Scallywag Press
Trade Catalogue
Spring 2022 and backlist
Join us in celebrating three years of publishing!

Starting out in February 2019, we were lucky enough to launch with the latest works of two masters of the picture book, Satoshi Kitamura and Jon Agee.

Three years have flown by, and the 30 titles now on our list are from talented debut authors and artists, classic artist Roger Duvoisin, and many friends old and new whose work we admire. Genres range from fiction to narrative non-fiction, to novels for new readers - with illustrated poetry to be added next.

We’re proud that our books have between them won the Queen’s Knickers Award, an English Association Award, and two Teach Early Years Awards; shortlistings for the Waterstones Prize, the Booktrust Storytime Prize and the North Somerset Teachers’ Book Award; long listings for the Klaus Flugge Prize and the UKLA Award, plus nominations for the Kate Greenaway Medal. We are very grateful for all the time reviewers have put into writing insightfully about our books.

Most titles have free resources developed around them, and these are housed on the website, where you can learn about the authors and illustrators, and the visits and events - both real and virtual - that they offer.

Wonderful audio versions of many titles are available from Cloudaloud and Bolinda and Oakhill - and look out for those included in the new Polylino app.

Huge thanks to everyone who has made our first three years of publishing possible - they know who they are! - and to our authors and artists who are proudly listed opposite.
Rabbit and Dad are going to the park, but will they ever be ready to leave the house? Find out in this tender and humorous family comedy where each has to be patient and tolerant with the other, and finally both are ready for fun!

As the tension mounts children will relate to the familiar drama, and adults will recognise the need for mindfulness in everyday life.

An everyday battle of wills between a mother and child where everyone ends up a winner!

"A picture book that really does work."
BOOKS FOR KEEPS, 5 STARS

"Guaranteed to raise a smile."
MIRROR BOOK CLUB, BEST SUMMER READS

"I’m sure it will prove to be a frequently demanded pleasure in our house for some months to come."
THE SCHOOL READING LIST

"A charming picture book about a universal theme – defiant toddlers."
BIG ISSUE NORTH EASTER ROUND UP

Short listed for the Book Trust Story Time Prize
Included in the Book Trust Great Books Guide 2021

Where land becomes sky
and the sky becomes sea,
I first saw the whale,
and the whale first saw me.
And high on the breeze
came his sweet-sounding song –
‘I’ve so much to show you,
if you’ll come along’.

Come on a magical journey of wonder and discovery from misty seaside shorelines to cold ice-capped seas. This beautiful tale of friendship between a child and a whale invites us to consider our responsibilities towards the environment and makes a direct plea to end plastic pollution.

‘A rolling, rhyming text that scans and richly textured images’
THE SUNDAY TIMES

‘A fantastical, rhyming tale of friendship, which highlights the distress caused to sea creatures by plastics’
SCOPE FOR THE IMAGINATION

‘Not since The Snowman has a journey conjured so much sheer joy, connection and imagination’
BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘Undoubtedly a stunning debut … A lyrical narrative combines with beautifully drawn scenes from under the waves and brings to life the reality of pollution’
THE BOOK ACTIVIST

Short listed for the North Somerset Teachers’ Book Award 2021

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MARJOKE HENRICHS graduated from the MA in Children’s Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Art in 2019. She is also a theatre designer and a painter. She was born in the Netherlands and now lives in Suffolk.

KAREN SWANN grew up in the UK and trained as a physiotherapist. She now lives with her family in Nottingham and is a keen rock climber.

PADMACANDRA grew up in Scotland, lives in Norfolk and graduated from the Cambridge School of art. She is a buddhist, poet and artist.
Creature-of-No-Words doesn’t know what to call being happy, or sad, or angry, or lonely—he just feels them. But then, one day, he meets Creature-of-Words, who very soon helps him to fill in all the gaps . . .

This powerful picture book about communicating emotions and relating to fellow creatures has fabulous and touching illustrations from the internationally acclaimed artist Satoshi Kitamura.

Written in verse and full of metaphor and rhythm, this is a wonderful story to read aloud and explore the joy of language.
Abigail has ADHD and can’t concentrate, but one teacher knows just how to get her engaged, and Abigail ends up finding a special voice of her very own.

‘The feelings of a child presenting challenging behaviour are sensitively explored in this simple story about the frustration of not fitting in or being understood.’

BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘A vibrant and explosive exploration of diversity and neurodiversity, a celebration of being yourself and finding the sympathetic someone.’

ARMADILLO

‘Rose is a voice for children who are shouting to be heard and her books are an essential component to an inclusive classroom.’

JUST IMAGINE

Welcome to the Flyntlock Bones pirate investigator trilogy - full of larger than life characters, lots of clues and adventure. Lavishly illustrated with hilarious black and white drawings, it is sure to entice new readers.

LONGLISTED FOR THE SPARK! SCHOOL BOOK AWARDS

NOMINATED FOR THE FANTASTIC BOOK AWARDS

PB 978-1-912650-40-8 £6.99
178 x 245mm, 176pp, 7+
World ex USA & Can

PB 978-1-912650-67-5 £6.99
178 x 245mm, 176pp, 7+
World ex USA & Can

PB 978-1-912650-77-4 £6.99
178 x 245mm, 176pp, 7+
World ex USA & Can

We’re delighted to unveil the third and final story, in which the Countess of Bohemia’s jewels have been stolen by a ghost. Not just any old ghost, but the ghost of Captain Scarletbeard, the scariest pirate who ever lived!

‘A brilliant twist on pirate stories, combining all the best bits – think treasure maps, swashbuckling, suitably grumpy pirate cooks, walking the plank, pirate grog – with a mystery thriller narrative’

THE BOOK ACTIVIST

‘Has a timeless, classic feel … illustrations that really have the wow factor’

BOOK TRUST

‘A fast-paced adventure with lots of fun, exploring themes of growing up, friendship and the danger of stereotyping.’

CBI

‘Illustrations reminiscent of Chris Riddell and Chris Mould’

MY SHELVES ARE FULL

PB 978-1-912650-59-0 £7.99
270 x 245mm, 32pp Age 3+
World ex USA & Can

Nominated for the Greenaway Medal 2021

One of the 2021 IBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities

‘A celebration of diversity and neurodiversity, but also quite simply a lovely picture book to share with any child.’

BOOK TRUST

PB: 978-1-912650-23-1 £7.99
270 x 245mm, 32pp Age 3+
World ex USA & Can

Shortlisted for the Watersstones Book Prize 2020

‘Robbins creates a sensitive portrait of accommodating different needs within a family unit.’

IRISH TIMES

ROSE ROBBINS lives in London. She is a young ambassador for Inclusive Minds, and has gained a reputation for creating upbeat books about disability. Rose has an autistic brother and teaches autistic young people.

DEREK KEILTY lives in Belfast. He has written over 10 novels, which have been translated into many languages, and shortlisted for the Children’s Books Ireland Book of the Year.

MARK ELVINS lives in Yorkshire. When he’s not drawing pirates he’s a print-maker and recently won an English Heritage competition to illustrate the displays at Whitby Abbey.
**The After Christmas Tree**

Grace is a little girl; Phyllis is the old lady next door beginning to suffer from dementia. Despite the gap in their ages, they have much in common, and a moving and enduring friendship is born.

This touching story is deeply rooted in everyday life, and full of empathy and humour. The text is long enough to read aloud to an older child and the illustrations are sensitive, engaging and beautifully observed.

*Praise for Nigel Gray’s A Balloon for Grandad:*

- ‘Filled with genuine feeling.’ [CAROUSEL]
- ‘Funny, touching and true.’ [SUNDAY TELEGRAPH]

**Follow My Food**

*FOLLOW MY FOOD* is a stylish, narrative non-fiction series to help children understand and appreciate where their food comes from. The books encourage environmental awareness and respect for the animals and people who produce food.

- ‘The series would be a wonderful addition to discussions on sustainability’ [THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN]

In the latest title, follow Shelly Hen as she searches for food, hangs out with her flock and lays a tasty fresh egg. With a simple quiz and extra info for exploring minds.

- ‘A perfect introduction to how milk is produced...There is rich vocabulary: herd, parlour, dusk, bulge, guzzles, and a word quiz and milk facts reinforce new word learning.’ [JUST IMAGINE]
- ‘Bright, clean, papercut illustrations create some striking spreads...the text is fact-filled but never dull.’ [BOOKS FOR KEEPS]

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Ruth Brown lives in London and Kent. Ruth is the creator of some of Britain’s best-loved children’s books which are translated into many languages around the world. She has won the Earthworm Award, the English Association Award, the Prix Sorcière and been shortlisted 3 times for the Kate Greenaway Medal.


Short listed for the Teach Early Years Award 2021.
Nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2022

‘The colour saturated spreads are a feast for the eyes... an extremely enjoyable and satisfying reading experience for both adult and child.’

BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘A wonderful gift for any young child just starting to learn their numbers and it’s a fun read aloud for younger babies too.’

THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

In a brilliant introduction to the world of fine art, Ruth Brown has created her own unique and amusing masterpieces in the style of thirteen well known painters from around the world.

Nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal

‘Exceptional draughtsmanship makes all her books a feast... A book to lead readers to 13 painters from Mondrian to Munch and Kahlo to Klimt’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘This book is a delight to explore from start to finish. It’s imaginative, expressive and immersive. There is a perfect synergy between art and text... simply sublime’

GOOD NIGHT TO READ

I spy with my little eye,
Something beginning with M.
It curls its tail around the stalk
and eats the wheat at Harvest.
It rhymes with house . . .
MJ is more than ready for her first day of nursery school! With her hair freshly braided and her mum’s special tiara on her head, she knows she’ll be able to follow her mum’s advice for being the best queen her nursery has ever seen: by brightening up every room she enters, being caring and kind, and always being helpful to others.

Like King of the Classroom, this is the perfect book to reinforce excitement and empower young readers starting school.

New for July
PB: 978-1-912650-94-1 £7.99
254 x 228mm, 32pp, Age 3+
World ex USA & Can

DERRICK BARNES lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. His picture book Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut received a Newbery Honor, a Coretta Scott King Honor, and the 2018 Ezra Jack Keats Award. VANESSA BRANTLEY-NEWTON lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. She created Let Freedom Sing and Grandma’s Purse and has illustrated many other titles.
There once was a slug needing someone to hug.
Along came a beetle, a lonely ol’ bug.
“You need a hug? I have one,” said Slug,
“to keep your heart snug!”

What do we all need when we’re feeling down? yes, that’s right, a group hug! One by one each sad-looking animal joins the group hug which gets bigger and bigger. But will they dare include a scary-looking bear?

‘Wonderfully appropriate at this time when hugs are few and far between, it will stay relevant for years to come as a lovely story about the need for hugs whenever we are feeling lonely or sad.’

‘We love the jaunty rhyming text, the message of kindness and inclusivity, the captivating illustrations.’

‘A fast-paced story … the series has all kinds of potential directions to go and there are bound to be many more surprises in store.’

‘The adventure is full of thrills but there are important themes of loyalty, kindness and equality threaded through the story, showing just how brave children can be.’

‘Useful to discuss in circle time with children in nursery and EYFS, and will also make for a soothing bedtime story for the under 4s.’

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‘With Jeff Crosby’s atmospheric black and white illustrations to bring Norton’s world-building to vivid life, a gallery of amazing characters, a map, playful heraldic chapter headings and a dinosaur field guide, this exciting story of bravery, loyalty, friendship and family is perfect for all fearless young adventurers.’

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‘I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It is fast-paced and packed full of action and adventure. Fans of the How To Train Your Dragon series will enjoy this.’

‘This is a fast-paced and thrilling adventure story set in a medieval land where dinosaurs still roam. Henry Fairchild starts life as an orphan working in the dino stables, but thanks to his loyalty and bravery, he is elevated by Lord Harding to become one of the famous Dino Knights, the elite band of warriors who keep Brecklan safe. He is soon riding into adventure on the back of a T-Rex!’

‘In the second title, Invasion, the neighbouring Highlanders are attacked and kidnapped, and the Dino Knights are torn between risking everything to avenge Ellie’s Highlander family, or obeying orders and staying to protect Brecklan.

‘With Jeff Crosby’s atmospheric black and white illustrations to bring Norton’s world-building to vivid life, a gallery of amazing characters, a map, playful heraldic chapter headings and a dinosaur field guide, this exciting story of bravery, loyalty, friendship and family is perfect for all fearless young adventurers.’

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Jon Agee

‘The story of Santa’s early childhood and the thrilling series of events that led him to become the legendary fellow he is today.’

JON AGEE

‘One of our favourite authors! We are going to buy everything he writes.’

BOOKBAIRN

‘The kind of book around which traditions can be built – a classic in the making – and will be read and enjoyed in many families for years to come.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘A simply stupendous, superbly paced read aloud say I. Jon Agee does it again.’

RED READING HUB

‘All the hallmarks of a classic picturebook ... sure to bring out the inner lion in every little reader.’

INIS MAGAZINE

‘This funny picture book is about a little boy in a lion suit who gets seven lessons from a real lion in how to be one. He doesn’t do too well on the roaring and the prowling, but when it comes to protecting a friend, he turns out to be lion-hearted. Full of wit, both visual and verbal.’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘Delightful ... Children of 3-5 will shriek with laughter, and even adults may get the joke.’

NEW STATESMAN

‘Witty, ironic, thought-provoking and with that surprise ending, Agee’s offering, with its stark Martian scenery, is eminently re-readable.’

RED READING HUB

‘Classic slapstick storytelling combines with minimalist master Agee’s stylish, uncluttered illustrations in a story rich in humour, fun, subtle simplicity and visual virtuosity. Out of this world!’

LANCASHIRE EVENING

JON AGEE is a full-time author and illustrator living in San Francisco. Longlisted twice for the UKLA award in the UK, Jon has previously won an Irma Black Honor, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor and much more. Life sales are over 2 million copies.
Change and transitions are hard, but this book demonstrates how a difficult experience can open the door for another more positive one to begin. Full of heart and emotional resonance, it follows two best friends as they encounter various ups and downs, and end up finding comfort and re-assurance.

A winner of the Teach Early Years Awards 2021

‘Brimful of quality in production, as well as understanding and love’
BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘An excellent book to use to talk to children in times of transition and change’
BOOKS FOR KEEPS

Taylor has been through a difficult time, and is overwhelmed by concerned friends giving advice. Then along comes a rabbit who just listens...

‘Sensitive and insightful, this poignant story provides an ideal starting point for discussion about how it feels when things go wrong.’
BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘This is a wonderful and deeply moving story to be read and explored as the simple lesson of just listening is taught.’
CHILDREN’S BOOK IRELAND

A winner of the Teach Early Years Awards 2019
Part of the 2020 Read for Empathy collection

Elena Arevalo Melville is originally from Guatemala and currently lives in Cambridge.
IN THE GARDEN: A collection of three titles which encourage young children to relate to the natural world.

“Follow the journey of a tiny seed to a big, fat, orange pumpkin! Will the pumpkin be ready in time for Halloween? This book shares with young readers the delight of working with nature, and shows the need to be patient.”

SHORT LISTED FOR THE TEACH EARLY YEARS AWARDS 2021

ALREADY AVAILABLE in the same size, and ‘perfect for encouraging little ones to find their green fingers, get their knees muddy and have a wonderful time.’

SHORT LISTED FOR THE KLAUS FLUGGE AWARD

‘effectively simple...conveys its crucial environmental message without a hint of preachiness.’

BOOKS FOR KEEPS

‘This simple look at a sunflower life cycle and the seasons is again pitch perfect for the very young. A small piece of brilliance.’

RED READING HUB

‘If you are looking for a version of the classic Clement Clarke Moore seasonal poem this year then I’d wholeheartedly recommend this superbly designed one first published in 1954. Retro brilliance, this!’

RED READING HUB

‘This classic from 1954 has been reprinted, and not before time.’

KIRKUS

‘A gentle sense of fun and mischief, beguiling French backdrop, and tender portrayal of love’

Lancashire Evening Post

‘The perfect read for a new generation of Duvoisin fans’

PICTURE BOOK BLOGGER

‘A total joy, the perfect shape for a stocking (ssssh!) and an essential Christmas book.’

ANGELS AND URCHINS

‘As striking and as engaging as they were on their first publication’

BOOKS FOR KEEPS

ROB RAMSDEN lives and works in Suffolk as an illustrator and educator. He’s the dad of the boy who saw a bee! As a keen gardener, Rob has become the student, and the pollinators have become his teachers; his type of gardening is strictly about the wildlife.

ROGER DUVOISIN was born in Geneva in 1900. He studied art in Paris, and in 1927 moved with his wife, Louise Fatio, to New York City. Roger Duvoisin illustrated over 100 books of which he wrote 40. He won the Caldecott Medal and the German Children’s Book prize.