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'Cinderella' by Durant Collins (Walker Books, £7.99) An updated take on the Cinderella story, complete with court reports, diary entries and newspaper headlines.



'Horrible Science Annual 2009' (Scholastic, £6.99) It stretches the definition of "science", but this is a fun whip through such things as decaying dinosaurs and the bugs in your pillow. It is only the endless puns that are horrid.



'My Secret War Diary' by Flossie Albright (Walker, £12.99) Albright was nine when the Second World War started, and this is a beautifully imagined reconstruction of her diary.



'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick (Scholastic, £12.99) This is a reworking of last year's fantasy to include nearly 300 illustrations. It is about a child living in a clock in a Paris railway station.



'Discovery Box' magazine (www.Bayard-magazines.co.uk, £37 for a year's subscription to 10 magazines) Magazines full of top-dollar stuff about science, nature and history Children return to them all year long. TC

charming, faithless man who taught Keith Richards to play country, and taught country how to rock. And there's more blood and booze spilt in Stephen Davis's **Watch You Bleed: the Saga of Guns N' Roses** (Michael Joseph, £18.99) – which would make a good companion present to the band's first album in more than a decade. To my ear Davis's prose has the same ploddingly overwrought style as his subject's music, but hey (as Wilson would