

An illustration of a child with short, reddish-brown hair, wearing a light pink long-sleeved shirt and light green pants, sitting cross-legged and reading a purple book. The child is positioned in the lower half of the frame. A large, flowing, orange and red comet-like tail or nebula curves around the child from the left. A small black cat is curled up on the ground next to the child's feet. The background is a dark, starry space filled with numerous small, multi-colored stars (orange, yellow, blue, and purple). In the upper left corner, a stylized, yellow and orange sun or star with a face is visible, along with a small, yellow, bird-like figure flying nearby.

# AUTUMN 2023 RIGHTS GUIDE



ROCKET BIRD BOOKS

## Grandad's Star

by Frances Tosdevin and Rhian Stone



Pub 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 • HB • 3+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-10-8 • £12.99  
275 x 235mm • 32pp • silver foil  
*World Rights Available*



**What if your guide to the cosmos starts to forget his way?**

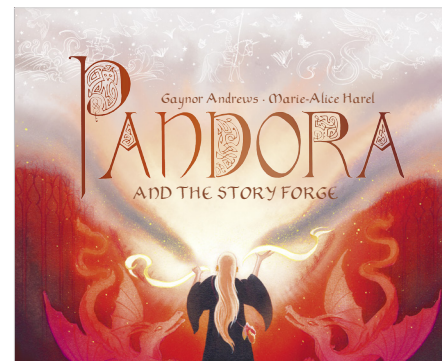
Grandad's a famous astronomer, and one little girl's personal guide to the cosmos. But then he starts to forget his star stories. Eventually he can't even remember her name. A story that proves love can reach across galaxies (and generations).

- Poetic storytelling from rising star Tosdevin that demands to be read aloud.
- Gentle touch shows the emotional upheaval when a family member has dementia.
- By continuing to share the things they love, granddaughter and grandad connect again.
- Introducing exciting new illustration talent Rhian Stone

**Frances** has published only two picture books but already been shortlisted for five prestigious UK prizes. **Location:** London, UK. **Rhian** is a self-taught artist who grew up on a diet of magic, folklore and myth. This is her debut book. **Location:** Kent, UK.

## Pandora and the Story Forge

by Gaynor Andrews and Marie-Alice Harel



Pub 5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024 • HB • 4+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-17-7 • £12.99  
210 x 260mm • 32pp • bronze foil  
*World Rights Available*



**Discover the magic of finding words and forging stories.**

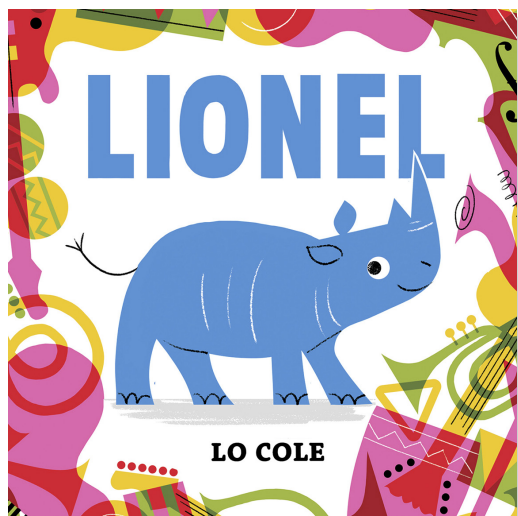
Pandora is an explorer, a collector of words (even the ones that misbehave), a forger of stories and weaver of tales. Come with her and you will never see words in quite the same way again.

- Feel the power of words in the palm of your hand as storytelling comes alive
- Introducing debut wordsmith Gaynor Andrews
- Award-winner Marie-Alice Harel illustrated the Folio Society's *Howl's Moving Castle*.
- Cover features bronze foil and text replaced with pantone throughout inside

**Gaynor** grew up in Wales and has taught around the world, both of which influenced this adept debut. **Location:** Scotland, UK. **Marie-Alice** is French and trained as a scientist before beginning her award-winning illustration career. **Location:** Edinburgh, UK.

## Lionel

by Lo Cole



Pub 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-21-4 • £12.99  
250 x 250mm • 32pp • spot gloss  
*World rights available.*

The only thing bigger than Lionel is his enthusiasm to join in!

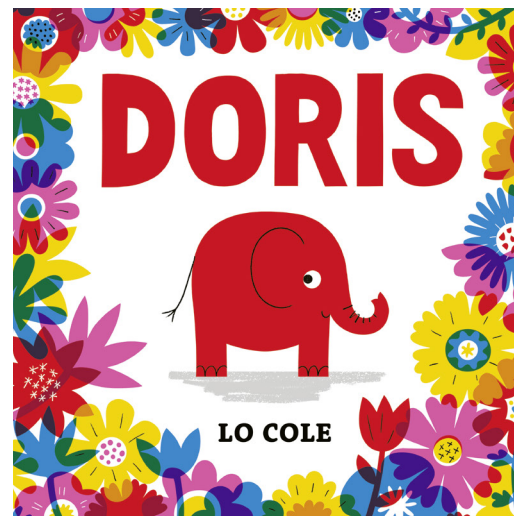
Lionel loves joining in with what his friends are doing – but he’s so huge his enthusiasm leads to disaster. Only when he seeks out a quiet space does Lionel discover he just might be the world’s greatest rhinocer-raft!

- Second title from visual storytelling supremo Cole
- A book for every child who leaps before they look
- Clumsy Lionel tears a hole in the page (actual hole in paper!)
- Kids big or small for their age will identify with huge Lionel or tiny Ladybird



## Doris

by Lo Cole



Pub 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2023 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-05-4 • £12.99  
250 x 250mm • 32pp • spot gloss  
*Rights sold: Brazil, France, Germany, Korea, Netherlands, North America, Portugal, Spain.*

What if you longed to blend in but were born to stand out?

Being a bright red elephant, Doris is VERY easy to spot. Can you see her? Exactly. But she dreams of losing herself in a colourful crowd. Come along as one little elephant comes to appreciate being herself.

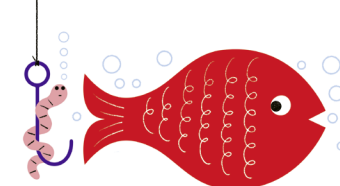
- She finds self-confidence in the strangest places
- Spotting Doris and the little worm throughout the story will hook pre-readers
- “Stop looking at me!” is a familiar child-like refrain



@lo\_cole

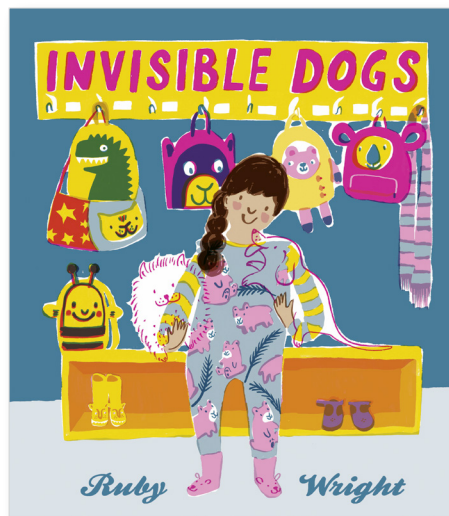


Lo is a regular contributor to *The Guardian* and *The Economist*. His dad was a children’s writer and his mum an illustrator. Lo’s first book, *We Want a Dog*, was selected for the SOI’s New York exhibition. **Location:** Gloucestershire, UK.



## Invisible Dogs

by Ruby Wright



Pub 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-06-1 • £12.99  
280 x 240mm • 32pp • neon pantone  
*Rights sold: China*

Starting school is tough, but Ida is going to get some pet power.

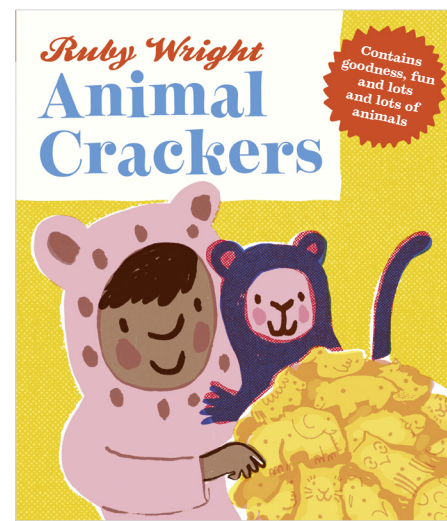
At her new school Ida feels like the odd one out. Luckily her grandpa knows exactly the game to cheer her up... it just happens to lead to canine chaos! Can Ida share her imaginative inner life and make new friends?

- Reassuring nerves about those first days starting school
- Dogs are only visible to us and Ida, so readers are in on the joke as they cause chaos
- Packed with humour: invisible dog poo smells of roses... but scooping it makes you late for school!
- Neon pink ink throughout the book brings the invisible world to life gloriously



## Animal Crackers

by Ruby Wright



Pub 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-01-6 • £12.99  
280x240mm • 32pp • spot gloss  
*Rights sold: French Canada, China*

Maisie's wish for a pet comes true in the funniest, stinkiest way!

Mum says their flat's too small for a pet, but Maisie doesn't agree. When a magic packet of animal crackers makes Maisie's dream come true, will it be everything she hoped? The debut of the year from an exciting new talent.

- Reflects reality of single-parent families in flats with warmth and humour
- Wish-fulfilment followed by the smelly reality!
- Includes funny animal facts (don't stand behind a penguin)
- Mum's wildlife wall-collage is heartwarming parental ingenuity



@rubywrightlino

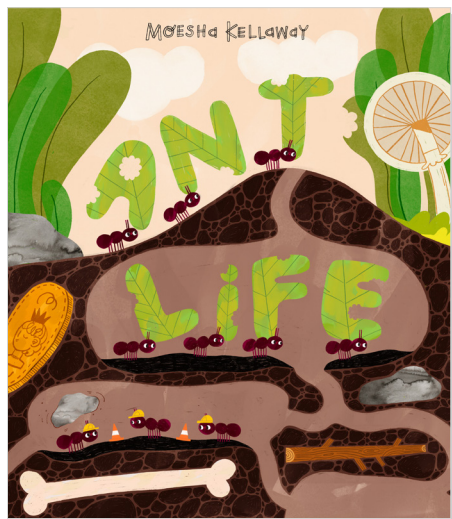
**Ruby** studied sculpture, which influences her illustrations but doesn't explain why she plays the musical saw. She lives in a flat with her Mr, two very funny children and absolutely no pets, not even invisible ones. **Location:** London, UK.



DEBUT BOOK

## Ant Life

by Moesha Kellaway



Pub 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024 • HB • 3+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-20-7 • £12.99  
280 x 240mm • 32pp • spot gloss  
*World Rights Available*

### Whoever heard of a worker ant who does not have a job?

Twin worker ants Anita and Anya need jobs. At the colony job fair, they discover the jobs in and out of the anthill, but none appeal. So they set off around the world, sending back news about amazing ants they meet. It's their perfect job: roving ant-reporters!

- New series combining story with non-fiction facts
- Eye-opening look at the world of creatures we step on
- Discover the world of ants from their perspective
- Ants are builders, nurses, cleaners, soldiers, farmers and even boats!
- Find out the facts about ant's skills and spectacular qualities



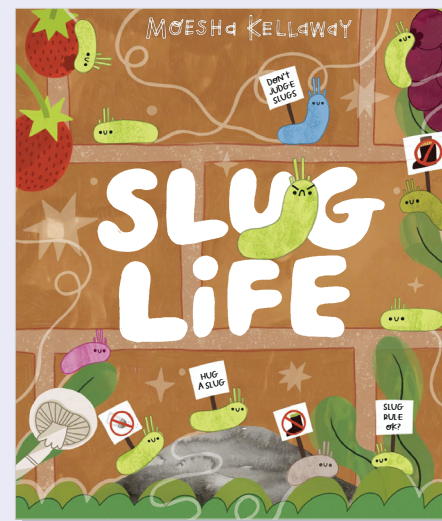
@moesha.kellaway

**Moesha's** work is the perfect mix of detail and humour. She draws inspiration from her childhood in Somerset, her love of nature, people watching, and exploring the outdoors. *Slug Life* is her debut book. **Location:** London, UK.



## Slug Life

by Moesha Kellaway



Pub 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2024 • HB • 3+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-09-2 • £12.99  
280 x 240mm • 32pp • spot gloss  
*Rights sold: Spain*

### Meet Stevie, the world's grumpiest slug, and find out why

Being called "Pest!" "Gross!" and "Ew!" by humans made slug Stevie super-grumpy, so his mum sends him to Slug Self-Esteem class, where he discovers why he and his slimy\* kin are actually kind of amazing. (\*It's not slime, it's liquid crystal!)

- New series combining story with non-fiction facts
- Explodes our preconceptions about slugs
- Discover the world of slugs from their perspective
- Stevie is so grumpy he's hilarious, capturing the hearts of little readers
- Find out the facts about slugs' skills and spectacular qualities (yes, they have them)
- Spot UV slug trail cover



DEBUT BOOK



## Sam Francisco, King of the Disco

by Sarah Tagholm and Binny Talib



Discover the toe-tapping reason why cats sleep all day!

Tonight is superstar DJ Sam Francisco's party, but not everyone is happy. When Buzzkill Bill tries to shut it down, Sam uses music to win over dogs, pest control and even the police!

Pub 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-03-0 • £12.99  
240 x 280mm • 32pp • silver foil  
Rights sold: Australia, French Canada, North America

- Rising star Tagholm's rhymes are irresistably toe-tapping
- Unforgettable Bowie-esque Sam Francisco

- Discover musical genres as each adversary loves something different, from jazz to techno!

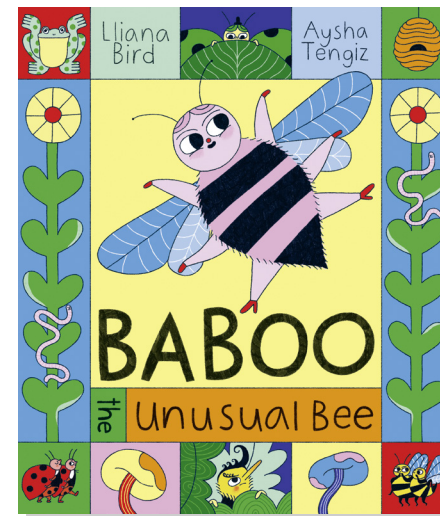


**Sarah** lives by the sea with her family and cat, Envelope, whose nocturnal adventures inspired the story. **Location:** Cornwall, UK.  
**Binny** creates fantastic books for kids and fabulous wallpaper for grown-ups. **Location:** Sydney, Australia.



## Baboo the Unusual Bee

by Lliana Bird and Aysha Tengiz



Whoever heard of a hip-hop loving, bright pink bee?

The only pink bee, Baboo dances alone. But then he meets green ladybird Lee. When he shares his dancing skills and they perform together, the other creatures realise they can show off their differences too.

Pub 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-04-7 • £12.99  
275 x 235mm • 32pp • spot gloss  
World Rights Available

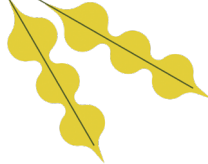
- Celebrate our differences – you are special being you!
- Challenges pink gender-stereotypes in this LGBTQ+ positive story
- Dream-team debut by artist Tengiz and writer/director/actress and radio DJ Birdy
- Endpaper of bee facts to inspire readers to help bees in their own garden



**Lliana** is a writer/director/actress/podcaster/DJ and founder of two charities (phew!). She happens to also be hilarious.  
**Aysha's** work has been featured in the *New York Times* and *Anorak* magazine. *Baboo* is their debut book. **Location:** both London, UK.

# Can I Come Too?

by Owen Davey



**Just because you're older, doesn't mean you know better.**

Teddy is off to catch fish and Cub wants to come too. But little cubs get in the way. Luckily, they also look at things differently and can surprise you. Join Cub and Teddy on their hilarious and heartwarming sibling adventure.

Pub 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 • HB • 2+ years  
ISBN 978-1-915395-00-9 • £12.99  
250 x 260mm • 32pp • debossed cover  
*Rights sold: Denmark, Netherlands, France, Italy, French Canada*



- Spot-on depiction of sibling dynamics
- Davey is the creator of international best-selling About Animals series
- Davey has an instagram following of over 200k

**Owen** is a celebrated non-fiction creator with an international following. He is also dad to two superb girls. Watching his younger daughter wanting to play with her sister, no matter the game, inspired this story. **Location:** Worthing, UK.



## Rocket Bird Books

Turning children into booklovers before they can read a word.

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