

# Jonathan Ball Publishers

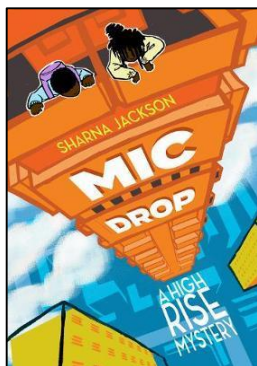
## May 2020 Children's Highlights

May



**Do You Love Bugs** by Matt Robertson  
9781526609519 / Bloomsbury / PB / R170

Crawly! Hairy! Maybe a bit scary? Snails slime upside down. Eeek! Worms can somersault and butterflies smell like cake. YUM. Wait, don't eat them... Because bugs are truly BRILLIANT! Matt Robertson's quirky text and sweet yet hilarious illustrations show exactly why minibeasts can be truly awesome in their own unique way. The book includes 14 hilarious globally inclusive, bug-tastic spreads, featuring worms, bees, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, spiders, ants, snails and stick insects. Find out how honeybees make their honey, why moths always fly around lamps and how bombardier beetles protect themselves from hungry predators. There's something new to learn about each bug. Did you know that stick insects can dance? Or that butterflies can smell like cake? And guess what? A grasshopper will spit on you if it gets angry! So always be good to grasshoppers, give spiders a smile not a screech and never get angry at ants! There are so many more fun facts to uncover about our tiny furry and slimy friends.



**High-Rise 2: Mic Drop** by Sharna Jackson  
9781913311032 / Flying Eye / PB / R170

It's October half-term and pop star, TrojKat is filming a music video in the The Tri, the high-rise block home to sluths Nik and Norva. When tragedy strikes the famous singer under mysterious circumstances, Nik and Norva set out to solve the case, with their friend George, and their impressive detective skills. The sequel to *High-Rise Mystery*, another whodunnit in the phenomenal mystery series by Sharna Jackson.



**The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone** by Jaclyn Moriarty  
9781913101053 / Buster Books / PB / R195

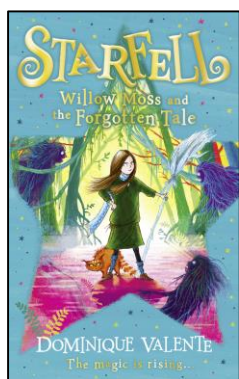
Bronte Mettlestone is ten years old when her parents are killed by pirates. This does not bother her much: her parents ran away to have adventures when she was a baby. She has been raised by her Aunt Isabelle, with assistance from the Butler, and has spent a pleasant childhood of afternoon teas and riding lessons. Now, however, her parents have left detailed instructions for Bronte in their will. She must travel the kingdoms alone, delivering gifts to ten other aunts: a farmer aunt who owns an orange orchard, a veterinarian aunt who specializes in dragon care, a pair of aunts who captain a cruise ship, and a former rock star aunt who is now the reigning monarch of a small kingdom. But as she travels from aunt to aunt, Bronte suspects there might be more to this journey than the simple delivery of treasure; though little does she suspect that she will have to play such a big part in the extraordinary events that follow.

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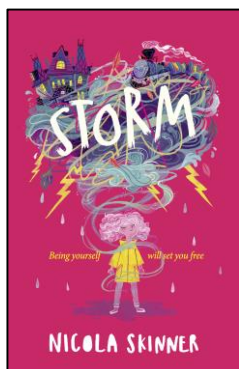
**Song Beneath the Tides** by Beverley Birch  
9781913101084 / Buster Books / PB / R195

Ally arrives from England with her brothers to stay for a month in Africa — weeks of running wild on an unspoiled, untamed coast amid mangrove creeks, vast white sandy beaches, coral reefs and warm seas. But on their first walk through the forest to the beach, Ally is swamped by a sense of an unseen presence close to her — of being spoken to. The feeling increases as a local teenager, Leli enthusiastically sweeps her into the world of his village and their offshore island (Kisiri — the place of secrets). It's the beginning of a friendship that swiftly becomes an intense, overwhelming bond between them.



**Starfell 2: Willow Moss and the Forgotten Tale** by Dominique Valente  
9780008377144 / HarperCollins / TPB / R245

Willow Moss, the youngest and least powerful sister in a family of witches, recently saved the world. The problem is, nobody can remember it — and, to make matters worse, her magical ability seems broken. Instead of finding lost things, objects keep disappearing against her will... which is especially troubling now that her friend, Sometimes, needs her help! Sometimes has discovered how to see into the future — but only ten minutes into the future. Unfortunately, that's only enough time to find out that his kidnappers are on their way! His only hope is to write an urgent letter to Willow, asking if she wouldn't mind trying to find him. As Willow and her friends piece together what has happened to Sometimes, their adventure takes them from the magical forest of Wisperia to the darkly mysterious and dangerous underworld of Netherfell. Does the terrifying Queen of the Undead hold the answer? And how can Willow save Sometimes when her own powers are out of control?



**Storm** by Nicola Skinner  
9780008295332 / HarperCollins / TPB / R245

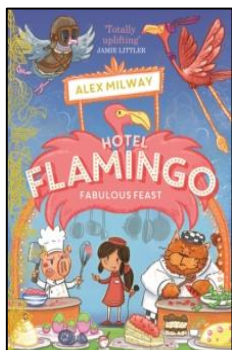
Frances's parents were not prepared for her birth: they had a blanket and an easel and some paint, but not anything useful, like a car or a phone. So it's no wonder Frankie has always had a temper. She was born on a beach, in a storm. What Frances was not prepared for was dying in a freak natural disaster 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.

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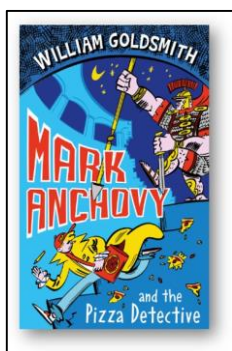
**Skulduggery Pleasant 13: Seasons of War** by Derek Landy  
9780008386245 / HarperCollins / TPB / R245

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.



**Hotel Flamingo 4: Fabulous Feast** by Alex Milway  
9781848128392 / Hot Key / PB / R160

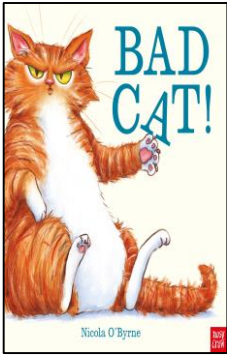
On Animal Boulevard the snow is finally melting after a long, quiet winter and Hotel Flamingo is ready to embrace the new season and new guests. Anna knows she needs to come up with a plan to get the hotel buzzing again! And what does Hotel Flamingo have that no one else has? One of the best chefs in town — Madame Le Pig! In a stroke of inspiration Anna decides that the hotel will put on a Battle of the Chefs. Madame Le Pig will go head to head with prestigious Animal Boulevard chefs Peston Crumbletart and Laurence Toot-Toot in a thrilling live cooking show — and there will be an accompanying feast for all who attend. But as ever Anna has a lot to contend with — not just grumpy, demanding chefs but a host of new guests with ever-changing needs, from Simon Suckerlot the flamboyant octopus to Alfonso Fastbeak the stunt pigeon. And when taking center stage proves harder than expected for Madame Le Pig, the whole team must pull together to buoy her up and pull off the most Fabulous Feast that Hotel Flamingo has ever seen.



**Mark Anchovy 1: Pizza Detective** by William Goldsmith  
9781848128613 / Hot Key / PB / R160

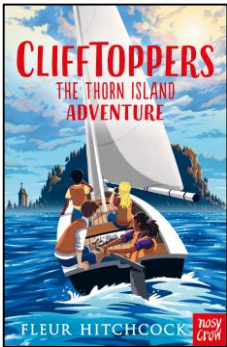
Colin Kingsley is a pizza delivery boy with a twist. He's actually an aspiring detective. But in sleepy Ruffington-on-Sea, there are no cases to solve — until the Golden Spatula League comes calling. The world's premier agency for 'caterer-detectives', run by children, the G.S.L. have been dazzled by Colin's freakish memory skills. To join their ranks, Colin — codenamed 'Mark Anchovy' — must fly to Rome to track down a valuable stolen painting, titled, 'Girl With A Squirrel'. The chief suspect: Big Alan Fresco, notorious art thief and pizza addict. It's the toughest, most pizza-ry mystery the G.S.L. have ever encountered.

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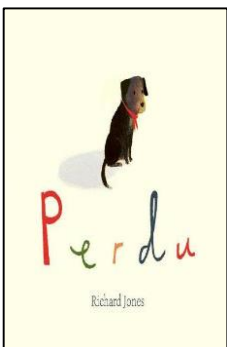
**Bad Cat** by Nicola O'Byrne  
9781788008860 / Nosy Crow / PB / R185

Fluffykins is a bad cat. A VERY bad cat indeed! He's knocked over the flowers, tangled up all the knitting, bent the blinds, trodden on the laptop AND scratched the sofa... and he won't say sorry. What a bad cat! Whatever will he do next? This witty and perfectly-paced story by award-winning author-illustrator Nicola O'Byrne revels in all the mayhem of living with a feline friend.



**Clifftoppers 3: Thorn Island Adventure** by Fleur Hitchcock  
9781788007900 / Nosy Crow / PB / R170

While sailing their boat around the coast Chloe sees a terrified face at a window and the cousins realise there's something rotten about nearby Applestone Hall. Could the face belong to recently kidnapped young George, the only child of a rich local businessman? Certain that the villains are hiding out nearby, the cousins must use all their skills and cunning to conduct a daring rescue.

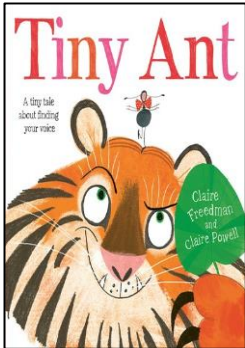


**Perdu** by Richard Jones  
9781471181269 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R170

Poor Perdu is all alone as he journeys from the countryside to the city in search of a home. The city is a big place when you are very small, but is it possible that someone is looking out for Perdu? The first picture book to be both written and illustrated by Richard Jones — the illustrator of the internationally bestselling *The Snow Lion*, written by Jim Helmore, is a joyful, poignant gem.

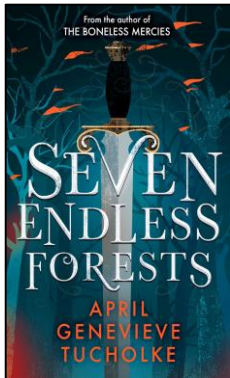


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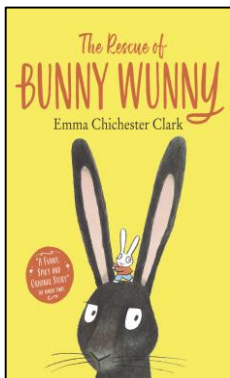
***Tiny Ant*** by Claire Freedman  
9781471181481 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R170

It's time for the jungle talent show, and among the mighty beasts of a jungle, there's a new contestant – *Tiny Ant*. But what on earth can he do? Find out in this funny, rollicking, rhyming story by Claire Freedman, paired for the first time with terrifically talented illustrator, Claire Powell.



***The Seven Endless Forests*** by April Genevieve Tucholke  
9781471170027 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R195

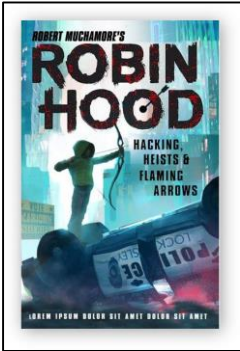
On the heels of a devastating plague, Torvi's sister Morgunn is stolen from the family farm by Uther, a flame-loving wolf-priest who leads a pack of ragged, starving girls. Torvi leaves the only home she's ever known and joins a shaven-headed druid and a band of roaming Elish artists known as the Butcher Bards. They set out on a quest to rescue Torvi's sister and find a mythical sword. On their travels, Torvi and her companions will face wild, dangerous magic that leads to love, joy, tragedy, and death.



***The Rescue of Bunny Wunny*** by Emma Chichester Clark  
9780008180287 / HarperCollins / PB / R170

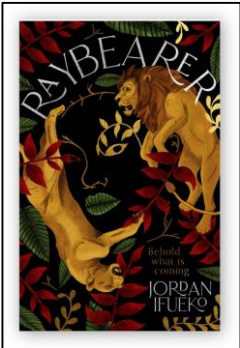
A wickedly funny modern cautionary tale from Emma Chichester Clark, the highly regarded, award-winning creator of *Blue Kangaroo*. Introducing high-spirited Imelda and her long-suffering toy rabbit, Bunny Wunny! Imelda always gets what she wants, so when Bunny Wunny goes missing her parents let her have a real rabbit — with extremely surprising consequences! Wickedly irreverent, this stylish and contemporary take on the cautionary tale is perfect for fans of *Eloise* and *Madeline*. Emma is one of today's foremost artists and has created a book to entice every reader.

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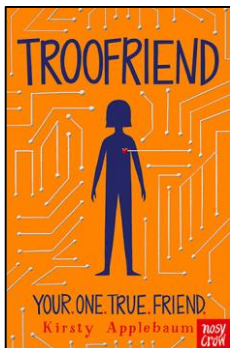
***Robin Hood: Hacking, Heists, and Flaming Arrows*** by Robert Muchamore  
9781471408618 / Hot Key / PB / R160

You can't go far without a quick brain and some rule-bending in a place like Locksley. After its vast car plants shut down, the prosperous town has become a wasteland of empty homes, toxic land and families on the brink. And it doesn't help that the authorities are in the clutches of profit-obsessed Sheriff of Nottingham, in cahoots with underworld boss Guy Gisborne. When his dad is framed for a robbery, Robin and his brother Little John are hounded out of Locksley and must learn to survive in the Sherwood forest, stretching three hundred kilometers and sheltering the free spirits and outlaws. But Robin is determined to do more than survive. Small, fast and deadly with a bow, he hatches a plan to join forces with Marion Maid, harness his inimitable tech skills and strike a blow against Gisborne and the Sheriff.



***Raybearer*** by Jordan Ifueko  
9781471409271 / Hot Key / PB / R185

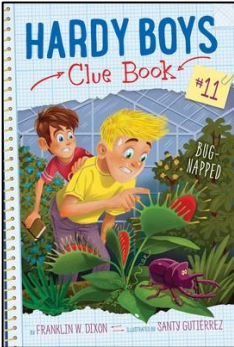
Tarisai has always longed for the warmth of a family. She was raised in isolation by a mysterious, often absent mother known only as The Lady. The Lady sends her to the capital of the global empire of Aritsar to compete with other children to be chosen as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11. If she's picked, she'll be joined with the other Council members through the Ray, a bond deeper than blood. That closeness is irresistible to Tarisai, who has always wanted to belong somewhere. But The Lady has other ideas, including a magical wish that Tarisai is compelled to obey: to kill the Crown Prince once she gains his trust. Tarisai won't stand by and become someone's pawn — but is she strong enough to choose a different path for herself?



***TrooFriend*** by Kirsty Applebaum  
9781788003476 / Nosy Crow / PB / R170

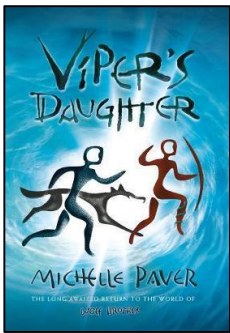
Imagine having the perfect friend, one who never steals, lies or bullies. Now you can, with the TrooFriend 560, the latest in artificial intelligence! What can go wrong with a robot buddy? Especially one that's developing human characteristics and feelings, and who has just run away with her human?

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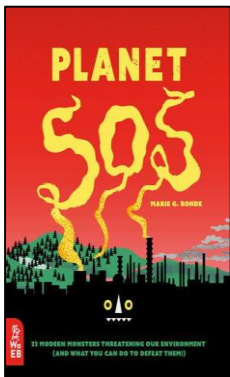
**Hardy Boys Clue Book 11: Bug-Napped** by Franklin W. Dixon & Santy Gutierrez  
9781534431263 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R145

Frank and Joe are taking care of their friend's super cool pet stag beetle named Izumi for the weekend. Not only is this bug fun to watch, but he is also supposed to bring you luck! The first night with Izumi, Joe learns that stag beetles like to hiss and chirp. A lot. So, Joe decides to leave Izumi on the front stoop so he can get some sleep. But when Joe goes to get Izumi the next morning, he discovers that his lucky friend isn't so lucky after all. Because Izumi has gone missing! Izumi's cage is gone so the boys know he didn't escape on his own. Did Aki's pet get bug-napped? Can the brothers find this special bug before the weekend is over? It's up to Frank and Joe —and you — to solve the mystery of the missing beetle!



**Wolf Brother 7: Viper's Daughter** by Michelle Paver  
9781789540550 / Head of Zeus / HB / R225

For two summers Torak and Renn have been living in the Forest with their faithful pack-brother, Wolf. But their happiness is shattered when Renn realizes Torak is in danger — and she's the threat. When she mysteriously disappears, Torak and Wolf brave the Far North to find her. At the mercy of the Sea Mother and haunted by ravenous ice bears, their quest leads them to the Edge of the World. There they must face an enemy more evil than any they've encountered. *Viper's Daughter* plunges you back into the Stone-Age world of Torak, Renn and Wolf: a world of demons, hidden people and exhilarating adventure which has entranced millions of readers.

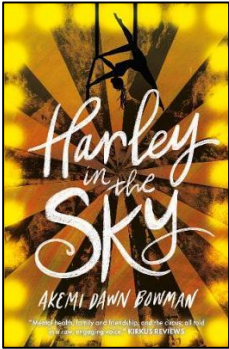


**Planet SOS** by Marie G. Rohde  
9781912920211 / Flying Eye / PB / R1

Our planet is sending out an SOS. From global warming to plastic pollution, real-life environmental monsters are threatening our world at every turn. Now it's your chance to challenge them! Meet the habitat-harming monsters that are ruining the Earth and learn how to vanquish each one — the fearsome Atmosdragon is heating the planet and causing global warming, while the bright-eyed Glareworm is busy creating light pollution and the Smogosaurus is filling our air with toxic fumes. Mythical monsters have always represented humanity's greatest fears and the environmental monsters in *Planet SOS* are no different. In all, 22 monsters feature in *Planet SOS* and each is paired with the mythological beast it is based on. And each monster is accompanied by a Monster Card outlining the big, bad beast's weaknesses and how to use each one to your advantage.

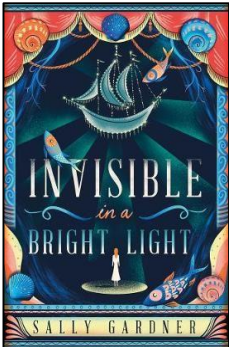
May Highlights 2020

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***Harley in the Sky*** by Akemi Dawn Bowman  
9781785302879 / Black & White / PB / R185

Harley Milano has dreamed of becoming a trapeze artist for as long as she can remember. With parents who run a famous circus in Las Vegas, she spends almost every night in the big top watching their lead aerialist perform, wishing with all her heart and soul that she would be up there herself one day. After a huge fight with her parents, who continue to insist she go to school instead, Harley leaves home, betrays her family, and joins the rival traveling circus Maison du Mystere. There, she is thrust into a world that is both brutal and beautiful, where she learns the value of hard work, passion, and collaboration. At the same time, Harley must come to terms with the truth of her family and her past — and reckon with the sacrifices she made and the people she hurt in order to follow her dreams.



***Invisible in a Bright Light*** by Sally Gardner  
9781786695239 / Head of Zeus / PB / R190

It is 1870: opening night at the Royal Opera House in a freezing city by the sea, where a huge, crystal chandelier in the shape of a galleon sparkles magically with the light of 750 candles. Celeste, a theatre rat, wakes up in a costume basket from what she hopes is a bad dream, to find that everyone at the theatre where she works thinks she is someone else. When the chandelier falls, she is haunted by a strange girl who claims to know Celeste's past and why she must risk playing a game called the Reckoning to try to save the people she loves.





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*NB! Deadline for requests:*

*Thursday 30 April 2020*

*Get your wishlists in!*

**Thank You.**