

# Jonathan Ball Publishers

## March 2021 Children's Highlights

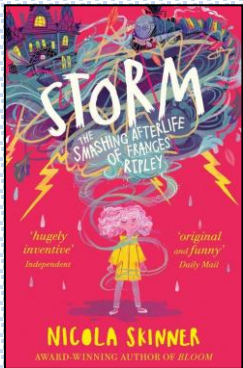
March



**Skulduggery Pleasant 13: Seasons of War** by Derek Landy  
9780008386283 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

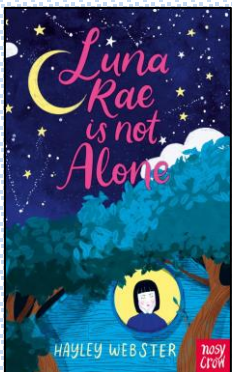
War is coming.

To avert catastrophe, Skulduggery and Valkyrie are sent on a secret mission that takes them away from everything they know, to a forsaken land of magic and grim, unrelenting terror. It is here that Valkyrie will have to fight the hardest — not only against the enemies who want her dead, but also against her own self-destructive impulses. It's only by crawling through darkness that she'll be able to once again stand in the light.



**Storm** by Nicola Skinner  
9780008295363 / HarperCollins / PB / R180

Frances's parents were not prepared for her birth: they had a blanket and an easel and some paint, but not anything useful, like a car or a phone. So it's no wonder Frankie has always had a temper. She was born on a BEACH, in a STORM. What Frances was not prepared for was dying in a freak natural disaster that wiped out her whole town. Waking up 100 years later, Frances finds a whole load of new things to be angry about. And that's before the visitors start turning up, treating her home like it's a tourist attraction. Which it is. Only there are worse people out there than tourists... and they're coming for Frankie. Frankie is about to discover that there are things more important than herself – and that anger has its uses. Because when you have a storm inside you – sometimes the only thing to do is let it out...



**Luna Rae is not Alone** by Hayley Webster  
9781788006040 / Nosy Crow / PB / R180

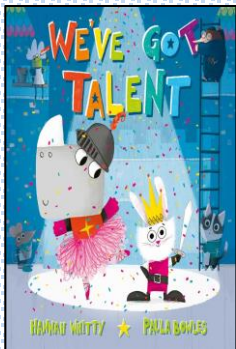
Luna Rae has moved to a new house and a new school. It's hard fitting in — especially when there's so much to worry about at home. She's SURE that the way to solve everything is by winning the school baking competition with her mum ... but there's a problem. Luna's mum has disappeared. A wise, warm and uplifting story about families and friendship, from a beautiful new voice in children's fiction.

March



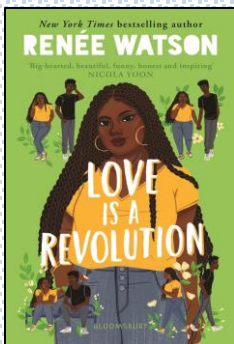
**Once We Were Witches** by Sarah Driver  
9781405295543 / Egmont / PB / R180

Thirteen years ago, magic was banished and witches were hunted. Sisters Spel and Egg are the daughters of witches, but they grow up in Miss Mouldheel's School for Wicked Girls with no idea who they really are. Until the day the message arrives telling them to run... The message sends them to a funeral parlour in a far away village — and their new guardian, the Undertaker, has a secret. Beneath the funeral parlour is a portal to the Other Ways — four worlds that lie parallel to ours. When Egg vanishes through the portal, Spel knows she must try to save her sister. But no one can step between the worlds — or can they?



**We've Got Talent** by Hannah Whitty  
9781471175152 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R180

Sam and Olivia are VERY excited about the school play. They love singing, they love dancing, they love doing their own thing! But when the roles PERFECT for them go to someone else — they know they have to hatch a plan, while always remembering the most important thing: No matter what we look like: WE'VE GOT TALENT!



**Love is a Revolution** by Renée Watson  
9781526616821 / Bloomsbury / PB / R205

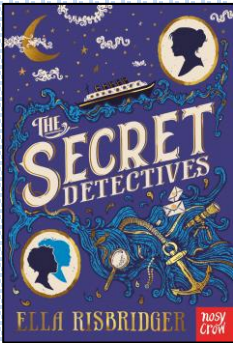
When Nala Robertson reluctantly agrees to attend an open mic night for her cousin-sister-friend Imani's birthday, she finds herself falling in instant love with Tye Brown, the MC. He's perfect, except... Tye is an activist and is spending the summer putting on events for the community when Nala would rather watch movies and try out the new seasonal flavors at the local creamery. In order to impress Tye, Nala tells a few tiny lies to have enough in common with him. As they spend more time together, sharing more of themselves, some of those lies get harder to keep up. As Nala falls deeper into keeping up her lies and into love, she'll learn all the ways love is hard, and how self-love is revolutionary. In *Love is a Revolution*, plus size girls are beautiful and get the attention of the hot guys, the popular girl clique is not shallow but has strong convictions and substance, and the ultimate love story is not only about romance but about how to show radical love to the people in your life, including to yourself.

## March



**Dear Sweet Pea** by Julie Murphy  
9780062473080 / HarperCollins / PB / R155

Patricia "Sweet Pea" DiMarco wasn't sure what to expect when her parents announced they were getting a divorce. She never could have imagined that they would be living in identical houses on the same street. In the house between them lives Miss Flora Mae, the famed local advice columnist behind "Miss Flora Mae I?" Dividing her time between two homes is not easy. And it doesn't help that at school, Sweet Pea now sits right next to her ex-best friend, Kiera, a daily reminder of the friendship that once was. Things might be unbearable if Sweet Pea didn't have Oscar — her new best friend — and her fifteen-pound cat, Cheese. One day Flora leaves for a trip and asks Sweet Pea to forward her the letters for the column. Sweet Pea happens to recognize the handwriting on one of the envelopes. What she decides to do with that letter sets off a chain of events that will forever change the lives of Sweet Pea DiMarco, her family, and many of the readers of "Miss Flora Mae I?"



**The Secret Detectives** by Ella Risbridger  
9781788006002 / Nosy Crow / PB / R205

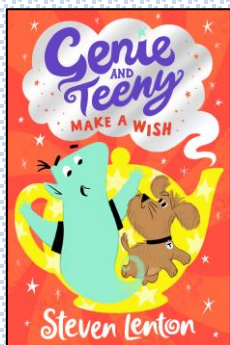
When Isobel Petty is orphaned, she finds herself being taken away from her home in India and sent to live with a distant uncle in England. On board the S.S. Marianna, she witnesses a shocking act — somebody being thrown overboard in the middle of the night. But when the ship's captain insists that nobody is missing, Isobel and her two new reluctant friends must solve two mysteries — the identities of both the murderer and the victim — before they reach England and the culprit has the chance to escape.



**Dog Gone** by Rob Biddulph  
9780008318048 / HarperCollins / PB / R180

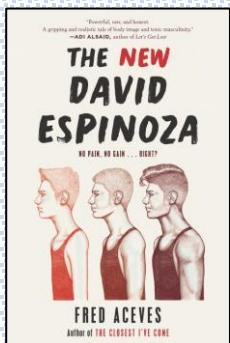
Every dog has his Dave (or otherwise-named human) but on a walk in the park, the adorable Teddy the pug, loses his! And when Teddy finds himself at the shed of the TERRIBLE TROLL in the woods, he might find more than he bargained for... a new friend.

## March



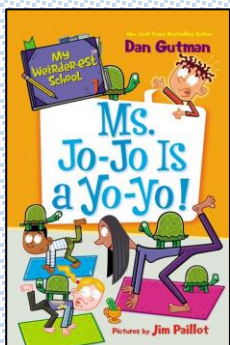
**Genie and Teeny 1: Make a Wish** by Steven Lenton  
9780008408206 / HarperCollins / PB / R180

Meet Grant the genie, and his best friend, Teeny... When Grant the Genie is cast out of Genie World, he lands on Earth with a big, fat bump! Without a lamp to call home, he has to settle for an old cracked teapot instead. Grant is very lonely until he meets the puppy, Teeny. Then Genie and Teeny are kidnapped by the evil purple-loving Lavinia Lavender, and find themselves on-course for a rollercoaster of an adventure - when all they really want is a place to call home...



**The New David Espinoza** by Fred Aceves  
9780062489906 / HarperCollins / PB / R215

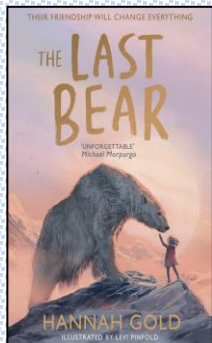
David Espinoza is tired of being messed with. When a video of him getting knocked down by a bully's slap goes viral at the end of junior year, David vows to use the summer to bulk up — do what it takes to become a man —and wow everyone when school starts again the fall. Soon David is spending all his time and money at Iron Life, a nearby gym that's full of bodybuilders. Frustrated with his slow progress, his life eventually becomes all about his muscle gains. As it says on the Iron Life wall, What does not kill me makes me stronger. As David falls into the dark side of the bodybuilding world, pursuing his ideal body at all costs, he'll have to grapple with the fact that it could actually cost him everything.



**My Weirder-est School 7: Ms. Jo-Jo is a Yo-Yo!** by Dan Gutman  
9780062910400 / HarperCollins / PB / R95

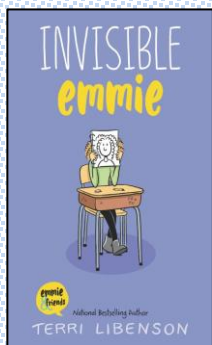
Test scores are low and stress levels are high at Ella Mentry School. Wellness expert Ms. Jo-Jo has come to help A.J. and his friends relax so they can ace the upcoming Fundamental Arithmetic Reading Test. But can turtle yoga and crystal salt lamps really help A.J. and his friends relax and focus? Or will the F.A.R.T. end up blowing them all away?

*March*



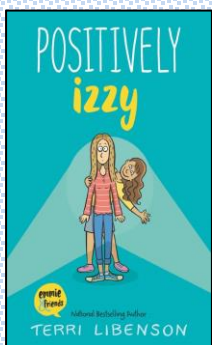
***The Last Bear*** by Hannah Gold  
9780008411282 / HarperCollins / PB / R255

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life.



***Emmie & Friends: Invisible Emmie*** by Terri Libenson  
9780062484932 / HarperCollins / PB / R245

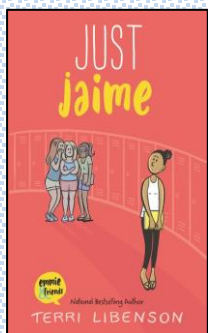
This is the story of two totally different girls — quiet, shy, artistic Emmie, and popular, outgoing, athletic Katie — and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day, when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands.



***Emmie & Friends: Positively Izzy*** by Terri Libenson  
9780062484963 / HarperCollins / PB / R245

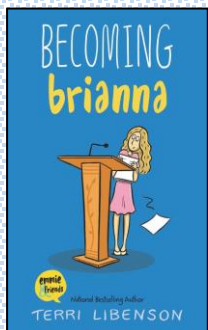
MIDDLE SCHOOL is all about labels. Izzy is the dreamer. She loves acting and making up funny stories. The downside? She can't quite focus on schoolwork. Bri is the brain. But she wants people to see there's more to her than just straight A's.

## March



***Emmie & Friends: Just Jaime*** by Terri Libenson  
9780062851062 / HarperCollins / PB / R245

Friends. Frenemies. MIDDLE SCHOOL. The last day of seventh grade has Jaime and Maya wondering who their real friends are. Jaime knows something is off with her friend group. They've started to exclude her and make fun of the way she dresses and the things she likes. At least she can count on her BFF, Maya, to have her back... right? Maya feels more and more annoyed with Jaime, who seems babyish compared to the other girls in their popular group. It's like she has nothing in common with Jai anymore. Are their days as BFFs numbered?



***Emmie & Friends: Becoming Brianna*** by Terri Libenson  
9780062894533 / HarperCollins / PB / R245

Middle school is full of challenges. Everyone knows how much brainy Bri likes the spotlight (not). So why did she ever agree to something that forces her to learn a new language, give a speech, help organize a party, and juggle drama at school and home?! As the big event inches closer, Bri wonders if it's all worth it.



JonathanBall*Publishers*

---

NB! Deadline for requests:

*Friday 12 February 2021*

Click [\*here\*](#) to get your wish lists

in!

**Thank You.**