

A writing magazine

PaperBound

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Issue 3 Spring 2021

For the young, and the young at heart

Author Interviews with

Bex Hogan
Struan Murray
C.G. Moore
Tamsin Mori

PLUS

Writing Prompts
Quizzes
New Releases
AND MORE

How to Write YA Thrillers

Top thriller writers
Tracy Darnton, Patrice Lawrence,
Sue Wallman, Penny Joelson and
Tracey Mathias share their
tips for writing
YA thrillers

5 Top Tips Writing Fantasy

Author Lindsey Stirling
reveals her advice for
aspiring fantasy
writers

Browse our
SPRING
bookshelf and
reader book
reviews
inside

NEW

Writing
and
illustrations
from

Rayan Rhys Phillips Carys Tomos Anne Manson
Lucy H Smith Georgina Dent Nick Phillips



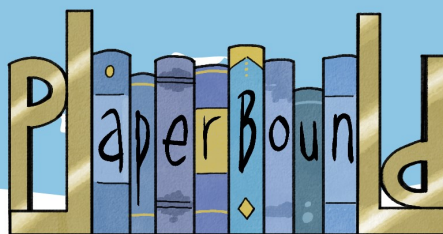
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PaperBound Magazine is a quarterly online magazine for the young, and the young at heart. It is dedicated to showcasing authors and illustrators of children's and young adult fiction. It strives to deliver inspiring content, new and exciting writing, book recommendations and top tips for aspiring young writers. PaperBound has been created by Emily, Lucy and Rayan who met while studying an MA in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University.

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Letter from the editors Spring 2021

Dear Readers,

We can hardly believe that we're bringing you our third issue already. It was just over a year ago that the three of us met up in Bath to discuss what we wanted PaperBound to become.

There has been so much support for us over the last year. Thank you all so much for your kind words. We hope you enjoy our spring issue just as much as the first two. There are insightful author interviews, fantastic top tip articles from some amazing writers within our pages, as well as writing activities and book recommendations for middle grade (8-12) and young adults. You'll also find this season's shortlisted writers and illustrators. We've got some beautiful spring inspired illustrations this issue and some fantastic writing, including a short story and poetry. Keep an eye out for this issue's winners too. Please remember to check the top left hand corner of our featured writing for any age restrictions or trigger warnings.

If you'd like to be a part of a future issue, please get in touch. We're always on the look out for new writing and illustrations as well as interviews, letters and book reviews. Check out our website for more details.

Again we would like to thank all the writers and artists for their submissions, interviews, book reviews and articles, and also our readers. This magazine wouldn't exist without you.

Happy reading!

Emily, Lucy and Rayan



If you would like to contribute to a future issue, tell us what you thought of this one, or contact us about anything else, we'd love to hear from you.

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Spring 2021 issue

Contents

Once downloaded,
this contents page
is interactive. To
jump to a page just
click on the article
you want to read.

Articles and Writing Tips

6 Top Tips for Writing Fantasy

Author *Lindsey Stirling* shares her top tips for any budding fantasy writers.

30 Top Tips: YA Thrillers

Top thriller writers *Tracy Darnton, Patrice Lawrence, Sue Wallman, Tracey Mathias and Penny Joelson* share their thriller writing tips.

New Writing and illustrations

14 picnic thoughts

by Georgina Dent

22 Happy Day

by Anne Manson

42 I Wait

by Nick Phillips

48 Meet the illustrators

Read all about this issue's featured illustrators:
Lucy H Smith, Rayan Phillips, Carys Tomos and Iain Stirling.



This contents page and the front cover have been illustrated by the brilliant

Lucy H Smith

Find out more about Lucy on page 48



Regular Features

9 Spring Bookshelf

This issue's bookshelf is full of stories about new beginnings, interesting mother figures as well as books set during spring. Happy Reading!

16 Book Review Corner

We asked you about the books you love. Find out what you told us in the Book Review Corner.

36 Printable Writing Prompts

38 Competition

Find out more about our competition for young writers aged 11-16!

40 New Releases

This is a brand new section of PaperBound, where we review books that have recently been released and those coming soon!

41 Quizzes

Interviews

10 Tamsin Mori

We spoke to **Tamsin Mori** about her debut novel, *The Weather Weaver*.

18 Struan Murray

Rebecca Perkin caught up with **Struan Murray** to chat about all things writing, and his book series *Orphans of the Tide*.

34 CG Moore

CG Moore shares his experience writing his new novel, *Gut Feelings*.

44 Bex Hogan

Bex Hogan shares her writing tips and tells us about *The Isles of Storm and Sorrow* series ahead of the release of *Vulture*, the final book in the trilogy, out this April.



Top Tips

Author *Lindsey Stirling*
shares her top 5 tips
for aspiring fantasy writers

Writing Fantasy

The beauty of writing fantasy is that it takes the limits of what is possible and throws them to the wind. But with so many possibilities, where do you even start? These are my five top tips for aspiring fantasy writers.

1. Worldbuilding—it's all in the detail

You may think you need to have a fully formed fantasy world before you can start writing, however, most of the time you only need enough information to tell your story. A few well-placed details can spark the imagination and hint at a bigger world beyond the book without ever having to write about it. On the other hand, maybe you do have a fully formed world. Great! But don't try to fit in all your ideas. Be selective and use the things that support your story.

2. Don't Explain—Experience

This principle works for any kind of story: show don't tell. Don't use long descriptive paragraphs to explain your world or character backstories. Instead, use your characters' experiences and interactions to show what the world is like or what sort of person they are.

3. Balance power with struggle

Magic is fun to write, but make sure to include some limitations. Don't make it too easy for your characters! Creative magic might hook a reader's interest, but joining a character as they face a challenge or struggle to overcome great danger is what keeps people reading.



4. Read, Read, Read

Read a lot! Read fantasy books and see what other authors do. Read other genres and see how those authors write. Read books about writing and learn the techniques of the craft. Read about the world and let your story be inspired by nature or history or science.

5. Write and Share

One word is always better than no words, so keep writing even when you don't think it's any good. The more you write, the more you'll learn what works and what doesn't. And importantly, find a person you trust to read your work and give you honest and constructive feedback. Then go and write more! 📖



Lindsey Stirling



Lindsey Stirling is the author of young adult fantasy series *The Eagle Rider Saga*. She grew up (and still lives) in the Highlands of Scotland, reading lots of books, climbing mountains, and exploring ruined castles. After studying Archaeology and Celtic Studies at university, she now works as an archaeologist and makes use of archaeology, Scottish and Scandinavian folklore, and the Bible to inspire her writing. Her debut novel, *Eagle's Guard*, was published in 2017.

Eagle's Guard (Book 1 of the *Eagle Rider Saga*) and *Eagle's Path* (Book 2) were both self-published in partnership with Cookies and Oxygen Publishing and are OUT NOW. Ebooks are available globally. UK paperbacks are available from Lindsey's website <https://lindseystirling.uk> and also from Amazon in the UK, USA, and other regions that Amazon ship to. The short stories *Eagle's Heart* and *Swords* were also both published in 2020 and available as ebooks.

Twitter: @eagleridersaga

Facebook and Instagram: @lindseystirlingauthor

Illustrations by Iain Stirling

Find out more about Iain on page 48

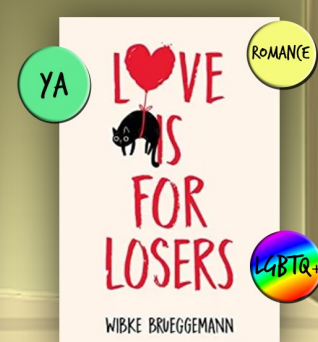
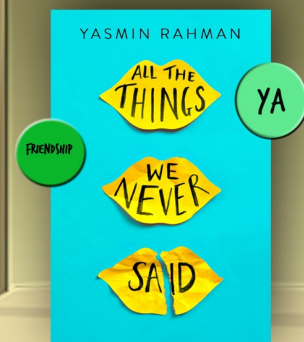
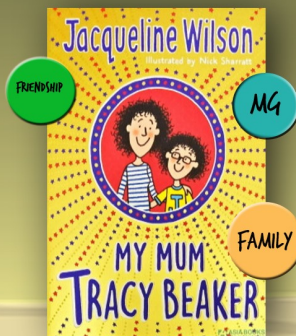
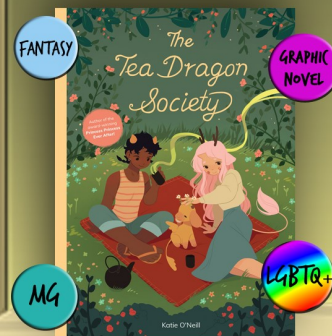
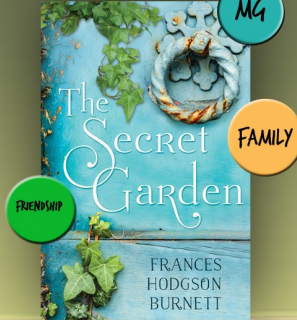
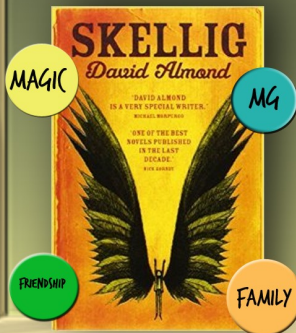


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SPRING

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BOOKSHELF



Tamsin Mori

We chatted with children's author
Tamsin Mori about her debut book,
The Weather Weaver.



Can you tell us about *The Weather Weaver* and where the idea came from?

The Weather Weaver is an adventure story with a touch of magic. Stella, the main character is spending the summer with her Grandpa in Shetland, but her life takes a turn for the stormy when she meets an old woman called Tamar, who asks her to catch a cloud...

My mother's family are all Shetlanders and I grew up listening to my Granny's tales of Shetland – both family stories and the island myths and legends. In all her stories, weather was never a backdrop, it was a character – tricky and wild. I must have absorbed that idea

quite rapidly, because by the time I was about 10, I was already experimenting with calling the weather...

What challenges did you face when writing a book about showing how clouds might feel?

The main challenge was that Stella can't hear her cloud, so there's no dialogue. Also, though they can change shape and colour, clouds don't have faces, so there aren't any expressions to describe! Having said that, once I'd discovered what Nimbus was like as a personality, it became surprisingly easy to imagine how he'd react in any situation.

You might not be able to chat to your pets, but that doesn't stop you from understanding how they're feeling - it's all about body language. When I was editing, I did quite a lot of acting out the scenes, to get the movement right. It would have looked completely bonkers if anyone had seen me.

What do you hope readers can take from *The Weather Weaver*?

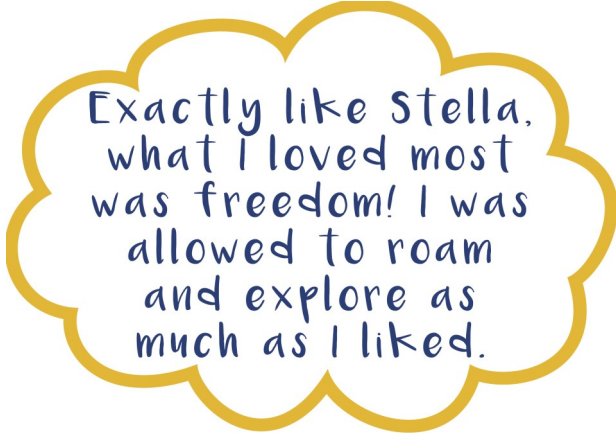
I hope that they'll be left with a sense of the magic hidden inside everything - things that seem commonplace, until you look at them a little differently. Even stones are full of stories! I'd love readers to finish *The Weather*

Weaver and look around with a sense of possibility and wonder - breathe a bit deeper, dream a bit larger. And who knows? Maybe we'll discover a few new weather weavers out there...

Did you get into similar adventures as your main character Stella when you were growing up?

Much like Stella, we moved a lot while I was growing up, but my Mum's family are all Shetlanders, so that was the one place we always returned to - the place that felt like home. And

exactly like Stella, what I loved most was the freedom! Although they're wild, the islands are very safe, so I was allowed to roam and explore as much as I liked. Fog was the one thing that could keep us there - when there's fog, the planes can't fly - so my earliest attempts at weather weaving involved whispering spells into the wind, to call the fog. It worked, too - we once got fogged in for a whole extra week. Magic!



Exactly like Stella, what I loved most was freedom! I was allowed to roam and explore as much as I liked.

What does your typical writing day look like?

I don't really have a typical writing day - I write whenever I can find a quiet

moment - that can be anything from: in the car, first thing in the morning, in the middle of the night, on a windy hilltop, in bed... I have two children and a part time (non-writing) job, so I've become a master at making time elastic - stretching it out to make space for writing!


My ideal writing day involves waking up gently, so I can hold onto the tail end of dreams, then scribbling in my bedside notebook. I find mornings best for first-drafting - inventing new things. Afternoons are better for editing, because by that time, my logical brain has switched on.



Is there anything you wish you'd known before becoming a writer?

How long it takes to make a book! Not the writing bit – I love that – more the actual process of turning it into a book. I somehow imagined that having written a book, it would just magically appear on the shelves of bookshops. The truth is, there are lots and lots of rounds of editing and polishing and proof-reading, and between each one is a long period of waiting. The waiting bits are the worst – I am not a patient person. I've got the hang of it now, so I have several stories on the go at the same time. Each time I send back edits on one, I've got another story to jump into. I wish I'd known that before!

In *The Weather Weaver*, Stella has a book of myths and legends she treasures. Are there any myths and legends that are your favourite?

My favourite myth is the selkies – magical creatures that look like seals, but can shed their skin to become human and walk on land. Growing up, I was half convinced that I was a selkie – I've always loved the water. I'd love the ability to transform and be just as at home under the water as on land. We used to sing to the selkies when I was small. If you sing from the beach, the seals all pop up out of the water to listen – a semi-circle of sleek brown heads, with soulful eyes – selkies one and all. 

Writing
prompt...

What if you could befriend a cloud?
What weather would you choose?

Give your cloud a name – it's important to give your cloud a name so it knows when you're giving it instructions.

All clouds have different characters – mischievous and inclined to sudden showers, short-tempered and stormy, peaceful and prone to rainbows, and many, many more! What type of cloud have you caught?

Now it's your chance to
decide the weather!

Maybe you want sunshine at the weekend? Perhaps there's someone who needs a good raining on? What if you could freeze things just by pointing at them?

Have a go at writing a short scene with your new cloud – remember, since it's a new cloud, it may not get everything right first time!

Tamsin Mori

Tamsin had a nomadic childhood (eight different schools!), but the one place that always felt like home was Shetland, her mother's homeland. Shetland is a collection of teeny tiny islands, so far north they fight to fit on the map. They are overflowing with myths and legends, most of which are true. Growing up, Tamsin was usually to be found on the beach, whispering spells into sea shells and singing to the selkies.

Tamsin now lives in Bath with her husband, two children, one rabbit, several crows, and a badger, though she flies home to Shetland whenever she can – if you go there in the summer, you'll probably spot her, striding about with the wind in her hair, chasing a wild story.

The Weather Weaver was released on 4th March 2021

and is published by UCLan Publishing

#WeatherWeaver

Facebook:
[@TamsinMori](#)



Twitter:
[@MoriTamsin](#)

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picnic thoughts

By Georgina Dent



Why we love picnic thoughts

It was hard to choose the entry we loved the most once again—they were all so brilliant! However, we absolutely loved how Georgina's poem evoked so much emotion and conjured up images of what it's like to share moments with someone beneath the clouds on a spring day. We loved the little details laced throughout the piece and we enjoyed vicariously living through the words in the poem too.

Congratulations, Georgina!

look up at the soft afternoon sky with me
and tell me what you see when
you let your imagination dance with the sun
and form thoughts made of clouds that
don't need to be contained
by the limiting compromise of
underwhelming silver linings.

daydream me a world in the clouds
mimicking the freedom of our own,
suspended up there
with no capacity to meet
and no rulebook to meticulously follow.
tell me you see dogs chasing rabbits,
spacemen driving motorcycles,
a lady you once saw on a packed train,
except now with a pineapple on her head,
playing a violin laced with sunflowers;
tell me that you see us, now,
sprawled on the grass,
daisy chains laced through our fingers,
our eyes glazed over with delight,
excitedly pointing out the next instalment
in our cotton candy tableau vivant in the sky.

endless possibility infuses our clouds,
and I love you in the same way.

Georgina Dent

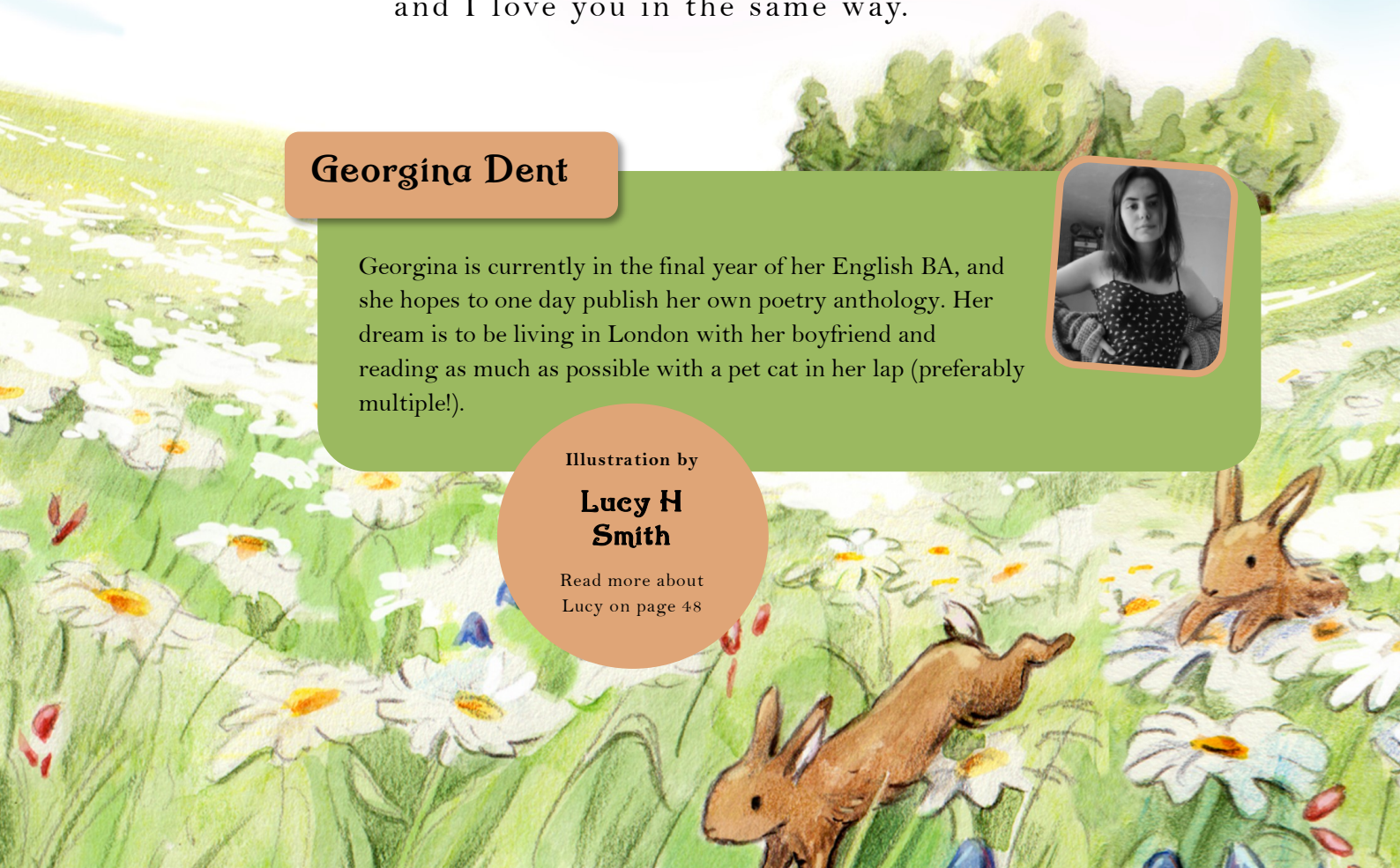
Georgina is currently in the final year of her English BA, and she hopes to one day publish her own poetry anthology. Her dream is to be living in London with her boyfriend and reading as much as possible with a pet cat in her lap (preferably multiple!).



Illustration by

**Lucy H
Smith**

Read more about
Lucy on page 48



Book Review Corner

WE ASKED YOU TO TELL US ABOUT BOOKS YOU LOVED READING. HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID:

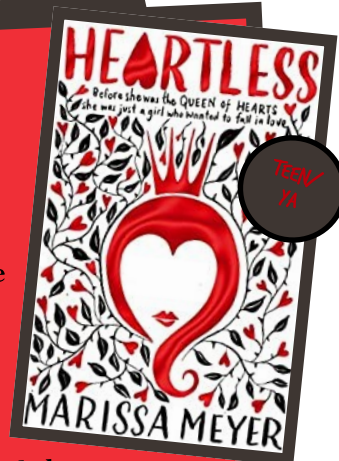
HEARTLESS BY MARISSA MEYER

Heartless is a YA/Teen fantasy book about the backstory of the Queen of Hearts, from *Alice in Wonderland*. It tells the story of Cath, the daughter of a marquess, and a skilled baker. Cath is expected to become the next Queen of Hearts, but instead she wishes to open a bakery with her best friend. At a ball, she meets the court jester, Jest, who she is immediately intrigued by. Over time, the two fall in love, but they must keep this a secret from everyone else, especially Cath's parents, and the King, who Cath is meant to be courting. This book has everything you could possibly want: romance, mystery, tragedy, comedy, complex characters, prophecies and monsters.

My favourite characters are probably Cath, Jest, Raven, Mary Anne and Hatta, while my least favourite character is Peter. I can't choose my favourite scene because I enjoyed it all.

I have read it at least three times, and never got bored of it. I also lent my copy of it to my friend, who told me that she loved it too. I recommend that you read it if you love fantasy, or if you're like me, and you're interested in villain backstories. I would definitely rate it five stars!

NIAMH HUNTER (AGED 12), SOUTH WALES



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUBMITTED A BOOK REVIEW FOR THIS ISSUE. IF YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE A REVIEW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE, CHECK OUT THE GUIDELINES ON OUR WEBSITE:

PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM/SUBMIT

MORE REVIEWS

AMARI AND THE NIGHT BROTHERS BY BB ALSTON

On the surface, Amari Peters seems to be just another kid from the Projects: poor, victimized and bullied at school, hailing from the wrong side of the tracks. Worse, her beloved brother Quinton has gone missing. But then Amari gets a surprise invitation to join the mysterious Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, where she discovers a whole alternate world of magic that co-exists, hidden behind our own: a world peopled with creatures bizarre and exotic, from mermaids to weredragons. Determined to track her brother down, Amari is instead caught in a series of tough challenges, and a battle against a magician so dark and evil he wants to take over.

The first in a book series that is due shortly to become a movie, *Amari and the Night Brothers* is an exciting adventure-fantasy that will appeal to fans of *Percy Jackson*, *Harry Potter*, and *Morrigan Crow*. The world-building is convincing, with a clever mix of real and imaginary elements in a refreshingly modern setting (there are talking elevators!). The book doesn't shy away from the discrimination and injustices suffered by Amari as a poor Black kid, but at the same time it reads as a fast-paced, absorbing adventure: Amari is bullied and picked on, but she's a kick-ass heroine who never gives in. It is to the author's credit that he centres a non-white protagonist and her trials and tribulations, while at the same time creating a fun, light, and fast-paced read. Perfect for children aged 8+ with a taste for contemporary/urban fantasy.

PIV DAS GUPTA



THE HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF MAGIC BY AMY SPARKES

The House at the Edge of Magic by Amy Sparkes is a heart-warming magical story full of chaos and fascinating characters. Nine is a young girl who picks pockets in exchange for shelter and food, as her only possession is a small silvery music box. Everything is about to change when she snatches a small ornament from a young lady's purse which soon enough transforms into an enormous house that hosts a menagerie of magical residents, but, unfortunately, the house is under a terrible curse. Nine now finds herself linked to the house and is needed to help break the spell.

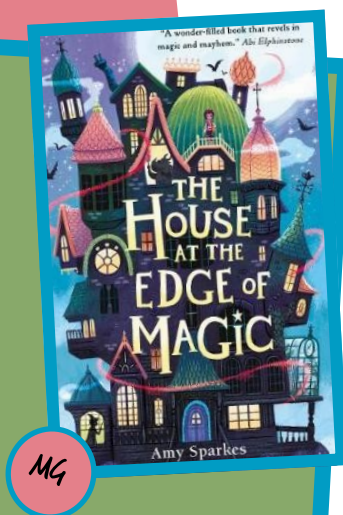
The story is magical in every single way possible. The characters have their own distinct and unique personalities and each of them brings something special to the story. Their interactions are hilarious and the end will definitely surprise you with its reveal of a perfect villain for the story.

The house is full of bedlam; nobody can find the bathroom and the library attacks anyone who is brave enough to enter it.

The story is perfect for middle grade readers with piles of adventure, magic and fast paced rhythm. This is a fun, quirky and unpredictable story which will be enjoyed by anyone who reads it.

The cover of the book, created by the very talented Ben Mantle, is truly magical and perfectly reflects the story with all the details and colours.

JOJO BATH, EDINBURGH





Struan Murray

Rebecca Perkin caught up
with Struan Murray to
chat about writing and his
Orphans of the Tide book
series.

“The City was built on a sharp mountain that jutted improbably from the sea, and the sea kept trying to claim it back. That grey morning, once the tide had retreated, a whale was found on a rooftop.”

- Opening of *Orphans of the Tide*

When a mysterious boy washes in with the tide, the citizens believe he's the Enemy - the god who drowned the world - come again to cause untold chaos.

Struan Murray grew up in Edinburgh, has a PhD in genetics and is a lecturer in biochemistry at the University of Oxford. And now, following his success with the Bath Children's Novel Award, he is the debut author of fantasy adventure *Orphans of the Tide*.

If you're a fan of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, then *Orphans of the Tide* is a must read. Children and adults alike will find themselves caught up in Murray's dark and mysterious world, left wanting more when they reach the end. Thank goodness there's a sequel!



After enjoying a very interesting and insightful video call with Struan through my writing group, I was thrilled when he accepted my invitation of an interview.

I asked him ten questions about himself and his debut.

Orphans of the Tide has a lot of themes around trust, family and grief. What was the hardest scene to write?

To be honest the emotional scenes are usually the ones I find easiest - it's not

hard to get into the heads of characters when everything's emotionally turbulent. The hardest parts were more technical - there are a lot of rules surrounding the magical element of this book and it was a challenge at times to find ways to weave in the necessary exposition (backstory) in a way that was organic, without overloading the reader or giving away too much too soon.



Ellie and Anna are two strong, independent female characters. What is the most difficult thing about writing characters of the opposite sex?

I think it's important for me to be mindful when writing female characters to avoid the dangers of the unintentional male gaze, and be really thoughtful about expressing the interiority of someone with a different gender from me.

Aside from the follow-up to *Orphans of the Tide*, *Shipwreck Island*, what other works do you have in the pipeline?

Currently I'm working on the third (and possibly final!) book in the *Orphans of the Tide* trilogy. So many of my previous (unpublished) projects were the first books of planned trilogies, so it is a strange and wonderful thing to finally be able to finish one.

Could you see *Orphans of the Tide* as a film and if so who would you like to see playing Ellie?

I definitely could - in fact whenever I'm writing a scene at least a part of my brain is imagining how it would be filmed. I'm a huge fan of Studio Ghibli, and often dream about how my novel would look in that style. As for actors, I haven't thought much about the child characters but think Tom Hardy would do a great job of the brooding, fanatical Inquisitor Hargrath, while Chiwetel

Ejiofor would be perfect as Castion, the kindly, charismatic whale lord.

If you were to re-write *Orphans of the Tide* is there anything you would do differently?

If I'm honest I haven't really looked back through the novel since it was published. There are certain aspects of the world that I would have liked to bring out more (the politics of the City, the rivalries between different whale lords), but I think that would be more for me, because they were important considerations in creating the world,

but would have slowed the pace of the story.

...if you have made the effort to sit down to try making up a story, then you are a writer.

As an author myself, I like to hide things in my books that only a handful of people might pick up on. For

example, a door code being your birth date. Do you hide any secrets in your books?

I named a few (very minor) characters after a few of my (very minor) friends. They haven't been nearly grateful enough.

Has a book ever made you cry, and if so what was it?

I remember crying at the end of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* (spoiler alert) when Dumbledore died. Occasionally I have cried while re-reading my own stuff but that's

more from exhaustion than the quality of the writing.


What is your writing Kryptonite?

I sometimes get bored describing character's physical/emotional reactions to things and usually just put an asterisk for future Struan to deal with. When he comes across them he *

If you could tell your younger self one thing what would it be? Related or unrelated to writing.

I think I've spent an awful lot of my writing life questioning whether I am 'worthy' of being a writer, instead of just writing. This is an entirely pointless exercise - if you have made the effort to sit down to try making up a story, then you are a writer.

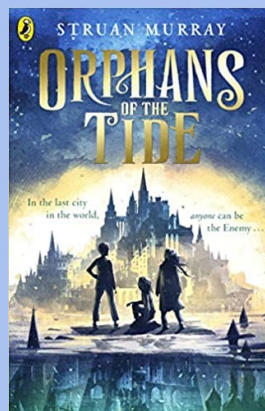
And finally, if you could write anywhere, where would it be? Real or imaginary!

A big big library full of books and comfy chairs and spiral staircases that lead nowhere. 

Thanks so much to Struan for this ten-question insight into his debut novel and world of writing.

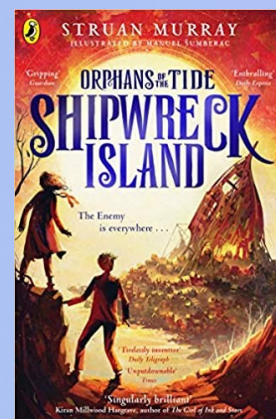


Visit www.struanmurray.com to keep up-to-date with all his latest news and books.



Orphans of the Tide is published by Puffin and OUT NOW

The follow up to *Orphans of the Tide*, *Shipwreck Island* was released on 4th March



Interview by Rebecca Perkin

Rebecca Perkin is a YA fantasy and sci-fi author from Surrey. Being an avid reader from a young age, Rebecca always loved escaping to other worlds. Her passion for writing comes from the freedom it gives someone to live out another life. She has written five novels to date, and is currently working on *Half Undone*, a YA Speculative fiction all about secrets, memories and what it means to be human.

<http://www.rebeccaperkinauthor.com>



PG Warning: Deals with sensitive issues involving parental illness that some may find triggering.

Happy Day

By Anne Manson

Pete sat at the formica table that was speckled like a swallow's egg, breathing in the smell of bacon. He watched Nana's back as she stood at the rusted electric stove, turning pancakes.

Dad had gotten Pete up at the crack of dawn to drive here, to spend the day hacking and hewing, to spread manure. They came every spring, and this year was no exception. Especially this year—because spring was the time for new beginnings.

"You shouldn't have come. Not with everything you've got going on," Nana said to Dad. "And I don't need help."

"We wanted to see you." Dad wiped his feet on the mat by the screen door.

Pete looked back and forth from one of them to

the other. He often felt life was a glass bowl—one careless move and it would shatter.

But when Dad looked up, he was smiling, so it was probably all right.

Then, Dad walked over and put his arm around Nana's narrow, rounded shoulders.

"You crazy, old canary," he said.

Pete tensed.

But she placed the spatula on the wood counter and leaned her head on Dad's shoulder. "You're not to go near the woodshed," she said. "Phoebes nesting."

So it was all right.

She put Pete's pancakes and bacon on the table and rested her papery, liver-spotted hand by his plate.

"Blueberries!" Pete looked up at her translucent blue eyes, her cloud of white hair. "You remembered."

"Frozen last summer," she said. "For my favourite grandson."

"Your only grandson," he corrected.

"That's as may be." She went to get Dad's plate from the stove.

After they ate, they went out to spread manure. Dad set himself in front of the big wooden barrow, hoisting up the metal



Daffodil print by

Carys Tomos

Find out more
about Carys on
page 48

bar at the front, neighing and pawing the ground with his foot, while Pete called, “Gee up, now!” and “Easy, there.” They shovelled manure out and raked it over the wet dark earth, the smell, sweet and too heavy. A few vegetables were already sticking shiny slivers of green up toward the sun. They did the flower gardens around the house and the long borders down to the pond. Daffodils were blooming all over the lawn. “Garden volunteers,” Nana said.

Pete squeezed in next to Dad on the bucket seat of the ride-on mower, and Dad let him steer. Up and down the lawn, circling the clumps of daffodils. They parked the mower behind the woodshed, but not too close. The little chicks cheeped vigorously. A phoebe darted out from the eaves and dipped toward Pete, then soared up to the sky.

“He’s trying to lure us away,” Dad said.

Pete nodded. “Probably because we stink!”

Dad laughed.

They stripped down to their underwear in the kitchen by the old Maytag washing machine and threw everything in. Then they charged down to the pond, whooping and screaming.

Dad thundered down the dock. It creaked and buckled under his weight.

For a moment, Pete’s heart stopped.

“Careful!” he cried.

But Dad was already
soaring out over



the water, crying “Geronimo!” He landed with a huge splash. Waves poured over the dock, reeds bent by the bank, a chorus of spring peepers echoed across the water. Dad surfaced and pounded up and down, then flipped over onto his back and floated, staring up at the sky.

Pete stood by the edge, peering into the greenish-brown water, listening to the birch leaves shiver in the wind and a lone bullfrog’s heavy croak. He took a step in and gasped—the cold was shocking.

He backed out again.

“Come on in,” Dad called. “The water’s great.”

Pete edged slowly away up the bank. A chill breeze touched his skin at the same time as the warm spring sun.

A time for new beginnings.

He ran wildly forward, splashing into the freezing water, gasping a small “Geronimo!” and dove.

The cold water hit his forehead like a hammer. His skin tingled and fizzed. An underwater patch of sun shone onto the muddy bottom, where a school of minnows darted back and forth.

He came up and ran onto the shore, shivering. His net and goggles were resting against the end of the dock, waiting for him. He grabbed them and waded back in, floating on his stomach, face-down, the water bugs scattering every which way. If he was lucky, he might catch a frog—maybe even a turtle.

Nana watched from the bank, pointing out the rainbow colours of

the minnows' scales, the poke of a painted turtle's nose above the surface. Pete stayed in until he was blue all over.

They ran back to the kitchen and dressed in clothes warm from the dryer. Pete sat at the table by the Mason jar of forks and spoons, feeling the heat of the stove, wearing Dad's sweater with the sleeves rolled way up, tingling all over with warm and cold, as Dad towed his hair.

Dinner was his favourite—baby carrots from Nana's garden in pools of butter, canned corn, cheeseburgers. He drank milk from the loon mug. They sat eating at the kitchen table in contented silence.

"What do frogs do in winter?" Pete asked Nana, after a moment.

"They lie in the mud at the bottom of the pond," she said.

He looked at her. "They can survive like that?"

"Yup."

He thought for a moment. "How do they breathe?"

"Through their skin," she said.

He held his breath and tried to breathe through his skin. It didn't work.

"How?" he asked.

"You'd have to ask them," she said.

He laughed. "What about turtles?"

"Same thing—but they burrow down deep into the mud."

He stared at her. "I don't believe you."

“Suit yourself.” She got up and left the room. But Pete didn’t worry—it was just the way she was. He took a big bite of cheeseburger. It was perfect—still juicy in the middle.

Nana came back and thumped a small book down on the table. *Pond Life*. “You’ll find all the answers in there,” she said.

It was worn and child-sized. There were pictures on the cover of frogs, turtles, a heron. Pete turned the pages of the book carefully and the whole world unfolded before him – the sky, the shore, the layers of water from the surface all the way down to the mud underneath. It was like the cross section of the human body at the science museum, showing all the human organs – veins, bones, everything.

“Can I keep this?” he asked.

She nodded. “You may.”

“It says parts of a frog sometimes freeze in winter, and in spring, when the frogs warm up, they come back to life. Do you—?”

The phone interrupted him.

They all looked at the wall where it hung.

For a moment, no one moved.

It rang again.

“I should get that,” Dad said.

But he stayed at the table, and the phone kept ringing.

Everything slowed down. Pete saw the carrot at the end of his fork, glistening with butter. He saw Nana staring down at her plate. He saw Dad walking over and



lifting the receiver from the wall ever so carefully, like it might explode in his hand.

“We thought it might be you,” Dad said.

Pete tried hard not to move, not to breathe, even. To do nothing that would shatter the fragile glass structure of what they had.

There was a long silence. Then Dad turned away and faced the wall. “I’m so sorry,” he said.

Pete looked down at his plate. It was like a heavy curtain had come down between the three of them—him, Dad, Nana—muffling them down, isolating them each back to their own lonesome world. He tried to hum a tune in his head, to block out what Dad said. He put his fork down with the carrot still on it. He wasn’t hungry anymore.

He heard Dad hang up.

“It’s her hair. It’s all falling out.” Dad sank down heavily into his chair.

The curtain settled between them.

He heard Nana’s chair push back, a cupboard door opening, the scrape of her clearing food into the garbage and setting her plate in the enamel sink.

He heard Dad say, “I need a moment” and leave the room.

Nana’s footsteps approached, and her papery hand touched his shoulder. He was trying hard not to think of Mom with no hair, like a strange, bald alien.

“Blueberry pie for dessert,” Nana said.

He didn’t trust himself to look up, but he nodded, his eyes on his half-eaten cheeseburger.

A tear dropped onto his plate.

And for some reason he didn’t understand, he grabbed Nana’s hand and kissed it. It smelled of flour and soap.

She held his hand tight. “My dear grandson.”

He looked up at her then. Her watery, blue eyes, her wispy, white hair.


“Your favourite grandson,” he said.

“That, too.”

“You can smile and cry at the same time.”

“Yes,” she said. “So can you.”

Pete held *Pond Life* tight in one hand and held Nana tight with the other. They gazed steadily at each other.

Her whole face crinkled up when she smiled. 

Anne Manson



Anne has a Masters in Writing for Young People from Bath Spa University. Her first novel, *Lobster Wars*, is a YA thriller about two boys who witness a murder on a small island off the coast of Maine. Her second, *The Clockwork Artificer*, is a MG fantasy about a stolen pen, a lidless eye, and a girl with a hole in her heart. You can read another of Anne’s short stories, “Winter”, in PaperBound’s Winter issue.

annemansonauthor.com

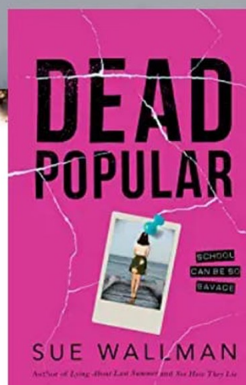
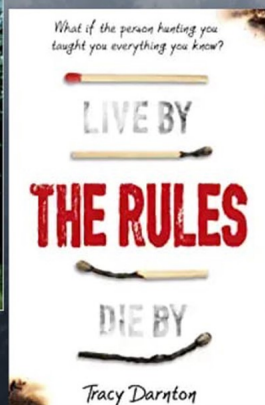
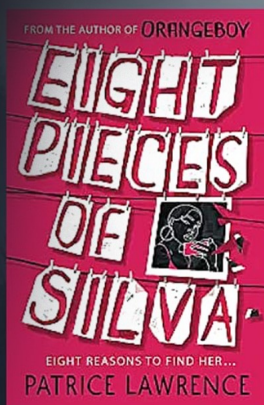
Twitter: [@AnneManson11](https://twitter.com/AnneManson11)

Top
Tips

Writing Thrillers

FIVE TOP YA THRILLER WRITERS – TRACY DARNTON, PATRICE LAWRENCE,
SUE WALLMAN, TRACEY MATHIAS AND PENNY JOELSON –
SHARE THEIR TIPS FOR WRITING THRILLERS

EDGE-OF-THE-SEAT

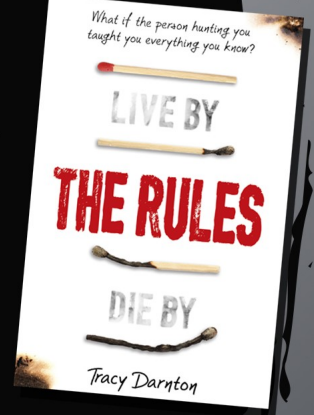


5 TOP YA WRITERS – 5 TOP YA THRILLERS

#EdgeOfTheSeatThrillers

Characters

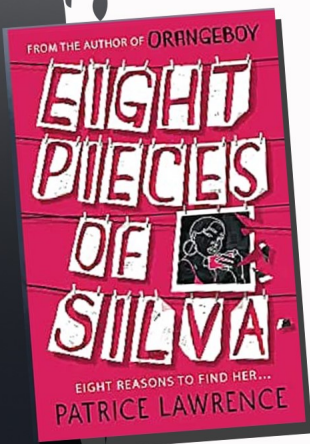
Choose your characters carefully, says **Tracy Darnton**, author of *The Rules*. Don't think that you can get away with sketchy characters in a thriller. The reader must really care about that character and what happens to them for the high stakes in a thriller to mean anything. Complex, challenging main characters like Jess in *The Truth About Lies* and Amber in *The Rules* are rewarding to write. You can have so much fun creating characters with a darker side, with a secret, and stuck in a challenging set of circumstances. If they're not conventionally 'likeable', add a touch of vulnerability and an understanding of why they're like that for the reader to feel empathy.



Keep agency with your teen protagonists. Be careful in a thriller or crime novel that you don't end up with a heavy cast of adult police, forensic scientists, lawyers, journalists, teachers and parents. Find ways to keep your teen characters at the centre of your scenes and driving your plot forward.

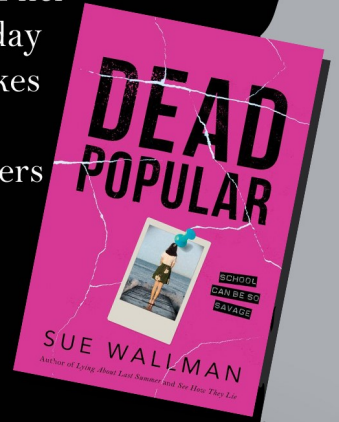
Clues

When **Patrice Lawrence** was planning *Eight Pieces of Silva*, she knew that she wanted to write a traditional mystery with clues for the protagonist to find and solve. Clues can be everyday objects that have special significance to a character and part of the pleasure is working out their importance along with the protagonist. Clues can also push along the narrative as well as reveal aspects of your characters' backgrounds. In *Eight Pieces of Silva*, for instance, clues include a green counter, zinc tape, a wig and a signed copy of K-Pop singer, Rain. A good way to create clues is by thinking about things that mean something to you and imagine them being left as part of a puzzle for someone else to find.



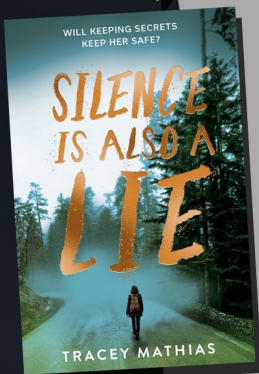
Closed World Setting

Closed world settings – where the characters are mostly kept in one place – add tension to a thriller, says **Sue Wallman**, author of *Dead Popular*. In her books she has chosen a bereavement camp, luxury wellness retreat, holiday cottage in a remote village, and a boarding school as settings, which makes it awkward or difficult for characters to leave. You want your reader to experience the same claustrophobia – and even paranoia – as the characters themselves. The added bonus of these closed settings is you can think up rules or traditions to your advantage. In *Dead Popular*, for example, there is a tradition at the boarding school of house prefects competing to see who can organise the best illegal party, and this helps drive up the stakes as the main character, Kate, plans hers.



Conflict

Conflict is the key to writing a page-turning, suspenseful plot, says **Tracey Mathias**, author of *Silence is Also a Lie*. What does your main character want? To solve a mystery, to find a missing person, to escape from danger...? Whatever their goal, if they achieve it easily, then the story will be dull – hardly a story at all. Drive, tension and excitement all come when the protagonist is in conflict with an antagonist, against whom they have to struggle to succeed.



The central conflict of a plot may be with another character (for example, what if someone wants to keep that mystery hidden...?). But it can take other forms too. In *Silence is Also a Lie*, Zara is in internal conflict with herself, as she agonises over whether to tell the secret that she knows. Her external antagonist is impersonal: an oppressive state that threatens her safety and freedom.

What or whoever your antagonist, make sure that they're always there: shadowing your protagonist at every step of the way, and intensifying the conflict as the story reaches its crisis.

Crisis

Create drama with a convincing crisis, an 'all seems lost' moment as you reach the climax of the story, says **Penny Joelson**, author of *Things the Eye Can't See*. In this book the protagonist is visually impaired and trying to find a missing boy. When she finds him, readers may think she has reached her goal - but instead there is a crisis and both their lives are in danger. A moment of relief just before the crisis can intensify the impact. The tension is suddenly heightened and the reader is shocked and thinking 'how are they going to get out of this?'

The stakes should be highest at this moment - so the reader can barely breathe and certainly cannot stop reading at this point!



Over to you

Start a thriller reading group and work your way through the *Edge-of-the-Seat* authors' current titles.

Writing Prompt

Now it's your turn.

Write about two people meeting in a deserted warehouse. Why are they there and what, or who, are they looking for? Can you end your piece on a heart-thudding moment?



Find Out More

Tracy Darnton, Patrice Lawrence, Sue Wallman, Tracey Mathias and Penny Joelson are all members of the *Edge-of-the-Seat* group of YA thriller writers. This article gives a flavour of what they offer to schools, festivals, bookshops and libraries via a virtual visit.

Tracy Darnton

Twitter: @TracyDarnton

Instagram: @tracydarnton

Patrice Lawrence

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Instagram: @lawrencepatrice

Sue Wallman

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Penny Joelson

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C.G. MOORE



We chatted with author **C.G. Moore** about his own life experiences and how they led to writing his new book, *Gut Feelings*.

Can you tell us more about your new YA novel *Gut Feelings* and how it felt to write it?

Gut Feelings tells my own story of living with a rare, genetic illness known as Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (or FAP for short). Wart-like lumps known as adenomas or polyps grow in the bowel and rectum and eventually they turn cancerous. The book opens with my diagnosis at eleven, then treatment, before looking at the aftermath of chronic illness. Writing *Gut Feelings* was cathartic but emotional.

As someone that didn't see their chronic illness represented in the books I read as a teenager, it was so important to put myself out there and write the story I wanted to read.

The book is incredibly personal and I don't hold back.

How does it feel to be able to share your story in this way?

Scary. I was terrified (and still am) that readers will get an insight into my deepest fears and most embarrassing moments. As someone that didn't see their chronic illness represented in the books I read as a teenager, it was so important to put myself out there and write the story I wanted to read. While it's been scary, it's also been hugely cathartic and the response has been

overwhelmingly positive! I'm hugely grateful to my publisher (Hazel) for believing in me and *Gut Feelings*.

This and your previous novel, *Fall Out*, deal with some important topics. What do you hope readers can take from them?

I hope it will inspire readers and create more empathy for those that have had different lived experiences and challenges in their lives. Reading for empathy is so important and it's something that fascinates me about the sheer power of the written word.


What made you decide to write this book in verse? Did it create any challenges?

Not many people have heard of my illness and fewer truly understand how it impacts the lives of those that suffer with it. When you try to explain it to someone, you're trying to get as much information across as possible in the most concise manner and it's near impossible to describe the physical, emotional and psychological impacts of living with FAP. It was because of this that I had the idea of writing in verse and once I started, I couldn't stop. It felt right. It didn't create any challenges; rather, it created possibilities for me to explore the illness in ways that I would never be able to accomplish with prose.

What books/other verse novels do you enjoy reading for young people?

My favourite verse novels include *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo, *The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta, Kwame Alexander's *The Crossover* and Karen Hesse's *Out of the Dust*. Each has a different message and distinct style, but they are all beautifully immersive and engaging books.

Is there anything you wish you'd known before becoming a writer?

When you're writing with the intention of being published, you need to be so resilient and determined, but also willing to take chances, try new things and take constructive criticism from those around you. For me, I needed to learn this over time. I started writing with the intention of being published ten years before *Fall Out* was published. I needed that time to learn these lessons and wrote something that was true to me and the best story I could create for readers. Knowing this before I became a writer would have changed my trajectory and the kind of stories I told. 

Christopher (C. G. Moore) is a freelance editor and marketer. He currently lectures on the BA and MA in Publishing courses at the University of Central Lancashire. He is the author of *Fall Out* and *Gut Feelings* which are both published by UCLan and available NOW!

Follow him on Twitter and Instagram:
@YAfictionados

PRINTABLE SPRING WRITING PROMPTS

Cut out the spring characters, settings and things and place them upside down in three separate piles (or use little bags). Take one from each pile until everyone has a different character, setting and thing. Now create a story that includes all of these features. You could even use this in a classroom — just print out several copies so you have enough options for the entire class.

CHARACTER	SETTING	THING
BUNNY	FIELD	EASTER EGG
CHICK	FOREST	DAFFODIL
BOY	EASTER EGG HUNT	CHOCOLATE
DOG	HOME	BASKET
LAMB	EASTER BUNNY'S FACTORY	PRESENT
GIRL	RESTAURANT	DAISY CHAIN

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR SPRING STORIES.

SEND THEM TO PAPERBOUNDMAGAZINE@OUTLOOK.COM



Set a timer (1, 2, 5 minutes — you decide). Using the image as inspiration, start writing and don't stop until the timer has run out.

[illegible]

**DEADLINE:
9TH APRIL
2021**



WRITING COMPETITION

FOR 11-16 YEAR OLDS

**JUDGED BY THE BRILLIANT
CAROLINE LOGAN, AUTHOR
OF THE FOUR TREASURES
SERIES**



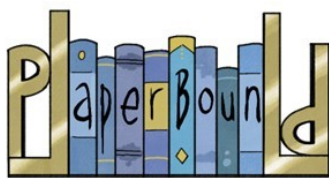
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in the latest issue of
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Happy writing!

**SHORTLISTED ENTRIES WILL BE
PRINTED IN THE SUMMER ISSUE
OF PAPERBOUND. THE WINNER WILL
ALSO RECEIVE A £15 BOOK VOUCHER,
A BOOK BUNDLE AND OTHER GOODIES..**



cranachan

**HUGE THANKS TO CAROLINE AND CRANACHAN PUBLISHING
FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRIZE BUNDLE!**



WRITING COMPETITION

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE PAPERBOUND'S 1ST UK WRITING COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 11-16

We are looking for writing in the form of **short stories, flash fiction or poetry**, with a maximum word count of **500 words**, no lower limit. The writing should be written by, and aimed at, young people between the ages of **11-16**. We are excited to read a range of writing, so we are leaving the theme up to you. Work must be the entrant's own original work and should not have been published anywhere else. Competition opens 1st December 2020.

ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED ON:

- Ideas and how these are organised
 - Creativity
- The appeal to the reader

We won't be judging you on spelling and punctuation.

If you are shortlisted, we will help get your writing ready for publication.

PRIZES: All shortlisted entries will be printed in our summer issue in June 2021. The winning entry will also receive a £15 book token and other writing and book related goodies.

JUDGE: The shortlist will be judged by the brilliant **Caroline Logan**, author of YA fantasy series *The Four Treasures*.

TO ENTER: complete the below application form and send it along with the entry (word doc only please) to **paperboundmagazine@outlook.com** (form can be scanned or a photo as long as we can clearly read it). Ensure that a parent or guardian has signed the form, and that they send it on behalf of the entrant. Please write **PaperBound Competition** (followed by name of the writer) in the subject line. Competition is **FREE** to enter.

CLOSING DATE: **Midnight Friday 9th April 2021** and is open to UK residents only, aged between 11-16 on the closing date. Any entries received after this date will, unfortunately, not be entered. Shortlisted writers will be informed in May 2021. Winner will be announced in the summer issue of PaperBound.

Name of entrant:	_____
Title of writing:	_____
Age (must be between 11-16 on closing date: April 9th 2021):	_____
Parent/ legal guardian name:	_____
Parent/ legal guardian email:	_____ (we will use this to contact shortlisted entrants)
Parent/ legal guardian telephone number:	_____
Parent/ legal guardian signature:	_____
X	_____

HUGE THANKS TO BOTH CAROLINE LOGAN AND CRANACHAN PUBLISHING FOR SUPPORTING THIS COMPETITION AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRIZE BUNDLE.



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OUT NOW AND COMING SOON

NEW RELEASES

WE HAVE A BRAND NEW FEATURE STARTING THIS ISSUE. OUR NEW RELEASES SECTION WILL FEATURE REVIEWS OF RECENTLY RELEASED BOOKS AND THOSE COMING SOON!

LOVE IS A REVOLUTION BY RENÉE WATSON

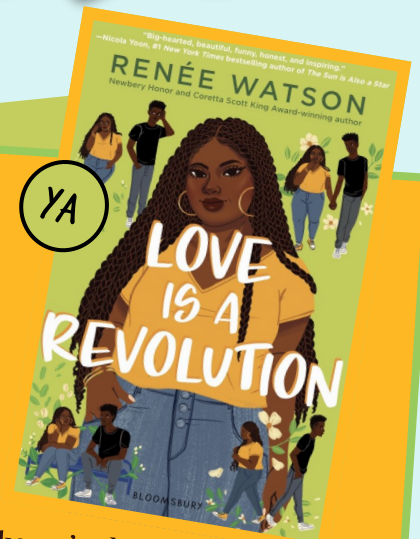
Love is a Revolution by Renée Watson is a refreshing take on love set in the city of New York with a main character, Nala, who is undeniably relatable.

When Nala lies to the boy she likes so she can impress him, she finds herself on a slippery slope that leads to self destruction and her life slowly begins to unravel. Her friendships, home life and everything in between gets messy.

With themes of family, friendship and the brevity of self-love and self-worth, *Love is a Revolution* is needed in a world where we constantly feel like we're being put under a spotlight by others, and it shows the true importance of self-love that all of us are guilty of not showing ourselves a lot of the time.

It's a book about knowing yourself, loving yourself, and learning to be proud of who you are.

LOVE IS A REVOLUTION WAS RELEASED ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2021 - PUBLISHED BY BLOOMSBURY



SMASHED BY ANDY ROBB

Smashed by Andy Robb is a hard hitting novel focusing on Jamie, a troubled teen who is dealing with alcoholism, emotional abuse and the messy fallout from his parents' divorce, all while still trying to juggle his schoolwork, friendships and maintain his relationship with his girlfriend. Not to mention putting on a brave face for his little sister. Pretty soon, life is spiralling out of control - fast - and Jamie struggles to keep up with how fast things are changing, and so he reaches for the bottle.

Andy Robb's inflection of humour, voice and use of character development had us hooked all the way through and, despite tackling difficult subject matters, this book still had us laughing along whenever Jamie cracked a joke, or led us to see the brighter side of life.

Definitely not one to miss, *Smashed* is an absorbing, brilliant read.

SMASHED WAS RELEASED ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2021 - PUBLISHED BY UCLAN PUBLISHING



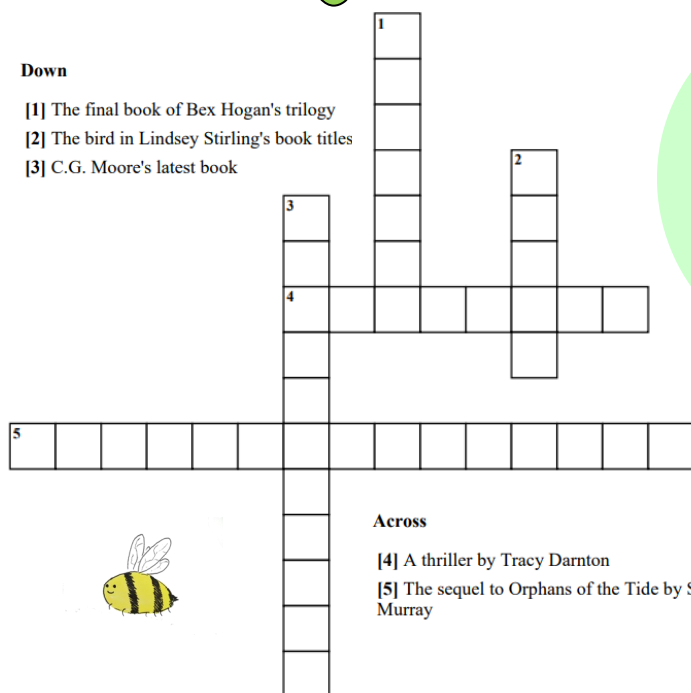
QUIZZES



Bee illustration by Rayan Rhys Phillips. Find more about Rayan on page 48.

Down

- [1] The final book of Bex Hogan's trilogy
- [2] The bird in Lindsey Stirling's book titles
- [3] C.G. Moore's latest book



Across

- [4] A thriller by Tracy Darnton
- [5] The sequel to Orphans of the Tide by Struan Murray



SOLVE THE
ANAGRAMS
THE ANSWERS ARE ALL
ON OUR SPRING
BOOKSHELF!

ANAGRAMS

FOREVER SOIL LOSS

DECENT GATHERERS

BRAVE HONESTY

SPRING

WORDSEARCH

BUNNY
CHICK
DAFFODIL
DAISY
EASTER
EGG
FLOWERS
MOTHER'S DAY
SPRING



ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

I Wait

By Nick Phillips



Illustrations by
Ragan Rhys
Phillips

Find out more
about our illustrators
on page 48

Time was, I bloomed
Grew, took my place
But now
I wait.
Full of face and rosy cheeked was I
But now
I wait.

I remember, reaching up
Head high, to drink my fill
But now
I wait.
Once, I waved at all who came near
But now
I wait.

How well I recall
Days of nectar and passing breezes
But now
I wait.
Warming nights and adoring days were mine
But now
I wait.

Aged, as comes to every citizen
Cane in front to help me stand
But soon
I'll wait no more,
For sweet showers and westerly breaths
Soon
I'll wait no more

Nick Phillips



Having studied creative writing at the University of South Wales (long before it was known by that name), Nick had a few poems published in magazines and collections before being sucked into the crazy world of education. Still working at an FE college in North Somerset he spends his free time writing and baking.



Interview

Bex Hogan

Bex Hogan tells us all about her thrilling fantasy series ahead of the release of the final instalment, *Vulture*...



Can you tell us more about *The Isles of Storm and Sorrow* series and what readers can expect?

The Isles of Storm and Sorrow is a YA fantasy adventure series set on the high seas. The first book, *Viper*, follows Marianne, the Viper's daughter, who has to decide whether she's prepared to sacrifice everything to fight against her cruel father. Expect power, politics and pirates – with magic, romance and sea-monsters!

The sea can be dangerous yet also provide the perfect sanctuary. Did

you do a lot of research into seafaring and the ocean before writing *Viper*?

I grew up in Cornwall, close to the sea. It's always been a part of my life, with not a day passing that I didn't see it, even if only from a distance. When you live near water, I think you learn to respect its immense power – certainly I've always both admired and feared the ocean. It's beautiful and deadly, something I wanted to capture in *Viper*. But because I fear it, I've always tended to do little more than paddle on the shore. Although I've been on boats, it was very much as a passenger and not a sailor, so I had to do a fair amount of research in that respect. I was

also fortunate enough to go to Charlestown Harbour, where they have tall ships you can board, which was as close to being on a ship from an equivalent time period as I could manage.

What are the best ingredients for a fantasy trilogy, and why do you think this genre is so powerful?

The attraction of fantasy is timeless. Partly because it offers an escape, and now more than ever I think we're all desperate to lose ourselves in another world for a few hours. But the best fantasy is also rooted in the world we know, and so we can relate to the struggles and the characters in a real, but also safe, way. It offers a sense of hope too – we can be part of the epic journey, feel the many lows and the occasional high, experience power alongside the protagonist, who has the ability to affect change in their world, and ultimately take heart when good overcomes evil.


Who is your favourite character in The Isles of Storm and Sorrow series, and why?

This is an impossible question! How can I possibly choose just one?! I love all of them for different reasons – some because they're pure and good, others because I want to hug them so bad, and a few I


simply love to hate! But if I have to pick just one, I'll have to go with my girl, Marianne. She's the one I've spent the most time with over the past few years, the one I've been with through every nightmare scenario she keeps finding herself in, the one I've rooted for every step of the way. And I think ultimately, she's the one I'm going to miss the most now the series is over.

What do you love most about writing and being an author?

I think all writers will recognise how much writing is simply a part of us. I can't imagine not doing it – I love escaping into my own worlds, I love unravelling the mystery of a story and working out how it all fits together. When I write, it's like I can breathe properly, it's a release, it's a relief. It makes me happy to tease characters out of my head and set them free on to a page. Having those words published is a whole other joy – I'll admit it's terrifying knowing that people can read what I've written, but it's also an honour to be able to share my stories. I love knowing that the characters are on their own journeys now, that each reader will perceive them differently and give them a new lease of life.




Expect power,
politics and pirates
– with magic,
romance and
sea-monsters!



Turn over for Bex's
writing prompt ...

If you could create any top 3 tips for aspiring writers, what would they be?

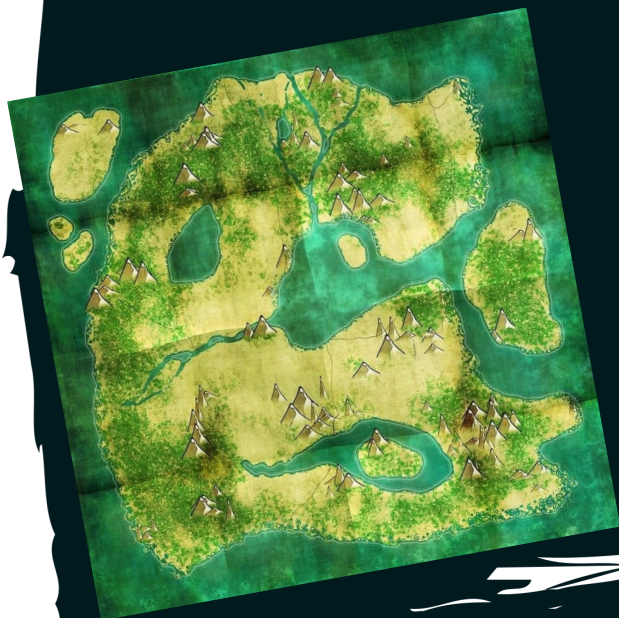
Keep reading. Keep writing. Keep going.

You could get lucky, and your first book gets immediately picked up, but more likely it'll take a few attempts. For me it took ten years from starting to write to publication day and trust me, I thought about giving up sometimes. But you've just got to keep going, because the more you write, the better you get. And so much is down to timing, so hang in there, even when it gets tough! 

Bex Hogan's Writing prompt:

The Isles of Storm and Sorrow is set around twelve islands, all with unique characteristics. For example, the Floral Isle is flush with meadowlands, filled with flowers of all colours and scents.

Create an island of your own and describe it. Think about what makes it unique and name it appropriately. Consider all the senses – what can you see, smell, hear? Is it alluring or inhospitable? Is the air sweet, or laced with a bitter taste? Is it inhabited? Or a wilderness? Are there any creatures native to your island? Or perhaps monsters roam the land? Enjoy being creative – there are no limits!



We'd love to read what you come up with.
Send your creations here:

paperboundmagazine@outlook.com

We may even print it in a future issue!

POWER. POLITICS. PIRATES.

ISLES OF STORM & SORROW

BEX HOGAN



Bex Hogan



Raised on a healthy diet of fantasy and fairy tales, Bex Hogan has spent much of her life lost in daydreams. Writing her stories down was a natural progression and now she enjoys sharing her time between living in the real world and escaping to her imagination. A Cornish girl at heart, Bex now lives in Cambridgeshire with her family. She might be found riding horses, talking to her plants or eating marzipan. Or not.

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Instagram: @bex_hogan

Website: www.bexhogan.co.uk

Viper, *Venom* and *Vulture* are published by Orion Children's Books (Hachette Children's Group)

IT ALL ENDS HERE.

THE FINALE TO THE
ISLES OF
STORM &
SORROW
TRILOGY

8TH APRIL 2021



MEET THE ILLUSTRATORS

LUCY H SMITH

Winner



Lucy H Smith is a freelance illustrator from Cornwall. Her first published work was a book cover design for *The Bras and the Bees: The Extraordinary Life of BJ Sherriff*. She graduated from Falmouth University with a degree in illustration and now specialises in children's book illustration. She loves using art to tell stories and bring characters to life, and is greatly inspired by animals and nature.

WWW.ILLUSTRATIONBYLV.CO.UK

INSTAGRAM: @LUCYSMITH-ART

Lucy illustrated the contents page, *picnic thoughts*, and this issue's front cover. We loved Lucy's submissions so much, she is also one of our spring winners!

Congratulations, Lucy!

A little prize is on its way.



Rayan Rhys Phillips

Rayan is a writer who uses art to visualise their stories. They usually create character designs and love using traditional media to draw and paint. Rayan's illustrations feature in both *I Wait* and our quizzes page this issue.

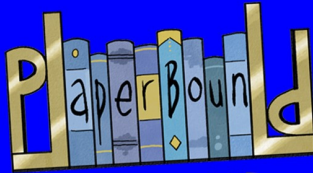
Twitter: @rayanroar



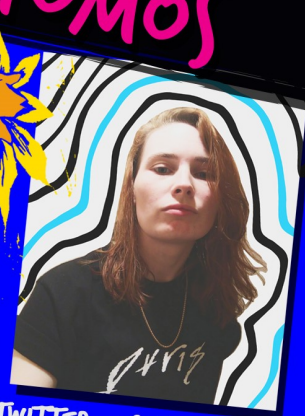


CARYS TOMOS

Carys is a Welsh illustrator and graphic designer who creates a lot of character concepts, zines, and typography. Her main inspirations come from music, games, and dungeons and dragons. She graduated from Cardiff Met university with a degree in illustration.



Carys created the beautiful daffodil print used to illustrate *Happy Day*, which is available to buy on her website. She also previously designed our brilliant masthead.



TWITTER: @CARYS_TOMOS

CARYSTOMOS.BIGCARTEL.COM



Iain Stirling



INSTAGRAM:
@IAINMAL_ARTWORKS

Iain is a self-taught artist and illustrator who works day to day as a forester in Scotland and spends his free time drawing. He likes to sketch using paper and pencil or digitally with Affinity Designer. Fascinated by storytelling and world-building, Iain uses his art to explore the worlds behind the words. He naturally gravitates towards science fiction, fantasy, and mythology and has recently illustrated and produced book covers for *Eagle's Guard* and *Eagle's Path* by Lindsey Stirling. You can find some of his art featured in this issue's article *Top Tips: Writing Fantasy*



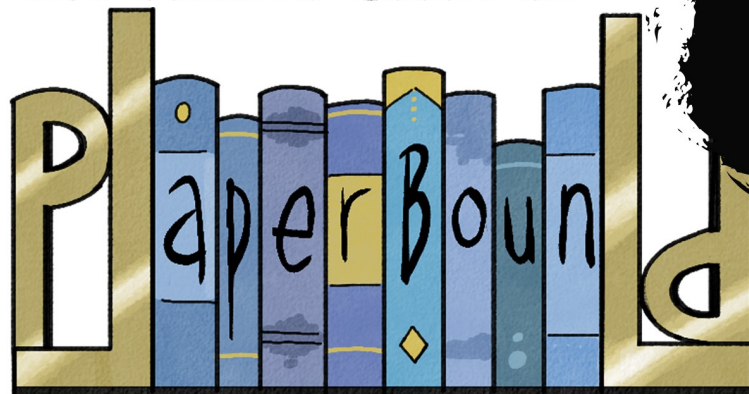
IF YOU'RE AN ILLUSTRATOR AND WOULD LIKE
TO SEE YOUR ART IN A FUTURE ISSUE,



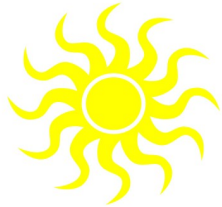
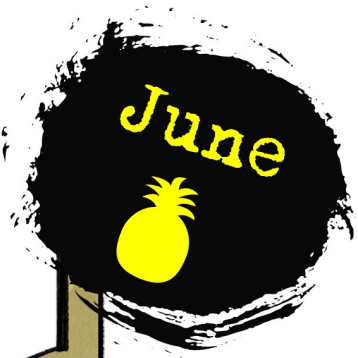
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