

A writing magazine

2ND ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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# Paper Bound

Issue 9 Autumn 2022

For the young, and the young at heart

## Author Interviews

with

JENNIFER CLAESSEN

LOUISE FINCH

ELE FOUNTAIN

REBECCA F. JOHN

&

CHRIS VICK

## Don't Miss

AUTHOR **Kimberlie Hamilton**  
SHARES HER NON-FICTION WRITING TIPS

**Juliette Forrest** CHATS ABOUT  
HER NEW NOVEL, *THE MOUNTAIN  
RESCUE DOG*.

TOP TIPS ON WRITING YOUNG FICTION  
FROM AUTHOR OF *DANCE MAGIC*

**Emma Finlayson-Palmer**

+

BOOK REVIEWS  
WRITING PROMPTS  
& MORE



**New**  
*Magical*  
WRITING and  
ILLUSTRATIONS  
from

CHARLIE BAUDRY

MARK BIRD

CARMEN CARREIRA

AAKANSHA DUTTA

VAL HARRIS

JAYNE LEADBETTER

BRIAN MOSES

CATHERINE OLVER

RACH REITZ

ESTELLE GRACE TUDOR

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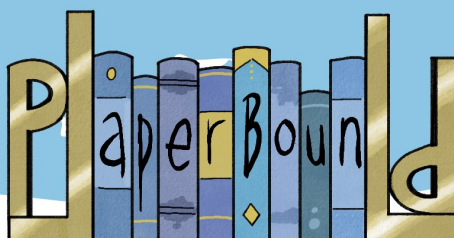
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Find out more about our cover illustrator,  
Aakansha Dutta, on page 62.

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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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PG/ YA — some stories may include content that could be unsuitable for some younger readers, and that parents / guardians might want to check first. Please look out for these symbols in top corner.

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# Letter from the editors

## Autumn 2022

### Dear Readers,

Welcome to our MAGIC special! We hope you enjoy celebrating 2 years of PaperBound with us. We can't quite believe we're on our ninth issue. The last two years have gone so fast! As always, this issue is full of brilliant new writing and illustrations, book reviews, author interviews, inspiring articles and more.

To celebrate our anniversary, PaperBound will be going on a little writing holiday. We'll share more about that soon. You may have also noticed that as well as being on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, we are now on TikTok @paperboundmag. We are new on there and still finding our way, but do give us a follow if you're there too!

Huge thanks to all of our contributors, and to the publishers and publicists who help put us in touch with the fantastic authors and books you see featured every issue. We couldn't do any of it without your help.

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, articles and book reviews. Our winter issue's theme will be MUSIC. Check out our website for more details.

We hope you enjoy the autumn issue!

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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Autumn 2022



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This contents page has been  
illustrated by the brilliant

**Joseph Witchall**

Find out more about Joseph on page 62



*New writing*

# Granddad's *Magic*

by Val Harris

## *Val Harris*

Val lives near Farnham with a horse, her husband, and a smattering of grandchildren. She used to write for adults and self-published a few novels. Now she prefers writing poetry for young people.




Follow Val on social media:

Twitter: @dragontripper      Instagram: @valpoet

[www.thelittlegullpress.co.uk](http://www.thelittlegullpress.co.uk) (coming soon)

[www.valharris.co.uk](http://www.valharris.co.uk)





My grandad used to say  
Whenever I made him a cup of tea,

Ay, lass, that's magic that is,  
Pure magic. You see,

Magic doesn't have to mean  
Wizards and spells,

There's magic in the best of things  
Like memories and smells.

Remembering my grandad  
And those special things he said

I thought about all the magic things  
I carry in my head.

The scent of my mum  
Like flowers in bloom.

Watching snow falling  
From the window of my room.

The smile from my teacher  
When I read out my story.

Winning a race  
And my moment of glory.

My little brother's joy  
When he learned to ride his bike.

Tromping through the woods  
On a sunny summer hike.

Picnics by the river,  
Swimming in the sea.

All those special things, and grandad,  
Are magic to me.



## TOP TIPS

AUTHOR OF THE **AUTUMN MOONBEAM** SERIES, **EMMA FINLAYSON-PALMER** SHARES HER TIPS ON WRITING YOUNGER FICTION FOR ANY ASPIRING CHILDREN'S WRITERS OUT THERE.

# WRITING YOUNG FICTION



kind of like a bridge linking the two.

### WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR IDEAS?

Often chapter books are a series rather than one offs known as “standalones”. So you’ll want to think of ideas that you could write all sorts of different stories for, and that can include the same main character, or something else that links all the books in some way.

### SOME GREAT THEMES FOR CHAPTER BOOKS INCLUDE

- Friendship
- Family
- Identity/Belonging
- Jealousy
- Firsts



I love writing fun and magical stories, and when I started the *AUTUMN MOONBEAM* series for younger readers, I picked up lots of tips on writing chapter books. Here are some of my tips: (most of these apply to writing for all age groups.)

### SO, WHAT IS A CHAPTER BOOK?

They are stories aimed at children from the age of around 5 up to 8 or 9.

They are a lot longer than picture books, but also a lot shorter than middle grade but still with illustrations. They are



## CONCEPT IS KEY!

If you can, come up with one line that sums up your idea. This is called a pitch and is the usually the core or heart of what the story is about.

### Here's an example:

A widowed fish crosses the ocean to rescue his only son from humans, making unexpected friends and facing his fears along the way – *Finding Nemo*.



## MAKE LISTS!

Make lists of possible characters. Then make another list of possible places you could set your story.

Make your own pick 'n' mix stories and put unusual combinations together from your lists. Maybe you have a hedgehog at an underwater city, or a witch at a dance academy, or maybe a badger in



space.

You can then add to these ideas to give your character a problem that they might need to overcome or obstacles to tackle. Maybe your hedgehog at the underwater city is scared of water. Or a fairy is told they are too small to play football but it's their dream to play for a team.

## WHO ARE THEY?

What makes a great character? Think about the books you read or films and TV you enjoy. Why do you enjoy them? What is it about certain characters that makes you want to read or watch on and see what happens to them next?

## CHARACTERS NEED TO BE

**Relatable** – Is there something about them that reminds you of yourself?

**Memorable** – Why do they stick in your mind?

**Interesting** – What is it about them that makes you want to know more about them? What do they do for fun?

**Engaging** – Are they likeable? Do you hate them?

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CHARACTERS

Do they have an unusual hobby, or one they are embarrassed to admit? A deep, dark secret they are trying to keep hidden? Where do they live? Do they wear odd

socks, or have green hair? How do they speak – do they speak in mega-long sentences and ramble and hardly ever pause for breath? Or maybe they use silly phrases like: “Flaming frogs’ bottoms!”

### TO FIGHT, OR NOT TO FIGHT?

Every story needs some conflict, or obstacles for your characters to overcome. This could be a villain they need to defeat

or maybe even befriend. Something that your main character really wants but there’s something stopping them from getting it. This will form a big chunk of your story.

Most important tip of all... HAVE FUN! If you are enjoying what you are creating, other people will love reading it too. 📖

## EMMA FINLAYSON-PALMER

Emma is a working class, autistic writer who lives in the West Midlands with her husband and a multitude of children, cats and chickens. She is a writer of children’s fiction, represented by Veronique Baxter of the David Higham agency. Her chapter book, *Autumn Moonbeam: Dance Magic*, is out now from UCLan publishing with book two coming in time for Halloween. Emma runs #ukteenchat, a writing themed chat on Twitter, and edits, mentors and reads competition entries for #WriteMentor and reads flash fiction entries for Retreat West. She’s also one half of Word Witches, as a children’s fiction editor.



Find out more about Emma here:

Blog: [Emma Finlayson-Palmer](https://emmafinlaysonpalmer.com)

Twitter: @FinlaysonPalmer

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Facebook: @FeatherNightingale

TikTok: @EmFinlaysonPalmer

You can also read a brilliant short story from Emma in our Spring 2022 issue!



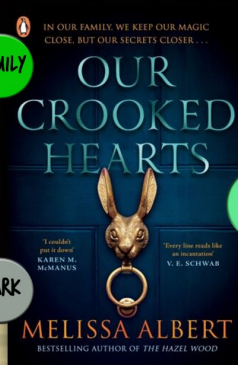
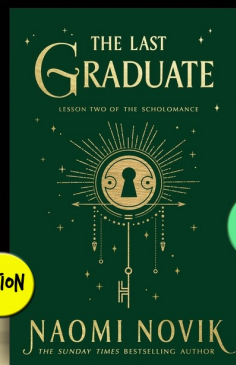
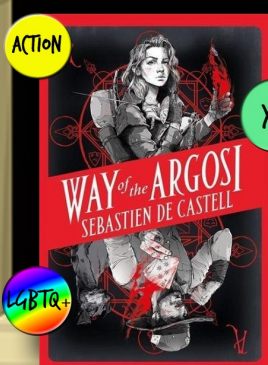
**AUTUMN MOONBEAM: DANCE MAGIC is OUT NOW.  
BOOK TWO– AUTUMN MOONBEAM: SPOOKY  
SLEEPOVER– IS OUT ON 6TH OCTOBER 2022. BOTH  
PUBLISHED BY UCLAN PUBLISHING.**



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# BOOKSHELF

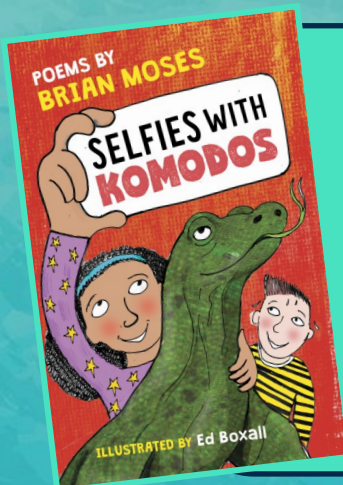


SNEAK PEEK



# Underwater MAGICIANS

by Brian Moses



## Sneak Peek

Brian's new book, *Selfies With Komodos*, is out January 2023 from Otter Barry Books, and illustrated by Ed Boxall. The book contains a range of new poems including 'My Rock 'n' Roll Iguana' and 3 poems especially written for past National Poetry Days. *Underwater Magicians* is just one of the brilliant poems you'll be able to read inside.


## BRIAN MOSES

Brian has been a professional children's poet since 1988, visiting schools, libraries and festivals around the UK and abroad. He has over 200 published books and his poetry books have sold in excess of 1 million copies.


You can find out more at [www.brianmoses.co.uk](http://www.brianmoses.co.uk) and [brian-moses.blogspot.com](http://brian-moses.blogspot.com)








Recently I heard  
of underwater magicians  
conjuring up shoals of fish,  
letting them leap into the night sky  
and hang there as stars.



And when they weren't busy with fish  
they'd unlock the memories  
of molluscs,  
discover how once they were  
soft pillows where mermaids  
might rest their heads.

These same magicians would extract  
secrets from the mouths  
of drowned sailors,  
and teach sea shanties  
to choirs of crabs.



But best of all  
were the stories they'd tell  
of sea horses  
rummaging through the blankets  
of the ocean's bed  
for the smiles that fall from rainbows.





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# Book Review Corner

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR REVIEWERS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE A REVIEW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE, CHECK OUT THE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM/SUBMIT](http://WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM/SUBMIT)

## *A PINCH OF MAGIC BY MICHELLE HARRISON*

REVIEWED BY L.M. DEVLIN, DUBLIN - TWITTER @LMDEVLIN

*A Pinch of Magic* is the first of four books in the wonderfully spell-binding adventure series by Michelle Harrison; a middle-grade fantasy about sisterhood, friendship, and three magical objects.

The Widdershins sisters, Betty, Fliss, and Charlie, live in the fictional world of Crowstone, an isle that is nearly always covered in mist. Betty, the middle sister, is obsessed with maps, is super keen on adventure and has no hesitations in breaking Granny's rules to venture beyond Crowstone on Halloween night. Her attempts to have one night of freedom away from the dismal family home, which also serves as the local inn, the Poacher's Pocket, are thwarted by Granny who appears out of nowhere.

As to why Granny is so ferociously protective of the sisters and refuses to let them leave the island? All girls in the Widdershins family are trapped by a curse; if they leave Crowstone, they will die at the next sunrise. Despite the curse, the Widdershins possess some magic of their own in the shape of an old bag, a mirror, and a set of Russian nesting dolls.

Harrison creates a mysterious, twisting story of witchcraft, revenge, and dangerous adventure as we follow the Widdershins sisters on their quest to break the ancient family curse. The Widdershins sisters each have their own unique, warm, and funny personalities and it doesn't take long to get wrapped up in their little family and the escapades that follow.

*A PINCH OF MAGIC IS PUBLISHED BY SIMON & SCHUSTER AND OUT NOW*

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READER FAVOURITE

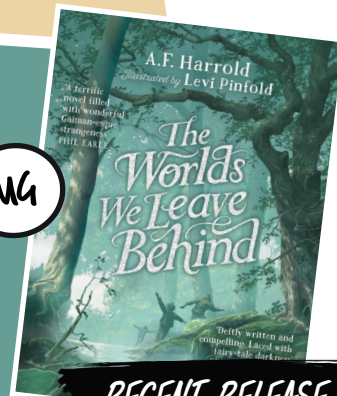


## THE WORLDS WE LEAVE BEHIND BY A.F. HARROLD

ILLUSTRATED BY LEVI PINFOLD

REVIEWED BY EMMA L. STANFORD - INSTAGRAM @EMMALSD

MG



RECENT RELEASE

Two eleven-year-old boys from the outskirts of a small town go off on their bikes. At the beginning, there's very little to suspect the strange, dark journey you're going to be taken on. There are a few subtle clues, such as phrases like the world shifting to one side, or embarrassment pecking at the ear. And of course, Levi Pinfold's fine pen and ink illustrations, full of illuminated darkness – these, like the story, are beautifully simple, belying their depth. The children's characters are sensitively drawn, and immensely likeable as they struggle with the difficulties of discovering who they are through friendship, and family.

The story folds into itself, a term A.F. Harrold uses to describe the way reality changes. If that seems hard to grasp, don't worry, the story will pull you along easily, and there are only five days of it. Or are there? Who knows? The book plays with time so beautifully that the reader is hardly aware of the subtle morality tale contained within. If you like Neil Gaiman, you will love this.

THE WORLDS WE LEAVE BEHIND IS PUBLISHED BY BLOOMSBURY AND OUT NOW



NEW RELEASE

## THE ELEMENTAL DETECTIVES BY PATRICE LAWRENCE

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

MG

*The Elemental Detectives* is the first in a brand-new series from Patrice Lawrence. Aimed at 8-12s (although any age is sure to enjoy it), the book follows Marisee and Robert as they try and hunt down the clues needed to avoid a huge disaster.

Set in a re-imagined historical London, where elemental magic is hiding beneath the surface, *The Elemental Detectives* throws you straight into the action, and doesn't slow down. The mysterious Shepherdess brings a sleeping sickness down on the city, causing many to fall into what appears to be a deep, eternal sleep. Will Marisee and Robert be able to prevent her from destroying life as they know it before it's too late?

The worldbuilding and mythology created is impressive and the blending of fantasy and history is always lovely to see. Full of complex characters, and a pacy plot, it promises to be a brilliant new adventure series for young people and beyond.

THE ELEMENTAL DETECTIVES IS OUT NOW AND PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC





## MY OWN LIGHTNING BY LAUREN WOLK

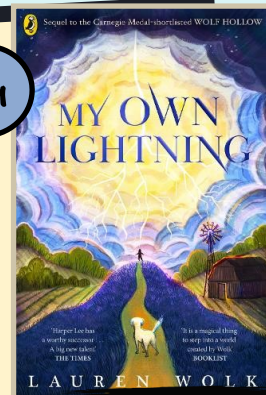
REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

*My Own Lightning* is a beautiful book that takes you back to a charming space and time – set on a rural American farm in the 1940's, it follows Annabelle and her family and friends and is set after the events in *Wolf Hollow* (although you can also read this as a standalone).

One night, Annabelle gets struck by lightning during a freak storm, and she suddenly has heightened hearing and smell, and somehow can communicate with the animals around her. With these new abilities, she sets off to find out what's happened to lots of the local farm dogs, who all seem to have gone missing. At its heart, the book is perfect for animal lovers, but also the beauty of the setting seeps into every scene. It also felt fresh to see a historical setting used in a book that isn't about a specific historic event.

If you like the historical flavour of *The Valley of Lost Secrets* and the animal loving spirit of *The Creature Keeper*, you'll love *My Own Lightning*.

*MY OWN LIGHTNING IS PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AND OUT NOW*



RECENT RELEASE

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## CHAMELEON DAD BY DEBBIE THOMAS

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

Charming and clever, *Chameleon Dad* is a delightful middle grade read bound to keep you turning the pages. When Connie was small, her dad left her at the airport and, ever since, she's been looking for him in every face she sees. A kind cleaning lady, Mags, takes her in and becomes her foster mum but, one day, Connie discovers a secret that Mags has been keeping from her and everything changes.

This book is full of twists and turns that we didn't see coming. With a new friend called Thyo (whose mum is a dinosaur fossil hunter) and her pet chameleon by her side, Connie embarks on a journey to find out more about her long lost dad by trusting her heart and letting it lead her on a plane, where adventures and leaps of faith are never far off, and she learns what she must do in order to learn the truth.

Connie is a determined, resourceful and bright young character who we loved going on this journey with from start to finish. We can't wait to see what Debbie Thomas writes next!

*CHAMELEON DAD IS PUBLISHED BY LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS AND OUT NOW*



RECENT RELEASE

MG

## THE LAST STORYTELLER BY DONNA BARBA HIGUERA

REVIEWED BY STEVE BLACKMAN TWITTER: @66BLACKMAN



The year is 2061, and Halley's comet is soon to collide with earth. Twelve-year-old Petra Peña, her brother, Javier, and their two scientist parents are selected to board a spacecraft to planet Sagan, 380 light years away. It would be perfect, if only Petra wasn't leaving behind her beloved *abuela*, a skilled teller of traditional tales, or *cuentas*. Petra resolves to take her grandmother's stories to the new planet, but when she wakes from hundreds of years of hypersleep, she finds her family missing, and the ship taken over by a new political order – The Collective – who have erased all the passengers' memories. Petra alone escapes brainwashing, and can remember earth, and the only way for her to reach the other kids on the ship is through story. But is she brave enough to defy The Collective, and can she be a skilled enough *cuentista*?

*The Last Storyteller* (*The Last Cuentista*) blends Mexican folklore with science fiction and a good chunk of real science. It's about family – the family Petra loses, and the family she creates on the ship. And it shows us how changing political ideologies can fundamentally shape the way a society operates, and the stories it's able to tell.

So, throw a piñon log on the fire, gaze at the stars, and wrap yourself up in *The Last Storyteller*. It's a tale worthy of Petra's *abuelita*, and one that can help us remember the enduring value of stories, however far away we find ourselves.

*THE LAST STORYTELLER IS PUBLISHED BY PICCADILLY PRESS AND IS OUT NOW*

YOU CAN FIND OUR BOOK REVIEWS FOR YOUNG ADULTS ON PAGE 59

IF YOU'D LIKE TO REVIEW A BOOK FOR PAPERBOUND, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. SEE HOW YOU CAN GET YOUR REVIEW IN THE NEXT ISSUE ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM](http://WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM)

IF YOU'RE A PUBLISHER OR AUTHOR, AND WOULD LIKE US TO REVIEW A NEW RELEASE, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU TOO. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH: [PAPERBOUNDMAGAZINE@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:PAPERBOUNDMAGAZINE@OUTLOOK.COM)



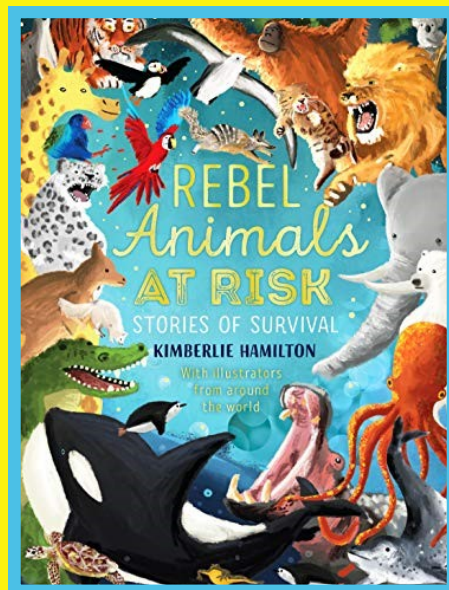
# & Non-Fiction Writing Tips For Aspiring Authors

**Kimberlie Hamilton** – author of non-fiction books including *Rebel Cats*, *Generation Hope* and, more recently, *Rebel Animals at Risk* – shares her top tips for aspiring writers who would like to write non-fiction

**H**ow's this for a head-spinning statistic? Sixty-five percent of today's children will grow up to do jobs that don't even exist yet. But one thing is certain – most of these future jobs will involve some kind of writing, as written communication will still be a part of everyday life.

Writing is an essential skill, yet many young people claim not to enjoy it. In one study, more than a quarter of children reported that they rarely or never wrote anything outside of school.

Sitting down and writing a story may not be for everyone, but there are other ways to get children writing – like encouraging them to try non-fiction. I love nonfiction and rarely read or write any fiction at all, which children are often surprised to hear. They're also surprised when I tell them that non-fiction requires the same creative thinking and rich language as fiction.



**Here are eight tips for any young writer who wants to give non-fiction a bash:**

## **1. Write what you want to know about.**

Writing is vastly more fun and interesting when you can choose the topic yourself. What sorts of things are you curious about? Writing non-fiction is like being a detective, and doing research is like hunting for clues...clues that are facts!

## 2. There's no such thing as boring.

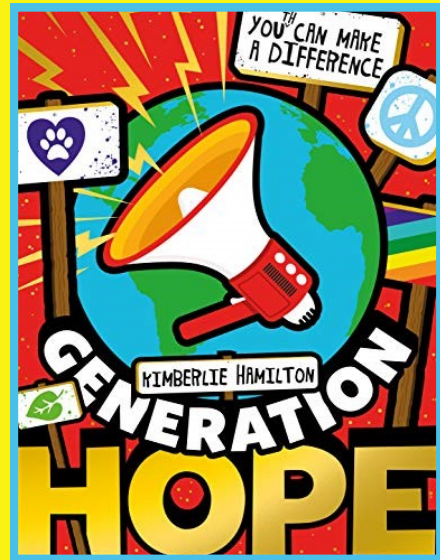
It's hard to get someone else excited about a topic if you're not excited about it yourself. I sometimes ask kids to suggest a supposedly "boring" topic – dust, for example – then challenge them to find three fascinating facts about it. Here's one: the dust in our homes is mostly made up of dead skin cells! Wacky-but-true facts can be a fantastic starting point when writing non-fiction.



## 3. Get creative with structure.

Facts are like Lego bricks. Scooping up all the juicy tidbits you found doing research and dumping them onto a page would make a big mess, and stacking all the facts in a nice tidy pile would be a bit boring. A better option: use those Lego bricks of information to build something unique. Instead of listing facts about space, for example, create a travel guide to the solar system, develop instructions for building a

rocket or write an astronaut's biography.



## 4. Hook your audience.

Every writer (and reader) knows the importance of an attention-grabbing first sentence. Here are a few ways a non-fiction writer might kick things off (with sharks as an example, because sharks are cool):

- **Ask a Question:**

What's big and white and has 5 rows of razor sharp teeth?

- **State an Amazing Fact:**

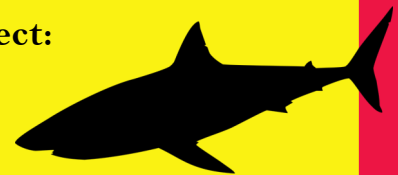
A shark goes through about 10,000 teeth over the course of its lifetime.

- **Use an Exclamation:**

Watch out! There are sharks around here.

- **Use a Sound Effect:**

CHOMP!



## 5. Make a scrapbook.

Ever come home from a trip with a bag of stuff like ticket stubs, programmes, postcards, feathers, etc.? Use these items to



make a scrapbook that tells the story of your experiences, complete with headings, labels and captions. This is brilliant training for writing non-fiction, which is all about getting information and ideas down on paper in a logical and imaginative way.



#### 6. Do a sentence a day.


Some people (like me) find writing a page a day in a journal a bit of a chore. But a bite-sized chunk of writing every day? That's doable. Experiment with keeping a one-line diary, writing a single sentence each night before bed. This will really help

you get into a daily routine of putting words on paper, an important skill for any writer.

#### 7. Write a book in bite-sized chunks.

You don't have to be a grown up to write a book. Pick your own 'expert' topic (football, fossils, whatever) and plan how to organise the information into a 16-page mini book. (You don't have to be a grown up to get published, either! Two young people featured in my book *Generation Hope* landed book deals while they were still in their teens.)

#### 8. Spread your non-fiction wings.

Non-fiction writing comes in all shapes and sizes. Whatever format you choose, it will involve research, taking notes and using facts to create something new. Next time you're enjoying a magazine, documentary or newspaper, keep in mind that somebody out there wrote all that! 



## Kimberlie Hamilton

Kimberlie Hamilton is an author and screenwriter who used to live in sunny Los Angeles and now lives in misty Scotland with four cats. She particularly loves writing entertaining books for young people with curious minds. Kimberlie is the author of *Rebel Cats*, *Rebel Dogs*, *Generation Hope*, *Rebel Animals at Risk* and *Scotland's Animal Superstars* and is currently working on her sixth non-fiction book.



## INTERVIEW

# ELE FOUNTAIN



**AUTHOR OF *BOY 81*, *ELE FOUNTAIN*, SPOKE TO US ABOUT TECHNOLOGY, THE FUTURE, AND HER MOST RECENT NOVEL FOR TEENS, *FAKE*!**

### COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR NOVEL, *FAKE*?

*FAKE* is set in the near future, in a world where technology rules. Virtual reality and virtual living are essential to

daily life, but when everything takes place remotely, it's hard to know where the line between real and fake lies. In a race to help her poorly sister, Jess uncovers some explosive truths about the power this has given big technology companies. But who can she tell? ... Who can she trust?



### THE COMBINATION OF A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WAS SUCH AN EXCITING AND INTERESTING READ. COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT HOW THIS IDEA ORIGINATED?

It can feel as if social media and mobile phones have always been around, but when I was at school they didn't exist.



In a relatively short space of time, the ways we keep in touch and communicate with each other have changed completely. But have human beings changed too? Are we happier, do we have more fun, when we see people and speak to people for real? How can we find a balance? These questions were on my mind while I wrote *FAKE*. I'm also interested in the way big tech companies use our data. Every time we use social media, or an app, we leave a trace of ourselves behind – information about what we like and dislike, favourite colours, favourite foods. Big tech companies use these traces of data, often to advertise or sell things to us. It's in their interests to keep us using our phones and computers as much as possible. Where might it lead?

**FAKE IS SET IN A VERSION OF THE FUTURE THAT FEELS SCARILY CLOSE TO REALITY, AND SO IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE OUR FUTURE TURNING OUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS. WHAT DO YOU HOPE READERS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR NOVEL?**

Having the courage to challenge something which doesn't seem right, even if everyone else thinks it's OK, is a scenario that I hope readers will connect with. Also, that kindness is a simple, yet powerful quality – a little bit of kindness goes a very long way.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP WERE STRONG THEMES THROUGHOUT. WAS THIS SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO INCLUDE?**

Family and friendship are themes which appear in all my books. Sometimes those we are closest to, behave in ways we don't expect, and fiction can be a good way to figure out how this makes us feel and what to do about it.

**WE ABSOLUTELY LOVED READING ABOUT JESS AND HER FRIENDS. WILL THERE BE ANY MORE BOOKS IN THE FUTURE ABOUT THEM, OR CAN YOU TELL US**

**—ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE YOU'RE WORKING ON?**

I loved writing *FAKE*. The book

I'm working on at the moment isn't set in Jess's world (it's a little bit secret just for now), but that doesn't mean I won't write another one featuring Jess. I've had lots of requests, which is lovely!

**WE'D LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR WRITING JOURNEY, AND ROUTE TO PUBLICATION. WHEN DID YOU DECIDE THAT YOU WANTED TO BECOME A WRITER?**

I wrote my first book in Ethiopia, where I lived with my family for three years. Our move from the UK coincided with one of the worst refugee crises in living memory. There were news stories almost daily, showing crowded boats, filled

with refugees seeking safety. The stories often focussed on the risks refugees were taking and which governments might be to blame. I wanted to write a story that focussed on the people in those boats, each with a different story and a different experience – mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters – not simply ‘refugees’. That’s what made me want to write.

**“ WHEN YOU’RE STARING AT A BLANK PAGE, REMEMBER THAT THE FIRST WORDS YOU WRITE DON’T NEED TO BE PERFECT... ”**

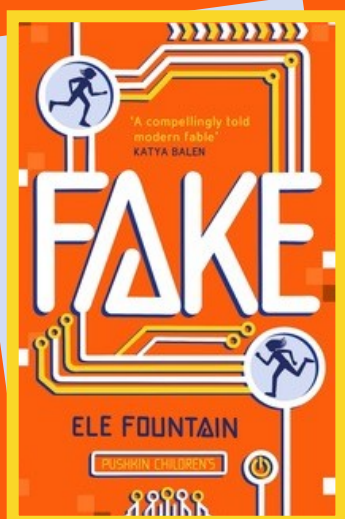
**IF YOU COULD SHARE ONE WRITING TIP WITH AN ASPIRING YOUNG WRITER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

When you’re staring at a blank page, remember that the first words you write don’t need to be perfect – or the first sentences, or even the first page! The most important thing is to just get started and see what happens – you can always go back and edit your work, further down the line. **PS**

## **ELE’S WRITING PROMPT**

**Start with this sentence, then keep going, see where the story takes you...**

*I don’t know what woke me, so I lie very still until the noise – a gentle tapping, begins again, then I push back the covers and creep downstairs...*



*Fake* is available now from Pushkin Children’s Books



the

by Shaye Wardrop

# HUNT



It's early. The sun is yet to rise. But I can't get back to sleep. Not today. Not on the day of the Hunt.

Once a year the witch coven gathers at the top of the cliffs, and every witch to turn fifteen must hunt and claim a dragon with the binding spell.

The coven elders say witches claim dragons to protect them. They say dragons need the binding to survive. I'm not sure that's true, but here I am, waiting for the witch bell to toll, because, well, it's always been this way.

I stare at the cliffs as the morning greyness starts to lift. It will be time soon.

Foggy cloud snakes through the rows of sleeping witches camped on the cliff top, everyone wrapped in woollen sacks trying to stay warm. It hardly works, though, because the air is ice cold up here. It brushes my face in sharp bursts and scratches the tips of my ears. Ignoring it is the only way to beat it, but that's not always an easy thing to do.

A yellow glow fills the sky. Not long now.

My insides jiggle with unease, and I go over the binding spell in my head to try and stay focused. I've heard it so many times it's almost part of me, but I'm sure that's the same for everyone. It's my first hunt, but I'm still here every year. We all are. Even if we aren't participating. The Hunt is a tradition as old as time. It's in all our stories and legends. It's in the songs we sing by firelight.

But sometimes I wonder what would happen if there was no Hunt. No binding. No commitment. What would I do? Where would I go? It's a thrilling thought, but it isn't worth pondering. Nothing ever changes.

A pinch of sun spills over the cliffs. Any moment now the bell will toll, and everyone will wake. It's chaos on these mornings. So much to prepare in such little time. Really, the bell should just toll earlier, but it never does, and the morning of the Hunt is always the same hurried jumble of activity.

I could sneak away. I don't know why I never have before. But I guess I never needed to until now. And where would I go, anyway? This is tradition. My whole family before me have been part of the Hunt. They're expecting me to do my duty.

The sun swims higher and warms my nose.

And, finally, the witch bell tolls.

Everyone rises and moves at once. Fires flick to life, the Elders sit on logs and check their maps, and younglings dash about with sticks and flower crowns, not affected by the day ahead because they haven't yet turned fifteen.

And I just watch. I'm frozen in my fear of doing something and doing nothing.


The drums begin their rhythmic booming, and my heart thumps to the beat. It's time.

I haven't done any of the things I'm supposed to do before a Hunt, but it's too late now. I run to the others and stand in place, looking out across the cliffs. I sense more nervousness around me than I thought I would. Maybe I'm not the only one to have doubts. Maybe I should have asked the others what they thought.

I suck in a deep, slow breath and blow it out loudly to settle my racing heart. This is it.

Across the cliffs I see the witches. They're ready for the Hunt.

I spread my wings and step out from the dragon caves.

I'm ready, too. 

### *Why we love The Hunt*

The story gripped us from the start, sucking us in and twisting our expectations. We especially loved the ending and immediately started reading it all over again when we finished! Brilliant!

**Congratulations, Shaye! A little prize will be on its way to you soon.**

*Winner*

## *Shaye Wardrop*

Shaye writes for kids who love the fantastical. We're talking cool creatures, fantasylands, superpowers and everything in between. She's a devoted book reviewer at Kids' Book Review and loves a good writing competition.

You'll find Shaye devouring books in libraries across Canberra, Australia, but she also journeys the internet on Facebook and Instagram.

[www.shayewardrop.com](http://www.shayewardrop.com)

[www.kids-bookreview.com](http://www.kids-bookreview.com)

Follow Shaye on IG and Facebook @shayewardrop







# CHRIS VICK

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW NOVEL  
*THE LAST WHALE*?

It's an action-packed adventure story, focusing on fierce eco warrior and tech geek, Abi, who steals an AI computer, Moonlight. Together they work to save the whales: when they uncover whale song recordings made by Abi's great-grandfather, a whale hunter, they discover a pattern. The songs are a map to a future that could rescue the whales and save the planet. This fictional 'theme' is based on fact; how we need whales because they are essential to the



CHRIS VICK CHATS TO US ALL ABOUT HIS MESMERISING NEW NOVEL, *THE LAST WHALE*, SET ACROSS THREE GENERATIONS AND FULL OF COURAGE, ADVENTURE AND HOPE.

ocean carbon cycle, and what might happen if we lose them!

YOUR BOOKS ARE BASED AROUND THE NATURAL WORLD, THE OCEAN, OR THE PLANET. WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO WRITE ABOUT THESE THEMES?

I might as well talk about what inspires me to breathe. It comes naturally, I feel I don't have a choice and I need nature, and especially the ocean, in my life. Writing is a great way of accessing all that, when I'm away from the sea. 'Why' is a really good question! Perhaps because I feel most alive in nature and

in the sea, and therefore I value such things and therefore I am prepared to fight to keep them healthy and sustainable. But it's not a worthy or selfless thing, it's actually driven by desire and need. At least that's how it feels.

THIS BOOK IS SET ON AN ISLAND OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST, INSPIRED BY YOUR OWN FAMILY ROOTS. DID YOU FIND IT EASY TO WRITE ABOUT THIS SETTING?

Only last week on a school visit, I was asked why all my books are set in places I have been on holiday. I was literally about to deny this, when my skin started to tingle, and I realised it is actually 100% true. I had never realised! I write about places I love and know, and which are burned into my sensual memory (sights, smells, sounds, texture). Writing about that is both easy and hard. Easy because you have that experience to draw on, harder because you really know exactly what you are trying to capture and evoke, as simply as possible, and making sure (or trying to) that those details and locations all work in, and for, the story.

THIS BOOK SPANS ACROSS THREE GENERATIONS, WHICH IS UNUSUAL TO FIND IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS. DID YOU FIND THIS CHALLENGING IN ANY WAY?

Yes, very. In fact, in an earlier draft there were three really very separate stories, so that was more straightforward. But it didn't work as one book. So, I had to rewrite a fair bit and discard over a third completely and write

something new (this is where editor input was more than invaluable) to create something that, yes, spans three generations, but is really one story. It's certainly a bit different, and I didn't make life easy for myself, but I feel it was really worth it in the end.

“ I NEED NATURE, AND  
ESPECIALLY THE OCEAN,  
IN MY LIFE ”

YOUR MAIN CHARACTER, ABI, IS VERY DETERMINED IN WHATEVER SHE SETS HER MIND TO - AND USES AN AI MACHINE OWNED BY A CORPORATION IN HER MISSION TO HELP SAVE THE WHALES. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO COMBINE THIS TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY WITH TRYING TO SAVE THE NATURAL WORLD?

I am fascinated by AI, quantum computing and the question of whether or not the inanimate can become animate/conscious. Plus, in fiction, evolved AI is so often seen as 'bad' but who knows? Maybe they will be not only smarter, but more compassionate and better at reasoning and acting with one eye on the future; especially AI programmed to study and preserve ecosystems as Moonlight is.


There's the hope that we can use tech for good; to find ways to better preserve nature rather than exploit it; so there was a fascinating intersection to explore



between what we know is good for us all, and how AI could help deliver that.

No spoilers, but I also looked at the question of what quantum AI might be capable of, which, if the Elon Musks of this world are right, will be beyond anything we can currently imagine. I really believe humanity is facing our two biggest and most challenging changes ever; global warming and AI computing. So I put them both in a book.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING WRITERS?

There's a lot I could say here. The best practical tip I can give is to accept that it is an endeavour of trial and error, and – like anything creative – you have to be prepared to do it a LOT (!) before you see any real progress. And only do it if you really, really love it. N.B. loving it, doesn't necessarily mean it's easier. Often quite the opposite. 

### CHRIS' WRITING PROMPT

- Imagine yourself in a future where some kind of human made 'monster' is in the ascendance: e.g. populism, pollution, global warming, dictators, huge extremes of rich and poor. But ... not a future where hope is lost.
- Now imagine yourself as a character who is apparently very 'normal' but who can create change.
- Start writing as the character. How will the details of your everyday life show the reader how the world has changed?
- What then happens or changes, that sets your character off on their adventure, and kick-starts the story?

We'd love to see what you come up with.  
Send your writing to:  
[paperboundmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:paperboundmagazine@outlook.com)

Chris Vick is a graduate of the Bath Spa MA in Writing for Young People. In between writing and teaching, Chris works for a whale and dolphin conservation charity and is a proud member of Authors4Oceans. He lives near Bath with his wife and daughter. *Girl. Boy. Sea.* was shortlisted for the 2020 CILIP Carnegie Medal and *The Last Whale* is OUT NOW, both published by Zephyr.

Follow Chris on Twitter @chrisvickwrites  
and Instagram @chrisvick321

CHRIS VICK





# Aurelia

## AND THE FORTION WINDS

by Charlie Baudry

Paddles, the neighbour's cat, sweeps past the second-floor window, a startled look on his face. Ms Twixle, the neighbour, hangs on to his tail. In a flash, they are gone—carried away on the wind.

Aurelia leans closer, squishing her nose as her breath condenses against the glass, watching them. They've taken the leap and are on their way to their new life—only The Fortion Winds know where that will be.

"5 minutes, Aurelia," Mum shouts, "I can't believe the winds came," as she races down the hallway, grabbing photos from the wall, sweeping trinkets from the sideboard.

Aurelia turns to her room, 5 minutes to decide what she holds most dear from all her twelve years alive.

Her heart lurches as she scans the bookshelf. Her beloved books. The ones that made her laugh and cry and taught her where the wild things are. But she can't take the books, the winds won't allow it. They rip them to shreds, scattering pages like snow.

She'll keep the words in her heart, where all stories begin and end.

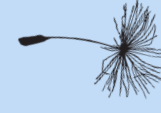
And perhaps the winds will bring new people to her home and she'll leave the books for them.

"4 minutes!" Mum's voice, higher, panic squeezing the words.

Everyone knows The Fortion Winds could arrive at any time in their life—but they can't prepare for them, even a whiff of getting organized and the winds whirl around and go somewhere else.

Aurelia takes her rose-patterned backpack and places it on the bed, open, waiting to be filled. There are two ways to proceed; either grabbing everything she can—shoving and stuffing and squeezing it all in her bag. Or she can spend the few remaining moments carefully choosing the items she treasures most.





She chews her thumbnail, staring at the line of photographs along the wall. Each one the same but different. Her and the sapling of a cherry tree that was planted on the day she was born. As they grew together, her mother took a photo on the same day, same time, every year. She glimpses at her younger self and the tree, growing side by side. The line stops at eleven photographs. There wouldn't be any more.

She goes to pluck them down, like she plucks the cherries, but hesitates, her fingers tremble as she pulls her hand away.

The Fortion Winds don't really care for photographs either—it blurs the colours, making everyone look like they've gone for a swim in a vat of vegetable soup.

“3 minutes!”

Three minutes to choose between the 2nd place rosette she won in the school art competition, her acoustic guitar or the football that scored her winning goal in the Cuthbert's Cup—the annual tournament between her and her mum. So far they were evens, 4 wins each. This year was to be a decider. Would they even continue the Cuthbert's Cup in their new home?

She glances out the window. The sky is dotted with people whirling and twirling their way to wherever.

The ball stays, as does the rosette. But she is too close to learning her favourite song—she has to keep practising. Swinging the guitar on her back, a sudden *snap!* startles her.

“No!” she cries, as she fiddles with the clasp. Nothing fixes the strap in place. She tries to shove the musical instrument in her bag, but it won't fit. She can't hold it as they fly, as she'll need both hands to keep her mum close.

She throws it onto the bed and stamps her foot in frustration.

“2 minutes, Aurelia.” Mum passes the bedroom door like a whirlwind, bundles of clothes in her arms, fabric trailing behind her.


Perhaps she won't leave.

She sits on the bed with the biggest thump she can make.

No one *has* to ride The Fortion Winds. Plenty of people stay put, happy where they are. Mr Maple from the Post Office is always saying how he would never let some wisp of a wind decide his fate.

Not many think that way.

“If we're lucky enough to be alive when the winds come round, we're going to grab



hold of them and soar as high as we can. Who knows what we'll discover? Think of the possibilities!" her mum would say as they tucked up in bed, dreaming of where they would land.

Maybe they'd be in the mountains, skiing to school and snuggling up to cosy fires with mugs of hot chocolate. Or perhaps the winds would leave them on a desert island, climbing palm trees and cracking fresh coconuts for breakfast.

"1 minute!" the voice louder, booming off the walls.

A minute can last a lifetime.

She closes her eyes and decides to pack whatever she lays her hands on first. Taking a big breath in and one blind turn of her room, she reaches out her arm.

"Time's Up!"

Aurelia feels her mother's soft yet very firm grip wrap itself around her fingers. She gulps as she's pulled forward and her heart swells as she whips her head round to take in her whole world for the last time.

The front door slams, and in those precious, fleeting moments, she says goodbye.

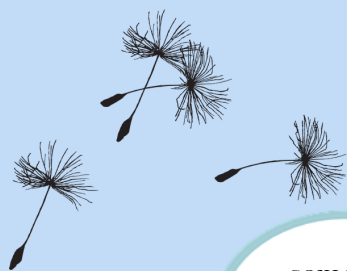
She looks to her mum—as empty-handed as she—who pops a bobble hat firmly on her daughter's head and squeezes her cheeks.

"Hold tight," they whisper together.

Aurelia wraps her arms around her mum's waist and nestles her head beside her chest. Breathing in her mother's smell, the warm, indescribable smell of home that will always be with her. All she'll ever need.

The wind lifts them from their feet, carrying them up, up, up. Past the rooftops, the treetops and out across the fields.

She opens her eyes wide, gasping in delight, as they hurtle through the sky. 



## Charlie Baudry

Charlie has been lucky enough to have had some of the best jobs in the world. She's been manager of a chocolate shop, manager of an independent bookshop café and has travelled the world teaching English. But best of all she gets to write children's stories. She loves bringing to life the magic of the natural world and how we can all find our place within it. She's currently finishing an MG novel as well as writing more short stories.



**You can find her here:**  
**Instagram: @charliebaudrybooks and Twitter: @CharlieBaudry**



# Rebecca F. John



Novelist Rebecca F. John tells us all about her fantastic debut middle grade book *The Shadow Order*, full of secrets, friendship and hints of revolution. Read on to discover more about Rebecca's writing.

**Can you tell us a little about your new book, *The Shadow Order*?**

*The Shadow Order* is a fantasy novel, set in a world where people's shadows suddenly start to change shape and reveal their innermost fears, hopes, and feelings, rather than their physical forms. The novel opens one year after this strange event, by which time the Unified Government of Copperwell has brought in the Shadow Order – a law declaring that citizens must keep their shadows hidden at all times and can therefore only venture outside under cover of darkness. In the opening chapter, the main characters – Betsy, Teddy, and Effie – break this law and

sneak out to watch the sun rise, but end up witnessing something altogether more troubling, which leads them on a quest to investigate the structures which surround them and also consider their truest selves.

***The Shadow Order* is set in a world where shadows can reveal a person's deepest secrets and what type of person they truly are. What made you decide to write about this?**

I was inspired to write about shadows in this way when I was walking my dogs on the beach one morning. My shadow was stretched out ahead of me, distorted by the low sun, and it made me think about

how the ways in which we are perceived by others is influenced by so many different factors, and how difficult it can sometimes be to reveal your true self. The idea for *The Shadow Order* grew quickly during that walk. I knew I wanted the story to be about selfhood and self-acceptance, and the shifting shadows seemed to me the perfect vehicle for exploring that theme.

My dogs were also a big influence, as the characters of Betsy, Teddy, and Effie are based on my three dogs and share their names and personalities.

**The world that you've created, and the city of Copperwell in particular, is really convincing. Did you draw inspiration from other places to create such an authentic setting?**

I couldn't name a specific town or city I drew inspiration from, but there were various places, both real and imagined, which shaped the writing. I drew partly on worlds in fiction which I have been fascinated by: Lyra's Oxford, for instance, in *His Dark Materials*. I also drew upon my love for the natural world. I spend a lot of time walking and woodlands are my favourite environment to explore, so I really enjoyed creating a huge, sprawling, woodland in *The Shadow Order*. I write a lot, too, about water. I grew up on the coast, and I find the sea endlessly fascinating, so it often

features in my fiction. In fact, I had begun by setting Copperwell – the city where Betsy, Teddy, and Effie live – near the sea, but it didn't create the atmosphere of feeling trapped which was essential for the story, so instead I decided to have the entire city of Copperwell encircled by a wide canal. I 'magpied' in the creation of this world, really, stealing bits and pieces from here

and there, but primarily I was creating a world I would be excited to explore.

**Your characters, Teddy, Effie and Betsy, can all be seen as misfits who are unlikely friends from different backgrounds, yet all have big dreams.**

**Did you plan these characters or did they come to you easily?**

I mentioned earlier that my dogs influenced these characters, and while I had initially planned just to use their names, I found as soon as I started to write that I was also attributing their personalities to these characters. Betsy really is the one always out in front, shouting the loudest, hiding her fears with bravado. Teddy is the sensitive soul, fearful but loyal to the last. And Effie the older, caring, extremely brave but also more thoughtful one. So those traits fell under my fingertips very easily.

I did make a conscious decision to give each of them a big dream, however. I

“  
I DID MAKE A CONSCIOUS  
DECISION TO GIVE EACH OF  
[MY CHARACTERS] A BIG  
DREAM ”



was always a big dreamer as a child and I still feel that the dreams I had were too often stifled – at school, for example – instead of being encouraged. I was often called a geek at school, because I liked reading and playing music and riding horses. But now, at thirty-five, all the most interesting people I know were considered geeks at school. It is because of the very interests certain other children made fun of that they have become interesting adults. I hope, therefore, that Betsy, Teddy, and Effie might demonstrate how amazing it is to have a skill or an interest that is a little different and also encourage fellow dreamers to keep dreaming big.

**One of the big themes in *The Shadow Order* is music, and how powerful it can be. Does music resonate with you strongly in your own life?**

I love music, yes! I learnt to play the piano as a child, and I'm not very good at it anymore, but I often promise myself that I will learn to be better at it again. In fact, I'm going to make that promise to myself again right now! I love listening to music. I love singing. I love how creative and exciting and sad and immersive music can be. Music is another form of storytelling, after all, and it is an extremely powerful tool for

conveying all sorts of emotions. I wish I were as talented a musician as Effie is in *The Shadow Order*, but, honestly, I don't practise enough.

***The Shadow Order* is your first book for middle grade. How did you find writing for this new age range? Was there anything you found tricky?**

I didn't feel that I needed to change the way I use language particularly to write for middle grade.

Young readers are wise and attentive and wonderfully creative, and there is no need to talk down to them.

The main difference, for me, was the plotting and pacing. Writing for a younger audience, and the help of my wonderful editor, Penny, has

certainly taught me how to be a better plotter and how to keep the pace going – skills which will help my writing for adults, too.

**What comes next for you and your writing? Are you working on anything else at the moment?**

I am always writing. Even when I can't physically put words down on paper, I am thinking about my characters, imagining conversations they might have and places they might visit.

“YOUNG READERS ARE WISE AND ATTENTIVE AND WONDERFULLY CREATIVE. THERE IS NO NEED TO TALK DOWN TO THEM”

The story I've most recently completed is about a Welsh strongwoman in the Victorian era. It is based on an incredible real-life woman, from Abergavenny, who became a world-famous strongwoman and performed all across Europe and Australia. She was very vocal about women being physically active and strong – a controversial idea at the time – and I admire her enormously. It's a novel for adults.

The book I'm currently writing is also for adults, and it's a ghost story set in and around a Welsh mine.

The book I'm currently thinking about is a continuation of the story started in *The Shadow Order*. I'm hoping to write a trilogy about Betsy, Teddy, and Effie's adventures. There is a dream Teddy vows to follow in *The Shadow Order*, and I've been imagining him doing that for some time now. I hope to start writing that story soon. 📖

## REBECCA'S WRITING

### PROMPT

If your shadow could reveal all the very best things about you, what would it look like? Write a description of it. It can be as big and colourful and wild as you can imagine.

We'd love to see what you come up with. Send your writing to:  
[paperboundmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:paperboundmagazine@outlook.com)



# Rebecca F. John

Rebecca is the author of four books for adults: *Clown's Shoes*, *The Haunting of Henry Twist*, *The Empty Greatcoat*, and *Fannie*. Her short stories have been broadcasted on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 4Extra. She has been shortlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award and the Costa First Novel Award. She was the winner of the PEN International New Voices Award 2015 and, in 2017, she was named on Hay Festival's 'The Hay 30' list.

She lives in Swansea with her partner, their son, and their dogs. You can find out more about her writing at [www.rebeccafjohn.com](http://www.rebeccafjohn.com) or by following her on Twitter: @Rebecca\_Writer. *The Shadow Order* is Rebecca's first middle-grade novel.

*The Shadow Order* will be released on September 15th 2022 from Firefly Press.





# Night Climbing

by Catherine  
Olver

*After William Allingham's 'The Fairies'\*  
(139 years after, not that time matters to them)*

Up the dusky rooftops,  
down the rusty lamps,  
we daren't go night climbing.  
We're scared of city vamps.  
Older kids, bolder kids  
swooping all together:  
leather leggings, gym shoes,  
cloaks of pigeon feather.

In the lee of chimney stacks  
some make their nightly home.  
They snack on smoky sandwiches,  
drink froths of drainpipe foam.  
Some string their hammocks in the rails  
of cranky fire-escapes,  
foxes for their watchdogs,  
all night awake.

High on the tallest terrace  
of the city's oldest street,  
the vamp queen feels the future  
rumble through her narrow feet.  
She strolls the multi-storey  
and the sensors flicker on  
to glitter on the glory  
of the city vamps' salon;



or on the icy quiet nights  
when we can glimpse the stars,  
she bathes in rooftop basins  
to the tunes of distant cars.

They stole gran's sister Bridget  
when she was twelve years old.  
Last month she came back down again.  
Her friends were coffin cold.  
They snatched her lightly back  
*between the night and morrow;*  
*they thought she'd fallen fast asleep,*  
*but she was dead with sorrow.*  
They've kept her tucked up ever since  
beneath our attic's eaves;  
around her bed of silken webs  
they tip-toe till she breathes.

By the greying lime trees  
and on the pavements bare,  
they've scattered shards of glass to mark  
the pathways to the air.  
If any cop's so foolish  
as to give a vamp a warning,  
he'll find those broken bottles  
in his car tyres in the morning.

Up the dusky rooftops,  
down the rusty lamps,  
come, let's go night climbing  
to see the city vamps.  
Older kids, bolder kids  
swooping all together:  
leather leggings, gym shoes,  
cloaks of pigeon feather.



## Catherine Olver

Catherine Olver studies magic, nature, and a lot of books at the University of Cambridge, UK, where she recently completed a PhD titled "Ecoconscious: Skilful Sensing in Young Adult Fantasy Literature."

Some of her other poetry has appeared in Tyger Tyger Magazine, The Caterpillar, and The Dirigible Balloon.

Follow Catherine on Twitter:  
[@the\\_wordwoods](https://twitter.com/the_wordwoods)





# QUIZZES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 63



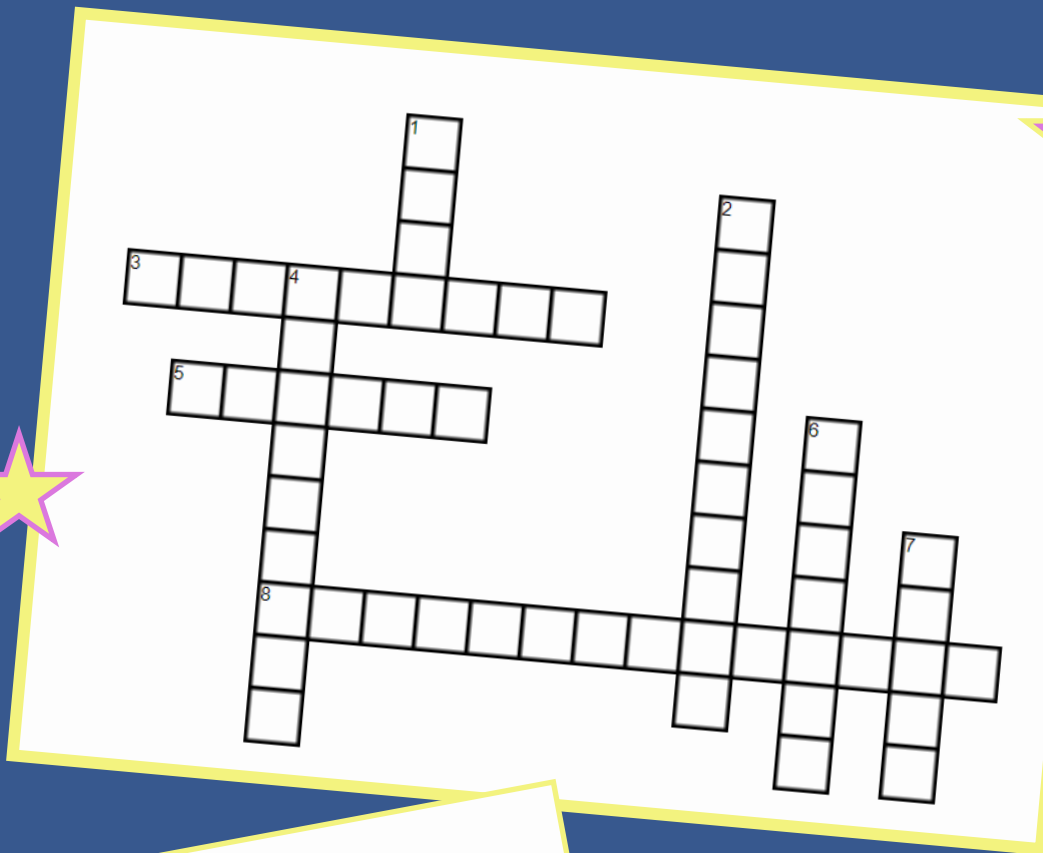
Illustration by the  
brilliant

**Rach Reitz**

You can find out more  
about Rach on page 62







# ACROSS

- 3 What animal does Juliette Forrester write about in her new book?
- 5 What is the name of the order in the new book from Rebecca F. John?
- 8 What is the title of Emma Finlayson-Palmer's series for young readers?

# DOWN

- 1 What is the title of Ele Fountain's new novel?
- 2 What type of books does Kimberlie Hamilton write?
- 4 Whose eternal return are we reading about in Louise Finch's new novel?
- 6 What kind of Witches feature in Jennifer Claessen's new novel?
- 7 Name the animal featured in the new novel from Chris Vick.

CASTLE  
STARS  
WITCH  
WISH  
SUPERNATURAL  
CAULDRON  
MAGICIAN  
BOOK  
SPELL  
WIZARD  
FAIRY  
UNICORN  
GOBLIN  
WAND  
RAINBOW

I	D	A	S	C	A	U	L	D	R	O	N	P	P
C	M	N	A	T	S	O	W	I	Z	A	R	D	U
I	A	L	A	R	U	T	A	N	R	E	P	U	S
U	G	K	C	S	G	O	B	L	I	N	I	R	O
N	I	B	L	D	R	I	C	H	O	O	D	A	H
I	C	N	A	H	T	A	R	A	I	N	B	O	W
C	I	I	R	C	R	S	T	U	B	C	U	S	L
O	A	W	S	T	I	L	G	S	D	I	O	P	A
R	N	W	W	I	S	K	O	O	B	P	E	E	O
N	W	L	A	W	N	A	N	F	S	N	W	L	A
G	N	Z	N	C	N	E	L	T	S	A	C	L	E
N	A	N	D	W	I	S	H	A	U	I	E	S	T
R	I	F	A	I	R	Y	T	A	I	W	A	N	W
S	D	A	C	D	O	H	I	N	N	N	L	N	F



# Fairies

by Jayne Leadbetter

There's magic in the forest  
Treasures yet to find  
Fairies and goblins  
The silvery winged kind

We know they're very special  
Perhaps a little shy  
But how we'd love to see them  
Flying in the sky

We must be very quiet  
We cannot make a sound  
We may see a fairy  
Hidden on the ground

Asleep in secret hollows  
When the sun slips from the sky  
Huddled close together  
Dreaming by and by





Poem and Illustration by  
**Jayne Leadbetter.**  
You can read more about  
Jayne on page 62





# Jennifer CLAESSEN



WE CAUGHT UP WITH AUTHOR **JENNIFER CLAESSEN** TO  
CHAT ABOUT HER NEW MAGICAL DEBUT NOVEL,  
*THE OCTOBER WITCHES!*

And some witches want to keep their  
power all year round – putting the  
family into mortal danger.

COULD YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT *THE OCTOBER  
WITCHES*?

Clemmie's coven, the Merlyns, get their  
magic for one precious month a year:  
October. This year, Clemmie's power  
might be about to descend from the  
stars for the first time but she is nervous  
about the mess that magic can make.

WE ALL LOVE HALLOWEEN HERE AT  
PAPERBOUND. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THIS TIME OF  
YEAR THAT MADE YOU SET THE BOOK  
DURING OCTOBER/ HALLOWEEN?

Oh, same, Halloween is the best! I had  
the idea as a 'what if' in the middle of  
the night while thinking about how



COOL October is – and I wrote the story in September, while planning Halloween costumes, a Halloween party and our annual trip to the pumpkin patch! So of course all the best things about autumn made it into the book: soup & fires & all kind of cosy, crafty things. But I'm not very good at scary and so my story isn't a thriller or a horror. I handmake our Halloween costumes every year and they are NEVER scary – last year we were jellyfish, this year we're going to be space cowboys.

HAVE YOU ANY FAVOURITE MAGICAL/ WITCH CHARACTERS FROM FILM/ TV/BOOKS ETC.? AND DID ANY OF THESE INSPIRE CHARACTERS AND/ OR ELEMENTS IN *THE OCTOBER WITCHES*?

I have always loved witches and I love an eccentric older witch especially! The aunties in *The October Witches* are indebted to my own aunties and the three sisters in *Hocus Pocus* and the aunts in *Sabrina* and *Practical Magic*. There's influences in there from everything I've ever read I think – and with a pumpkin playing quite an important role in the plot, there is of course a *Cinderella* influence! There's some silly references to amuse myself too, if you spot the Beyonce and *Wizard of Oz* in-jokes, let me know!

AS THIS IS OUR MAGIC ISSUE, DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS FOR YOUNG WRITERS WHO ARE THINKING OF WRITING IN THIS GENRE?



It took me a LOT of editing and drafting to make the magic in *The October Witches* clear – I really struggled with making the rules easy to understand! And magic really needs rules. So first work out the rules of power in your story: who can do what and when? But of course, mostly have

fun – magic means you can stretch those rules... and then break them too!

“ ... LAST YEAR WE WERE JELLYFISH, THIS YEAR WE'RE GOING TO BE SPACE COWBOYS. ”

*THE OCTOBER WITCHES* IS YOUR DEBUT NOVEL, IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THE PUBLICATION PROCESS

THAT YOU WISH YOU'D KNOWN BEFORE YOU STARTED?

Ooh, so many things! It really does take a whole team to make a book – I had no idea that an illustrator was different from an Art Director and that marketing is different from PR. I'm still learning to be honest and I'm realising you have to be pretty bold and brave to get your book out there and risk being embarrassed (like Clemmie, I get embarrassed a lot) but it's worth it when someone loves your story!






YOUR BACKGROUND IS IN THE THEATRE AND ARTS. DOES THIS INFLUENCE YOUR WRITING AT ALL, OR DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO INCLUDE THESE THEMES IN THE FUTURE?



One of my 'weird things' is that I write without a pen... meaning, I speak my stories! I record myself talking and then type up my notes into something which hopefully looks like a novel. I'm a big believer in talking – listening to my characters out loud helps me with their voices I think. And there's a complicated bit of action right at the end of *The October Witches* which my editor and I actually had to act out to make sure I'd

described it right! So there's theatre in everything!

WE'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR YOU. ARE YOU WRITING ANYTHING NEW, OR ANY OTHER EXCITING NEWS?

I'm Writer in Residence at Abney Park, a really cool Victorian cemetery in North East London so I run workshops there and you can always find me finding inspiration amongst the trees there. So I'm writing a book about the cemetery – as well as a million others too! 

## Try one of JENNIFER'S WRITING PROMPTS



The October Witches only have their power for one magic month: imagine a witch has amazing powers, but they will only last a day and they can't keep anything they make... what will your witch do for that one special day?!

The October Witches aren't necessarily very 'witchy'. Describe a witch without using any of these words: evil, magic, power, spell, supernatural, hat, broomstick, frog. See what unusual choices you can make to make your witch an unexpected witch!

## JENNIFER CLAESSEN



Jennifer was born in Reading so, of course, grew up a book worm. As teacher and theatre-maker, Jennifer loves stories and leads interactive drama-based workshops when she's not writing. *The October Witches* is her debut novel.

*The October Witches* is published by UCLan Publishing in the UK and OUT NOW! Coming to other regions soon!



# WRITING A SPELL

*Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake...*

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# PRINTABLE MAGIC WRITING PROMPTS

## FAIRY TALES



*The Frog Prince*

**Carmen Carreira** has shared five beautiful illustrations with us, all inspired by well-known fairy tales. Using one (or more) of these illustrations, we'd like you to twist and reimagine the original story. Maybe you want the prince to be locked in a tower, or the wolf to be visiting their grandma. Whatever you decide, start writing it below. We'd love to read what you come up with so send them along to [paperboundmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:paperboundmagazine@outlook.com).

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*Hansel and Gretel*

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YOU CAN FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT CARMEN  
ON PAGE 62



*Little Red Riding Hood*



*Rapunzel*



*The Wild Swans*



# The Birthday Gift

by Estelle Grace  
Tudor

The autumn wind whirled the leaves around Marnie, like a tornado of gold, russet and brown. Giggling, she turned in a circle and tried to catch them, but they stubbornly danced out of reach.

Looking around to make sure she wasn't being watched, Marnie held out her pinky finger and turned it in a circle. Immediately the leaves froze in the air, suspended as if dangling from invisible wires. She took her time inspecting the jewel-like leaves in front of her. Finally, she grasped a large golden leaf, and looked at it in satisfaction; its edges were only slightly curled, and the veins ran in shimmering seams along its pointed form.

'This one is perfect to decorate the pie with!' she announced as she ran into the kitchen, brandishing the leaf at Granny.

'You're right,' Granny said and placed the leaf next to a large pumpkin on the table. She gave a sniff and turned with hands on her hips.

Marnie whipped her hand behind her back, but Granny wasn't easily fooled. She crooked a finger at her, and Marnie withdrew her hands with a sigh.

Granny frowned at Marnie's little finger; the tip still glittering. 'What have I told you about using your gift outside? Mrs Corbett could have seen you.'

'It was only for a second, Granny,' Marnie protested. Surely their over-friendly



next-door neighbour wouldn't spy on her. She had always been kind to Marnie. Only yesterday they'd had a nice chat over the fence and Marnie told her it was Granny's birthday. Marnie wished Granny wasn't so suspicious of everyone.

Granny's lips gave a reluctant twitch. 'Hmm, you remind me of someone,' she said.

'Who?' Marnie asked, interest piqued.

'Me!' Granny exclaimed with a laugh.

In relief, Marnie quickly joined in. But stopped as Granny looked at her seriously.

'I was just the same as you, Marnie, but I lived in an even more intolerable time than this ... but still, you must be careful. There are those that are frightened of what they do not understand. That are threatened by people they deem 'different'.'

'We're not different, we're unique – special. That's what Mum always said.'

Granny's eyes softened, and she pulled Marnie in for a hug. 'That we are, but you are even more special. Come on, let's make this pie.'

'Yes, let's make your birthday pie.'

Soon the kitchen was filled with the delicious aroma of cinnamon and pumpkin while the pie baked in the oven.

Marnie fidgeted and peered in through the glass door, watching the agonisingly slow timer count down. She debated, as her pinky finger tingled, about giving the pie a little bit of 'help' but thought she'd better not push her luck so soon after Granny's warning.

Finally, the timer buzzed, and Granny took the pie out and set it on the windowsill to cool. Marnie's stomach grumbled and she took a deep breath of the tantalising smell.

The doorbell rang so Granny went to answer it.

Marnie picked up the golden leaf and, twirling it between her fingers, walked back over to the windowsill to see how it would look on top of the pale orange pie. She stared at the now





empty windowsill and, sticking to the plan, counted to ten before calling, 'Granny, the pie is gone!'

Granny rushed in and peered out of the window. 'That woman's stealing my pie!' she said and raced out of the house.

Marnie followed, her heart thumping with adrenaline, as Granny threw open the side gate and headed into Mrs Corbett's Garden. She stopped short as cries of, 'Surprise!' rang through the air. All of their neighbours filled the garden. Gold and copper balloons emblazoned with '70' decorated the trees and garlands of leaves fluttered around the gazebo.

Marnie gave a sheepish grin as she told Granny, 'It was the only way to get you here.'

Mrs Corbett met Marnie's eyes and she held up her pinky finger for a moment, before putting her index finger to her lips and giving her a wink.

Marnie breathed a sigh of relief, and knew she and Granny had found an ally in Mrs Corbett ... she just hoped Granny would drop her caution and accept her as a friend.

Granny smiled in embarrassed delight as Marnie added the leaf to the top of the pie, next to the birthday candles sticking out of it.

'There, I told you it would be perfect!' 



## Estelle Grace Tudor

Estelle Grace Tudor is an award-winning multi-genre author from the beautiful South Wales coast where she lives with her husband, four children and crazy dog. When not writing she can be found looking for Narnia in the back of wardrobes, or exploring yet another castle.



Follow Estelle on Instagram: [@from\\_the\\_shelf\\_of\\_e\\_g\\_tudor](#)

& [@through\\_the\\_fairy\\_door\\_books](#)

and on Twitter: [@E\\_G\\_Tudor](#)



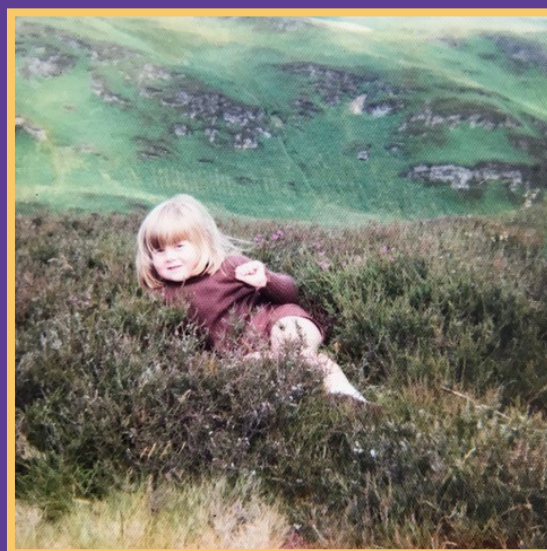
# The magic of Dogs

**Juliette Forrest tell us all about the inspiration and research behind her new book, *The Mountain Rescue Dog*, and proves that dogs really are the brilliant, magical creatures we knew they were.**

I love writing children's stories bursting with magic realism. There's something so exciting about spells being cast, other worlds existing within our own and characters having powers we yearned for when we were children. So far, it has featured in all of my books – until now. My next novel, *The Mountain Rescue Dog*, is a little bit different. The story is set in the Highlands of Scotland and is about a girl called Clova, who loses her mum in a tragic accident. Bereft, she discovers an abandoned collie called Tatty and with the help of her grandpa, Clova starts training the dog to rescue the lost and the injured.

The first documented story of

search and rescue was in the early 1800s on the Great Saint Bernard Pass in Switzerland. Barry the Saint Bernard earned his place in history by saving more than 40 lives on the treacherous mountain. Such was the dog's reputation, Barry can be now found at the Natural History Museum in Berne, where he's regarded as a national



Juliette as a child on the Scottish hills



hero. Interestingly enough, the Saint Bernard is no longer used for search and rescue these days because they're too heavy to winch down from helicopters.

I didn't want the dog in my story to instantly know how to rescue people. Although there has been a certain degree of creative license, I tried to keep it as true to life as possible. I was introduced to a trainer and handler, who volunteers with Search and Rescue Dog Association Ireland. He took me

through some of the basics the dogs are taught. To them, finding a person is a game as they are rewarded with a ball or rope toy to play with

when they locate someone. However, if the dog is not enjoying the exercises, they won't be allowed to continue with the training. In short, every dog who saves lives today does it because they love it.

Dogs find people using different techniques. Tracking dogs lock onto the smell of clothing or an object with the missing person's scent on it. Trailing dogs follow the specific scent left behind by a person and air-scent dogs pursue airborne



Juliette's dog!

aromas until they locate the source of the smell. It is said good tracking dogs can accurately follow trails more than a month old if the conditions allow. It had never

dawned on me how much pressure dogs and handlers are under when they're on a rescue. They are often responsible for searching specific grid areas on a mountain, forest or moor on


their own, in atrocious weather conditions. They have to be 100% certain they haven't missed a thing as someone's life may be depending on them. When I asked what it felt like finding someone, I was told it was better than winning an Olympic medal.

I discovered dogs' noses are like fingerprints, as no two are ever the same. A human nose has around 5 million scent receptors, but a dog's has 125 million. Dogs can detect a single skin cell in the air. They

**“ I discovered dogs' noses are like fingerprints, as no two are ever the same. ”**

can even pick up on illnesses such as lung cancer and breast cancer, just by sniffing breath samples from patients. Something that has proven to be more accurate than needle biopsies. New research reveals that a dog's sense of smell is integrated with their vision and other unique parts of their brain, which means they can 'see' with their noses.

Dogs are our helpers, protectors and service providers. They have been our

faithful companions for over 14,000 years. They don't even have to save lives to be beneficial to us. Patting our beloved pooches can reduce stress, help the body release endorphins and lower blood pressure. So, on reflection, I think *The Mountain Rescue Dog* is full of magic – it's just a different kind. 

## Juliette Forrest

Juliette Forrest is the owner of an ex-street dog from Cyprus and the author of *Twister*, *The True Colours of Coral Glen* and *The Night My Dream Came Alive*. *The Mountain Rescue Dog* is OUT NOW!



A story of love, loss  
and friendship.  
The most heart-warming  
book of the autumn.

Publishing September 2022

@ScholasticUK @jools\_forrest



**NEW WRITING**

# SEASONED *Magicians*

by Mark Bird

## MARK BIRD

Mark is a teacher in London who loves writing poems for young people. He has been published in Brian Moses' anthology: The Best Ever Book of Funny Poems as well as by Gill Education and The Caterpillar Magazine. His poem, "Halloween Date from Hell" will be published as a picture book by Ventorros Press in 2022, illustrated by Chris White.

<https://www.dreambeastpoems.com>

Follow Mark on Twitter @dreambeastpoems



I can wake a zillion flowers, make the trees turn pink  
I can switch on April Showers, greet a lamb's first blink  
I can start a birdsong choir, splash the whole world green  
I can lift the sun up higher, pause a hedgehog's dream

***SHAZAM! KAZAM! SHA-ZING! KA-PING!***  
***I AM SUPER-SORCERER SPRING***

I can colour every petal, paint the rainbows bright  
I make bees all petal-settle, flood the Earth with light  
I can kiss the nation's faces, pump the fruit with juice  
I fly friends to far off places, chase off clouds. Vamoose!

***IZZY WIZZY! BUZZY-HUMMER!***  
***I AM SPELL-ENCHANTER SUMMER***

I undress the trees in millions, turn their leaves to gold  
I give flight to birds in billions, welcome back *The Cold*  
I can summon ghosts and witches, hang a Harvest Moon  
I can tailor zombies' stitches, squall a gusty tune

***HOCUS-POCUS! HAUNTUM! TAUNTUM!***  
***I AM ALCHEMISTRESS AUTUMN***

I can put the world on freeze, ice the mountain tops  
I can make the humans sneeze, tower toys in shops  
I can end and start a year, sprinkle froggy spawn  
I make myself disappear, restored in spring's new dawn

***AJJI MAJJI! JINGLE! SPLINTER!***  
***I AM WISTFUL WIZARD WINTER***

The Great Four Seasons' Mystic Fusion  
*A magic show without illusion*



# Louise Finch

The Eternal Return of Clara Hart  
The Eternal Return of Clara Hart  
The Eternal Return of Clara Hart  
The Eternal Return of Clara Hart  
The Eternal Return of Clara Hart

LOUISE FINCH



Daniel Cook Photography

IN LAST YEAR'S AUTUMN ISSUE, WE PUBLISHED THE BRILLIANT FLASH FICTION PIECE *BEST FRIENDS FOREVER* BY LOUISE FINCH. NOW, ONE YEAR LATER, WE ARE THRILLED TO BE INTERVIEWING LOUISE ABOUT HER DEBUT YA NOVEL, *THE ETERNAL RETURN OF CLARA HART*. A PAGE TURNING, IMPORTANT NOVEL, THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT DOWN.

**Could you tell us a little about your new novel, *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart*?**

*The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* is a contemporary time-loop novel about Spence, an eighteen-year-old boy who finds himself forced to repeatedly relive one tragic Friday. It starts with his prized vintage car being hit by his classmate and ends when that same classmate, Clara Hart, runs out from a house party and dies in an accident.

When Spence wakes up to the same day over again and to Clara alive and well, he realises he has a chance to save her. But as Spence repeatedly tries and fails to stop the events of the day, he begins to realise he's perhaps not the hero he thought he could be.

To break the spell he has to re-evaluate everything he previously took for granted and find the courage to call out his own and others' complicity in events that marked the life and death of Clara Hart.

It's a book about toxic masculinity, gendered violence and grief, but it's also quite a hopeful book about learning from mistakes, opening up and moving forward.

**The book deals with some important themes and issues. What inspired you to write it?**

It's a very personal book in a lot of ways, drawing on real life experiences that have shaped my life and made me passionate about tackling sexism and

shining a light on misconceptions about sexual assault.

I was writing another novel just before this one which was also a time-loop story, but I wasn't connecting to what I'd written and just couldn't get excited about it. Luckily I arrived at the idea of using that time-loop structure to consider a social issue I care about, and the concept for *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* was born.

I ended up writing it in a month. It was very intense and resulted in a terribly messy first draft, but unlike the story I'd been working on just before it, I really believed this one could be better. More importantly, I really needed to write this book for myself.

**The narrative structure is absolutely brilliant, with the day repeating in the style of *Groundhog Day* and *Happy Death Day*. Were there any tricky moments writing in this style, and how did you overcome them?**

The trickiest element when writing a time-loop novel was knowing that readers would have very little tolerance for seeing the same scenes again compared to a time-loop film like *Groundhog Day*. I was also aware that the day reverting repeatedly could feel like a total loss of progress, which could

be really frustrating.

I tackled this by ensuring that, where possible, we pick up Spence's story as late in each day as possible, so the reader isn't going back to him waking up every time. I also wanted to make use of the advantage books have over films, which is that readers bring their own imaginations to the page and fill in the blanks.

In each version of the day it also becomes clear fairly quickly how Spence is going to tackle things differently, so hopefully people are rooting for him to

succeed, or at least to learn something that he can take forward into the next day!

**The voice of your main character, Spence, is very strong. Do you have any tips on how writers can develop a unique voice for their characters?**

My top tip is not to think about writing a voice at all, but rather to try to see the world through your character's eyes and go from there. In *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart*, Spence is struggling with grief after losing his mum a year ago and a big part of his character arc is being gradually more able to open up. That's where his voice started for me.

Writing within Spence's voice also meant being quite strict with myself. He's smart, but a bit cynical and



unromantic, so there were a few times where I had to cut sentences I loved that were far too poetic for Spence.

### Are you writing anything new at the moment? What's coming next?

I'm not under contract for a second book, so who knows if it will ever see the light of day, but I am working on a new YA novel. I won't say too much about it other than that it is also a contemporary novel with a speculative twist, but exploring very different themes to *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart*.


### What was your route to publication like? Do you have any tips for people thinking of becoming an author in the future?

My route to publication was characterised by a lot of good luck and support from generous writers who kept me going during the rejections.

I wasn't ever encouraged to follow my creative dreams as a child, so I didn't

write for a long time after giving up as a teenager. This meant that when I got back into writing, I didn't have any formal writing qualifications, industry knowledge or connections. I started from scratch in 2018, took some courses, read a lot of craft books, wrote a lot and listened to feedback.

Although I didn't expect anything to come of it, I started querying agents while putting my work forward for as many other opportunities as possible, and was lucky to have some success with competitions. This led to me being mentored through WriteMentor, a brilliant organisation supporting kidlit authors. It was about that time that, after quite a few knock-backs, I found my amazing agent who then shared the novel with Little Island.

My advice for anyone wanting to be an author is to allow themselves to have that dream, but also to write for the sheer love of writing. Confidence was always a huge barrier for me, so if I'd started writing with the sole goal of being published, I don't think I could have kept going. Instead I focused on being a better writer and producing work that mattered to me. 

## Louise Finch

Louise Finch is a YA author who lives in the south-east of England with two tiny dogs and too many houseplants. *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* is her debut novel, but her first ever published work was a flash in PaperBound!

*The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* is out now in UK and Ireland, from Little Island Books.

The Eternal Return of Clara Hart  
The Eternal Return of Clara Hart  
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The Eternal Return of Clara Hart

LOUISE FINCH

# Teen/ YA Book Review Corner

## RECENT RELEASE

### WAKING THE WITCH BY RACHEL BURGE REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

*Waking the Witch* is a fast-paced tale, full of female empowerment, myth and Arthurian legend... but not how we might have heard it told in the past.

Ivy has longed to find her birth mother since she was abandoned as a baby, and now she has her chance. There's only one problem, during a disturbing phone call, her mother explains that Ivy is in danger and warns her not to come to the island where she lives. So, of course, that's exactly where Ivy heads, especially after random strangers start acting odd and violent around her. She needs answers, and her mother has them.

Ivy's mother lives on the remote Bardsey Island off the coast of Wales. Deserted this time of year, Ivy soon uncovers dark secrets about her past that will change everything.

This novel is rich in myth, and the rain and fog create a setting that is hugely atmospheric. With a plot that revolves around a less well known version of Arthurian myth, *Waking the Witch* is spine-chillingly creepy in places and full of feminism, magic and the supernatural. Perfect for teens and young adults, particularly at this time of year!

*WAKING THE WITCH IS OUT NOW FROM HOT KEY BOOKS.*



TEEN

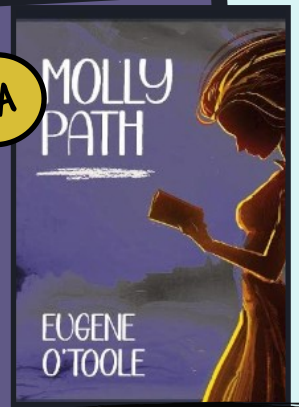
MORE REVIEWS



## MOLLY PATH BY EUGENE O'TOOLE

REVIEWED BY FELICITY GOODALL TWITTER: @GOODALLFELICITY

YA



Neglected by her alcoholic mother, teenager Molly Path hides in her bedroom, occasionally peeking out of the curtains, and refuses to go to school — or at least to the school where 'brutal children feast on pain'. But she's reckoned without special needs teacher Eileen, who's taken one last job before retirement — to persuade Molly to return to school. As teacher and pupil forge a bond, Molly learns the redemptive power of stories and we learn what has wrecked the lives of her parents, and that of her teacher.

READER FAVOURITE

*Molly Path* gives an intimate insight into the world of troubled teenagers and the peripatetic tutors who help them, a hidden legion of educational heroes whose work in special education centres and pupil referral units across the country is unrecognised and undervalued.

This original novel for young adults is a thoughtful, moving and at times funny contemplation on the meaning of home and why a stable background is so critical to a child's destiny. Beautifully written, this story and these characters will stay with you long after the book is finished.

MOLLY PATH IS PUBLISHED BY HAWKWOOD BOOKS AND OUT NOW

## THESE ARE THE WORDS BY NIKITA GILL

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

YA



This powerful poetry collection for young adults from highly acclaimed Nikita Gill might be just what every young person needs in their life. With beautiful touches of honesty told from the author's own voice and experience, it captures what it's like to grow up as a girl on a journey into adolescence, and explores things Nikita Gill wish had been addressed when she was growing up.

RECENT RELEASE

Often personal, spanning love, identity, friendship, toxic relationships and what it means to be a woman and a girl, this stirring poetry collection explores how to navigate your own path growing up in the world we live in today.

THESE ARE THE WORDS IS PUBLISHED BY PAN MACMILLAN AND OUT NOW

YA

## MINA AND THE SLAYERS BY AMY MCCAW

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

*Mina and the Slayers*, the sequel to *Mina and the Undead*, is an action-packed YA novel that takes us back to a vampire infested New Orleans in the mid-90s.



RECENT RELEASE

Set shortly after the events of the first novel, Mina is about to celebrate her first Halloween in New Orleans. Along with her sister, new friends and boyfriend, Mina has lots of exciting plans but, when on a work experience placement with Detective Cafferty, she finds out about several gruesome murders. On top of which, Mina discovers a group calling themselves the Slayers – Vampire Slayers – who are investigating the sudden rise in vampires in the area. This Halloween there may be a few more monsters in New Orleans than even Mina expected, and she is tangled up with them all.

This is a fast-paced supernatural horror with oodles of nostalgic 90s references, from music to movies, not to mention a certain blond mullet-clad vampire on a carousel. With twists that will keep you guessing until the end, *Mina and the Slayers* is a definite page-turner, just in time for Halloween.

MINA AND THE SLAYERS IS OUT NOW FROM UCLAN PUBLISHING

YOU CAN FIND OUR BOOK REVIEWS FOR 8-12S ON PAGE 14

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# ★ MEET THE ★ ILLUSTRATORS

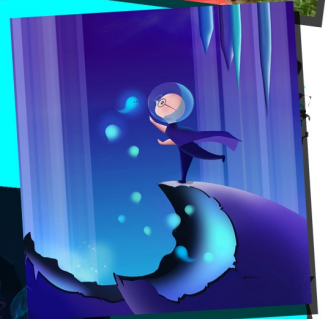
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## ★ AAKANSHA DUTTA

Aakansha is an illustrator with a degree in Communication Design. She loves creating story-driven illustrations with a touch of escapism and whimsy. In this age of hustle and chaos, she hopes to provide a respite through her art and meaningfully connect with people.

You can reach out to her and see more of her work on Instagram @theenchantedelf or by email: [contact.theenchantedelf@gmail.com](mailto:contact.theenchantedelf@gmail.com)

Aakansha created the brilliant illustration on the front cover and also illustrated one of our writing prompts in this issue.



## Jayne Leadbetter



Jayne was born in Cumbria and lives in Sydney, teaching high school technology. She loves illustrating and writing about native animals and their antics in children's picture books and hanging out at the beach with Clifford, her clumsy 60-kilo wolfhound. Jayne has just completed her first YA/adult novel and hopes to be published one day. Jayne wrote and illustrated the poem *Fairies*, in this issue.



You can follow Jayne on Instagram: @jayneleadbetter and Twitter: @jayneleadbetter





## CARMEN CARREIRA

It's fair to say Carmen has always loved creating Art. At school it was her favourite subject and went on to study Illustration at Kingston University, where she met her future husband. After achieving her degree, she illustrated a handful of books including a series for the National Trust and Country Living on such subjects as beekeeping and hen keeping which matched well with her interest in wildlife illustration. Around that time, she was offered a full-time position in Madame Tussauds wax figure production team which was thrilling and creative. Now, when not busy being a mum in leafy Bedfordshire, Carmen dedicates as much time as possible to creating artworks, be that a custom portrait or an illustration from her imagination based on wildlife or traditional tales, or even some stories of her own, which she loves sharing with her boys and hopes you enjoy too. Carmen has illustrated and inspired a writing prompt in this issue.



## JOSEPH WITCHALL

Joseph is a professional illustrator with over 10 years experience and published in over 20 books. He has illustrated for award winning poetry books, with poet and rapper Karl Nova. His work is rooted in the natural world and draws on traditional styles of illustration. He studied Animation at Norwich School of Art, and his experience with film and animation is always present within his work. Joseph has a passion for wildlife and conservation and has endeavoured to share the magic of nature with the readers of his books and artwork. He finds endless inspiration from the wonderful wilderness and woodlands of Devon where he lives and is currently working on a new book about a woodland creature called Verdy, which is designed to encourage children to connect with nature and explore the great outdoors, and protect the amazing nature of our beautiful planet. Joseph illustrated the contents page in this issue.

[www.josephwitchall.com](http://www.josephwitchall.com)



## RACH REITZ

Rach is a writer/illustrator living in Yorkshire. She has been drawing and writing stories for as long as she can remember, and recently has started to pursue her dreams of becoming a published author/illustrator. Some of her favourite things to both write and draw are inspired by animals (especially unusual creatures like Tapirs and Manatees), nature (the woods and the sea in particular), and her friends/family. Rach illustrated the Quizzes page in this issue!

[www.rachreitz.com](http://www.rachreitz.com)





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