

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS

RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2023



Little
Island

Books create waves

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Introduction | p. 1 |
| About our Authors | p. 2 |
| 2023 Books | p. 4 |
| Key rights titles | p. 11 |
| Backlist | p. 34 |

Welcome to the Little Island Rights Catalogue for 2023

Little Island was founded in 2010 by Ireland's first children's laureate, Siobhán Parkinson, with a mission to publish the best new writing for young readers. Since then our books have gained a global reputation and won many awards.

We publish about 10 books per year and market them across the English-speaking world. While we have deep roots in Ireland we distribute throughout the English-speaking world, and we love to see our books find new audiences around the globe. Little Island books can be found translated into languages as varied as Chinese, Czech, Spanish and, of course, Irish.

All the books in this catalogue are available for international translation as well as adaptation for screen or stage. If you would like to learn more about any of these books, or about Little Island as a company, don't hesitate to write to us at rights@littleisland.ie.

With bookish best wishes
The Little Islanders

rights@littleisland.ie



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[Little Island Books](https://www.youtube.com/LittleIslandBooks)

OUR AUTHORS

Little Island publishes many of Ireland's leading children's authors and illustrators. Here are a few of our leading writers.

Little Island founder and the first ever Children's Laureate, **Siobhán Parkinson** is author of more than 30 books including *Evie's Christmas Wishes* (page 25).



Eoin Colfer is author of the Artemis Fowl series, which has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide and was named the public's favourite Puffin Classic of all time. As Laureate na nÓg, Eoin edited *Once Upon a Place*, (page 41) illustrated by PJ Lynch (another former Laureate).

Meg Grehan explores LGBTQ+ identity and mental health in a sensitive, reassuring tone told in accessible verse format. *The Deepest Breath* (page 12) was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and won the Children's Books Ireland Judge's Special Prize.



Writing in both Irish and English, **Patricia Forde** writes for all ages from little ones to teens. Her eight books with Little Island include *The Wordsmith* (page 16) and the forthcoming *The Girl who Fell to Earth* (page 6).



Wolfstongue (page 14) by **Sam Thompson** has been called “a modern classic” by *The Times* and been celebrated in *The New York Times* and *The Wall St Journal*. It forms part of a trilogy with *The Fox’s Tower* (page 15) and the forthcoming *The Forest Yet to Come* (2024).

A Short, Hopeful Guide to Climate Change (page 34), by **Oisín McGann**, co-published by Little Island and Friends of the Earth Ireland, is a fun, no-nonsense account of climate change science with an emphasis on how young people can take part in the fight for a better tomorrow.



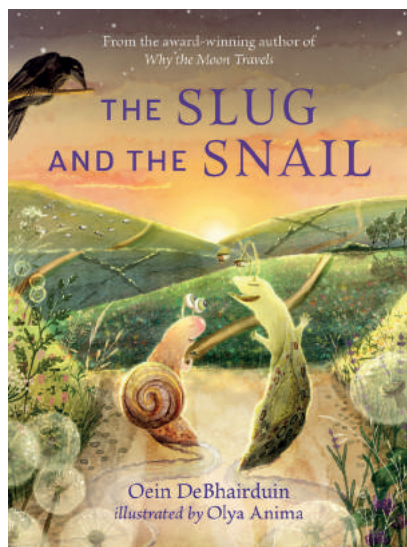


FORTHCOMING TITLES 2023

Age 4-7

The Slug and the Snail

written by Oein DeBhairduin and illustrated by Olya Anima



Publication details

Word count 1000

Pub date July 2023

Format 250 x 200 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

An Irish Traveller folktale about difference and self-acceptance

Drawn from the oral storytelling tradition of the Irish Traveller ethnic minority, DeBhairduin's tale is a gentle allegory about difference, self acceptance and different ways of seeing the world.

Two slugs travel happily together as brothers, until they meet a crow who shows them that they have no home. Ashamed, one of the slugs decides to make himself a home, and calls himself snail. The brothers grow apart and become suspicious of each other. The slug with no shell-house feels ashamed until he learns to see that the very road he travels is his home, and so he shall never be homeless.

The happy slug no longer sees himself through the judging eyes of others, but proudly asserts his place in the world.

Sales points

- Story about self-acceptance, taking pride in identity and doing things your own way
- Own-voices picture book about ethnic minority

Praise for Oein DeBhairduin

The rich, lucid prose aspires almost to poetry.' – Danny Morrison, *The Irish Examiner* [for *Why the Moon Travels*]'

Author biography

Oein DeBhairduin is a creative soul with a passion for poetry, folk herbalism and preserving the beauty of Traveller tales, sayings, retellings and historic exchanges. His debut collection of Traveller folktales, *Why the Moon Travels* (Skein Press, 2020) won both the Judges' Special Prize and the Éilís Dillon Prize at the 2021 Children's Books Ireland awards.



Age 11+

The Girl who Fell to Earth

by Patricia Forde



Publication details

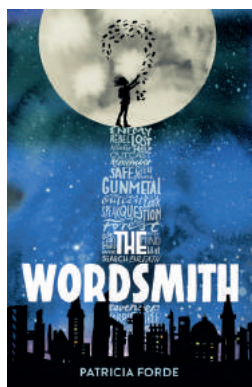
Word count 51,000

Pub date June 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV



A gripping high-concept speculative middle-grade novel from the award-winning author of *The Wordsmith*

Aria lives on a well-ordered planet whose people have eradicated illness and even death. Earth is their 'shadow planet' which they populated with humans centuries ago so they could study them and learn from their experiences.

Now the experiment is coming to an end and Aria must go to Earth with her scientist father to set off a train of events which will destroy its people. Brought up to believe that humans are inferior, Aria is shocked to discover that she is herself half human, and amazed to find that Earth-dwellers live life to the full and feel love for each other, even though they are mortal.

But once she understands this, how can she save them, and herself, from destruction?

Sales points

- From the award-winning author of *The Wordsmith* with over 60,000 copies sold worldwide
- Highly topical subject matter about a virus being released in a major metropolitan area

Praise for *The Wordsmith*

'This post-apocalyptic thriller is full of jeopardy and nail-biting tension. An intelligent, original and gripping read' – BookTrust UK

Author biography

Patricia Forde is from Galway, on the west coast of Ireland. Her first novel *The Wordsmith* was published to great critical acclaim in 2015. It has since been published in the United States, Australia, Denmark, Russia, Turkey and the Netherlands. It has won a White Raven Award from the International Youth Library, is an American Library Association Notable Book for Children in the United States, and was shortlisted for the Children's Book of the Year Award in Ireland.

Age 8+

The Lonely Book

by Meg Grehan



draft cover

Publication details

Word count 15,300

Pub date April 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV



From the award-winning author of *The Deepest Breath* comes a brand new LGBTQ+ novel

Annie's family is made of love.

When her moms open up their bookshop in the mornings, there is always a mysterious pile of books on the counter. By evening, every book has found its ideal reader. But one day there is a book that doesn't get bought. It has to lie there all on its own. Who can its reader be, and why don't they come?

Days pass, and the book with no owner gets lonelier and lonelier. The bookshop is unhappy, and the moms are worried that the shop isn't making enough money.

Then someone starts borrowing the book. Eventually, we realise it's Annie's sibling Charlotte — and it is a book about being non-binary. Mum explains what 'non-binary' means to Annie. Charlotte asks to be called Charlie and says that their pronouns are they/them.

The bookshop cheers up. Customers start buying books again.

This family is made of love.

Sales points

- Acclaimed queer Irish author: *The Deepest Breath* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize; *Baby Teeth* was a Kirkus YA Book of the Year 2022
- A gentle, reassuring and age-appropriate exploration of non-binary identity
- Highly accessible and easy to translate written in short lines of verse

Praise for *The Deepest Breath*

'Grehan's verse flows like water.' – *Gay Community News*

Author biography

Meg Grehan is a young writer living in Donegal in the northwest of Ireland. This is her fourth book with Little Island. *The Deepest Breath* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, won the Judges' Special Award at the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2020.

Age 7-10

The Táin

The Great Irish Battle Epic

by Alan Titley, illustrated by Eoin Coveney



A new children's retelling of Ireland's great epic legend featuring the hero Cúchulainn and the warrior Queen Maeve

Queen Maeve's army is marching north to steal the great brown bull, the pride of Ulster. But one man stands in their way. Cúchulainn, the Hound of Ulster, vowed in boyhood to protect his homeland – even if it means taking on an invading army himself.

One by one Maeve's warriors challenge the hero, and one by one they fall. Can Cúchulainn hold out until reinforcements arrive – and how will he fare against the one man in Ireland he doesn't want to fight?

Ireland's most important myth is retold in English for children by the great scholar of Old Irish, Alan Titley. Titley goes back to the source material and his translation sparkles with the wit and humour of the ancient tale. Illustrations by comic artist Eoin Coveney lend a modern feel. This is Celtic myth as you haven't read it before.

Publication details

Word count 21,900

Pub date March 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

Sales points

- First new children's chapter-book edition of Ireland's greatest legend since the 1990s
- Humour and fun of the original is rediscovered by Titley, as well as the epic thrill of battle
- Graphic-novel-style illustrations appeal to fans of Marvel and comics

Author biography

Alan Titley is one of Ireland's most respected writers in both Irish and English. He has won prizes including the Children's Books Ireland Éilís Dillon Award. He is the Emeritus Professor of Modern Irish, University College Cork and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.



Ghostlord

by Philip Womack



Publication details

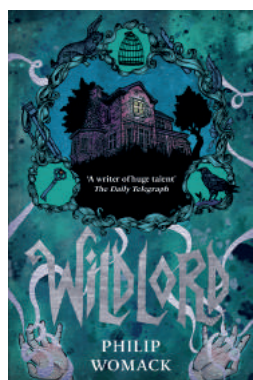
Word count 57,000

Pub date May 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV



A magical tale of mysteries spanning time and space – perfect for teenage fantasy readers

Meg and her mother have left their London apartment and to start a new life in the country. Meg is unhappy.

One afternoon Meg hears the voice of a child calling her from the garden. Following the child's pathetic calls, she unearths a toy horse with an obsidian mirror in its forehead. Through this mirror, Meg makes contact with Jankin, the ghost of a young boy. He tells her that he has been imprisoned for 500 years by a necromancer. Meg feels sorry for him and promises to release him.

But is Jankin is the innocent child he appears to be? Or is something or someone more powerful at play?

Sales points

- Gripping, thoughtful fantasy from an established, critically acclaimed author
- Strong world-building and storytelling, will appeal to fans of teen fantasy and magic

Praise for Philip Womack's *Wildlord*

'*Wildlord* crackles with an otherworldly atmosphere reminiscent of the great Alan Garner.' – *The Financial Times*

Author biography

Philip Womack is a British author and journalist. His writing has appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Literary Review* and *The TLS*. His books for children and teens include fantasy trilogy *The Darkening Path* and *The Arrow of Apollo*. The nonfiction *How to Teach Classics to Your Dog* was published in 2020.

YA

Grapefruit Moon

by Shirley-Anne McMillan

cover to
follow

The pressure – social and academic – is high for the teenage students of an elite secondary school in Belfast; Can poetry, friendship and a trip to Spain give them the courage to be true to themselves?

17-year-old Drew has won a scholarship to Cooke's Academy, an elite secondary school in Belfast. The pressure is intense and he's not sure he fits in. Then Adam, captain of an elite clique known as the stewards, welcomes Drew into the group and school life seems to become easier academically and socially. Drew starts to go out with Chloe. Actually, it is Chloe's best friend, Charlotte, who he likes but Adam says she is off limits. Drew doubts Adam speaks the truth – but he knows going against him will come with a cost.

At home things are complicated: Drew's ex-girlfriend is pregnant, and he feels he is losing touch with the friends he grew up with. Spanish, especially the poetry of Lorca, helps Drew express things he cannot otherwise share. On a class trip to Granada Drew, Charlotte and Chloe act and speak openly – with consequences bad and good.

Sales points

- Topical themes of revenge porn, consent, peer pressure, and teenage pregnancy.
- Fits today's pop culture landscape: Will appeal to fans of Louise O'Neill, Deirdre Sullivan, and Holly Bourne,

Author biography

Shirley-Anne McMillan is a writer from Northern Ireland. She has worked as a teacher, an Online Writer in Residence for the Irish Writers Centre, a youth worker with LGBTQ young people and a creative writing tutor. She lives in Co. Down with her family and in her free time she loves playing the guitar and knitting.

Publication details

Word count

Pub date August 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV



KEY RIGHTS TITLES

Age 10+

The Deepest Breath

by Meg Grehan

Winner Judges' Special Award at KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2020

Shortlisted Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020

Selected Empathy Lab Read for Empathy Reading List 2020



Publication details

Word count 15,000

Pub date May 2019

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- English (North America)
- French (World)
- Polish
- Theatre adaptation
- Film/TV

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

A warm and reassuring verse novel about a young girl trying to understand her LGBT+ sexuality

Stevie is eleven. She reads a lot and knows nearly everything about sea creatures. The feelings inside her are more confusing. There are some things she is sure of: that her mum loves her and that Andrew is her best friend. Stevie's mum jokes that someday Stevie will marry Andrew, but Stevie knows that won't ever happen.

Stevie likes another classmate, Chloe. Actually, she's a bit confused about how much she likes Chloe. It makes her fizz inside. This is a new feeling, one Stevie doesn't understand. When she's with Chloe ordinary things become magical.

Stevie needs to find out if girls can like girls – love them, even – but she doesn't think this is a question to ask her mum. This is something she needs to find out for herself, so she goes to her favourite place, the library. There Stevie finds all kinds of love stories and she realises girls can love girls. Stevie bravely tells her mum her feelings. Stevie's mum smiles and knows her mum will always love and support her.

Sales points

- Reassuring LGBT+ story exploring sexuality, love and anxiety for a young audience
- Verse novel told in simple, accessible and beautiful language — easy to translate and perfect for reluctant readers

Review

'One of those rare gems, a book that feels so utterly real and involving that the reader lives every page with the main character.' — *The Irish Independent*

Author biography

Meg Grehan is a young, own-voice Irish author who writes in free verse about sexuality and identity. In 2018 she won the Eilís Dillon award from Children's Books Ireland for her debut YA novel, *The Space Between*.

Age 7-10

The Nightmare Club

by Annie Graves and illustrated by Glenn McElhinney

Selected Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read for Kids 2013



A series of 11 spooky, funny stories about ghosts, zombie brothers, demon babysitters ...

Welcome to Annie Graves's Nightmare Club, a spooky sleepover club where everyone attending must tell a scary story. Each book recounts one story: read them if you dare ...

Written by different authors using the pen-name Annie Graves, the Nightmare Club has been produced by established and award-winning writers including Deirdre Sullivan, Dave Rudden and Oisín McGann.

The Nightmare Club tales are sometimes scary, occasionally disgusting, and always very funny. The books can be read in any order, so it is possible to purchase just some of the eleven titles.

Friends on the other side of the mirror, mad scientists, not-so-fun funfairs ... there is something to frighten everyone!

Publication details

Word count 2,500 per book

Pub date Oct 2011 - Apr 2016

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- English (North America)
- Turkish
- Swedish
- Danish
- Spanish
- Film/TV

Rights available

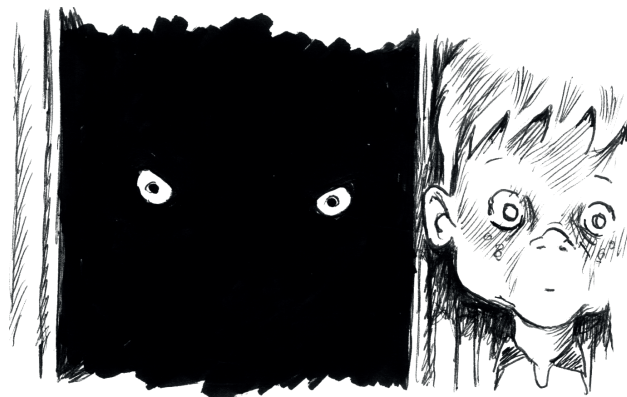
- World translation
- Audiobook

Sales points

- Funny stories with gore and horror that will delight young readers, each unique but linked by a strong framing concept
- Well suited to older reluctant readers as well as confident younger readers

Review

'Scary but also funny stories ... illustrated with macabre black ink drawings and the gothic eerie appearance is maintained throughout.' – *Books Ireland Magazine*

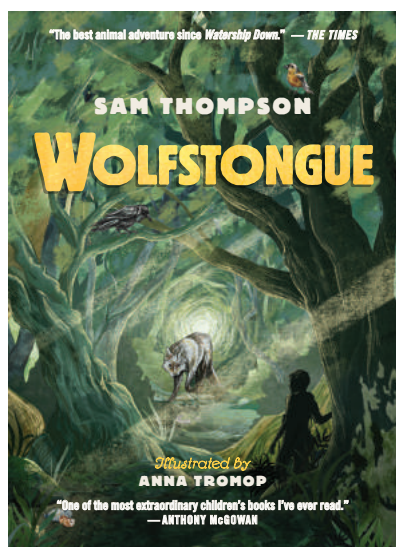


Age 8+

Wolfstongue

written by Sam Thompson and illustrated by Anna Tromop

Winner Spark! School Book Awards 2022



Publication details

Word count 38,500

Pub date May 2021

Format 210 x 148 mm

Rights sold

- Audiobook
- Czech
- Danish
- German
- Hungarian
- Korean
- Turkish

Rights available

- World translation
- Film/TV

A boy who finds speaking difficult enters a hidden world of talking animals, a world where language is power. Can he find his voice to help the wolves outsmart the clever foxes?

Deep in the Forest, the foxes live in an underground city. They didn't build it themselves: led by Reynard the fox, they enslaved wolves to do the work. By teaching language to the wolves, the foxes have manipulated them with the power of speech.

Now Isengrim and Hersent and their pups are the only wolves left in the Forest. They use clay with magical properties to heal their wounds, and move between the human and animal worlds using hidden passageways as they fight to survive.

One day, Isengrim gets injured. He is helped by a boy, Silas. Silas finds speaking difficult – except when in the company of the wolves. When the foxes kidnap the wolf pups and imprison them in their underground city, Silas is determined to help his new wolf companions to rescue their young.

The wolves tell Silas the legend of the Wolfstongue, a human child who speaks on behalf of wolves. Silas faces his difficulty with language and uses his voice to undermine Reynard's power. Together Silas and the wolves destroy the foxes' city and rescue the pups.

Back in the human world, the fluency Silas found with the wolves is gone, but he knows the Forest is always near.

Sales points

- Very strong reviews in *The Times* (Book of the Week), *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Irish Times* etc.
- Fantasy which meditates on the natural and human worlds and our relationship to animals
- Follow up book, *The Fox's Tower* published in 2022 with a third novel planned for 2024

Review

'Has all the makings of a modern classic with its exhilarating mix of ancient fable and contemporary issues. ... Not since *Watership Down* have animal dynamics felt so true and the political undertones so live.' – Alex O'Connell *The Times*

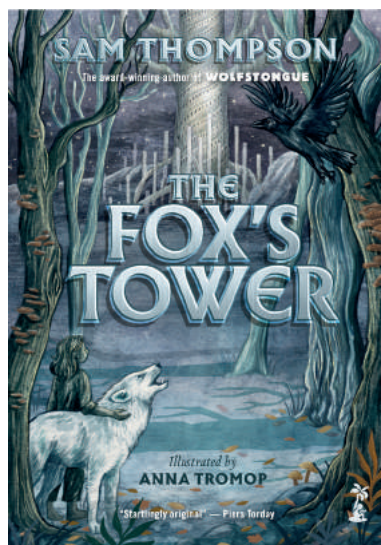
Author biography

Sam Thompson lives in Belfast, where he teaches English and creative writing at Queens University. His first novel *Communion Town* was longlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize.

Age 8+

The Fox's Tower

written by Sam Thompson and illustrated by Anna Tromop



Publication details

Word count 41,800

Pub date October 2022

Format 210 x 148 mm

Rights sold

- Audiobook (World English)
- German

Rights available

- World translation
- Film/TV

‘The Fox’s Tower takes everything you knew, or thought you knew, about nature and the animal kingdom, and turns it on its head.’ – Piers Torday, author of The Last Wild trilogy

When Willow witnesses her animal-loving father, Silas, get kidnapped by a group of foxes and a huge wolf-like creature, she pursues them into the woods. There she meets wolves who tell her they know her father. Together they boldly enter the enormous tower the foxes have built deep in the forest.

In the tower Willow discovers the dark project of the chief fox, Reynard, to create new life forms from magical clay buried in the Deep Forest where few can enter. To rescue her dad Willow must brave the Deep Forest and dig deep in herself to foil Reynard’s evil scheme to remake the world – but she also finds herself siding with the foxes against their new oppressor, the charismatic but wicked lion Noble.

Sales points

- Standalone follow-up novel: Set in the world of the hugely acclaimed bookseller favourite *Wolfstongue*. A third novel *The Forest Yet to Come* is planned for publication in 2024.
- Timely environmental theme: An animal story with an ecological message
- Detailed black and white illustrations throughout

Review

‘Startlingly original. Sam Thompson is a visionary genius.’ – Piers Torday, author of The Last Wild trilogy

Author biography

Sam Thompson lives in Belfast, where he teaches English and creative writing at Queens University. His first novel *Communion Town* was longlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize. *Jott* was shortlisted for the 2019 Encore Award.



Age 10+

The Wordsmith

by Patricia Forde

- Shortlisted** Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Awards 2016
Shortlisted Literacy Association of Ireland Children's Book Award 2017
Selected White Raven 2015
Selected Library Association of America Notable Book 2018



In a post-climate-change dystopia, a gripping story about the power of language and the arts, and speaking truth to power

After global warming came The Melting. Then came Ark. The dictator of Ark, John Noa, has declared language dangerous. Citizens are only allowed to speak List, a language of 500 words.

Letta is apprentice to the wordsmith, Benjamin. She dutifully transcribes all the words that have ever existed, giving out only what language is allowed to the wider community. Then Benjamin disappears and Letta must take his place as wordsmith.

Everything changes when Marlo, an attractive, wounded young outlaw bursts into her shop. Letta hides him from the gavvers, the ruthless defenders of Ark. Through Marlo, she learns of an alternative community of rebels, the Creators, who are fighting against the regime with music, art and words.

Then Letta and the Creators discover Noa's plan: he wants to poison the city's water supply to deprive people of speech. She must stop him – and she does. In a dramatic confrontation at the water tower, Letta wrests the canister containing the chemical from Noa's grasp, and he falls to his death.

Sales points

- Topical themes that resonate with young readers: activism, freedom of speech, climate change and populism
- A story about the value of words and culture
- Sequel, *Mother Tongue*, published in 2019

Review

'The fantasy book of the year.' – Eoin Colfer

Author biography

Patricia Forde is a prolific, multi-award-winning author for young readers from Galway in the west of Ireland. She has also worked as a schoolteacher, the artistic director of Galway's International Arts Festival, a television writer, and a playwright.

Publication details

Word count 15,000

Pub date May 2015

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- English (Australia & NZ)
- English (North America)
- Danish
- Dutch
- Lithuanian
- Russian
- Turkish
- Welsh
- Serbian
- Film/TV

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

Age 10+

Mother Tongue

by Patricia Forde

Captivating speculative fiction, set in a post-climate-change dystopia, that highlights the power of words in shaping our thoughts and world



The new dictator of Ark, Amelia, is ruthless in her efforts to silence speech forever. Letta is the wordsmith, tasked with keeping words alive. Out in the woods, she and the rebels secretly teach children language, music, and art.

When Letta accidentally kills a gavver, one of Ark's police officers, she and her group must flee. Letta questions how much she will sacrifice for freedom and worries she has brought danger on her rebel community, especially Marlo.

As Letta and Marlo travel they meet other outlaws, who share rumours from Ark. When they learn that Amelia and her followers are separating babies from their parents to ensure they never learn language, they know they have to stop her.

In the meantime, Letta wonders if one of the outlaws is her Aunt Leyla, who she believed to be dead. Upset when Marlo doesn't believe her, Letta seeks the truth ... and is amazed to discover this stranger is her mother.

Letta's confidence grows as she gets to know her mother and she and Marlo share their love for each other. Ready to do what is necessary to reunite the babies with their families, Letta, her mother and the rebels bravely enter Ark to battle Amelia and the gavvers.

Emerging victorious, Letta and the outlaws set out to build a new society together with the people of Ark.

Publication details

Word count 60,000

Pub date September 2019

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- English (Australia & NZ)
- English (North America)
- Turkish
- Welsh

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

Sales points

- Big themes of politics, power, climate change made accessible through a relatable heroine
- A fast-paced adventure about the power of language, culture and fighting for the right to speak
- Sequel to the acclaimed novel *The Wordsmith* (Little Island, 2015), though it can be read separately

Author biography

Patricia Forde is a prolific, multi-award-winning author for young readers from Galway in the west of Ireland. She has also worked as a school teacher, the artistic director of Galway's International Arts Festival, a television writer, and a playwright. *The Wordsmith* is published in eight countries and won a White Raven award.

Age 10+

The Best Medicine

by Christine Hamill

Winner Laugh Out Loud (Lollies) Awards 2017 (older children)

Winner Haringey Children's Book Award 2017

Shortlisted Great Reads Award 2016

Shortlisted St Helen's Libraries Book Award 2016



Publication details

Word count 37,000

Pub date May 2016

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- English (Australia & NZ)
- English (North America)
- German
- Korean
- Russian
- Film/TV

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

A hilarious take on the unfunny subject of cancer

Twelve-year-old Philip is having a hard time. The school bully, 'The Yeti', breaks his glasses and somehow Philip winds up with detention and coughing right in the face of Lucy, 'The Goddess'. Philip writes to his hero, comedian Harry Hill, looking for advice, but gets no reply. Good thing Philip always has his mum and his best friend, Ang, around to laugh along with him.

But then mum tells him she has breast cancer. Philip is upset, of course – but could she not have got a less embarrassing form of cancer? Maybe toe cancer or ear cancer? When Mum decides shaving her head with an electric leg shaver is a good idea, Philip does too (even though it's totally against school rules). When Mum starts a support group for women with breast cancer, Philip convinces them to organise a fun day because they don't need any more serious things in their lives.

It's the most fun day imaginable: Harry Hill makes a guest appearance. Ang, Lucy and even The Yeti attend. Philip discovers Lucy likes him too and that the Yeti has problems of his own. Mum is now in recovery – laughter is definitely the best medicine.

Sales points

- Funny and touching, explores living with cancer with humour and honesty
- Based on the experiences of the author and her son

Review

'Funny, moving and strangely empowering'
– John Connolly, *New York Times* bestselling author

Author biography

Christine Hamill studied English literature and teaches creative writing in Belfast. *The Best Medicine* is her first children's book. Her adult book, *B is for Breast Cancer*, was also based on her own experiences.

Age 10+

Run For Your Life

by Jane Mitchell

Longlisted Redbridge Children's Book Award 2023



Publication details

Word count 69,000

Pub date October 2022

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights sold

- French

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A children's book exploring asylum-seeker experience in Europe

Azari's life has been split in two and the halves are as different as lemons and mangoes. Running links the two parts of her life: sometimes when she runs it is because she wants to, because she feels strong and free. But sometimes it is because she has no other choice.

When Azari and her mother flee for their lives to Ireland they are put in a detention centre. They must share a room with a stranger, eat food they don't know the name of and answer intrusive questions from authorities. Azari's life has secrets; she must tell them in order to live a life where she can make her own decisions.

Azari begins to adjust to her new life: at school she befriends a boy who also loves running and together they go on long runs. As Azari grows in confidence she joins with other refugees staying at the centre to protest for the right to prepare the food of their choice in the kitchens. Most importantly she finds the courage to tell the authorities how she and her mother knew they could not remain in their home country after the honour killing of her sister. Azari and her mother do not know what the future holds for them but the novel ends with a sense of hope and possibility.

Sales points

- Sensitive depiction of life for a child asylum seeker in detention
- Thoroughly researched, based on interviews with asylum seekers
- Strong, empowered female character facing difficult circumstances

Review

'Jane Mitchell's Run for Your Life stands out from this year. It is a well researched and hugely empathetic novel ... Deft and lyrical.' – *The Irish Times*

Author biography

Jane Mitchell lives in Dublin and works with children with physical disabilities. Her Amnesty International-endorsed novel *A Dangerous Crossing* (Little Island), about a Syrian family fleeing the war, has sold more than 100,000 copies worldwide. Jane spent time volunteering at the refugee camp in Calais to research the book.

Age 9+

A Dangerous Crossing

by Jane Mitchell

Shortlisted Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the Year 2017

Shortlisted Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Awards 2018



Publication details

Word count 54,000

Pub date March 2018

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- Portuguese (Brazil)
- English (North America)

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A boy's perilous flight from war in search of refuge

Ghalib doesn't want to leave his home, but Syria has become too dangerous. His family has no choice but to flee.

They walk for days. With little food and water, they grow slower each day, especially Ghalib's disabled younger brother and his grandmother. Along their way to the Turkish border, they meet two Kurdish refugees. At first suspicious, Ghalib comes to see them as friends. In an effort to protect them he becomes separated from his family and finds himself alone for many months in an enormous refugee camp.

Ghalib's family eventually make it to the camp – but his grandmother is not with them: she has died from exhaustion on the journey. For now they are safe, but they don't want to live in a refugee camp for ever. The family decide to try to make their way to Europe, and so they set off again. Their only option is to travel in a boat that is leaking and there aren't enough lifejackets. After a tense journey they make it to the Greek shore, where the story ends.

Sales points

- More than 100,000 copies sold worldwide
- Personalises the complicated challenges and decisions faced by refugees
- Includes background information on the Syrian conflict and the real Syrian children who inspired this novel

Review

'This heartbreaking story depicts the reality of fleeing war, as told by a 13-year-old boy. Deserving of a place on every school reading list.' – Booktrust UK

Author biography

Jane Mitchell has written several books for children and young people. Her first novel, *When Stars Stop Spinning*, was Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year. *Run For Your Life* (Little Island 2022) deals with asylum seeker experience in Europe. Jane works in disability provision in Ireland and travels widely.

Age 8+

Bumpfizzle the Best on Planet Earth

by Patricia Forde and illustrated by Elina Brasliņa

Selected Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read for Kids 2019

Selected White Raven 2019



Publication details

Word count 15,000

Pub date May 2015

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- French
- Turkish

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

Brilliantly funny and two-levelled story about sibling jealousy ... told through the diary of an undercover alien

Bumpfizzle is an alien, sent from Planet Plonk on a research mission. Or maybe he's just a ten-year-old feeling disgruntled at all the attention his parents are lavishing on The Baby ...

Either way, Bumpfizzle reports on the odd earthling behaviours of his host family in his diary and his communications with his master on Planet Plonk. He is not very impressed by their habit of going to the toilet indoors and thinks the cat's food to be the most delicious – although his stomach doesn't seem to agree.

Then Bumpfizzle's master orders him to discover if humans are edible. Biting his teacher does not go well, and Bumpfizzle wonders if his master should be obeyed ... Plus, he's having fun with his new friend Lucy and his family, even The Baby!

Bumpfizzle must enlist the help of the older brother and Lucy. Together they devise a plan involving Facebook and kittens to stop the invasion of the Earth. After a dramatic display of fur and claws, order is restored. For now Bumpfizzle will remain as one of the family – just in time to enjoy Christmas!

Sales points

- Theme of sibling rivalry handled playfully and delicately
- Funny story with humorous black and white illustrations throughout

Review

'So hilarious! I think Patricia Forde is definitely the high queen of Irish comedy.' – Eoin Colfer

Author biography

Patricia Forde is a prolific, multi-award-winning author for young readers from Galway in the west of Ireland. She has also worked as a schoolteacher, the artistic director of Galway's International Arts Festival, a television writer, and a playwright.

Big Bad Me

by Aislinn O'Loughlin



Publication details

Word count 73,000

Pub date October 2022

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

Fast-paced, quirky, supernatural YA pageturner about werewolves, vampires, and loving the monster inside you

Evie doesn't know it yet, but her biological parents were werewolves. Her adoptive mother and sister are desperate to keep her wolfish nature a secret. When their mother disappears and a dangerous stranger arrives at their door, Evie's monstrous side comes out.

Kate and Evie take matters into their own hands: They go to the small town where their mother was last seen and they book into a guesthouse. The manager, Kevin, immediately guesses Evie's secret: as a vampire himself, he knows a werewolf when he sniffs one. There have been mysterious disappearances, and Brightside is gripped by fear, whispering and distrust. Kate, Evie and Kevin are soon embroiled in violent confrontation with a horde of murderous vampires.

Sales points

- On-trend supernatural adventure: Vampire and werewolf fiction are making a comeback!
- Quirky pageturner: Smart, funny and feelgood werewolf story
- Highly marketable YA: Appeal to fans of Rainbow Rowell, *Stranger Things*, *Midnight Sun*, *Gilmore Girls* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

Review

'A werewolf fantasy that doesn't hold back on bite.' – *The Business Post*

Author biography

Aislinn O'Loughlin grew up in Dublin, on a diet of fairy tales and horror stories – often at the same time. After writing several books in her teens, Aislinn worked as a storyteller and creative-writing teacher, before moving to Toronto. These days, she lives in Waterford with her scientist husband, three brilliant children and two evil genius cats.

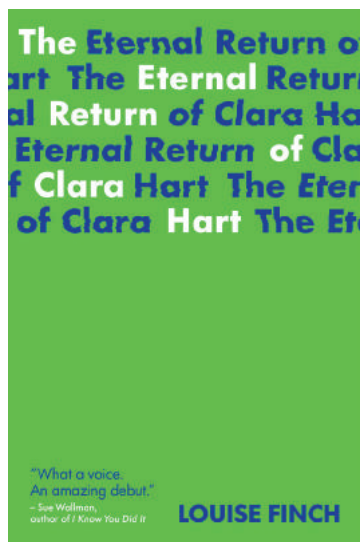
YA

The Eternal Return of Clara Hart

by Louise Finch

Shortlisted Great Read Awards 2022

Longlisted Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023



Publication details

Word count 71,000

Pub date August 2021

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation

A time-loop YA thriller about toxic masculinity and gendered violence

It's Friday and Spence wakes up to Clara Hart, a classmate, crashing into the back of his car.

At school Spence hangs out with his friends Anthony and Worm. They talk about the girls, rating them out of five stars. Later, Anthony hosts a house party – his parties are notorious. Clara Hart is there, drinking like the rest of them, dancing wildly. Spence goes upstairs. Anthony and Worm are in one of the bedrooms. Spence sees Clara Hart passed out on the bed. Next he sees Clara run down the stairs and straight out into the road. A car hits her and she dies.

The next day begins like the one before: Spence wakes again to Clara Hart banging into the back of his car. Soon it becomes clear that it is Friday again and that the party will happen, again. This time can Spence make sure Clara Hart doesn't die? He fails. The day repeats again and again.

Eventually Spence realises that this day isn't really about Clara. It's about him and his friends. And they're all implicated in Clara's death. Now, the cycle can end.

Sales points

- Highly relevant to young readers today: covers vital topical themes of toxic masculinity and misogynistic culture
- Stunning high-concept YA debut: a moving and powerful new voice and great use of time-loop device

Review

“Exceptional ... a careful, thoughtful, compulsively readable examination of toxic masculinity and normalised sexual abuse.” – *The Guardian*

Author biography

Louise grew up in a small town in the Midlands. After studying History of Art she worked for over a decade in the charity sector across women's and LGBT+ rights, and youth arts.



BACKLIST

Age 4+

Evie's Christmas Wishes

written by Siobhán Parkinson & illustrated by Shannon Bergin

Shortlisted An Post Irish Book Awards Specsavers Children's Book of the Year (Junior) 2021



A Christmas picturebook by Ireland's first children's laureate

Christmas is coming and Evie is getting excited. With her mammy and daddy she helps to make the pudding, ice the cake, decorate the tree.

As Christmas approaches, Evie's wishes start to come true: she gets a singing part in the school Nativity play, it snows and Uncle Sean announces he is coming home for Christmas.

Evie's biggest wish of all comes true at the end, when Sean and his wife arrive at Dublin airport with a miraculous surprise: a new baby!

Publication details

Word count 450

Pub date October 2021

Format 270 x 215 mm

Rights sold

- Slovakian

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Sales points

- Colour illustrations show the build-up to a typical family Christmas
- Timeless story that can be enjoyed each Christmas by readers of all ages

Review

'Captures the magnificence of the festive season perfectly. The illustrations by debut artist Shannon Bergin are fantastic.' – Elaina Ryan, *The Irish Times*

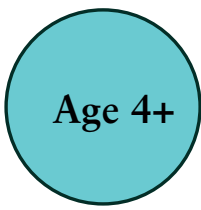
Author biography

Siobhán Parkinson is the author of more than 30 books for children, teens and adults, as well as several translations from German. She was Ireland's first ever Laureate na nÓg (children's laureate) and the founder of Little Island Books.

Illustrator biography

Shannon Bergin is an Irish illustrator. She graduated from Limerick School of Art and Design in 2018. This is her first picturebook.

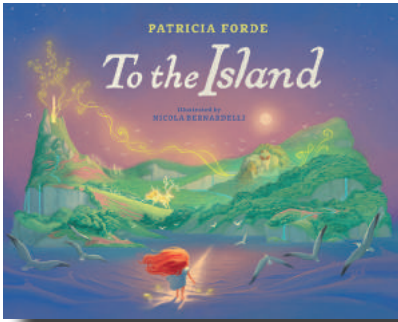




To the Island

written by Patricia Forde & illustrated by Nicola Bernardelli

A gorgeous, lyrical picturebook about a little girl exploring a mythical island full of magical creatures



Fia longs to go to the mysterious island that appears and disappears out in the bay off the west coast of Ireland. One night a moonbeam reaches across the water and leads her over the water to this wonderful place.

There, Fia discovers a land where magical creatures roam around and the air is thick with secrets. She rides a golden butterfly; she swims to the bottom of the sea; she dances up into space.

Then Fia knows it is time for the adventure to end. She runs back up through the twisting streets, following the compass of her own small heart, all the way home.

Publication details

Word count 490

Pub date September 2020

Format 230 x 290mm

Rights sold

- Vietnamese

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Sales points

- Based on an old Irish myth
- Co-published with Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture

Review

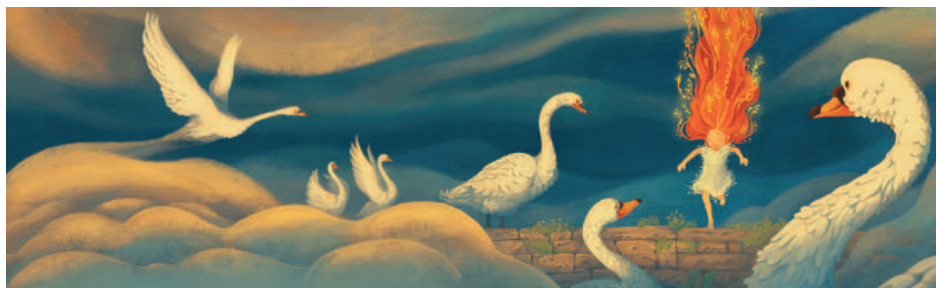
‘Nicola Bernardelli’s illustrations are suffused with light and glimmering tendrils of magic, which spin through a blushing twilight sky.’ – Sara Keating, *The Irish Times*

Author biography

Patricia Forde is a prolific, multi-award-winning author for young readers from Galway in the west of Ireland. Her books have won multiple White Raven awards from the International Youth Library and been published in many countries.

Illustrator biography

Born in Italy, Nicola Bernardelli is a graduate of the Emile Cohl School of art in France. Particularly interested in nature and the timeless human traits expressed in mythology and tales, he works as a freelance illustrator and animator.



Age 4+

Imagine!

by Patricia Forde & illustrated by Elīna Brasliņa

Shortlisted Teach Primary Book Awards 2021



Publication details

Word count 450

Pub date February 2021

Format 250 x 205mm

Rights sold

- Polish

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A light-hearted picturebook about using humour and imagination to overcome fears and show love

A little girl shares her fears with her grandma: pirates, ghosts, the big dog down the lane ...

Each time, her grandma reassures her there's nothing to fear. And she has the perfect solution for overcoming her worries: just imagine them doing the funniest things!

Pirates play with their dolls in fluffy party dresses; monsters end up in orange tutus dancing in a field of daisies; vampires become big babies with bonnets and soothers ...

Finally, the girl admits her biggest fear of all: that her grandma will go away and leave her forever. Grandma tells her that she will always be with her, in her heart ... and she can imagine her in a yellow polka-dot bikini if she likes!

Sales points

- Empowers readers to overcome their fears through humour and imagination
- Celebrates the love between a little girl and her grandmother
- Addresses the mortality of a grandparent in a gentle and funny way

Review

'It's a remarkably reassuring, comforting and uplifting read, as well as lots of fun, with gorgeous illustrations.' – *Picture Book Snob*

Author biography

Patricia Forde is a prolific, multi-award-winning author for young readers from Ireland. She has also worked as a schoolteacher, the artistic director of Galway's International Arts Festival, a television writer, and a playwright. Her books have won multiple White Raven awards from the International Youth Library and been published in many countries.

Illustrator biography

Elīna Brasliņa is from Latvia. She has published more than twenty children's books. She twice received the Zelta Ābele Award for Book Design in Latvia, as well as the Jānis Baltvilks Baltic Sea Region Award. Her work has also been nominated for international awards including the Kate Greenaway Medal.



Alexandra

written by Siobhán Parkinson & illustrated by Carol Betera



Publication details

Word count 1,500

Pub date April 2014

Format 185 x 154mm

Rights sold

- Portuguese (Brazil)
- Chinese (simple)

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Great for reading aloud, these reassuring short stories about early childhood offer warmth and comfort to young readers

In four short vignettes, readers get to know and love a little girl called Alexandra. In the first story, 'Alexandra Changes her Name', Alexandra decides one day to be 'Alex'. So she wears her Alex clothes — bright red boots and a floppy sunhat — and spends the day kicking in puddles. The next day she is 'Sandra' and, of course, she wears her Sandra clothes — sparkly sandals and her best hair ribbon — and spends the day having tea parties. The next day, when her mum asks if it is an 'Alex' or a 'Sandra' day, Alexandra tells her, 'Today I'm just going to be me.'

The other stories in the collection are 'Good Night, Alexandra', in which Alexandra learns to deal with the dark; 'Alexandra's Plaster Disaster', in which Alexandra falls off a swing and hurts her knee; and 'Alexandra Gets Wet', which is about Alexandra's objections to having her hair washed.

Sales points

- Universal and timeless tales of everyday life
- Sweet illustrations interplay with amusing and gentle text

Review

'These stories are delightful and Betera's illustrations glow.' – Niamh Sharkey, former *Irish Children's Laureate*

Author biography

Siobhán Parkinson is one of Ireland's best-known writers for children. She has written almost thirty books, most of them for children and teenagers, for which she has won numerous awards and nominations. Her books have been translated into about twenty languages. She was Ireland's first Children's Laureate.

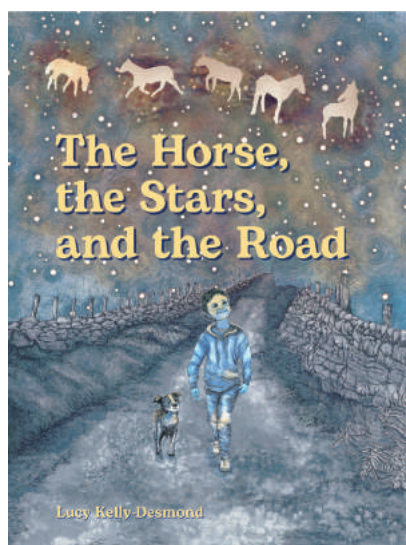
Illustrator biography

Carol Betera lives in Dublin and works as an illustrator and a theatre-set artist.

Age 5+

The Horse, The Stars and The Road

written & illustrated by Lucy Kelly Desmond



Publication details

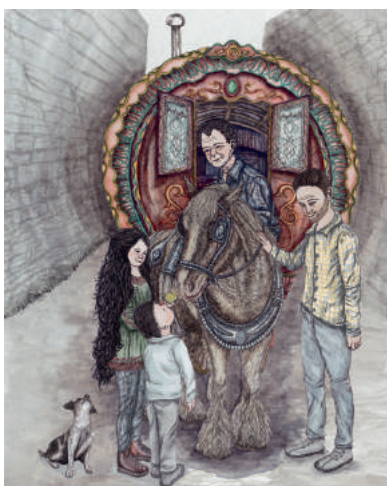
Word count 720

Pub date September 2022

Format 200 x 250 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV



Beautiful watercolour images blend with gentle text to tell a story about a boy discovering pride in his identity

All the children at school have to bring something from home to show the class. Sonny doesn't know what to bring - what will the other children think if he brings in a horseshoe?

When Uncle Jim takes Sonny on a trip in his wagon, he tells Sonny stories around the campfire. He shows him how he works metal in the traditional way and takes him to a horse fair.

Watching Jim, Sonny starts to feel better about where he comes from. Now he has something brilliant to show the children at school.

Sales points

- Carries a powerful message about the importance of embracing our ancestry and keeping traditions alive
- Offers a window to the rich cultural history of a nomadic community

Review

'An absolute delight. A book for every home.' – *The Sunday Times*

Author biography

Lucy Kelly-Desmond studied Textile Design at the Centre for Creative Arts and Media, Galway followed by a course in children's book illustration at UAL, Chelsea School of Art. She lives near Ballinasloe, Galway where Europe's oldest horse fair takes place every October. From observing one of Ireland's last tinsmiths at the fair, an idea for a story was formed. This is her first picture book.



Age 8+

The Free Range Detective Agency series

written by Jed Lynch and illustrated by Stephen Stone



A playful take on detective fiction with an all-animal cast of characters and funny cartoon-like illustrations

Seamus is not your average detective: he's a turkey. He runs the Free Range Detective Agency with his secretary, a hyena who never laughs. Seamus might not be the best detective in town. In fact, he could be the worst. But with the help of his friends Doc, a mole, Elvis, a meerkat, and the local police-dogs, he will always somehow solve the mystery.

You should never trust a cat in a fur coat, but Seamus can't refuse Ms Ermine's cash in *Murder Most Fowl*. He soon finds himself accused of murdering the owners of the nightclubs he was investigating.

In *The Baboon With the Golden Bum* Seamus must discover who is putting Frank the baboon's stop-secret money-making factories at risk. The perfectly groomed jackal? The rude newt? Or the mysterious toads, Frank's two adopted sons?

Publication details

Word count 28,000 per book

Pub date Oct 2019 & Oct 2020

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World English
- World translation
- Film/TV
- Audiobook

Sales points

- Playful black and white illustrations throughout
- Fast-paced, funny and smart story

Review

'The perfect blend of charm and charisma, ensuring readers will be crying out for more.' – *Inis Magazine*, Children's Books Ireland

Author biography

Jed Lynch is an Irish human author. The Free Range Detective Agency is the first thing he has co-written with a turkey. Seamus provides the exciting storylines, the feathers, wings and beaks, while Jed provides the hands



Age 8+

Wulfie series

written by Lindsay J Sedgwick
illustrated by Josephine Wolff (books 1 & 2)
and Rosa Devine (books 3 & 4)



Sweet and funny series about the wild adventures of a little girl and her wolfish best friend

Libby lives a lonely life. Her step-brother, Rex, tells her scary stories so she can't sleep. Rex's mother, Veronika, makes her do all the housework. All Libby wants is a best friend.

Everything changes when Libby finds Wulfie. He's a wulfen: a purple wolf-like creature as cute as a puppy. He can talk, shrink as small as a snail or as big as a bear, and his favourite food is smelly socks. Life becomes a lot more fun with such a mischievous best friend!

Sales points

- Hilarious, fast-paced adventures brought to life by the black-and-white illustrations throughout
- Stories where friendship overcomes loneliness and bullying
- Illustrations feature an ethnically diverse range of characters and characters with disabilities

Review

'Readers will be completely charmed by Wulfie and cheer on Libby as she develops confidence and tries to follow her dreams. Everyone will want their own fuzzy, purple friend to help them through the ups and downs of school life.' – Kate Heap, *Scope for Imagination*

Author biography

Lindsay J Sedgwick has written for film, TV, games and apps. Her award-winning series Punky is the first mainstream animation series worldwide whose central character has special needs (Down's syndrome); available in over 100 countries it has more than 5 million hits on YouTube.

Publication details

Word count 28,000 per title

Pub date Oct 2019 – March 2022

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- Swedish

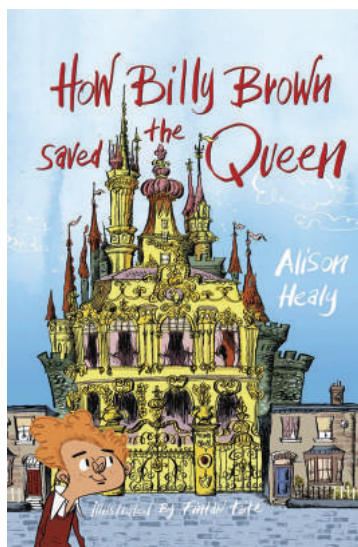
Rights available

- World English
- World translation
- Film/TV
- Audiobook



How Billy Brown Saved the Queen

by Alison Healy & illustrated by Fintan Taite



Publication details

Word count 16,00

Pub date April 2018

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World English (except UK & RoI)
- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A maths problem leads to the unexpected friendship between a young boy and a Queen, which teaches Billy Brown the value of normal family life

Billy Brown has never won a medal. But when the Queen asks the public for help to solve a tricky math problem, Billy sees his chance for glory! The Queen is so pleased she awards Billy the biggest, shiniest medal he's ever seen.

But when the medal goes missing the Queen decides it is her turn to help Billy: she is coming to stay with his family to help him find it.

Billy and his mum and dad don't know how to entertain a queen. But she is a very good guest – she even helps with the recycling. The Queen loves being part of the family, but soon Billy and his parents are exhausted.

Then Granny comes to visit too and she and the Queen become friends. Granny is an ex-spy and she solves the medal mystery, giving the Queen a brilliant idea: Granny will come to the palace to work as a royal bodyguard!

In the end, the Queen has had a taste of 'normal' life, while Billy and his parents realise that life for a queen can be hard, and being a normal family has its advantages.

And at the very end of the book we learn how to solve the Queen's difficult math problem!

Sales points

- Funny and heartwarming celebration of friendship in all its forms
- Black and white illustrations throughout
- Short but satisfying read for young readers

Review

'A hilarious adventure about friendship, mathematics and celebrating difference.' *RTÉ Junior Bookclub*

Author biography

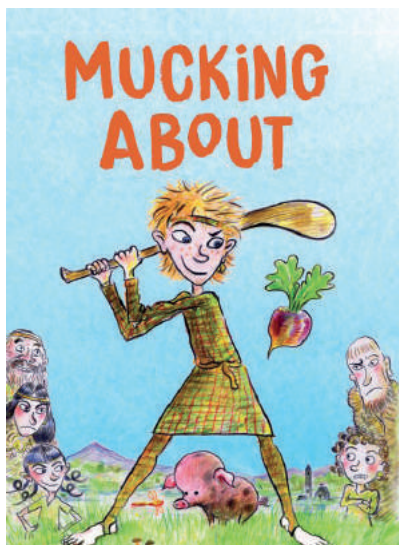
Alison Healy has worked as a journalist with The Irish Times for almost two decades. She specialises in food and farming issues.

Age 8+

Mucking About

written and illustrated by John Chambers

Shortlisted The Literacy Association of Ireland Children's Book Award 2019
Shortlisted Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year 2019
Nominated IBBY Honours List 2020



Publication details

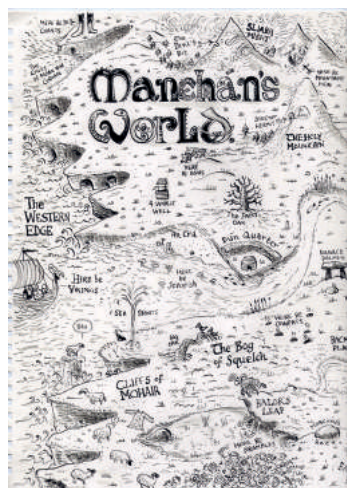
Word count 24, 000

Pub date September 2018

Format 210 x 155 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV



Magic, myth and mischief combine in this hilarious tale of a young boy's adventures in medieval Ireland

Manchán lives in Ireland, an awfully long time ago. The country has gone Christian, but magic remains in the air.

Manchán's mother wants him to bring honour on the family by becoming a monk. Manchán most certainly does not want to become a monk. He'd rather go fishing with his friend, Pagan-of-the-Six-Toes, or go charging through the forest with his pet pig, Muck, or go bare-back riding over the bog on the chieftain's mad ram, Balor. Anything fun or adventurous or magical, and absolutely nothing to do with turnips, penance, prayers, monks and chanting.

Poor Manchán! The more he mucks about having fun, the more his mother is determined to tame him. Finally Manchán decides his mother's idea might not be so bad after all, especially as Muck can come too. He is ready to bring honour to the family!

Sales points

- Quick-witted and hilarious
- Humorous black and white illustrations throughout
- An imaginative and original take on medieval world

Review

'There is plenty of historical detail and Chambers witty illustrations are full of energy, making the tales come alive.' – *The Irish Independent*

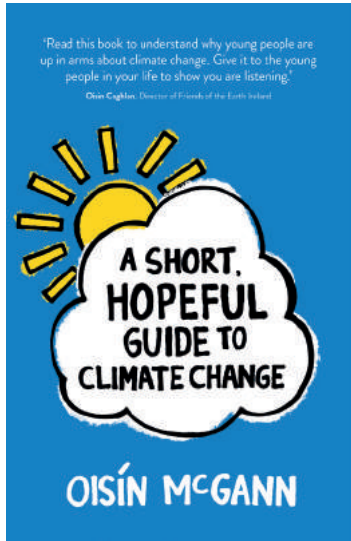
Author biography

Three times winner of the Best Animated Screenplay Award at the International Animated Film Festival and writer in residence at the National Theatre, England in 2006, John Chambers was born and raised in Ireland and is now based in Berlin. He writes comics, screenplays and novels for children and young people.

Age 12+

A Short, Hopeful Guide to Climate Change

Written and illustrated by Oisín McGann



Publication details

Word count 69,000

Pub date May 2021

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Climate Change and how to fight it explained in a hopeful tone. Published in collaboration with Friends of the Earth Ireland.

What is Climate Change? How can it be stopped? And what can young people do to help the fight?

Author Oisín McGann explains Climate Change science, and encourages young people to be part of positive change by getting involved in the global movement to fight humanity’s biggest challenge.

Sales points

- Written in fun, approachable way - think Bill Bryson for teens
- Includes clear diagrams and cartoon-style illustrations

Review

‘Writing in a conversational and engaging style, Irish author McGann provides answers to how the tipping point has been reached on land, air, and sea ... A good choice for those wanting to understand and tackle climate change.’ – *Kirkus*

Author biography

Oisín McGann is a best-selling and award-winning writer and illustrator. He has produced dozens of books and short stories for all ages of reader, including twelve novels.

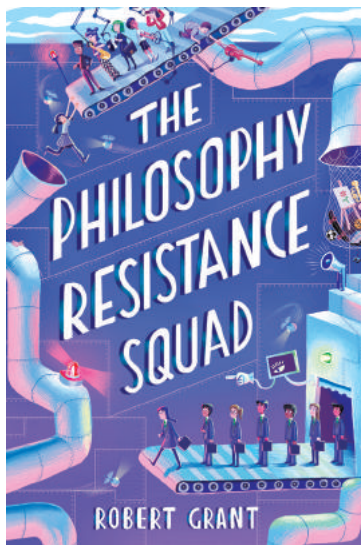
In 2014 and 2015, he was the Irish writer-in-residence for Weather Stations, an EU-funded project where writers from five different countries were tasked with finding ways to use storytelling to raise awareness of climate change. He has carried on this work through school residencies in primary and secondary schools, funded by Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools and Irish Aid’s WorldWise Global Schools.



Age 9+

The Philosophy Resistance Squad

by Robert Grant



Publication details

Word count

Pub date June 2021

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- Korean
- Turkish

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A philosophical romp about a wicked headmaster brought low by a group of kids who have learned the power of critical thinking

Milo starts secondary school at the prestigious Secondary Training Institute for Lifelong Employment. But he quickly discovers this is an unpleasant and oppressive institution presided over by the wicked Dr Pummelcrush – whose mission is to crush the students’ capacity for free thought.

Then Milo meets Ursula, an old art teacher and a philosopher. Using the philosophical technique of Socratic dialogues, she teaches Milo to ask hard questions and use analytical thinking to undermine Pummelcrush’s evil scheme of turning the students into perfect mindless employees of the STIFLE Corporation.

A blend of thrilling fiction and philosophical dialogues with a message about the importance of critical thinking skills.

Sales points

- Thrilling middle-grade fiction about a school run by an evil regime.
- Introduces philosophical concepts and skills through the medium of story

Review

‘Keeps a brisk pace.’ – *The New York Times*

Author biography

Robert Grant was born in Waterford, Ireland. He has a PhD in philosophy from Trinity College Dublin, where he was an Irish Research Scholar. He has taught philosophy both at Trinity and in several other institutions. Rob is founder of the Philosophy in the Community project and a member of Philosophy Ireland, and has taught philosophy in schools, prisons, community centres and many other places. He has written and talked about this work for *The Irish Times*, RTÉ radio and television, BBC radio, Newstalk radio and many other places.

The Very Dangerous Sisters of Indigo McCloud

by John Hearne



Publication details

Word count 44,000

Pub date July 2021

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- Turkish

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Absurdly enjoyable dark adventure about a boy's mission to stop his evil sisters terrorising the town

Blunt is a heavily polluted industrial town with a Christmas-tree factory, a mitten factory, a breadcrumb factory, a toothbrush factory, an accordion factory, a donkey farm and an L-shaped canal. It's a crazy place where wacky things happen.

All the adults of the town of Blunt think Indigo's sister, Peaches McCloud, is a golden-haired angel. But Indigo and the other kids know differently. In fact Peaches is an ambitious bully who will stop at nothing to win a bicycle in a competition. With the assistance of her loyal and skilled sisters, she has coerced every girl in the neighbourhood into working for her.

Indigo knows he has to stop his evil sister. But Peaches persuades their father, the loving Tim McCloud, that Indigo is a pathological liar and needs to be sent to a military boarding school. Indigo is kidnapped by a pair of violent stooges working for Peaches and has great difficulty in escaping their terrifying clutches.

Meanwhile, Mandy, a sensible neighbourhood girl, who is also competing for the bicycle, is abducted (along with twenty-eight of her cousins) by a lunatic wig-maker, and taken on a doomed submarine trip. Indigo knows Peaches has some part to play in this ... can he stop her in time?

Sales points

- Wildly funny middle-grade debut with dark, disgusting details in the Roald Dahl tradition
- Original and highly imaginative plot that will keep readers turning the page

Review

'Writing a dystopian world that is laugh-out-loud funny is no mean feat, but to create such an environment for young readers is nothing short of extraordinary.' – *Children's Books Ireland*

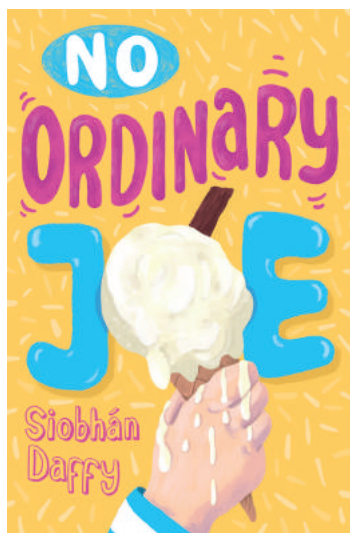
Author biography

John Hearne worked as an economist before becoming a professional writer. He has ghostwritten a number of bestselling books but he can't tell you what they are. He was shortlisted for the Hennessy New Irish Writing Awards. He lives in Galway with Marie and their four children. *The Very Dangerous Sisters of Indigo McCloud* is John's first book written under his own name.

No Ordinary Joe

by Siobhán Daffy

Hilarious and touching, a boy describes life with his brother, a 'superhero' with an intellectual disability



Publication details

Word count 38,000

Pub date August 2021

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Dan's brother Joe is 11, but he has the understanding of a toddler and looking after him can be difficult. He also has a superpower: making everyone love him and love him and love him.

Everyone, that is, except his sister's nasty new boyfriend, who teases Joe and bullies Dan's Muslim friend too.

When Dan's family goes away for a few days, they leave Dan with his grandmother, while Joe goes into respite care. Granny doesn't really understand Joe, and in an effort to be kind, she decides to take him out for an afternoon. Granny's treat goes badly awry and Joe disappears! Panicking, Dan gets friends and neighbours together to search for Joe.

Just as the rest of the family returns home, Dan spots Joe. He isn't missing, he is happily eating ice cream in the local Italian café. Dan's sister sees her boyfriend teasing Joe and ends their relationship. The whole family, together with Granny and Dan's friends, pile into the café to celebrate Joe's return.

Sales points

- Honest, loving and gently humorous portrayal of life with a disabled sibling, based on the author's own family
- Fun depiction of a rural village with lively characters

Review

'Dan is a realistic character and his kindness and love for his brother make this a charming, heart-felt debut.' – Sarah Webb *Irish Independent*

Author biography

Siobhán Daffy lives in the Dublin mountains. She is an author, poet and lover of creativity. Her poems have appeared in many journals and she enjoys performing spoken poetry, accompanying herself on percussion and African harp. Siobhán worked in the creative arts for over 20 years and currently runs a natural health practice.

Age 9+

Bank

by Emma Quigley

Winner

Literacy Association of Ireland Children's Book Award 2019



Publication details

Age 11+

Word count 54,000

Pub date March 2018

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights sold

- Italian
- Greek
- Korean
- Russian
- Ukranian
- Film

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook

A hilarious, dialogue-driven story about a group of friends that set up a bank at school

Five friends have the ingenious idea to set up a bank at school. They lend money to their classmates at high levels of interest and invest in crazy entrepreneurial schemes, including a school dating app and a successful YouTube channel.

At first the friends enjoy their new-found cash, spending it on designer clothes and trainers. All except Luke, our first-person narrator, who uses his share to help his parents when his father loses his job.

Things start to go wrong, however, when the dating app breaks down and an investment in performing pigs proves disastrous. The young bankers need to pay their debts and the only way out involves a loudspeaker, bribing their peers and a school play that goes seriously but hilariously wrong, showering the audience with money.

Sales points

- Superbly crafted storyline that delivers on an ingenious premise
- Authentic, witty dialogue that will keep young readers fully engaged
- Mirrors the real world of boom-to-bust banking and business

Review

‘Sharp, funny and fast-paced, Bank is the latest triumph from Little Island Books ... an original and remarkable debut.’ – *Inis Magazine*, Children's Books Ireland

Author biography

Emma Quigley lives in Dublin with her partner and teenage son. By day she works as a writer in the information technology world, but by night she writes stories for children and scripts for television and theatre.

Gold

by Geraldine Mills



Publication details

Word count 55,000

Pub date June 2016

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Film/TV
- Audiobook

Plot-driven dystopia meets classic adventure story, set in a world after environmental collapse and the extinction of insects

Esper and Starn are twin boys who live in a grim world that has been almost devastated by massive volcanic explosions, leaving an ash cloud that obscures the sky and grounds aviation.

Orchard used to be a fruit-growing area, but with the death of insects and birds, pollination now has to be done by hand, and it is a tedious and precarious undertaking.

When the boys discover an intriguing old manuscript in a locked room in their apartment, which tells of gold on one of the forbidden islands the people can see from the coastline, they determine to go on a gold-hunt. Finding the treasure would make their family's life so much easier!

Esper and Starn manage to construct a glider that takes them far from the grey territory of their home. A whole new adventure begins for the boys, as they travel from island to island in search of gold and discover how colourful and lively nature can be.

Their adventures are many, the characters they encounter do not always have their best interests at heart, and the twins come close to death.

In the end, they do find 'gold'. But it's not a shiny metal – it's honey! Starn and Esper make their return journey in a hot-air balloon, accompanied by a colony of bees, destined to solve Orchard's pollination problems.

Sales points

- Reveals the importance of bees to the health of our planet
- Imaginative adventure story told in lyrical language
- Universal themes: ecology, emigration, family and political oppression

Review

'Heavy concerns – bad government, environmental challenges – are compassionately woven into a story with Mills' poetic lyricism showing through.' – *Kirkus* Reviews

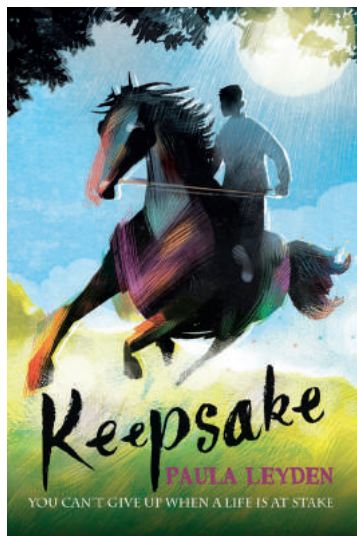
Author biography

Geraldine Mills lives in the west of Ireland. She is an award-winning poet and short-story writer, and has had several collections published.

Age 9+

Keepsake

by Paula Leyden



Publication details

Word count 38,000

Pub date May 2017

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A fast-paced adventure story full of heart, courage – and horses. Two Irish Traveller children are in a race against time to save their horse.

It's summer and Ella is staying with her beloved granny in rural Ireland. Free from her parent's complicated relationship Ella enjoys the natural surroundings – especially a horse in a neighbouring field. The horse, Storm, belongs to Johnny, a local boy. Distrustful by nature, he bonds with Ella over their shared love of Storm.

One morning Storm is gone. Johnny's dad explains that he has been taken to the pound, and says the situation is hopeless: because they are members of the Travelling community they will never get him back. Ella cannot accept such injustice. Enrolling the help of her granny, she and Johnny set off on a great adventure to recover the horse.

Sales points

- A classic horse story with a contemporary approach that also explores animal rights
- Gentle but insightful handling of prejudice towards a marginalised community
- Celebrates intergenerational relationships

Review

'Leyden captures Ella's emotional life with great conviction as she struggles to deal with her fraught family life ... The prejudice that drives the plot is subtly introduced and resolved with great compassion' – Sara Keating, *The Irish Times*

Author biography

Paula Leyden lived in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa before moving to Kilkenny, where she worked extensively with the Travelling community and horses. Paula is an award winning author, including the Judges' Special Award in 2014 for her novel *The Sleeping Boabab Tree*.

Age 9+

Once Upon a Place

compiled by Eoin Colfer and illustrated by PJ Lynch

Selected A CLPE Book of the Year 2015



Publication details

Word count 27, 000

Pub date October 2015

Format 210 x 155 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Anthology of stories and poems that focuses on the special link between story and place in Ireland

With an amusing introduction by Ireland's internationally known children's author Eoin Colfer, *Once Upon a Place* is the culmination of his two year term as Ireland's children's laureate. This anthology features six new poems by Irish poets alongside eleven stories from many of Ireland's leading children's writers.

The stories and poems span real and fantasy worlds, blending seriousness of tone with more lighthearted moments, sure to delight readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Sales points

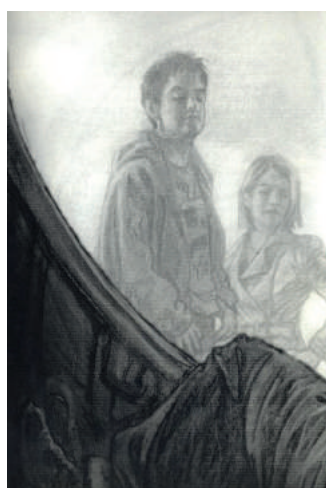
- A great introduction to Ireland's contemporary children's literature
- Features the work of three children's laureates – Eoin Colfer, PJ Lynch and Siobhán Parkinson and a Booker Prize winner – Roddy Doyle
- Attractive design and evocative illustrations (over 50 black and white charcoal illustrations throughout)

Review

'All readers will know more about Ireland when they have read the stories than they knew at the beginning but they would also see that stories such as these are universal.' – Julia Eccleshare, *The Guardian*

Editor biography

Eoin Colfer is one of Ireland's best-known writers for children. His *Artemis Fowl* series is world-famous and the movie was released in 2020. His other books include *Benny and Omar* and the historical adventure *Airman*. Eoin was Ireland's Children's laureate from 2014-2016.



Chameleon Dad

by Debbie Thomas



Publication details

Word count 72,600

Pub date June 2022

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Gripping and funny middle-grade adventure about found families, trust and truth. And chameleons.

When Connie gets a letter from the dad she thought was dead, she sets out to discover why he left her, eight years ago, sitting in an airport café with only her pet chameleon for company.

Since then she's lived with her foster mum, a cleaner at the airport, and dreams of seeing her dad again. With her new friend, a fearless, fossil-hunting boy called Thyo, she tracks her dad down. But as he reveals his true colours, Connie starts to wonder if she's made the biggest mistake of her life.

Sales points

- Fun and exciting plot-driven middle grade novel with female protagonist
- Explores questions of family, trust and honesty through a fast-paced and engrossing story
- Will appeal to young animal and reptile lovers!

Review

'This is a charming, funny and empathetic novel ... It's a perfect lure away from screens and devices.' – *Meath Chronicle*

Author biography

After studying geology at university, Debbie Thomas trained as a BBC reporter. She worked in Bangladesh and South Africa, then moved to Ireland, where she decided that making things up was more fun than telling the truth in news reports. She has written five children's books (*Dead Hairy*, *Jungle Tangle*, *Monkie Business*, *Class Act* and *My Secret Dragon*) and is the writer in residence at Our Lady's Hospital School in Crumlin, Dublin.

My Secret Dragon

by Debbie Thomas



Publication details

Word count 49, 000

Pub date September 218

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A thrilling adventure story with a big heart, about family, friendship and (not) fitting in – and baking!

For the first time, Aidan is going to school. Until now, Mum worried he'd tell someone her monstrous secret – she is part-dragon. She has scales and claws and can breathe fire. (She mostly uses it to cook sausages to perfection.)

School doesn't go very well for Aidan, until he befriends Charlotte. She discovers Mum's secret, but she thinks Aidan's mum is marvellous. Aidan realises how special his mum really is. But someone else learns Mum's secret and has a different idea: kidnapping her.

Inspired by Greek myths, Aidan and Charlotte set out on a dangerous adventure to rescue Mum from Dr Krinsky's murky research laboratory on the other side of the country. In a dramatic showdown, the friends overcome Krinsky and save Mum and other part-mythic creatures from the horrors of the lab.

Now Aidan and mum know that people are different in various ways and have new friends, keeping Mum's secret doesn't seem so important after all.

Sales points

- Terrific adventure story, with a dramatic climax
- Brilliant treatment of difference and the fear of being judged or misunderstood
- Simple and delicious recipes, as baked by the children in the story, are included

Review

'Part heart-warming family drama, part rip-roaring kidnapping yarn, this story is a clever blend of realism and fantasy for children who like adventure tales with lashings of humour and heart.' – *The Irish Independent*

Author biography

Debbie Thomas trained as a BBC reporter. She worked in Bangladesh and South Africa, then moved to Ireland, where she decided that making things up was more fun than telling the truth in news reports. She has written several children's books (*Dead Hairy, Jungle Tangle, Monkie Business, Class Act, My Secret Dragon, Chameleon Dad*)

Name Upon Name

by Sheena Wilkinson



Publication details

Word count 32,000

Pub date August 2015

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Britain is at war with Germany; Helen's family seems to be at war with itself. The compelling story of a heroine coming of age in troubled times

Northern Ireland in 1916. Fourteen-year-old Helen is shaped by her mixed background — rural, Catholic Irish values from her mother; urban, Protestant Ulster (Northern Irish) values from her father.

Helen's older cousins are her heroes: Sandy, who joined the army straight from school and is now fighting in France, and Michael, who runs away from home to enlist in the military.

But before he leaves for France, Michael is deployed to Dublin, where a rebellion has begun. There, he's expected to open fire on his fellow Irishmen. Meanwhile Sandy writes home about the terrible things he witnesses at war.

Who and what exactly are they fighting for?

Whether they experience conflict on the battlefield or from their home, whether they face so-called enemies or internal struggles, all of the characters have to find out how far they are ready to go for what they believe in.

Sales points

- Explores universal themes: beliefs, belonging and identity
- Introduces political understanding and a complex moment in history to young readers
- Part of a loose historical trio, along with *Star by Star* and *Hope against Hope* (all three can be read separately as stand-alone titles)

Review

'History is rarely clean and simple; the beauty of this book is that it embraces that complexity.' – Dr Patrick Geoghegan, Professor of History at Trinity College Dublin

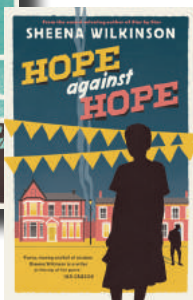
Author biography

Sheena Wilkinson is from Northern Ireland. She has published eight books for young people, most of which have won awards. She has won the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year, White Raven awards and featured on the IBBY Honours List. Her work has been translated into Korean, French, Latvian, Turkish and Slovenian.

Age 10+

Star by Star

by Sheena Wilkinson



Set against the backdrop of the Spanish Flu pandemic and the end of World War I, a tale of suffragettes and heroes told by a hopeful, determined young girl

It's 1918, World War 1 is ending and women are going to vote for the first time. The world is changing, especially for Stella, whose suffragette mother died in the influenza pandemic that is sweeping Europe. Alone, the teenager leaves everything she knows and goes to live with her aunt at her rural guest house.

Impulsive and feisty, Stella can't seem to fit into her new surroundings. Aunt Nancy and the guests are surprised by her radical ambitions for women. Sandy, a wounded soldier, is treated as a hero, but Stella finds him grumpy and lazy.

Yet as she gets to know those around her, Stella recognises that others also struggle to come to terms with the past. Rose, an old friend of her mother's, helps Stella realise she can further the cause for independence for women while helping her new friends and family too. Stella enlists the help of her aunt and Sandy to enable Rose to vote for the first time.

In the end, Stella's family and friends overcome divides of gender, religion and politics. Just as stars come one by one to brighten the night sky, so history is made person by person, girl by girl, vote by vote.

Sales points

- A hopeful story about personal and political change
- Feminist and democratic themes
- More than 25,000 copies sold in UK & Ireland and selected as a 'Future Classic' by Booktrust UK

Review

'A beautifully written and fascinating story, which shines a light on an important part of history.' – BookTrust

Author biography

Sheena Wilkinson is from Northern Ireland. She has published eight books for young people, most of which have won awards. She has won the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year, White Raven awards and featured on the IBBY Honours List. Her work has been translated into Korean, French, Latvian, Turkish and Slovenian.

Publication details

Word count 42,000

Pub date October 2017

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights sold

- Korean
- Turkish

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Hope against Hope

by Sheena Wilkinson



Publication details

Word count 42,000

Pub date March 2020

Format 198 x 129 mm

Extent 240 pages

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A story of brave young women standing up for hope as Ireland is partitioned by a hard border and communities are torn apart by bitter hatred

Ireland, 1921. The country has been at war for two years and now a hard border splits the island. Fourteen-year-old Polly has clashed with her brother, who has been in the war in Europe, and she has had enough. She heads for Belfast and Helen's Hope, a cross-community feminist hostel that flies in the face of sectarianism and promotes liberal values. Local people are suspicious of Helen's Hope, and the girls are harassed on the streets. Then Stella, who helps run the hostel — and whom Polly secretly admires for more than her progressive values — discovers that one girl has been covertly making a union flag for the ringleader of local opposition to the hostel. Stella is furious and destroys the flag.

Polly suggests holding an open day at the hostel, to show local people that there is nothing to be afraid of. This is a great success, and Polly is particularly glad to welcome a homeless war-traumatised soldier she has recently befriended. That night, however, a sewing factory that forms part of Helen's Hope is set alight by angry locals. The soldier Polly allowed to sleep over in the factory is killed in the blaze.

Polly, devastated by guilt, has learnt a lot and can forgive her brother — who, she realises, was also traumatised by war. And Helen's Hope, with a new benefactor, is set to develop links with the local community in new and productive ways.

Sales points

- Determined, strong and empowering female protagonists
- Includes an enlightening historical note and an interview with the author

Review

'I devoured this book ... Funny, moving and full of wisdom' – Jan Carson, winner of the EU Prize for Literature 2019

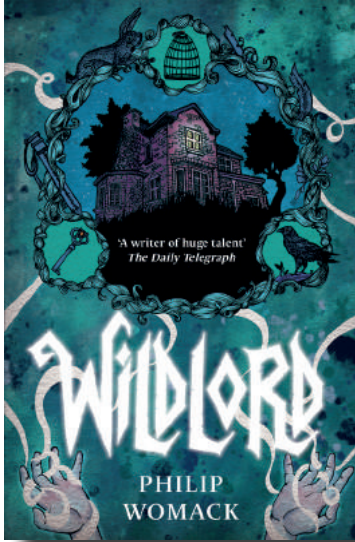
Author biography

Sheena Wilkinson is from Northern Ireland. She has published eight books for young people, most of which have won awards. She has won the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year, White Raven awards and featured on the IBBY Honours List. Her work has been translated into Korean, French, Latvian, Turkish and Slovenian.

Age 12+

Wildlord

by Philip Womack



Publication details

Age 12+

Word count 57,800

Pub date October 2021

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A suspenseful teen fantasy about young love, dark mystery and magic. Something is menacing Mundham Farm. Does it come from outside – or within?

One summer morning 16-year-old orphan Tom Swinton receives a strange message from his uncle James, calling him to visit his Suffolk farm. Tom quickly realises something is menacing Mundham farm: but does it come from outside, or from within? Tom discovers old diaries written by a local rector's daughter, which describe her meetings with Rohenga, a member of a supernatural race known as the Samdhya.

When Tom meets one of the Samdhya, he begins to uncover the secrets of Mundham Farm. The pressure mounts, and Tom finds his loyalties under threat. On the one hand he is offered infinite power; on the other, freedom. Which will he choose?

Tom must now face up to his parents' deaths, and expose the truth about his uncle, and his relationship with the Samdhya. Who are these extraordinary creatures, and what has his uncle kept hidden for so long?

Sales points

- Gripping, thoughtful fantasy from an established, critically acclaimed author
- Strong world-building and storytelling, will appeal to fans of teen fantasy and magic

Review

'*Wildlord* crackles with an otherworldly atmosphere reminiscent of the great Alan Garner.' – *The Financial Times*

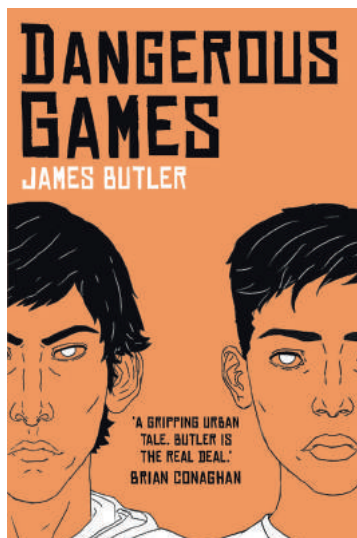
Author biography

Philip Womack is a British author and journalist. His writing has appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Literary Review* and *The TLS*. His books for children and teens include fantasy trilogy *The Darkening Path* and *The Arrow of Apollo*. The nonfiction *How to Teach Classics to Your Dog* was published in 2020.

Age 12+

Dangerous Games

by James Butler



Publication details

Word count 50,000

Pub date April 2019

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A pacy and exciting urban drama exploring the pressures of young masculinity and male friendships.

Kevin is fourteen years old but his problems are bigger than those of your average teenager. His Uncle Davy is back though no one talks about where he's been these years and now he is taking charge of the house. Adam, Kevin's brother, is mixed up with things Kevin doesn't want to know about but, when he learns the football gear Adam steals from a car belongs to Conor, a boy his own age, Kevin gets sucked in. Especially when he learns Conor's dad is dead, just like his.

Kevin doesn't want Conor to know about the world he moves in, but when Uncle Davy and Adam stage a tiger kidnapping and hold Conor ransome to put pressure on his bank manager mother, Kevin has to intervene. Stealthily, he swaps places with Conor, foils the kidnapping and prevents disastrous consequences.

Sales points

- Action story of conflicting loyalties, set in working-class urban community
- Explores masculine identity through complex male relationships
- Witty dialogue with teenage-boy appeal

Review

'The plot whips along and the dialogue is particularly strong ... It's a gritty, honest, compelling novel.' – Top Choice: Teens and Young Adults – *The Irish Independent*

Author biography

James Butler's background is in education and drama. He holds an MPhil in Creative Writing from Trinity College Dublin. His first play for children, *Stuck in the Mud*, was nominated for an *Irish Times Theatre Award*.

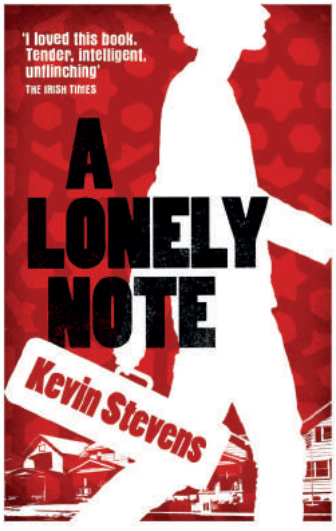
Age: 15+

A Lonely Note

by Kevin Stevens

Winner Literacy Association of Ireland Award for YA Fiction 2017

Selected IBBY Honour List 2018



Publication details

Word count 61,000

Pub date October 2016

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Peace and violence, faith and mistrust – a story of growing up male and Muslim in modern America

Tariq is not sure where he really belongs or even where he would rather be. School brings tedium at best, taunts and threats at worst. At home he can't seem to please his increasingly devout father or dispel his mother's growing dislocation and her creeping distance from her husband. He knows Rachel, his Jewish classmate, likes him, but it's complicated. Tariq's one solace is music.

Tariq forms a new friendship with the volatile but intriguing record-shop owner, Jamal, who introduces Tariq to the world of jazz.

But when Jamal, who has been badly damaged by his war experience, turns on Tariq's tormentors and takes the leader hostage at gunpoint, the police ask Tariq for help to diffuse the extremely dangerous situation. Tariq confronts his crazed friend to save his enemy, and emerges as a man and a hero from a situation he entered as a confused boy.

Sales points

- Beautifully written, part thriller part literary fiction
- A coming-of-age novel that treats masculine identity and male relationships sensitively

Review

'Gripping, engaging and beautifully told' – *Dublin Review of Books*

Author biography

Kevin Stevens is the author of six novels for adults, young adults and children. His first book for young children, *The Powers*, was chosen for the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read and was hugely successful. Kevin also contributes regularly to *The Irish Times* and *The Dublin Review of Books*.

Age 15+

The Gone Book

by Helena Close

Shortlisted
Shortlisted
Selected
Nominated

An Post Irish Book Awards: Dept 51 @ Eason Teen and Young Adult Book of the Year 2020
Biennial Literacy Association of Ireland Young Adult Book Award 2021
White Raven Award 2021
Carnegie Medal 2021



A powerful and gritty young adult urban drama awash with heart, hope and humour

Fifteen-year-old Matt has been writing letters to his mam since she left home five years ago. He never sends them but keeps them in his 'Gone Book', which he hides in his room. Five years of letters. Five years of hurt.

Matt's dad, who has his own problems, won't talk about her. Matt's older brother, Jamie, is mixed up with drugs and crime. His little brother is too young to understand. His friends, Mikey and Anna, are the best things in his life, but Matt keeps pushing them away. All he wants to do is skate, surf and forget.

When he learns that his mother is back in Limerick with her new family, Matt is torn between resentment and his longing to be loved. He decides to find her, to try to make sense of the past.

Things escalate when Jamie, desperate for cash and wanting to make their mother pay for her absence, takes her family hostage. Mikey gets hit while trying to save Matt and closes his eyes, never to open them again. In the end, Matt's mam leaves once more and Matt writes letters in his Gone Book again – only this time they are for Mikey.

Publication details

Word count 68,000

Pub date April 2020

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Film/TV

Sales points

- Male relationships explored: father-son, brothers, and friends
- Will appeal especially to skateboarders and surfers
- Exceptionally high literary quality, yet accessible to readers, with sharp, punchy, sometimes foul dialogue – not for the faint-hearted!
- Tackles tough subjects: broken families, abandonment, drugs, crime, violence and grief

Review

'This is as real as writing gets. Every line rings perfectly true.' – Donal Ryan, winner of the EU Prize for Literature 2015

Author biography

Helena Close, who grew up and lives in Limerick, Ireland, has been writing full-time for twenty years. She has written or co-written seven novels, published by Hachette, Hodder Headline and Blackstaff. *The Gone Book* is her first YA novel.

YA

Things I Know

by Helena Close

Nominated Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023



Publication details

Word count 63,000

Pub date May 2021

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights available

- World translation

Hard-hitting YA exploring suicide, mental illness and recovery, from author of *The Gone Book*

Saoirse (18) can't wait to leave school – but just before the Leaving Cert her ex-boyfriend dies by suicide. Everyone blames Saoirse – even Saoirse herself, who cheated on him with his best friend. She is shunned by her schoolmates and suffers unbearable levels of anxiety.

Everything becomes too much, and on the night of the school dance, Saoirse throws herself into the river – and wakes up in a psychiatric hospital. Slowly, painfully, with the support of a friendly hospital cleaner, her old best friend, her kind and hilarious grandmother, and even her irritating sister, Saoirse regains her sense of herself. Eventually she is ready for a new life at university.

Sales points

- Powerful writing explores mental illness, suicide and recovery
- Appeal to fans of *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* by Patrick Ness, *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

Review

'An accurate portrayal of a young person's challenges, this book is also full of hope, love and laughter.' – *The Sunday Independent*

Author biography

From Limerick City in the west of Ireland, Helena Close has been writing full-time for twenty years. She has written or co-written seven novels, published by Hodder Headline (under the pseudonym Sarah O'Brien), Hachette Ireland and Blackstaff Press. *Things I Know* is her second young adult novel.

YA

The Space Between

by Meg Grehan

Winner Éilís Dillon First Book Award at the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Awards 2018

Shortlisted Great Reads Award 2018

Shortlisted The Literacy Association of Ireland Children's Book Award 2019



Publication details

Word count 16,000

Pub date March 2017

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

Gentle verse tells how warmth, support and friendship help a young woman overcome mental anguish

It's New Year's Eve and Beth resolves to keep herself safe from the worries of the outside world. She plans to spend a whole year alone, snug and safe in her home.

Her carefully constructed schedule is unsettled when a floppy-eared, tail-wagging dog called Mouse comes nosing to her window. Followed shortly by his owner, Alice. Shy Beth takes a brave step – she offers to mind Mouse during Alice's working day. Beth enjoys being with Mouse, but it is seeing Alice she most looks forward to. Beth takes another brave step: she invites Alice to visit. Slowly, she opens her home and heart to Alice. The girls build a routine and share their dreams and fears.

New Year's Eve comes around again. Beth is no longer alone, her anxiety remains but she is ready for a different year, when she will step out and re-enter the wider world.

Sales points

- Honest and uplifting portrayal of living with mental illness (agoraphobia)
- Gentle LGBT love story

Review

'An honest and tender chronicle of new love between two young women that also explores the complexities of sustaining mental health in contemporary society.' – Judges at the Children's Books Ireland Awards 2018

Author biography

Meg Grehan is a young, own-voice Irish author who writes in free verse about sexuality and identity. Her second novel *The Deepest Breath* won the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Judges' Special Award 2020 and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Prize 2020.

YA

Baby Teeth

by Meg Grehan

Shortlisted An Post Irish Book Awards Teen / Young Adult Book of the Year 2021

Shortlisted Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023



Publication details

Age YA

Word count 69,000

Pub date September 2021

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights available

- World translation
- Audiobook
- Film/TV

A unique verse novel using YA vampire tropes to explore queer desire and identity. From the award-winning author of *The Deepest Breath* and *The Space Between*.

The blood
Feeds the hunger
That threatens everything

It starts when Claudia offers her a yellow rose.

Immy has been in love before – many times, across many lifetimes. But never as deeply, as intensely as this.

Claudia has never been in love this before either. But then, this is her first time with a vampire.

The forbidden thirst for blood runs deep in Immy. And within her mind clamour the voices, of all the others she has been, their desires, and their wrongs.

Sales points

- A thrilling modern twist on LGBTQ+ vampire fiction
- Easy to translate verse novel

Review

‘Emotionally rich and gloriously queer.’ – *Kirkus*, starred review

Author biography

Meg Grehan is an Irish writer of verse novels for young readers. Her debut, *The Space Between*, won the 2017 Éilís Dillon award for a first book. *The Deepest Breath* won the Honour Award for Fiction at the 2020 KPMG-Children’s Books Ireland awards, was selected for the Read for Empathy reading list and shortlisted for the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize 2020.