

Jonathan Ball *Publishers*

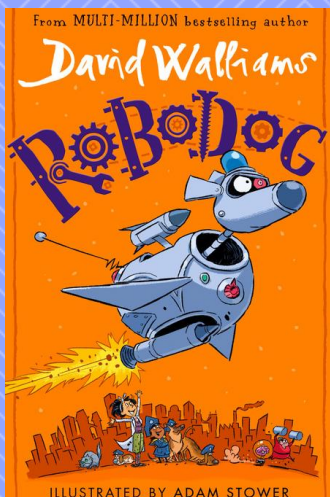
May 2023 Children's *Highlights*

Cooler days are slowly creeping in. We hope you can keep the readers warm with this month's incredible selection.

May this month be a great reading month!
May the fourth be with you!

All the best,
The Jonathan Ball Kids Team

May Spotlight



Robodog by David Walliams

9780008581435 / HarperCollins / TPB / R270

Enter a world of superheroes and villains in this action-packed comic caper from No.1 bestselling author David Walliams – and meet Robodog: the future of crime fighting!

Welcome to the city of Bedlam. Enter if you dare!

Bedlam is one of the most dangerous places on Earth – home to a host of wicked villains. Nothing and nobody are safe from these evil criminals. The city needs its own superhero to defeat the supervillains. But who? Robodog! The newest recruit at the Police Dog School, and supercharged for adventure. But can he stop the most feared duo in Bedlam, and their evil plans to ruin the city...?



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May 2023 Children's Highlights

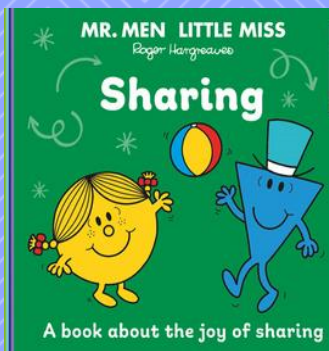
0 – 5 years



Little Fear by Luke Scriven

9780008538071 / HarperCollins / PB / R220

A brilliant picture book debut on facing your fears, overcoming anxiety and being just a little bit brave, perfect for little worriers. When Sam lets in a little fear one night, he's sure it won't be any bother. But before he knows it, the fear has grown and grown and grown. Until even the sunniest of sunny days doesn't feel very sunny any more. There's only one thing for it. Sam must try and be a little bit brave Beautifully and simply told, this reassuring and empowering story on confronting your fears is a hugely exciting debut from author and illustrator Luke Scriven.

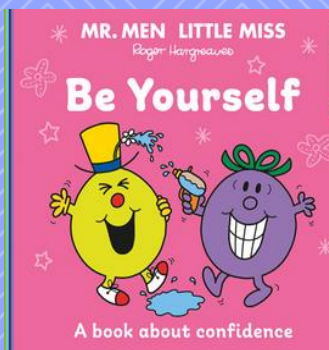


Mr Men Discover You Sharing by Roger Hargreaves

9780008534103 / Farshore / PB / R135

Little Miss Sunshine and Mr Cool love sharing, but sometimes it can be difficult to share. Mr Grumpy and Little Miss Stubborn find it particularly hard. Will they learn to enjoy sharing too with some help from their friends?

The Mr Men and Little Miss are the perfect characters to help children understand a bit more about their own emotions and how to manage them. With engaging questions to encourage conversations and some helpful tips from favourite characters to help children develop their emotional intelligence.



Mr. Men Discover You Be You by Roger Hargreaves

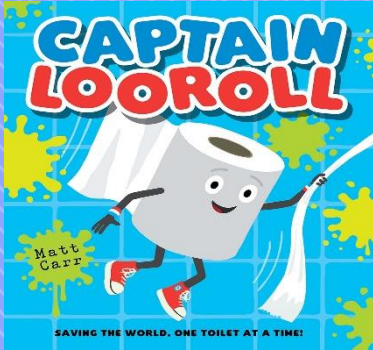
9780008534110 / Farshore / PB / R135

An inspiring and engaging Mr Men Little Miss story about finding confidence in being you! Mr Funny is full of confidence, but you don't have to be loud or funny to believe in yourself. You sometimes just need to realise that you're liked and accepted for who you are, whether you're as cheeky as Little Miss Naughty or as quiet as Mr Quiet! The Mr Men and Little Miss are the perfect characters to help children understand a bit more about their own emotions and how to manage them. With engaging questions to encourage conversations and some helpful tips from favourite characters to help children develop their emotional intelligence.



Jonathan Ball Publishers

May 2023 Children's Highlights



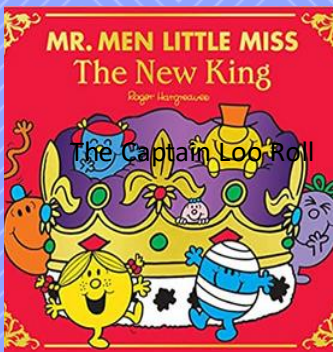
Captain Loo-roll by Matt Carr

9781405299336 / Fareshore / PB / R220

From the critically acclaimed creator of Superbat, Spyder and Rhinocorn Rules comes an epic adventures series that proves that superheroes come in ALL shapes and sizes. Originating from the trunk of the magical everlasting oak tree, Captain Loo-roll is super strong, endlessly long, and brimming with courage.

However, stuck in the deadly dull surrounds of the downstairs toilet, heroic adventures could not be further away. All that changes, though, when along comes a very stinky villain named Toilet-troll.

Together with her band of trusty sidekicks, Captain Loo-roll must use her 3-ply powers to save the world from imminent – and extremely messy – destruction . . .



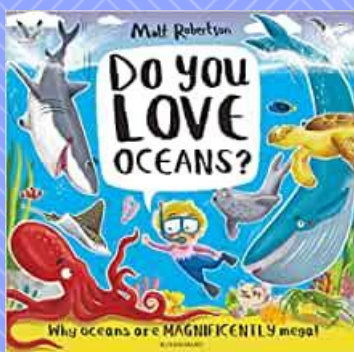
Mr and Little Men Little Miss New King by Roger Hargreaves

9780008607005 / Fareshore / PB / R215

Join the Mr Men and Little Miss as they welcome the arrival of the new king in this charming and funny new story! It's a right royal giggle from start to finish!

The new king is visiting the Mr Men iss on his royal tour and everyone is very excited. In Happyland, Mr Happy and Little Miss Sunshine have planted a special flower display, while in Loudland, Mr Noisy and his band have been practising day and night! But will everything go to plan and what will be in store for the new king in Nonsenseland?!

The Mr Men and Little Miss have been delighting children for generations with their charming and funny antics. Bold illustrations and funny stories make Mr Men and Little Miss the perfect story time experience for children aged two up. Have you met them all?



Do You Love Oceans by Matt Robertson

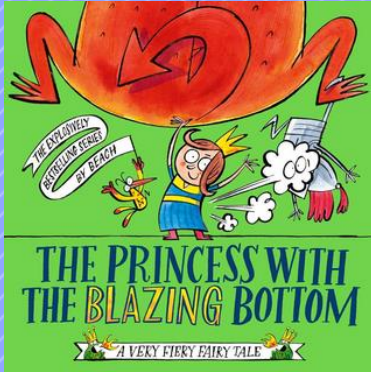
9781526639646 / Bloomsbury / PB / R190

Did you know lobsters keep their teeth in their tummies? Or that you can find rivers and lakes beneath the ocean? And did you know that sea stars have no brain or blood? Explore the wonders of our underwater worlds on every page, from coral reefs, sharks and the deep to shipwrecks, weird fish and frozen seas, there's so much to discover! With fun and colourful illustrations and bursting with facts, Do You Love Oceans? is perfect for readers who want to dive down and explore Earth's spectacular seas, discover the wildlife that lives there and find out why our oceans need protecting.



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May 2023 Children's Highlights

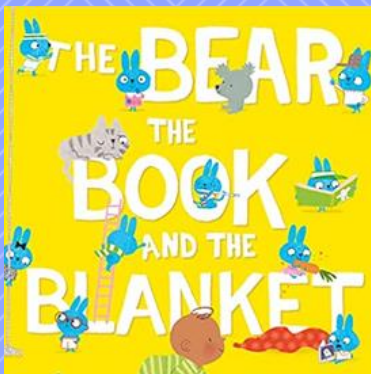


Princess With Blazing Bottom

9781471197284 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R190

The next in the explosively funny series . . . Perfect for fans of The Dinosaur That Pooped series. Sir Wayne and his dragon are BACK and this time they're out to rescue a princess held captive by a Big Bad Beast. But WHO exactly will save her? Sir Wayne: who can climb every wall - no moat is too deep, no tower too tall. Or Dragon: so muscly and lean - he can fly and fart flames, he's a fighting machine!

If ONLY there was a way to get the best of both... This bestselling series is as funny as it is farty, for fans of The Dinosaur Who Pooped series, and I Need a New Bum!

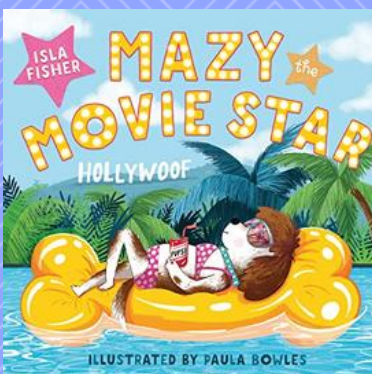


Bear Book & Blanket by Lou Peacock

9781839943287 / Nosy Crow / PB / R220

Help the baby animals find their way home in this fun new sliding counter series! Meet rabbit, fox, bear and owl - four adorable baby animals who are lost in the woods! With easy-to-use moving parts and four unique tracks to develop hand-eye coordination and concentration, babies and toddlers will enjoy taking the baby animals home in this robust, satisfying board book.

Scan the Stories Aloud QR code on the back cover the read along with the story!



Mazy Movie Star by Isla Fisher

9781801300766 / Welbeck / PB / R190

From comic actress and bestselling author, Isla Fisher, comes this funny and reassuring picture book with a message that resonates loud and clear – always be true to yourself.

Mazy is a famous movie star who has her fur fluffed twice a day. While other dogs chase sticks at the park, Mazy chases her acting dreams.

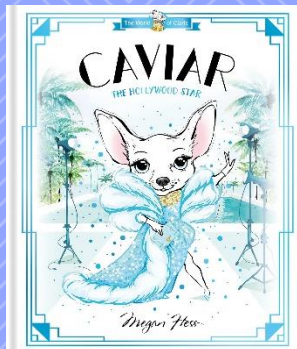
Then one morning Mazy's agent delivers bad news. Hollywood has changed and there are no jobs for Mazy anymore.

Can Mazy embrace what it is that makes her special and find her perfect role?



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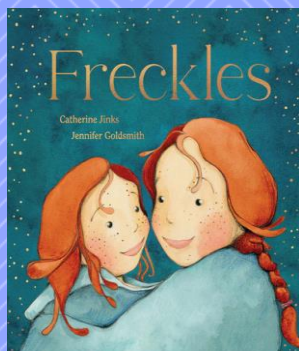
May 2023 Children's Highlights



Caviar: The Hollywood Star by Megan Hess

9781761210860 / Hardie Grant / HB / R275

Caviar: The Hollywood Star is the third World of Claris adventure from beloved children's author Megan Hess, destined to delight fashion-obsessed readers of all ages! Caviar isn't naughty or badly behaving. She just gets excited when things are amazing! Her feelings are big and so hard to shrink down, But any small outburst makes her owner frown... Caviar is a charismatic Californian chihuahua with a flair for the dramatic. But her owner just wants her to be a perfect, polished socialite. Can Caviar play the role of a lifetime and stay true to herself?



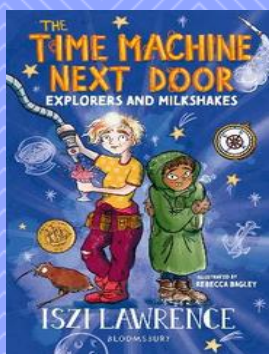
Freckles by Catherine Jinks

9781760509835 / Hardie Grant / HB / R215

Written by award-winning author Catherine Jinks and illustrated by Jennifer Goldsmith, Freckles is a gorgeous story about loving who you are – all the way down to the last freckle!

My fabulous freckles are wonderful fun. A hundred and twenty! I've counted each one. Celebrating body positivity and mother and daughter relationships; the rhyming text makes Freckles simple and accessible.

6 – 9 years



Time Machine 1 Explorers & Milkshakes by Iszi Lawrence

9781801991049 / Bloomsbury / PB / R190

A page-turning, laugh-out-loud historical adventure by comedian and podcaster Iszi Lawrence, perfect for fans of Horrible Histories. Time flies when you're having fun. But what does it do when you're not? Sunil is bored. Very bored. Whilst home alone, he accidentally breaks his grandfather's most prized possession and must scramble for a way to fix it. Alex, his eccentric next door neighbour, has an unusual solution to his problem – a time machine! Soon, Sunil is visiting the freezing, icy depths of Antarctica as a stowaway on a stranded ship and the heart of London to meet famous astronauts – all while trying to stay away from a mysterious man with a particularly suspicious pet kiwi...



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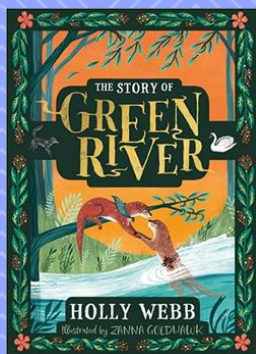
May 2023 Children's Highlights



The Time Machine Next Door: Scientists and Stripy Socks by Iszi Lawrence

9781801991087 / Wren & Rook / PB / R190

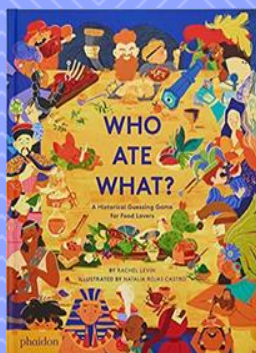
A page-turning, laugh-out-loud historical adventure by comedian and podcaster Iszi Lawrence, perfect for fans of Horrible Histories. Time flies when you're having fun. But what does it do when you're not? Sunil and his extraordinary Auntie Alex are back for another hilarious adventure as they whizz through time. But Auntie Alex's time machine has started behaving strangely and using it has become even more unpredictable and dangerous than ever. From the dark and gloomy heights of the Tower of London to the frosty forests of Hanover, will Sunil and Alex be able to get home? And can they avoid the sinister Mr Shaykes and his pet kiwi?!



Story of Greenriver by Holly Webb

9781510109629 / Orion / PB / R330

The animals of Greenriver are in danger. Can Sedge and Silken find their way along the river to each other in time to save their homes? Sedge is the reluctant heir to the leadership of the Greenriver otter holt. His first spring he was nearly drowned in a flash flood that swept through the otter community. Now it's spring again, and the river is rising dangerously once more. With the holt threatened, Sedge is convinced he must be the one to save them. Silken has never felt she truly belonged in the beaver lodge. She's too small, too weak, and her strange singing makes the practical and strong beavers feel uneasy. When she is blamed for an accident, Silken knows she will never fit in. As the two animals journey towards each other on a quest to unravel their true destinies, Sedge and Silken are drawn towards the heart of the turbulent river and its age-old song, which has the power to change all who hear its music.



Who Ate What?: A Historical Guessing Game for Food Lovers by Rachel Levin

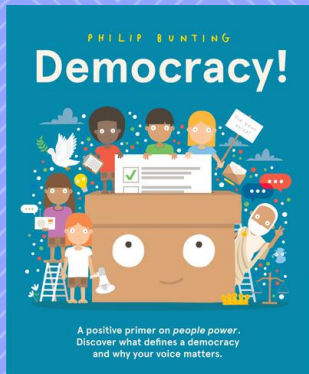
9781838666903 / Phaidon / PB / R515

In this first book of culinary history for children, readers will discover the fascinating dishes eaten by 10 high-interest historical peoples – from prehistoric humans to children of the future. Whether munching on mud-baked hedgehogs like the ancient Egyptians, or nibbling tacos topped with chilli's grown in space like the astronauts of today, readers will be immersed in the diverse, tasty, weird, and wonderful food history of the world. Packed with guess-what challenges, unbelievable facts, and delicious reveals, this fact-filled interactive read-aloud encourages an interest in food (and perhaps a bit of subtle encouragement to taste something new!), and is perfect for history lovers and food-enthusiasts alike.



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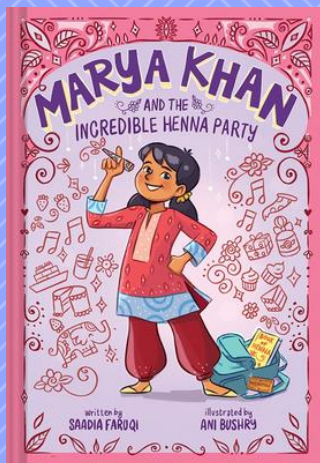
May 2023 Children's Highlights



Democracy by Philip Bunting

9781761211478 / Hardie Grant / HB / R215

What you say (and how you say it) has the power to change the world. Democracy gives you that power. Democracy is people power. But does democracy really matter? How does it work? And what exactly is democracy, anyway?! Get set to speak up and learn how you can create positive change in your corner of the world. Democracy! is full of fascinating and engaging information about democracy, and provides young readers with easily digestible information about the importance of their voice. It is filled with handy tips on how to engage in community discussions, from petitions to peaceful protests, and explains the history of democracy in a funny and positive way.

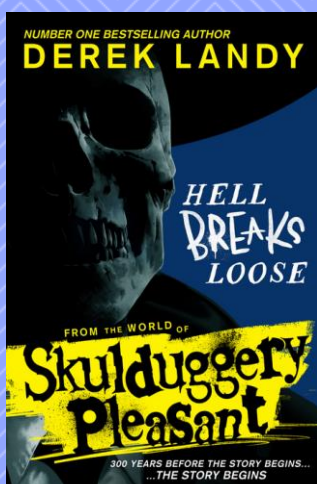


Marya Khan and the Incredible Henna Party by Anni Bushry

9781419761171 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R155

Perfect for fans of Ivy & Bean and Dory Fantasmagory, this is the start of a charming new chapter book series about a third-grader whose plans may backfire but whose persistence and heart are inspiring. Marya's eighth birthday is coming up in a week, and all she wants is an over-the-top birthday party just like the ones Alexa, her rich neighbor, always throws. When Alexa parades into school with fancy invitations, Marya can't help herself—she claims that she's having the most epic henna party ever. Now she has to convince her family to make it happen. Enter Operation Help the Khans! Marya's siblings clearly need help with their projects. Maybe she could cook dinner for her parents, or clean her grandmother's room? Except everything Marya does seems to end in disaster. Will Marya and her family be able pull it together and throw the best party ever?!

10 – 12 years



Skulduggery Pleasant: Hell Breaks Loose by Derek Landy

9780008586027 / HarperCollins / TPB / R270

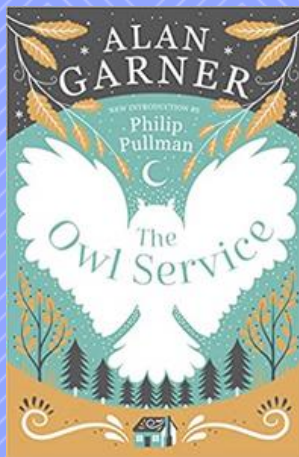
Italy, 1703. As the war with Mevolent rages on, the Dead Men are dispatched to a walled town in the Tuscan hills – not to assassinate the Lord of the Dark Sorcerers, but to save him. A rift has opened to a hellish dimension where a being of devastating power awaits, and only Mevolent is strong enough to seal it and save the world. A simple mission, then, which turns ever-so-slightly trickier when Skulduggery is presented with the opportunity to finally get revenge on Nefarian Serpine, the man who murdered him and killed his family thirteen years earlier. Return to the world of Skulduggery Pleasant in a short novel set hundreds of years before Valkyrie Cain is even born, and follow Skulduggery, Ghastly, Shudder, Ravel, Saracen, Dexter and Hopeless as they argue, bicker and battle their way through an army of their most hated enemies in order to save their oldest enemy so they can stop another, brand new, enemy... And that's when things get complicated.



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May 2023 Children's Highlights



Owl Service by Alan Garner

9780007127894 / HarperCollins / PB / R215

Winner of both the Guardian Award and the Carnegie Medal, this is an all-time classic, combining mystery, adventure, history and a complex set of human relationships. Featuring a new introduction by Philip Pullman.

It all begins with the scratching in the ceiling. From the moment Alison discovers the dinner service in the attic, with its curious pattern of floral owls, a chain of events is set in progress that is to effect everybody's lives.

Relentlessly, Alison, her step-brother Roger and Welsh boy Gwyn are drawn into the replay of a tragic Welsh legend – a modern drama played out against a background of ancient jealousies. As the tension mounts, it becomes apparent that only by accepting and facing the situation can it be resolved.

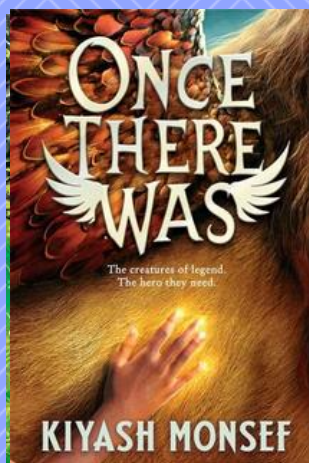


Boss of Everyone by Danny Wallace

9781398517387 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R220

Ten-year-old Joss's greatest ambition is to be Class Monitor at school. But she's about to go one step further. It's Take Your Kid to Work Day, and Joss's dad takes her to the games company he works for. When the boss calls a meeting and tells them he's giving his job away to the person with the best idea for a company game-changer . . . Joss sticks her hand up. And the next thing she knows, Joss is the boss. Joss is thrilled. Dad is horrified: he's going to have to be on his best behaviour all the time! As Joss whips everyone into shape, maybe they can all learn a lesson or two . . . even Joss herself.

Warm-hearted and beautifully observed, with hilarious artwork from Gemma Correll, this family-centric comedy has massive wish-fulfilment appeal for kids and adults alike.



Once There Was by Kiyash Monsef

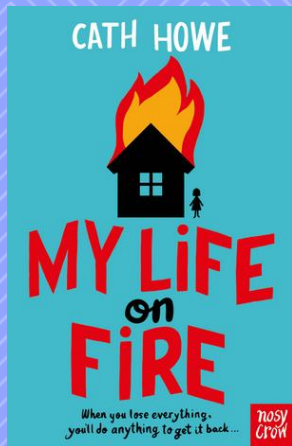
9781398520400 / Simon & Schuster / TPB / R330

Discover a world of extraordinary beasts and unexpected heroes in the dazzling debut from Kiyash Monsef. Once was, once wasn't . . . So began the stories Marjan's father told her as a little girl – tales of mythical beasts that filled her with curiosity and wonder: Griffons. Unicorns. Dragons. But Marjan is not a little girl anymore. After her father's sudden death, she is trying to hold it all together: her schoolwork, her friendships and her dad's struggling veterinary practice. But a mysterious visitor soon reveals that Marjan's father was no ordinary vet. The creatures from his stories are real – and he travelled the world to care for them. Stepping into a secret world hidden in plain sight, where magical creatures are bought and sold, treasured and trapped, Marjan must take her father's place. The deeper in she gets, the closer she comes to a shocking truth that will put both humans and beasts in terrible danger.



Jonathan Ball Publishers

May 2023 Children's Highlights



My Life on Fire by Cath Howe

9781839942839 / Nosy Crow / PB / R220

Ren's family loses their home in a fire. They're living with her grandmother now and things are a bit tense. Ren lost her collection of things, her clothes; her brother lost his little bear and is inconsolable. So Ren starts replacing things with other people's possessions. They've got loads of stuff, after all. But she gets caught and has to strike a terrifying deal to avoid detection...



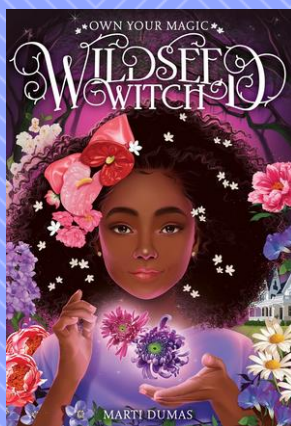
The Boy Who Saved a Bear by Nizrana Farook

9781839943928 / Nosy Crow / PB / R220

A boy and a bear meet, become friends and have the adventure of their lives!

The fourth thrilling adventure set in a fictional Sri Lanka is jam-packed with peril, thieves and a terrifying bear!

Nuwan works at the library, delivering books. One day, he accidentally takes away a very valuable key that's been hidden inside one of the books, and in the process thwarts the plans of some very dangerous thieves. On the run, he hides in a cave, only to discover in the middle of the night that he is sharing it with a big, hairy, terrifying bear! After some hair-raising moments, he and the bear reach an understanding and they travel on together, evading the bad guys and hoping the key will unlock the answers to the mystery so that they can stop running and return home...



Wildseed Witch (Book 1) by Marti Dumas

9781419755620 / Abrams / PB / R215

A fun middle-grade contemporary fantasy with an all-BIPOC cast, about a social-media-loving tween who gets sent to an ultra-private witch camp. Hasani's post-seventh-grade summer to-do list is pretty simple: get a bigger following for her makeup YouTube channel and figure out how to get her parents back together. What she does NOT expect is that an emotional outburst will spark a latent magical ability in her. Or that the magic will be strong enough to attract the attention of witches. Or that before she can say #BlackGirlMagic, she'll be shipped off on a scholarship to a fancy finishing school for talented young ladies. Les Belles Demoiselles is a literal charm school. Here, generations of young ladies from old-money witch families have learned to harness their magic, and alumnae grow to become some of the most powerful women across industries, including politicians, philanthropists, CEOs, entrepreneurs—and yes, even social media influencers.



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May 2023 Children's Highlights

Young Adult



Let's Play Murder by Kesia Lupo

9781526635464 / Bloomsbury / PB / R220

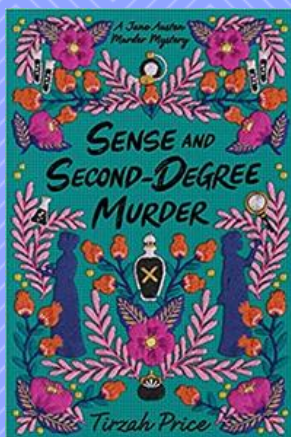
Video games have never been more murderous. Veronica wakes up trapped with four strangers in a sprawling manor house in a snow storm with a dead body, a mystery right out of an Agatha Christie novel. It feels so real – but it isn't. This is VR and this is THE Game; a rumoured Easter Egg hidden in other VR games that draws you into a competition for a prize beyond your wildest dreams. And there's no escaping the VR world until the Game is won. But while Veronica and her fellow players are trying to figure out the puzzle, something is not right in the VR world. Blackouts, glitches, NPCs acting strange, and a mysterious figure haunting their footsteps. Then when a player dies, and also dies in real life, all hell breaks loose. Without warning, the game Veronica thought she was playing gets overshadowed by a much darker, and much more real, mystery: who is killing us?' It may not be a game Veronica wanted to play, but it's one that she has to win – or die trying.



Silver in the Bone by Alexandra Bracken

9781786541727 / Quercus / TPB / R330

Tamsin Lark is a Hollower - breaking into the ancient crypts of dark sorceresses in search of the treasures inside. Now, rumours are swirling about a powerful ring from Arthurian legend, a ring that could free her brother, Cabell from a curse. But they aren't the only ones who covet it . . . As word spreads, greedy Hollowers start circling, and many would kill to have the ring for themselves. Tamsin is forced into an alliance with her rival Emrys, the last person she wants to rely on. Together, they dive headfirst into a vipers' nest of dark magic, and expose a deadly secret with the power to awaken ghosts of the past and shatter her last hope of saving her brother. . . Driven by love, revenge and pure adrenaline, this is the stunning new novel from one of the top fantasy authors writing today.



Jane Austen Murder Mysteries 2: Sense and Second-Degree Murder by Tirzah Price

9780062889843 / HarperCollins US / PB / R245

All Eden wants is to rewind the clock. To live that day again. She would do everything differently. Not laugh at his jokes or ignore the way he was looking at her that night. And she would definitely lock her bedroom door. But Eden can't turn back time. So she buries the truth, along with the girl she used to be. She pretends she doesn't need friends, doesn't need love, doesn't need justice. But as her world unravels, one thing becomes clear: the only person who can save Eden ... is Eden.



Jonathan Ball *Publishers*

May 2023 Children's *Highlights*



Blood Scion by Deborah Falaye

9780062954053 / HarperCollins US / PB / R245

Fifteen-year-old Sloane can incinerate an enemy at will—she is a Scion, a descendant of the ancient Orisha gods.

Under the Lucis' brutal rule, her identity means her death if her powers are discovered. But when she is forcibly conscripted into the Lucis army on her fifteenth birthday, Sloane sees a new opportunity: to overcome the bloody challenges of Lucis training, and destroy them from within.

Following one girl's journey of magic, injustice, power, and revenge, Deborah Falaye's debut novel, inspired by Yoruba-Nigerian mythology, is a magnetic combination of *Children of Blood and Bone* and *An Ember in the Ashes*.





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NB! Deadline for requests:

Wednesday 19 April 2023

Click [here](#) to get your wish lists in!

Thank You.

