



# LAURA CECIL

LITERARY AGENT  
FOR  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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**Fiction**  
**Spring 2011**



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Literary Agent for Children's Books

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## Theresa Breslin

Theresa Breslin won the Carnegie Medal in 1995, with *WHISPERS IN THE GRAVEYARD*, her remarkable story about a dyslexic boy. Since her first novel *SIMON'S CHALLENGE* won the Kathleen Fidler Award, she has established herself as one of the most exciting British writers for young people.



Her work appears regularly on children's book award shortlists, has been sold in more than ten languages and dramatised for TV and radio.

She is the author of the very popular and funny *DREAM MASTER* books as well as historical novels for young adults such as *REMEMBRANCE*, *THE MEDICI SEAL* and *THE NOSTRADAMUS PROPHECY*.

Theresa Breslin lives in Scotland where she worked as a librarian. The Scottish Library Association awarded her lifelong Honorary Membership in recognition of her Distinguished Services to Children's Literature and Librarianship.

*"A palpable sense of place and of history informs all of Breslin's novels, including those which hurl their protagonists into distant realms and eras"*  
Books for Keeps

*"An outstanding writer...simply superb"* The Independent

## PRISONER OF THE INQUISITION

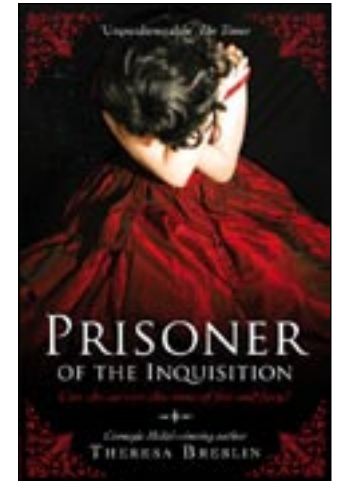
\*Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2011

\*Shortlisted for the Northern Ireland Book Award 2011

\*Shortlisted for the UKLA Children's Book Awards 2011

*'A man stood at the foot of my bed. In his hand there was a long knife. The candlelight shone on the blade and I knew by the way he held the shaft that he had used this knife before. He had killed with this knife. My breath thickened in my throat. On my tongue was the taste of my own fear..'*

The lives of Zarita, daughter of the rich town magistrate, and Saulo, son of a beggar, could not be more different. But when Saulo's father is wrongfully punished by the magistrate in the most horrifying way, their lives become linked by Saulo's promise of vengeance.



Hauled off to be a slave at sea and pursued by pirates, Saulo is saved by the ambitious mariner explorer, Christopher Columbus. When he goes with Columbus to the court of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, his fortunes are reversed. But he never forgets his promise to his father.

Zarita's life, meanwhile, undergoes harsh changes after her father remarries. When the formidable and frightening Inquisition arrives in the area, she is suddenly cast under its menacing shadow of suspicion. She leaves for the safety of the royal court only to encounter Saulo again and find her past catching up with her...

*"Writing is expertly paced, never self-indulgent or pretentious...Breslin's suspenseful story held me in its grip."* Linda Buckley-Archer, The Guardian

*"Breslin's ability to weave a well-researched, page turning plot around sympathetic, believable characters has been displayed before in The Medici Seal and The Nostradamus Prophecy...it's unputdownable."* The Times

### Age young adult

Published by Random House (UK), Editoria Record (Brazil), Urano (Spain)

## C. J. Busby

Cecilia Busby was brought up on boats and in caravans in the southeast of England and north Wales. She read avidly as a child, and moved frequently from place to place. As an adult, she carried on reading and travelling: having studied Social Anthropology at Cambridge, she lived and researched in south India for a year for her PhD, and then taught Social Anthropology at universities in Edinburgh, London and Kent.



Cecilia now lives in Devon and has three children, a boy and two girls, aged between eight and sixteen. She currently works on environmental studies with schools, and is a copy editor for an academic press. Cecilia's first children's story, *THE THING*, was shortlisted for the Nickelodeon Jr National Write a Bedtime Story prize, and recorded for Fun Radio in March 2007.

FROGSPELL is her first full-length novel for children and will be published by Templar as the first book in her SPELL series.

Three other books are planned in the SPELL series: CAULDRON SPELLS (Spring 2012), ICE SPELL (Autumn 2012) and SWORD SPELL (Spring 2013).



## FROGSPELL : BOOK ONE OF THE SPELL SERIES ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID WYATT

*"Max watched in horror as three blue balls bounced right into the cauldron and sank into the purple liquid. There was a moment's pause, and then...BANG!"*

*The contents of the cauldron exploded and dollops of sticky blue gunk flew around the cellar. One landed on Max, one landed on Olivia, and one landed on Ferocious. They barely had time to blink, when the room went all shivery and strange, and seemed to grow rather larger.*

*Olivia was now a purple frog with red spots. Ferocious was a red frog with purple spots. Max was an extremely angry-looking orange frog with bright blue spots."*



FROGSPELL follows the adventures of Max, a young squire who is hopeless at sword play and wants to learn magic, though he shows little talent for that either. While trying to make a spell he accidentally turns himself, his sister Olivia, and his sarcastic pet rat Ferocious, into frogs. With the help of Olivia's dim-witted baby dragon Adolphus, the three manage to change back to their original forms and the rest of the story follows their adventures as they encounter Max's worst enemy and rival junior magician, Snotty Hogsbottom, the terrifying castle cook, Mrs Mudfoot; a killer pike; and the icy witch, Morgana le Fay.

C.J. Busby's first book shows a perfect understanding of what kind of story gets children to make the transition from readers to longer chapter books; what grabs their imagination and makes them laugh.

*"Great fun. Made me chortle."* Diana Wynne Jones

## BOOK TWO : CAULDRON SPELLS TO BE PUBLISHED SPRING 2012

**Age 7-11 years**

Published by Templar (UK), Boje Verlag (Germany)

## Pauline Fisk

Pauline Fisk has been writing stories for as long as she can remember. Her first book MIDNIGHT BLUE won the Smarties Award and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Award.

Her outstanding novels include:

TELLING THE SEA, TYGER POOL, THE MRS MARRIDGE PROJECT, and THE PLYNLIMON TRILOGY: SABRINA FLUDDE, THE RED JUDGE and the recently published MAD DOG MOONLIGHT.

Pauline lives in Shrewsbury England with her architect husband in a medieval house that was once the city gaol.

Recently she travelled in the rainforests of Belize, Central America, to research her new novel IN THE TREES.



*“Trekking in Belize’s Chiquibul Forest is without a doubt the most challenging thing I’ve ever done, but it was worth it to see with my own eyes the tragedy of destruction that’s taking place there, and the efforts being made by young volunteers, many straight from school, to stem the tide. I returned home determined to write a novel that would do justice to all that I’d seen.”*  
Pauline Fisk

*“Skilled with atmosphere and setting, she gathers a whirling pool of emotions and events, everything brushed with a breath of otherworldliness, nothing simple or safe.”* Scotland on Sunday

## IN THE TREES

\*Nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2010

*‘Forests are like lungs. They breathe life into us and make us one. Here we are from worlds apart. And thanks to the forest we’re sharing one life. Where we come from doesn’t matter, or what we once were in the past. It’s what we are now that matters, here in the trees. It’s what we make of ourselves.’*

Kid Cato has come to Belize, on the Caribbean coast. He’s left behind his life in London and is looking for his Belizean dad. But what he finds instead is a group of gap year volunteers working in the rain forest.

They’re just the boring, do-good types he’s always hated, but he’s stuck with them. Stuck with the jungle too - but, by the time it’s done with him, he’ll never be the same. And neither will they.



*“I hope that as you read this book it also motivates you to realize the changes that people like you can have on Earth even though it would seem to be worlds apart”*

Rafael Manzanero, Director, Friends for Conservation & Development, Belize

*“Fisk went to Belize to research this novel and she has brought back such a wealth of sights and sounds and cultural attitudes to put in it that you can almost feel it.... It’s original and fresh - a far cry from the floods of genre fiction filling the teen shelves in bookshops”* Jill Murphy, Bookbag

*“An unusual and compelling read”* Write Away

*“Beautifully written, the book has a refreshing approach to travel fiction, which is subtle but full of knowledge and respect for the Belizian landscape, people and culture.”* Amazon reader review

**Age 12 plus**

Published by Faber & Faber (UK)

## Adèle Geras

Adèle Geras is one of Britain's most acclaimed writers for young people. Her work, ranging from young adult fiction to ghost stories and picture books, includes TROY (shortlisted for the Whitbread Award, the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Award), and the EGERTON HALL trilogy.



Her young adult novel ITHAKA, a companion volume to TROY, was selected by New York Public Library as one of its 'Books for Teen Age 2007'.

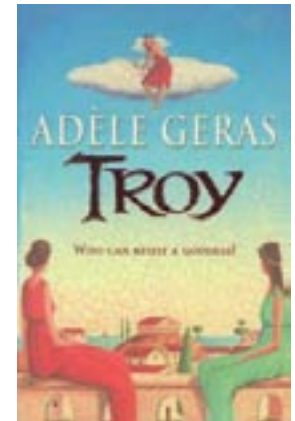
Adèle spent her early childhood in many countries including North Borneo, the setting for her novel OTHER ECHOES. She now lives with her husband near Cambridge and they have two grown-up daughters (one is the poet and writer, Sophie Hannah) and three grandchildren.

## TROY

*\*Highly Commended for the Carnegie Medal*

*\*Shortlisted for the Whitbread Children's Novel of the Year*

This is a love story set against the background of the Trojan War. Xanthe works in the 'blood room' where the wounded from the battle are taken, and is nursemaid to Hector's baby son; Marpessa is handmaiden to Helen of Troy. The lives and loves of the girls interweave with those of Paris and Helen, Hector and Andromeche and Homer's other famous characters.

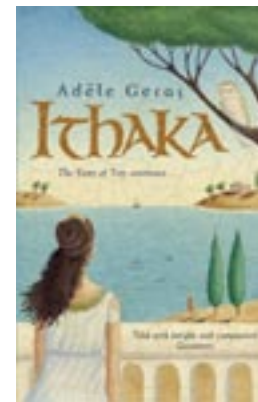


In an imaginative tour-de-force Geras recreates life in the ancient world so that it no longer seems remote. she shows the Greeks and Trojans as living people in a tragic situation, trapped in a harsh and brutal war.

*"A brilliantly imagined tale...Not to be missed"* Sunday Times

Published by Harcourt Inc (US), Carlsen Verlag (Germany)

## ITHAKA



On the island of Ithaka, Odysseus' wife Penelope waits for his return from the Trojan War. Everyone believes he is dead and the island is overrun with neighbouring rulers who want to marry her instead. With only women, old men and boys on the island to protect her, Penelope and her household become increasingly vulnerable.

Seen through the eyes of a young servant girl Klymene, Adèle Geras brings Homer's world alive for contemporary readers with vivid characters and a story of love, betrayal and murder.

*"A riff on the subject of desire, rediscovering in Homer's ancient story the full, enduring force of its passion and violence."*  
Nicolette Jones, Sunday Times

**Age 13 plus**

Published by David Fickling Books (UK), Harcourt Inc (US), Laguna (Serbia), Tudem (Turkey)

## Diana Wynne Jones

Diana Wynne Jones is recognised internationally as a major writer of fantasy and in 2008 received a Life Achievement Award at the World Fantasy Convention. Her books have been translated into nearly thirty languages. She won the Guardian Award and the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award twice.



Her book *Howl's Moving Castle* was made into an animated film by Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki, which was nominated for an Oscar.

She died in March this year after a long illness.

*"Rest in Peace, Diana Wynne Jones. You shone like a star. The funniest, wisest, writer & the finest friend."*

Neil Gaiman

*"Her death robs the children's literary world of one of its most brilliantly distinctive voices."*

Nicholas Tucker, Times obituary

*"Jones's fiction is relevant, subversive, witty and highly enjoyable, while also having a distinctly dark streak and a constant awareness of how unreliable the real world can seem."*

Christopher Priest, Guardian obituary

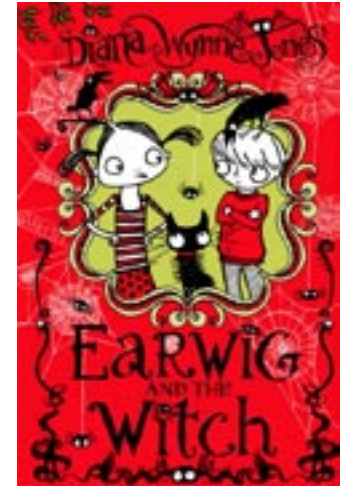
*"One of this country's most talented and inventive writers of speculative fiction...By her death her status as the doyenne of fantasy writers was not in dispute."*

Charlie Butler, Independent obituary

## EARWIG AND THE WITCH

ILLUSTRATED BY MARION LINDSAY

*Mrs Briggs sighed. "And this is Erica Wigg," she said hopelessly. Mrs Briggs never could quite pin down just why it was that nobody ever wanted to take Earwig home with them. Earwig was skinny. Her front teeth and her elbows stuck out rather, and she insisted on doing her hair in two bunches that stuck out too, just like her elbows and her teeth. But Mrs Briggs had known far worse-looking children who seemed to be wanted by everyone. What Mrs Briggs did not know was that Earwig was very good at making herself look unlovable. It was something that she did quite quietly, on the inside of her face, and she always did it, because she was quite happy to stay at St. Morwald's.*



*She made herself look unlovable now. She thought these two people were the most awful she had ever seen. They stared at her grimly.*

When she was a baby, Earwig was left at St Morwald's Orphanage. Unlike the other children, she loves it there because she is able to persuade people to do as she wants. Then one day Earwig is chosen to live with a very strange couple: Bella Yaga, her new 'mother', is actually a horrible witch! She is only brought to their home to do all the nasty and boring jobs like powdering rats' bones and scrubbing the floor, and Bella Yaga won't even teach her any spells. So with the help of Thomas the cat, Bella Yaga's downtrodden familiar, Earwig decides to figure out some magic for herself, and teaches Bella Yaga what it really means to have another pair of hands....

EARWIG AND THE WITCH is illustrated throughout by brilliant new illustrator Marion Lindsay who perfectly captures the spirit, humour and quirks of Earwig's story.

**Age 5-8 years**

Published by Greenwillow (US), HarperCollins (UK), Tokuma Shoten (Japan)

## Jonathan Stroud

Jonathan Stroud is the author of the world acclaimed BARTIMAEUS TRILOGY.



The three titles, THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND, THE GOLEM'S EYE and PTOLEMY'S GATE were published between 2003 and 2005, and have been on the Bestseller lists in the UK, US, Japan and Germany, and sold to 37 countries.

The Trilogy received The 2006 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature and The 2007 Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire. PTOLEMY'S GATE was awarded The 2006 Corine Youth Award.

His new Bartimaeus novel, THE RING OF SOLOMON, was recently published to much acclaim in the UK, US and Germany.

Jonathan has been writing stories since he was seven years old and has always had a burning desire to write a full-length work of fiction, which he would have wanted to read when he was younger. Formerly a children's book editor, he now writes full time, and lives in Hertfordshire with his wife, a children's book designer and illustrator, and their two young children.

*"Not since Gulliver's Travels has a children's writer managed to combine a thrilling tale of magic and adventure with such deliciously pointed comedy"*  
Amanda Craig, The Times

*"One of the best authors writing for young people today"* Carousel

*"An author who never disappoints"* The Independent

## THE RING OF SOLOMON

A BARTIMAEUS NOVEL

\*Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award

\*Shortlisted for the LA Times Book Prize

Fans throughout the world will be delighted that Bartimaeus is back in a brilliant new adventure in an earlier era of his existence.

Set in the time of King Solomon, the wise-cracking djinni finds himself caught in a web of intrigue where he is commanded to steal the magic ring which gives King Solomon his power. Jonathan Stroud has written a prequel to his bestselling trilogy that as always combines page turning action adventure with the world weary wit of his supreme comic creation, the inimitable Bartimaeus.



*"Wonderfully written and brilliantly plotted, this book provides an entertaining cast of characters and a satisfying denouement, with ends finally tied after many twists and turns. Bartimaeus himself is a brilliant creation, offering lots of comedy opportunities..."* The Bookseller

*"The voice is as funny as ever, but there are also passages of eerie beauty, and a shrewd message about fanaticism....Stroud has lost none of his dazzle."* FINANCIAL TIMES

*"In this exciting prequel set in ancient Israel...Bartimaeus is as sardonic, egotistical, and mouthy as ever. This is a superior fantasy."*  
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY starred review

*"A riveting adventure for Bartimaeus fans, old and new"*  
BOOKLIST starred review

### Age young adult

Published by Hyperion (US), Random House (UK), Carlsen (Denmark), Albin Michel (France), Bertelsmann (Germany), Animus (Hungary), Salani (Italy), Riron-Sha (Japan), Schibsted (Norway), Odiseja (Serbia), Montena (Spain), Arkadas (Turkey)

## Victor Watson

Victor Watson spent much of his professional life teaching children's literature at Homerton College, Cambridge University. He has reviewed many children's books, and edited and co-edited several academic works on aspects of children's literature from the eighteenth century to the present day.



In 2000 he wrote Reading Series Fiction, an analytical account of series writers from Arthur Ransome and Enid Blyton to Susan Cooper and Antonia Forest. He is the editor of The Cambridge Guide to Children's Books in English, and has been a Trustee and Chairman of Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle.

When he retired from full time teaching, he had the opportunity to write children's books himself, an ambition which had been on hold during his many years of teaching. He has found that his early memories of a wartime childhood in the East Anglian fens are a rich source of narrative material.

Victor Watson's enthralling series brilliantly uses wartime England as a background, showing a time when children were left to their own devices and danger was a part of everyday life. He is currently writing a third PARADISE BARN novel.

## PARADISE BARN

*\*Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award for Outstanding First Novel*

*'Old Miss Morton found the body. She had been walking her two labradors. Now, whenever Molly saw Miss Morton, she looked carefully at her, imagining there would be a new and special grimness on her face because she had found a dead body. But Miss Morton had always looked grim, even before she had come across the man lying under the elm tree with a bullet-wound in his head.'*



Nothing used to happen in the country town of Great Deeping, but in 1940 life changes for everyone, even in the remote English countryside. The small town is full of strangers and evacuees from the London blitz, and then there is a murder. While the adults seem to have other things on their minds, Molly, Annie and Adam, an evacuee, are determined to solve the mystery. In this tense thriller, Adam's passion for drawing and his interest in art leads the three friends to discover a link between the murder and a notorious Parisian art theft.

*"Well imagined and cleverly plotted...recreates the wartime atmosphere without straying into cliches. Watson's characters come over as vivid and real."*  
Nicholas Tucker, IBBY

## THE DEEPING SECRETS



*'There was a series of overwhelming explosions, then a thumping of débris as scraps of wood fell heavily onto the truck-bed above their heads. A metal wheel thudded down and buried itself in the grass close by, half a hundredweight of instant death.'*

When a train is bombed by enemy aircraft, the people of Great Deeping realise there's a spy in their midst, which casts a shadow over the community. Molly and her friends distract themselves with a hunt for buried treasure. However, during their search, they find themselves uncomfortably close to a dangerous traitor . . .

**Age 10-12 years**

Published by Catnip (UK)

## Robert Westall

After his sensational debut with *THE MACHINE GUNNERS* (1975), Westall established an international reputation. His books have been translated into many languages and dramatized for stage and television. He won The Smarties Prize, the Guardian Award and was twice awarded The Carnegie Medal. He died in 1993.



*THE MACHINE GUNNERS* is currently featured in an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, and to coincide, a dramatisation of the novel was recently put on at the Polka Theatre, London.

*"Westall was a writer of rare talent. We shall miss him but he has left us such a wonderful legacy."*  
Michael Morpurgo, Guardian Obituary

## THE KINGDOM BY THE SEA

*\*Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award*

*'The whistling of the bombs was rising to a scream. Harry began to count. If you were still counting at ten, the bombs had missed you.'*

*The last thing he remembered saying was "seven".'*

When a bomb falls on Harry's home during an air raid, everything he knows is destroyed in a moment. Anxious not to be sent to live with his fussy cousin Elsie, Harry goes on the run, his only friend a stray dog. He makes his way up the Northumbrian coast. He is a survivor, but there is one last battle he is unprepared for.



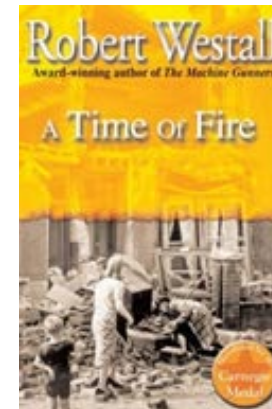
*"A stunning tale of survival...as unforgettable as it is compelling."*  
The Horn Book Magazine

**Age 9 plus**

Published by HarperCollins (UK), Gallimard (France), Piemme (Italy)

## A TIME OF FIRE

*\*Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal*



*'The sky split open. A sky of brilliant yellow light; a world of noise that filled his ears like sand at the seaside, so that afterwards there was only total silence.'*

It takes just a few seconds for the German bomber to drop its deadly explosives and disappear into the clouds. But those seconds change Sonny's life for ever. His father leaves home, rage and grief at what has happened driving him to seek revenge on the enemy. Left behind with his grandparents Sonny finds himself pursuing his own dramatic and intensely personal confrontation with the Germans. And with the unknown Luftwaffe pilot who killed his mother.

*"Deeply moving...Strong, uncompromising writing."* Telegraph

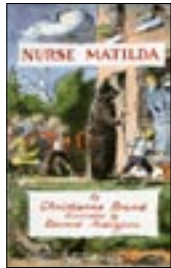
**Age 9 plus**

Published by Catnip (UK)

## Backlist

For details of sales in foreign territories consult the website:

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



**Edward Ardizzone** (illustrator)  
Nurse Matilda Books, by Christianna Brand  
Nurse Matilda  
Nurse Matilda Goes to Town  
Nurse Matilda Goes to Hospital  
Published by Bloomsbury Publishers Ltd

Rights sold in 9 countries  
Age 6 -10  
Filmed as *Nanny McPhee*



**Adèle Geras**  
Happy Ever After (Egerton Hall Trilogy)

Rights sold in Russia  
Published by Random House UK Ltd  
Age 13 plus



**Theresa Breslin**  
The Medici Seal

Rights sold in 14 countries  
Published by Random House UK Ltd  
Age young adult



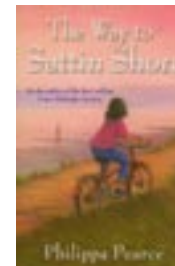
**Dianne Hofmeyr**  
Eye of the Moon  
Eye of the Sun (Sequel)

Rights sold in 7 countries  
Published by Simon & Schuster UK & US  
Age 12 plus



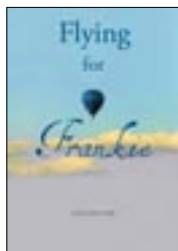
**Theresa Breslin**  
The Nostradamus Prophecy

Rights sold in 6 countries  
Published by Random House UK Ltd  
Age young adult



**Philippa Pearce**  
The Way to Sattin Shore

Rights sold in 5 countries  
Published by Oxford University Press  
All ages



**Pauline Fisk**  
FLYING FOR FRANKIE

Rights sold Japan, Spain  
Published by Faber & Faber  
Age 13 plus



**Philippa Pearce**  
The Little Gentleman

Rights sold in the US, Italy, Japan, Korea  
Published by Puffin  
All ages

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**Chloë Rayban**

Just in e Series

Wild Child

Virtual Sexual Reality

Shortlisted The Guardian Award, filmed as *Virtual Sexuality*

LOVE IN CYBERIA

SHORTLISTED THE GUARDIAN AWARD, AND THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

TERMINAL CHIC

Rights sold in 8 countries

Published by Random House UK

Age young adult



**Jonathan Stroud**

The Bartimaeus Trilogy

Winner Mythopoeic Fantasy Award 2006, Grand Prix d'Imaginaire

The Amulet of Samarkand

Winner of Boston Globe/Horn Book Award

The Golem's Eye

Ptolomy's Gate

Winner of Corine Award 2006

Rights sold in 37 countries

Published by Random House UK

Age young adult

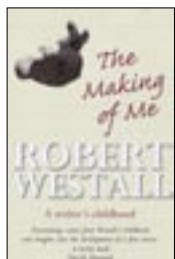


**Robert Westall**

Gulf

Rights sold in France, Japan, Korea

Age young adult



**Robert Westall**

The Making of Me

Rights sold Japan

Published by Catnip Publishing UK

All ages