORKS

Your skeleton does much more than just supporting your body. It has five main functions, all of which are essential.

Protection. Certain bones, such as your skull and ribs, protect vital internal organs.

Movement. Flexible joints between bones allow your body to change shape and move.

Anchorage. Bones provide something for your muscles to attach to and pull on so that your body can move.

Blood supply. Hollows in large bones contain bone marrow – a soft tissue that makes blood cells.

Support. The skeleton's most important job is to hold your body up and give it shape.



Reader reviews

This month, Rozanne and Lorraine, two of our Instagram reviewers, tell us what they're currently reading...



Reviewed by Rozanne Visagie

@rozanne_visagie

Daughter of the Deep ★★★★★

Rick Riordan

Daughter of the Deep is Rick Riordan's newest standalone novel and defines the meaning of 'escaping into another world'. This book is different to Riordan's previous books; moving away from mythology and easing into science. With a female protagonist, the reader is taken on an adventure from land to sea. From dodging beams from a Leyden gun to dancing with dolphins. Riordan shakes the foundation early in the story and the reader holds their breath as secrets are revealed. What does Captain Nemo, Harding-Pencroft and Land Institute have in common? Ana

Dakkar. With two rival schools, state of the art submarines and one target, the reader is plunged into a race where everything isn't as it seems. Accompanied by rich descriptions, the reader is submerged into a world where science and stories are mixed to produce a story that is gripping and entertaining from the first page to the last. I enjoyed this story and would recommend it if you like adventure stories. If you haven't read any of Riordan's books before, this is the perfect book to ease you into Riordan's easy writing style and addictive storylines.



Pumpkin Finds Her Kindness ★★★★★

Bianca Flanders

Pumpkin Finds Her Kindness is a story of a young girl, Pumpkin, who gets very upset when she doesn't win first prize at school, and she starts doubting herself. When she arrives home from school, her Gogo sits her down and talks to her about how it is okay to feel sad when things do not go our way, but don't be jealous of those who have done better than us; validation is essential. Gogo then teaches her age-appropriate coping skills to confront the green-eyed monster and always seek kindness no matter how big or small.

This book teaches children that it is okay to be disappointed. Parents should let their children experience disappointment because it teaches them that it is natural to feel bummed out when their expectations are not met.

We loved the graphics, big, bold with splashes of colour. The rhyming sentences gave the story a wavy-like movement adding a tactile texture to the story. We loved the familiar setting – school, home, Ouma – which brought this story very close to us, yet with such universal themes.



Reviewed by Lorraine Sithole

@sithole_lorraine_





Small Favors by Erin A. Craig has to be one of the best books I've read this year. This hauntingly beautiful book is filled with beast, bargains, blood and romance and I just could not put it down. Erin A. Craig is the master of eerie thrillers and is definitely a writer to watch.

Lorienne Brown, Children's Marketer

From the New York Times bestselling author of *House of Salt and Sorrows*

PENGUIN COLONY READS



Our favourite reads of 2021

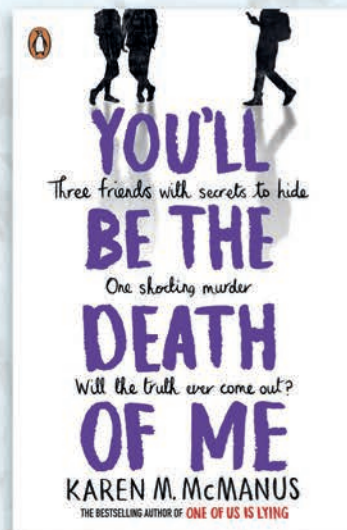


In *You'll be the Death of Me*, Ivy, Mateo and Cal decide to skip school. Just like they did five years ago on what they all refer to as "The Greatest Day Ever". Things quickly spiral out of control... however when they witness a murder, they must solve it before they are arrested for it...

Lynne Fisher, Children's Sales Representative

At the End of Everything by Marieke Nijkamp is an emotional and relatable novel that takes place in a juvenile detention centre at the beginning of a pandemic and follows various teenagers as they are abandoned by prison officials and their families. Some choose to escape, others choose to stay, but they must all figure out how to survive.

Shinola Govender, Children's Sales Representative



NUWE BOEKE

Op die rak

Somer is hier en daar is 'n hele handvol splinternuwe boeke op die rakke om die nuwe seisoen mee te vier...



5+

Redakteur sê: "Hierdie bemoedigende verhaal sal alle kinders wys dat hulle spesiaal is vir die Here en dat Hy hulle sal help en gebruik."



5+

Nina en Magriet die hoender is beste maats en het allerhande avonture saam!

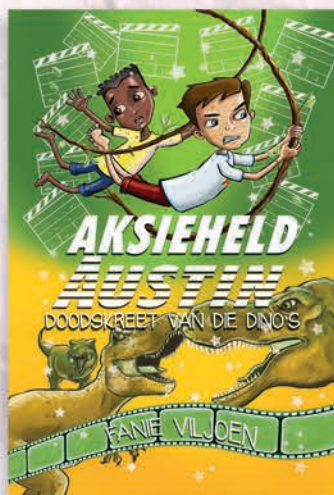


5+



5+

Ook in Engels beskikbaar!



9+

Redakteur sê: "Hierdie asemrowende reeks avontuurverhale uit die pen van Fanie Viljoen is perfek vir jong lesers wat hou van stories propvol aksie en adrenalien!"

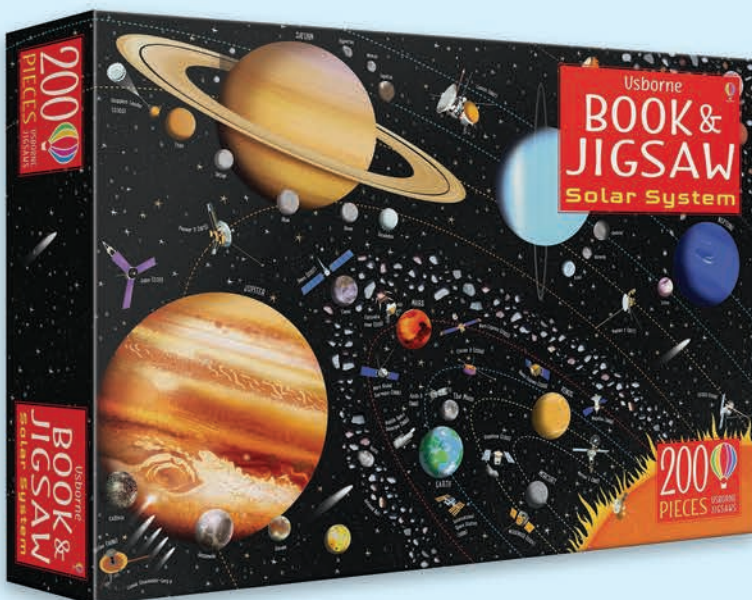
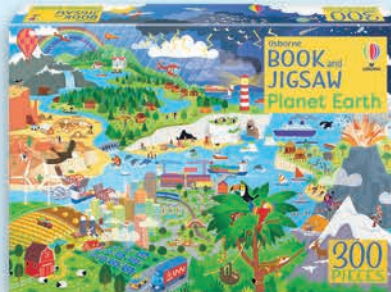
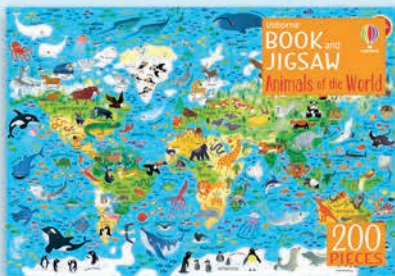
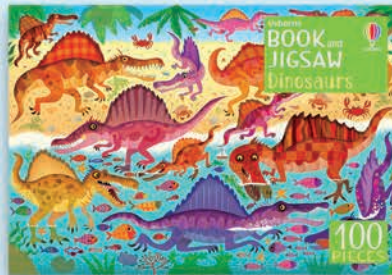
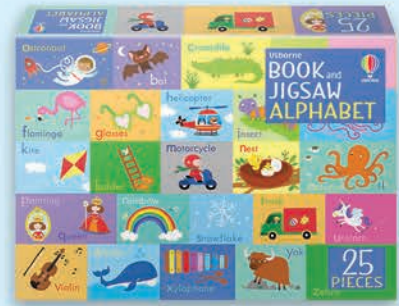
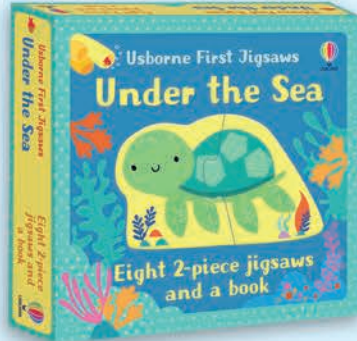


11+

Hierdie boek bevat OPWINDENDE en FANTASTIESE vrae en feite wat enige feitevraat se mond gaan laat water!

PLAY AND LEARN

with Usborne's Book & Jigsaws



Just a few benefits of Jigsaw Puzzles:

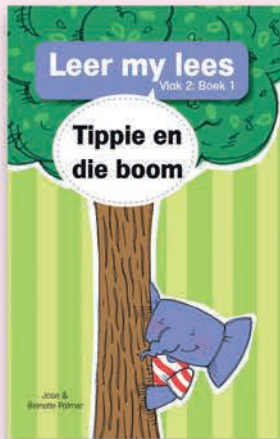
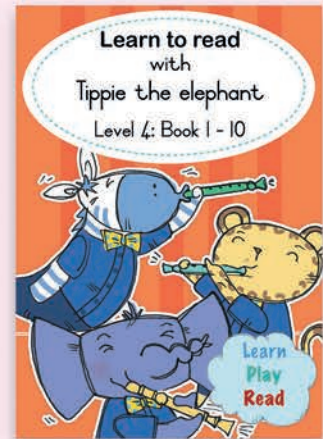
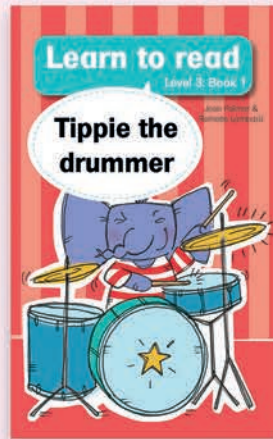
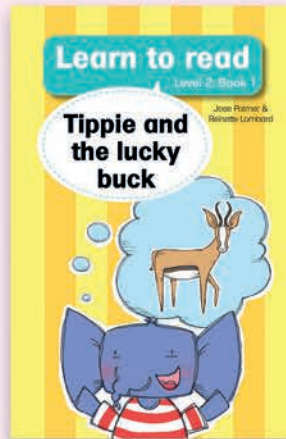
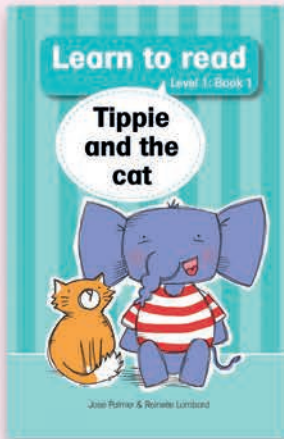
- ✓ Fine motor development
- ✓ Hand and eye coordination
- ✓ Problem solving and logical reasoning
- ✓ Spatial awareness
- ✓ Cognitive skills
- ✓ Improved memory and attention span
- ✓ Self esteem
- ✓ Teamwork





Reading is fun with Tippie the elephant

Go on an adventure with Tippie as you play, learn and discover!



Over **445,660** copies of the 'Leer my Lees' Afrikaans series have been sold!

Proudly South African

Did you know?

- Tippie is written by dynamic mother and daughter duo, José Palmer & Reinette Lombard
- The illustrator, Zinelda McDonald, is an award-winning South African illustrator
- The books are available in English (Learn to Read), Afrikaans (Leer my Lees) and isiXhosa (Funda ukufunda Inqanaba)

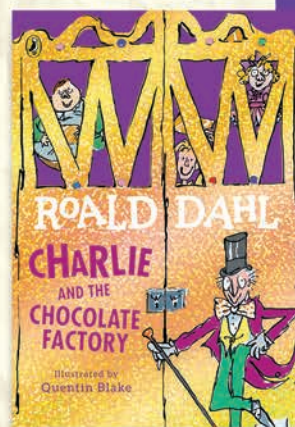
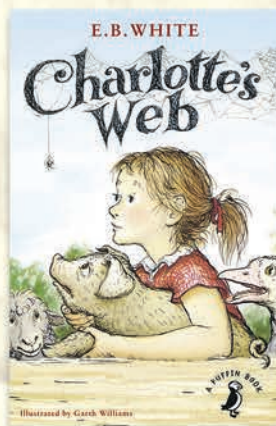
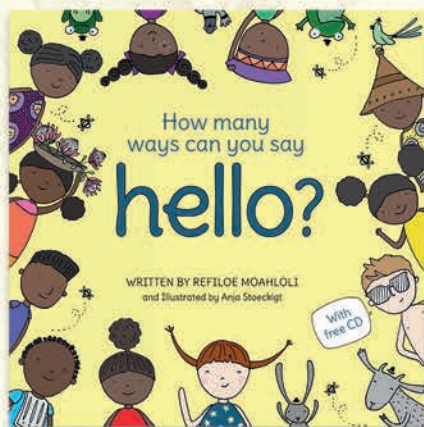


Tippie is available for school visits!

For more information contact hdekock@penguinrandomhouse.co.za

Fun fact:

the original book has sold over 20 million copies worldwide and is available in 55 languages!

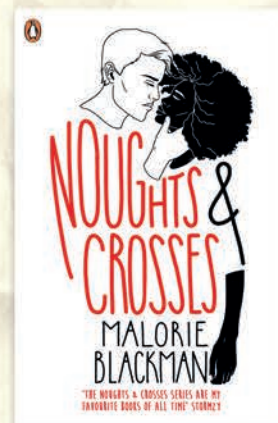
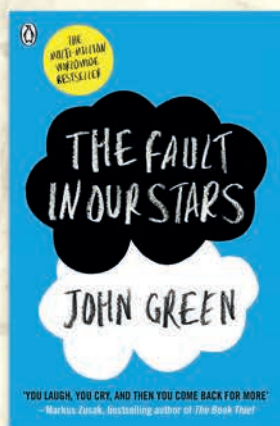
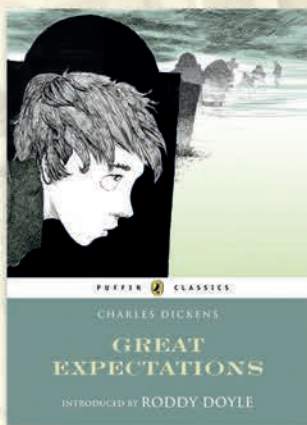
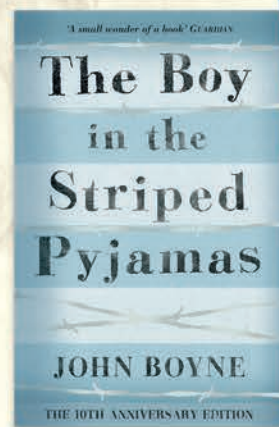
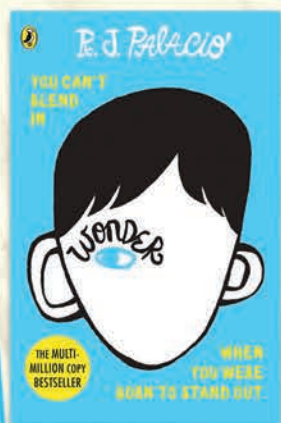


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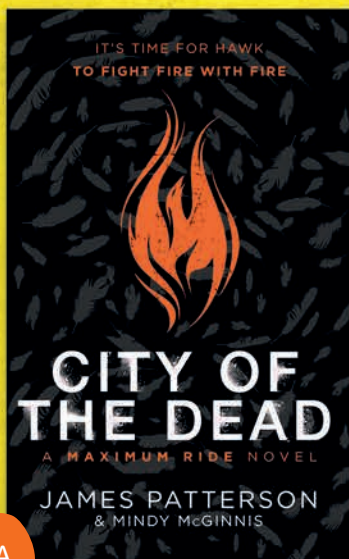
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The BEST of the BEST COMING 2022

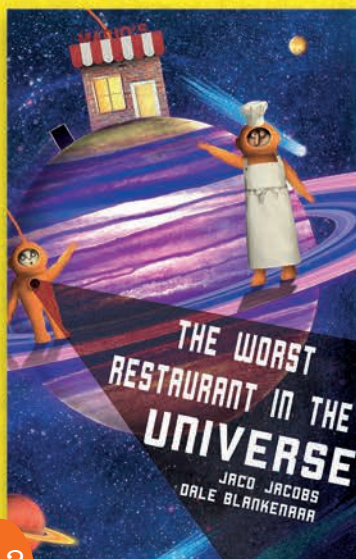


January

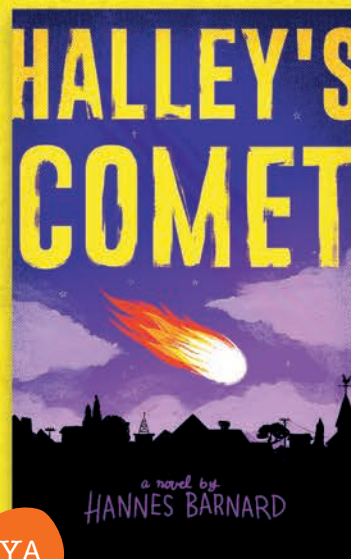


YA

February

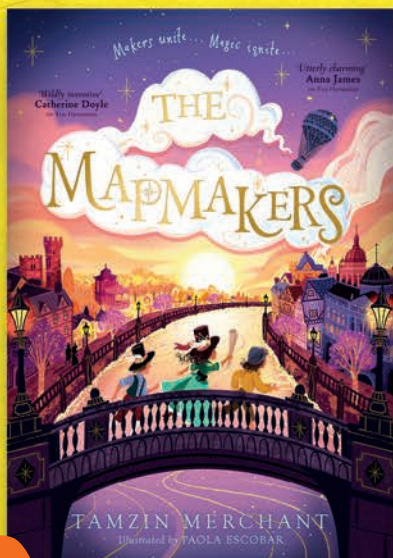


9-12



YA

March



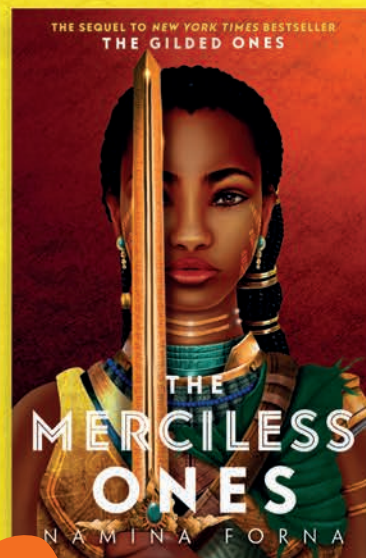
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April



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