

zeitgeist media group

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We represent a distinctive array of Australian, American, British, European, Russian, Turkish and Chinese authors from our Sydney and Brussels offices.

Our list includes several bestsellers, the finest literary fiction, an iconic cartoonist, inspiring memoirs and thought-provoking non-fiction. We also represent picture books, middle grade and YA/crossover titles from around the world.

Our passion is to connect authors, publishers and media across the globe. We hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Warm regards,
Benython, Sharon and Thomasin
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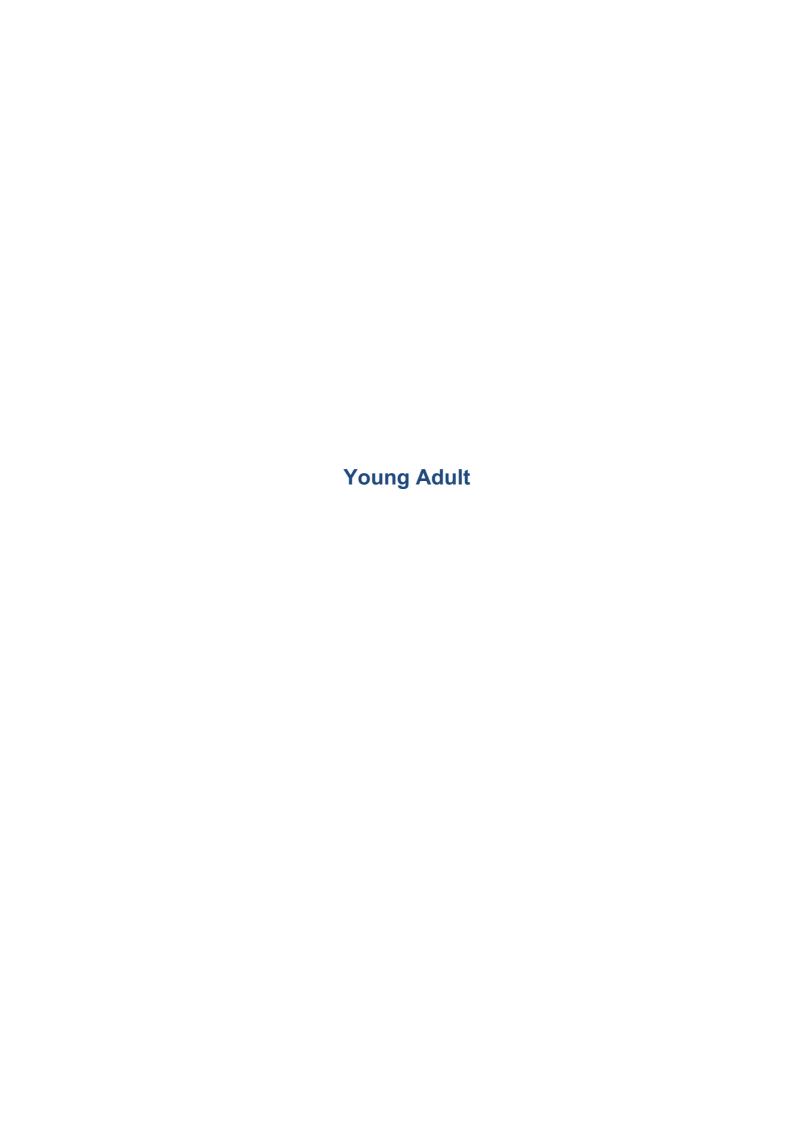
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ILLUSTRATOR CORNER

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CO-AGENTS





YA FICTION

Australia/NZ 2020 · Vintage PRH

* All other rights available

Vivian Pham (AUSTRALIA / USA)

The Coconut Children

Sonny and Vince have always known each other. It took two years of juvenile prison, a crazy mother and a porn stash for them to meet again.

The year is 1998. The place is Cabramatta, a Sydney suburb with the largest Vietnamese population in Australia. Stabbings are commonplace, drug dealers peddle on every street corner and teenage boys are armed with pocket knives. Sixteen-year-old Sonny Vuong couldn't be more removed from all the trouble that stirs right outside her bedroom window. Sheltered and helplessly hormonal, Sonny is consumed with a burning desire for just about anyone. Her casual love interests include a balding high school chemistry teacher, any KFC employee that happens to spare her a glance and, of course, Prince William. The web of steamy affairs she has invented for her own entertainment has helped her cope with her controlling and angry mother.

But all pretences threaten to fall apart at the return of Vince Tran, a family friend who was taken to juvenile prison two years ago. Now, Vince is back, and Sonny is determined to light a flame in his heart. Only one problem remains: they have not spoken a word to each other since they were children. Against all odds, an unlikely and sweet romance blossoms. In an age where children are forced out of their youth, Sonny and Vince pick up the scraps of innocence together.

The Coconut Children is a tale of coming of age, growing apart from parents, and coming to terms with who we are, instead of how others see



VIVIAN PHAM is a seventeen-year-old student and writer. Her father was the same age when he escaped war-torn Vietnam by boat and set out to make a life for himself in America. Vivian was born in Orange County California and emigrated to Australia with her family as a toddler. She is currently doing her final school exams and dreaming about Ivy League & Oxbridge Universities. *The Coconut Children* was purchased by Penguin Random House in a five-way auction. Vivian has just returned from San Francisco where she attended the invitation-only International Congress of Youth Voices.



YA FICTION / THRILLER

- * All rights available
- 'Really exciting page-turner with an excellent premise and terrific pacing. Huge potential.'
- Tablo Judge and Publisher, Hardie Grant Australia
- 'Catherine has a great voice, and she has created an intriguing cast of characters...Mae's internal thoughts, her paranoia and awkwardness were done really well.'
- Tablo Judge and Publisher, Pantera Press Australia



Jenny Was a Friend of Mine

Winner Top YA Novel, Tablo contest 2018

In an attempt to uncover who killed her best friend, Mae will do anything to get a confession...even if it kills *them*.

College student Jenny is murdered at a party. Her best friend and secret lover Mae is shattered. A month goes by and the police still don't know who killed Jenny. In a desperate attempt to unveil the killer, Mae invites five friends (and in her mind the most likely suspects) to her family's cabin in the woods.

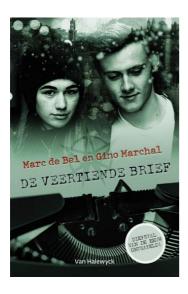
A bloody surprise in the woods mixed with revealed secrets sets the group on edge and soon they begin to unravel. Trapped in the cabin due to a snowstorm and a few slashed tires, they each recount their version of the party where Jenny ended up dead, all in an attempt to uncover the killer and save themselves. As they start to lose grip on reality, one of the five friends is murdered.

As Mae sits in a police station explaining the events herself, she not only tells the story of what happened at the cabin, but also reveals what transpired during the party. As Mae goes deeper and deeper in recounting events, it becomes clear to the reader that she might not be telling the whole story. What is Mae hiding? Who killed Jenny? What really happened at the cabin?

Told primarily from Mae's point of view, with the story shifting from events at the party to the cabin to the police station, *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is a new spin on the classic page-turner with an unreliable narrator.



CATHERINE E. KOVACH has written articles and stories for *Diabolique Magazine*, *Bustle.com* and *Starlog Magazine*. She was an assistant editor for Skyhorse Publishing and now works as an e-commerce copywriter. You can also find her in the online role-playing gaming community where she create virtual characters. She lives in New Jersey with her partner and three beloved cats. *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is her first novel.



YA FICTION 12+ 208 pages

Belgium (Flemish) June 2018 · Van Halewyck

- * All other rights available
- * Dutch final ms available
- * English sample translation available Nov 1





Marc de Bel & Gino Marchal (BELGIUM)

The Fourteenth Letter

For 84 years it has been missing. An 15th century art masterpiece stolen from a cathedral, then hidden, and never found. Until now.

Dear Mr. Mayor, Dear Chief Commissioner,

We have the privilege to inform you that we know where Van Eyck's masterpiece painting, stolen from the Ghent cathedral on April 10th 1934, has been hidden for the past 84 years.

Sincerely, Wannes and Nina

When Wannes' grandfather dies, he inherits his old typewriter. It is no ordinary typewriter, but the one used by Arsene Goedertier to type 14 extortion letters: ransom notes asking for payment in exchange for the return of a Van Eyck painting. The 14th letter, unsent, was discovered in a desk drawer, and contains clues to the location of the missing painting. No one has managed to decipher the clues until now.

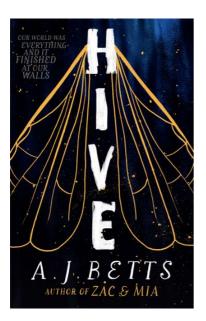
Based on a true story of one of the greatest unsolved art robberies of all time, *The Fourteenth Letter* plunges the reader into Wannes' and Nina's search for the missing painting. The story alternates with letters, photos and maps from Ghent's archives, and with present day internet searches and lyrics from The Beatles and Nirvana.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/15/puzzler-says-he-has-cracked-code-to-stolen-belgian-masterpiece

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ghent-altarpiece-code-solved-gino-marchal-belgium-treasure-dig-holes-kalandeberg-mystic-lamb-a8402156.html

MARC DE BEL, with over 2 million copies sold of his novels, is one of the best-loved children's writers in Belgium. He has written over 160 books and graphic novels, plus four films, theatre reproductions, and has won the most prestigious children's book award in Belgium, the Flemish Youth Jury Prize. His work has been translated into French, German, Chinese, Italian, Danish, Norwegian, Korean, Faroese and even Sami. He lives in Flanders with his wife, three cats, dog, ponies and chickens.

GINO MARCHAL is an R&D engineer by day and an amateur-sleuth by night. After an intense investigation last year, he believes to have solved the largest art puzzle in Belgium's history: the location of stolen painting by Van Eyck. He likes to solve puzzles, find his way out of an escaperoom or engage in some mad-scientist tinkering when he's not playing with his cat Igor.



YA FICTION / SPECULATIVE

Book 1 is 54,000 words Book 2 is 70,000 words

Published:
Australia June & Sept 2018 · Pan
Macmillan

* All other rights available



AJ Betts (Australia)

Hive & Rogue

In a world that shouldn't exist, lives a girl who doesn't belong.

BOOK #1: HIVE

It's the year 2120 and fifteen-year-old Hayley is a beekeeper in an underwater seed vault where people came 100 years earlier seeking shelter from an asteroid. Seeking relief for her headaches, Hayley trespasses where she shouldn't. Armed with her bee collection box, she sneaks into the engine house to hide in the unused corridor. It's the only place in the world that gives her comfort from her headaches, a worrying symptom of madness.

It's there she hears the drip. A drip of water from the ceiling? It doesn't make sense. In this world, water only comes from the source, from God. Everybody knows that. And yet the drip is real. She hears it, catches it. Tastes it. Why would salt water drip from a ceiling of a corridor?

Curiosity is a hook. What starts as a drip leads to a lie, a death, a boy, a beast, and too many awful questions. As Hayley uncovers more secrets, she learns there are greater fears than madness. Because of that drip, Hayley's world will never be the same.

BOOK #2: ROGUE

Having escaped the only world she'd ever known, Hayley finds herself afloat in another. Washing up on Maria Island, Hayley discovers a lush kind of Eden thick with eucalypts and butterflies. She has no words for these things, nor knowledge of how to survive.

How do you start again? And how do you know if you truly want to? To everyone in this world, Hayley looks like just any other drifter, floating for a safer place...until they realise how special she is.

Everything has a price, Hayley learns, and some things are more valuable than others. What would she do to protect her old world and the boy who helped her to escape? What wouldn't she do?

AJ BETTS is the award-winning author of three YA novels (*Zac & Mia, Wavelength, Shutterspeed*). *Zac & Mia* (Text Publishing, 2013) won the Text Prize for YA writing, the Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature (NSW Premier's Award), the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award, and was published in 12 countries. AJ is currently undertaking her PhD in 'wonder' in young adult fiction. She works at Princess Margaret Hospital as an English teacher. She is a popular presenter at festivals and schools, combining her passion for creativity, story, and education. She lives in Perth by the beach.



YA FICTION 12+ 78,000 words

- * Not yet published
- * All rights available

Mar Darch (UK)

Hatchlands

Fantasy meets the African realities of dark magic, modern greed and blood diamonds.

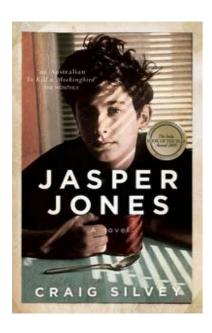
Troubled fifteen-year-old Tess finds her face splashed across the papers when she saves the life of a stranger in a near super-human act of bravery. She is shocked to find her family horrified at what she has done. She realises this is because they are worried that she has drawn attention to her extraordinary supernatural abilities – abilities that manifested for the first time during the rescue.

Forced to flee her home in the American Midwest after a sinister gang attempts to kidnap her, Tess discovers that all the people around her have been lying: the aunt and uncle she lives with since her parents' deaths, and even her godfather. She agrees to her godfather's plan to enrol her at an isolated international college in Africa. There she meets an array of students who all have powers too.

But Tess doesn't yet know her own strength, much less how to control it. Soon she has more enemies than friends. When a local boy, Tembe, goes missing and the school is under attack from rebel militias, Tess and classmates Will and Naro are drawn into a terrifying world of black magic, modern greed, and blood diamonds.



MAR DARCH (pen name for Marianne Young) is one of the UK's youngest ambassadors, recently serving as High Commissioner to Namibia in southern Africa. She started her career as a journalist on *The Times* newspaper before moving into international trade reporting. Since joining the British diplomatic service in 2001, she has spent eight years posted in Africa. She has worked on a range of political, economic, human rights and conflict issues, including blood diamonds and child soldiers. She lives in London with her husband and three children.



YA LITERARY FICTION

Published:

Australia/NZ 2009 · Allen & Unwin

UK 2010 · Windmill Books, Random

USA 2011 · Knopf, Random House

France 2010 · Calmann-Lévy, Hachette

 $\textbf{Spain 2010} \cdot \textbf{Seix Barral, Planeta}$

Italy 2010 · Neri Pozza

Netherlands 2010 · Bezige Bij

Norway 2010 · Cappelen Damm AS

Germany 2011 · Rowohlt Verlag

Poland 2011 · Dom Wydawniczy Rebis

Israel 2011 · Modan Publishing House

Brazil 2011 · Intrinseca

China 2010 · ThinKingdom

Taiwan 2010 · Solo Press

Korea 2010 · Tin Drum

Turkey 2013 · Marti Publishing

 $\textbf{Film rights} \cdot \mathsf{Porchlight Films}$

In Australia cinemas March 2017

* All other rights available



Craig Silvey (Australia)

Jasper Jones

Nominated Deutsche Jugendliteraturpreis 2013

USA Printz Honor Book for excellence in YA literature 2012

Winner Australian Book Industry Awards, Literary Book of the Year 2010

Winner Australian Book Industry Awards, Book of the Year 2010

Winner Australian Booksellers Choice Award 2010

Winner Australian Independent Booksellers, Book of the Year 2009

Winner Australian Independent Booksellers, Fiction Book of the Year 2009

Winner Australian Indie Book of the Year Award 2009

Co-Winner West Australian Premier's Award (fiction) 2010 with JM Coetzee

Shortlisted Impac Dublin Literary Award 2011

Shortlisted Australian Miles Franklin Literary Award 2010

Shortlisted Christina Stead Award 2010

Shortlisted New South Wales Premier's Literary Award 2010

Shortlisted New South Wales People's Choice Award 2010

Shortlisted Victorian Premier's Literary Award 2010

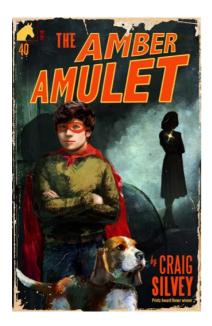
Longlisted United Kingdom Dylan Thomas Prize 2010

Highly Commended Kathleen Mitchell Award 2010

Late on a hot summer night in the tail end of 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleepout. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him through town and to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery.

With this secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself and in vainly attempting to restore the parts that have been shaken loose, Charlie learns to discern the truth from the myth, and why white lies creep like a curse.

CRAIG SILVEY was raised on an orchard in Western Australia. At the age of 19, he wrote his first novel, *Rhubarb*, while living in Fremantle, where he now resides. In 2007 Silvey released *The World According to Warren*, a picture book starring the guide-dog from *Rhubarb*. In early 2008, he completed his second novel, *Jasper Jones*, an award-winning gothic tale that has become a global hit. In addition to his literary pursuits, Silvey is the singer/songwriter for the band The Nancy Sikes. He most recently published an illustrated novella *The Amber Amulet* and is working on a new novel.



YA / CROSSOVER NOVELLA FULL COLOUR / ILLUSTRATED 96 pages

Published:

Australia/NZ 2012 · Allen & Unwin
UK 2013 · Allen & Unwin UK
Germany 2013 · Rowohlt Verlag
Turkey 2014 · Marti Publishing
France Sept 2017 · Actes Sud Junior
US/Canada Jan 2018 · SkyPony Press
Film rights · Goalpost Pictures
Australia

* All other rights available



Craig Silvey (Australia)

The Amber Amulet

Crystal Bear Best Short Film 63rd Berlin International Film Festival

A brilliant jewel of a book from the acclaimed, best-selling author of *Jasper Jones*.

You're in safe hands – The Masked Avenger and Richie the Power Beagle are here to protect you!

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please find enclosed this AMBER AMULET.

That must sound unusual to a citizen, but you will have to trust me on this count because the science is too detailed for me to outline here. All you need to know is that the AMBER AMULET will eliminate your unhappiness by counteracting it with POSITIVE ENERGY. This should see you straight. Fear not, you're in safe hands now.

Take care, The Masked Avenger

Meet twelve-year-old Liam McKenzie, who patrols his suburban neighbourhood as the masked avenger—a superhero with powers so potent not even he can comprehend their extent.

Along with his sidekick Richie the Powerbeagle, he protects the people of Franklin Street from chaos, mayhem, evil and low tyre pressure—but can he save them from sadness?

This perfect jewel of a book by the award-winning author of the 2009 Book of the Year *Jasper Jones* will hold all readers in its irresistible power.

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Middle Grade



MIDDLE GRADE Age 10+ 40,000 words

Published:
Australia/NZ June & Sept 2019 ·
Walker Books

- * Book 1 final pages available
- * Book 2 manuscript (not final) available





Jesse Blackadder & Laura Bloom (AUSTRALIA)

Dream Riders

Four-book series: Frankie, Storm, Kai, Violet

Without a saddle or bridle, what's left is... the truth.

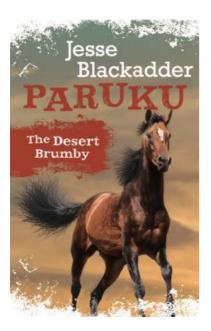
In an Australian north coast town, four young teens who don't fit in – Frankie, Storm, Kai and Violet – break away from the restrictive regime of Pony Club led by ambitious Olympic rider Oliver, to learn free-riding without saddles or bridles. They're inspired by love and respect for their horses, and taught by the magnetic horse whisperer Shannon at her natural horsemanship centre, Pocket of Dreams, in the secluded rainforest valley behind town known as The Pocket.

But when they face the closure of their new world at The Pocket, only their new riding skills and the loyalty born between each horse and rider will allow the Dream Riders to triumph and save themselves and the centre.

Dream Riders is a series of four books, each written from the unique first person voice of the four main young teens: Frankie, Storm, Kai, Violet. Although the main plot arc revolves around free riding, along the way the teens face challenges common to 12- and 13-year olds – family conflicts, coming of age, friendships, siblings, school and work.

JESSE BLACKADDER is an awarding-winning journalist, writer, screenwriter and public speaker. With a PhD in Creative Arts, she also leads StoryBoard, who teach creative writing to 3500 young people per year. Her writing fellowships have taken her to Antarctica, Alaska and outback Australia. She has written four adult novels and three junior novels. *The Raven's Heart* won multiple awards, including the Benjamin Franklin Award for Historical Fiction (US). Her middle grade fiction includes a 3-book series featuring a koala, brumby horses and an Antarctic dog (Harper Collins). www.jesseblackadder.com

LAURA BLOOM grew up in inner city Sydney dreaming of riding horses, and now lives in Mullumbimby where she at last fulfilled her dream to learn natural horsemanship. She has written six novels including middle grade *Augustine's Lunch* (NSW Premier's Awards shortlist and Young Australian Readers Awards runner-up); two YA novels for Pan MacMillan's *Dolly Fiction* series published in the US, UK and Canada; and three adult novels. www.laurabloom.com.au



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION Ages 8-12

Published:
Australia/NZ 2013, 2014, 2015 ·
HarperCollins/ABC Books



"Blackadder deftly captures the rugged beauty of the Kimberley and the raw energy of the wild horses. The tender, tenuous relationship between girl and horse is palpable." - Sun Herald

"A compelling story of wildlife rescue, told with great empathy and charm." - Sydney Morning Herald



Jesse Blackadder (Australia)

Paruku: The Desert Brumby Dexter: The Courageous Koala Stay: The Last Dog in Antarctica

Three stand-alone novels about the unlikely friendships and love between humans and animals

In *Paruku: The Desert Brumby*, twelve-year-old Rachel is fast outgrowing her first pony. When her father, an equine vet, is offered the job of capturing wild brumbies for the endurance stables of Sheik Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum of Dubai, Rachel travels with him into the remote desert landscape of the Kimberley. Captivated by the wild power and majesty of the young stallion Paruku and his kin, she is torn by the prospect of taking away their freedom. But is there a chance she could keep Paruku for herself?

This moving tale is inspired by the real journey of the Kimberley brumbies to Dubai.

In *Dexter: The Courageous Koala*, when Ashley's long awaited puppy is snatched from her at the last moment, her parents send her on a holiday to cheer her up. But the trip isn't anything like she expected. Picked up by her eccentric aunt Micky and driven out beyond mobile range to "Toad Hall", Ashley's troubles are just beginning. In a matter of hours she's facing a furious storm, a flooded creek, and an electrical blackout - not to mention a koala emergency.

Ashley manages to save an injured mother koala and her joey, Dexter, who have been knocked from their tree. But the storm has cut off the only access road to the property, and the koalas desperately need treatment. Ashley and Dexter must be braver than they have ever imagined to find a way to safety.

Stay: The Last Dog in Antarctica is based on the true story of an Australian fibreglass seeing eye collection dog who was smuggled to the southern continent in 1991 and is still there today. The story follows Stay's incredible journey as she is hidden, liberated, repatriated and dognapped all over again.

Antarctica is full of adventures but will Stay ever manage to raise money for the Royal Guide Dogs and find a way to get it back to Australia?

JESSE BLACKADDER is an awarding-winning journalist, writer, screenwriter and public speaker. With a PhD in Creative Arts, she also leads StoryBoard, who teach creative writing to 3500 young people per year. Her writing fellowships have taken her to Antarctica, Alaska and outback Australia. She has written four adult novels and three junior novels. *The Raven's Heart* won multiple awards, including the Benjamin Franklin Award for Historical Fiction (US). Her most recent book *Dream Riders*, a middle grade four-book series co-written with Laura Bloom, will be published by Walker Books Australia in 2019. jesseblackadder.com



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION / FANTASY 8+

72,000 words

* All rights available

TJ Batton (UK)

Unbound

Book 1 in the Edric Thorn series

When 12-year-old Edric and two friends take matters into their own hands to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance, secrets of a forbidden magic are revealed.

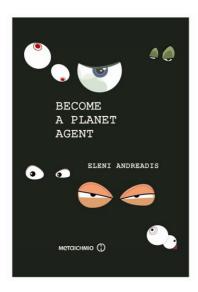
When the watch tower bell in the remote coastal town of Ebud rang seven years ago, Edric Thorn's father vanished without a trace, and not even the Wardens, guardians of magic, did anything to help.

Several years have passed and Edric hasn't lost belief that his father is still alive, and he has a plan to find out more, even if his mother seems to have given up. With help from his friends Kya, the volatile daughter of the town alchemist, and Goran the bookish son of the mayor, he will do whatever it takes to find answers, even if that means breaking some rules (stealing from the King's wagons, visiting a Trader camp after curfew, breaking out of jail, to name a few).

Edric discovers that powerful forces in the Kingdom have been drawn to his town. They are searching for explanations buried in the past and clues to a forgotten, ancient magic that has come to light again – a source of power which might be connected to Edric's father's disappearance. One person in particular would like to use this forbidden magic to shape the future, putting the entire Kingdom in danger. And, while uncovering the truth about his father, Edric comes to learn he may have magical abilities of his own –which could be the answer to his problems, but which might threaten everyone and everything.



TJ BATTON (pen name for Antony Bott) studied economics at St. John's College, Cambridge, and worked in international law firms, media companies and Formula One motorsport, before turning his hand to writing novels. He is passionate about great stories, modern technology and coffee, and probably consumes too much of each. When not writing, TJ plays basketball (badly), guitar (terribly), and computer games (terribly badly). He lives in London with his wife and two sons.



MIDDLE GRADE / ILLUSTRATED 8+ 128 pages

Published:

Greece 2014 · Metaichmio
USA April 2019 · Zest Books
Egypt/Arab World 2018 · Egyptian
Office for Publishing & Distribution
Turkey 2018 · Epsilon

- * World English, Scandinavia, Russia, Israel by Zeitgeist Agency
- * Other rights by Ersilia Literary Agency (primary agent)
- * Full translation in English available





Eleni Andreadis (UK/GREECE) Stefanos Koltsidopoulos, illustrator (GREECE)

Become A Planet Agent

Winner 2016 State Children's Book Award for Educational Book

Shortlisted 2015 Greek IBBY Award

Top 10 Best Children's Books 2015 Public Book Awards by 100,000 participating readers

Top children's knowledge book 2015 Anagnostis Magazine Book Awards

'Are you prepared to take on a mysterious, top secret mission full of surprises? Are you ready to save the world? If the answer is no, DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOK! Then again, if your answer is yes, this book is for you. But open it slowly and with great caution. Because your life will never be the same again.... '

The reader is asked to join an elite task force protecting the planet, by becoming a Planet Agent and taking on a top secret mission. The reader will defeat baddies like Ivan Von Energythirsty, the energy vampire and Gulp Watersucker, who sucks water when people are wasting it.

Original and smart, with an inventive layout, this book quickly became a bestseller in Greece. Selected as part of the Ministry of Education's Reading Marathon 2015, it was the only children's book to be shortlisted for all three prestigious national book awards.

Book 2 in the Planet Agent series was published in May 2016. Entitled *Planet Agents: The Burning Revenge of Pee-ew,* it focuses on global warming. Book 3, *The Attack of the Sea Monsters,* was published in June 2017 on World Oceans Day and focuses on oceans. Further books are planned, each being a standalone quest to complete a specific mission dealing with important climate issues.

ELENI ANDREADIS is a sustainability consultant, educator and writer. She earned her Master's in Environmental Policy & Media at Harvard, and has presented and produced for TV channels in the UK, US and Canada. Eleni worked on the follow-up documentary to *An Inconvenient Truth*, and has consulted for Climate of Change and EnergyWatchUK. She currently consults on eco-tourism in Greek resorts. She founded the non-profit Planet Agents (**www.planetagents.org**) which aims to empower children aged 7-12 to take action on environmental issues. Eleni is bilingual English- Greek, and a UK citizen.

Illustrator **STEFANOS KOLTSIDOPOULOS** studied Visual Communication Design and Animation at Middlesex University and Computer Animation at London Guildhall University. He has worked at TV channels with global reach, such as MTV, and now collaborates with large international advertising agencies in Sweden, Denmark and Greece.

Chapter Books & Picture Books



FICTION / ILLUSTRATED EARLY CHAPTER BOOK Age 5+ 3,500 words

- * World English, Scandinavia, Russia, Israel by Zeitgeist Agency
- * Other rights by Ersilia Literary Agency (primary agent)
- * Full English (original language) manuscript available

Dolores Payás (GREECE/SPAIN)

Ondina in the Kingdom of Blue Adventures of Ondina series, Book 1

Follow courageous Ondina and her Sea Godfather Poseidon on their adventures on a Greek island.

Seven-year-old Ondina is a fearless, mischievous girl always looking for adventure and always getting in trouble. She lives in France, her mother is Spanish, her father Russian, one of her aunts is Greek, while she also has a Chinese uncle and plenty more relatives scattered around the world. And her godfather is none other than the almighty Poseidon himself, as she was born out at sea on a stormy night!

Ondina travels to a Greek island to stay with her Aunt Lola, who makes the best ice cream in the world and is very, very forgetful. While exploring the island one day, Ondina takes a nap on a boat and later finds herself stranded on a desert island. Her mighty godfather Poseidon and his sea subjects (sharks, seahorses and mermaids amongst others!) come to her rescue, but before they help her she has to prove herself worthy by rising to the challenge they set.

Book 2 continues Ondina's adventures, this time in Aunt Lola's garden where she plants courgette seeds sent by her Chinese uncle. But these are no ordinary seeds and Ondina doesn't quite follow the instructions. Mayhem ensues and Ondina must call the Gods for help.

In Book 3, a violent storm takes Ondina by surprise while on a walk in the mountains. She finds shelter in a cave, but with the arrival of her friend Spiridon, a flock of sheep, and an eagle family whose home is the cave they occupy, chaos follows, but the storm rages outside – what will Ondina do? Time to call the Gods for help.



DOLORES PAYÁS was born in the province of Barcelona, lived for a short time in Mexico and Beijing, and now leads a semi-nomadic life. She divides her time between Greece, Switzerland and Spain. Before dedicating herself to translating and writing, Dolores worked as a screenwriter and director. Her previous work includes the novel Adorables Criaturas, the memoir Drink Time! about her friendship with Patrick Leigh Fermor, and the collection of stories and travel notes Desde Una Bicicleta China. Part of a bohemian generation of authors who spend their time travelling and call at least three countries their home, this cosmopolitan vibe enriches her writing with inspiration from around the world. Ondina and the Kingdom of Blue is her first children's book.



CHAPTER BOOK SERIES OF 5 / ILLUSTRATED FICTION
Age 5+

70-80 pages

Belgium (French) 2017-2019 · Alice Editions

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- *Other rights by Alice Editions
- * English sample of Book 1 available November 1st





Marie Colot & Florence Weiser (BELGIUM)

Seagulls & Co.

Book 1 in a series featuring 8-year-old Elvis and his classmates who experience things for the first time. Packed with humour and kindness to charm kids and parents.

Book 1: When Miss Hill discovers that her students have never seen the sea, she is shocked. She organizes a day trip. The excitement is palpable and expectations are high.

But nothing goes as planned. Especially for Elvis. His mom makes a scene on the bus, to the point where moody Tutur the driver simply drives off with her on board. At the beach, it's raining, seagulls are pooping on heads, Ali eats seaweed and vomits, and the last straw: the love of Elvis' life Savanna cuddles up to another boy. When the never-ever-exasperated-ultra-calm-and-positive Miss Hill finally deflates, the students show their big hearts and prepare a surprise to comfort her.

Book 2: Miss Hill's students think French fries grow on trees, so she sets their minds to gardening and making vegetable soup.

Book 3: Savanna's dog is dying and Elvis and the class make a plan so that the dog's final days are memorable.

Book 4: Elvis learns about discipline and respecting elders.

Book 5: Elvis and Savanna fall in love for real.

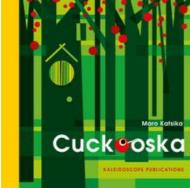




MARIE COLOT is one of Belgium's best-loved children's authors. She has written 14 novels for ages 6-18, and won the prestigious IBBY Libbylit Prize in 2014. She was a schoolteacher before turning to writing full-time. Her latest YA novel was written in collaboration with students from 18 classrooms on an online writing workshop, where students contributed characters and plot lines. When not writing, she collects elephants, practices yoga, and eats crème brulée.

FLORENCE WEISER studied illustration in Paris and Brussels and now lives and works in a caravan by a pond. She has illustrated tens of children's books, and also works with humanitarian and cultural associations. Artistically, she is fascinated by typography, color and light. When not drawing, you can find her sewing, taking photographs and playing the ukulele.





PICTURE BOOKS
Ages 4+
32 pages / 15.5x15.5cm

Published:

Greece 2014 & 2017 · Kaleidoscope

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- * Other rights by Ersilia Literary Agency (primary agent)
- * Full English translation available

Maro Katsika, author-illustrator (GREECE)

The Little Ship That Wanted to Travel to the End of the World

Cuckooska

A journey and a puzzle solved are woven through bold-colour graphics in these two picture books.

The Little Ship That Wanted to Travel to the End of the World

A restless little ship wants to travel to the end of the world. It catches a enormous wave that takes it first to the bottom of the sea and then high up above the clouds. Throughout its journey the little ship sees the world, but also sees itself differently. The book was inspired by Russian poet Lermontov's "The Sail" (Πapyc, 1832) and the first and last lines of the book are an adaptation of the poem.

Cuckooska

The new day dawns different in the bird world: the sky is missing a piece! Cuckooska, a small cuckoo, sets out on a quest to solve the mystery behind the missing piece.



MARO KATSIKA is an architect, graphic designer and illustrator. Born in Athens, she studied architecture at the Berlage Institute in Rotterdam and in Athens at NTUA. Her research interests include early Soviet urbanism and social housing. She has translated the diaries of Marina Tsvetaeva (ed. Tz. Todorov) and essays by Sergei Averintsev into Greek. *The Little Ship That Wanted To Travel The World* is her first picture book, and *Cuckooska* the second.



PICTURE BOOK
Ages 3-6
Illustrated by Camille Dubois

Published:

France 2005-2015 · Fleurus Editions

N. America April 2016 · Beaver Books

Translated into 19 languages

- * World English by Zeitgeist Agency
- * Other rights by Fleurus Editions
- * Full English translation available

Fabienne Blanchut (FRANCE)

Perfect Princess Zoe

'Perfect Princess is one my favorite French children's series.

Zoe struggles with both sides of her personality. The Princess books try to encourage princess-like habits but also acknowledge that kids have a built-in impulse to do "bêtises".'

Pamela Druckerman, author of French Children Don't Throw Food (US title: Bringing Up Bébé)

A bestseller in France, Zoe has shown millions of kids how to behave well in a playful and original way.

Say hello to Princess Zoe! First she's naughty, messy, jealous, too curious. But then Zoe remembers how to be the perfect princess and behaves beautifully: she shares her toys, cleans her room, asks politely. Through Zoe's daily misadventures that all young children experience, she turns bad behaviour into good.

Aimed at 3-6 year olds, Princess Zoe is the heroine of the bestselling Perfect Princess series. They are favourites for children and parents alike. Lovingly illustrated, the sweet simple rhymes truly captivate little readers. Parents love Zoe as her stories help teach their children difficult lessons like not telling lies, being polite and helpful.

The series features 29 titles including *Zoe is Shy, Zoe is Impolite, Zoe and Generosity, Zoe Can't Wait for Christmas*. Each book is 24 pages and follows the same structure: cheeky behaviour on the left page/good behaviour on the right. There's even a little certificate for good behaviour at the end of each book.



FABIENNE BLANCHUT is a children's author, television writer-producer and media consultant. After completing a Masters in Multimedia Studies, Fabienne launched her career in television. She writes and produces documentaries and weekly series for French and Belgian TV. Fleurus published the first *Princesse Parfaite* in 2005 and have since added two new titles every year. The series quickly became a bestseller with 140,000 copies sold a year (nearing 2M copies), translations in 19 languages and a TV cartoon adaptation in the pipeline. Her new series 'Les Coquinettes' was published by Hachette (seven titles to date). Fabienne recently ventured into young adult fiction: based on the true story of Ham, the chimpanzee launched into outer space, she recounts the adventures of Joshua Shapiro with 60 years of American history and space travel as a backdrop.

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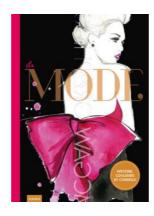


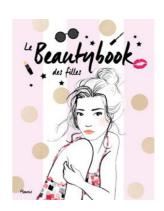




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Illustrator Focus Gabriela Larios



GABRIELA LARIOS received her Masters, from Camberwell
College of Arts in London. As illustrator and textile designer, her
creative world derives from her interest in the natural world.
There is a naive and playful spirit captured in her work and a strong
connection between memories of her childhood in El Salvador and
her body of work: tortoises, fishes, plants, flowers. Her work has
been exhibited in Europe and has appeared in books and
magazines worldwide.

Recent honours. In 2016 Gabriela received an Honourable Mention for her illustration "Coastal Birds" from 3x3 International Illustration Awards. In 2017, her work was featured at the Cass Art Gatlery in Istington/London in their exhibition "Wild and Civilised", organised in conjuction with the AOI. She was selected as a finalist for the VIA Art Prize and exhibited at the Brazillan Embassy in London. Her pattern work was featured in Laurence King's book Print & Pattern Nature Book published this year.

www.gabrielalarios.com



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