

**Diane Banks Associates Ltd**

# **Children's & YA Titles Bologna Book Fair 2018**

## **Rights to sell**

Anna Fargher / The Umbrella Mouse

Emily Critchley / Notes on my Family

Mandy Hartley / DNA Detectives: To Catch A Thief & The Smuggler's Daughter

## **World rights sold**

Simon Mockler / Beatrix the Bold: Curse of the Wobblers

## **Upcoming**

Nadia Mendoza & Grace Barrett / What She Saw

Irene McDonald / Jack Shadow and the Demons of Doom

# Anna Fargher

## The Umbrella Mouse

**World English rights:** Macmillan  
**All other rights available**

**UK Publication:** Spring 2019

*London is under attack. Orphaned and alone after James Smith and Sons umbrella shop (her family's home for the last 87 years) is hit by a bomb, young refugee mouse Pip Hanway begins a perilous quest for a new home. But the only way to get there is by joining Noah's Ark, a secret gang of animals fighting the war in France. When the Nazis close in, Pip must risk everything to save her new friends.*

*In the novel Pip sails the high seas and flies across the skies in her antique umbrella, the only thing she has left of her family. Helping her on her journey are real-life animal heroes from WWII, from search and rescue dogs in bomb blasted London to messenger pigeons flying a mile-a-minute through war torn Europe. Also featuring in the book is the true French Resistance group 'Noah's Ark', reimagined as woodland creatures inspired by the animal code-names that were assigned to its real-life members.*

Dedicated to all the animals who bravely fight wars for human lives and filled with espionage, sabotage, captures and escapes, *The Umbrella Mouse* is a quest and coming-of-age tale, for readers who enjoyed *Pax*. It's terribly sad and heartrending, as well as keeping you on the edge of your seat. With the writing both literary and accessible, this wonderful debut has all the makings of a modern classic.

Raised in a creative hub on the Suffolk coast by an artist and a ballet dancer, **Anna Fargher** read English Literature at Goldsmiths before working in the British art world and opening her own gallery. This is her first book, which she wrote on her iPhone notepad during her daily commute on the London Underground. She splits her time between London and Suffolk where she is often found exploring the coastline and marshlands under the huge East Anglian skies. She is currently writing a second middle-grade novel.



# Emily Critchley

## Notes on my Family

**World English rights:** Everything With Words  
**All other rights available**

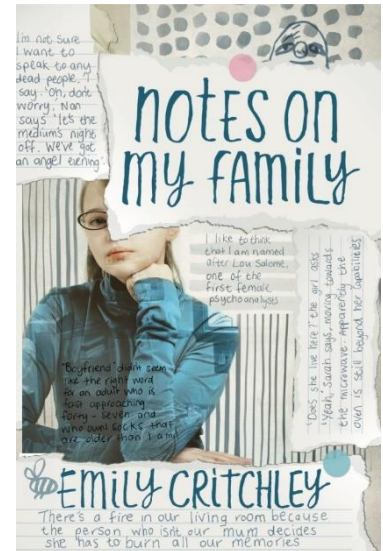
**LOONGLISTED FOR THE BRANDFORD BOASE AWARD**

**"Louise Coulson is a person aged thirteen and a half.  
She likes to be left to her own devices.**

**She has a dog called Renzo but it should be noted that  
Renzo lives in an alternate universe along with her  
real/imaginary parents.**

**Louise Coulson cannot juggle or walk a tightrope or perform  
any additional circus tricks.**

**She likes cheese and pickle sandwiches and endorses  
the fact that the world is round and that she cannot,  
therefore, fall off."**



Lou Coulson's mission in life is to stay invisible and serve out the prison sentence that is school. That's it. And so far, she's done pretty well at it. Until her father announces that he's in love with a sixth-form student at the school where he teaches (Lou's school, no less). Suddenly Lou's quest for invisibility is not so easy, and she finds herself a new target of unwanted attention, such as being beaten up at lunchtime, pushed into puddles and not to mention the giant "PEDO" (which Lou notes with distaste, is not even the correct spelling) graffiti on their front porch. Also following her dad's announcement, Lou's older sister Sarah declares she'll never speak to him again, her brother Mikey retreats further into his own world, and her mother starts shoplifting and burning their belongs as the result of a short psychotic episode. (At least Sarah got a date with one of the firemen.)

Lou's entire world, both at home and at school, seems to be crumbling around her. It's a lot to handle (because she finds dealing with people difficult at the best of times). But when a new girl, Faith, arrives in Lou's class, she's different to anyone Lou's ever met, and actually seems to laugh with her – not at her. Faith's family are possibly even stranger than Lou's, and for the first time Lou begins to wonder what 'normal' really looks like, and whether it's the people who are different that make a difference.

**Emily Critchley** grew up in Essex. She left school at sixteen and worked in various shops and call centres where she jotted down ideas for short stories on scraps of till roll. She moved to Brighton in 2012 then to London in 2013, where she studied Creative Writing at London Metropolitan University. She graduated with a first class honours degree. Her short stories and poetry have been published in both online and printed magazines. When not writing, Emily can be found reading in North London's coffee shops, or sitting at home on her sofa watching her favourite Woody Allen films.



# Dr Mandy Hartley

## DNA Detectives

**World English rights:** St James House  
**All other rights available**

The discovery of DNA and the understanding of its structure and functioning may well be the most important discovery of the last century. With such a key role in modern life it is a huge advantage for children to have a good understanding of the fundamentals of this subject. The aim of the DNA Detectives books is to teach children about DNA through a 'famous five' style adventure. Using their Mum's science testing lab at the bottom of the garden, Harry and Annabelle catch pet thieves, unlock historical secrets and even find out who their friend's father is, using a paternity test...

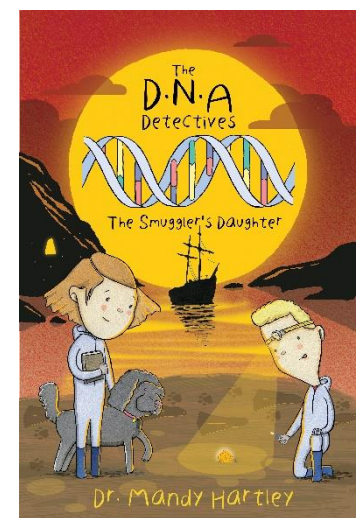
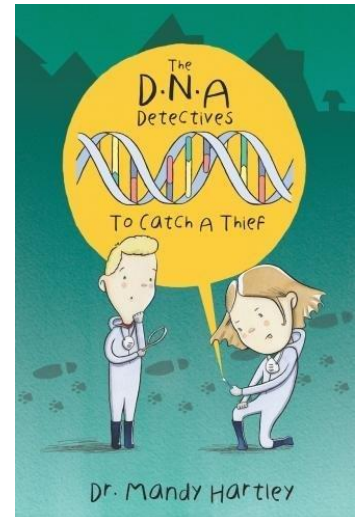
### To Catch a Thief

*When dogs start disappearing all around the neighbourhood, Harry and Annabelle are sure they aren't just 'getting lost,' as their mother claims... When their own beloved dog, Milly, goes missing they are sure she has been taken. It seems so unlike Milly to go astray. And without their parents on their side, Harry and Annabelle know it's time to take matters into their own hands... Using DNA, can they catch the thief?*

### The Smuggler's Daughter (Publication May 2018)

*When the Wallace family go on holiday to an old smuggling cove, they discover a locket, and a house full of secrets. But what happened to the locket's owner? And is smuggling still going on in the cove today? There's only one way to find out.*

**Dr Mandy Hartley** lives in Norfolk with her husband and two children. She has a PhD in Genetics and worked for 15 years in various different laboratories using DNA to study subjects as diverse as populations of fish at the genetic level, detecting inherited human diseases, criminal work and paternity and relationship testing. She now runs scientific workshops and performs stories to children with her company The Little Story Telling Company. The stories she performs are designed to be multi-sensory and to help children with their understanding and visualisation of different scientific concepts. Mandy wants to share her love and passion for science with children and hopefully inspire some future scientists.



# Simon Mockler

## Beatrix the Bold: Curse of the Wobblers

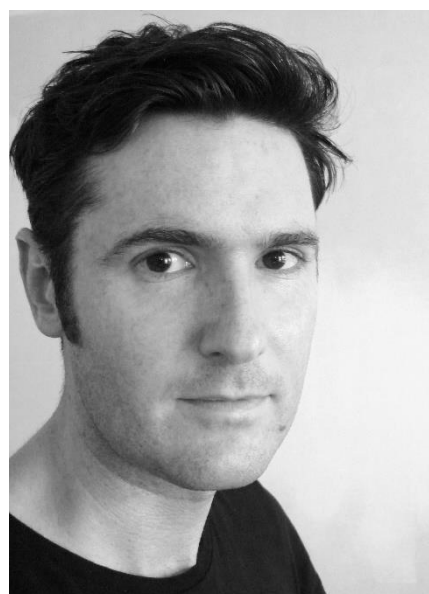
**World rights:** Piccadilly Press

**The first book in a hilarious new fun-packed, middle-grade trilogy with wit, charm and shenanigans for the rebel girls of our time**

*Bright, quick-witted Beatrix is a queen . . . except she doesn't know. And that's because her parents pretended she had died and sent her away to keep her safe. And that's because of the Evil Army who want her dead. And that's because of the Curse of the Wobblers – the rumour goes that the child born under a falling star (which Beatrix was) would have power over all the Wobblers and lead them to take over the world. And the Evil Army won't have that.*

*Beatrix has never been allowed out of the enormous golden palace she lives in with Aunt Esmerelda the Terrible and Uncle Ivan the Vicious – she's always been told there is no world outside it. But finally, the veil Beatrix has been living under is starting to slip. Beatrix knows she needs to be bold. Beatrix knows she needs to look for answers. And she's about to get them.*

**Simon Mockler** studied art at Camberwell Art College and Modern Languages at Cambridge. He has worked as an artist, musician, teacher and civil servant and now works as a consumer law and advertising specialist. He's also a director of BCAP, the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice. He lives in South London with his wife and two children, who keep asking him what he wants to be when he grows up.



# Nadia Mendoza and Grace Barrett

## What She Saw

**On UK submission:** May

**Louise O'Neill meets Thirteen Reasons Why**

**Two best friends forever. One night that changes everything.**

*Amber and Rox are BFFs. More than that, they're each other's person. They've hardly disagreed on anything before. So when their friend Chloe is assaulted at a party, and Amber and Rox both have different ideas about what happened that night, it's a shock to both their systems.*

*Will it tear apart their friendship forever? And will the true culprit be found?*

*Told in split-perspective by two unreliable narrators, this poignant and compelling novel deals with themes of sexual assault, feminism, mental health and friendship.*

In 2013, **Nadia Mendoza and Grace Barrett** founded The Self-Esteem Team (SET). Since then, they have worked with tens of thousands of young people and added to their ever-growing team of educators with an army of new speakers. Grace, Nadz and the team continue to tirelessly tour the UK's schools in their bid to equip young people with tools to navigate their mental health, manage the relationship with their bodies, and build self-esteem. They work on building parents/teachers' confidence too, and are proud to have launched a primary programme for students aged 8+.



# Irene McDonald

## Jack Shadow and the Demons of Doom

**On UK submission:** June

**Exciting middle-grade debut packed with adventure, heart and dark humour**

*Ever since Jack Shadow's father was sent to prison for Jack's mother's murder, he has always maintained his father's innocence; even when Jack's rotten guardian Mrs. Vilespume insists she witnessed the murder. It's only after Judas's execution, when Jack inherits a mysterious book – the Grimoire, that Jack discovers his father was the demonic leader of an evil brotherhood, sent by Lord Evil from the Realm of the Dead to destroy all life in the living realm.*

*Now Jack is in grave danger. As the true heir to a powerful amulet called the Corpulus of Anarchy, and now in possession of the magical book that controls it; he is being hunted by the demon Asteroth, who must recruit Jack to the brotherhood so that he can control the Living Realm.*

*Can Jack decipher the ancient language of the Grimoire, thwart Asteroth's plan to take over the living realm, and still save his parent's souls in the process?*

**Irene McDonald** is a stay at home mother to three large dogs and two medium sized humans, living in the Irish countryside. When not cleaning up after the aforementioned, she's writing funny children's stories, drinking tea and eating dangerous amounts of chocolate.

