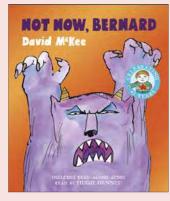
# Autumn 2025

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### David McKee



#### NOT NOW, BERNARD

From the creator of *Elmer* and *Mr Benn*, David McKee's classic picture book, much-loved by children, monsters and adults alike, is celebrating its 45th birthday with this special anniversary gift edition. With free audiobook read by Hugh Dennis.

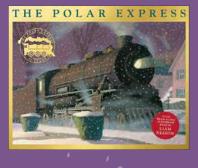
Bernard's got a problem: he's found a monster in the back garden but his mum and dad are just too busy to notice ...

OCT 202532ppPB 3+9781783449736280 x 240mm£7.99

'Arguably the finest children's book ever written.'THE i 'It's so good!' ADAM BUXTON



### Chris Van Allsburg



#### THE POLAR EXPRESS

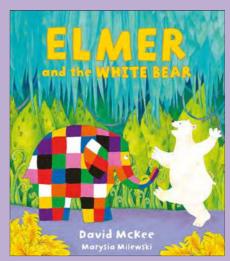
Celebrate 40 years of *The Polar Express* with this gold foil gift edition, including a free audiobook, read by Liam Neeson.

All aboard the Polar Express to the North Pole! Discover the beloved Christmas classic that inspired the blockbuster family favourite movie starring Tom Hanks.

OCT 202532ppPB 3+9781783443338230 x 290mm£8.99

**CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG** lives in Providence, Rhode Island and lectures at the Rhode Island School of Design. He is a sculptor and artist, and twice winner of the **Caldecott Medal**, first for *Jumanji*, and then for *The Polar Express*. He has also received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the **Society of Illustrators** in October 2009.

### David McKee Marysia Milewski



#### ELMER'S CHRISTMAS

A new chunky board book gift edition of David McKee's classic festive story, glittering with gold foil and perfect for sharing with little ones this Christmas.

 SEP 2025
 24pp
 BB 0+

 9781783444663
 180 x 158mm
 £7.99

# perfect for

artist Marysia Milewski.

able to find a way to help?

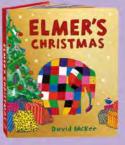
32pp

9781839134654 275 x 240mm £12.99

**SEP 2025** 

**DAVID MCKEE (1935 – 2022)** was the creator of well-known characters including *King Rollo*, *Mr Benn* and *Elmer the Patchwork Elephant*, which is now published in more than 60 languages and has its own successful global merchandise programme. In 2020, David won the **British Book Awards Illustrator of the Year Award** and **BookTrust's Lifetime Achievement Award**.

**MARYSIA MILEWSKI** is a painter and illustrator of Polish descent, born in London, who studied at L'Ecole Freinet in Vence. Her friendship with David McKee and a shared love of intuitive and engaging art makes her the perfect illustrator to continue the legacy of Elmer's world. Marysia lives and works at her gallery in Vence, France.



HB 3+

**ELMER AND THE WHITE BEAR** 

With a gentle environmental theme, this is the

David McKee (1935-2022) was working on,

31st Elmer picture book, and the last story that

with artwork lovingly finished by his close friend,

When the ice starts to melt at the North Pole, a polar bear sets off on an adventure that takes

him all the way to Elmer's jungle! But why did

the ice melt in the first place? And will Elmer be

### Anna Brooke Adam Ming

ANNA BROOKE ADAM MING

#### HELP!

A hideous monster needs YOUR help to reverse the spell so he can return to his gorgeous self! Will you play along and help?

A revoltingly funny and interactive picture book that will have children giggling right up until the final twist ... Perfect for Halloween.

 SEP 2025
 32pp
 PB 3+

 9781839136412
 250 x 250mm
 £7.99

**ANNA BROOKE** has been a travel journalist for many years and has authored seven guidebooks on France. Her debut novel was a **SCBWI Undiscovered Voices** winner and longlisted for the **Bath's Children's Novel Award**. She lives in Paris.

### Greg Gormley Stef Murphy



#### JUST A LITTLE HUG

Wolfie is feeling a bit fragile, so he looks to his friends to cheer him up. Each offers their own version of a hug, but they're all a bit too wild for Wolfie! Snake squeezes far too tight, and Orangutan's loop-the-loop hug is a bit too much ... surely someone must have the perfect hug to cheer poor Wolfie up?

A heartwarming tale with a twist at the end, that celebrates the power of a simple, loving hug between a child and his favourite toy.

 OCT 2025
 32pp
 HB 3+

 9781839132858
 280 x 240mm
 £12.99



# Ruth Quayle Victoria Sandøy

#### **FISHERBEAR**

A cautionary tale with a classic feel, this retelling of an old fable celebrates the simple pleasures in life.

Fisherbear loves his life, sharing his daily catch with his friends and spending time with his family. But one day, a rich stranger arrives and tells Fisherbear he should sell his fish for money instead, so he can buy a bigger boat, to catch more fish to sell ... and eventually become a millionaire. Would that really change Fisherbear's life for the better?

AUG 202532ppHB 3+9781839135712260 × 250mm£12.99



### Mike Barfield Momoko Abe

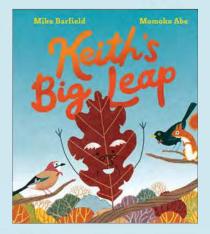
#### **KEITH'S BIG LEAP**

Discover the incredible power of the circle of life in this unforgettable story about a leaf in autumn, including a non-fiction section all about ecosystems at the end.

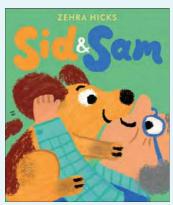
The seasons have changed, and Keith is the last leaf on the big oak tree. When his friend Tod the blackbird suggests he might want to float down and join his fellow leaves on the ground, Keith refuses. Why should he, when he's happy where he is?

 SEP 2025
 32pp
 HB 3+

 9781839135545
 280 x 240mm
 £12.99



### Zehra Hicks



JUL 202532ppHB 3+9781839134968280 x 240mm£12.99

#### SID AND SAM

Sid loves his best friend and owner,

CON SEC

Sam. They share a happy life together, playing, snoozing, and meeting friends like Sophie and her mum in the park. But one morning, Sid wakes up to find that Sam isn't there. At first, he feels sad and lonely, but can Sophie help him find happiness again?

A gentle and uplifting introduction to life after loss, told through the eyes of a loyal dog, from **Oscar's Book Prize**-winning Zehra Hicks.





9781783449071 9781783449361

9361 9781839130922

9130922 9781839132803

### Barry Falls THE WILD HOOBOO

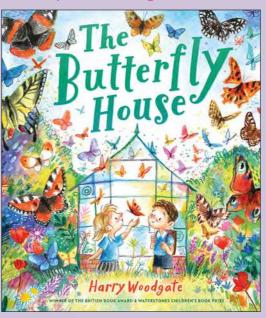
The wild HooBoo bird sings a magical song -coo, chit churp churee! – that can grant you anything you wish for, if your heart is good and true. But the King's only desire is selfish and cruel, so when he captures the HooBoo and starts making demands, things don't quite go as he'd planned...

A cautionary tale with a classic feel and stunning illustrations bursting with colour and kindness, from award-winning, Northern Irish artist Barry Falls.

AUG 202532ppHB 3+9781839134586300 x 215mm£12.99



### Harry Woodgate



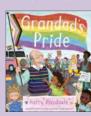
#### THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Miss Brown's house is wild and overgrown, but to Holly it's like something out of a fairy tale ... From **Waterstones Prize**-winner Harry Woodgate comes a beautiful and uplifting look at mental health and the role that the outdoors has in healing.

When Holly reaches out to Miss Brown, she discovers why her house looks so wild: her brain has been ill, and the wildness inside has spilled out. Can their budding friendship, and a bit of help from the butterflies in her garden, encourage Miss Brown to feel like herself again?

OCT 202532ppHB 3+9781839132896280 x 240mm£12.99









9781783449927

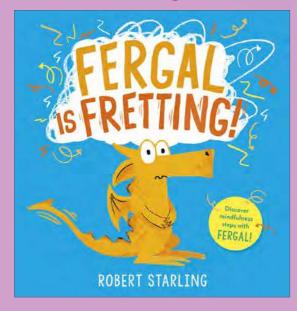
9781839132674 9781839134289

9781839131516

HARRY WOODGATE (they/them) is a multi-award-winning author and illustrator, whose debut picture book *Grandad's Camper* won the British Book Awards for Children's Illustrated Book of the Year and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, was shortlisted for the Polari Prize, and named as an ALA Stonewall Honor Book. Their work has also been shortlisted for the V&A Illustration Awards, and the Folio Society Book Illustration Competition twice.

#### PICTURE BOOKS

### Robert Starling



PB 3+



#### **FERGAL IS FRETTING!**

In the fifth story in the **Waterstones Prize**-shortlisted series, learn a triedand-tested mindfulness technique to help children deal with anxiety of all kinds – including social anxiety – with Fergal!

Fergal's friend Elspeth is coming to stay, and he is very excited ... but there's a problem. He hasn't been able to see her in such a long time, so what if it's not the same? When he thinks about Elspeth's visit, his face feels hot, he can't keep still and he keeps needing the toilet. But there's one very simple thing he can do to make his fretting go away.

'Children will easily identify with little Fergal and learn lots from his behaviour, all of it useful' LOVEREADING4KIDS



32dd

9781839132636 260 x 250mm £7.99

IUL 2025





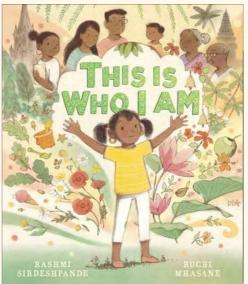






**ROBERT STARLING** began doodling creatures and characters at school and hasn't stopped since. He lives and works in Wiltshire, and when he's not sketching up new characters or writing down stories he can be found sculpting, brewing coffee, adjusting his headphones or foraging in the kitchen for cake. *Fergal is Fuming*, which was shortlisted for the **Waterstones Children's Book Award**, was his first book.

### Rashmi Sirdeshpande Ruchi Mhasane



 SEP 2025
 32pp
 HB 3+

 9781839135774
 280 x 240mm
 £12.99





**RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE** is a lawyer-turned-storyteller, who was part of the Penguin Random House WriteNow mentoring programme in 2018. As a British Indian child, she didn't get to see many children like her in the books she read, so she is now passionate about writing stories that children from all backgrounds can relate to.

**RUCHI MHASANE** has an MA in Children's Book Illustration from the Cambridge School of Art. Her ambition is to develop the form of the picture book; in India, children's books usually have few pictures, and her aim in joining the MA was to change this. Ruchi especially enjoys drawing people and children, and her work has a dreamy quality to it. She currently lives in India, where she grew up.

### .

#### THIS IS WHO I AM

Discover that we are so much more than where we are from in this beautiful, poetic celebration of children with shared heritage, from the team that brought us the **Diverse Book Award**-winning *Dadaji's Paintbrush*.

When people ask her where she is from, this little girl says she has a foot in two worlds: one in India, the country of her heritage, and one in the land her parents came to on a plane. But she is so much more than that – she is the memories, the music, the tastes, sights and sounds of both of those worlds, she is their shared history, and the people who fought for their freedom ... but most of all, she is proud to be herself.

## Anna Wilson Jenny Bloomfield

#### **BE BACK SOON**

Mo's older brother has to go away for work, but just like the swallows, he'll return when the summer comes. A beautiful, heartfelt story following swallow migration and a brother's journey across the world as his little brother misses him and longs for him to come home.

Including a non-fiction section all about the incredible migratory journey swallows take.

**SEP 2025** 32pp PB 3+ 9781839136504 250 x 260mm f799





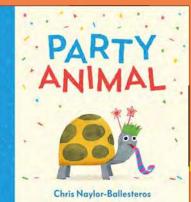
### Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

#### **PARTY ANIMAL**

A new story by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros shows that children don't have to be great social butterflies to enjoy time with friends.

Introverted and socially anxious Tortoise is NOT a party animal. But when his friends invite him to celebrate with them, he soon discovers that parties aren't as overwhelming as he thinks ... instead they can be guite enjoyable.

AUG 2025 32pp PB 3+ 9781839132605 250 x 250mm £7.99



### Sarah Tagholm

### WHEN WILL MY WOODLOUSE WAKE UP? Sarah Manu Tagholm Montoya

**NOV 2025** 32pp PB 3-9781839132728 280 x 225mm

### Manu Montoya

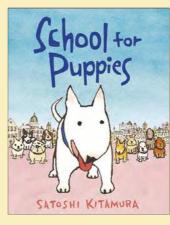


A funny, straightforward and comforting picture book about loss and the circle of life, with an introduction to some of the beliefs about what happens after death.

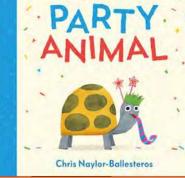
When his pet woodlouse won't wake up one day, Ross learns from his big sister that Lord Jeffry has died. But Ross has questions: where is Lord leffry now? The siblings go to the library to see if they can find out, and although Ross misses his pet, he is comforted thinking of the adventures he might be having now.



### Satoshi Kitamura



AUG 2025 32pp 9781839133435 280 x 220mm £7.99





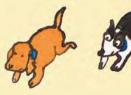
When Lucy goes to school and leaves her puppy at home, he is determined to find out what she does all day, so he sets off on an adventure to go to Puppy School! Can he put his new-found skills to the test when he gets lost on the way home?

Nominated for a 2025 Carnegie Medal for Illustration.

SCHOOL FOR PUPPIES

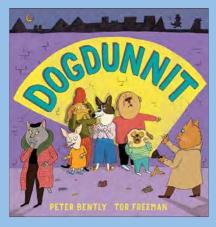
An adorable look at the world through the eyes of a beloved puppy from multi-award-

winning picture book legend Satoshi Kitamura.





### Peter Bently Tor Freeman



JUL 202532ppPB 3+9781839131820260 × 250mm£7.99

#### DOGDUNNIT

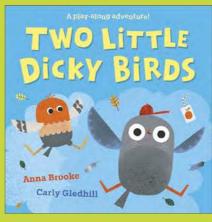
A hilarious, pun-filled cat-and-dog detective mystery from award-winning Peter Bently and Tor Freeman.

Crimes are sweeping the neighbourhood: sofas torn to shreds, muddy pawprints on the beds, poo left on the kitchen floor ... all the evidence points towards the culprits being DOGS, but the great cat detective Purrlock Jones thinks she knows who the real villain is.

'Hilarious ... it's very, very funny' STEVEN LENTON



### Anna Brooke Carly Gledhill



AUG 202532ppPB 3+9781839136481250 x 250mm£7.99

### TWO LITTLE DICKY BIRDS

Two little dicky birds, sitting on the wall, "Hello, Peter, hello . . . wait, where did Paul go?!"

Help Peter rescue Paul in this interactive story! A thrilling journey that ends with Paul safely back on the wall for bedtime, by award-winning author Anna Brooke and illustrated by Carly Gledhill.



### Polly Noakes

#### JUST THE TWO OF US

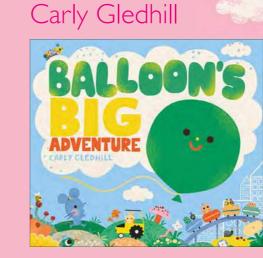
What happens to our imaginary friends when we don't need them anymore? A heartwarming tale about letting go of imaginary friends and exploring real-life friendships.

When Stella makes a new friend, Sid, it's time for her imaginary friend Arlo to find his own path ... Sid had an imaginary friend once too – can Arlo find her?

AUG 202532ppPB 3+9781839134258280 × 220mm£7.99











#### **BALLOON'S BIG ADVENTURE**

Help Mouse find his lost friend Balloon! One windy day at the fair, Mouse and Balloon play together all day long. But – oops! – Mouse lets go, and Balloon embarks on an exciting journey above the fairground, past the big city, over the sea and up, up, up into the clouds.

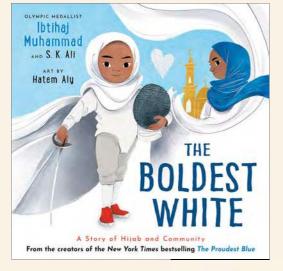
An epic journey for children to play along, with plenty to spot along the way.

JUL 202532ppHB 3+9781839135118230 x 260mm£12.99





### Ibtihaj Muhammad Hatem Aly







Praise for the series:

'A ground-breaking picture book about religion, sisterhood and identity.' WATERSTONES

**IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD** is a fencer and the first Muslim American woman in hijab to compete and to win a medal for the United States in the Olympic Games. An activist, speaker and entrepreneur, Ibtihaj has written a memoir, Proud, and inspired the first hijabi Barbie in her likeness. Her first picture book, The Proudest Blue, was an instant New York Times bestseller.

**HATEM ALY** is the illustrator of many books, including the **Newbery Honor Book** The Inquisitor's Tale. Hatem was born in Egypt, and currently lives in Canada with his wife, son and their many pets.

### THE BOLDEST WHITE

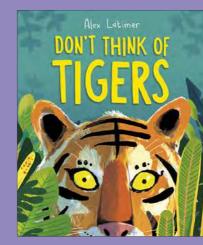
The highly-anticipated third and final book in the New York Times bestselling and award-winning series following The Proudest Blue and The Kindest Red celebrates hijab and community, from trailblazer and Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

When nobody's watching, Faizah is the best fencer in the world. But there's a tournament coming up just before Eid, and with everyone watching, Faizah is worried she won't be brave enough to compete. Can her big sister Asiya help her find a way to be her boldest self?

An important and uplifting story about faith in religion, in family, and in yourself: to be bold in order to lead, to help, and to grow.

**SEP 2025** PB 3+ 40pd 9781839136849 254 x 254mm £7.99

### Alex Latimer



### **DON'T THINK OF TIGERS**



**OCT 2025** 32dd PB 3+ 9781839133275 270 x 230mm £7.99

#### 'A magic book ... a laugh-out-loud story that children will love sharing with an adult' THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

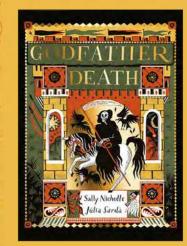
### Sally Nicholls Júlia Sardà GODFATHER DEATH

A powerful retelling of the classic Grimm cautionary tale about the value of honesty and the power of greed from Waterstones Children's Book Prizewinning author, Sally Nicholls, hauntingly illustrated by Júlia Sardà, which will spellbind and thrill readers of all ages.

Nominated for a 2025 Carnegie Medal for Illustration.

'Gloriously gothic' GUARDIAN

**SEP 2025** 48pp PB 7+ 9781839133503 280 x 206mm £8.99



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### Andersen Young Adult Classics

THE ORIGINAL UNABRIDGED TEXTS PERFECT FOR GCSE STUDY

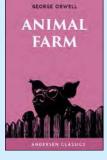


#### Charles Dickens A CHRISTMAS CAROL

'Bah! Humbug!'

Ebenezer Scrooge was a mean, miserable, bitter old man, until one Christmas Eve changed everything ... Guided by three spirits, Scrooge visits his past, present, and chilling future, should he not mend the error of his ways.

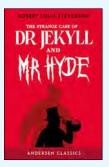
**OCT 2025** 96dd PB 12+ 9781839136740 198 x 129mm £7.99



#### George Orwell ANIMAL FARM

'All animals are equal. But some animals are more equal than others.' Poorly treated by their master, the animals of Manor Farm stage a revolt and take charge of the farm. They have big dreams about a happier future with less work, more food and no overbearing leaders. But when the pigs begin to fight for control of the farm, will they be any better off than before?

AUG 2025 112pp PB 12+ 9781839136757 198 x 129mm £7.99

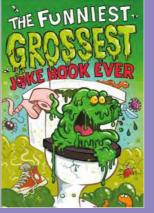


#### Robert Louis Stevenson DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE

'All human beings, as we meet them, are commingled out of good and evil.' Robert Louis Stevenson's dark gothic novella follows the lawyer Mr Utterson as he investigates the strange connection between his dear friend Dr Jekyll, and the mysterious and evil Mr Hyde. With Dr Jekyll missing and a man found murdered on the foggy streets of Victorian London, Mr Utterson must race to uncover the true identity of the 'downright detestable' culprit Mr Hyde before it is too late.

**SEP 2025** 112pp PB 12+ 9781839136245 198 x 129mm £7.99

### Joe King Nigel Baines



#### THE FUNNIEST AND GROSSEST **JOKE BOOK EVER**

A hilarious and disgusting collection of the fartiest, smelliest, squelchiest jokes around! Illustrated throughout by Nigel Baines.



Sam Gayton

#### PRESS START TO PLAY

Get ready to press start to play ... video games, board games, word games, tag games, card games, and play by yourself games when you're feeling sad games.

This laugh-out-loud, brilliantly imaginative, interactive collection of poetry celebrates play in all its forms. Illustrated throughout in black and white by Jack Noel, this collection also contains an added flicker book interactive element.



'Mind-stretching, moving and explosive' TLS

'Inventive and fantastic storytelling' THE BOOKSELLER

Praise for Sam Gayton:

SEP 2025	136рр	PB 9+
9781839136092	198 x 127mm	£7.99

SAM GAYTON lives in Margate. In 2009 he completed the Writing for Young People MA at Bath Spa University. He is the author of the much acclaimed The Snow Merchant, The Last Zoo and World Weavers.

### Marthe Jocelyn Isabelle Follath



**AGGIE MORTON, MYSTERY QUEEN:** PERIL AT OWL PARK

The second in this twisty, charming mystery series, inspired by the imagined life of Agatha Christie and her most popular creation, Hercule Poirot, as children.

Aspiring writer Aggie Morton is eager to spend the holidays at Owl Park manor house. Owl Park holds many delights, including a troupe of travelling actors, a secret passage and an emerald with a curse! Aggie refuses to believe there's anything to the superstition, until she and her friends discover a body instead of presents on Christmas morning. Aggie and Hector must put their deductive skills and imaginations to work and find a murderer on the loose ...

PB 9+

**SEP 2025** 400pp 9781839136085 198x129mm £7.99



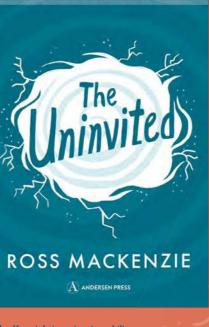
'A remarkable, cool, and likable detective' KIRKUS REVIEWS



MARTHE JOCELYN is the award-winning author and illustrator of nearly fifty books for children of all ages. Her picture book Sam Sorts was honoured by the United States Board on Books for Youth as an Outstanding International Book, and another picture book, Hannah's Collections, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Illustration. Her novel Mable Riley won the inaugural TD Canadian Children's Literature Award. Marthe is also the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Vicky Metcalf Award for her body of work.

### Ross MacKenzie

#### COVER TO BE REVEALED



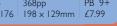
'MacKenzie's imaginative ability to create a fantasy world is limitless' DAILY MAIL 'Ross MacKenzie is a wizard with words' MG LEONARD

#### THE UNINVITED

From the winner of the **Blue Peter Book** Award and the Scottish Children's Book Award comes an astonishing magical adventure story, exploring themes of immigration, colonisation and freedom.

Thirteen-year-old Samm Wolfback is a faerae who relies on no one, but when he is drawn into a secret plan to escape the faerae refugee camp, he must put his trust in others, and embark on a perilous journey. From a circus of nightmares to a murderous museum, Samm's path is riddled with danger. And coming his way is an unsuspecting human boy, Ally, with a magical power he can't control ...

AUG 2025 368dd PB 9+ 9781839133176 198 x 129mm £7.99







9781839132025

9781783448319

**ROSS MACKENZIE** has been writing stories since he was seven years old, when he created an illustrated short story about a hungry crocodile named Crunchy Colin. His novel The Nowhere Emporium won the Blue Peter Award and the Scottish Children's Book Award. He is also the winner of the Scottish Teenage Book Prize. He now lives near Glasgow with his wife, daughters and cocker spaniel.

### Kwame Alexander

# NEWBERY MEDAL-WINNING AUTHOR OF THE CROSSOVER KWAME ALEXANDER 'Kwame Alexander is one of the greats SARAH CROSSAN BLACK STAR

384pp PB 12+ **OCT 2025** 9781839136351 198 x 129mm £8.99

'Powerful and realistic, this continuing saga offers heartbreaking portrayals of the African American experience' BOOKLIST

'A powerful and thoroughly satisfying blend of sports, history, family saga, and selfdiscovery' KIRKUS, STARRED REVIEW

**BLACK STAR** 

The second in the Carnegie-shortlisted The Door of No Return trilogy.

Twelve-year-old Charley is set on becoming the first female pitcher to play professional baseball, though it's a lofty dream for a Black girl in the American South in the 1920s. Even so, her grandfather Kofi's thrilling stories about courageous ancestors and epic journeys make it impossible not to dream big. She knows he has so much more to tell, but according to her parents, she isn't old enough to know about certain things, like what happened to Booker Preston that one night in Great Bridge, and why she can never play on the brand-new baseball field on the other side of town.

When Charley challenges a neighbourhood bully to a game at the church picnic, she knows she can win, even with her ragtag team. Then a dispute on the field leads to Charley making a fateful decision, one that will bring consequences she never could have imagined.



9781839133077 9781783443673 9781783444656 9781783447206

**KWAME ALEXANDER** is a poet, educator, and the **New York Times bestselling** author of Rebound, shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, The Crossover, winner of the Newbery Medal, and The Undefeated, winner of the Caldecott Medal. Kwame also won the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award and the Coretta Scott King Author Honour. He is the writer and executive producer of The CrossoverTV series, which won a Daytime Emmy Award, and is co-founder of LEAP for Ghana, an international literacy programme.

THE

NO

### Phil Earle Fred Fordham

FROM BEST-SELLING AUTHOR PHIL EARLE



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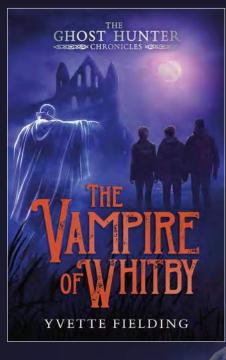
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PHIL EARLE was born and raised in the north of England. He is the author of numerous acclaimed, award-winning books for children and teenagers. His novel When The Sky Falls won the Books Are My Bag Readers Award and the British Book Award for Children's Fiction.

**FRED FORDHAM** has written and illustrated for various publications. This includes adapting and illustrating the graphic novel version of Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, adapting F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, again for a graphic novel, and illustrating Philip Pullman's debut graphic novel The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship.

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