

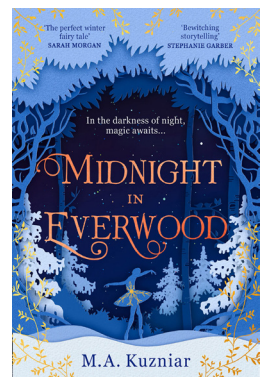
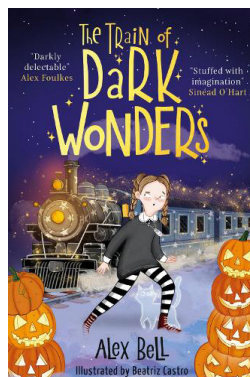
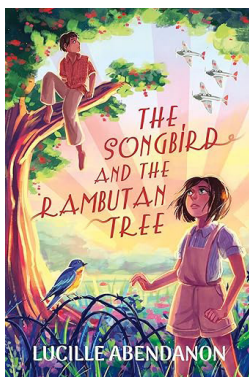


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PARIS - NEW YORK - LONDON

Children's Guide

FALL 2023



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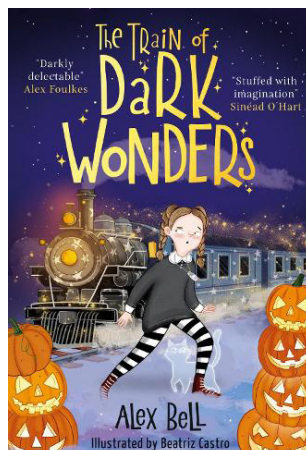
Alex Bell

THE TRAIN OF DARK WONDERS

Middle Grade / 230 pages

Material: manuscript in English

Publication: October 2023



Jump aboard for a journey to strange and spectacular lands...

Bess has always loved her grandfather's collection of curiosities. So she's delighted when she's handed the keys to his Odditorium. But unless she finds a way to draw in the crowds, she'll have to close its doors for good.

When a mysterious train pulls into town, bound for The Land of Halloween Sweets, Bess sneaks onboard. She is soon discovered by Beau the puppeteer, Louis the violinist and Maria the fire witch. Eager to join their adventure, Bess sets out to search for the rarest sweet of all – the ghostly gobstopper. But the land is ruled by the fearsome Candymaker. And beneath the sugary surface, things are more dangerous than they first appear...

"Darkly delectable and bursting with imagination...an absolute treat."—ALEX FOULKES,

AUTHOR OF RULES FOR VAMPIRES SERIES

"A story to be savoured as much as any Halloween treat...sharp and fizzing, with a warm, sweet centre."—JODIE GARNISH, AUTHOR OF THE SPECTACULAURS

ALEX BELL has written multiple books for both adults and young people, including *Frozen Charlotte*, a Zoella Book Club pick, and *The Polar Bear Explorers' Club*. After training as a lawyer, she now works at the Citizens Advice Bureau. Alex lives in Hampshire with her husband, sons and demanding Siamese cat.

PUBLISHER: UK (Oneworld).

Alex Bell

THE GLORIOUS RACE OF MAGICAL BEASTS

Middle Grade / 170 pages

Material: proofs in English

Publication: February 2024



A thrilling standalone adventure, *The Glorious Race of Magical Beasts* follows twelve-year-old Eli on a quest to win the most perilous race in the world.

Eli is an apprentice librarian at the largest, grandest library in the world, and his dearest wish is to become head librarian one day. When his beloved grandmother falls ill, he needs to somehow find a lot of money for her medical treatment, and fast. Eli turns his attention to the Glorious Race of Magical Beasts, an event that happens every year, usually somewhere particularly perilous and full of spiky dangers. The human participant must travel at all times with their beast, and so unicorns and dragons are usually the favoured creatures of choice.

Eli enters the race with Humphrey, his moon tortoise. Moon tortoises are quite rare, and very beautiful, since they shine with the pale light of the moon, but Humphrey isn't fearsome and he certainly isn't fast. And with his love of books, briefcases, and tweed suits, Eli is no natural adventurer either.

He enters the race, and soon finds himself in an unlikely partnership with Raven—a fierce daredevil who isn't afraid of breaking the rules. Not only is she a skilled archer, but her creature is an ice hare—one of the fastest animals in the world. If the two children put aside their difference and work together, they might just reach the finish line.

PUBLISHER: UK (Faber & Faber).

PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS: France (Gallimard), Russia (Azbooka-Atticus), Spain (Salamandra), Taiwan (Worldfield) Turkey (Kultur).

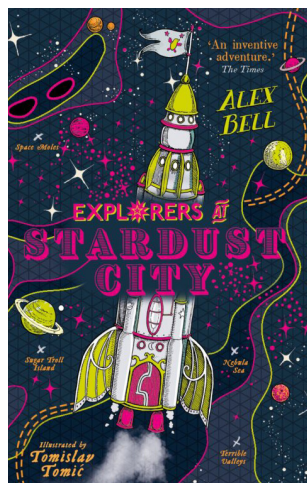
Alex Bell

EXPLORERS AT STARDUST CITY

Middle Grade

Material: Finished Copies

Publication: November 2022



The last title in the bestselling Explorers' Club series featuring a halfmermaid heroine called Ursula who has to rescue Stella, our Polar Bear Explorers Club heroine, from the evil Collector.

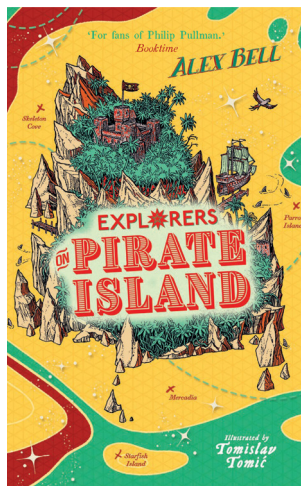
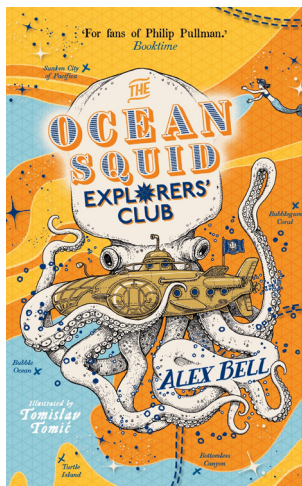
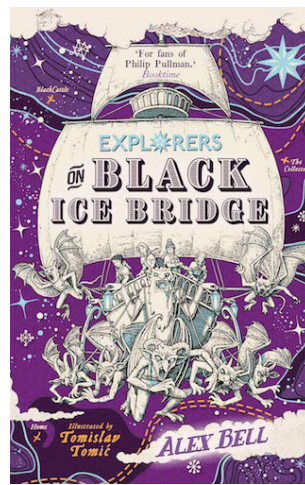
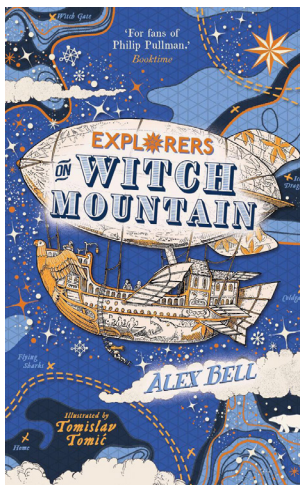
Directly below was a sight none of them had ever seen before – a kind of spiral, with glowing ruby-red lights that curved outwards like tentacles. In the middle was a dark circle, inky black. It had the look of a really, really deep well.

Ursula and her friends are in a race against time. The Collector has taken Stella captive, and is hungrily snatching up all the beautiful places of the world in her snow globe prisons. She needs to be stopped, but first they must find her.

To aid them in their quest, the explorers seek help from new allies, including a Pirate Queen with a ghost ship that can defy time and space, and then take to the skies in a galaxy fairy rocket. But their journey is fraught with danger as the future of the planet hangs in the balance.

Escape into a sensational world filled with space moles, sea goblins and giant sharks, all covered with a sprinkling of moon dust!

PUBLISHERS: Czech(Dobrovsky), France(Gallimard), Israel(Modan), Italy(Salani), Poland(Foksal), Romania (Nemira), Russia (Azbooka), Spain (Salamandra), Taiwan (Worldfield), Turkey (Kultur), UK (Faber & Faber).



PRAISE FOR *THE POLAR BEAR EXPLORERS* SERIES:

‘A magical adventure of friendship, bravery and derring-do in a richly imagined world.’ – *THE BOOKSELLER*

‘Best enjoyed with a mug of sustaining cocoa, Alex Bell’s *The Polar Bear Explorers’ Club* delights in sleety detail...’ – *THE GUARDIAN*

‘an inventive adventure . . . a hoot.’ – *THE SUNDAY TIMES*

Maria Kuzniar

THE GIRL WHO DREAMED IN MAGIC

Middle Grade / 300 pages

Material: proofs in English

Publication: March 2024



From the acclaimed writer of *Ship of Shadows* comes a brand-new snowy fantasy following the magical journey of one girl and her bear.

In a land of ice and stars, where the battles between warring clans threaten to shake the moon from the sky, lives a girl with a magical destiny. The seers speak of a girl braver than a raider, fiercer than an eagle, who rides a bear over the tundra and wields magic at her fingertips, that will one day rule the clans.

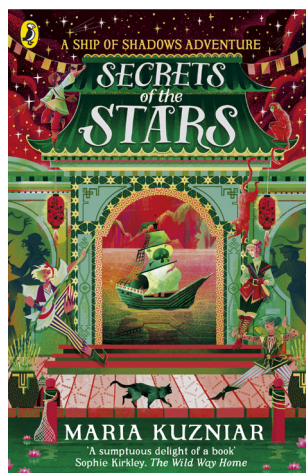
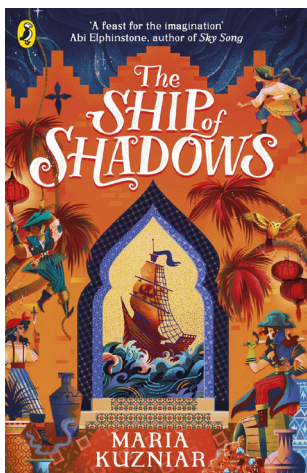
Though Saga Thorolfdottir is brave and fierce, and her bear, Björn, loves to run with her over the mountains, beneath the Northern Lights, she has a secret: ever since her parents died from carving the wrong incantation runes, she's been deathly afraid of using magic.

And she is not interested in pursuing any kind of magical destiny. She'd much rather learn to sail through the fjords on her little Viking boat, skate on frozen lakes, or listen to her beloved grandfather's stories.

But when Saga accidentally disturbs a clan of trolls slumbering in the mountains, to her horror they attack her village and capture her grandfather. Now only magic can save them.

PUBLISHER: UK (Puffin).

PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS: Germany (Ravensburger), Poland (Juka), Russia (Strecoza).



PRAISE FOR *THE SHIP OF SHADOWS* SERIES:

Winner of the Ulmer Ulk Award 2021

“A swashbuckling feminist take on the pirate adventure yarn, Kuzniar’s fantastical tale is packed full of incident and excitement.”—[WATERSTONES](#).

“A feast for the imagination... an enthralling adventure.”—[ABI ELPHINSTONE](#)

“This swashbuckling tale has it all—storms in jars, magic kraken bells, lost cities and a truly unique pirate ship. I loved it.”—[ALEX BELL](#)

MARIA KUZNIAR holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Westminster, and lived in Spain for six years as an English teacher, which inspired her to write *The Ship of Shadows*. Maria is also heavily involved in the book community online, with a blog and over thirty-six thousand followers on her book-themed Instagram account [@cosyreads](#).

Lucille Abendanon

THE SONGBIRD AND THE RAMBUTAN TREE

Middle Grade / 230 pages

Material: manuscript in English

Publication: January 2024



Inspired by the author's grandmother's true survival story during the Second World War in the Dutch East Indies.

Emmy has the voice of an angel, but hasn't sung a note since her mother's tragic death.

As the Japanese army invade and war erupts, Emmy's world falls apart. She is torn from her father and taken to a prisoner of war camp for women and girls, whilst her best friend Bakti abandons her to join the Japanese army. In the camp, she is plunged into a fight for survival against starvation, disease, and a terrifying general who howls at the full moon.

Determined to find her father, Emmy plans a daring escape, but then her best friend falls mortally ill. Emmy must make an impossible decision, one that may ultimately cost her everything.

LUCILLE ABENDANON has always lived a life on the move. She grew up in Norfolk, UK before emigrating to South Africa when she was twelve. She has three nationalities and holds an MA in International Studies, and recently returned to the UK to give her three boys a slice of the rural childhood she enjoyed. She is an alumnus of the Curtis Brown Creative Writing YA and Children's Fiction course.

PUBLISHER: US (Jolly Fish Press).

Justin Davies HAARVILLE

Middle Grade / 288 pages

Material: copies in English

Publication: February 2023



Welcome to Haarville—if you’ve arrived, you’ve survived.

Off the grid and not on the maps, it’s a place shrouded in fog and steeped in pungent pongs. Everything here smells fishy, especially the town’s suspicious new arrivals.

Twelve-year-old Manx Fearty is an orphan (his family has a terrible habit of dying, terribly), and now he’s about to lose their perpetual device shop to sinister newcomers claiming to be long-lost relatives. As he sets out to prove them wrong, Manx finds himself on the trail of a murky, mist-muddled mystery—and it’s one he needs to solve fast, otherwise Haarville is doomed.

With the help of his fiercely protective drag-queen guardian Father G (aka the fabulous Gloria in Excelsis), loyal best friend Fantoosh, and oyster catcher-with-attitude Olu, Manx wades through secrets, schemes, and some stomach-churning seafood. Can he save both his family’s legacy and his town?

JUSTIN DAVIES lives with his husband Andrew and rescue greyhound Sally in the shadow of the Forth Bridge in Fife. Born in England, but being half Welsh and married to a Scot, he feels quite at home in a land of Celts. When not writing, or running around the school wondering where he left his glasses, Justin continues his lifelong quest to bake the perfect scone. It’s an important endeavor, and one which he takes very seriously.

PUBLISHER: UK (Floris Books).

Carolyn Ward

BELLA BRIGHT AND THE GHOST GAME

Middle Grade

Material: Edited Manuscript

Publication: February 2023



Eleven-year-old Bella Bright has just moved into Darkling House in Castleton. On her first day at her new school, she is spotted by a pair of manipulative mean girls, Skylar and Regan. They push her into inviting them to a Halloween sleepover. Another much friendlier girl, Lex, comes to Bella's rescue and offers to join the sleepover to support Bella, who is delighted to be making a real friend.

On Halloween night, things start getting spooky for the four girls, when the huge front door appears to shut itself, and their mobile phones lose signal. They decide to order pizza using the landline, but a hair-raising whisper comes down the line.

Skylar suggests they play hide and seek, but as she utters the words, the house appears to wobble and they discover all the exits are impossibly locked. Bella searches the manor and a ghostly teenage girl appears in front of her. She reveals herself to be Alice, a young girl who died in the house 150 years ago during a game of hide and seek gone terribly wrong. She has hidden Bella's three friends, and gives Bella a rhyming clue to find them in the enormous and cavernous house. Bella has until midnight. After that, Alice will get to keep the girls as her playmates forever...

CAROLYN WARD studied for an English degree in Wolverhampton and now lives in South Staffordshire with her three children. She freelances as a writing mentor and editor for Write Mentor.

PUBLISHER: WAL (Welbeck).

Christine Pillainayagam

THE ELLIE PILLAI SERIES

Young Adult / 3 Volumes

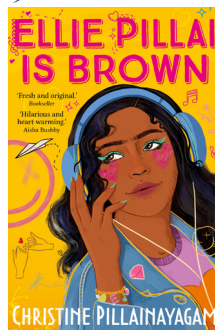
Material: manuscripts in English

Publication: 2022, 2023, 2024

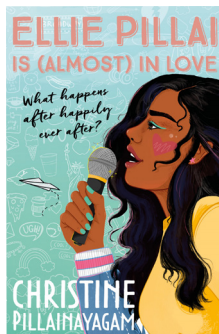


Winner of the Branford Boase Award 2023

Most days, Ellie Pillai is somewhere between invisible, and not very cool—and usually she's okay with that. But suddenly, Ellie feels different. Maybe it's the new boy at school who makes her brain explode into rainbows every time she sees him (and also happens to be going out with her best friend), or maybe it's her new drama teacher, the one who seems to have noticed she exists. Suddenly, her misfit style, her skin color, her songwriting, and all that getting lost in the music in her head seems to be okay too. Maybe standing out isn't a bad thing after all.



In the sequel, Ellie discovers love and kissing, and questions...so...many...questions. Like, what happens when your boyfriend's hand is fumbling at the place on your back where a bra hook should be, but instead there's a neon pink Hello Kitty band because your dad shrunk all your bras in the wash? When Ellie goes to New York, Ash's text messages get more and more cryptic and annoying. Ellie meets Dirty-Blond stranger, a boy from school who wants her to join his band... What happens if you're on cloud nine, but not actually sure who you should be falling in love with?

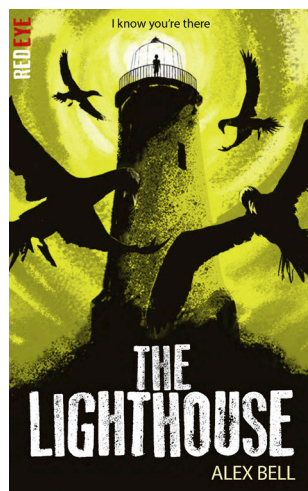


CHRISTINE PILLAINAYAGAM is a writer and retail strategist, who lives in North London with her young family and a collection of records, CDs, and minidisks.

PUBLISHER: UK (Faber & Faber).

Alex Bell

THE LIGHTHOUSE



Young Adult

Material: Finished Copies

Publication: September 2022

On Bird Rock, gannets circle and thick mist surrounds the lighthouse at its centre, hiding the secrets of a tragic past within...

From the second they set foot on the island to join their dad and his new family, Jess and Rosie feel that something's wrong. Nightmares haunt their dreams and there seems to be someone, or something, else with them in the lighthouse – their home for the summer.

Counting down the days until they can leave, Jess and Rosie decide to investigate. But when Rosie disappears, the countdown takes on a new meaning.

Especially when no one but Jess remembers Rosie at all.

ALEX BELL has published several YA novels with Gollancz, Headline and Stripes Publishing. After deciding to use her Law degree for good, instead of for evil, she also works as an advisor for the Citizens Advice Bureau. Most of her spare time consists of catering to the whims of her Siamese cat.

PUBLISHER: UK (Stripes).

Raphael Montes

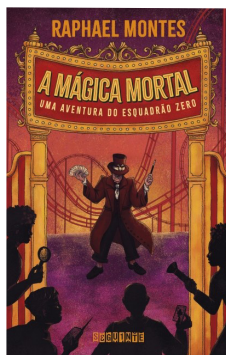
MORTAL MAGIC: A SQUAD ZERO ADVENTURE

Young Adult

Material: copies in Brazilian Portuguese

Publication: July 2023

On behalf of Companhia das Letras



In his first book for young readers, Raphael Montes brings the classic mystery series genre to a new generation.

Pedro just received some news: Zero, his best friend, is dead, and the only evidence left at the crime scene is a pack of playing cards. The police believes it's an isolated incident and tells Pedro to leave it to the professionals. But he is certain the killer will strike again, so he decides to investigate the crime himself.

According to witnesses, the suspect was dressed like a magician—top hat and all. In order to find him, Pedro asks his friends for backup. And just like that, Squad Zero is fully formed! Confronted with eccentric illusionists, electrifying books, and a majestic castle, the members of Squad Zero uncover their own unique talents to get to the bottom of the mystery, learning the value of true friendship along the way. Can they discover the identity of the mysterious magician before he pulls another one of his tricks?

“With a fluid and magnetic voice, Raphael Montes presents a thriller for a younger audience with the ultimate components: death, suspense, and a lot of magic.”

—THALITA REBOUÇAS

RAPHAEL MONTES was born in 1990 in Rio de Janeiro. He is the creator, head writer, and executive producer of HBO Max's first original soap opera, *Fatal Beauty*, and the Netflix original series *Good Morning, Veronica*. His novels have been translated in more than twenty-five countries, with adaptation rights sold to the screen.

PUBLISHER: Brazil (Companhia das Letras).

M.A. Kuzniar

UPON A FROSTED STAR

Romantasy, Crossover Fantasy / 371 pages

Material: copies in English

Publication: September 2023



A bewitching new story inspired by *Swan Lake* and *The Great Gatsby* from the bestselling author of *Midnight in Everwood*

“A beautiful, richly woven, captivating fairy tale”—SOPHIE ANDERSON

The invitations always arrive the same way—without warning, appearing around the city on the first snowfall of the year, simply inscribed with 'Tonight.'

When struggling artist Forster finds an invitation, he's bewitched by the magic of the evening, swept up in the glamour of this notorious annual party and intrigued as to who is behind them.

Determined to find out more about the mysterious host, Forster discovers an abandoned manor house silent with secrets and a cursed woman who is desperate to be free...

M.A. KUZNIAR spent six years living in Spain, teaching English and traveling the world, which inspired her children's series *The Ship of Shadows*. Her adult debut novel, *Midnight in Everwood*, was a bestseller and a love letter to ballet and fairy tales. When she is not planning her next adventure, she can be found at her cosy home in Nottingham, where she lives with her husband, and spends her days reading and writing. She bookstagrams @cosyreads.

PUBLISHERS: Russia (Eksmo), World English (HQ HarperCollins).

M.A. Kuzniar

MIDNIGHT IN EVERWOOD

Romantasy, Crossover Fantasy / 342 pages

Material: copies in English

Publication: November 2021



It was a rainy day that the magic came, and once magic has entered your life, you stay in its glittering clutch forever.

Nottingham, 1906.

Marietta Stelle longs to be a ballerina but, as Christmas draws nearer, her dancing days are numbered—she must marry and take up her place in society in the New Year. But, when a mysterious toymaker, Dr. Drosselmeier, purchases a neighboring townhouse, it heralds the arrival of magic and wonder in Marietta's life.

After Drosselmeier constructs an elaborate theatrical set for her final ballet performance on Christmas Eve, Marietta discovers it carries a magic all of its own—a magic darker than anyone could imagine. As the clock chimes midnight, Marietta finds herself transported from her family's ballroom to a frozen sugar palace, silent with secrets, in a forest of snow-topped fir trees. She must find a way to return home before she's trapped in Everwood's enchanting grip forever. In the darkness of night, magic awaits and you will never forget what you find here...

“Magical and evocative, the perfect winter fairy tale.”—SARAH MORGAN,
SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *ONE MORE FOR CHRISTMAS*

PUBLISHERS: Poland (Albatros), Russia (Eksmo), World English (HQ HarperCollins).

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