

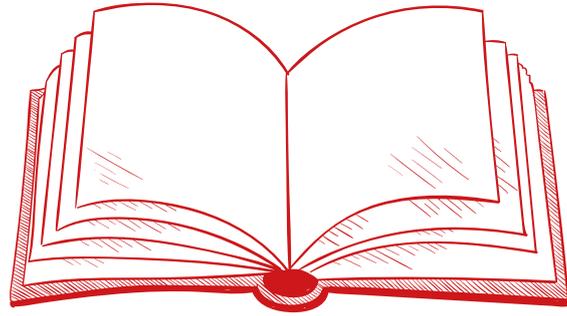


Penguin  
Random House  
South Africa

A large, intricate illustration of a mechanical teapot on wheels. The teapot has a red and white striped awning, a digital display showing '2021 517', and various gears and levers. A penguin is on the left, a unicorn is on the right, and children are playing in the background. The scene is set against a green background with falling paper and a yellow sun.

# Best books FOR KIDS, tweens, TEENS AND young adults

## JANUARY- JUNE 2021

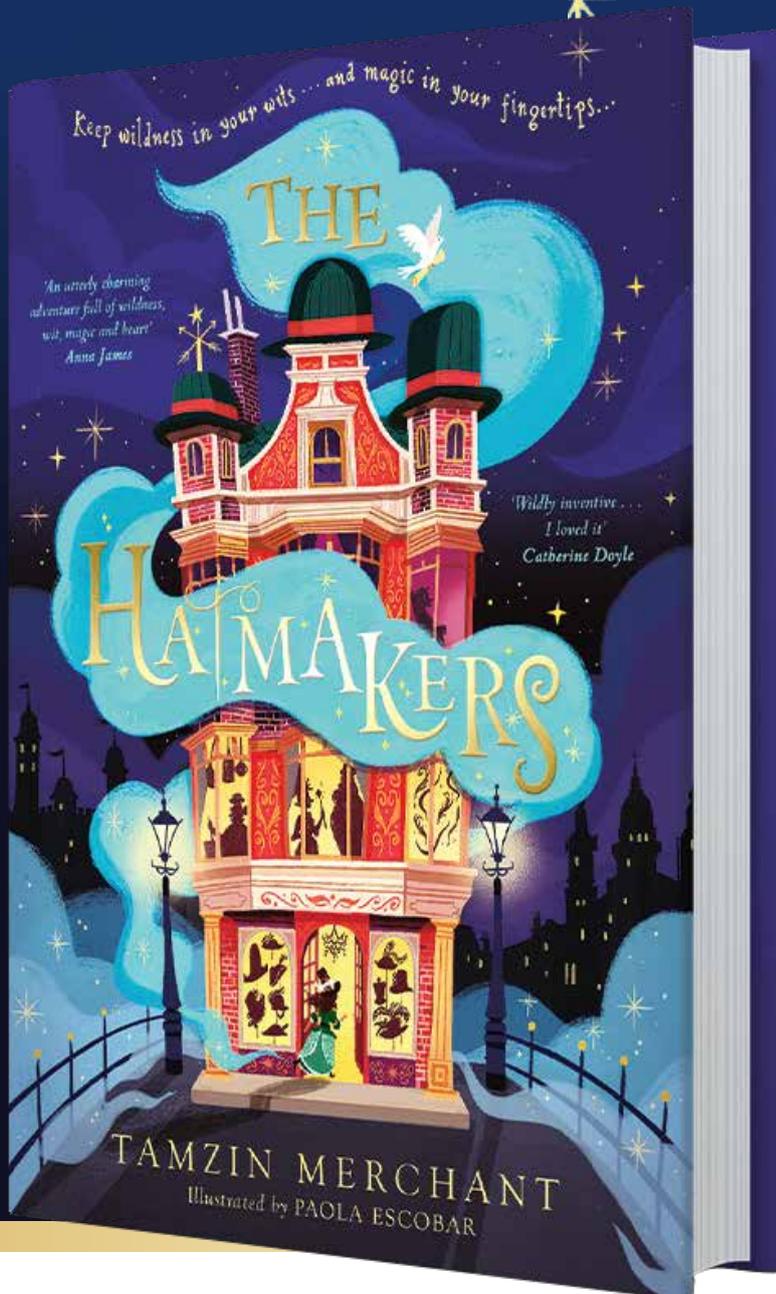


**“Reading**  
*is the gateway skill*  
**that makes**  
**all other**  
*learning*  
**possible”**

**– Barack Obama**

# THE HATMAKERS

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



Cordelia comes from a long line of magical milliners, who weave enchantment into every hat. In Cordelia's world, Making – crafting items from magical ingredients – is a rare and ancient skill, and only a few special Maker families remain.

When Cordelia's father Prospero and his ship are lost at sea during a mission to collect hat ingredients, Cordelia is determined to find him. But Uncle Tiberius and Aunt Ariadne have no time to help the littlest Hatmaker, for an ancient rivalry between the Maker families is threatening to surface. Worse, someone seems to be using Maker magic to start a war. It's up to Cordelia to find out who, and why...

SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE



## Contents

Ages 0-3 **2**

Ages 3-6 **6**

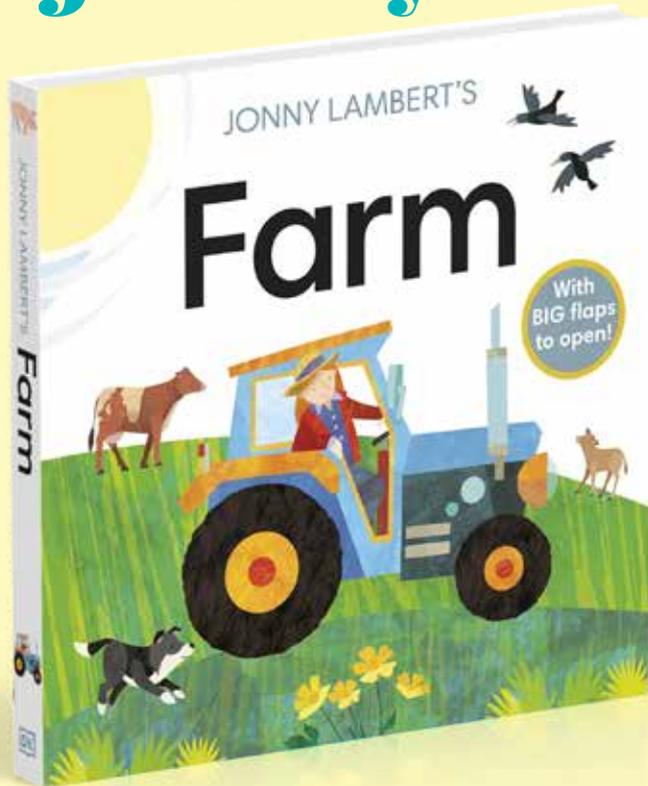
Ages 6-9 **10**

Tweens **14**

Young Adults **18**

# Ages 0-3

## January

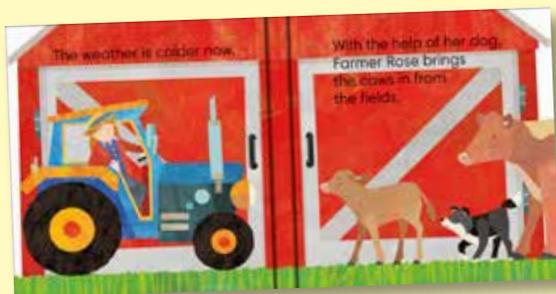


### Jonny Lambert's Farm

Jonny Lambert

9780241420607

A fun, beautifully designed open-the-flap board book for little ones who love cute farm animals, tractors, and more. Toddlers will love turning the pages, lifting the flaps, and learning all about busy life on the farm.

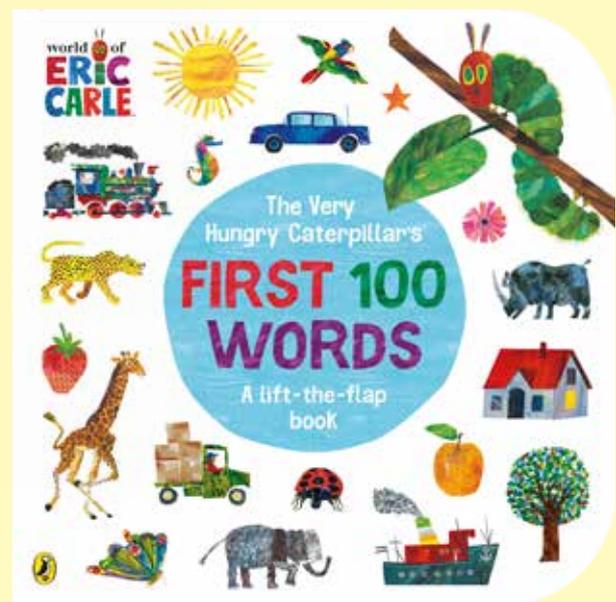


### The Very Hungry Caterpillar's First 100 Words

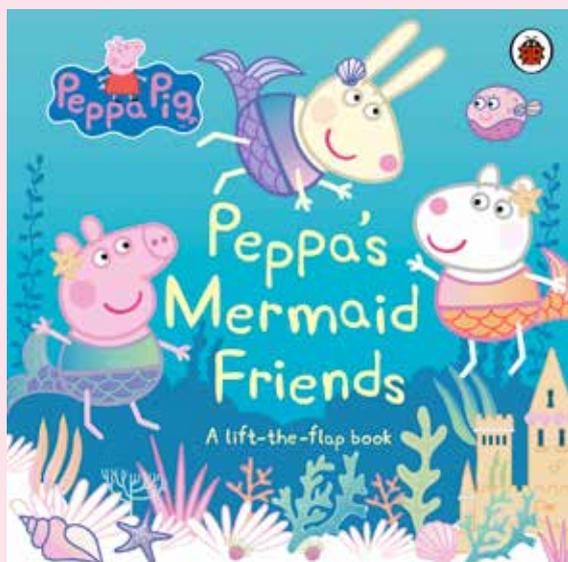
Eric Carle

9780241456811

Have fun learning first words with The Very Hungry Caterpillar in this brightly coloured chunky board book. Spot The Very Hungry Caterpillar on every page and find hidden words and friendly characters under the multiple flaps.



# February

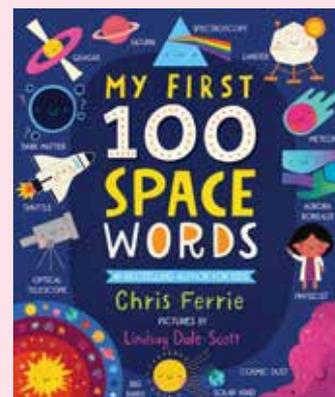


## Peppa Pig: Peppa's Mermaid Friends

Ladybird

9780241412084

Peppa and her friends love dressing up as mermaids, lift-the-flaps to join in their fun! This exciting adventure is full of hidden mermaid surprises – what will Peppa and her friends find next?



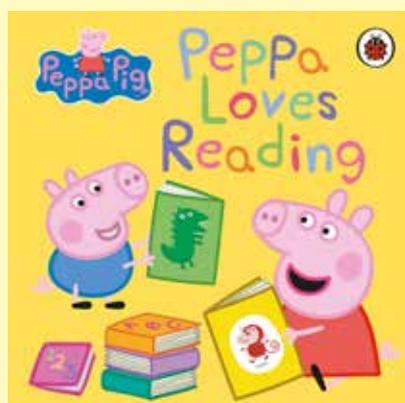
## My First 100 Space Words

Chris Ferrie

9781728220376

From the #1 bestselling science author for kids comes a simple and colourful introduction to the first 100 space words every baby should know – from shuttle to eclipse to galaxy, and so much more!

# March



## Peppa Pig: Peppa Loves Reading

Ladybird

9780241476345

Mummy and Daddy Pig are reading the same book and Peppa finds out it's for their very exciting book club. Peppa loves reading and wants one too! Mummy and Daddy Pig make a few phone calls and soon, Peppa and George's friends arrive for their very own book club!

## My Mum is Magnificent

Roald Dahl

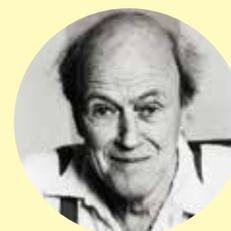
9780241481493

A read-aloud, read-again rhyming board book that celebrates the brilliance of Mums everywhere – ideal for parents and chidders to read and share together.

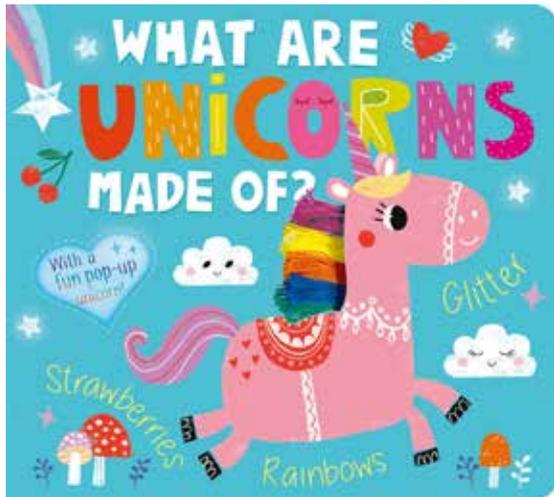


## Did you know?

When he was at school Roald Dahl received terrible reports for his writing – with one teacher actually writing in his report, 'I have never met a boy who so persistently writes the exact opposite of what he means. He seems incapable of marshalling his thoughts on paper!'



April



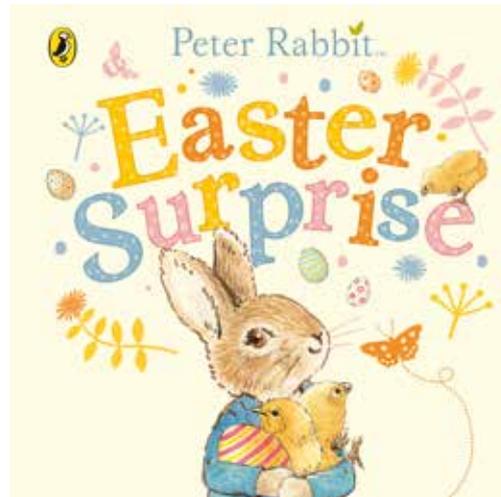
**What Are Unicorns Made Of?**  
**Amelia Hepworth**

9781788818384

Do you believe in unicorns? Have you ever wondered what they are actually made of? Are they filled with jellybeans? Do they have marshmallow manes? This fantastical board book has the answers.

Glitter

Strawberries



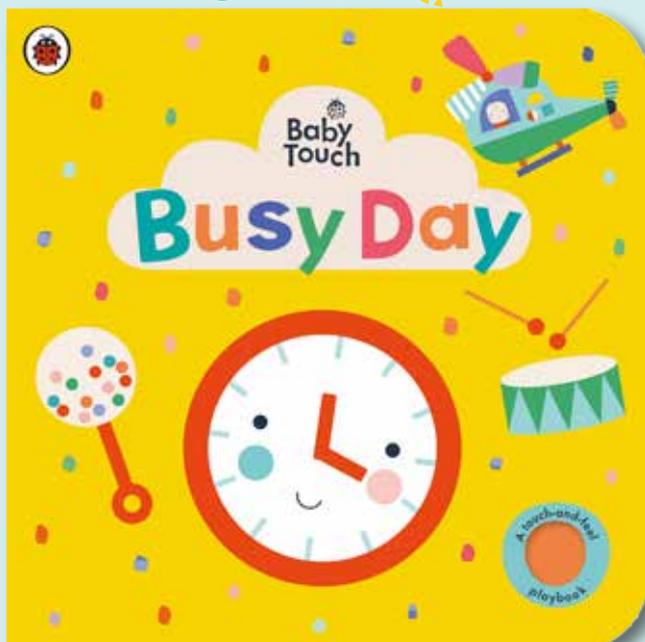
**Peter Rabbit: Easter Surprise**  
**Beatrix Potter**

9780241303467

Join Peter and his friends in this charming re-issue of *Easter Surprise*. Classic Beatrix Potter characters combined with a gorgeous new cover make this little story board book a must for every baby's Easter.

Rainbows

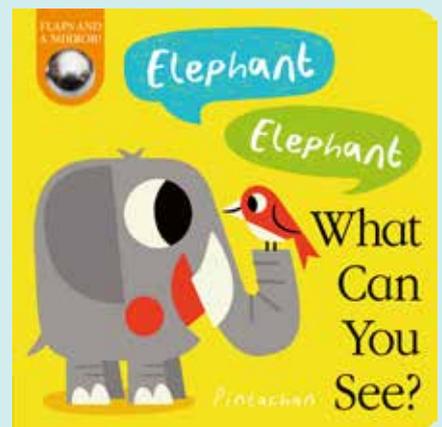
May



**Baby Touch: Busy Day**  
**Ladybird**

9780241427385

Have fun with your baby exploring the colourful, high-contrast touch-and-feel pages and making different noises, from 'beep, beep' and 'ding-dong' to learning to say 'hello'.



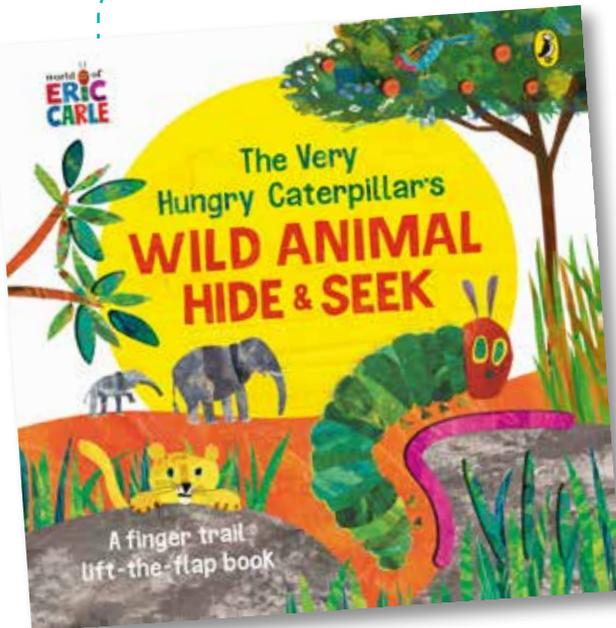
**Elephant! Elephant!**  
**What Can You See?**  
**Amelia Hepworth**

9781788818322

Lift the flaps to help Elephant discover who is hiding underneath. With a mirror under the final flap, this seek-and-find book is perfect for sharing with the very smallest of readers.



# June

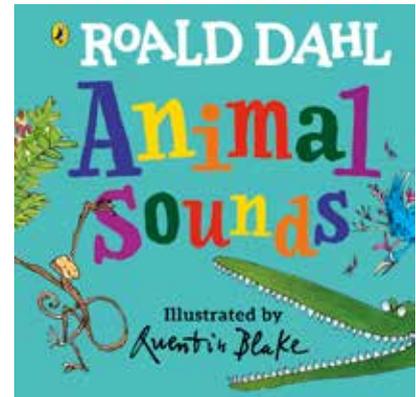


## The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Wild Animal Hide & Seek

Eric Carle

9780241478974

The Very Hungry Caterpillar is playing hide and seek in the wild! Discover snoozing lions, happy hippos, plodding elephants and many more. Lift-the-flaps to find hidden baby animals and follow the finger trails to explore.



## Roald Dahl: Animal Sounds

Roald Dahl

9780241481509

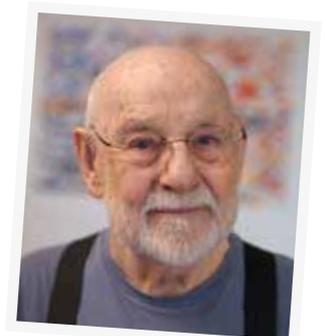
Learn all about animals in this board book with BITE! From fantastic foxes to mischievous monkeys, busy little hands will discover some truly splendid animals and fearsome beasts.



“When I create my books, I create for myself first. I try to entertain the child in me. That is where I start.”

Ever since Eric Carle was a small child, he loved to draw and he knew that when he grew up he would be an artist. A strong connection to the child inside continues to be a source of inspiration for his stories and pictures which have delighted generations of readers for more than 40 years.

The creator of the beloved and innovative classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* which has won the hearts of millions of children around the world, Eric Carle creates brightly painted tissue paper collage illustrations that are instantly recognizable. Eric Carle's background in graphic design is reflected in his deceptively simple, bold style; creating illustrations that he continues to think of as "little posters." His stories, many of which are about animals and insects, entertain, educate and captivate readers of all ages.

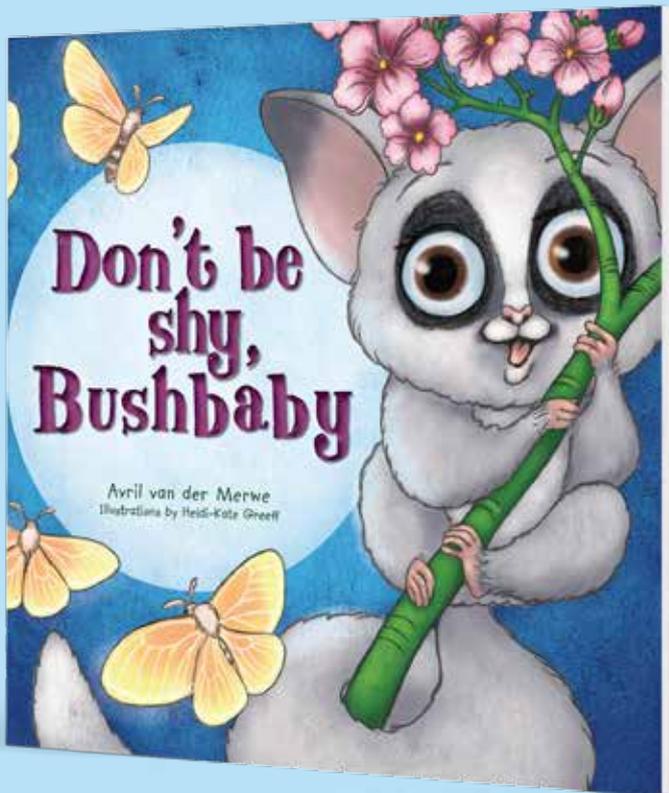


To find out more about Eric Carle, visit: <https://eric-carle.com/>

Ages

3-6

January



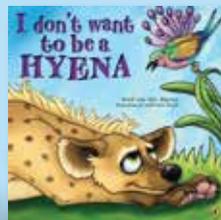
**Don't be Shy, Bushbaby**

**Avril van der Merwe**

9781485900559

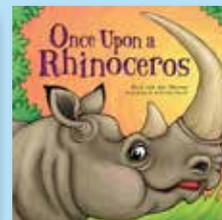
The other animals don't understand why they never see Bushbaby, so they assume he is shy. One by one, they try to coax him out of his hole in the tree, but Bushbaby never appears. As night falls, the animals head off to sleep. All, that is, except Owl, who has been silently observing the day's events. As Owl prepares for the night, he calls to Bushbaby, who bounds out of his hole, awake and alert. Throughout the hours of darkness, Owl, Bushbaby and the other nocturnal animals go about their everyday activities before returning to their beds as daybreak dawns.

**ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR:**



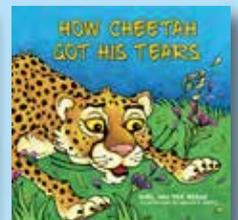
**I Don't Want To Be a Hyena**

9781485900504



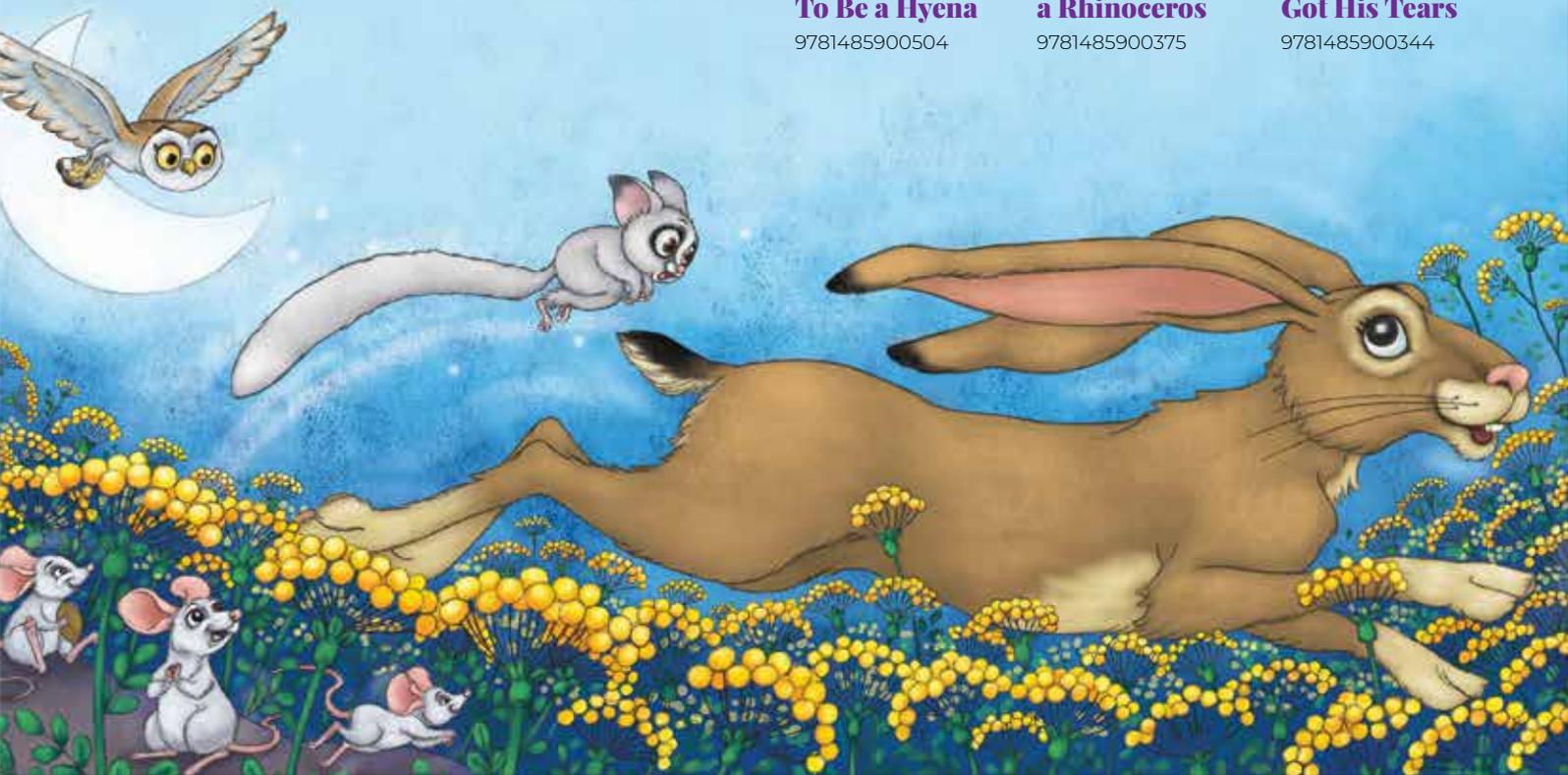
**Once Upon a Rhinoceros**

9781485900375

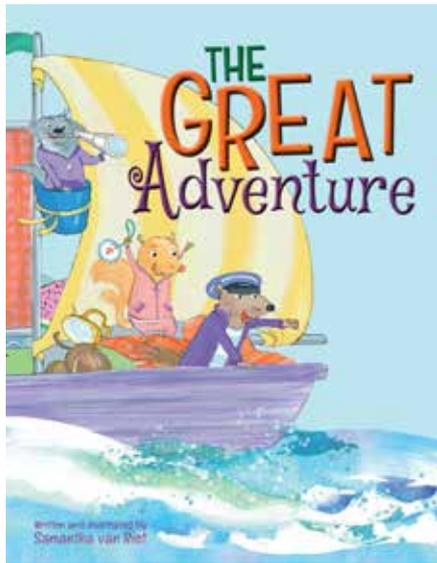


**How Cheetah Got His Tears**

9781485900344



# February



**The Great Adventure**  
Samantha van Riet

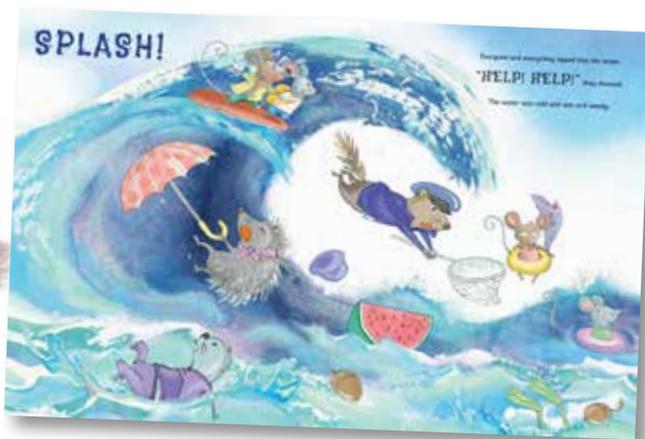
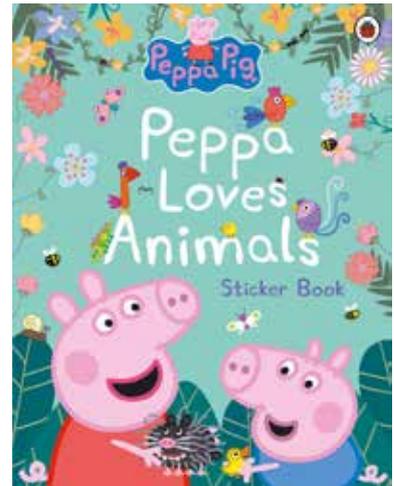
9781432310493

Otter, Mongoose and Squirrel never go anywhere. One sunrise, they wake to the excited chatter of birds returning from their yearly journey to the north. This inspires the three friends to go on a trip of their own. Because they can't fly, they build a boat and set off across the water, but things don't work out quite as they planned. Although their great adventure turns out to be short-lived, they all agree that, in the end, it was worth it.

**Peppa Pig: Peppa Loves Animals**  
Ladybird

9780241476260

Peppa and George love all pets, from Tiddles the Tortoise to Goldie the Goldfish! Create fun sicker scenes with Peppa and George in this big book, as they find out all about their friends' pets.



# March



**How many ways can you say goodbye?**  
Refiloe Moahloli

9781485900849

After Sara and her friends had an exciting journey in a hot air balloon to see the country and find out how to say 'hello' in *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?*, they are making a return trip across South Africa to see more sights and to drop off the friends, one by one. As they do so, they also need to find out how to say 'goodbye' to one another in all of the country's 11 official languages. But just as Sara starts to feel sad, she discovers that 'goodbye' can be the start of something new, something wonderful. Join her and find this out for yourself too.

**HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAY GOODBYE? COLOURING-IN BOOK**

**ALSO AVAILABLE**



9781485 901075

**ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR:**



**How many ways can you say hello?**

The Colouring-in book

9781432311230



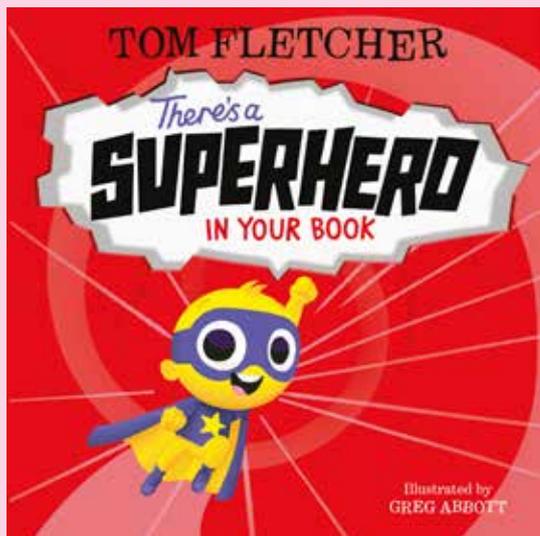
**How many ways can you say hello?**

Book & Audio

9781485901082



# March



## There's a Superhero in your Book

Tom Fletcher  
9780241357798



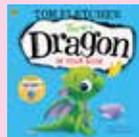
Help Kind Superhero take on the terrible Scribbler – the messiest and baddest baddie ever – in this brilliant interactive adventure.

### ALSO IN THIS SERIES:



## There's a Monster in your Book

9780141376103



## There's a Dragon in your Book

9780141376134



## There's a Witch in your Book

9780241357392



## There's an Alien in your Book

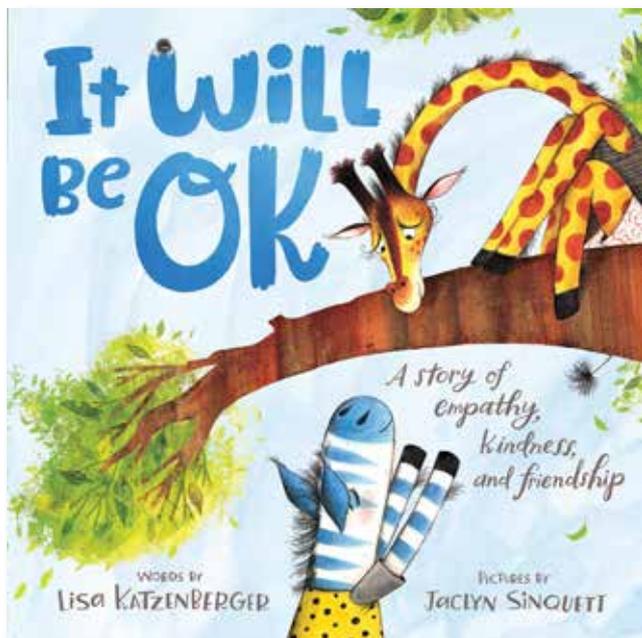
9780241357217



## There's an Elf in your Book

9780241357347

# April



## It will be OK

Lisa Katzenberger

9781728240480

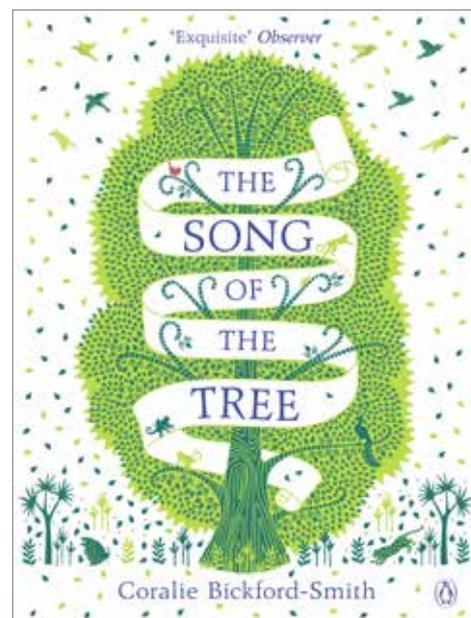
Giraffe and Zebra meet every day under their favourite tree to walk to the watering hole. But today, Giraffe isn't there! Where could he be? Zebra spots him hiding in the tree; Giraffe has seen a spider and is scared silly. Zebra patiently talks to Giraffe and does the very best thing: supports Giraffe for as long as Giraffe needs it.

## The Song of the Tree

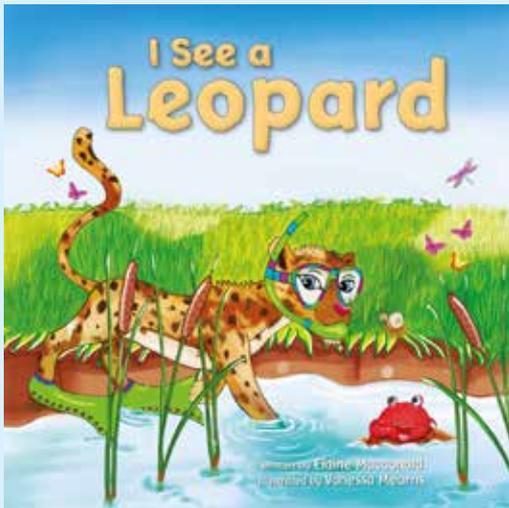
Coralie Bickford-Smith

9780141989341

Beautifully illustrated and lovingly told, *The Song of the Tree* speaks to the universal search for belonging and reminds us of the importance of community, friendship and the natural world.



# May



**I See a Leopard**  
**Elaine Macdonald**

9781432310813

*I See a Leopard* tells the tale of a leopard who goes swimming in order to visit his friend Catfish. When Catfish serves up her favourite dish of wiggly worms, Leopard is distressed to discover that they keep slipping away and are not at all easy to eat. Wanting to make things easier for their friends, Hippo and Frog come up with a better way to serve the worms. Soon Leopard and Catfish are enjoying a meal together, proving that, with a little ingenuity and a lot of goodwill, even the strangest group of friends can solve a slippery problem.

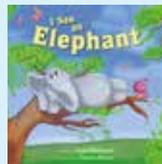
**ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR:**



**I See a Lion**  
9781432310820



**I See a Rhinoceros**  
9781432310806



**I See an Elephant**  
9781432308223



**Feelings: Inside my heart and in my head...**

**Libby Walden**

9781838911751

Explore a world of emotions with this stunning peep-through picture book. The enchanting illustrations and the lyrical text make each and every feeling come to life to help children understand the emotions they experience.



# June



**Peppa Pig: Peppa's Countdown to Bedtime**  
**Ladybird**

9780241476529

What happens when Peppa isn't tired, but it's time to go to bed? Peppa and her family all join in counting all the bedtime things that she loves. This brilliant story will help little ones everywhere settle down for a good night's sleep!

**The Fairytale Hairdresser and Red Riding Hood**

**Abie Longstaff**

9780241454350

The Queen of Hearts is hosting a baking competition and Fairyland is buzzing with excitement! Red Riding Hood knows her Granny is sure to win first prize – but when Kitty and Red visit her cottage, Granny and her cakes are nowhere to be seen! Will they find out what happened to Granny and save the day before it's too late?



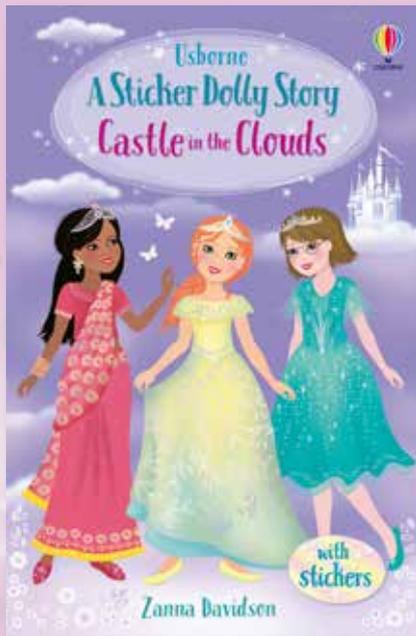
# Ages

# 6-9

## February

**Sticker Dollies**  
**Zanna Davidson**

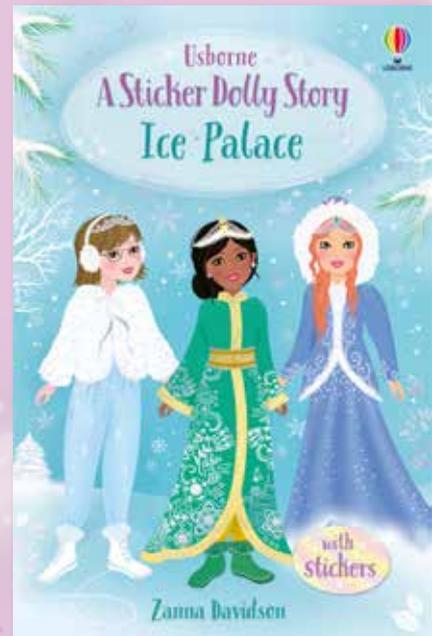
Join the Magic Dolls  
for a Sticker Dollies  
Stories adventure...



**Castle in the Clouds**

9781474969956

The Princess Dolls, Sophia, Meera and Olivia are off to the Castle in the Clouds on the Majestic Isle, for the Cloud Princess' Grand Welcome Ceremony. But they soon discover not everything is going smoothly.



**Ice Palace**

9781474974745

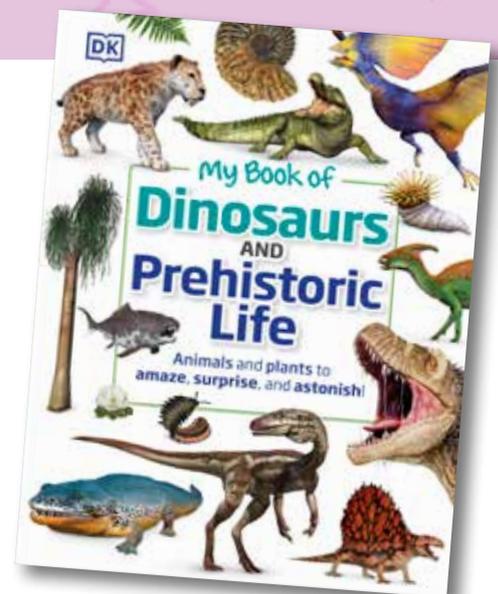
Meera, Sophia and Olivia, the Princess Dolls, are busy planning their mid-Winter celebration in Dolly Town when they get a call through from Mission Control – the Snow Princess on the Majestic Isle needs their help!



**My Book of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life**  
**DK**

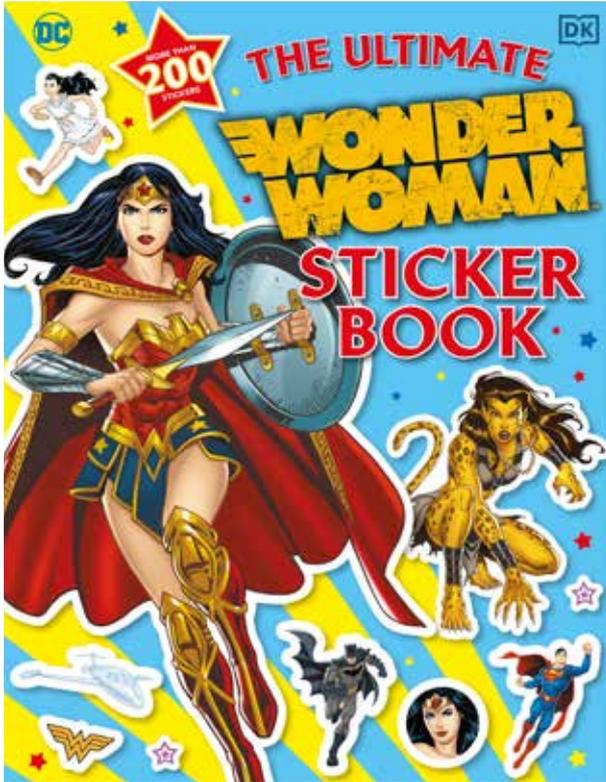
9780241459515

From the first living cells to fearsome dinosaurs and giant mammals, take a journey through prehistory to find out about the supersized, the scary, and the downright bizarre animals and plants that inhabited Earth in ancient times.





# March

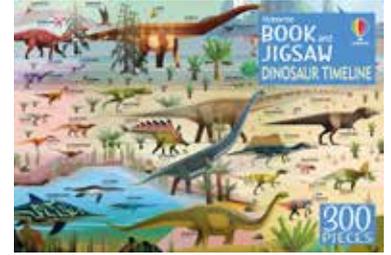


## The Ultimate Wonder Woman Sticker Book

DK

9780241500842

Packed with lively and informative captions and over 200 beautiful, bright stickers – DK's *The Ultimate Wonder Woman Sticker Book* is the perfect gift for kids who love Wonder Woman.



## Dinosaur Timeline Book & Jigsaw

Usborne

9781474986908

This pack contains a beautifully illustrated jigsaw of the dinosaur world and a richly detailed double-sided fold-out book where you can discover amazing dinosaurs, and other incredible pre-historic creatures that lived alongside them.

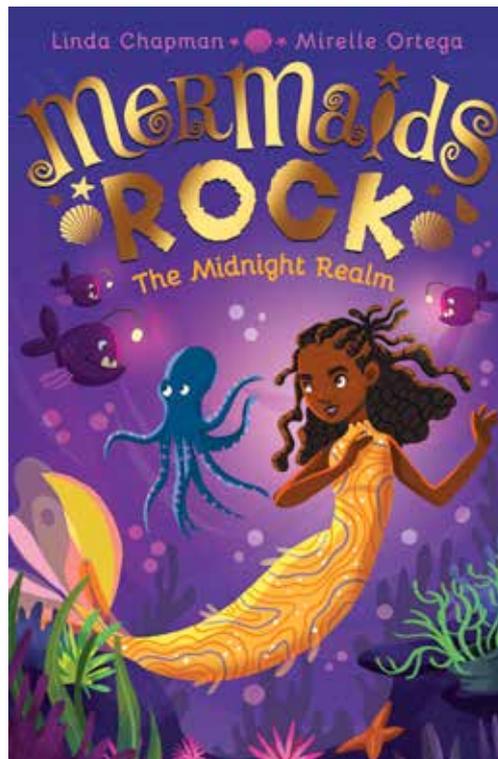
# April

## Mermaids Rock 04: The Midnight Realm

Linda Chapman

9781788951975

When animals start disappearing from the reef into the mysterious Midnight Realm, Naya and her friends investigate! There they find a glowing cave with a tentacled monster lurking within. Then it traps Luna and the friends launch into action!



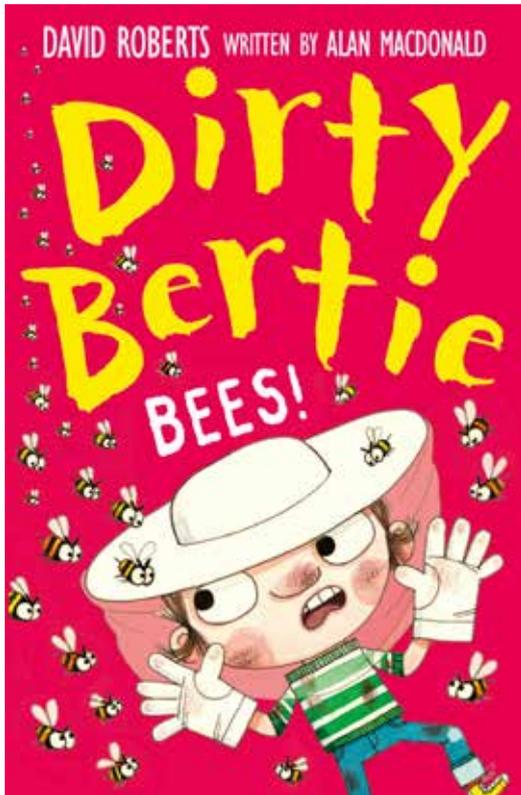
## Forgotten Fairy Tales of Kindness and Courage

Usborne

9781474989657

A collection of illustrated stories, featuring diverse, inspiring and empowering characters, celebrating kindness, courage and the importance of being true to yourself.

# May

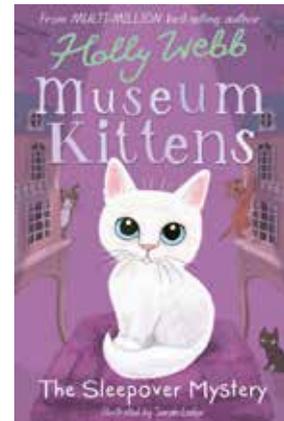


## Dirty Bertie: Bees!

Alan MacDonald

9781788951135

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



## Museum Kittens: The Sleepover Mystery

Holly Webb

9781788951890

The kittens can't wait for the museum's first ever sleepover! Especially Bianca, who loves being fussed over. So much so that when she goes missing, the others worry that she may have run away with the children...

# June

## The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.

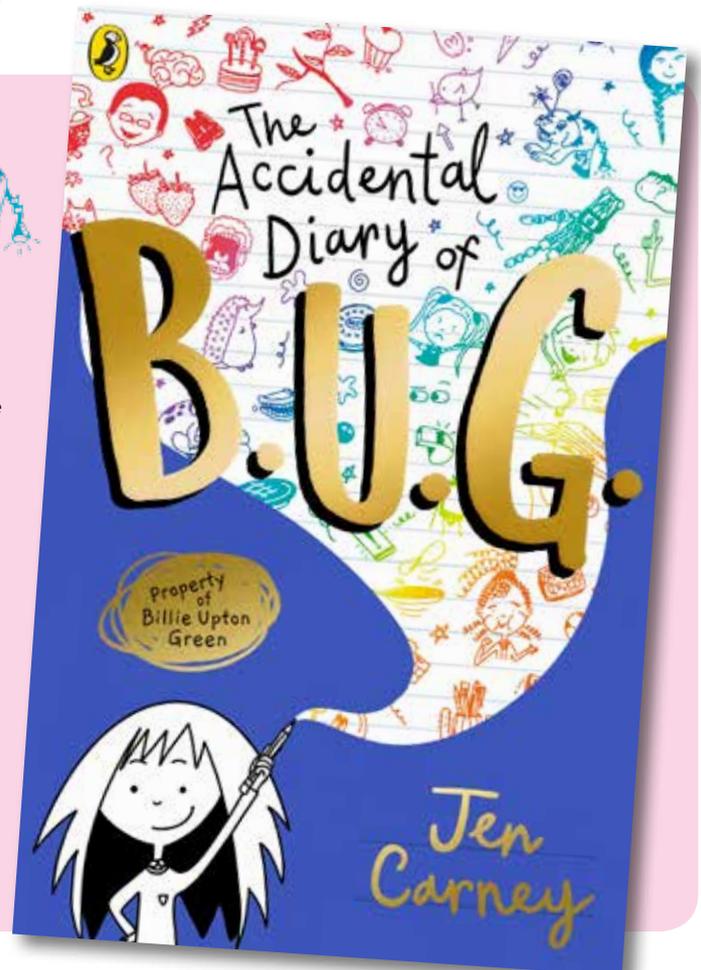
Jen Carney

9780241455449

Enter the hilarious world of Billie Upton Green... A masterpiece of funny fiction, and the start of an exciting new series full of Billie's laugh-out-loud observations and doodles!

All  
about  
Jen

Jen Carney is an author-illustrator living in Lancashire with her wife, three children and an array of animals. She wrote her debut novel to celebrate diverse, contemporary and slightly bonkers families.

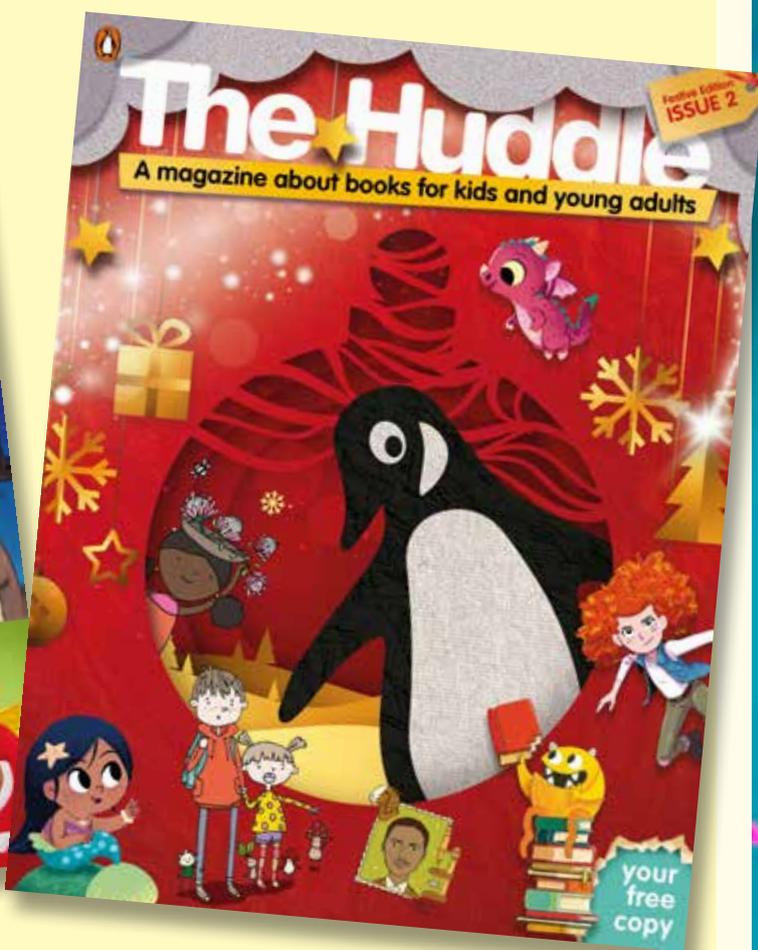
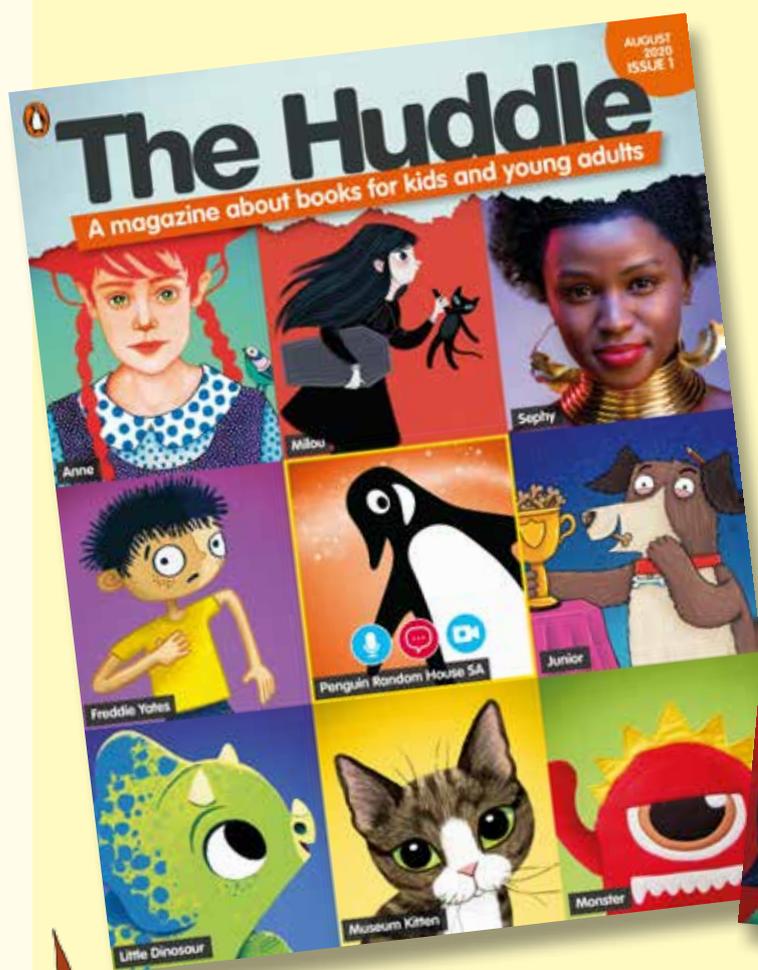


# Have you read The Huddle?

A magazine about books  
for kids and young adults



Bursting with light-hearted and informative features centred around our latest and greatest titles, there's something for everyone.



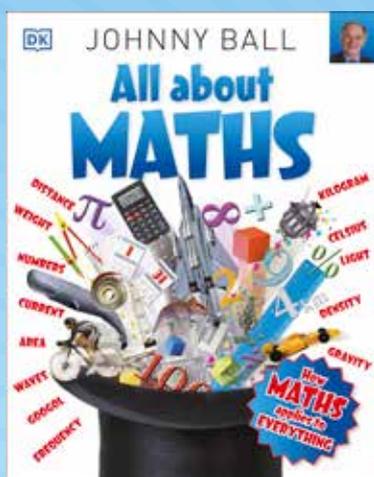
Visit [www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za) for more



# Books for

# 3 tweens

8 January



## All about Maths

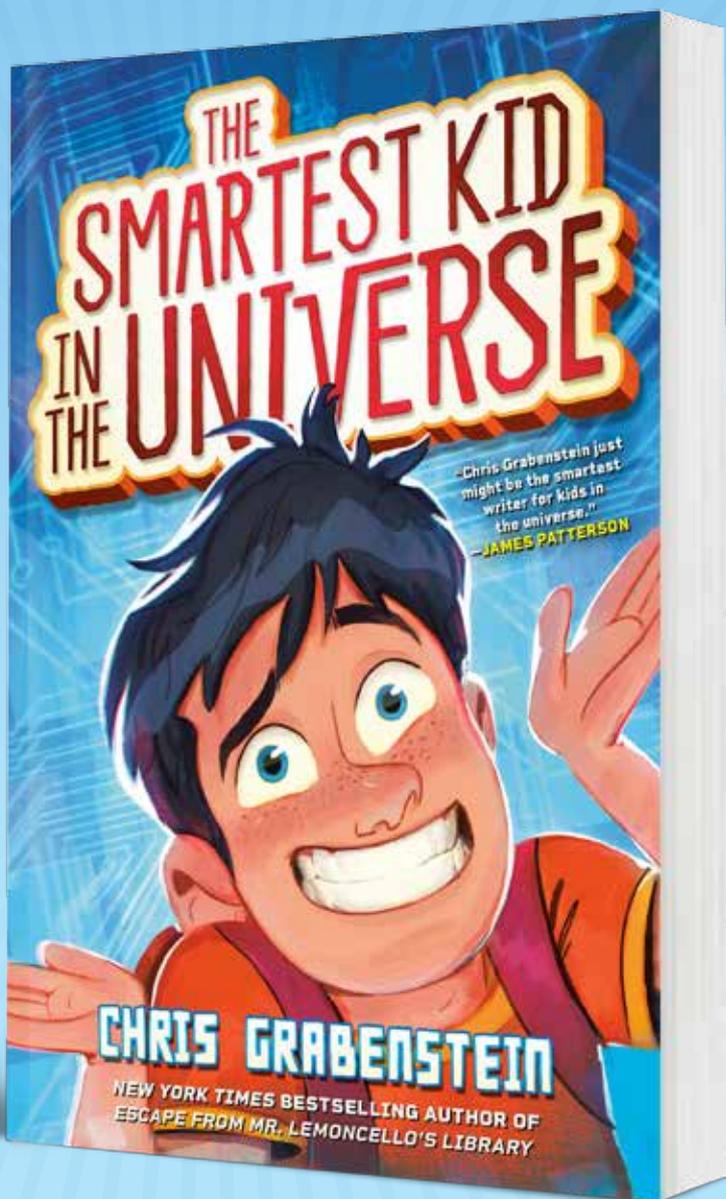
Johnny Ball

9780241479094

Become a maths master with this mathematical guide to the world of numbers. With puzzles to solve, conundrums to crack, and incredible tricks to show friends, Johnny Ball will show you just how magical the world of maths can be.



6



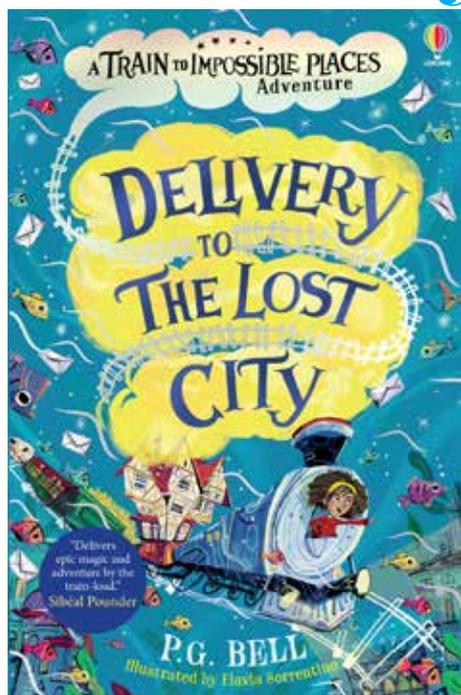
## The Smartest Kid in the Universe

Chris Grabenstein

9780593305478

Meet the Smartest Kid in the Universe in this brand new, fun-packed read from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* and co-author of *Max Einstein!*

# February



## The Train to Impossible Places 03: Delivery to the Lost City

**P.G. Bell**

9781474948630

All aboard for the rip-roaring final book in the bestselling *Train to Impossible Places Adventures*, with magic at every stop. Join Suzy on this magical adventure, where the journey will never, ever take you where you expect it to.



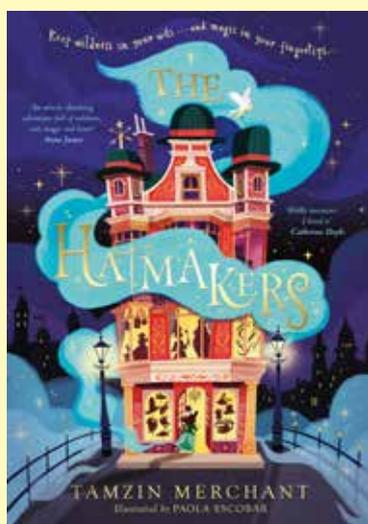
## A Vanishing of Griffins

**S.A. Patrick**

9781474945684

Return to a world of dragons, song-spells, pipers and magic... Join the brave friends Patch, Wren and Barver for another adventure of magic and music!

# March



## The Hatmakers

**Tamzin Merchant**

9780241491973

Be transported to an alternate eighteenth-century London brimming with wonder and magic in this warm-hearted, wise, funny, thrilling and beautifully written adventure. The first adventure in a spellbinding new magical world.

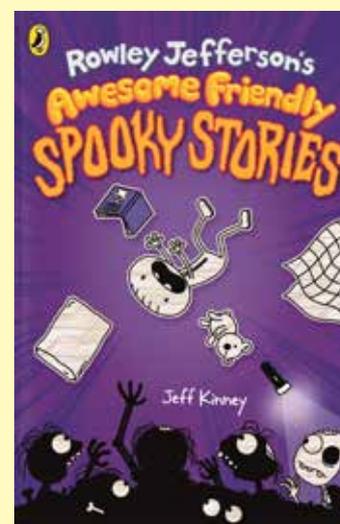


## The Soul Hunters

**Chris Bradford**

9780241326701

*Have you ever experienced dreams so vivid it seems like you have lived them? Or had deja vu so strong you're convinced you must have been there before?* The explosive first book in a brand-new action-packed series from bestselling author Chris Bradford.



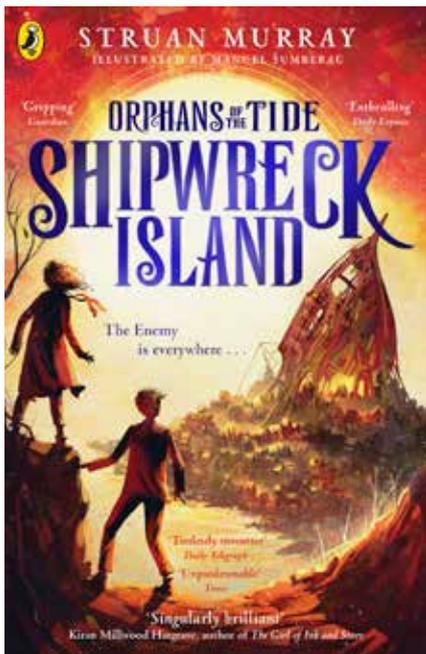
## Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories

**Jeff Kinney**

9780241530399

Grab a flashlight, crawl under the covers, and dive into the twisted, unexpectedly hilarious world of Rowley Jefferson's imagination. You'll meet zombies, vampires, ghosts, and much more in these comically terrifying tales.

# April

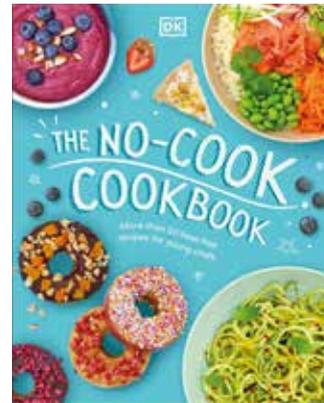


## Orphans of the Tide 02: Shipwreck Island

**Struan Murray**

9780241384459

Orphans Ellie and Seth have crossed an endless ocean in search of freedom and peace. Arriving on the shores of a colourful tropical island, it seems they might just have found the perfect new home. But there is trouble brewing in paradise and soon Ellie and Seth find themselves caught up in a dangerous struggle for power.



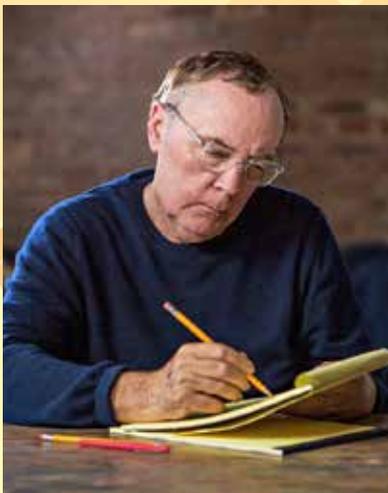
## The No-Cook Cookbook DK

9780241459539

This cookbook helps children learn about making food by themselves – a skill that will last them a lifetime. The recipes in this “no-cook” cookbook will help children gain independence in the kitchen and understand how to make healthy, yet very tasty meals with simple ingredients and no heat.



# May



## Project Helix: 21% Monster

**Peter Canning**

9781474984416

When 12-year-old Darren Dudlow tears down his school with his bare hands it's not just the police who want to talk to him. Enter Marek Masters, 14 years-old, 19% alien and the most intelligent, Most Wanted 'Almost Human' alive.

## Scaredy Cat

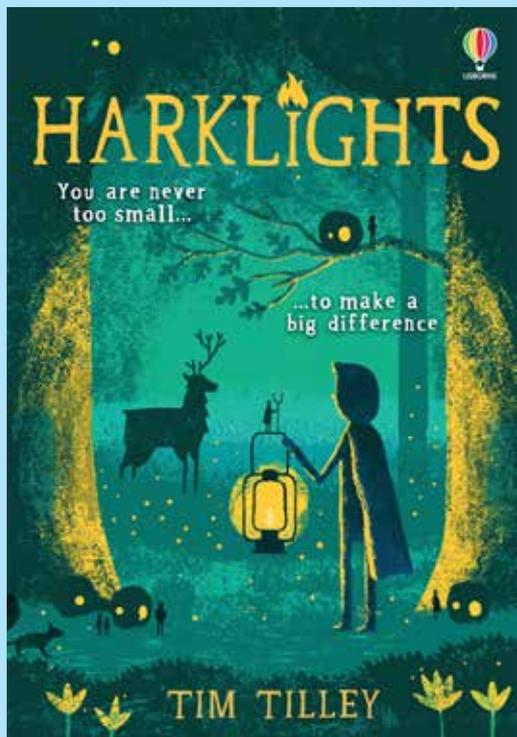
**James Patterson**

9781529120059

There are Scaredy Cats everywhere... it's just that YOU can't see them. Only cats can see a Scaredy Cat. Go on an adventure with Pasha and Poop in this brand-new book by James Patterson.



# June

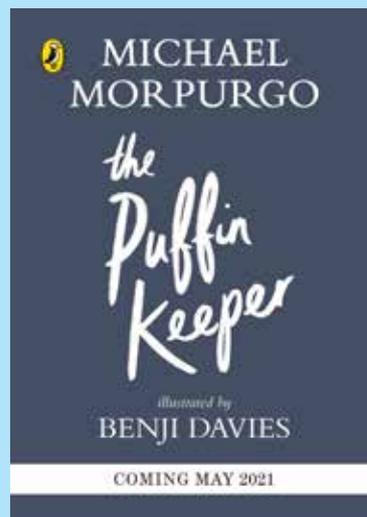


## Harklights

Tim Tilley

9781474966603

All his life, Wick has been raised in the brutal Harklights Match Factory and Orphanage, run by the monstrous Old Ma Bogey. But when he finds and rescues a tiny baby, small enough to fit inside an acorn, he is visited by the Hobs, a miniature race of people who are also caretakers of the forest. They are so grateful to Wick that they offer him the chance of a lifetime – to escape from Harklights and begin a new life with them in the wild...



## The Puffin Keeper

Michael Morpurgo

9780241454503

It was Benjamin Postlethwaite's job all his long life to make sure the light shone brightly high up in the lighthouse on Puffin Island. Not once in all his years as the lighthouse keeper had he ever let his light go out. But sometimes even the brightest light on a lighthouse cannot save a ship.

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# Books for young adults

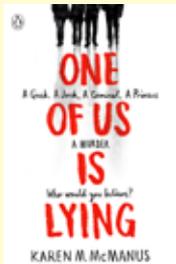
## January

**The Cousins**  
Karen McManus

9780241376942

The Storys are the envy of their neighbours. Until it all falls apart. This summer, the Storys are determined to discover the truth at the heart of their family. But some secrets are better left alone. The brilliant new thriller from international bestselling author of *One of Us is Lying*, Karen McManus.

**ALSO BY KAREN McMANUS:**



**One of Us is Lying**

9780141375632



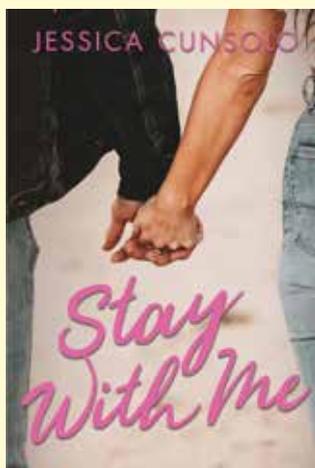
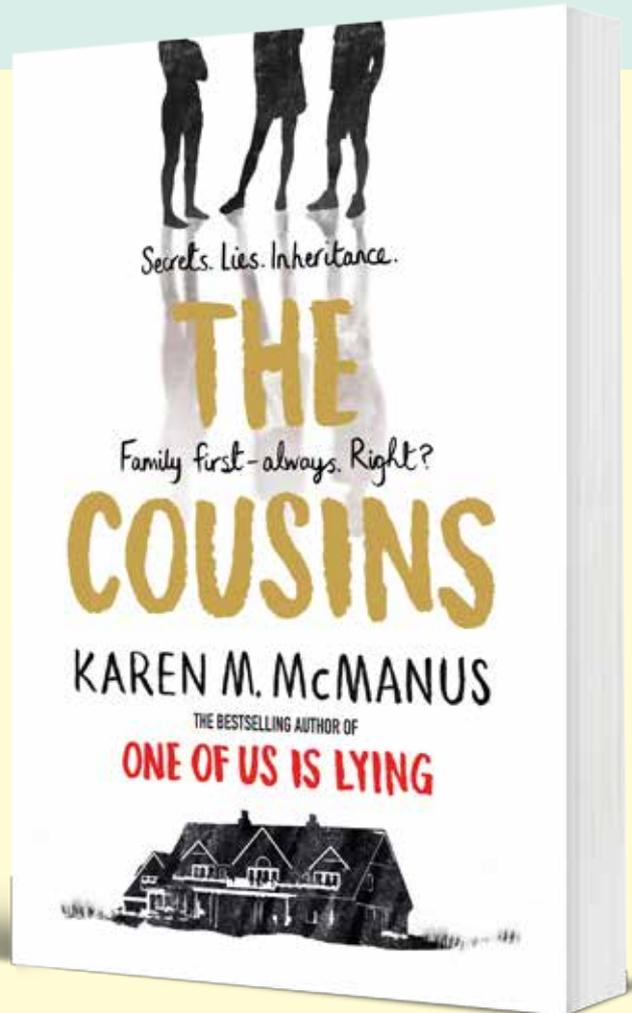
**One of Us is Next**

9780241376928



**Two Can Keep a Secret**

9780141375656



**Stay with Me**  
Jessica Cunsolo

9780241460832

Amelia Collins was determined to finish her senior year without incident. Then she bumped into the school's hottest bad boy, Aiden Parker and neither could deny the intensity of the spark between them. Despite everything she knows to be sensible, Amelia finds herself falling in love...

The gripping sequel to hit Wattpad novel *She's With Me*. A page-turning high school teen romance, friendship story – and revenge thriller.

# February

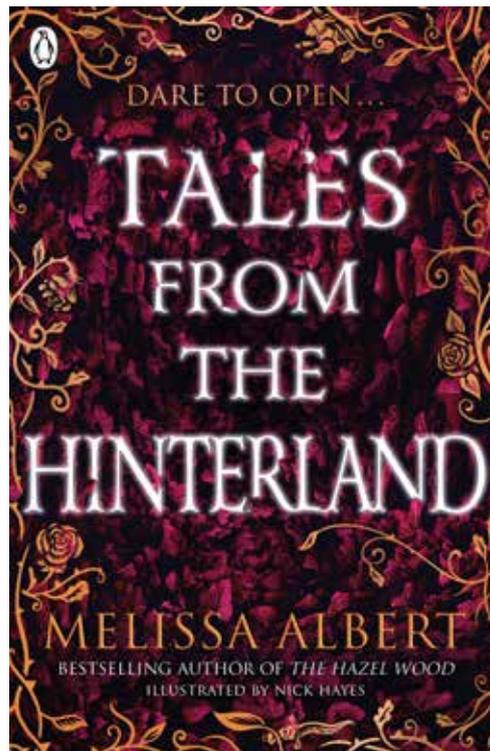
## Tales from the Hinterland

**Melissa Albert**

9780241371893

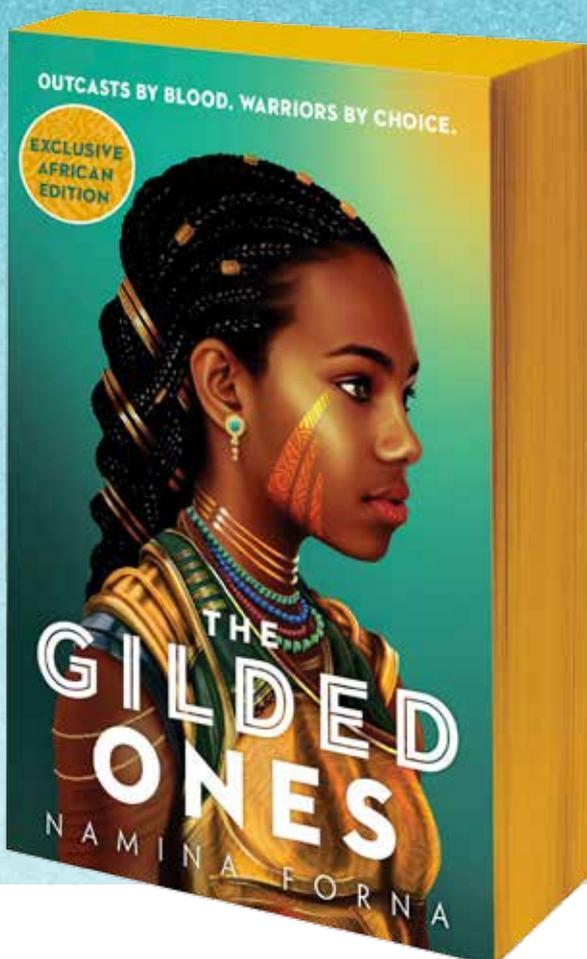
Journey into the Hinterland, where every page tells a wondrously terrible adventure... In this brutal and beautiful world a young woman spends a night with Death, brides are wed to a mysterious house in the trees, and an enchantress is killed twice – and still lives.

But it's not safe inside these pages, and once you enter, you may never want to leave...



*Grimm's Fairy Tales* meets Ransom Riggs – A deeply creepy, gorgeously illustrated collection of twelve original pitch-dark fairytales, from international bestselling author of *The Hazel Wood*, Melissa Albert.

# March



## The Gilded Ones

**Namina Forna**

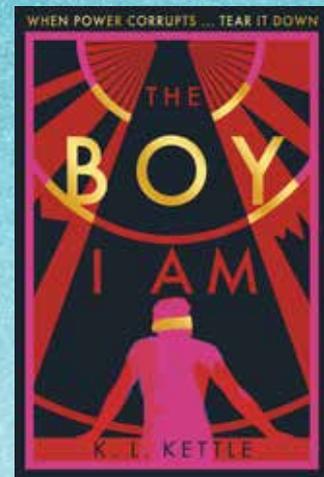
9781474989961

The most anticipated fantasy of 2021. In this world, girls are outcasts by blood and warriors by choice. Get ready for battle.

**“Fans of *Children of Blood and Bone*, *Mulan*, and the *Dora Milaje* from *Black Panther* are going to adore this one.”**

– BuzzFeed

**SEE PAGE 22 FOR MORE**



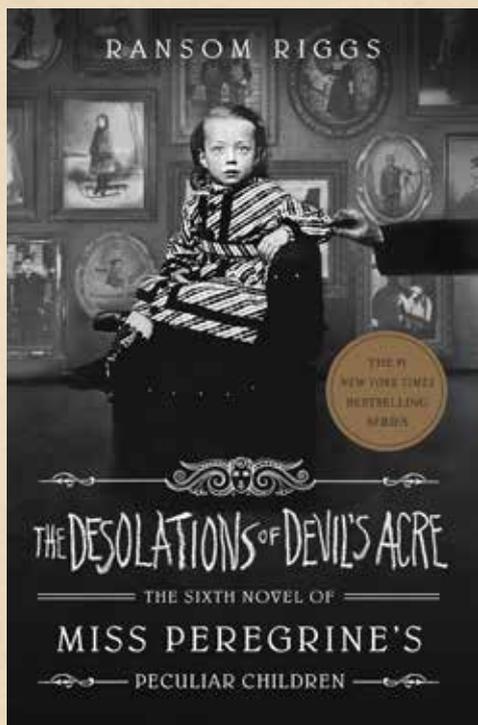
## The Boy I Am

**Kathryn Kettle**

9781788951227

*The Boy I Am* is a fast-paced speculative fiction thriller for young adults and is told from the perspective of sixteen-year-old Jude, who grows up in 'The House of Boys'. As the story unfolds, Jude must charm his way into the corrupt Chancellor's affections, so that he can assassinate her.

# April



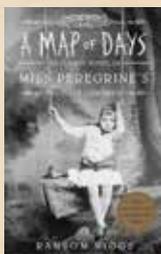
## The Desolations of Devil's Acre

Ransom Riggs

9780241320945

Jacob and his friends will face deadly enemies and race through history's most dangerous loops in this thrilling page-turner, the final adventure in the beloved Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children series.

### ALSO IN THIS SERIES:



## Miss Peregrine 04: A Map of Days

9780141385921



## Miss Peregrine 05: The Conference of the Birds

9780241320914



## The Infinity Files

S.M. Wilson

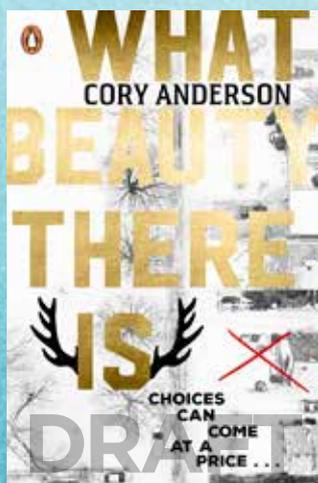
9781474972208

Ash Yang dreamed of being a starfighter pilot. But when she crashes out of her final test – literally – she somehow lands the most powerful job in the universe. But when her home planet is the one at war, can she get the job done? The new space adventure from the author of *The Extinction Trials*.



THE FINAL ADVENTURE IN THE BELOVED MISS PEREGRINE'S PECULIAR CHILDREN SERIES

# May

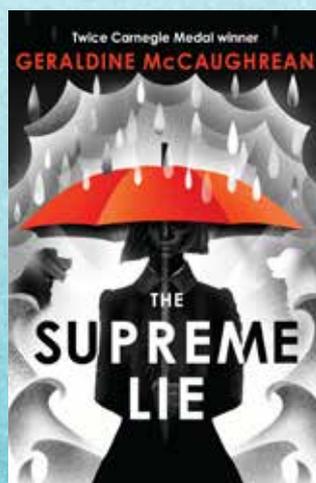


## What Beauty There Is

Cory Anderson

9780241441725

Jack Morton has nothing left. Except his younger brother, Matty, who he'd die for. Now with their mother gone, and their funds quickly dwindling, Jack needs to make a choice: lose his brother to foster care or find the drug money that sent his father to prison. Alone in the harsh landscape of the mid-Rockies with winter approaching, can a sixteen-year-old boy find what's been hidden without a trace?



## The Supreme Lie

Geraldine McCaughrean

9781474970686

Fifteen-year-old Gloria is maid to Afaia's tyrannical Head of State, Madame Suprema. When the country is hit by unprecedented flooding, Madame Suprema runs away, fearing she will be blamed for the crisis. To cover up this cowardly act, Gloria is made to step into Madame Suprema's shoes and is thrust into a world of corrupt and desperate politicians.

# June



SHE CAN TELL HER BEST FRIEND ANYTHING... EXCEPT THIS.

**The Kissing Booth 3: One Last Time**  
**Beth Reekles**

9780241481639

The third book in *The Kissing Booth* series – based on the upcoming Netflix film!



**ALSO IN THIS SERIES:**



**The Kissing Booth 01: The Beach House**

9780552568814



**The Kissing Booth 02: Going the Distance**

9780241413227

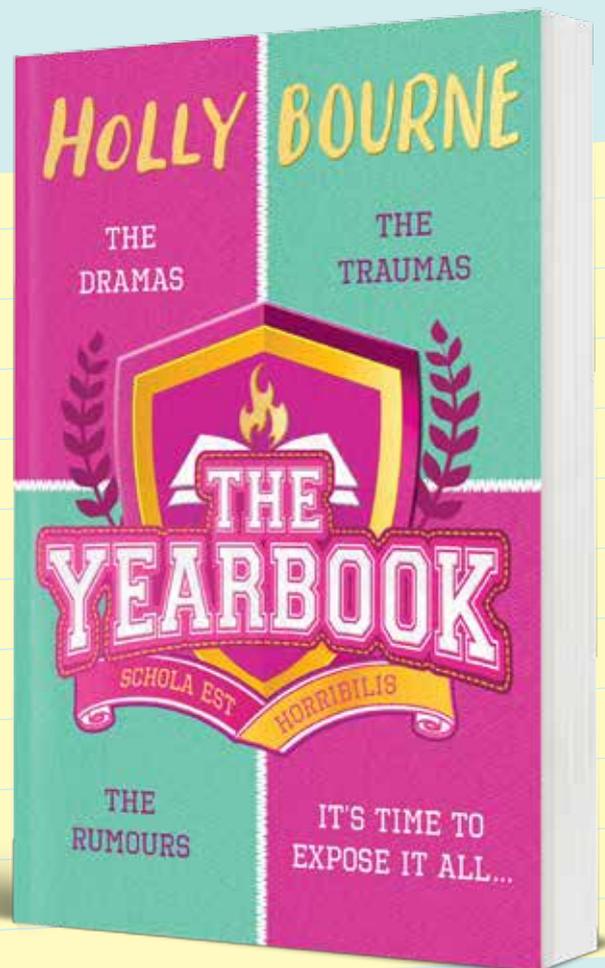
**The Yearbook**  
**Holly Bourne**

9781474966825

The dramas, the traumas, the rumours – it's time to expose it all... Working on the school newspaper, Paige is used to dealing with fake stories. How popular girl Grace is such an amazing person (lie). How Laura steals people's boyfriends (lie). How her own family are so perfect (lie). Now Grace and friends have picked their "best" high-school moments for Paige to put in the all-important Yearbook. And they're not just fake. They're poison.

**All about Holly**

Holly Bourne is a bestselling and critically acclaimed author. Inspired by her work with young people, and her own experiences of everyday sexism, Holly is a passionate mental health advocate and proud feminist.



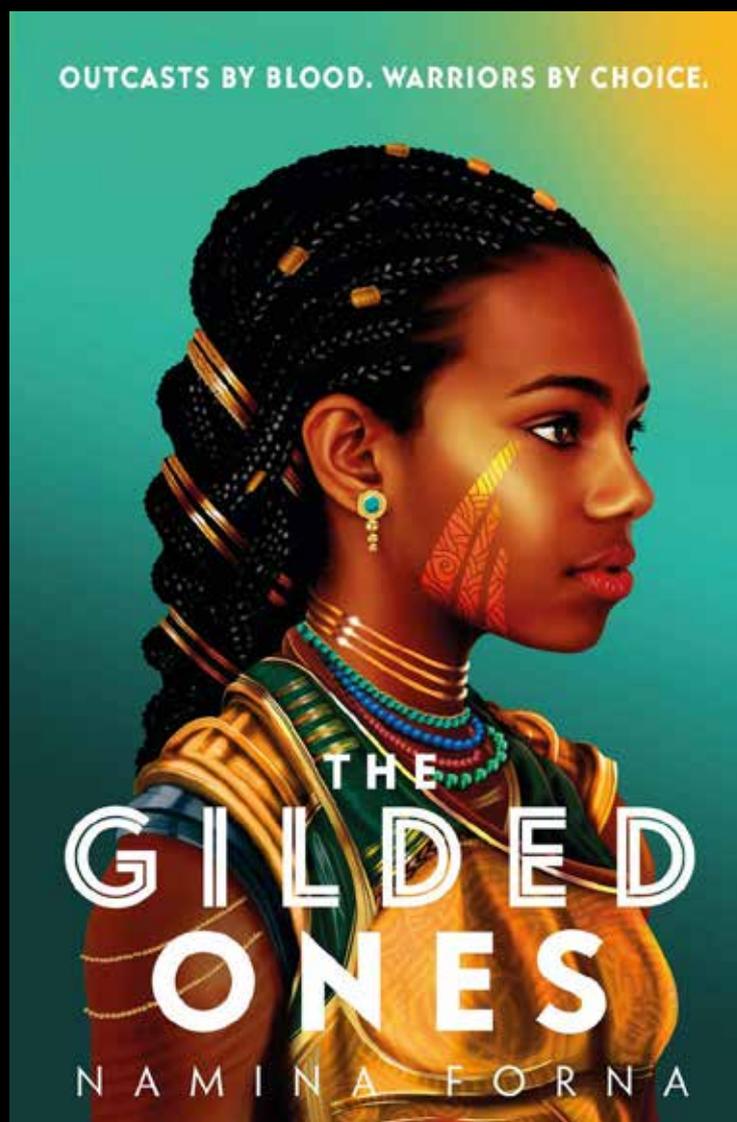
The most anticipated fantasy of 2021.  
In this world, girls are outcasts by  
blood and warriors by choice.  
Get ready for battle.

Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Deka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs.

But on the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold, the colour of impurity – and Deka knows she will face a consequence worse than death.

Then a mysterious woman comes to her with a choice: stay in the village and submit to her fate, or leave to fight for the emperor in an army of girls just like her. They are called alaki – near-immortals with rare gifts. And they are the only ones who can stop the empire's greatest threat.

Knowing the dangers that lie ahead yet yearning for acceptance, Deka decides to leave the only life she's ever known. But as she journeys to the capital to train for the biggest battle of her life, she will discover that the great walled city holds many surprises. Nothing and no one are quite what they seem to be – not even Deka herself.



**“Namina Forna could be the  
Toni Morrison of YA fantasy.”**  
– Refinery 29

**“Books**  
*are the plane,*  
**and the train,**  
**and the road.**  
*They are the destination,*  
*and the journey.*

**They are  
home.”**

**- Anna Quindlen**





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