



# READING RAMPAGE

# 2020

## INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS



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# reading rampage 2020

## introducing

### Adam Baron

author of *You Won't Believe This*

HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

#### About the Author

Adam Baron is the author of five novels for adults, all of which have been widely translated and dramatised for BBC Radio 4. He is also an Associate Professor in Creative Writing at Kingston University, London. Adam's first novel for children 'Boy Underwater' was selected as Book of the Month by Waterstones, Mail on Sunday and The Sunday Times, also as Book of the Week by The Times and Daily Mail and has been voted to become the first ever Toppsta Book Club text.



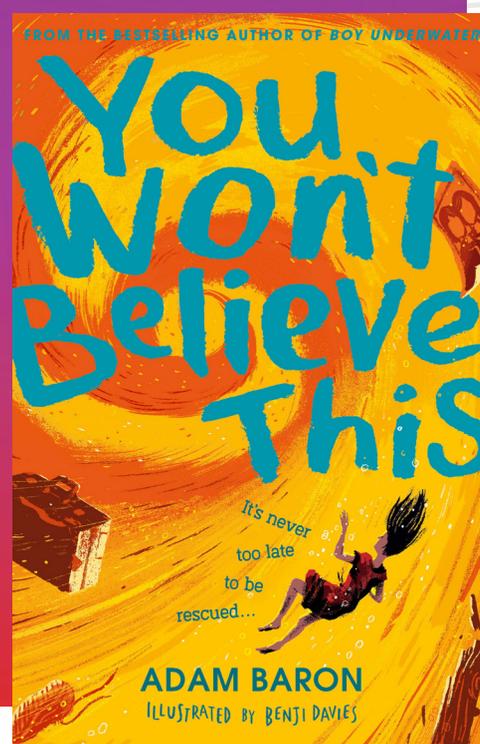
 @AdamBaron5

#### About the Book

Cymbeline has to find the culprit (after he's learned what 'culprit' means). He's also got to help his friend Veronique, whose grandma is dangerously ill. It seems Nanai has a secret, connected to her arrival in the UK as a Boat Person from Vietnam, a traumatic journey in which she lost her twin sister.

Can Cymbeline figure out the mystery in time?

One thing is for sure: even the most unexpected people can change your life in wonderful ways . . .



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

# reading rampage 2020

## introducing

### Andy Briggs

author of Drone Racer

Scholastic

#### About the Author

Andy Briggs is an author, screenwriter, graphic novelist and conservationist. He has written dozens of books for children and young adults from the Hero.com series and the Villain.net to Tarzan and The Inventory series. His writing includes movie projects such as "JUDGE DREDD", "FREDDY VS JASON" and "FOREVERMAN" for Paramount Pictures, Spiderman creator Stan Lee and legendary producer Robert Evans. He has worked on TV projects for Syfy, Netflix, ITV and Amazon and is working extensively between the UK, US and China. Drone Racer is his newest novel.



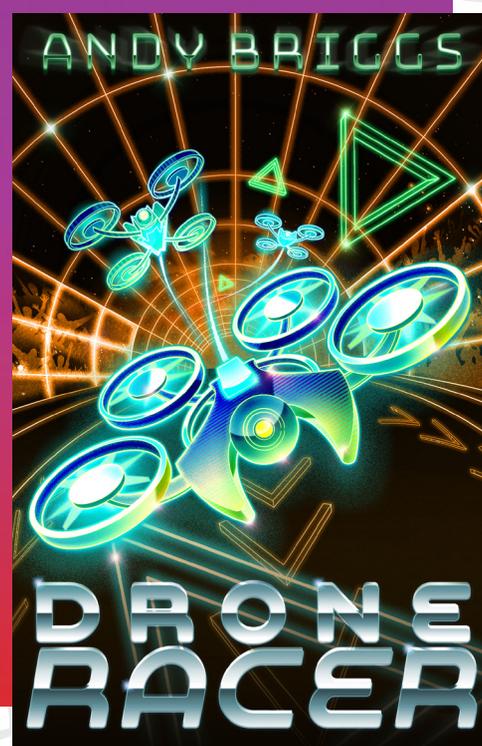
his

 @abriggswriter

 <http://www.andybriggs.co.uk/>

#### About the Book

Drone Racer is a fast-paced, attention grabbing topical novel. You guessed it...all about Drone Racing. Carson and his friends love to race, and when they find a discarded drone at a scrapyards, they can't believe their luck. But things are not what they seem. There is more to this drone than meets the eye... when they power it up, it starts talking. What's more, it's incredibly fast. This drone could really enable the friends to make their mark in the drone racing world, but someone wants their incredible drone back, and they will go to any lengths needed.



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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introducing

Rachel Burge

author of *The Twisted Tree*

Hot Key Books

### About the Author

Rachel Burge works as a freelance feature writer and has written for a variety of websites, including BBC Worldwide, Cosmo, and MTV. She lives in East Sussex with her partner, son, and black Labrador Biff. She is fascinated by Norse myth and swears she once saw a ghost.

 @RachelABurge

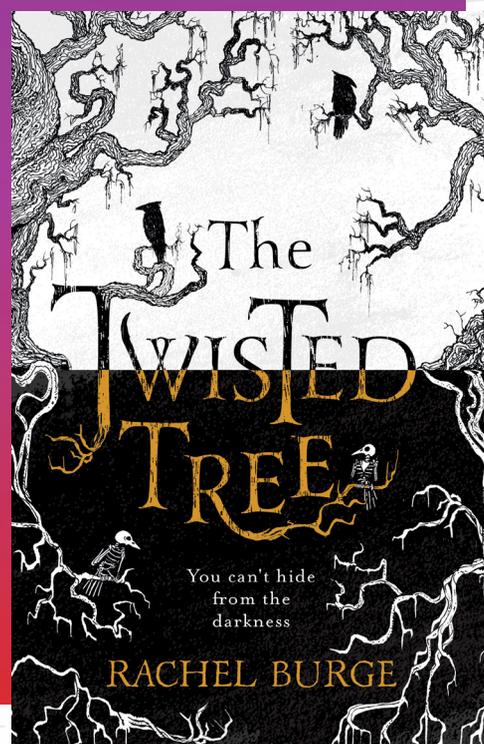


### About the Book

Martha can tell things about a person just by touching their clothes, as if their emotions and memories have been absorbed into the material. It started the day she fell from the tree at her grandma's cabin and became blind in one eye.

Determined to understand her strange ability, Martha sets off to visit her grandmother, Mormor - only to discover Mormor is dead, a peculiar boy is in her cabin and a terrifying creature is on the loose.

Then the spinning wheel starts creaking, books move around and terror creeps in . . .



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

### Keren David

author of *The Disconnect*  
Barrington Stoke

#### About the Author

Keren David worked as a news reporter and feature writer before publishing her compelling debut YA novel, *When I Was Joe*, while taking a course in Writing for Children at City University. Keren now teaches the City University course and is an editor for *The Jewish Chronicle*. Her novels have won and been nominated for numerous awards including the Carnegie Medal and the Branford Boase award. Keren lives in North London.



 @Kerensd

 kerendavid.com

#### About the Book

Could you last six whole weeks without your phone? Six weeks without sharing photos, without group messages, without being kept in the social media loop?

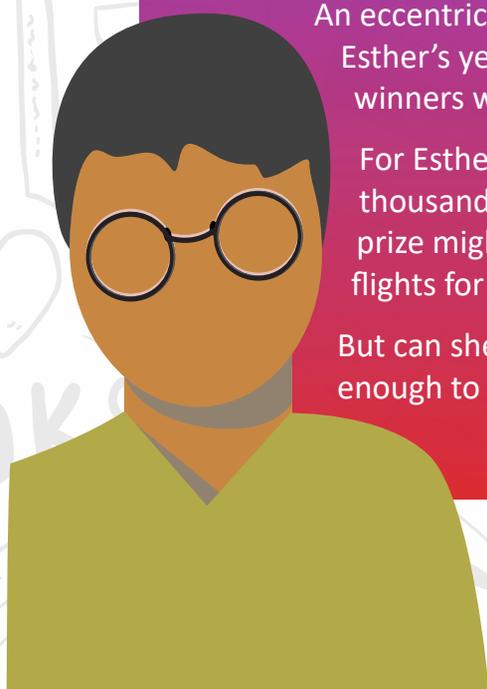
An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with £1,000.

For Esther, whose dad and sister live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit...

But can she really stay disconnected long enough to win?



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS



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## introducing

### Ann Evans

author of *A Little Secret*

Badger Publishing

#### About the Author

Ann Evans is an award-winning author who was born and grew up in Coventry. She began writing as a hobby when her three children were small. Now that they are all grown up with children of their own, Ann still loves writing. Her children's and Young Adult books tend to be mystery and adventure stories, sometimes with a ghostly element to them, and occasionally a bit of horror! She also writes high-low books for teenagers with a lower reading ability. She also writes romance and crime for adults – and non-fiction magazine articles.



She loves to encourage other people to write well and runs classes as well as going into schools to talk to pupils about books and writing. She is a Patron of Reading for a Coventry senior school.

 @annevansauthor

 [www.annevansbooks.co.uk](http://www.annevansbooks.co.uk)

#### About the Book

Lucas likes to visit his great gran. She's ninety and in a care home. Her mind has gone. She thinks she's still a little five-year-old girl.

Lucas's girlfriend, Kay, has no time for the old woman. Until she and Lucas go looking for a long-lost doll that has been locked away in a wardrobe these past eighty years.

How could they know the horror their search would unleash?



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

# Mitch Johnson

author of **Kick**  
Usborne Publishing Ltd

### About the Author

Mitch graduated from the University of East Anglia with an award-winning first class degree in English Literature with Creative Writing.

He was inspired to write *Kick* while working in a sports shop where he discovered a discarded, crumpled drinks sachet left in a shoebox between a brand-new pair of football boots. Mitch now works as a bookseller at Waterstones, Norwich, and writes in his spare time.

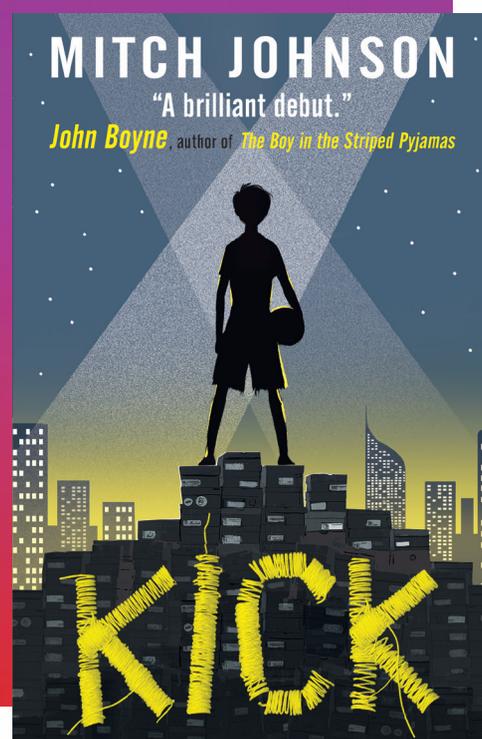


 @MitchAuthor

 [www.mitchjohnsonauthor.com](http://www.mitchjohnsonauthor.com)

### About the Book

*Kick* is a honest story about twelve-year-old Budi. Budi and his best friend Rochy love football; they live and breathe it, playing every chance they get. Time to enjoy their favourite hobby is limited as they are forced to work long hours in an Indonesian sweatshop, making football boots. Budi dreams that the boots he makes are meant for his favourite Real Madrid player, Kieran Wakefield, and dreams of one day becoming a star player himself. But this is Indonesia and life is about to get very, very real.



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

### Cas Lester

#### author of *Do you Speak Chocolate?*

Piccadilly Press

#### About the Author

Cas Lester spent almost 20 years at CBBC having a fabulous time making award winning programmes, spending eight years as Head of Drama Development, where she produced programmes including *Jackanory*, *Big Kids*, *Kerching!* and the *Story of Tracy Beaker*. Since leaving the BBC she has worked as Development Director for an international children's arts organisation and as a freelance producer with BBC Learning Zone. Now she's having a fabulous time writing children's books. Her stories are inspired by children (usually her own). Her writing is powered by chocolate (not always her own).



 @TheCasInTheHat

 [www.caslester.com](http://www.caslester.com)

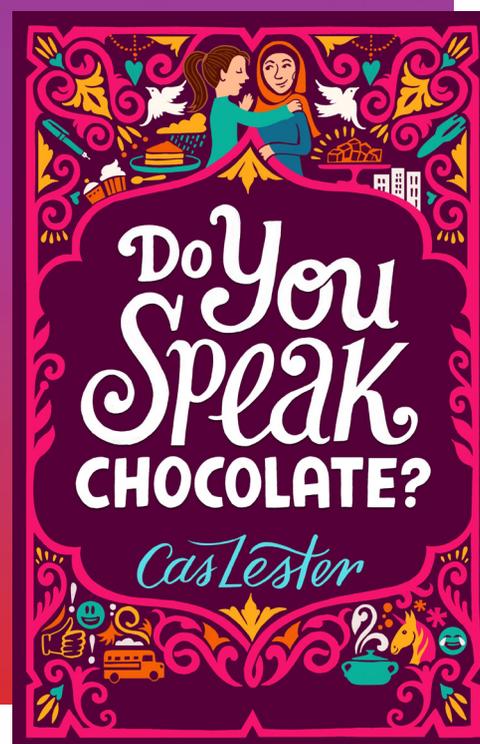
#### About the Book

The story of two girls, one of whom is a newly arrived refugee from Syria, who are determined to become friends - even though they don't speak the same language.

When new girl Nadima arrives at school, Jaz is delighted.

Finally she's got someone to sit next to. The only problem is, Nadima doesn't speak a word of English.

But Jaz isn't one to let things get her down. She soon finds a way to break the ice with Nadima - by offering her a piece of chocolate! And so begins a very special friendship - one with trials and tribulations, but full of laughter, adventures . . . and more than a little CHOCOLATE!



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

### Gill Lewis

author of *Run Wild*  
Barrington Stoke

#### About the Author

Gill Lewis worked as a vet in the UK and across the world before becoming the acclaimed author of several books for children, including *Sky Hawk* and *Gorilla Dawn*. Gill's writing has earned her numerous awards such as the UKLA Children's Book Award and the Little Rebel Award, and several nominations for prestigious awards including the CILIP Carnegie Medal. Gill lives in Somerset.



 @gill\_\_lewis  
 gilllewis.com

#### About the Book

Izzy and Asha need a space to call their own, where they can practise their skateboarding away from the Skull brothers and escape from trouble at home. But the derelict gasworks where they stake their claim already belongs to something else – a wilderness they never expected to find and an injured wolf that desperately needs their help. Can they reconnect to the wild and save the wolf? Or is their pack too weak to fight much stronger powers?



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

### Tom Mitchell

#### author of *How to Rob a Bank*

HarperCollins Children's Books

#### About the Author

Tom Mitchell is mostly a dad, partly a teacher, and sometimes a writer. Growing up in the West Country, he settled in London after a brief interlude in the East Midlands. *How to Rob a Bank* is his first novel, written during the school holidays. He lives in the People's Republic of Orpington with his wife Nicky and sons Dylan and Jacob.

 @cakesthebrain

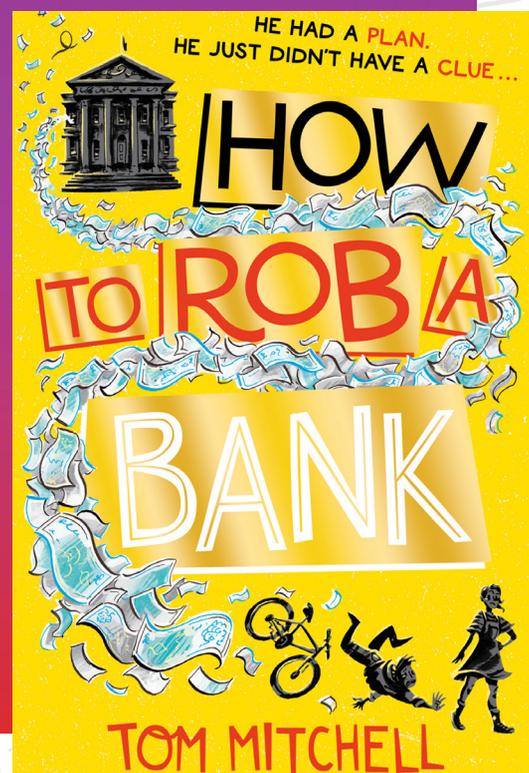


#### About the Book

Some people rob banks because they're greedy. Others enjoy the adrenalin rush. Me? I robbed a bank because of guilt. Specifically: guilt and a Nepalese scented candle...

When fifteen-year-old Dylan accidentally burns down the house of the girl he's trying to impress, he feels that only a bold gesture can make it up to her. A gesture like robbing a bank to pay for her new home.

Only an unwanted Saturday job, a tyrannical bank manager, and his unfinished history homework lie between Dylan and the heist of century. And really, what's the worst that could happen?



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

### Tom Palmer

author of **D-Day Dog**  
Barrington Stoke

#### About the Author

Tom had quite a complicated childhood – he had three dads by the time he was 10. That’s why dad characters are really important in his books. Tom is now a dad and has one daughter and gets lots of ideas from things they do together. One of Tom’s first jobs was working for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, where his job was to record books for blind students to listen to. Blind characters are rare in books. That’s why Tom made Danny’s dad in *Foul Play* blind. Tom had several other jobs before he was an author. He was a milkman, worked in a warehouse and one of his favourite jobs was working in a bookshop (Waterstone’s). Tom also spent several years working for libraries, where his job was to put on author talks and book promotions. Tom likes to travel to new places to write his books and has been on family holidays to Toulon and New Zealand where he got ideas for two of his books. Tom met his wife in the Sahara Desert.

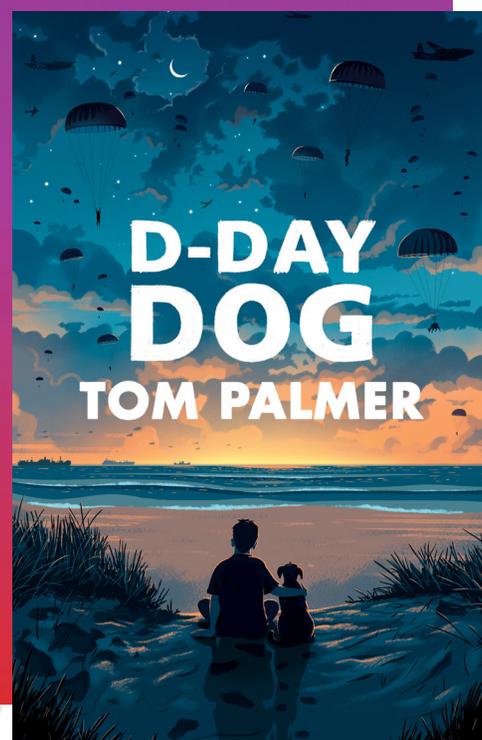


 @tompalmerauthor

 tompalmer.co.uk

#### About the Book

Jack can't wait for the school trip to the D-Day landing beaches. It's his chance to learn more about the war heroes he has always admired – brave men like his dad, who is a reserve soldier. But when his dad is called up to action and things at home spiral out of control, everything Jack believes about war is thrown into question. Finding comfort only in the presence of his loyal dog, Finn, Jack is drawn to the heart-wrenching true story of one particular D-Day paratrooper. On 6 June 1944, Emile Corteil parachuted into France with his dog, Glen – and Jack is determined to discover their fate ...



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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## introducing

# Jacqueline Rayner

### author of *No Escape*

Badger Learning

#### About the Author

Jacqueline is the author of over forty books and audio plays, including number one bestseller *The Stone Rose*, the highest-selling Doctor Who novel of all time. She lives in Essex with her husband and twin sons.

As a child, Jacqueline's main interests were reading, Doctor Who, Dungeons and Dragons and comedy.

Jacqueline briefly detoured into studying Ancient History at the University of Nottingham where she spent an awful lot of time waving around a rubber sword, pretending to cast spells at other people who were also waving around rubber swords, then did a PGCE in History before becoming assistant to the now mega-famous Steve 'Astrosaurs' Cole at BBC Books, where she remained as an editor for seven years. Shortly after joining BBC Books, Jacqueline discovered that a company called Big Finish were planning to make audio dramas featuring the adventuring archaeologist Bernice Summerfield. After calling the producer Gary Russell, and asking if she could write them for him, (Despite having no professional writing experience whatsoever!), he foolishly agreed. Jacqueline's writing career had begun!



 @GirlFromBlupo

 jacrayner.com

#### About the Book

*Escape* is the name of the game - literally. It's time for Paige and her gang to learn their lesson in a school-themed escape room. And it looks like someone doesn't want them to get out alive...



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

# reading rampage 2020

## introducing

# Alexandra Sheppard

author of *Oh My Gods*  
Scholastic

### About the Author

Alexandra Sheppard was born in North London to a Jamaican mother and English father.

When Alexandra isn't writing teen fiction, she is a freelance Social Media Strategist with experience working on dozens of award-winning social media campaigns.

Her debut novel *Oh My Gods* was published by Scholastic UK in January 2019 and has since received coverage from The Guardian, BuzzFeed and Refinery 29.



@alexsheppard



alexandrasheppard.com



### About the Book

Life as a half-mortal teenager should be epic. But, for Helen Thomas, it's tragic.

She's just moved in with her dorky dad and self-absorbed older siblings - who happen to be the ancient Greek gods, living incognito in London!

Between keeping her family's true identities secret, trying to impress her new friends, and meeting an actually cute boy, Helen's stress levels are higher than Mount Olympus.

She needs to rein in her chaotic family before they blow their cover AND her chances at a half-normal social life.

Or is Helen fated for an embarrassment of mythical proportions?



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

# reading rampage 2020

## introducing

### Lisa Thompson

#### author of *The Day I was Erased*

Scholastic

#### About the Author

Lisa Thompson is a children's novelist and the author of the best-selling *The Goldfish Boy* and *The Light Jar*. *The Goldfish Boy* was a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month and was nominated for the Carnegie Medal, the Branford Boase Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. She lives in Suffolk with her family.



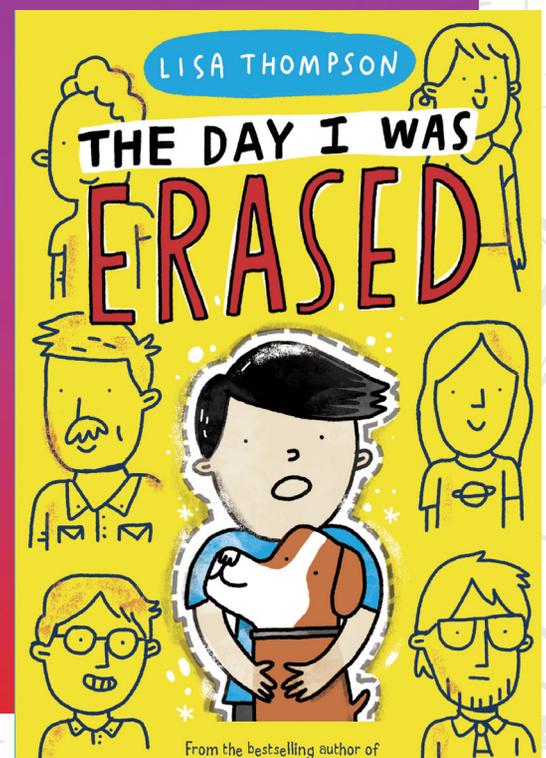
 @lthompsonwrites

 lisathompsonauthor.com

#### About the Book

Eleven-year-old Maxwell is always, always in trouble. Roaming the town with his beloved pet dog Monster (who he rescued as a puppy from being run over) as a way to escape his parents' constant sniping at home, he's a menace to the neighbours and teachers at school. While visiting an elderly neighbour, Maxwell comes across a mysterious cabinet of curiosities and suddenly finds himself erased from his life: it's as if he's never existed. Able to walk around anonymously might be great at

first - finally, no-one is yelling at him! - but he soon realises that he misses his old life and, crucially, if he had never existed, then he wouldn't have swooped in and stopped Monster the dog from being hit by that car... Maxwell needs to find a way to reverse his erasure, with the help of his best friend Charlie and his sister Bex, who need a whole heap of persuading that this weird kid they've never clapped eyes on is actually super close to them in his former life...



## INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

# reading rampage 2020

# introducing

# Ross Welford

author of *The 1,000 Year Old Boy*  
HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

## About the Author

Ross Welford was a journalist and television producer before becoming a full-time writer. He lives in London with his wife, children, a border collie and several tropical fish. When not writing, he tours the UK talking to schools, libraries and book clubs. He has appeared on panels at literary festivals including Hay-on-Wye, Cheltenham and Edinburgh. He has written *Time Travelling with a Hamster*, *What not to do if you turn invisible*, *The 1,000 year old boy* and *The Dog who Saved the World*.



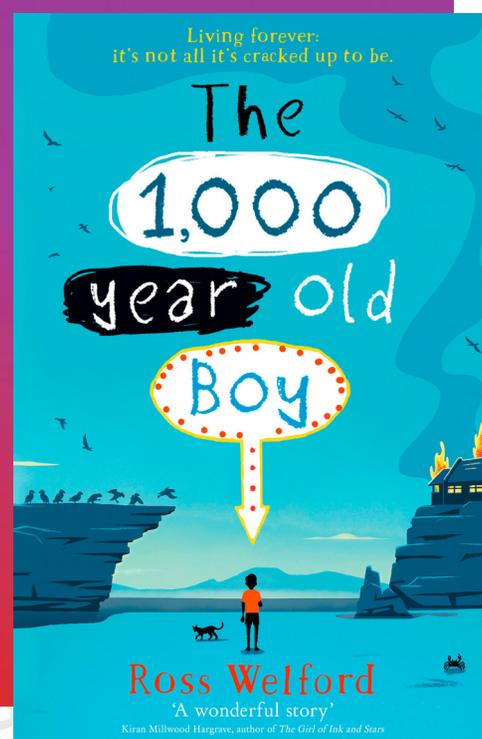
 @rosswelford

 [www.rosswelford.com](http://www.rosswelford.com)

## About the Book

Alfie Monk looks like any other 11-year old boy, other than a slightly odd dress sense and teeth that are badly in need of a dentist. However, as the title suggests, he is actually 1,000-years old: frozen in time through the magic of precious life pearls.

He and his mother have managed to live quietly for centuries, but when everything Alfie holds dear is destroyed in a fire, he is forced into the reality of the 21st century for the first time. Determined to bring an end to his endless existence, he sets out on a dangerous mission to find the last life pearl, before it is too late.



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

# reading rampage 2020

## introducing

# Tamsin Winter

author of *Jemima Small Versus the Universe*

Usborne Publishing Ltd

### About the Author

Tamsin Winter grew up in a Northamptonshire village where she spent her childhood reading books and writing stories. She has also lived in different parts of the world, including South-East Asia and the Middle East, but now lives in Leicestershire.

She has a BA honours in English literature and creative writing, and has taught English at secondary level for over fifteen years. Tamsin is an author, mother, friend, teacher, day dreamer and a secret sticker collector.

Tamsin also loves cats, doesn't have a TV, is a vegetarian and is slightly scared of butterflies!

 @MsWinterTweets

 tamsinwinter.com



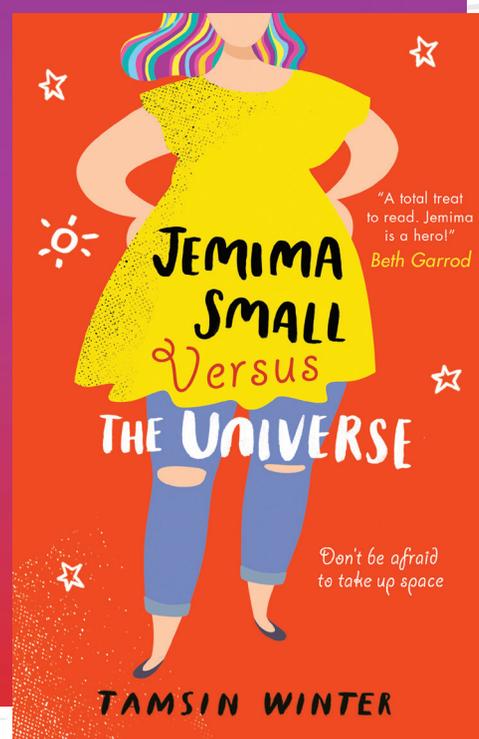
### About the Book

Jemima Small is brilliant. She knows more stuff about more things than almost anyone she knows. Which means she should be an ideal candidate to make it through the selection process for her favourite TV quiz show, Brainiacs.

But being mocked by bullies and selected for the school's healthy lifestyle group (aka Fat Club) have made her feel invisible. After all, why on earth would anyone want to watch a girl as big as her on TV?

Jemima's journey towards self-acceptance is painful and takes every ounce of courage she can muster but, with the help of her best friend and an inspirational adult, she might just get there.

Jemima's story should be compulsory reading for anyone who has thought to judge someone else for their size, appearance, intellect or anything else. Fighting bullying and discrimination is everyone's responsibility and books like this help to encourage debate and achieve positive outcomes.



INTRODUCING THE AUTHORS

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**[www.readingrampage.org.uk](http://www.readingrampage.org.uk)**