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FRONTLIST
THE UNITED STATES OF US by Kate Sundara

Mia Hart’s childhood sweetheart Robin has been watching over her ever since his death. Mia has been wandering the world working as a travel writer for the last three years, trying to escape the memory of the devastating accident which killed Robin. Finding herself on the island of Utopia, a retreat for travellers in the sparkling Tyrrhenian Sea, Mia meets Zak Ryder, a dashing American musician. Zak helps Mia to forget the tragedy in her past, and after a whirlwind romance, he invites Mia to come and live with him on the other side of the world. Swept up in a new infatuation and desperate to let go of Robin’s ghost, Mia accepts.

Journeying to River Valley, a small town in the American mid-west, some months later to reunite with Zak, she finds him depressed and dishevelled, and so different from the man she met on the island. The fairy-tale he promised her is anything but, as she starts to doubt Zak’s love for her as he withdraws. She worries she’s made a rash decision.

Too proud to leave before her three months are up, she makes new friends – including Zak’s best friend Wil, an intelligent and open emotional counterpoint to Zak. She also meets Rosa, a Native American woman, who teaches her about native mythology and helps her to let go of her past, forgive Zak, and figure out how to move on.

Mia finds herself at the end of a long road, having learnt lessons on love, loss and letting go.

Kate Sundara is a writer, performer and artist. Following her gypsy heart she spent a decade working her way around the world as a hunter-gatherer of stories. Indigenous threads of mystery and legend weave their way into the fabric of her stories. Slinging down the backpack, she settled in Bristol and balances a job in the wardrobe department of the UK’s touring musicals and runs a face and body painting company. She has a BA Hons in Drama and English from Exeter University. She is currently working on her first novel, The United States of Us.
DON'T FORGET ME! By Victoria Stevens

Being sent across the world to Australia to live with a man she hardly knows is just the latest in a string of heartbreaks for Hazel Clarke that began with the loss of her mother and ended with her having to leave behind everything she’d ever loved. Her new life is only temporary, but she’s still desperate to return back to England - even if there’s nothing left for her there anymore.

The sun, sea and sand of the beautiful East Coast aren’t enough to take her mind off the past she was forced to leave behind in London - that is, until she meets Red, a night-time resident of the beach outside her window, and his elusive, troubled twin Luca. Hazel begins to see just how much of life she's been missing out on.

As she begins the slow process of rebuilding her life, Hazel starts to realise that she's not the only one struggling with grief or trying to bury a past it would be easier to forget. She has a lot to learn about friendships, family, first love and the art of moving on, but can she really accept that broken hearts can sometimes be healed?

Victoria Stevens is a first-time author and has just finished her debut novel Don't Forget Me. She graduated from the University of Roehampton, where she is headed back to in Autumn to undertake a Master in Creative Writing. She lives in London.
DEAR CHARLIE by N.D. Gomes

At sixteen, Sam Macmillan is supposed to be facing all the usual teenage challenges: girls, homework and social status, not picking up the pieces after a school shooting. With his brother identified as the shooter, Sam struggles to stay afloat in the media storm that hits his small community.

While Sam desperately tries to hang on to the memories he has of his brother, the world outside threatens to destroy everything he remembers. Soon he begins to question whether he even knew his brother at all.

Set to a soundtrack epitomising the mid/late 90’s, each cult classic song symbolic of the step in Sam’s journey to rebuild, and forgive.

After a B.A. in Film, Media and Journalism, N.D. Gomes gained a postgraduate degree in education and currently works with students with emotional disorders and language delays. She divides her time between the UK and the US, but remains a Scot at heart. Dear Charlie was inspired by the dramatic increase of school shootings in the past 15-20 years.
THE GOLDFISH BOY by Lisa Thompson

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* meets *Rear Window*

Matthew Corbin is thirteen and suffers from severe Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, rendering him a virtual recluse in the cul-de-sac where he lives. To pass the time, he observes his fellow neighbours from his window, makes mundane notes and talks to a piece of wallpaper in the shape of a lion.

When a toddler staying next door goes missing and it becomes apparent that Matthew was the last person to see him alive, the young teenager's world is unnerved even further...

Can Matthew overcome his OCD and piece together the clues to solve the mystery?

Lisa Thompson spent many years in radio production at BBC Radio 2, and currently works in a freelance capacity with CPL Productions, making plays and comedy shows for Radio 4. *The Goldfish Boy* is her debut novel.
BETWEEN MEMORIES AND DREAMS by Tamsin Jolly

18 year old Jason Donati is doing everything he can to get into medical school, but so far his hospital work experience has been anything but thrilling. That is, until a young comatose patient starts mumbling his name. When Sacha Wilde wakes up from her coma with amnesia, the only thing she’s sure of is that she and Jason have been friends for their entire lives, but Jason tells her they’ve never met before.

As Sacha recovers, she attempts to slot into a life that doesn’t feel like it’s really hers, with loving parents she doesn’t remember and a man who she’s told is her fiancé, who baffles her. Rejecting them, she tries to persuade Jason that the strength of her feelings towards him means they must have had a past, and her hazy memories can’t be false.

As Jason and Sacha grow closer, Sacha’s family and friends believe he is the reason of her slow recovery.

Suddenly Jason’s being told he needs to step back from the girl he’s just realised he can’t live without. He has to make a choice: let her go and let her family help her try to recover her lost memories, or go with his heart and make some new ones.

Tamsin studied Interior Design at university and now works in art education in a variety of roles, from leading art clubs for primary years to supporting teens through their A Levels. Tamsin loves wild places, magic and nature, and they are often the subject of her writing. She currently lives on the outskirts of London in the greenest part she could find. When she’s not writing she’s painting, drawing, or scouring the country for inspiration.
BREATHING SEA by Lindsay Moakes

Aster had never seen someone breathe underwater until she met Kayo. Kayo had never seen a person breathe air until he met Aster.

After the sudden death of their mother, sixteen-year-old Aster and her two brothers Reed and Max go to live with their uncle Enzo, their only remaining relative. Enzo runs an isolated and mysterious eco-community, where fifty young students are being prepared to live out their adult lives on an uninhabited island thousands of miles away, for reasons that are kept secret.

To Aster, this seems a lot like a doomsday cult and her fears are confirmed when, after an unexpected fire pushing forward Enzo’s plans, she wakes up on a deserted beach with six of the other students, no sign of Enzo, no sign of land and no sign of her brothers.

On her first frantic search for her brothers, Aster meets Kayo — a boy who shouldn’t exist, a boy who breathes water and the future leader of his ancient undersea tribe, the Jevaya. Kayo wants to help Aster, but the Jevaya are antagonistic towards the new arrivals.

Aster finds herself increasingly attached to her fellow tight-knit band of island survivors, especially the brave but troubled Smith. As Aster seeks Kayo’s help to not only find her brothers, but to protect her friends, she finds herself caught between two worlds.

Lindsay Moakes left part of her heart in Thailand where she lived and worked for two years of island hopping and scuba diving indulgence. Forced to surface for breath, she now lives in sight of the chillier Sussex sea with her husband and two young sons. Despite her degree in English language and literature, she currently works as a science teacher.
ANTI-SOCIAL by Victoria Biram

A year ago, sixteen-year-old Devon Folgate’s brother Kyle vanished leaving her family falling apart. When a protest group break into the school and steal the security cameras, the last thing Devon expects to see as the only clue is her brother’s name.

Realising that he may still be alive, Devon attempts to infiltrate the group on her own. The group call themselves the ‘Anti-Socials’, as they protest against the ‘new Facebook’ Social and they live up to their name, being impossible to find. Is Devon’s friend Xander involved, despite his protests to the contrary, or is it Rio with his odd use of pagers, or Chelsea, who protests against everything?

Even if she can find the Anti-Socials, with the police and Social themselves paying Devon close attention, solving the mystery behind her brother’s disappearance without getting caught will be a task easier said than done.

Victoria Biram studied English Literature at UCL before settling into a career in television and travelling as much as possible. She’s lived and worked briefly in New York, Vancouver and Sydney. Anti-Social was inspired by the leaps and bounds technology has made recently, especially the loss of privacy the current generation face.
It is 1982. Twelve-year-old Birdy lives in a garrison town outside London and is always in trouble. Conflict is rife: at home, in the country, in the world.

A biscuit tin under Birdy's bed is full of childhood treasures: ball bearings from a Chopper bike, plastic soldiers, a beer mat, stolen boxer shorts. But as secrets grow deeper and deeper and Birdy has more and more to lose, the tin becomes a place where words are buried.

Everyone is struggling to get his or her truth out, to be heard and to find home. Birdy is caught in the crossfire, as spring turns to summer harrowing events detonate Birdy's repressed fears; loyalties become conflicted and power is abused.

But, there are songs to be sung. There are deep vaults of unspoken love. It’s the toughest three months of a young life. But Birdy fights; to survive, to find the right tribe, and to make the choice between conformity or truly being alive.

Helen studied politics and government at Manchester University and the LSE. She recently completed the MA in Creative Writing at City University, London, winning the PFD Novel Writing Prize. She was mentored by Sarah Waters. She has twenty years experience of representing the powerless and invisible as a campaigner, lobbyist, volunteer and writer. She is a highly experienced public speaker and media spokesperson with frequent appearances on BBC News, SKY News, ITN and BBC Radio including Women's Hour. Her written work has ranged from peer-reviewed papers through to blogs for The Huffington Post and New Statesman. She lives in London with her partner and two young daughters.
WHEN STARS DROP FROM THE SKY by Marianne Curley

Brothers Julian and Vince have always been close, but the centre falls out of their world when their mother becomes terminally ill. They fall into a spiral of grief and pain as they try to process life without her, but as closely-guarded family secrets are revealed, the boys find themselves facing a terrifying future alone.

All Vince wants to do is forget the pain his life has become, and when he meets new friends to help him do this, he hangs onto them like a lifeline. But as the parties turn to drag racing, and the new friends turn out to be part of the local street-gang, his life becomes a roller-coaster ride that is more thrilling and dangerous than anything he’d ever imagined.

Julian is trying to hold the family together and finish his last year at school, just as his mother wanted, but it’s harder than it seems when all his brother does is push him away. However, when a new force enters his life his focus shifts away from his brother as he falls in love with a girl who brings a bright new shining light to the darkness swirling around him.

As Vince falls in deeper with the gang, and the boys drift apart, Julian starts to have disturbing dreams. They become more and more forceful but it’s only when they take a prophetic turn that it becomes clear to Julian that his brother is in mortal danger. Can he find a way to save him before it’s too late?

Marianne’s children’s novels, Old Magic and the Guardians of Time trilogy, have been published in the UK, USA and Australia, and translated into more than a dozen foreign languages; Marianne created When Stars Drop From The Sky out of her own experiences. In her twenties she lived in the outer western suburbs of Sydney with her family. She saw how gangs developed and became a way of life. She gives these evocative memories a voice through this book.
THE BEGINNING by V.M. Strain

You could be great, you could be cruel, but you must have the chance to find out. Either way, Little One, it will be an important life. Of that I am certain.

In a land of poisoned air, a child is born to a dead woman.

The last of the vayrch utters a curse.

A dragon starts to bleed.

The rest of the world goes on. Ordinary people live ordinary lives. Human boys dream of glory on the battlefield against the faaeyr and the grotesques. Human grandfathers watch one generation after the next run to their deaths. It is as it has always been.

But, far away, a little girl is growing up. Instead of being taught to nurture, she is being taught to kill. Without a given name, a race, an identity, she was bred to be a weapon, nothing more. She was meant to end the wars.

She was never meant to think.

She was never meant to go out into the world alone.

VM Strain grew up in Wales and East Africa, becoming fascinated by the myths and legends of both cultures. When her family relocated to a third country in her teens, she was sent back to the UK full time to attend boarding school. Since then, she has gained a degree in English Literature from The University of Wales, Lampeter, and carved out a career in the television industry. She is currently working on her first novel.
There is no doubt about it: being a Chosen One is hard work. No one knows this better than Aula and Joomia, the champions of the last two cities on Earth: Athenas and Metis.

It is one thing to be humanity's last chance for survival, but quite another to be humanity's last chance to rebuild the world. Aula's city wants a world returned to industry; Joomia's city wants a world returned to nature.

Pitted against each other since birth, the two have grown to dread the day they turn eighteen and have to represent their cities in a race through the Ariadnis: a maze in whose centre awaits the legendary Book of Knowledge.

The first one to open it will win great wisdom and prosperity for their city, but when people are losing their memories, trees are turning to rot, buildings are collapsing and every book is wiped clean of words, how can they be expected to make it through the year, let alone the race?

Josh Martin writes and draws his way through life and is currently residing in London. He has aspired to novel writing since he was a tadpole and has since graduated from Exeter University before completing Bath Spa’s Writing For Young People MA last year. His particular interest in heroines, fantasy, environment, gender studies and wisdom led him to write his first book Ariadnis and its sequel.
THE OBSIDIAN MIRROR

Jake’s father disappears while working on mysterious experiments with the obsessive, reclusive Oberon Venn. Jake is convinced Venn has murdered him. But the truth he finds at the snow-bound Wintercombe Abbey is far stranger...

The experiments concerned a black mirror, which is a portal to both the past and the future. Jake is hell-bent on using the mirror to get to the truth. Whatever the cost, he must learn what really happened to his father.

THE BOX OF RED BROCADE
THE SLANTED WORLDS (US Title)

On a mission to recover his father lost in time, Jake finds himself in 1940s London. From the rubble of the Blitzed city, a clue leads him to an eccentric seer of ghosts, three sinister children and three strange prophesies. Two of them soon come to pass, but what is the Box of Red Brocade? Does it hold the secret to destroying the Obsidian Mirror? A talking bird, an invisible girl and a walking wood; the second volume of Catherine Fisher’s Chronoptika series is packed with mystery, magic and sinister intrigue.

Catherine Fisher lives in Newport, Wales. She worked as a primary school teacher and an archaeologist before becoming a full-time writer. So far she has written more than twenty novels which have been translated into over thirty languages. Her stories are rich in myth and legend, and her complex characters have won her fans around the world. She is also an experienced broadcaster and adjudicator, and has recently taught Writing for Children at the University of Glamorgan.
LOTTIE BIGGS SERIES
by Hayley Long

LOTTIE BIGGS IS NOT MAD

My name is Lottie Biggs and this is my book – it's about important things like boys and shoes and polo-Neck knickers and rescuing giraffes and NOT fancying Gareth Stingecombe (even though he has manly thighs) and hanging-out with your best friend having A BLATANTLY FUNNY TIME. It is definitely not about sitting in wardrobes or having a mental disturbance of any kind!

LOTTIE BIGGS IS NOT DESPERATE

Lottie Biggs is recovering from her mental disorder of a reasonably significant nature with the help of her counsellor, who rather helpfully looks like Johnny Depp.

Things are looking up - her hair is an excellent shade of black, she has a Saturday job in a hairdresser and Gareth Stingecombe and his manly thighs are still the love of her life. When Gareth undoes his trousers to show Lottie a fetching bruise on one of the aforementioned thighs, she comes to the realisation that, unlike everyone else she knows, she is A TOTAL UTTER VIRGIN. But how can she get any sort of experience when her boyfriend is doggedly, stubbornly and infuriatingly determined to preserve his energies for the rugby field?

Hayley Long was born in Ipswich, she left to study English at Aberystwyth. After that, she spent several years in various places abroad. By a strange quirk of fate, Hayley is now an English teacher and works very hard indeed. She lives in Norwich with a rabbit called Irma and a husband.
A TEEN’S GUIDE TO MODERN MANNERS by
Sam Norman

A humorous, contemporary collection of cautionary tales in the tradition of Hilaire Belloc and Roald Dahl, composed by 12 poems and 8000 words of iambic tetrameter to be accompanied by illustrations:

There’s little that’s been written yet
Concerning teenage etiquette,
So as a sort of useful guide
A dozen cases lie inside
Of teenagers who lost their way
And suffered for it, sad to say;
You’ll read about the tragic fate
Of Pete, who couldn’t get a date,
And Jen, whose hopes and dreams were quashed,
And James, who staunchly never washed.
This book could be, and no mistake,
The best investment that you make,
So quickly – pluck it from the shelf!
Or suffer some such fate yourself…

Sam Norman was born in 1995 and educated at Eton College, where he won the Senior Poetry Prize twice. He has been longlisted in National Theatre Playwriting Competition, won the Happenstance Limerick Competition, and also triumphed in the Stephen Spender Prize for Poetry in Translation. He is now studying at Magdalen College, Oxford. Sam started writing the guide when he was only 16 years old in an attempt to placate his maths teacher, who had set a piece of homework that he could not even come close to understanding.
TIME TRAVELLING WITH A HAMSTER by Ross Welford

If you could travel thirty years into the past, would you risk it?

What if you could meet your dad when he was a kid?

What if you could meet your dad as a kid and save his life?

When young Al Chaudhury discovers his late dad’s time machine, he finds that going back to the 1980s requires bravery and imagination, plus lies, theft, burglary, and setting fire to his school. Oh, and possibly a double murder.

All without losing his pet hamster, Alan Shearer.

To maintain secrecy, Al is forced to include his duplicitous and moody stepsister in his audacious plans. But when his eccentric Grandpa Byron, a loveable Geordie-Indian mystic with a phenomenal memory, discovers what Al is doing, the adventure becomes even more intense.

*Time Travelling With A Hamster* is a thrilling, funny and heartwarming story of a boy’s quest to live up to his dad’s memory – even if that means his world can never be the same again.

Ross Welford worked as a business journalist before becoming a freelance writer and television producer. He lives in central London with his wife, children, dog and tropical fish.
Twelve year-old Zarah Sadique loves chocolate so much she could eat it all day... It's the one thing that gives her comfort in a life filled with school bullies, an irritating older brother and a mother battling with cancer.

But following the accidental discovery of a mysterious riddle, Zarah soon finds herself thrust into a world of chocolate she never knew existed and the blood-stained history of its trade. As murders and mysterious disappearances quickly close in around her, Zarah is forced to go on the run, embarking upon an epic quest to hunt down a formula capable of turning chocolate into a weapon of human enslavement.

With only the elusive figure of Willbourne to guide her, Zarah must race against time, the police and forces unseen if she is to save the world - and her two best friends - from the dastardly wiles of 'Charlie': a man whose template for world domination lies in the pages of Roald Dahl's masterpiece, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

As she falls deeper and deeper into a secret, thirty-year battle for control over the global chocolate trade, Zarah must soon face the ultimate question: can she sacrifice everything she loves, to protect the lives of millions?

Onjali Rauf worked as an Assistant Editor for emel magazine, was the Campaigns Manager for Women for Women International UK, and currently works on behalf of a number of regional and international human rights charities and research bodies. She is also Founder and CEO of Making Herstory: a self-styled human rights organisation working in partnership with other movements to end the abuse, trafficking and enslavement of women and girls worldwide. She was shortlisted for the Care2Impact award in April 2014, and the Emma Humphreys Award in October 2014 for her works in the women’s rights sector.
TOO CLOSE TO HOME by Aoife Walsh

A beautifully warm and witty novel about the pain of being from a large and very dysfunctional family.

Meet Minny: her life is a complicated whirlwind of unbearable PE lessons, annoying friends and impossible-to-live-with siblings. Minny is desperate for some space in a house spilling over with family and hangers-on. She has to contend with her autistic sister Aisling's school bullies, whilst trying to keep her self-absorbed BFF Penny happy, and look normal in front of new boy Franklin. And on top of this, now Dad has announced that he’s returning to London – with his new girlfriend.

Secrets, lies and home truths will come out, frying pans will be burnt, and arguments will flare up in a story full of humour, honesty and minor household emergencies.

Aoife Walsh lives in Oxford with her husband and three children. She quite likes cooking, and quizzes — when she knows the answers — reading, excellent American television, cakes and fine wines. Too Close to Home is her latest novel.
HAZEL'S PHANTASMAGORIA by Leander Deeny

‘Leander Deeny’s book has a distinctive line in surreal imagery. Bullivant, the dog with a wooden head, is a particularly cherishable creation’ Financial Times

‘A creepy, clever tale … reads like a new Lemony Snicket’ The Times

‘Incredibly imaginative’ Daily Telegraph

Hazel travels to her aunt's country house for a holiday. Her aunt is angry and rude, so Hazel expects her stay to be a nightmare - little does she know there are actual nightmares living in the garden. These creatures - scary amalgams of different animals such as gorillas and leopards - haunt her aunt every night. And soon, Hazel is drawn into their world of creating and rehearsing these nightmares…

With her new social circle consisting of gorillas crossed with leopards, pythons crossed with porcupines, and wooden-headed dogs, Hazel is thrown into a funny, scary world and learns a useful lesson about friendship along the way.

Leander Deeny is a very small actor best know for his work as Captain America’s feeble, pre-superhero body in Captain America, as the odious George Binns in BBC’s long-running soap Holby City, and as George in Merlin. On stage he has performed at Shakespeare’s Globe, The Young Vic, Secret Cinema, and Riverside Studios. He lives in Cardiff with his ordinary sized wife and their two disconcertingly tall children.
THE PAPER FOX by Leander Deeny

I am not really a book. I am secretly a fox. You don’t believe me, but I am going to convince you. Would you do me a favour? Would you give my spine a scratch? Oh my goodness thank you. Being a book is so itchy.

Let me explain.

When I was a fox I lived on Invisible Island with an evil sorceress, but I tried to run away, she got incredibly upset, and it all ended with her twisting my fur into sheets of paper, and shaping my bones into sentences, and turning my left eye into this full stop.

Please do not drop me in the bath or anything.

Will you help me? Will you be my reader? If you read me I promise I will be an adventure. We will build a ship and sail across The Unseeable Sea, dive to the bottom of The Clouded Lagoon, drag the Tumbling Moon back into the sky, and build igloos, and eat spiders, and negotiate with invisible cats, and maybe, just maybe, turn me back into a fox again.

Leander Deeny is a very small actor best know for his work as Captain America’s feeble, pre-superhero body in Captain America, as the odious George Binns in BBC’s long-running soap Holby City, and as George in Merlin. On stage he has performed at Shakespeare’s Globe, The Young Vic, Secret Cinema, and Riverside Studios. He lives in Cardiff with his ordinary sized wife and their two disconcertingly tall children.
THE PETRIFIED FOREST by Matthew Renwick

“It’s really beautiful” I said to Grandpa. “It seems as if the whole forest is full of magic, everything is so strange, so wonderful, but yet it is a bit frightening.”

“Perhaps it is magic” said Grandpa. “Sometimes I’m sure I hear voices down here. Just as if the trees were talking to each other. In fact I sometimes think they are all alive, just watching and waiting as they have been for hundreds of years since…” Grandpa’s voice trailed off.

“Since what? ” I asked…

She was just an ordinary schoolgirl but she didn’t realise her Grandpa was very special until he took her to see his red squirrel sanctuary which turned out to be under the sea. Then very strange things began to happen and she found herself in the most exciting, scary and magical adventure.

Matthew was born before the war and brought up on a farm in Sussex. His education was greatly influenced by his grandfather, who was a journalist, a poet and a librarian and by his aunt who taught French and English and had won some very prestigious essay prizes at university. He was educated at Mount House School in Devon where he had a brilliant English teacher, Mr Gladich, who recognised that he had some talent and gave him great encouragement with his writing. He left school at a young age to work on the farm but continued to practise his writing in the evenings after work.
WHERE DO FLIES GO WHEN IT RAINS? written by Leona Ford and illustrated by Lydia Ripper

This is a story about flies, and slugs, but mostly it’s about slugs: two curious characters called Sid and Lionel who are trying to make sense of the world around them.

The tale is one of friendship, adventures and discovery. It draws children’s attention to the little things in life. By shining a light on this tiny, mostly unknowable world, kids are richly rewarded with an exciting journey and left with a sense of wonder about all living things.

Original, heart-warming and beautifully crafted, Where Do Flies Go When It Rains? is a picture book that will entertain both adults and children alike!

Leona Ford is a copyright, blogger and freelance writer. She lives in London. She’s a big fan of conscious living, ethical shopping and being a vegetarian.

Lydia Ripper is an art director and an illustrator. She brings an inimitable sense of style to everything she does: from makeup artistry and face painting to fashion and hair modelling.
FATHER CHRISTMAS REMEMBERS by Emma Calder

Christmas approaches. Coco as usual is writing to Father Christmas, but this year she adds a P.S to her letter. “I don’t really believe in you any more”. 

The story is about how Father Christmas feels about this, as he does his daily tasks: doing his exercises, eating breakfast, feeding his reindeer and finishing making the toys etc… but he can’t forget that maybe Coco doesn’t believe in him any more.

*Father Christmas Remembers*, is a beautiful water-colour picture book by Emma Calder.

Using a minimal, sweetly seductive style with plenty of comic detail to tell a story about make-believe and growing up.

P.S In the end Coco decides that maybe, she does believe in him just a little bit and so the Christmas fun can proceed as usual, for both Father Christmas and Coco.

Emma Calder was born in London. She studied Graphic design at The Royal College of Art. Whilst at the RCA she began making animated films, including the cult 80’s classic *Madame Potatoe*. After college she co-founded Pearly Oyster Productions making many successful and award winning animated films and commercials, including *The Queen’s Monastery* (BBC). She also collaborated with the author Carolyn Hink on *Miss Louise Goes to Paris* published by Quercus Books. Her next book *Moody Sticker Book* was published by Thames and Hudson and *Paper Angels* was published by Bloomsbury. Emma is currently developing and writing several new books and films. She lives in Brixton with her partner and two children.
ILLUSTRATORS
Lydia Ripper is an art director and an illustrator. She brings an inimitable sense of style to everything she does: from makeup artistry and face painting to fashion and hair modelling.

Agent: Silvia Molteni
Emma Calder studied Graphic design at The Royal College of Art. She collaborated with the author Carolyn Hink on *Miss Louise Goes to Paris* published by Quercus Books. Her next book *Moody Sticker Book* was published by Thames and Hudson and *Paper Angels* was published by Bloomsbury. Emma is currently developing and writing several new books and films. She lives in Brixton with her partner and two children.
Rosie Brooks is a versatile illustrator with many prestigious clients including the Royal Opera House Learning Department. Her work has been published across Europe, Asia and South America, and she is published in the UK by OUP, Hodder and Michael O’Mara. Rosie lives in Central London, and is looking forward to her first solo exhibition at Black’s Club in Soho, later in the year.

Agent: Lesley Pollinger
Born in Islington, North London, Peter grew up wanting to be, first, a vet, then a gymnast, then an artist. Oh! And he also wanted to join a circus but couldn’t find one that had fallen apart! Peter has also written over 60 children’s books.
Born in Wigan, now residing in Manchester, Brian is a freelance writer, artist, playwright and occasional professional actor. He studied for a BA Hons degree in English Literature and Art at the University of Liverpool. His writings and illustrations have been published in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, *Green World* (the magazine of the UK Green Party) and *Starburst Magazine*. He has provided prominent illustrations for Chester Gateway Theatre, and ITV1’s ‘Martina Cole’s Lady Killers’.

Agent: Lesley Pollinger
MERVYN PEAKE

TREASURE ISLAND/ DR Jekyll & MR HYDE/ HOUSEHOLD TALES by THE BROTHERS GRIMM

‘In these drawings fear, terror, evil and humour are captured, and transfixed’ The Glasgow Herald of Treasure Island (1949)

Mervyn Peake’s famous illustrations of these best-loved classics have touched and thrilled generations of children and continue to do so today.

Agent: Camilla Shestopal

Rights sold:
UK and US: British Library Publishing (Grimms Fairy tales; Ride a Cock Horse and Other Nursery Rhymes)
UK: Bloomsbury (Alice in Wonderland)
Korean: Company of Books (Treasure Island)
Russian: Eksmo (Alice in Wonderland)

Born of British parents in China in 1911, Mervyn Peake was an acclaimed writer, artist, poet and illustrator. He is best known for his Gormenghast books (three works conceived as part of a cycle, the completion of which was halted by his death).
ESTATES and BACKLIST
JALNA

Jalna was the first of the “Whiteoaks” novels to appear, although it stands fifth in the time sequence of the saga. It was an immediate and spectacular success, introducing Adeline Whiteoak, the indomitable old grandmother; Piers, who has caused a tumult by marrying Pheasant without consulting the family; Eden, the poet, with his strange American wife, Alayne; and a host of other wonderful characters, old and young.

Each of the “Whiteoaks” novels is a complete and satisfying story in its own right - together they present one of the most remarkable literary achievements of the century.

The Jalna series has sold more than eleven million copies in 193 English and 92 foreign editions. In 1935, the film Jalna, based on the novel, was released by RKO Radio Pictures and, in 1972, a CBC television series was produced based on the series.

Mazo de la Roche (January 15, 1879 – July 12, 1961), was born in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada and was the author of the Jalna novels, one of the most popular series of books of her time. Her books became best-sellers and she wrote 16 novels in the series known as the Jalna series or the Whiteoak Chronicles. Known for creating unforgettable characters that come to life for her readers, Mazo de la Roche, is truly an icon of Canadian literature.
GRIMBLE AT CHRISTMAS by Clement Freud
Illustrated by Quentin Blake

‘Grimble is one of funniest books I’ve ever read, and Grimble himself, who is a small boy, is a fabulous character. I’d love to see a Grimble film’ J. K. Rowling

‘I read it when I was about eight. It was the first book that made me laugh out loud, a lot’ Mark Mills, author of The Savage Garden

‘Delightful’ The Times

‘This beautiful small-format hardback with appropriately zany Quentin Blake illustrations could be popped into the stocking of anyone with a Dahlesque sense of humour’ Glasgow Herald

‘With Quentin Blake’s wonderful drawings throughout, this is a splendid holiday title and it conveys, in a deliciously amusing way, an important message about Christmas and family ties’ Through The Looking Glass

A wonderfully funny, classic story written by the well-known writer, broadcaster and former politician Clement Freud. Illustrated throughout by Quentin Blake.

Ten-year-old Grimble is worried. His parents are not very organized and they seem to have completely forgotten Christmas. Grimble tries his hardest to make the old Grimbles remember - dropping lots of hints, humming Christmas carols round the house and pointing out turkeys and Christmas puddings in the shops. But, with only nine days to go, Grimble decides there is only one thing to do... Arrange Christmas himself...

Sir Clement Raphael Freud (24 April 1924 – 15 April 2009) was an English broadcaster, writer, politician and chef. He was the grandson of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud and the brother of artist Lucian Freud. In 1968, he wrote the children’s book Grimble, followed by a sequel, Grimble at Christmas, six years later.
COCOS GOLD by Ralph Hammond

‘The narrative gathers and sweeps away in its momentum all the echoes of Robert Louis Stevenson and Arthur Ransome that ever buzzed in a critic’s head. The book is original, alive in its own right’ *Times Literary Supplement*

Johnny Keverne is sailing as a cabin boy on the Sally McGrew and his course has been altered to Cocos Island. Hidden deep within the jungle of this treacherous island lies all the gold of the Incas - the world’s richest treasure. Countless expeditions have tried, and failed, to unearth these riches, but Johnny secretly possesses a vital map showing the exact burial place of the loot.

When news of this map leaks out, treasure fever seizes the minds of the murderous crew. But Johnny is not interested in the treasure, he only wants to fulfil the promise he made to a man wrongly accused of mutiny - a promise which leads him with the crew of cut-throats to the terrors of Cocos Island.

SARACEN’S TOWER by Ralph Hammond

A boat is a thing to dream about. Unbelievably, young Steve Garnet finds himself aboard The Maid, a fifteen-ton ketch, plunged into an adventure that takes him to Tangier and then into the Mediterranean.

The Maid comes to grief on a treacherous reef, and then follows the most exciting, the most desperate part of the mission, inside an ancient Saracen’s tower, with deadly enemies a threat to their lives and plans.

Hammond Innes (Ralph Hammond) was a British novelist who wrote over 30 novels, as well as children’s and travel books. In WWII he served in the Royal Artillery, eventually rising to the rank of Major. Unusually for the thriller genre, Innes’ protagonists were often not "heroes" in the typical sense, but ordinary men suddenly thrust into extreme situations by circumstance.
DAUGHTER OF STORMS

Born during a double eclipse of the moons, Shar Tillmer is gifted with special powers. Though she is unaware of her heritage, she is of great value to others, who patiently lie waiting for such a soul. And as Shar starts to realise her gift, the terror begins.

KEEPERS OF LIGHT

With her special abilities, Shar is driven to unlock the secrets of the Maze, a magical gateway through time. The Maze gives her the power to right an old wrong – but also to change the course of history. As she faces its many terrifying dimensions, will the Maze lead Shar into deadly temptation?

THE DARK CALLER

Shar has a unique power – to harness good spirits, and to destroy anyone who threatens her. But now someone wants revenge. Lured into a web of terror and deceit, can Shar defy the forces that threaten her once again? And will the gods be on her side this time?

Louise Cooper (29 May 1952-21 October 2009) was a British fantasy writer who was born in Hertfordshire. She became a prolific writer of fantasy. She published more than eighty fantasy and supernatural novels, both for adults and children.
THE BEAST

Winner of the Raring2Read category in the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards 2013

The remote and dramatically beautiful Scottish valley seems like the perfect spot for a family holiday but as soon as Amanda arrives she can’t help feeling something is wrong. No-one listens to her fears, even when she sees mysterious shadows on the mountainside and strange scratches on her brother Grant’s back. Soon Amanda and Grant are locked in a deadly battle with the terror that is stalking the Valley of the Shadows.

THE REAWAKENING

The peace of the valley is shattered when a team of ghost-hunters arrive, intent on tracking down the vicious spirit of a sabre-toothed tiger, rumoured to have attacked two children. Daniel is sceptical - he only joined his dad on the trip for fun - but then he starts having strange paranormal experiences. It seems that the beast has returned and the hunters are to become the hunted.

RAMPAGE

The haunting Beast trilogy climaxes in a terrifying tale of a battle beyond the grave. When strange tremors shake the earth and buildings are mysteriously crushed near an excavation of mammoth remains, Jack is the only one who realizes that the events might be connected. But how can he possibly stop a ghostly rogue mammoth on the rampage? Disturbed from his eternal sleep in the nearby Valley of Shadows, the spirit of a sabre-toothed tiger known as the Beast is about to face the battle of his afterlife.

Ann’s first successful novel was a Hippo Mystery called Cry Danger with Scholastic. Another five books followed with Scholastic. Ann has also had a trilogy published by Usborne – The Beast, The Reawakening and Rampage. Since then she’s written a non-fiction illustrated book called, A Children’s History of Coventry and her latest book is a children’s horror story, The Truck, published by Penguin in their Eerie series.
CHANDRA by Frances Mary Hendry

Best Children's Book of 1995 - The Writer's Guild of Great Britain

Children's Book of the Year, 1996 - Lancashire County Libraries

'Not only a gripping tale, but a valuable reminder that tradition will everywhere hold its power' The Observer

Chandra, at 11, is a modern girl, looking forward to a happy future with her new young husband. But when she goes to visit him in the next school holidays, she's appalled to find he is dead, and her dreams are shattered. She is a prisoner away out in the desert, bound to widow slavery for the rest of her life by her family's rigid Hindu tradition. With help from many quarters - an old widow woman, her progressive grandmother, school friends, a low-caste farmer, the goddess Durga, and a tricky-dicky businessman - and using all her courage and ingenuity, she struggles for freedom.

Frances Hendry lives in a small town on the shore of the Moray Firth in Scotland, with an invisible Siamese cat. Both her first 2 books won awards from the Scottish Arts Council, and a later one was chosen by New York Public Libraries as one of its best 100 books. So she must be doing something right.
CHILDREN'S FICTION

THE FOLLYFOOT SERIES by Monica Dickens

FOLLYFOOT

At Follyfoot Farm, the Colonel looks after old and ill-treated horses, helped by his stepdaughter, Callie, and two stablehands, Dora and Steve. Life can never be dull for young Callie or her family. There is always so much to do on the farm – tending unwanted horses, providing mounts for film companies, schooling ponies, helping unlucky holidaymakers and keeping a wary eye on the unscrupulous owners of the Pinecrest riding stables…

DORA AT FOLLYFOOT

The Colonel, owner of Follyfoot, the Home of Rest for Horses, has been ill and has to go away to convalesce. Dora and Steve are left in charge, with the strict instruction, 'Don't buy any horses'. But when Dora sees the rangy, cream-coloured lame horse, Amigo, she is determined to save him from spending his last days pulling a heavy log-cart - even if it means borrowing money from sly Ron Stryker. But to pay Ron back, someone from Follyfoot must win the Moonlight Pony Steeplechase…

THE HORSES OF FOLLYFOOT

Dora is invited out to America to help set up a home of rest for horses. When she leaves and is given a horse to take back to Follyfoot, she can’t believe her luck. But once they’re home things start to go badly wrong. One of the horses falls ill. And it looks like the same epidemic that is sweeping America… Has Dora’s horse brought the disease to England?

Monica was born in London in 1915, the great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens. While her father and grandfather pursued the legal profession which was Charles Dickens first career, his great-granddaughter followed in his literary steps. Her light and witty novels became hugely popular in their time for being “funny, poignant and perfect period pieces” The Sunday Telegraph.
Eric Linklater (1899–1974) wrote scores of novels for adults and children. He was also a journalist in India, commander of a wartime fortress in the Orkney Islands, and rector of Aberdeen University.

THE WIND ON THE MOON by Eric Linklater

Winner of the Carnegie Medal

‘Eric Linklater is not primarily a novelist, or an essayist or a dramatist. He is above all else an enchanting prose poet. These fragments of wonderful singing prose are scattered all over his books, and through them English literature is permanently enriched’ George Mackay Brown

In the English village of Midmeddlecum, Major Palfrey asks his two daughters to behave themselves while he’s off at war.

Dinah sighs, ‘I think that we are quite likely to be bad, however hard we try not to be,’ and her sister Dorinda adds helpfully, ‘Very often, when we think we are behaving well, some grown-up person says we are really quite bad. It’s difficult to tell which is which.’

Sure enough, the mischievous sisters soon convince a judge that minds must be changed as often as socks, they stage an escape from a local zoo (thanks to a witch’s potion which turns them into kangaroos), and – in the company of a golden puma and a silver falcon – set off to rescue their father from the tyrant of Bombardy.

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Mary O’Hara (1885—1980) was born in Cape May Point, New Jersey. She was the third child of four born to the Reverend Dr. Reese Fell Alsop, an Episcopal clergyman, and Mary Lee Spring. She grew up in Brooklyn Heights, New York. In 1905 she married Kent Kane Parrot and moved to California where she became a screenwriter during the silent film era. Her second marriage to Heige Sture-Vasa, in 1922, took her to Wyoming, and there she wrote the three classics about the range country: My Friend Flicka, Thunderhead and, Green Grass of Wyoming.
Margery Sharp was born in 1905, and died in 1991. She is best known for her books for children, but she also wrote for adults. She was a prolific writer in her long career: twenty-six novels for adults, fourteen stories for children, four plays, two mysteries, as well as numerous short stories.

THE RESCUERS

‘Margery Sharp is an adept describer of situations; whether comic or merely piquant, embarrassing or exciting. Her dialogue is brilliant, uncannily true. Her taste is excellent: she is an excellent story teller’ Tatler

Bianca and Bernard, agents for The Prisoners’ Aid Society of Mice, rescue prisoners and outwit villains in this enchanting story, made world-famous by the Walt Disney film.

The Prisoners’ Aid Society of Mice discusses the proposed rescue of a Norwegian poet from the terrible Black Castle. Miss Bianca, the pet white mouse belonging to the Ambassador’s son, is sent to Norway on a mission to recruit the bravest Norwegian mouse she can find. She finds Nils, and brings him back triumphantly. Then she, Nils, and Bernard, a pantry mouse who falls in love with her, set off for the Black Castle.

They set up home in a mouse-hole in the Chief Jailer’s room, and narrowly avoid the jaws of Mamelouk the cruel Persian cat. Eventually they trick the cat and the jailer, and get into the prisoner’s cell.

A dramatic rescue via an underground river, and they are all free – and the Nils and Miss Bianca medal for bravery is struck in the mice’s honour!

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Catherine Storr (21 July 1913 – 8 January 2001) was an English author best known for her novel *Marianne Dreams* and for the series of books about a wolf ineptly pursuing a young girl, beginning with *Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf*. Married to psychologist Anthony Storr for over 20 years, her books often involve children confronting their fears.

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**POLLY AND THE WOLF SERIES by Catherine Storr**

**CLEVER POLLY AND THE STUPID WOLF**

Top of the children’s best-seller list

‘The stories were every bit as brilliant as I remembered’ *The Guardian*

Once upon a time the front door bell rang and Polly went to open the door. There was a great black wolf who said he had come to eat her up. This collection of stories feature a wolf trying to catch a little girl: the wolf takes his always impractical subterfuges from fairy tales, but is outmatched by Polly every time.

**POLLY AND THE WOLF AGAIN**

The stupid wolf is still trying to outwit clever Polly. And his disguise as Father Christmas nearly works! But by now even Polly's little sister Lucy is a match for him.

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Agent: Camilla Shestopal

Publisher: Puffin

Page extent: 96; 96

Publication: September 2007; April 2011, July 2015

Rights sold:
Chinese (Shanghai Gaotan Culture Co. Ltd)
Korean (Bir Publishing Co. Ltd.)
Slovenian (Kud Sodobnost Int.)
Taiwanese (The Eastern Publishing Co.)
US (New York Review of Books)

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PANGUR BAN

‘A breathless, tumbling fantasy that blends traditional symbols with Celtic folklore and a wildly joyful redemption/resurrection motif in an action-packed tale’ The Guardian

The white cat, Pangur Ban, and the artist-monk Niall are thrown together in a ship with the bloodthirsty Princess Finnglas. In a moment of anger and accident, they have just killed her brother. They are swept out to sea and plunge down to the realm of the Sea-Witch and the monster Pengoggen.

With Niall imprisoned and Finnglas on the point of death, Pangur races to rescue them. He must find Arthmael. But where is he? And who is he?

FINNGLAS OF THE HORSES

Finnglas has lost her beloved horse Melisant under the waves. She sets out to search for her, with the monk Niall and the white cat Pangur. When they find a golden ship afloat without a crew, they think it will help them. Instead, it carries them into great danger. How will they escape the cruel king, the evil Rhymester and the terrifying soldiers who turn into wolves?

Fay Sampson has had 24 children’s books published, 13 adult titles and 4 non-fiction history books. Fay loves living in her 16th-century cottage in her home county of Devon, where she pursues her hobbies of rambling, Celtic and Arthurian history and family research. She is married to Jack Priestley, and they have two grown-up children.
Vera Chapman (1898—1996)(née Fogarty) grew up in South Africa until the end of the First World War, when she became a student at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. She was one of the first women to matriculate as a full member of Oxford University, and almost immediately scandalised the college by going for an unchaperoned walk with her fiancé. Shortly after graduating she married a clergyman and moved to Africa where he worked as a missionary.
CAPTAIN SLAUGHTERBOARD DROPS ANCHOR by Mervyn Peake

‘Peake’s books are actual additions to life; they give, like certain rare dreams, sensations we have never had before, and enlarge our conception of the range of the possible experience’ C.S. Lewis

Captain Slaughterboard is the most ferocious and wicked pirate you could ever imagine. He likes nothing better than cutting people up with his cutlass or making them walk the plank.

Then one day, on a remote island, he spies a strange Yellow Creature – and from that time on, he’s a changed man. How he loves the Yellow Creature! They become the best of friends, always together, sailing the oceans. But will Captain Slaughterboard ever drop anchor for good?

Born of British parents in China in 1911, Mervyn Peake was an acclaimed writer, artist, poet and illustrator. He is best known for his *Gormenghast* books (three works conceived as part of a cycle, the completion of which was halted by his death, 1968).
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