# United Agents Children's Books Rights List



Bologna 2025

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## 12+ AND CROSSOVER

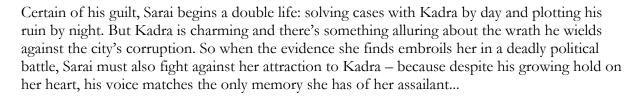
## Shalini Abeysekara (MJ) THIS MONSTER OF MINE

A thrilling romantasy debut about power and corruption with a compelling mystery at its heart.

She knows the taste of death. He'll stoke her hunger for it.

Eighteen-year-old Sarai doesn't know why someone tried to kill her four years ago, but she does know that her case was closed without justice. Hellbent on vengeance, she returns to the scene of the crime as a Petitor, a prosecutor who can magically detect lies, and is assigned to

work with Tetrarch Kadra. Ice-cold and perennially sadistic, Kadra is the most vicious of the four judges who rule the land – and the prime suspect in a string of deaths identical to Sarai's attempted murder.



A dazzling Ancient Rome-inspired romantasy debut, *This Monster of Mine* is a bloodbath of manipulation, deception, and forbidden love.

**UK:** Hodderscape/ Calah Singleton; **US:** Union Square/ Mahalaleel Clinton

Publication: April 2025 Word count: 416 pp

Rights sold in This Monster of Mine: German: Piper

**Shalini Abeysekara** is a Canadian writer and Korean drama reviewer. A former lawyer, she often uses fantastical settings to interrogate the corporate world's bizarre workings. She's always excited to talk Tolkien and knows an unnecessary amount on Second Empire French art history. When not glued to the screen for some escapist purpose or the other, you'll find her further disengaging from reality via gaming or attempting to recreate manytiered desserts. She still can't believe she's an adult and hopes you don't either.

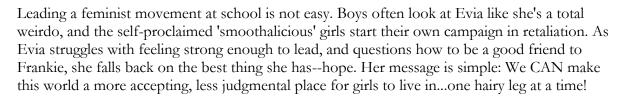


# Gemma Cary (ET) LOVE IS IN THE HAIR

A feminist coming-of-age comedy that follows the endless humiliations, unrequited obsessions, and all-consuming friendships of fifteen-year-old Evia Birtwhistle as she leads a body hair positive revolution at her school.

Fifteen-year-old Evia Birtwhistle can't seem to catch a break. At home, she must deal with her free-spirited mom, and at school she's the target of ridicule for stating basic truths: like that girls have body hair! When her BFF Frankie--who has facial hair due to her PCOS--

becomes the target of school bullies, Evia decides that enough is enough and creates the 'Hairy Girls' Club.'



**US:** Delecorte

Publication: September 2024

Extent: 336 pp

#### Praise for Love is in The Hair.

"As someone who has PCOS, reading this book made me wish it was around when I was growing up. Having allies like Evia and the members of the Hairy Girls Club would have made my life feel less isolating. The book is charming, educational and makes you want to shout out against the hair-removal industry and love your body hair." **Amy Pollant, Bust Magazine** 

"Boistrous humor adds levity to empathetic depictions of Frankie's growing body autonomy as well as Evia's awareness of the sexist conditioning behind female hair removal and her own fraught body image." *Publishers Weekly* 

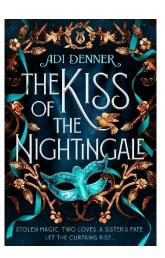
"An entertaining and empowering journey. Evia's character has a strong voice and a big personality, and readers will root for her through both failure and triumph." *Kirkus* 

Happily immersed in the world of children's publishing since 2005, **Gemma Cary** is the author of over 30 picture books. Now venturing into the world of teen fiction, she wants her readers to laugh loudly, cringe deeply and ultimately wish her characters were their best mates. Gemma lives in Wiltshire and writes from a cabin in the garden, where her golden retriever is usually asleep in the corner.

# Adi Denner (MH) THE KISS OF THE NIGHTINGALE

A stunning and completely unputdownable romantasy, *The Kiss of the Nightingale* weaves together the seduction of *Bridgerton* and the magic of Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone* series.

1890, Lutèce: In this city, Talents are everything: precious gems that gift unrivalled skills to their owners. The most coveted, Elite Talents, are claimed by the aristocracy, passed through generations by blood magic.



Cleodora dreamed of inheriting her father's Tailoring Talent, but when he died, the magic died with him. Now she's left with empty promises, a dress shop she can't keep afloat, and her bedridden younger sister. But everything changes when she meets the dark-eyed Lady Dahlia Sibille. Dahlia offers Cleodora a Singing Talent – a chance to save her beloved sister and rewrite her own fate. From the first instant, Cleodora is bewitched... There's just one catch: she needs to steal an Elite Talent from the prestigious Lenoir family.

As Lutèce's nightingale, Cleodora is the star of the opera's galas and balls, worlds away from the darkness and dust of home. But the handsome yet infuriating Vicomte Lenoir is nothing like she expected. Soon, the Vicomte's teasing smiles win her over, even as Dahlia's seductive whispers linger in her ears. Torn between Dahlia, who gave her everything, and the Vicomte, who holds the price of her freedom, is Cleodora in danger of losing it all? Or can she prove that magic isn't the only gift that counts?

UK: Dialogue / Amy Mae Baxter; US & Canada: Tundra (PRH Canada)

Publication: October 2024

Extent: 384 pp

Rights sold in *The Kiss of the Nightingale: German:* S Fischer Verlag; *French:* Milan; *Italian:* Rizzoli

#### Praise for *The Kiss of the Nightingale:*

"A lush fantasy infused with swooning romance and twisty turns, as enrapturing as it is fresh." *Booklist* 

"Lush writing... It will soar." Laura Shepperson, Sunday Times bestselling author of The Heroines

Adi Denner was only 13 years old when the enchanted notes of the opera La Traviata by Verdi stole her heart. She is now a professionally trained opera singer with a specialization in contemporary operas. But having too much creative energy to be contained to a single discipline, Adi also discovered painting, sculpting, wood carving, knitting, theatre, 3D art, and her burning love for writing. Her books are heavily inspired by her constant aspiration to intertwine her passions and her firm belief that art is magic.

## **CHILDREN'S**

# Tom Velterop (MJ) THE BOOK HUNTERS

#### A middle grade fantasy for fans of Anna James and Katherine Rundell.

For Fifth, the youngest and most overlooked child in his boisterous family, becoming an apprentice in a magical travelling bookshop is a dream come true.

The Broken Spines Bookshop is run by enigmatic and eccentric brother-and-sister duo, Pestle and Mortar. It's so gigantic that it can only be driven by an imprisoned wind spirit, and the seemingly endless forest of bookshelves on the inside is so vast and shadowy that unwary browsers can – and often do – become lost.

So far, the only adventures Fifth has experienced have been within the pages of his favourite storybook. But when he discovers that Pestle and Mortar are secretly Book Hunters – seeking out (and occasionally stealing) rare and mystical books – that all changes.

Thrown into a world of adventure, encountering legendary creatures, oath-sworn knights, nefarious antique dealers and rival Book Hunters, Fifth must learn quickly in order to stop a powerful magical book from falling into the wrong hands. This quest will take him further from home than he has ever been but, along the way, he will uncover the perils of falling in love, the secret of his unusual affinity with magical creatures, and what it truly means to be a hero.

The Book Hunters is a standalone with series potential; there is a complete story here but also an expansive world to explore with further adventures of Fifth, Pestle and Mortar, and the Broken Spines Bookshop.

**UK:** on submission **Extent:** 60,000 words

Tom Velterop grew up getting lost in the Ashdown Forest. When he was nine, his parents told him that he wasn't allowed to watch The Lord of the Rings films until he'd read the books. So he did. He's spent his life getting still more lost in fantastical (and arguably preferable) worlds ever since. Between writing, reading and rock climbing, Tom has seen a bit of the real world from the saddle of a bicycle, alongside his much braver and more adventurous girlfriend. She's now trying to drag him away from his books to see a bit more.

# Mark Richardson (JH) CROWN ABOVE THE SKY

Plotty and pacey historical middle grade fiction, for fans of Emma Carroll, Phil Earle and Lesley Parr.

The twelve days of Christmas may be in full swing, but Anne's world is in turmoil. Her father, a Falcon Master at King Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace, has been arrested. Meanwhile Crown, the majestic falcon she'd been so proud to train, has suddenly gone missing. Just as Anne begins to despair, help comes from the most unlikely of sources. Prince Edward – the King's nine-year-old son and heir to the throne – presents Anne with much needed information. But at what cost to the prince's own safety? With the help of her friends, Anne must find Crown and resolve these disturbing events before they change her life, and the fate of Tudor England, forever.

**UK:** on submission **Extent:** 60,000 words

**Mark Richardson** is a 35 year old, history graduate and former primary teacher, now working in outreach and marketing at a London university. He did a Curtis Brown course in adult novel writing five years ago, but feels much more at home in middle grade. He loves writing and wants to share his stories.. He reads the market and understands the particular connection with teachers and librarians.

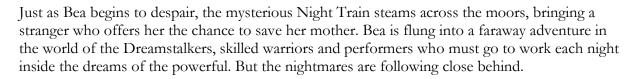
# Sarah Driver (JH) **DREAMSTALKERS:** The Night Train

Everything changed the day the dreams disappeared... and the nightmares came.

The first novel in a spellbinding new fantasy adventure series from the author of The Huntress trilogy. Perfect for readers 8-12 and fans of Philip Pullman, Abi Elphinstone and Katherine Rundell.

Twelve-year-old Bea lives with her mother Ula and her owl Pip in a cottage on the wild moors. Since the day the dreams disappeared, and an affliction of nightmares began sweeping across the lands, everyone is leaving and their

settlement is being abandoned. But when Ula grows sick with the affliction, she won't leave – and she's keeping a secret from Bea.



**UK:** Farshore

Publication: February 2024

Extent: 440 pp

#### Praise for *Dreamstalkers:*

"Spellbinding fantasy where warriors fight nightmares inside the dreams of the powerful' *The Bookseller* 

"This complex fantasy is the first in an exciting new series. It is fast -paced and full of action... The descriptive writing is beautiful, and there are some incredible imaginative details in this fantasy world, such as blot dragons and the Night Train itself. Pip the owl is a memorable character, too." *Booktrust* 

"Master storyteller Sarah Driver...takes youngsters on an unforgettable wild ride in the first book of her epic Dreamstalkers fantasy duology. [...] Unmissable" *Lancashire Post* 

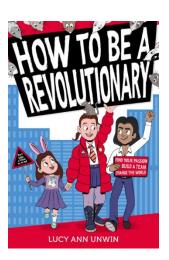
**Sarah Driver** is a graduate of the Bath Spa MA in Writing for Young People, during which she won the United Agents Most Promising Writer prize in 2014. She is also a qualified nurse and midwife. Sarah started writing stories as a small child and lists her influences as Spellhorn by Berlie Doherty, A Necklace Of Raindrops by Joan Aiken and the Carbonel books by Barbara Sleigh – those gorgeous, magical stories that create and nurture readers.

# Lucy Unwin (ET) HOW TO BE A REVOLUTIONARY

Find Your Passion. Build a Team. Change The World.

'What do you all come here for?' 'Why, to change the world, of course! Don't we all want to change the world . . . if we can?'

A General Election is coming and the Revolutionaries are gathering at Natalie's house. She's determined to be a part of it all, but is it really just about red coats, muddy boots and piles of glossy leaflets? Surely changing the world should be more exciting than that?



It's time to start her OWN revolution – and it all begins with her pet rat . . .

UK: UCLan

**Publication:** November 2024 **Word count:** 46,000 words

#### Praise for *How To Be Revolutinary:*

"A joyful, heartfelt story about the power of friendship and having the courage to stand up for what you believe in." **Jo Clarke, author of** *The Travelling School mystery* series.

"I LOVED this! It's so funny, original, and different. A moving, poignant testimony to the power of sibling affection, and a gentle reminder that changing the world begins at home." **Piu DasGupta, author of** *Secrets of the Snakestone.* 

**Lucy Unwin** spent many years working as a music journalist for the BBC, interviewing her heroes and absorbing enough live music to confirm you can never have too much of a good thing (especially if that thing is the bass coming through the floor to shake your rib bones). She can't walk past a book shop, and reviews and blogs about books when she's not writing her own, mainly as a ruse to keep interviewing rockstars (otherwise known as authors). Her middle grade debut, *The Octopus, Dadu And Me*, was published by UCLan in 2023 and shortlist for multiple awards.

## **NON-FICTION**

## Michelle Darmody SEED TO SUPPER: The Journey of Your Food from the Ground Up

Seed to Supper is a fully illustrated children's book that takes you through all the stages of food, from seed and soil to pollinating, growing, picking, tasting, buying, cooking, reusing and eating. We intentionally didn't mention the UK or Ireland in the book to keep it as widely applicable as possible.

How does your food get on your plate? Where does it come from?

How does it grow? How does it travel around the globe to get to you? And once you have it, how do you cook and eat it? *Seed to Supper* takes you through every stage of food's journey from its start as a seed in the soil to the table via the kitchen and everything – and everywhere! – in between. You'll not only learn how to grow, buy and cook food, you'll also learn how what we eat affects the planet and see how people eat and share food at dinner tables around the world.

With cooking tips and easy recipes you can make yourself, DIY activities, interesting anecdotes and fascinating facts, follow your food from the ground up and see how food connects us all.

**UK:** Nine Bean Row **Publication:** August 2024

Extent: 128 pp

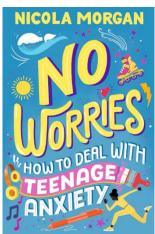
**Dr Michelle Darmody's** work brings together sustainability, food entrepreneurship and creativity. Her PhD focused on environmental food education for children. Her research projects have won RETHINK Ireland Social Innovation funding and she was named an Ashoka Changemaker. Michelle writes an award-winning weekly column for the Irish Examiner. Her extensive knowledge of sustainability and the food landscape also stems from the creation of large-scale events tackling climate change, such as Eat the Streets for Dublin City Council and Summer Rising for IMMA.

MICHELLE DARMODY

## Nicola Morgan (ET) NO WORRIES: How to Deal with Teenage Anxiety

The essential teenage guide to tackling anxiety from an awardwinning well-being expert.

No one likes feeling anxious, and too many worries can get in the way of a happy and successful life. But anxiety is on many teenagers' minds, and it affects everyone differently.



Whatever your worries and whatever your symptoms, teenage brain expert Nicola Morgan can help. This positive and practical guide is packed with strategies to help you understand YOUR anxiety and master the best ways to tackle it when it strikes. Take back the power to enjoy your life and discover that there are NO WORRIES strong enough to keep you down.

**UK:** Walker Books

**Publication:** August 2023

Extent: 208 pp

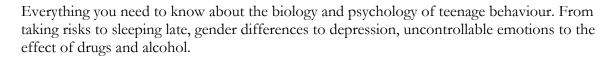
**Nicola Morgan** is an internationally-acclaimed author and authority on teenage wellbeing, how stress impacts performance, effects of screens, social media and reading for pleasure. She was originally an English teacher whose work with dyslexic students led her to train in Specific Learning Difficulties, which in turn led to her lasting interest in the learning brain. She was a multi-award-winning teenage novelist before writing the best-selling Blame My Brain. In 2018, she was awarded the SLA's prestigious award for Outstanding Contribution to Information Books.

## Nicola Morgan (ET) BLAME MY BRAIN: The Amazing Teenage Brain Revealed

A comprehensive guide to the biological mysteries that lie behind teenage behaviour, newly revised for 2023, with a new chapter on social media.

Contrary to popular (parental) opinion, teenagers are not the lazy, unpleasant louts they occasionally appear to be. During the teenage years the brain is undergoing its most radical and fundamental change

years the brain is undergoing its most radical and fundamental change since the age of two. Nicola Morgan's carefully researched, accessible and humorous examination of the ups and downs of the teenage brain has chapters dealing with powerful emotions, the need for more sleep, the urge to take risks, the difference between genders and the reasons behind addiction or depression. The revised edition of this classic book contains important new research, including information on mirror neurons and their effect on the teenage brain.



**UK:** Walker Books

Publication: 2023 (originally published in 2013)

Extent: 208 pp

**Rights sold**: Chinese complex: Ecus, Chinese simplified; Shangai Huangdou Network Danish: Gyldendal, Estonian: Uhinenud, Greek: Patakis, Korean; Danielstone, Serbian: Kreativni Centar, Turkish: Tudem, Portuguese (Brazil): Rocco, Vietnamese: Tre,

#### Praise for Blame My Brain:

"Nicola Morgan has that rare gift of being able to communicate science and make it fun. She brings the biology of the brain to the general reader in a way that will not only educate but entertain' **Professor Simon Baron-Cohen** 

"It is very rare that an author succeeds in writing a book for teenagers which is also a 'must read' for their parents and teachers" *Scotsman* 

"I only wish that this book had been around when dealing with my own teenager's antisocial behaviour" *TES* 

**Nicola Morgan** is an internationally-acclaimed author and authority on teenage wellbeing, how stress impacts performance, effects of screens, social media and reading for pleasure. She was originally an English teacher whose work with dyslexic students led her to train in Specific Learning Difficulties, which in turn led to her lasting interest in the learning brain. She was a multi-award-winning teenage novelist before writing the best-selling Blame My Brain. In 2018, she was awarded the SLA's prestigious award for Outstanding Contribution to Information Books.

## THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

# The School of Life (CD) BIG IDEAS FROM SCIENCE

Big Ideas from Science takes you on a journey from ancient myths to modern science. It explores how humans gradually discovered the size of the Earth, how vaccinations were developed, why plants use carbon dioxide to grow, and imagines what amazing technological advancements the future may hold.

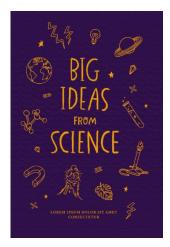
The book is not just about the marvels of scientific discoveries; it's about why science matters to you. Whether you're interested in the stars, curious about how things work, or seeking ways to navigate life's

challenges, this book reveals how science can enrich your understanding of the world and your place in it.

**UK:** The School of Life **Publication:** October 2025 **Word Count:** 26,000 words



The School of Life is a groundbreaking enterprise which offers good ideas for everyday living. It addresses such issues as how to find fulfilling work, how to master the art of relationships and how better to understand, and as necessary change, the world - through classes, therapies, books and films. It is headquartered in London, with campuses in Melbourne, Paris, Amsterdam, Sao Paulo, Istanbul, Belgrade, Antwerp, Seoul and Tel Aviv. The School of Life Press publishes books on the most important issues of cultural and emotional life. Its titles are designed to entertain, educate, console and transform



# The School of Life (CD) WHAT ARE YOU FEELING?

An illustrated guide helping children to identify and articulate how they are really feeling.

What Are You Feeling? is the first in a series of books that aims to develop emotional literacy for children aged 5-8 years. It is a book about finding interesting words for interesting feelings. It explores what lots of feeling words really mean and which words best describe the many feelings a child may have.

**UK:** The School of Life **Publication:** July 2023

Extent: 60 pp



"An excellent book to develop emotional literacy and provide children with the language they need to identify and discuss their emotions." *Love Reading4Kids* 

"Not just a cracking resource for KS2 PSHE, 'What Are You Feeling' is also a great text to encourage children to think for themselves, take ownership of their feelings and consider how to react to situations." *School Reading List Children's Non-Fiction Book of the Month* 

#### WHAT ARE THEY FEELING?

It's important to think about what others might be feeling, so we can understand the people around us better.

What Are They Feeling? takes children on an exploration of the feelings of others. We follow Detective Feelings as they look for clues about how someone is feeling through their expression, body language and the situation. Are they smiling or frowning? What is happening around them?

**UK:** The School of Life

Publication: September 2024

Extent: 60 pp

THE SCHOOL OF LIFE
WHAT ARE
THEY
FEELING?
The adventures of an empathy detective

THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

WHAT ARF

The School of Life is a groundbreaking enterprise which offers good ideas for everyday living. It addresses such issues as how to find fulfilling work, how to master the art of relationships and how better to understand, and as necessary change, the world - through classes, therapies, books and films. It is headquartered in London, with campuses in Melbourne, Paris, Amsterdam, Sao Paulo, Istanbul, Belgrade, Antwerp, Seoul and Tel Aviv. The School of Life Press publishes books on the most important issues of cultural and emotional life. Its titles are designed to entertain, educate, console and transform

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