Children's Trade Bonnier Books UK

Fiction Rights Guide 2023



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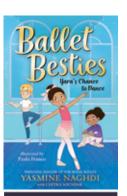
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Publication: May 2024

Age range:

Key themes: dance school, friendship, ballet

Extent: 224pp, b+w illustrations

Ballet Besties

Yasmine Naghdi with Chitra Soundar Illustrated by Paula Franco

Pirouette your way into the Shimmer & Shine dance studio!

When Yara joins Shimmer & Shine, a community dance school, she meets lots of other children her age, who are there to either start their training or just for the fun of it. Soon she has a group of ballet besties she loves to dance with.

But then Dame Clougston-Wilmott, their grumpy landlady, threatens to close the studio. Suddenly it's up to Yara and her new friends to keep Shimmer & Shine open!

Will putting on a performance of The Sleeping Beauty reawaken the Dame's love for dance? Will Yara have the chance to dance her dream role of Aurora? And most importantly of all, can the ballet besties save their studio?

A fun, inclusive and accessible series that will bring the joy of dance to young readers!

YASMINE NAGHDI is a Principal of The Royal Ballet and has been dancing with the company since 2010, rising to the highest rank of Principal in 2017. Her major roles include Odette/Odile (Swan Lake), Princess Aurora (The Sleeping Beauty), Juliet (Romeo and Juliet) and The Sugar Plum Fairy (The Nutcracker). She has performed all over the world. As a half-Persian dancer who doesn't fit the 'traditional' ballet mould. Yasmine is passionate about showing classical ballet is for everyone.

CHITRA SOUNDAR is a writer and dreamer of many things. As well as writing books, Chitra is a speaker, oral storyteller and toe-dipper in writing for the small screen. Her stories are inspired by her close-knit family, her childhood in India, which was filled with epics and folktales, and her travels around the world. Chitra has performed in literary festivals across the UK, US and many other countries, telling stories and introducing the magic of writing to children everywhere.

Publication: February 2024

World Rights

Age range:

Kev themes: brave princesses, fearsome

beasts, fiendish quests

224pp, b+w illustrations

Bronte Tempestra Bex Hogan Illustrated by Hannah McCaffery

A fun-filled fantasy series starring an unforgettable new hero.

Bronte Tempestra of the Storm Kingdom is taking charge of her own destiny - she will be the first ever princess to become a knight!

But knight school isn't the fun-filled adventure Bronte is expecting - the knights don't seem interested in saving . . . anything. And when she discovers that the Lightning Steeds have gone missing, leaving the Thunder Trolls to wreak havoc across the lands, she knows it's her moment to prove just how brave a princess can be.

Bronte must face down pompous Griffin Lords and bare-bottomed cloud-stealing Gnomes, monstrous HORRORflies and spooky ZOMbits. The future of the entire kingdom is at stake.

It's time for the princess to rescue the knights!

BEX HOGAN has spent much of her life lost in daydreams. Writing her stories down was a natural progression and now she enjoys sharing her time between living in the real world and escaping to her imagination. She is the author of the ISLES OF STORM AND SORROW trilogy, which are YA fantasy adventures set on the high seas. VIPER, VENOM and VULTURE are all out now.

HANNAH MCCAFFERY studied Illustration for Children's Publishing at Glyndwr University and now works as an illustrator and designer. She finds her inspiration from the characters she comes across each day and from rambling through the beautiful Welsh countryside.



Publication March 2023 Age range:

> Key themes: kittens, princesses,

friendship Extent: 144pp, b+w illustrations



Princess Katie's Kittens Illustrated by Sam Loman

An adorable series, perfect for wannabe princesses and voung animal lovers!

Princess Katie's greatest wish is to have a kitten of her own to care for. So when she discovers a litter of kittens in the forest, it's a dream come true! But back at the palace she realises that one of the kittens is missing . . . Can Katie and her best friend Becky find Pixie and bring her to safety?

Short chapters, black and white illustrations and fabulous facts about kitten care make these the perfect choice for newly confident readers.

JULIA SYKES has recently moved to Cornwall with her family and a white wolf - cunningly disguised as a dog. When she's not writing she likes eating cake, reading and walking, often at the same time.

SAM LOMAN studied Illustration at the Academy of Arts in Rotterdam in the Netherlands (BDes) and Art. Design and Illustration at the University of Hertfordshire. She works full-time from her home as an illustrator/author for picture books and designs products like stationery, tableware, cards and more.

More adventures for Princess Katie and her kittens:











March 2024

Age range:

Key themes: quests, rebellions. friendship, exploration

Extent: 352pp

3 books in series

Beastlands

Jess French Cover/map illustrator: George Ermos

An epic fantasy adventure featuring three unlikely heroes, a realm of mighty beasts, and an adventure quest like no other...

The island of Ramoa was once luscious and populated with mighty beasts. But now the cities are sparse and tamed and trouble is brewing.

Kayla's beloved animal companion, a rare winged pangron, has been stolen. She's determined to get him back, but to do so, she'll have to journey into the wild Beastlands. where so few dare to go. There she meets Rustus, a young warrior desperate to win his father's approval, and Alethea, a healer searching for a cure for The Scourge, the mysterious disease sweeping across the realms.

As their quests converge, they'll go on an adventure like no other, across the lands they know so little about, leading them to discoveries both great and terrifying. Not least that the beasts they've always been taught to fear might not be so terrifying after all...

JESS FRENCH is a qualified vet with a first class degree in zoology, a naturalist and entomologist. She is also the author of over 20 books for children and the presenter of hit wildlife shows, Minibeast Adventures with Jess (CBeebies), Live 'n' Deadly (CBBC), and Springwatch (BBC). Jess spent much of her childhood outside climbing trees and searching under rocks, which inspired her love of the natural world and animals. When not studying, teaching or writing, Jess enjoys rock-climbing, kickboxing and playing the saxophone and drums. Jess is also an explorer, adventurer and traveller and has worked in gibbon sanctuary in Thailand, a monkey sanctuary in Bolivia and a dog shelter in India. She currently lives in Norfolk with her family.



September 2023

World Rights

Age range:

Kev themes: ancient myths, modern

friendships, the power of storytelling

Extent: 320pp

The Silver Road Sinéad O'Hart Cover illustrator: Manuel Šumberac

Myth and magic combine in this unforgettable adventure drawing on Irish folklore, from award-winning author Sinéad O'Hart.

The seandraiocht - the Old Magic - isn't remembered like it once was. Its power is fading...

When Rose is entrusted with a powerful stone by a Frost Giant, she is swept into an adventure full of danger. The stone can be used for great good or great evil, depending on its keeper. It leads Rose to discover the magic that runs through all of Ireland. A magic that is threaded together beneath the land: the Silver Road. But the Silver Road is

Now Rose must keep the stone from falling into the wrong hands and embark on a quest to find its rightful owner and keep the magic alive...

A stunning new fantasy adventure for children, drawing on Celtic folklore. Perfect for fans of Catherine Doyle and Ross Montgomery.

SINÉAD O'HART is a children's author, a children's literature podcaster (she co-hosts Storyshaped, available on all podcasting platforms), and a parent, all of which keeps her busy (but not too busy to read). She's the author of The Eye of the North, The Star-Spun Web, Skyborn, The Time Tider and The Silver Road, and sometimes she can't quite believe she's lucky enough to do what she loves most (putting fictional people into frankly dangerous situations) as a job!



Publication: September 2023

World Rights

Age range:

Key themes: bloodthirsty aliens

Extent: 224pp tbc



One thing's for sure: Shiver Point will never be the same again.

Cover illustrator: Brittnev Bond

screams and small-town horror!

Welcome to Shiver Point, home of spooks,

Shiver Point is boring. Nothing interesting ever happens there and there's never

anything fun to do. At least that's what Alex always thought. Until one night, in the dead dark, he spots what looks like a meteorite plummeting into Howlmoor Forest.

Intrigued, Alex goes to investigate. But little does he know, four other kids have also

spotted the strange streak in the sky: 'troublemaker' Oli, studious Sophia, curious Mo

and budding engineer Riley. What they discover is far beyond their wildest dreams - in

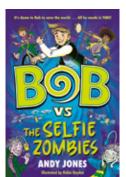
fact it belongs in their nightmares. Can the gang work together to save the town from

the bloodthirsty bodysnatcher that's arrived with the meteorite before it's too late?

Shiver Point Gabriel Dylan

Enter if you dare....

GABRIEL DYLAN is a surfer, snowboarder, secondary-school teacher and children's author. He's a huge horror fan, having grown up on a diet of King, Herbert, and Laymon. He is the author of YA horror novel WHITEOUT and middle grade horror series SHIVER POINT. He lives in the South West of England with his wife and three kids. You can find him on Twitter @GabrielDylanYA



Publication: February 2023

Age range:

Key themes: the future, family. friendship

Extent: 320pp

Bob vs the Selfie Zombies

Andy Jones Illustrated by Robin Boyden

The hilarious and unforgettable story of Bob, accidental time traveller!

For Bob and his best friend Malcolm, winning the school talent competition with their band the Tentacles of Time is really important. And that's before they realise the future of the world depends on it . . .

Bob travels through time to meet his future self and finds himself faced with a disastrous future reality. It's up to him to set things on course in the present to save future him, future Malcolm AND the whole world. Yikes!

"Brilliantly bonkers"

MAZ EVANS, AUTHOR OF WHO LET THE GODS OUT?

"Bold, clever and funny"

P.G. BELL. AUTHOR OF THE TRAIN TO IMPOSSIBLE PLACES

ANDY JONES began his career as an author writing novels for adults. More recently, he has been writing books for children including Unleash Your Creative Monster and Wishes Come in Threes. Andy's books are funny, dramatic and unpredictable. They might even make you think. Andy lives on the outskirts of London (the best part in his opinion) with his wife, daughters and an assortment of other creatures.

ROBIN BOYDEN lives in Cheltenham with his partner and their Cockapoo Lupin. Robin is the author and illustrator of the graphic novel, Georgia and the Edge of the World and the picture book, Gerald Needs a Friend. When not drawing, he's usually in the garden, going for a walk or batch cooking in the kitchen.



Coming soon: Bob vs the Trousers of Doom!

TO TWELVE



Publication: June 2024

Norld Right

Age range: 12+

Key themes: romance, friendship, fitness, fatness

Extent: 288pp tbc

Slowcoach Bethany Rutter Cover illustrator: Katie Foreman

25% Fun friends 25% Cute boy 25% Fitness 25% Fatness

Get your skates on for the sweetest feel-good, body-positive rom com of the summer!

For sixteen-year-old Ruby, GCSEs are over and summer has just begun, so that means hanging out with her BFFs in the park on their roller skates and having fun. She didn't expect it to mean signing up to run in the Dawson Dash - a 5k race for sporty sixth formers. Because Ruby is NOT sporty. But she really needs to prove her mean brother and even meaner PE teacher wrong about what a fat girl can do.

When Ruby starts to train, she didn't expect that she would need help - nor that she would find it in the cute boy who has just moved in next door. As the two jog through the long summer evenings in south London's parks together, with Ollie only seeing her at her sweatiest and most vulnerable, the last thing she expected was that he might . . . like her. Or that she could allow herself to like him.

But nothing this summer is working out like she expected...

BETHANY RUTTER is a writer and podcaster. She writes books about women, bodies and clothes. She lives in Southeast London.



Publication:

Age range:

Key themes:

coming of age

Extent:

400pp

romance, fake dating,

friends to lovers, love

triangle, high school,

February 2023

This is How You Fall in Love

Anika Hussain Cover illustrator: Bhavna Madan

A hilarious and heartfelt YA fake dating romcom from an exciting debut author

Zara and Adnan are just friends. Always have been, always will be. Even if they have to pretend to be girlfriend and boyfriend...

Zara loves love in all forms and she's desperate to have her own great love story. Crucially, a real one. So when her best friend Adnan begs her to pretend to date him to cover up his new top-secret relationship, Zara is hesitant. This isn't the kind of thing she had in mind. But there's something in it for Zara too: making her parents, who love Adnan, happy might just stop them arguing for a while. She may not be getting her own love story, but she could save theirs.

So Zara agrees and the act begins: after all, how different can pretending to be in a relationship with your best friend be to just hanging around with them like usual? Turns out, a lot. With fake dating comes fake hand-holding and fake kissing and real feelings...

And when a new boy turns up in Zara's life, things get more confusing than ever.

The course of true love never did run smooth, but Zara's love story is messier than most...

ANIKA HUSSAIN is a debut author who was born in Stockholm and now lives in Bath. She is a graduate of Bath Spa Masters in Writing for Young People. Not having seen herself in the books she read as a teenager, Anika writes YA novels with South Asian characters at the heart of the story. Anika often returns to Sweden where she has made TV and radio appearances, speaking about the impact writing has had on her life, and her work with the Ministry of Storytelling.



Publication: July 2023

World Rights (sold in: Poland)

Age range:

Key themes: contemporary fantasy, superpowers, adventure.

LGBTQ+, magical

Extent: 352pp

Overemotional

David Fenne

Steven Percival's emotions manifest as magical powers, with consequences ranging from the disastrous to the hilarious. When a mysterious secret agency starts hunting him down, Steven and his friends must fight back - and get him a boyfriend, of course.

Struggling to control his strange new magic powers, seventeen-year-old Steven flees to the miserable town of Grunsby-on-Sea, determined not to hurt anyone else with his "Emomancy": every emotion has an opposite magical reaction.

But with a best friend as determined as Freya, it is impossible to stay hidden for long, especially when she realises Steven might be in danger after a mysterious organisation called DEMA start asking questions about him. Where Freya goes, her boyfriend Marcus and American friend Troy soon follow. Together, they are determined to find out more about this organisation and what "neutralising" someone like Steven might mean.

By chance, Steven meets a handsome stranger who claims to share his powers and who offers to teach Steven how to control them. But who is he in relation to DEMA? What on earth happened to make Grunsby-on-Sea so lethargic a town? And can you really trust a charismatic stranger you meet in a café bathroom?

DAVID FENNE is an author, actor and improv comedian. Originally from a small village in coastal Dorset, he went to London in 2012 for drama school (studying American Theatre Arts at Rose Bruford College). He also trained abroad for half a year at Syracuse University, NY, an experience that inspired a lot of the transatlantic humour in his writing. He runs long-form improv theatre company Pinch Punch and has entertained audiences the length and breadth of the UK.



Publication: February 2023

World English Right

Age range:

Key themes: black joy, self-love, crushes

Extent: 368pp

Glow up, Lara Bloom Dee Benson Cover illustrator: Amanda Quartey

The secret diary of a teenage catastrophe!

When Lara meets super-cute new boy Caiden, she begins to think that the way to his heart is to give herself a glow up. But her friends are not impressed. You should never glow up for a boy, only for yourself!

As Lara and her friends embark on their project of empowerment and self-love, Lara shares her innermost thoughts with her online journal. How can she keep her hair under control when she's playing football? Why is she so fast on the pitch yet so uncoordinated off it? And how will she ever convince Caiden to take an interest in her?

DEE BENSON has loved books since childhood. She finds it surreal that she now gets to create her own worlds and characters in books of her own. When she isn't writing, Dee enjoys long walks, good food, and music that makes her wish she could sing. She lives in Liverpool with her husband and two daughters.

Coming soon: Work It, Lara Bloom



TEEN / YOUNG ADULT



Publication: August 2022

(Sold in: France, Romania)

Age range:

Key themes: freedom, betrayal, the Underworld

Extent: 448pp



Enter the Underworld in an epic new fantasy duology, HOUSE OF SHADOWS, where the Gods of ancient Greece rule everything but fate.

Deina is trapped. As one of the Soul Severers serving the god Hades on earth, her future is tied to the task of shepherding the dying on from the mortal world - unless she can earn or steal enough to buy her way out.

Then the tyrant ruler Orpheus offers both fortune and freedom to whoever can retrieve his dead wife. Eurydice. from the Underworld. Deina jumps at the chance. But to win, she must enter an uneasy alliance with a group of fellow Severers she neither likes nor trusts. So begins their perilous journey into the realm of Hades... The prize of freedom is before her - but what will it take to reach it?

KATHARINE and ELIZABETH CORR are sisters and writers. When they both decided to write novels - on account of fictional people being much easier to deal with than real ones - it was obvious they should do it together. They can sometimes be found in one of their local coffee shops arguing over which character to kill off next.

Coming soon: Queen of Gods



EIRDRE SULLIVAN

Publication: September 2023

Age range:

Key themes: hauntings, trauma, sisters, memory

Extent: 368pp

Wise Creatures Deirdre Sullivan

Cover illustrator: Corey Brickley

I always thought that hauntings began with houses. They don't, of course. It's people, isn't it? It starts with people.

Former child psychic Daisy hasn't thought about her past for a long time. She was only six, after all. The 'wise creatures' in the walls of the house, whispering secrets to her, are long gone. Her parents, dead in a mysterious accident, are forgotten. Some surfaces are better left unscratched. Daisy has left those things behind.

And now, ten years on, she has a happy, normal life. But she does wonder, sometimes, about the blank spaces in her memories. The fear when she encounters certain textures, scents. It can be hard to feel safe in a world that's full of fears you can't explain. Thank God for Nina, her trusting, sweet foster sister and best friend. So when something seems to shift in Nina's life Daisy is shaken. Nina has some secret she is guarding, that she won't share with Daisy. And then Nina begins to speak of murmurs in the walls, of cold spots. She claims it isn't her. It's something else. A malevolent force.

And Daisy knows that something's up. And that the wise creatures, locked away for so long, are back. And this time they want both Nina, and Daisy...

A darkly thrilling contemporary supernatural horror novel from award-winning author Deirdre Sullivan.

DEIRDRE SULLIVAN is a writer from Galway. Her 2016 novel NEEDLEWORK was awarded a White Raven and the CBI Honour Award for fiction, TANGLEWEED AND BRINE, a collection of dark fairy-tale retellings, won an Irish Book Award in 2017, as did the sequel, SAVAGE HER REPLY, Her novels for Hot Key Books are PERFECTLY PREVENTABLE DEATHS (shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards) and PRECIOUS CATASTROPHE.



Publication: Spring/Summer 2024

World Rights

Age range: New Adult

Kev themes: fake dating, flirty, romantic, steamy

Extent: 288pp

Estelle Maskame

Two broken-hearted singletons meet at a bar fight in San Francisco - they're worlds apart, but maybe that's just what they need to fall in love.

Gracie's future was set to be a happily ever after... or she thought.

Weston had the woman of his dreams... he just realized it far too late.

Dragged out by their friends to forget their woes on a night out in San Francisco, Gracie and Weston's worlds collide in a bar fight. Gracie's an up-and-coming influencer, but her job revolved around her relationship - without it, who is she and what is supposed to show her viewers now? Weston is training to be a police officer because that's what his dad wants, but he's been playing life safe for fear of failing and it's cost him his relationship. When Gracie's friends throw a too-loud party at home and Weston is sent to shut it down, something new begins to blossom between them.

Adrift in their shared romantic woes, they gravitate towards one another; after all, if they have to be alone, why not be alone together?

ESTELLE MASKAME, the million-selling author of YA sensation the DIMILY trilogy, makes her debut in the adult genre with this sizzling romance. She signed her first book deal when she was 17, won the Young Scot Arts Award in 2016 and was shortlisted for the Young Adult Award at the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards. Her books have been sold in 19 territories and counting. She has 27k followers on

More titles by Estelle Maskame:











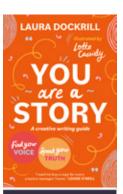








YOUNG



Publication: July 2022

World Right

Age range:

Key themes: creative writing, adolescence, wellbeing

Extent: 304pp, b/w illustrations

You Are a Story Laura Dockrill Interiors illustrated by Lotte Cassidy

Tell your story. A guide and companion for using creative writing to speak your own truth.

When you are a teenager, everything changes – including you. How do you find your way back to yourself when it can feel like teachers, parents, friends, the rest of the world, all want you to be something else? It can be fun to try on different ways of being but the best way to steer yourself through crazy, brilliant adolescence is to hold onto your sense of you.

Laura's stress-free invitations to creative writing encourage you to find your voice, celebrate it and use it.

Everybody can write. You don't need a fancy desk; you don't need a posh expensive pen. You don't need a degree or to be the smartest cookie in the cookie jar. All you need is a brain and a heart.

LAURA DOCKRILL, a graduate of the Brit School of Performing Arts, is a poet, writer and illustrator. At the age of 22 she was named by *THE TIMES* as a 'Top Ten Literary Star'. She is the author of the *DARCY BURDOCK* series and the YA novels *LORALI, AURABEL* and *BIG BONES*. Her adult book, *WHAT HAVE I DONE*, is an honest memoir about suffering from postnatal mental illness. Find her on Twitter and Instagram @LauraDockrill

LOTTE CASSIDY is an illustrator and animator from London, currently studying for a masters at the Royal College of Art. She loves to explore the everyday, inspired by her surroundings, documenting people and their connection to a place. In her camera roll you will find people in puffer jackets, fish and chips, dogs with long legs, chimneys and hopscotch on the pavements.





Publication: May 2022

World Rights

Age range:

Key themes: sex, relationships, bodies, honesty

Extent: 272pp. b/w illustrations

Honest

Everything They Didn't Tell You About Sex, Relationships and Bodies

Milly Evans Illustrated by Lucia Picerno

Let's talk about sex.

Reading the above will probably conjure up embarrassing memories of awkward sexeducation lessons, the dreaded cringey 'talk' with Mum and Dad. Even worse, those confusing tales of the experiences of your more adventurous friends...

But happily, journalist and campaigner Milly Evans, has got it all covered – from sexuality to sexting, masturbation to sexual consent – she lets us in to her number-one secret: grown-ups have NO idea what they're doing. Sex education doesn't need to be embarrassing, scary and only about what you need to be aware of. HONEST is a positive guide to sex, relationships and bodies, full of all the secrets that parents are too scared to talk to their teens about.

In addition to Milly's own views and advice, we meet some brilliant sex-positive activists and inspirational people along the way. LGBTQ+ perspectives are integrated throughout the book, so that every reader can see their experiences reflected and know that sex-and-relationship education doesn't have to be from a hetero-normative perspective.

So, enough foreplay. Let's talk about sex, and spark open and honest conversations through the voice of a young woman who is steeped in the subject and knows how to broach it.

MILLY EVANS is a journalist and sex-education advocate who has been campaigning for a more inclusive and comprehensive sex-education curriculum since 2016. She has worked with Brook and the Terrence Higgins Trust as well as being involved with Stonewall and UNESCO.

LUCIA PICERNO is an award-winning designer and illustrator from Uruguay, living in London. She aims to spread thought-provoking messages that inspire women to be seen and heard. Her clients include Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, Honda, Bodyform, Palmer's and Danone among many others.

SELON 14

