

Little Island Books

Rights Catalogue 2025



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About Little Island Books

Little Island was founded in 2010 by Ireland's first children's laureate, Siobhán Parkinson, with a mission to publish the best new writing for young readers. Since then our books have gained a global reputation and won many awards.

We publish about 15 books per year. While we have deep roots in Ireland we distribute and market throughout the English-speaking world, and we love to see our books find new audiences around the globe. Little Island books can be found translated into languages as varied as Chinese, Czech, Spanish and, of course, Irish.

All the books in this catalogue are available for international translation as well as adaptation for screen or stage. If you would like to learn more about any of these books, or about Little Island as a company, don't hesitate to write to us at **rights@littleisland.ie**.



@little_island_books



@LittleIslandBks



@littleislandbks

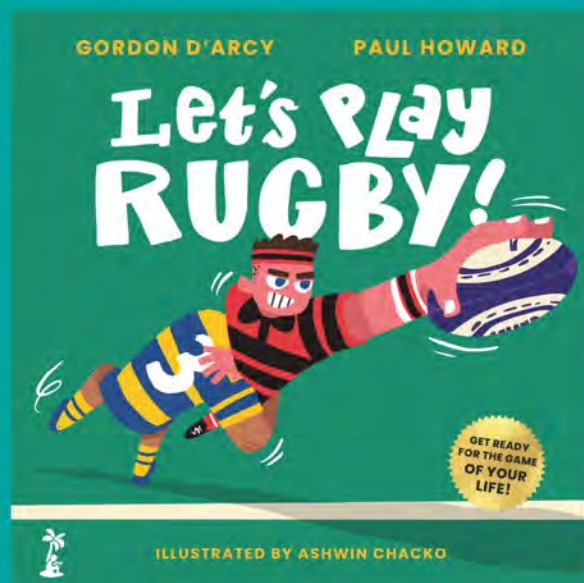


@littleislandbooks.bsky.social

New Titles



Little
Island



Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date:

Format:

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About the Authors

Gordon D'Arcy is a retired rugby player who won two Six Nations medals with Ireland, three Heineken Cups with Leinster and toured with the British and Irish Lions.

Paul Howard is best known for the bestselling Ross O'Carroll-Kelly series, which has sold over a million copies. He is a former Irish Sports Journalist of the Year. His previous children's books include the Gordon's Game and Aldrin Adams series, both published by Puffin.

About the Illustrator

Ashwin Chacko is a positively playful award-winning, author-illustrator and motivational speaker.

Let's Play Rugby!

by Gordon D'Arcy and Paul Howard

Illustrated by Ashwin Chacko

A heart-stopping interactive picturebook that encourages children to get up and moving.

Let's Play Rugby! puts the reader in the boots of a young player navigating a rugby match, inviting them to throw the book over their head for a lineout, push against the opposition pack in the scrum, and weave their fingers through players to score a try.



Sales Points:

Interactive storytelling puts young readers at the heart of the action

Authors with 'skin the game':

Gordon D'Arcy won two Six Nations medals with Ireland, and Paul Howard's books have sold over a million copies

Playfully illustrated by **award-winning illustrator** Ashwin Chacko



COVER TO COME

Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date:

Format:

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

The Experimenters

Luke and Ruby's Scientific Sleepover

by Shane Bergin

illustrated by Sayani Mukherjee

An interactive picture book filled with cozy scientific experiments

Ever wondered how boats float? Or which birds gather in your garden? Do you know what makes the perfect cake a perfect cake? Or how to make your own musical instrument? When Luke and Ruby head to Nanny and Grandad's house for their mid-term break, they discover their grandparents' old science notebooks. But it turns out that science isn't only about blowing things up! With the help of Nanny and Grandad, they discover the role science plays in the world around them, whether that be birdwatching, telephone making, plant growing and beyond. They write all of it down in their new science notebook.

But what about the reader? Shouldn't they be doing this stuff too? Author Dr Shane thinks so. Interspersed between Luke and Ruby's cozy scientific adventures, is the reader's very own 'how to' science notebook. Filled with facts, hints and suggestions it encourages our young scientists to roll up their sleeves and give Luke and Ruby's experiments a go. Readers will be immersed in a world of science and discovery that is accessible right on their doorstep.

About Shane Bergin

Dr Shane is a scientist. He loves to use his imagination, to do experiments and play, and to figure out how the world works. He works at University College Dublin where he does research and teaches students who enjoy science. He and his students run a science and music programme for children with the National Concert Hall called Quavers to Quadratics. In 2022, Shane and his friend Declan wrote Peigi's Adventures in Science, illustrated by Steve McCarthy.



Sales Points

- **A unique blend of fiction and non-fiction:** Dr Shane Bergin combines storytelling and practical experiments to make this a **fully immersive learning experience**.



The Cloud Kingdom

by
Máire Zepf
Illustrated by Mr Ando

6+

An archipelago of interconnecting short stories and fables filled with the fantastical and a love of the craft of storytelling

When Nancy's cat Pangur is stolen by the Faery people, she finds herself striking a deal like no other: she is now the one-and-only storyteller for the Faery Kingdom. So starts Máire Zepf's enchanting story collection, reminiscent of fairytales and fables of past and present, but entirely new.

From ghost dragons to magical hats and a dream-weaving giantess, these are tales that awaken the senses and manage to connect with each other in a way reminiscent of 1001 Arabian Nights, perfect for voracious readers and bedtime story consumers alike.

Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date:

Format:

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About Máire Zepf

Máire Zepf has written 16 books for children, from picture books to a YA verse novel. Winner of the KPMG/CBI Children's Book of the Year, 5 LAI Children's Book Awards and 2 international White Ravens among many others. Her books appear in 10 languages worldwide.

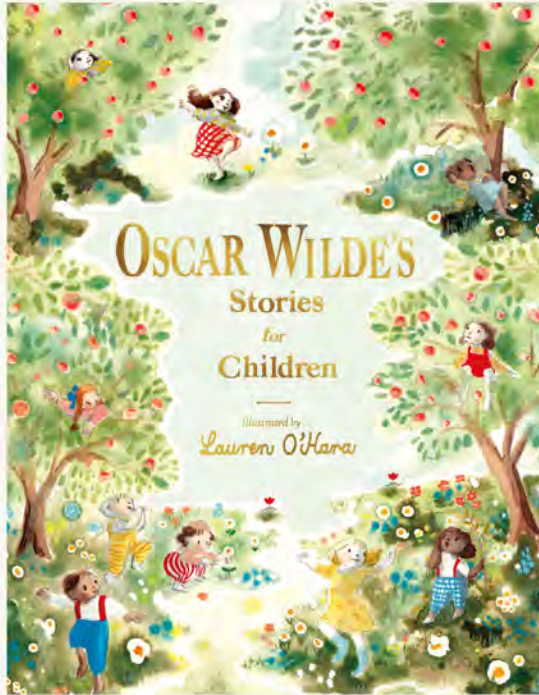
About Mr Ando

Andrew Whitson is an award-winning artist, author, publisher, and Belfast native. Andrew has illustrated over thirty books, the most recent of which is the award-winning Rita series of picture books with Máire Zepf.

Sales Points:

- **Stunning hardback gift edition** including **full colour illustrations**
- The author draws on a rich tradition of **Irish storytelling** and the illustrator studied traditions of illustrating fairy folk to inform his artwork.
- The **English language debut** by the leading, **award-winning Irish-language children's author** and creator of acclaimed TV programmes *Lí Ban* and *Rita*





Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date:

Format:

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

Rights Sold : Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, s

About Lauren O'Hara

LAUREN O'HARA is a Dublin-based illustrator, originally from the north of England. As well as collaborating with her writer sister, Natalia, on *Once Upon a Fairytale* and *Hortense and the Shadow* she has illustrated books by Sophie Dahl, Vivian French, and with the Royal Opera House. Lauren has three times been nominated for the CILIP Kate Greenaway award. Her book *Madame Badobedah* with author Sophie Dahl was the Guardian's book of the year, and *Frindleswylde* by Natalia O'Hara was awarded the Children's Books Ireland Illustration Honour award. She lives in a converted church in Dublin with her partner and assorted ghosts.

Oscar Wilde's Stories for Children

illustrated by Lauren O'Hara

Oscar Wilde's classic stories for children in a stunning new collection illustrated by the award-winning Lauren O'Hara

In 1888, the famous Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde, published a collection of bedtime stories for children. *Oscar Wilde's Stories for Children* is beautifully illustrated throughout and includes six of his most well known stories: "The Happy Prince", "The Nightingale and the Rose", "The Selfish Giant", "The Devoted Friend", "The Remarkable Rocket" and "The Young King". Lauren O'Hara's delicate yet powerful full-colour illustrations bring these classic stories to life for readers of all ages.



Sales Points:

- A long-awaited new edition of a **children's classic** by one of **Ireland's most famous writers**.
- A **unique gift edition** with full colour illustrations, hardback format and ribbon bookmark, will be treasured for generations to come



THE NIGHTMARE CLUB

Welcome to the Nightmare Club, the sleepover that is definitely not for wimps. Annie Graves is your host, and she only invites guests who can tell really creepy stories.



The Wolfing's Bite

Jessie was nuts about her cute little Wolfing toy. But her brother had heard rumours about Wolfings: they could move without being switched on. They could turn nasty. He even heard that they could bite.

Read it, if you dare – and hang onto your nose!

Publication Details:

Word Count: 2,500 per book

Pub Date:

Format: 198 x 129mm

Help! My Brother's A Zombie!

This is the story Jack told. His older brother Stephen was a great friend... until he started to change.

His smell.

His face.

His friends.

His diet.



Publication Details:

Word Count: 2,500 per book

Pub Date:

Format: 198 x 129mm

“Scary but also funny stories ... illustrated with macabre black ink drawings and the gothic eerie appearance is maintained throughout.”

– Books Ireland Magazine

Rights Sold: English (North America), Turkish, Swedish, Danish, Spanish

BY ANNIE GRAVES



Frankenkids

You've heard of Dr Frankenstein, right? Freaky guy who cobbled together a MONSTER out of bits of people – spare parts, you might say. Well, he's got nothing on Uncle Fraser, who's a real live mad scientist. Meet Fraser's creations in Frankenkids – but don't start snivelling if you're sorry you ever opened this book ... You've been warned!

Publication Details:

Word Count: 2,500 per book

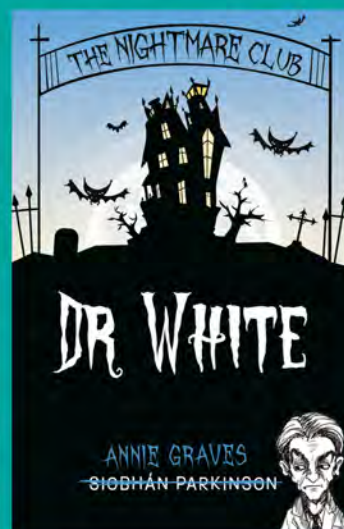
Pub Date:

Format: 198 x 129mm



The Weird Blood Bank

Alex gets taken to the doctor more often than Alex likes. Dr White takes an awful lot of blood samples – so greedy is he for blood that he uses a double syringe and he sends great big bottles of it to the "lab". This makes Alex suspicious – and sure enough, the blood "samples" are not going to a lab at all, but to the blood bank. Alex decides to investigate, and it turns out that the blood bank has been taken over by flocks of white-coated vampires!



Publication Details:

Word Count: 2,500 per book

Pub Date:

Format: 198 x 129mm



Sales Points:

- **Funny stories** with gore and horror that will delight young readers, each unique but linked by a strong framing concept
- **Well suited to older reluctant readers** as well as confident younger readers



Publication Details:

Word Count:
Pub Date: March 2025
Format: 198 x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

Giant

by
Judith McQuoid

Historical fiction based on the Belfast childhood of Narnia author CS Lewis, and his world of imagination and adventure

Davy, a working-class boy living in East Belfast in 1908, is sent to work at the wealthy Lewis household. When he meets Jacks – the name by which CS Lewis was known to friends and family – Davy is captivated by his friend's world of books and stories. Together the boys plunge into imagining and adventuring, and Davy discovers his own artistic talent.

But when Davy is offered a job at the shipyard, and Jacks's mother falls gravely ill, their wondrous days of make believe seem numbered. Will they lose their extraordinary shared world forever?

Sales Points

- **Thoroughly researched** historical novel
- **Deeply inspirational:** carries a beautiful message about the power of creativity
- **A must-read for fans** of The Chronicles of Narnia.

"Clear-eyed and big-hearted."

–Sam Thompson author of the Wolfstongue Saga

About Judith McQuoid

Judith McQuoid was born in Belfast but grew up partly in Texas. She now lives in a small village in Northern Ireland, deep in the countryside but close to the city. Her homeland, its landscapes, and folklore inspire her to write authentic, enchanting stories for young people. Her first middle grade novel, *Giant*, was published by Little Island in 2025.





Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date: April 2025

Format: 198 x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About Gráinne O'Brien

Gráinne O'Brien is a bookseller with Kennys Bookshop, Galway, Ireland. She was a member of the Irish Booksellers Association committee and was named a Bookshop Hero by The Bookseller in 2022.

She is the founder of Rontu Literary Service, an agency dedicated to supporting writers of fiction for children as they seek publication. She completed the MA in Creative Writing from the University of Limerick in 2018 and received Arts Council Agility Awards in 2021 and 2022.

Solo

by
Gráinne O'Brien

Age 14+

A novel in verse about teenage love and friendships, lost and found.

Daisy can feel like a solo act at home. On the outside of her twin brothers' intense relationship, she leans towards her parents, particularly her father, for support. As a passionate classical musician, she is not wildly popular at school, but she has one close friend and a life filled with musical performance.

Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend suddenly breaks up with her, and Daisy is left disconnected from her one true love, music. When she makes a new friend at school, mysterious Flora, Daisy finds a glimmer of peace in her chaotic life. Just as everything seems to be getting better, they all fall apart.

Family tensions heighten as Daisy's dad falls ill and Daisy needs to decide whether to find her way back to who she was or look forward towards who she is going to become.

Sales Points

- Imaginatively structured verse novel: the structure reflects the musical theme
- A moving exploration of teen friendship, relationships, family dynamics and serious illness

**"Solo is a triumph. I absolutely adore it."
– Donal Ryan**



A Fix of Light

by Kel Melton

A trans love story with a dark magical twist, from an astonishing new Irish voice

18-year-old Hanan's life is already complicated enough when he develops a strange new power: his emotions begin to magically manifest in the world around him. Then he meets Pax, a witty 19-year-old trans boy with fox-like features, and an intense romance blossoms.

What Pax doesn't know is that when he touches Hanan, he mutes his new power. Is Hanan's love real, or is he just using Pax?

Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date: February 2025

Format: 198 x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

In their search for the source of Hanan's power, the boys discover Aodhán, a mischievous fey who lives in a forest. Aodhán's truth-telling reveals Pax's own secret: he is a shapeshifter.

The truth threatens to drive the boys apart, but with dangerous forces from his past pursuing him, Pax needs Hanan just as much as Hanan needs him.

Sales Points:

- **Highly relevant** to today's market: **Romantasy** with themes of **gender identity** and **mental health**
- Tropes include: friends to lovers; mutual pining; love is the answer; happy ending; dual POVs
- High literary quality with **awards potential**
- **Major publicity and marketing campaigns** across Ireland, UK and USA

About Kel Melton

Kel Melton (they/them) is a non-binary, neurodivergent writer from Cork in Ireland. Kel works in youth theatre and has written, produced and published a number of plays for teen actors.

They were selected as a Young Writer Delegate for the 2021 Dublin Book Festival. They hold a master's in medieval English from University College Cork. *A Fix of Light* is their first novel.

"An ethereal and mysterious debut."

– Kirkus Reviews

"Will break your heart and heal it all over again."

– Clara Kumagai, author of *Catfish Rolling*

COVER TO COME

Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date: February 2026

Format: 198 x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About Ruth Ennis

Ruth Ennis is a poet and verse-novelist from Kildare, Ireland. She has an MPhil in Children's Literature from Trinity College Dublin and is usually found giving book recommendations or working with books in some capacity. She works as a Book Doctor with Children's Books Ireland and reviews children's books for Inis Magazine and Books Ireland. She is previously published in The Irish Writer's Handbook (Books Ireland) and I Am The Wind: Irish Poems for Children Everywhere (Little Island). She has been awarded a Literature Bursary and an Agility Award from The Arts Council of Ireland.

Shorelines

by Ruth Ennis

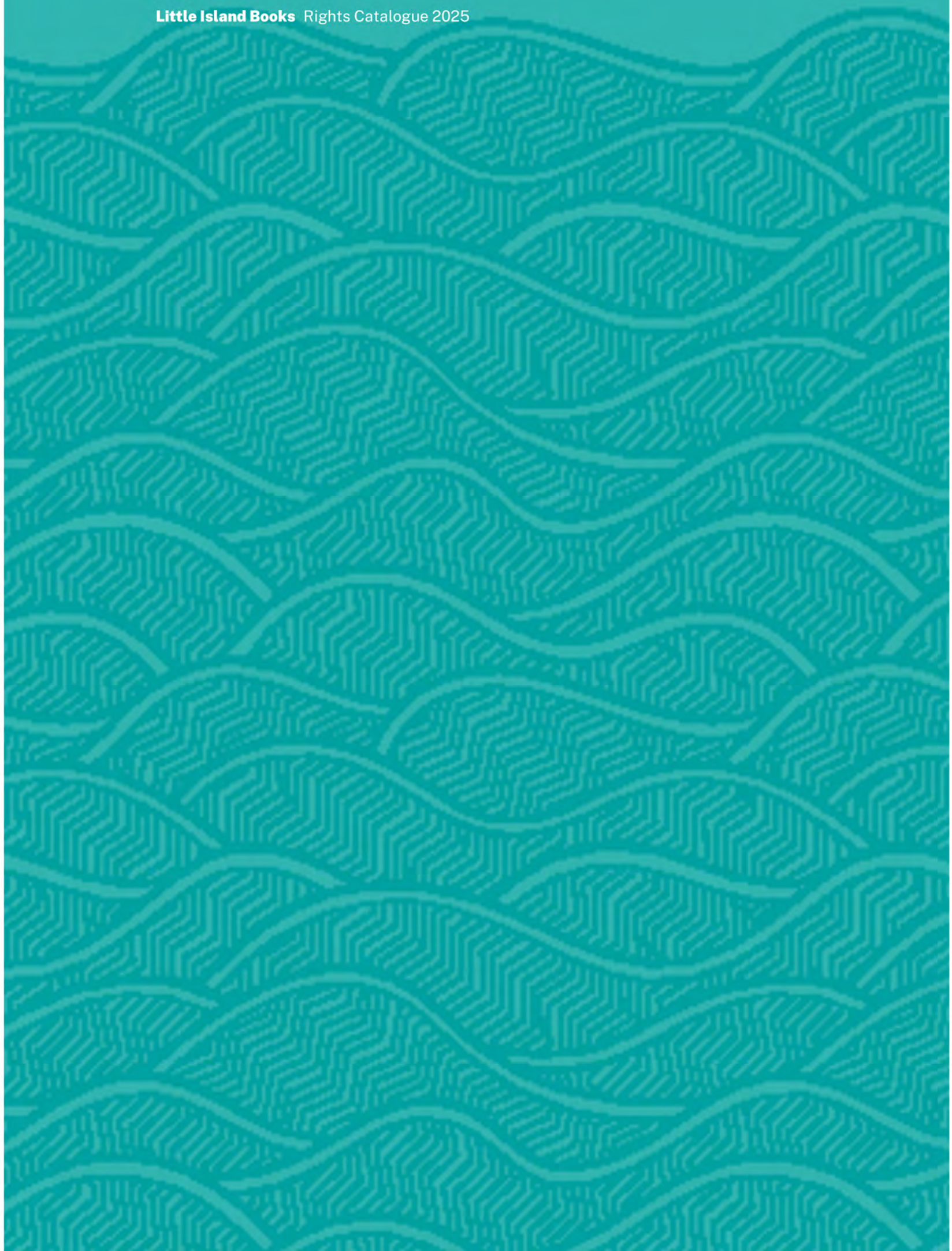
An exploration in verse of beauty standards, toxic love and the environment told through the lens of one of the world's most well-loved fairytales, The Little Mermaid.

Muireann is a mermaid, proud of her fat body that keeps her warm and safe in her home underwater. The merfolk are facing difficulties and are at war with the human ramifications of climate change: there is no longer any food for them to eat, and Muireann's twin sister was tragically killed after she was caught by a mass fishing net. With her mother consumed by grief and her world falling apart around her, Muireann longs to escape to the shores of the handsome prince she saved from drowning. But the human world is full of cruelty, and nothing like she imagined. And here, fatness is not perceived as a thing of beauty.

Sales Points:

- **A fresh take on a classic tale: this is The Little Mermaid** in a whole new light, that **examines modern themes surrounding** the complexities of body image, the effects of climate change and the fallout of toxic power and grief
- **A new Irish voice:** Ruth Ennis is an exciting writer at the start of her career





Author Spotlight



Little
Island

Sam Thompson



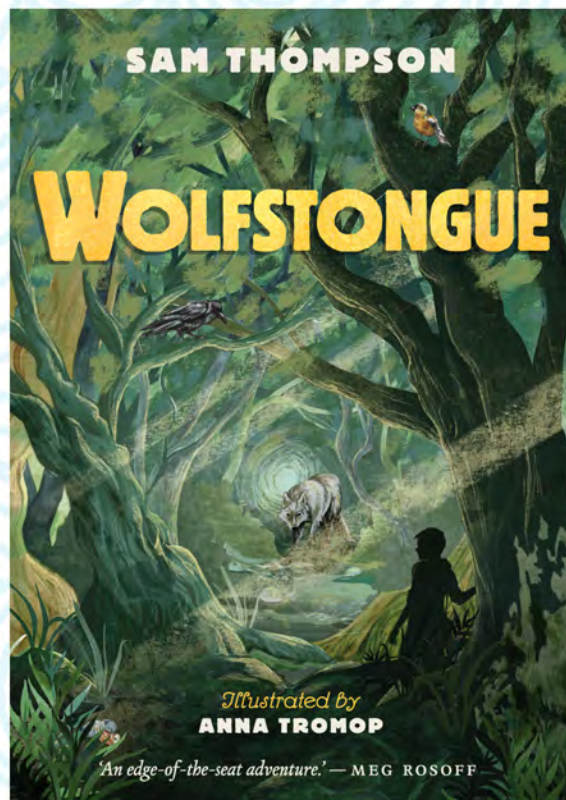
Sam Thompson lives in Belfast, where he teaches English and creative writing at Queens University. His first novel *Communion Town* was longlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize. *Wolfstongue* (2021) has been called “a modern classic” by *The Times* and was celebrated in *The New York Times* and *The Wall St Journal*. It forms part of a trilogy with *The Fox’s Tower* (2022) and *The Forest Yet to Come* (2024).

Winner: Spark! School Book Awards 2021-2022

2023 USBBY Outstanding International Book

Winner: Literacy Association of Ireland (LAI) Biennial Book Awards 2023

Age 8+



Wolfstongue

A boy who finds speaking difficult enters a hidden world of talking animals, a world where language is power. Can he find his voice to help the wolves outsmart the clever foxes?

Silas is bullied at school because his words will not come. He wishes he could live in silence like the animals do.

Deep in the Forest, the foxes live in an underground city built by their wolf slaves. The foxes' leader Reynard controls everything with his clever talk.

Now, only two wolves and their cubs remain. When Silas helps an injured one in the first, he enters their world and learns of their plight.

The foxes kidnap the wolf pups and imprison them in their underground city. Silas is determined to help his new wolf companions to rescue their young. The wolves tell Silas the legend of the Wolfstongue, a human child who speaks on behalf of wolves. Silas confronts his fears and difficulty with language and uses his voice to undermine Reynard's power. Together Silas and the wolves destroy the foxes' city and rescue the pups.

When he returns to the human world, the fluency Silas found with the wolves is gone, but he knows the Forest is always near.

“A Modern Classic” -- *The Times*

Publication Details:

Word Count: 38,500

Pub Date: May 2021

Format: 210 x 148 mm

Rights Sold: Audiobook, Czech, French, Danish, German, Hungarian, Korean, Turkish

Longlisted: British Science Fiction Association Awards: Best Book for Young Readers



The Fox's Tower

The second instalment in the acclaimed Wolfstongue Saga (2021) sees a girl and her wolf friends take on the evils of the fox empire that rules the Forest.

When Willow witnesses her animal-loving father, Silas, get kidnapped by a group of foxes and a huge wolf-like creature, she pursues them into the woods. There she meets wolves who tell her they know her father. Together they boldly enter the enormous tower the foxes have built deep in the forest.

In the tower Willow discovers the dark project of the chief fox, Reynard, to create new life forms from magical clay buried in the Deep Forest where few can enter. To rescue her dad Willow must brave the Deep Forest and dig deep in herself to foil Reynard's evil scheme to remake the world – but she also finds herself siding with the foxes against their new oppressor, the charismatic but wicked lion Noble.

Publication Details:

Word Count: 41,800

Pub Date: October 2022

Format: 210 x 148 mm

Rights Sold : Audiobook, German

"Captivating, thought-provoking...a triumphant follow-up to Wolfstongue"

-- Eve McDonnell

Age 8+

The Forest Yet to Come

The final instalment in the acclaimed Wolfstongue Saga.

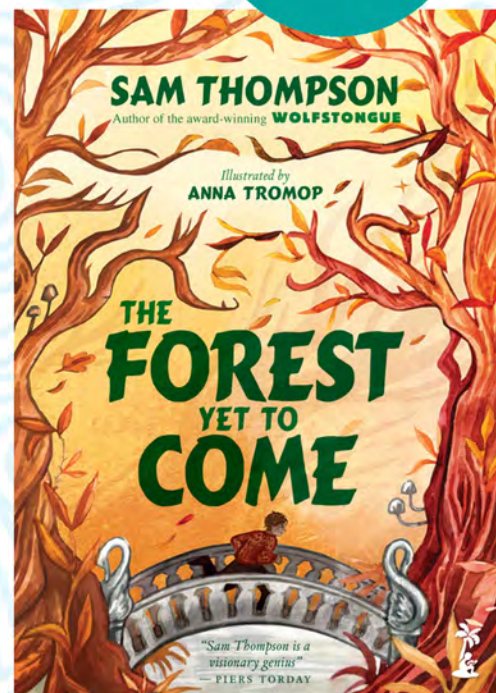
The Forest is endless and filled with savage wolves. The human settlement stays safe inside its walls – but two children, Sally and Faolan, long to know what lies beyond.

One day a stranger arrives. His name is Reynard: trickster, storyteller, secret-keeper. He can show the children the way through the Forest, but the journey will be more dangerous than they imagine.

There are worse things in the world than wolves, and the fox has one final trick to play.

"Thought-provoking."
-- Kirkus

Rights Sold: None



Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date: October 2024

Format: 210 x 148 mm

Meg Grehan

Meg Grehan explores LGBTQ+ identity and mental health in a sensitive, reassuring tone told in accessible verse format. She has published five books with Little Island. Her verse novel, *The Deepest Breath* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, won the Judges' Special Award at the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2020 and was selected for the Read for Empathy reading list 2020. She lives in Donegal, Ireland.



Publication Details:

Word Count:
Pub Date: May 2025
Format: 198 x 129 mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

Praise for *The Deepest Breath*
"Grehan's verse flows like water." – *Gay Community News*

The Brightest Star

The sequel to the beloved Irish LGBTQIA+ children's book *The Deepest Breath*

Stevie and her friends Chloe and Andrew are about to start secondary school. They are anxious about this new stage in life, but feel much better having each other by their sides.

Their new school is filled with excitement, like the LGBTQIA+ club that Stevie and Chloe join but also has some challenges: Stevie is no longer the smartest in school and struggles in maths class.

The biggest challenge of all, though, comes when Andrew suddenly becomes distant. Stevie and Chloe finally feel like they can be themselves, but Andrew isn't quite sure who he is yet. This didn't matter much in primary school when it was just the three of them, but now it seems to matter very much indeed.

With the support of Stevie and Chloe he comes to realise that he doesn't need to have all of the answers just yet.

"Gorgeous, lyrical, warm and comforting"
-- *Inis magazine*

Age 8+

Shortlisted: Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020

Shortlisted: KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2020

Winner: KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2020 Judges' Special Award



The Deepest Breath

A warm and reassuring verse novel about a young girl trying to understand her sexuality

Stevie is eleven. She reads a lot and knows nearly everything about sea creatures. The feelings inside her are more confusing. There are some things she is sure of: that her mum loves her and that Andrew is her best friend. Stevie's mum jokes that someday Stevie will marry Andrew, but Stevie knows that won't ever happen.

Stevie likes another classmate, Chloe. Actually, she's a bit confused about how much she likes Chloe. It makes her fizz inside. This is a new feeling, one Stevie doesn't understand. When she's with Chloe ordinary things become magical.

Stevie needs to find out if girls can like girls – love them, even – but she doesn't think this is a question to ask her mum. This is something she needs to find out for herself, so she goes to her favourite place, the library. There Stevie finds all kinds of love stories and she realises girls can love girls. Stevie bravely tells her mum her feelings. Stevie's mum smiles and knows her mum will always love and support her.

“One of those rare gems, a book that feels so utterly real and involving that the reader lives every page with the main character.”

-- Irish Independent

Nominated: Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024

The Lonely Book

A tender story about gender identity, family, and the magic of books.

Annie's family is made of love.

When her moms open up their bookshop in the mornings, there is always a mysterious pile of books on the counter. By evening, every book has found its ideal reader. But one day there is a book that doesn't get bought. It has to lie there all on its own. Who can its reader be, and why don't they come?

Days pass, and the book with no owner gets lonelier and lonelier. The bookshop is unhappy, and the moms are worried that the shop isn't making enough money.

Then someone starts borrowing the book. Eventually, we realise it's Annie's sibling Charlotte – and it is a book about being non-binary. Mum explains what 'non-binary' means to Annie. Charlotte asks to be called Charlie and says that their pronouns are they/them.

The bookshop cheers up. Customers start buying books again.

“What a tender jewel of a book ... *The Lonely Book* was a balm and a blessing.”

-- Deirdre O'Sullivan, author of *Savage Her Reply*



Publication Details:

Word count 15,300

Pub date April 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Sold:

Spanish

Age 8+

Shortlisted: An Post Irish Book Awards Teen / Young Adult Book of the Year 2021
Shortlisted: Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023



Baby Teeth

A thrilling verse novel that explores queer desire and identity through the eyes of a vampire.

*The blood
Feeds the hunger
That threatens everything
It starts when Claudia offers her a yellow rose.*

Immy has been in love before – many times, across many lifetimes. But never as deeply, as intensely as this. Claudia has never been in love this before either. But then, this is her first time with a vampire. The forbidden thirst for blood runs deep in Immy. And within her mind clamour the voices, of all the others she has been, their desires, and their wrongs.

Publication Details:

Word count 69,000
Pub date September 2021
Format 198 x 129mm

“Emotionally rich and gloriously queer.” – Kirkus, starred review

Rights Available : World all languages, Audiobook, Film/TV



Winner: Éilis Dillon First Book Award at the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Awards 2018

Shortlisted: Great Reads Award 2018

Shortlisted: The Literacy Association of Ireland Children's Book Award 2019

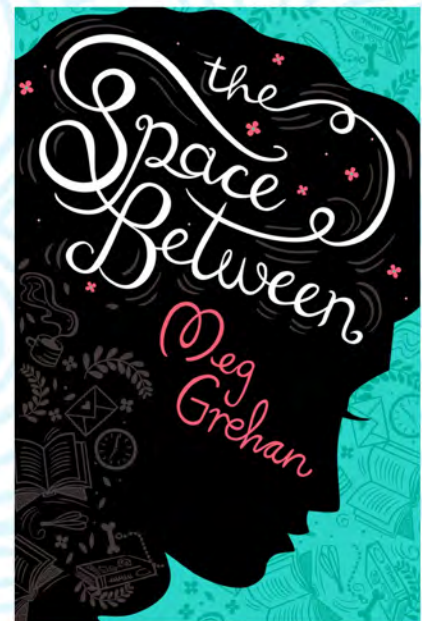
The Space Between

Gentle verse tells how warmth, support and friendship helps a young woman overcome mental anguish.

It's New Year's Eve and Beth resolves to keep herself safe from the worries of the outside world. She plans to spend a whole year alone, snug and safe in her home.

Her carefully constructed schedule is unsettled when a floppy-eared, tail-wagging dog called Mouse comes nosing to her window. Followed shortly by his owner, Alice. Shy Beth takes a brave step – she offers to mind Mouse during Alice's working day. Beth enjoys being with Mouse, but it is seeing Alice she most looks forward to. Beth takes another brave step: she invites Alice to visit. Slowly, she opens her home and heart to Alice. The girls build a routine and share their dreams and fears.

New Year's Eve comes around again. Beth is no longer alone, her anxiety remains but she is ready for a different year, when she will step out and re-enter the wider world.



Publication Details:

Word count 16,000
Pub date March 2017
Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Available : World all languages, Audiobook, Film/TV

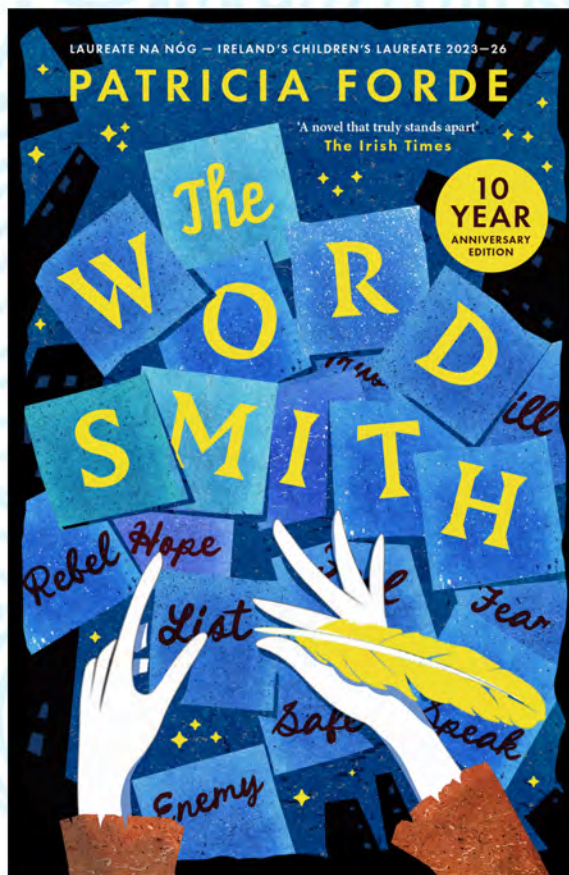
Patricia Forde

Writing in both Irish and English, Patricia Forde's books cater for all ages, from little ones to teens. In another life, she was a primary school teacher and the artistic director of Galway Arts Festival. Two of her novels with Little Island: *The Wordsmith* and *Mother Tongue*, are Library Association of America Notable Books for Children, and were awarded White Raven awards by the International Youth Library. She is Ireland's current Laureate na nÓg/Children's Laureate. (2023- 2026)



Shortlisted: Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Awards 2016
Shortlisted: Literacy Association of Ireland Children's Book Award 2017
Selected: White Raven 2015
Selected: Library Association of America Notable Book 2018

10+



The Wordsmith: 10 year anniversary edition

A gripping story about the power of language and the arts, and speaking truth to power set in a post climate change dystopia

After global warming came The Melting. Then came Ark. The dictator of Ark, John Noa, has declared language dangerous. Citizens are only allowed to speak List, a language of 500 words.

Letta is apprentice to the wordsmith, Benjamin. She dutifully transcribes all the words that have ever existed, giving out only what language is allowed to the wider community. Then Benjamin disappears and Letta must take his place as wordsmith.

Everything changes when Marlo, an attractive, wounded young outlaw bursts into her shop. Letta hides him from the gavvers, the ruthless defenders of Ark. Through Marlo, she learns of an alternative community of rebels, the Creators, who are fighting against the regime with music, art and words.

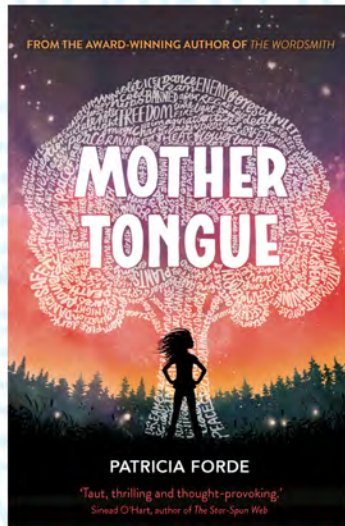
Then Letta and the Creators discover Noa's plan: he wants to poison the city's water supply to deprive people of speech. She must stop him – and she does. In a dramatic confrontation at the water tower, Letta wrests the canister containing the chemical from Noa's grasp, and he falls to his death.

"The fantasy book of the year."
– Eoin Colfer

Publication Details:

Word Count: 15,000
Pub Date: May 2019
Format: 198 x 129mm

Rights Sold : English (Australia & NZ), English (North America), Danish, Dutch, Lithuanian, Russian, Turkish, Welsh, Serbian Film/TV



Mother Tongue

10+

The captivating sequel to The Wordsmith that highlights the power of words in shaping our thoughts and world

The new dictator of Ark, Amelia, is ruthless in her efforts to silence speech forever. Letta is the wordsmith, tasked with keeping words alive. Out in the woods, she and the rebels secretly teach children language, music, and art.

When Letta accidentally kills a gavver, one of Ark's police officers, she and her group must flee. Letta questions how much she will sacrifice for freedom and worries she has brought danger on her rebel community, especially Marlo.

As Letta and Marlo travel they meet other outlaws, who share rumours from Ark. When they learn that Amelia and her followers are separating babies from their parents to ensure they never learn language, they know they have to stop her.

Publication Details:

Word count 60,000

Pub date September 2019

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Sold: English

(Australia & NZ), English

(North America), Turkish,

Welsh

Letta's confidence grows as she gets to know her mother and she and Marlo share their love for each other. Ready to do what is necessary to reunite the babies with their families, Letta and the rebels bravely enter Ark to battle Amelia and the gavvers.

Emerging victorious, Letta and the outlaws set out to build a new society together with the people of Ark.

11+

Shortlisted: KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2024

Shortlisted: An Post Irish Book Awards: Specsavers Children's Book of the Year (Senior)

Longlisted: Redbridge Teenage Book Award 2024

The Girl Who Fell to Earth

A gripping high-concept speculative middle-grade novel from Ireland's Laureate na nÓg

Aria lives on a well-ordered planet whose people have eradicated illness and even death. Earth is their 'shadow planet' which they populated with humans centuries ago so they could study them and learn from their experiences.

Now the experiment is coming to an end and Aria must go to Earth with her scientist father to set off a train of events which will destroy its people.

Brought up to believe that humans are inferior, Aria is shocked to discover that she is herself half human, and amazed to find that Earth-dwellers live life to the full and feel love for each other, even though they are mortal.

But once she understands this, how can she save them, and herself, from destruction?

"The most casual reader of science fiction, young or old, can snuggle cozily into the arms of this novel."

– The New York Times



Publication Details:

Word count 51,000

Pub date June 2023

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Sold: Turkish

Winner: White Raven Award 2019

The 2019 Citywide Reading for Children by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature

7+



Publication Details:

Word count 15,000

Pub date May 2015

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Sold : French,
Turkish, Spanish

Bumpfizzle the Best on Planet Earth

A Brilliantly funny story about sibling jealousy ... told through the diary of an undercover alien

Bumpfizzle is an alien, sent from Planet Plonk on a research mission. Or maybe he's just a ten-year-old feeling disgruntled at all the attention his parents are lavishing on The Baby ...

Either way, Bumpfizzle reports on the odd earthling behaviours of his host family in his diary and his communications with his master on Planet Plonk. He is not very impressed by their habit of going to the toilet indoors and thinks the cat's food to be the most delicious – although his stomach doesn't seem to agree.

Then Bumpfizzle's master orders him to discover if humans are edible. Biting his teacher does not go well, and Bumpfizzle wonders if his master should be obeyed ... Plus, he's having fun with his new friend Lucy and his family, even The Baby!

Bumpfizzle must enlist the help of the older brother and Lucy. Together they devise a plan involving Facebook and kittens to stop the invasion of the Earth. After a dramatic display of fur and claws, order is restored. For now Bumpfizzle will remain as one of the family – just in time to enjoy Christmas!

“Hilarious! Patricia Forde is definitely the high queen of Irish comedy.”

– Eoin Colfer

Imagine!

A light-hearted picturebook about using humour and imagination to overcome fears and show love

A little girl shares her fears with her grandma: pirates, ghosts, the big dog down the lane ... Grandma has the perfect solution for overcoming her worries: just imagine them doing the funniest things!

Pirates play with their dolls in fluffy party dresses; monsters end up in orange tutus dancing in a field of daisies; vampires become big babies with bonnets and soothers ...

Finally, the girl admits her biggest fear of all: that her grandma will go away and leave her forever. Grandma tells her that she will always be with her, in her heart ... and she can imagine her in a yellow polka-dot bikini if she likes!



picture
book

Publication Details:

Word count 450

Pub date February 2021

Format 250 x 205mm

Rights Sold : Polish

Siobhán Parkinson



Siobhán Parkinson was Ireland's first ever Laureate na nÓg (Children's Laureate). She has published more than 30 books for children and adults, in English and Irish, with publishers including Puffin, Hodder, O'Brien Press and Little Island Books. In 2010 she founded Little Island Books. She has won many awards and been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

4+

All Shining in the Spring

THE STORY OF A BABY WHO DIED



SIOBHÁN PARKINSON

Illustrated by Donald Teskey

Publication Details:

Word count

Pub date April 2021

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages,

Audiobook, Film/TV

All Shining in the Spring: The Story of a Baby who Died

A book to help children and families cope with the loss of a baby. Based on the author's personal experience.

Matthew is excited about the new baby. But then, one day, something very sad happens. The doctor tells Matthew's mother that her baby isn't growing properly and it won't be strong enough to live outside her body.

Matthew and his mother and father will always remember their baby. But as time goes by, they will not feel sad so often.

This child-centered book is intended to help children and families who experience miscarriage, stillbirth, perinatal death or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

A new edition of the first published book by Siobhán Parkinson, who later became Ireland's first Laureate na nÓg (Children's Laureate).

It was writing this book that Parkinson found her voice as a children's writer, a gift she credits to the baby she lost all those years ago.

"Anyone who has experienced the loss of a baby; who is experiencing the loss of a baby will find solace in its pages" – Mary Esther Judy, Fallen Star Stories

4+



Publication Details:

Word count 1,500
Pub date April 2014
Format 185 x 154mm

Rights Sold : Portuguese (Brazil),
Chinese (simple)

Alexandra

Reassuring short stories about early childhood that offer warmth and comfort to young readers, perfect for reading aloud.

In four short vignettes, readers get to know and love a little girl called Alexandra. In the first story, 'Alexandra Changes her Name', Alexandra decides one day to be 'Alex'. So she wears her Alex clothes — bright red boots and a floppy sunhat — and spends the day kicking in puddles. The next day she is 'Sandra' and, of course, she wears her Sandra clothes — sparkly sandals and her best hair ribbon — and spends the day having tea parties. The next day, when her mum asks if it is an 'Alex' or a 'Sandra' day, Alexandra tells her, 'Today I'm just going to be me.'

The other stories in the collection are 'Good Night, Alexandra', in which Alexandra learns to deal with the dark; 'Alexandra's Plaster Disaster', in which Alexandra falls off a swing and hurts her knee; and 'Alexandra Gets Wet', which is about Alexandra's objections to having her hair washed.

"Utterly delightful"
— *Inis magazine*

Shortlisted: An Post Irish Book Awards Specsavers Children's Book of the Year (Junior) 2021

Evie's Christmas Wishes

A Christmas picturebook by Ireland's first children's laureate

Christmas is coming and Evie is getting excited. With her mammy and daddy she helps to make the pudding, ice the cake, decorate the tree.

As Christmas approaches, Evie's wishes start to come true: she gets a singing part in the school Nativity play, it snows and Uncle Sean announces he is coming home for Christmas. Evie's biggest wish of all comes true at the end, when Sean and his wife arrive at Dublin airport with a miraculous surprise: a new baby!

"Captures the magnificence of the festive season perfectly. The illustrations by debut artist Sharon Bergin are fantastic."
— *The Irish Times*

Picture
book



Publication Details:

Word count 450
Pub date October 2021
Format 270 x 215 mm

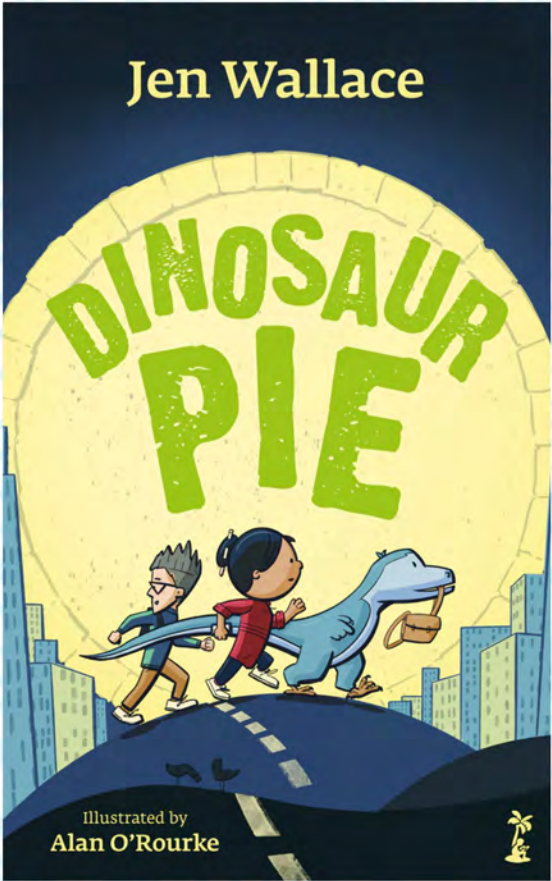
Rights Sold : Slovakian

Jen Wallace

Jen Wallace is an author and mother from Cork who loves stories. She works in both verse and prose and likes to weave stories from a child's perspective, full of wonder, deep wisdom and questions about the world. Her perspective is an autistic one and is informed by her years of working with children. She was selected as a Children's Books Ireland Raising Voices fellow 2022.



Shortlisted: the Great Reads Award 2024



Publication Details:

Word count
Pub date April 2024
Format 198x129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

6-8

Dinosaur Pie

A hilarious and heart-warming story about a boy with ADHD who is transformed into a dinosaur.

Rory is having a weird week. A really weird week. He has been turned into a ridiculous, small, feathered dinosaur. Pretty awkward.

Rory can't use a human toilet. He can't hold a video game controller in his little dino claws. His breath smells really bad. And his new carnivore body can't stop craving sausages.

Rory finally gets his friends to take his embarrassing situation seriously, and together they embark on Operation Make Rory Human Again.

But it's not easy.

Will Rory be stuck as a dinosaur forever?

"A roar-ing good time!"
– Kirkus Reviews



6-8

COVER TO COME

Dino Mode Activated

A laugh-a-minute dinosaur-packed story, featuring neurodivergent characters.

Oleg's new camera is definitely not ordinary.

It has no instructions and no buttons, but it seems to know exactly what Oleg wants it to do. When Oleg goes on a camping trip with his friends, Rory and Daria, they soon discover the camera's most special function - Transformation Mode. The camera can turn its subjects into dinosaurs!

Now, with dinos of all sizes running about the campsite and a group nosey university people (who would definitely like to experiment on some dinosaurs) poking around, Oleg and his friends commence Operation Hide the Dinosaurs.

Publication Details:

Word count
Pub date October 2025
Format 198x129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

Sales points

- **Neurodivergent protagonist:** the author explores dyslexia, ADHD and autism in a relatable and compassionate manner informed by years of working with children
- A reading companion for Dinosaur Pie
- Written by an up and coming novelist

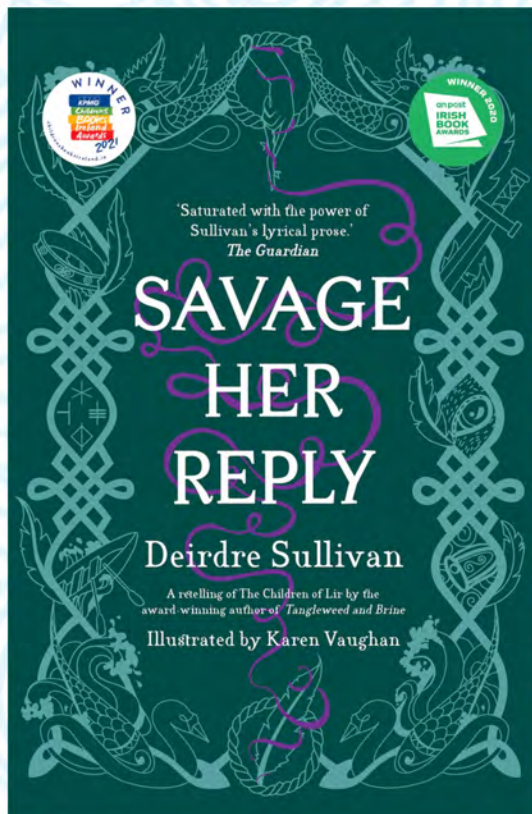
Deirdre Sullivan

Deirdre Sullivan is an award-winning writer from Galway. Her reimagining of the Children of Lir, *Savage Her Reply* (Little Island Books, 2020) won the Young Adult Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards, the Children's Book Ireland Awards Book of the Year Award, and the Biennial Literacy Association of Ireland Young Adult Book Award. Her collection *Tangleweed and Brine* (Little Island Books), won Book of the Year at the 2018 Children's Books Ireland awards and Young Adult Book of the Year at the 2017 Irish Book Awards. In 2022 she published *Weave*, a collection of stories written together with Oein DeBhairduin and published by Skein Press. Her most recent YA novel, *Wise Creatures*, was released in 2023.



Winner: Biennial Literacy Association of Ireland Young Adult Book Award
Winner: Teen and Young Adult Book of the Year, Irish Book Awards 2020
Winner: KPMG Children's Book Ireland Awards Book of the Year Award 2021
Nominated: CILIP Carnegie Medal 2022

YA



Savage her Reply

A dark and witchy retelling of Irish legend The Children of Lir

Aífe marries Lir, a king with four children by his previous wife. Jealous of his affection for his children, the witch Aífe turns them into swans for 900 years.

Retold through the voice of Aífe, *Savage Her Reply* is unsettling and dark, feminist and fierce, giving voice to a woman from fairytale whose story has never before been told.

Voiced in Sullivan's trademark rich, lyrical prose as developed in *Tangleweed and Brine* – the multiple award-winner which established Sullivan as the queen of witchy YA.

“Unsettling, haunting, and darkly lyrical.” – Louise O’Neill

**“Dark, beautiful ...saturated with the power of Sullivan’s lyrical prose.”
– The Guardian**

Publication Details:

Word count
Pub date October 2020
Format 230 x 150mm

Rights Available:

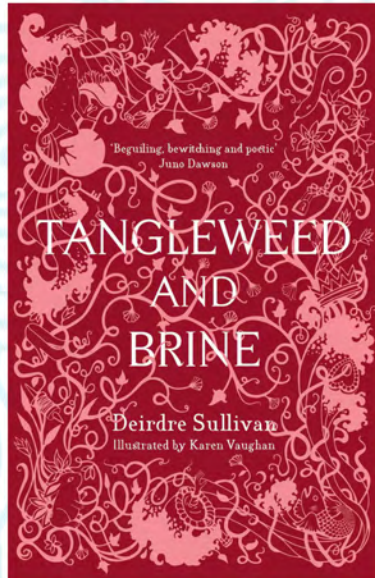
World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV



Winner: Book of the Year Award at the Children's Books Ireland Awards 2018

Winner: Young Adult Book of the Year Award at the Irish Book Awards 2017

Winner: Irish Times Ticket Readers' Choice for Best Young Adult Fiction 2017



Tangleweed and Brine

Bewitched retellings of classic fairy-tales with brave and resilient heroines.

A multi-award winning collection of twelve dark, feminist retellings of traditional fairytales from one of Ireland's leading writers for young people. In the tradition of Angela Carter, stories such as Cinderella and Rumpelstiltskin are given a witchy makeover.

Intricately illustrated with black and white line drawings.

"Exquisitely written and powerful... I'm enchanted by it"
– Marian Keyes

Publication Details:

Word count 1,500

Pub date September 2017

Format 225 x 145mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

Needlework

Powerful, poetic and disturbing, Needlework is a girl's meditation on her efforts to maintain her bodily and spiritual integrity in the face of abuse, violation and neglect.

The courageous story of how an abused young woman draws on her own resources to recover her self-worth and reclaim her body.

Ces longs to be a tattoo artist and embroider skin with beautiful images. But for now she's just trying to reach adulthood without falling apart.

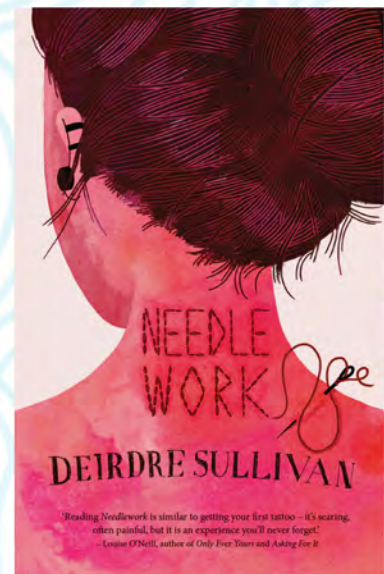
"Sullivan confronts a difficult subject matter head-on, yet with subtlety and grace ... a powerful novel that deserves to be read."

– Sarah Crossan

Shortlisted: IRISH BOOK AWARDS 2016

Winner: Children's Books Ireland Honour Award for Fiction

Winner: White Raven Award from the International Youth Library



Publication Details:

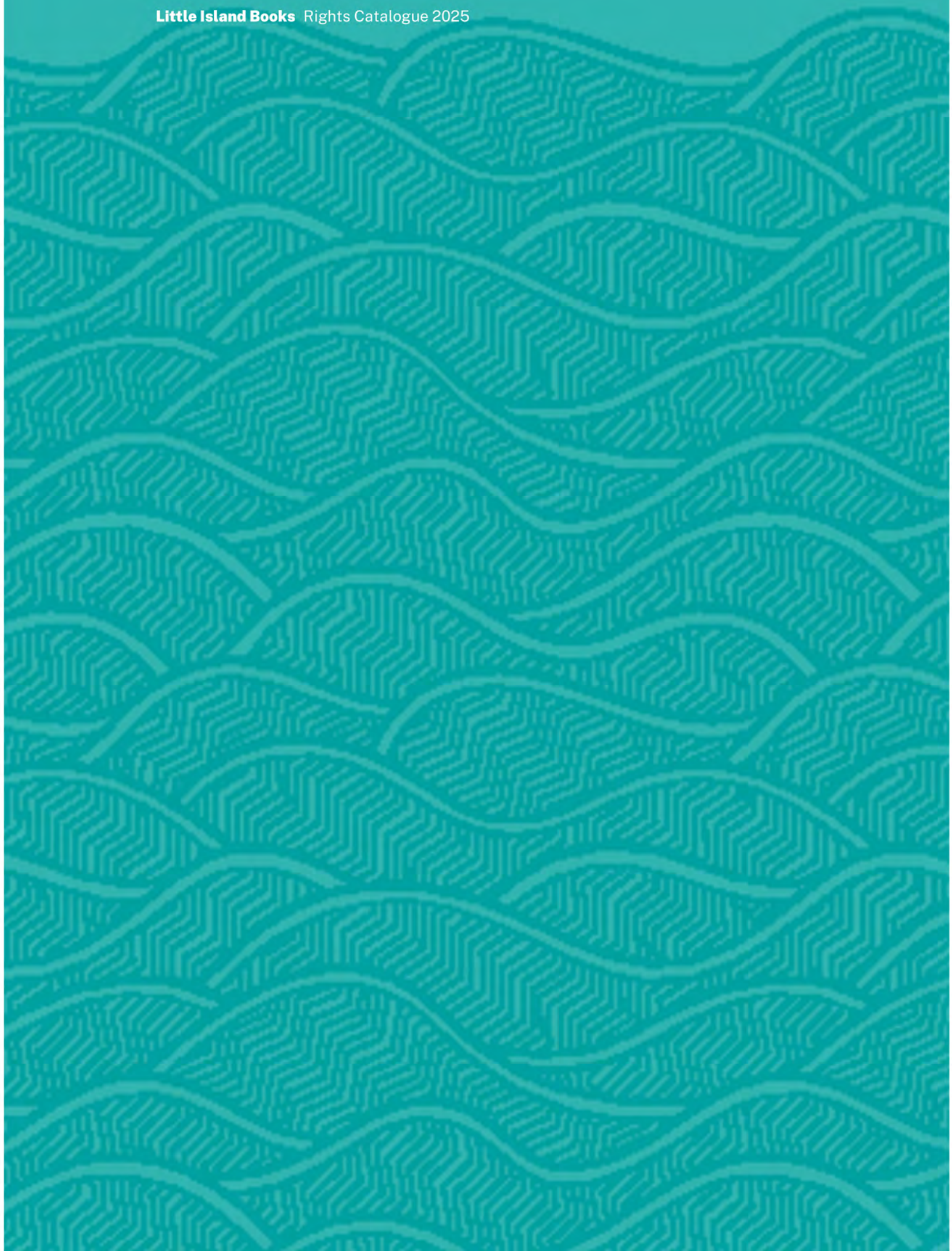
Word count

Pub date February 2016

Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Sold:

Russian



Backlist



Little
Island

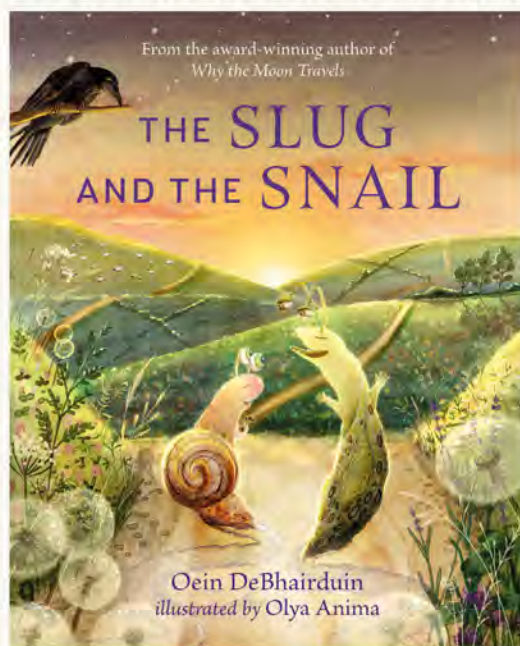
Nominated: Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration 2024

Longlisted: Klaus Flugge Prize 2024

Shortlisted: An Post Irish Book Awards Specsavers Children's Book of the Year (Junior) 2023

BookTrust Book of the Month October 2023

BookTrust Northern Ireland Book of the Day 4th October 2023



Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date July 2023

Format 250 x 200mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Screen adaptation

Rights Sold:

Polish

About Oein DeBhairduin

Oein DeBhairduin is a creative soul with a passion for poetry, folk herbalism and preserving the beauty of Traveller tales, sayings, retellings and historic exchanges. His debut collection of Traveller folktales, *Why the Moon Travels* (Skein Press, 2020) won both the Judges' Special Prize and the Éilís Dillon Prize at the 2021 Children's Books Ireland awards.

The Slug and the Snail

By Oein DeBhairduin

Illustrated by Olya Anima

An Irish Traveller folktale about difference and self-acceptance.

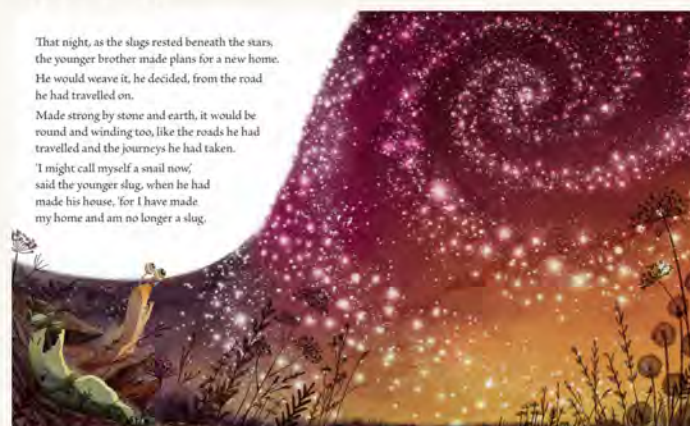
Drawn from the oral storytelling tradition of the Irish Traveller ethnic minority, DeBhairduin's tale is a gentle allegory about difference, self acceptance and different ways of seeing the world.

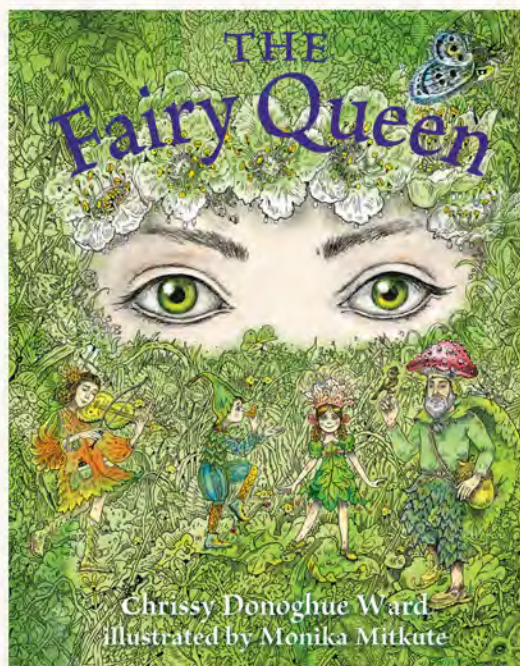
Two slugs travel happily together as brothers, until they meet a crow who shows them that they have no home. Ashamed, one of the slugs decides to make himself a home, and calls himself snail. The brothers grow apart and become suspicious of each other. The slug with no shell-house feels ashamed until he learns to see that the very road he travels is his home, and so he shall never be homeless.

The happy slug no longer sees himself through the judging eyes of others, but proudly asserts his place in the world.

Sales Points:

- Story about **self-acceptance**, taking pride in identity and doing things your own way
- **Own-voices** picture book about **ethnic minority**





Publication Details:

Word Count:

Pub Date November 2024

Format 250 x 200mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About Chrissy Donoghue Ward

Chrissy Donoghue Ward is a Dublin-based poet and storyteller. Her stories are from the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community. Chrissy has a long history of activism and community engagement and is passionate about education and the opportunities it provides for all. The Fairy Queen is her first book for children.

The Fairy Queen

By Chrissy Donoghue

Illustrated by Monika Mitkute

A tale rooted in the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community, by beloved storyteller Chrissy Donoghue Ward.

The Travellers lived happily, travelling from place to place, until one day the bad king and queen arrived in Ireland.

The king of the Travellers, and his grandchildren run away to the woods. There they meet the lovely fairy queen, who turns all the Travellers into leprechauns so they can hide from the bad queen's soldiers.

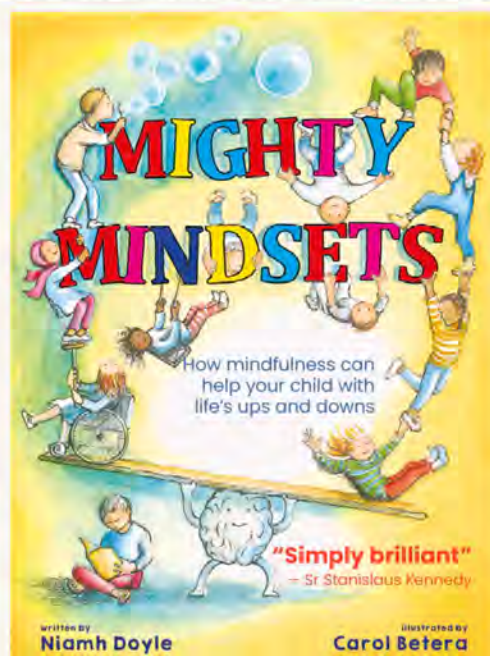
Sales Points:

- Story about taking **pride in identity** and standing up for **freedom**
- A fable of Ireland's past



"The strength of this story is the authenticity of the author's voice, effortlessly creating a story that feels as though it has been passed through the generations." – Irish Examiner

Shortlisted: the Great Reads Award 2024



Mighty Mindsets

by Niamh Doyle
Illustrated by Carol Betera

A gentle non-fiction picture book about emotions, mindfulness, your amazing brain and how to feel calm

How does your brain work, and what does it have to do with moods? Why do you sometimes feel anxious, cross or afraid, and what can you do about it? How can breathing, looking at a snow-globe, or changing what the voice inside you says, help you feel better?

When we tell ourselves negative stories – like “I’m not good at maths” – it becomes harder to learn. But if we can change our mindset – “I’m not good at maths yet” – we help our brains to learn. Mighty Mindsets puts together mindsets, mindfulness and neuroscience in a gentle self-care manual for young readers.

With calming and playful illustrations by Carol Betera, Mighty Mindsets helps children understand their emotions and learn tips to take care of their mental health.

"A valuable way to cultivate resilience and mindfulness."
— Kirkus Reviews

Sales Points:

- **Latest science** of mindsets & the brain explained in **child-friendly terms**
- **Helpful exercises:** gratitude journal, loving kindness meditation
- Uses examples from history and pop culture to demonstrate the **use of mindfulness in daily life**
- Humorous, **gentle illustrations** add levity and fun



Little Big Sister

By Eoin Colfer

Illustrated by Celia Ivey

4-7

The story of a girl growing up with dwarfism, told by Ireland's leading children's author

Little Big Sister tells the story of Starr, a girl with dwarfism who lives with her mum and younger sister, Babes. As the girls get older and Babes overtakes Starr's height, Starr understands there is something different about her.

When Starr starts primary school she is at first upset by being shorter than the other children. But with help from her mum and teacher, Starr finds the courage to shine.

A fun and gentle story about disability, family and fitting in, told by a major children's author and an illustrator with dwarfism.

Publication Details:

Word count

Pub date June 2023

Format 210 x 148 mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About Eoin Colfer

Eoin is the bestselling author of the Artemis Fowl series, which was voted the public's favourite Puffin Classic of all time and was made into a Disney movie. Eoin's books have won numerous awards including The British Children's Book of the Year, The Irish Book Awards and Children's Book of the Year. Eoin has collaborated with Irish artists PJ Lynch, Oliver Jeffers and Chris Judge on a series of award winning picture books.

About Celia Ivey

Celia Ivey is an illustrator born with dwarfism, living in Bristol, UK. This is her first picturebook.

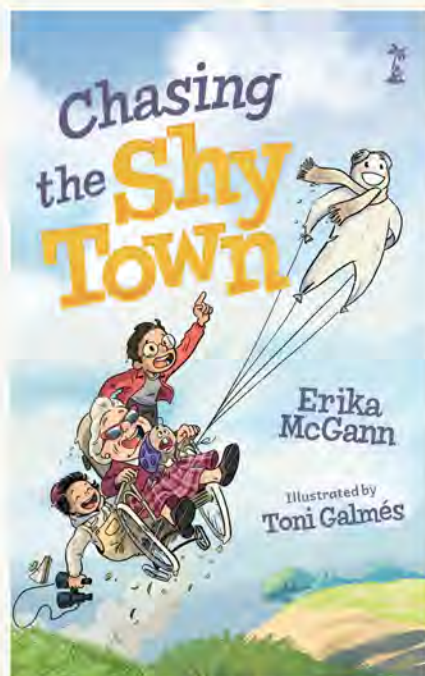


"Both fun and gentle."

– Armadillo Magazine

Sales Points:

- **Sensitively illustrated by artist with dwarfism**
- **Bestselling children's author** with a track record of over **25 million sales**



Publication Details:

Word count
Pub date August 2023
Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

About Erika McGann

Erika McGann grew up in Drogheda, County Louth, and now lives in Dublin. She is the author of many chapter books, including *The Watching Wood* and *The Midnight Carnival*, and several picture books, including the bestselling *Where Are You, Puffling?*

About Toni Galmés

Toni studied Fine Arts in Barcelona and worked as a storyboard artist for film and advertising. He fell in love with a bookseller and, from that love, his work as an illustrator of children's books and graphic novels was born. Toni's work includes picture books, novels and graphic novels published by Penguin Random House, La Galera, Bindi Books and Dupuis and Delcourt.

Chasing the Shy Town

by Erika McGann

illustrated by Toni Galmés

6-8

A fun and engaging story about the impossibility of perfection

Senan uses his binoculars to spy out the Shy Town, a sweet little place on a hill, with winding streets and red and yellow roofs. Senan calls it the Shy Town because it often hides and is hard to find.

He tells his next-door friend Joshua about the Shy Town, and they set off, with Senan's grandmother in a ramshackle wheelchair, to find this elusive place. Along the way they make friends with Paperboy. Who is, as you'd expect, a boy made of paper.

With the help of a kruckle (a sort of Shy Town creature) that they meet on their journey, they find the Shy Town, only its real name is Perfection, because it is absolutely perfect.

But all is not well in Perfection: the inhabitants are constantly worrying about making it more and more perfect. But since more perfect than perfect is an impossibility, they are constantly exhausted.

What can Senan and friends do to save the kruckles from their obsession with perfection?

"Full of whimsy and wonder, this is a cozy adventure fantasy."

– New York Public Library, Best Books of 2024

Sales Points:

- A funny story brought to life by **playful illustrations**
- **Reassuring for anxious readers:** examines the impossibility of perfection in a fun and light hearted way

Nominated: Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024



The Táin: The Great Irish Battle Epic

By Alan Titley

Illustrated by Eoin Coveney

A new children's retelling of Ireland's great epic legend featuring the hero Cúchulainn and the warrior Queen Maeve

Queen Maeve's army is marching north to steal the great brown bull, the pride of Ulster. But one man stands in their way. Cúchulainn, the Hound of Ulster, vowed in boyhood to protect his homeland – even if it means taking on an invading army himself.

One by one Maeve's warriors challenge the hero, and one by one they fall. Can Cúchulainn hold out until reinforcements arrive – and how will he fare against the one man in Ireland he doesn't want to fight?

Ireland's most important myth is retold in English for children by the great scholar of Old Irish, Alan Titley. Titley goes back to the source material and his translation sparkles with the wit and humour of the ancient tale. Illustrations by comic artist Eoin Coveney lend a modern feel. This is Celtic myth as you haven't read it before..

Publication Details:

Word count 21,900
Pub date March 2023
Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

About Alan Titley

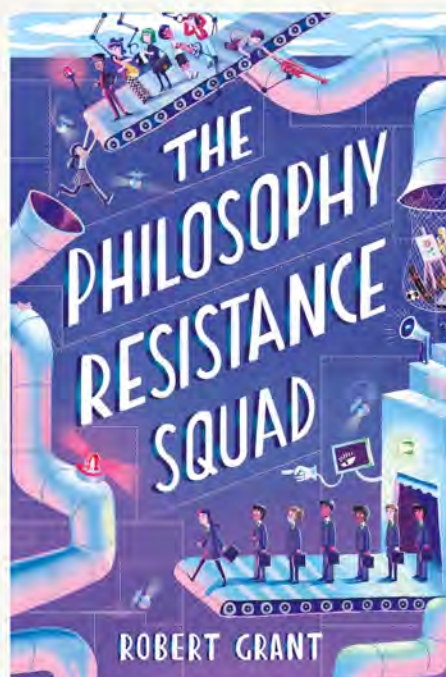
Alan Titley is one of Ireland's most respected writers in both Irish and English. He has won prizes including the Children's Books Ireland Éilís Dillon Award. He is the Emeritus Professor of Modern Irish, University College Cork and a member of the Royal Irish Academy

Sales Points:

- First new children's chapter-book edition of Ireland's greatest legend since the 1990s
- Humour and fun of the original is rediscovered by Titley, as well as the epic thrill of battle
- Graphic-novel-style illustrations appeal to fans of Marvel and comics

"This gutsy, vivid, gruesomely humorous retelling of the seminal Irish myth is perfectly judged for folklore addicts"

– The Guardian



The Philosophy Resistance Squad

by Robert Grant

9+

A philosophical romp about a wicked headmaster brought low by a group of kids who have learned the power of critical thinking

Milo starts secondary school at the prestigious Secondary Training Institute for Lifelong Employment. But he quickly discovers this is an unpleasant and oppressive institution presided over by the wicked Dr Pummelcrush – whose mission is to crush the students' capacity for free thought.

Then Milo meets Ursula, an old art teacher and a philosopher. Using the philosophical technique of Socratic dialogues, she teaches Milo to ask hard questions and use analytical thinking to undermine Pummelcrush's evil scheme of turning the students into perfect mindless employees of the STIFLE Corporation.

Publication Details:

Word count

Pub date June 2021

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Sold : Korean, Turkish

About Robert Grant

Robert Grant was born in Waterford, Ireland. He has a PhD in philosophy from Trinity College Dublin, where he was an Irish Research Scholar. He has taught philosophy both at Trinity and in several other institutions. Rob is founder of the Philosophy in the Community project and a member of Philosophy Ireland, and has taught philosophy in schools, prisons, community centres and many other places. He has written and talked about this work for The Irish Times, RTÉ radio and television, BBC radio, Newstalk radio and many other places.

"Keeps a brisk pace"
– *The New York Times*

Sales Points:

- **Thrilling middle-grade fiction** about a school run by an evil regime.
- Introduces **philosophical concepts and skills** **through** the medium of story

Shortlisted: Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the Year 2017
Shortlisted: Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Awards 2018

9+



A Dangerous Crossing

by Jane Mitchell

A boy's perilous flight from war in search of refuge. Ghalib doesn't want to leave his home, but Syria has become too dangerous. His family has no choice but to flee.

They walk for days. With little food and water, they grow slower each day, especially Ghalib's disabled younger brother and his grandmother. Along their way to the Turkish border, they meet two Kurdish refugees. At first suspicious, Ghalib comes to see them as friends. In an effort to protect them he becomes separated from his family and finds himself alone for many months in an enormous refugee camp.

Ghalib's family eventually make it to the camp – but his grandmother is not with them: she has died from exhaustion on the journey. For now they are safe, but they don't want to live in a refugee camp for ever. The family decide to try to make their way to Europe, and so they set off again. Their only option is to travel in a boat that is leaking and there aren't enough lifejackets. After a tense journey they make it to the Greek shore, where the story ends.

“Deserving of a place on every school reading list”
– Booktrust UK

Publication Details:

Word count 54,000
Pub date March 2018
Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Sold : French, Brazilian
Portuguese

About Jane Mitchell

Jane Mitchell lives in Dublin and works with children with physical disabilities. Her Amnesty International-endorsed novel *A Dangerous Crossing* (Little Island), about a Syrian family fleeing the war, has sold more than 100,000 copies worldwide. Jane spent time volunteering at the refugee camp in Calais to research the book..

Sales Points:

- More than **100,000 copies sold** worldwide
- **Personalises** the complicated challenges and decisions faced by **refugees**
- Includes **background information on the Syrian conflict** and the real Syrian children who inspired this novel

Longlisted: Redbridge Children's Book Award 2023
Shortlisted: Badger Books Award 2023
Read for Empathy Collection 2023
Shortlisted: KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2023
School Library Journal Best Middle Grade Books of 2023 List

10+



Publication Details:

Word count 69,000
Pub date October 2022
Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Sold : French

About Jane Mitchell

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Run For Your Life

by Jane Mitchell

A moving children's book exploring Direct Provision, Ireland's asylum-seeker accommodation system.

Azari's life has been split in two and the halves are as different as lemons and mangoes. Running links the two parts of her life: sometimes when she runs it is because she wants to, because she feels strong and free. But sometimes it is because she has no other choice.

When Azari and her mother flee for their lives to Ireland they are put in a detention centre. They must share a room with a stranger, eat food they don't know the name of and answer intrusive questions from authorities. Azari's life has secrets; she must tell them in order to live a life where she can make her own decisions.

Azari begins to adjust to her new life: at school she befriends a boy who also loves running and together they go on long runs. As Azari grows in confidence she joins with other refugees staying at the centre to protest for the right to prepare the food of their choice in the kitchens. Most importantly she finds the courage to tell the authorities how she and her mother knew they could not remain in their home country after the honour killing of her sister. Azari and her mother do not know what the future holds for them but the novel ends with a sense of hope and possibility.

"A gripping, educational page-turner about a pressing issue that affects millions worldwide."

– Kirkus Reviews

Sales Points:

- Sensitive depiction of life for a child asylum seeker in detention
- Thoroughly researched, based on interviews with asylum seekers
- Strong, empowered female character facing difficult circumstances

Winner: Laugh Out Loud (Lollies) Awards 2017 (older children)

Winner: Haringey Children's Book Award 2017

Shortlisted: Great Reads Award 2016

Shortlisted: St Helen's Libraries Book Award 2016

10+



Publication Details:

Word count 37,000

Pub date May 2016

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Sold : English (Australia & NZ), English (North America), German, Chinese, Korean, Russian

About Christine Hamill

Christine Hamill studied English literature and teaches creative writing in Belfast. *The Best Medicine* is her first children's book. Her adult book, *B is for Breast Cancer*, was also based on her own experiences.

The Best Medicine

By Christine Hamill

A hilarious take on the unfunny subject of cancer.

Twelve-year-old Philip is having a hard time. The school bully, 'The Yeti', breaks his glasses and somehow Philip winds up with detention and coughing right in the face of Lucy, 'The Goddess'. Philip writes to his hero, comedian Harry Hill, looking for advice, but gets no reply. Good thing Philip always has his mum and his best friend, Ang, around to laugh along with him.

But then mum tells him she has breast cancer. Philip is upset, of course – but could she not have got a less embarrassing form of cancer? Maybe toe cancer or ear cancer? When Mum decides shaving her head with an electric leg shaver is a good idea, Philip does too (even though it's totally against school rules). When Mum starts a support group for women with breast cancer, Philip convinces them to organise a fun day because they don't need any more serious things in their lives.

It's the most fun day imaginable: Harry Hill makes a guest appearance. Ang, Lucy and even The Yeti attend. Philip discovers Lucy likes him too and that the Yeti has problems of his own. Mum is now in recovery – laughter is definitely the best medicine.

Sales Points:

- Funny and touching, explores living with cancer with humour and honesty
- Based on the experiences of the author and her son

"Funny, moving and strangely empowering."
– John Connolly, *New York Times* Bestselling author

BookTrust Book of the Day

BookTrust Northern Ireland Book of the Month November 2024



Publication Details:

Word count

Pub date July 2024

Format 198mm x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About John Hearne

John Hearne was born in Wexford in 1970. He worked as an economist in Dublin before changing direction and becoming freelance writer. He has ghostwritten and edited a range of best-selling books, while his journalism has appeared in numerous national and international newspapers and magazines. His first middle grade novel, *The Very Dangerous Sisters of Indigo McCloud* was published by Little Island in 2021.

Someone's Been Messing With Reality

By John Hearne

A fast-paced extra-terrestrial adventure

Martin's parents have disappeared. Also, it turns out, they are aliens. Which makes Martin ...?

Then Martin and Tina discover enormous light-emitting eggs in an abandoned mine. It is clear they are not going to be hatching out anything cuddly. And so the kids try to blow them up. But instead of blowing up, huge killer insects hatch, and go on a mission to destroy all human life on earth. Oops.

Having first rescued Martin's parents, the kids steal a cop car and then an ambulance. Eventually they fly, using Martin's power of telekinesis – someone really has been tinkering with reality – in thrilling pursuit of the killer insects.

Martin and Tina's friend Enda has assembled an extraordinary zapper that the children use to take down the evil insects, one by one by one out of the sky.

And that is how these amazing kids actually, literally save the world.

**"Fast-paced and fresh, this is a funny, thrilling adventure."
– BookTrust**

Sales Points:

- The follow-up to the **critically acclaimed** *The Very Dangerous Sisters of Indigo McCloud*
- **Written by an experienced author with a proven track record:** John is a ghost-writer who has authored numerous bestsellers

10-14

Shortlisted: Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing, 2023
Finalist: Kirkus Prize, Young Adult category, 2023
Winner: White Raven Award 2023
Shortlisted: YA Book Prize 2023
Shortlisted: Branford Boase Award 2023
Shortlisted: The Badger Books Award 2023
Shortlisted: Great Reads Award 2022



The Eternal Return of Clara Hart

by Louise Finch

A time-loop YA thriller about toxic masculinity and gendered violence

It's Friday and Spence wakes up to Clara Hart, a classmate, crashing into the back of his car.

At school Spence hangs out with his friends Anthony and Worm. They talk about the girls, rating them out of five stars. Later, Anthony hosts a house party – his parties are notorious. Clara Hart is there, drinking like the rest of them, dancing wildly. Spence goes upstairs. Anthony and Worm are in one of the bedrooms. Spence sees Clara Hart passed out on the bed. Next he sees Clara run down the stairs and straight out into the road. A car hits her and she dies.

The next day begins like the one before: Spence wakes again to Clara Hart banging into the back of his car. Soon it becomes clear that it is Friday again and that the party will happen, again. This time can Spence make sure Clara Hart doesn't die? He fails. The day repeats again and again.

Eventually Spence realises that this day isn't really about Clara. It's about him and his friends. And they're all implicated in Clara's death. Now, the cycle can end.

"Exceptional ... a careful, thoughtful, compulsively readable examination of toxic masculinity and normalised sexual abuse."

– *The Guardian*

Publication Details:

Word count 71,000
Pub date August 2021
Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Sold : Italian, German

About Louise Finch

Louise grew up in a small town in the Midlands. After studying History of Art she worked for over a decade in the charity sector across women's and LGBT+ rights, and youth arts.

Sales Points:

- **Highly relevant** to young readers today: covers vital topical themes of **toxic masculinity and misogynistic culture**
- Stunning **high-concept** YA debut: a moving and powerful new voice and great use of time-loop device

Shortlisted: An Post Irish Book Awards: Teen and Young Adult Book of the Year 2020

Shortlisted: Biennial Literacy Association of Ireland Young Adult Book Award 2021

Selected: White Raven Award 2021

Nominated: Carnegie Medal 2021



The Gone Book

by Helena Close

YA

A powerful and gritty young adult urban drama awash with heart, hope and humour.

Fifteen-year-old Matt has been writing letters to his mam since she left home five years ago. He never sends them but keeps them in his 'Gone Book', which he hides in his room. Five years of letters. Five years of hurt.

Matt's dad, who has his own problems, won't talk about her. Matt's older brother, Jamie, is mixed up with drugs and crime. His little brother is too young to understand. His friends, Mikey and Anna, are the best things in his life, but Matt keeps pushing them away. All he wants to do is skate, surf and forget.

Publication Details:

Word count 68,000

Pub date April 2020

Format 198 x 129mm

Rights Available:

World all languages

Audiobook

Film/TV

About Helena Close

Helena Close, who grew up and lives in Limerick, Ireland, has been writing full-time for twenty years. She has written or co-written seven novels, published by Hachette, Hodder Headline and Blackstaff. The Gone Book is her first YA novel.

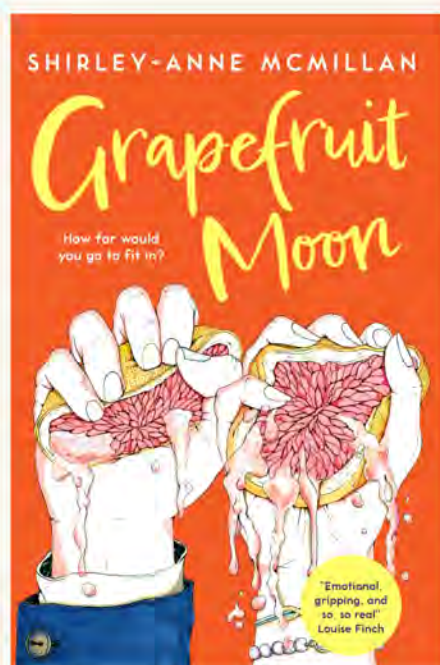
When he learns that his mother is back in Limerick with her new family, Matt is torn between resentment and his longing to be loved. He decides to find her, to try to make sense of the past.

Things escalate when Jamie, desperate for cash and wanting to make their mother pay for her absence, takes her family hostage. Mikey gets hit while trying to save Matt and closes his eyes, never to open them again. In the end, Matt's mam leaves once more and Matt writes letters in his Gone Book again – only this time they are for Mikey.

"This taut, emotionally authentic story told from Matt's naturally flowing first-person perspective features raw, sometimes uncomfortable, language and complex characterization and offers no easy answers." – STARRED Kirkus Reviews

Sales Points:

- **Male relationships explored:** father-son, brothers, and friends
- **Exceptionally high literary quality**, yet accessible to readers, with sharp, punchy, sometimes foul dialogue – not for the faint-hearted!
- **Tackles tough subjects:** broken families, abandonment, drugs, crime, violence and grief



Publication Details:

Word count
Pub date August 2023
Format 198 x 129 mm

Rights Available:

World all languages
Audiobook
Film/TV

About Shirley-Anne McMillan

Shirley-Anne McMillan is a writer from Northern Ireland. She has worked as a teacher, an Online Writer in Residence for the Irish Writers Centre, a youth worker with LGBTQ young people and a creative writing tutor. She lives in Co. Down with her family and in her free time she loves playing the guitar and knitting.

Grapefruit Moon

by Shirley-Anne McMillan

YA

The pressure – social and academic – is high for the teenage students of an elite secondary school in Belfast; Can poetry, friendship and a trip to Spain give them the courage to be true to themselves?

17-year-old Drew has won a scholarship to Cooke's Academy, an elite secondary school in Belfast. The pressure is intense and he's not sure he fits in. Then Adam, captain of an elite clique known as the stewards, welcomes Drew into the group and school life seems to become easier academically and socially. Drew starts to go out with Chloe. Actually, it is Chloe's best friend, Charlotte, who he likes but Adam says she is off limits. Drew doubts Adam speaks the truth – but he knows going against him will come with a cost.

At home things are complicated: Drew's ex-girlfriend is pregnant, and he feels he is losing touch with the friends he grew up with. Spanish, especially the poetry of Lorca, helps Drew express things he cannot otherwise share. On a class trip to Granada Drew, Charlotte and Chloe act and speak openly – with consequences bad and good.

"A delicate and candid depiction of two teens' efforts to shape their uncertain futures while navigating weighty issues."

– Publishers Weekly

Sales Points:

- **Topical themes** of revenge porn, consent, peer pressure, and teenage pregnancy.
- **Fits today's pop culture landscape:** Will appeal to fans of Louise O'Neill, Deirdre Sullivan, and Holly Bourne,



rights@littleisland.ie