



# LAURA CECIL

LITERARY AGENT  
FOR  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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**Fiction**  
**Spring 2010**



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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 Katherine 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"*

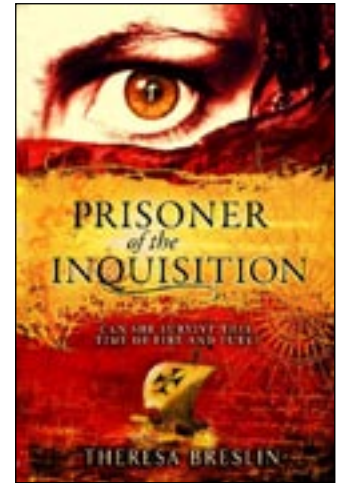
*Books for Keeps*

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

## PRISONER OF THE INQUISITION

*'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..'*

Set in the reign of Isabella and Ferdinand of Spain, during the war against the Moors, Theresa Breslin's new historical novel tells the story of Zarita, the beautiful and wilful daughter of Don Vicente Alonso, a rich and powerful magistrate. One day she defies her family to secretly meet young Ramon Salazar, who is in love with her. Because of her forbidden tryst she inadvertently causes the brutal hanging of an innocent beggar.



Some years later the mariner Christopher Columbus, needing funds for his voyage of discovery, comes with his young friend Saulo to plead at the royal court. But Saulo has a mission of his own, to revenge himself on the family of Don Vicente Alonso. For it was Alonso who had ordered the hanging of Saulo's father, the unknown beggar. To do this he has vowed to kill Alonso's daughter Zarita.

In this time of religious conflict, when the Inquisition brought terror, torture and death, Zarita, unknown to Saulo, is already in mortal danger. She has been secretly denounced as a heretic by her jealous step-mother. By a strange twist of fate Saulo finds that he will become her rescuer rather than her murderer.

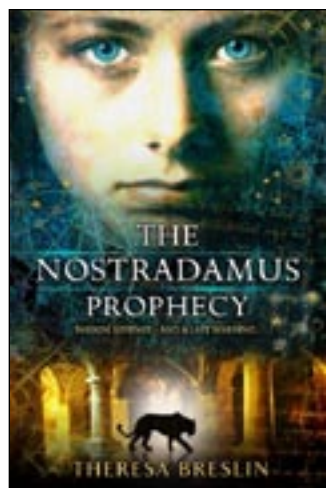
Following the outstanding success of her historical novels *THE MEDICI SEAL* and *THE NOSTRADAMUS PROPHECY* Theresa Breslin brings to life another dramatic period of history and one of its leading figures, Christopher Columbus.

**Age young adult**

To be published 2010 by Random House (UK)

## THE NOSTRADAMUS PROPHECY

THE NOSTRADAMUS PROPHECY is the tale of the mysterious lost warning of Nostradamus, the most famous seer the world has ever known. It is also the story of Mélisande who has to flee the French court disguised as a boy, when her sister is brutally murdered. She later works for Nostradamus when she takes refuge in his house.



Sixteenth century France is a country riven by violent religious wars, ruled by a weak boy King controlled by his mother, the devious and ruthless Queen Regent, Catherine de Medici. A dangerous and superstitious time when many people, including the Queen herself, are guided by portents and mystical signs while others mock these beliefs.

But no one heeds Nostradamus's prophecy that foretells the massacre of the Protestants by the Roman Catholics on St Bartholomew's Day 1572. After Nostradamus's final warning, Mélisande risks her own life by returning to Paris in a desperate attempt to avert disaster.

*"Theresa Breslin has hit a winning streak since her Renaissance thriller, The Medici Seal, and The Nostradamus Prophecy is even better...especially praiseworthy for dramatising a period of European history which children might not normally encounter."* The Times

*"Full of action, yet centred around feelings and relationships...a thought-provoking and ultimately hopeful book"* The School Librarian

*"Intriguing subject in the hands of an outstanding writer...perhaps Breslin's best book since the Carnegie-winning Whispers in the Graveyard"* Glasgow Herald

### Age young adult

Published by Random House (UK), Distribudor Record (Brazil), Editions Milan (France), Bertelsmann (Germany), Mynx (Netherlands), Editorial Almuzara (Spain)

## THE MAGIC FACTORY SERIES

ILLUSTRATED BY T.S. SPOOKYTOOTH

What do witches do when their wands break? Where do wizards shop for stuff for spells? And if you were a ghost who wasn't scary enough, where would you get help?

You'd go to The Magic Factory at Starling Castle, where you'll find Midden, the messy little witch, and her team of helpers: Corbie the clever crow, Growl the gargoyle, Semolina the shape shifter, Cat-Astro-Phe the cat from Ancient Egypt and a mischievous Bogle.

With luck – and sometimes a spell – they can unravel the most tricky problems. All sorts of people pop in to buy spell ingredients, or for cauldron, broomstick and wand repairs, or just for helpful advice.

In these three story books Theresa Breslin creates delightful characters and situations full of humour, where young children can recognise their own world through a prism of magic and wizardry.



*"written with Breslin's usual wit and humour... lovely whimsical cover design and line drawings throughout"* Writeaway

*"Simple wholly satisfying magic"* Lovereading4kids

### Age 4-7 years

Published by Oxford University Press (UK), Bruno Grupo Salvat (Spain), Kultur Yayinlari Is-Turk Ltd (Turkey)

## 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 six and fourteen. 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 Tick Tock Books this Autumn. It will be the first book in her *SPELL* series

Three other books are planned in the *SPELL* series: *CAULDRON SPELLS*, *KNIGHT SPELL* and *SWORDSPELL*.



## **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 form 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 2011**

**Age 7-11 years**

Published by Tick Tock Books Ltd (UK)

## Niki Daly

Niki Daly was born in Cape Town, where he studied Art and Design.

He first came to England in 1970 under contract to CBS to write and record songs, after which he worked as a graphic designer, illustrator and design teacher. In 1978 his first picture book, *THE LITTLE GIRL WHO LIVED DOWN THE ROAD*, won him a British Arts Council Illustration Award.



Niki Daly has since written and illustrated many award winning picture books, including *WHY THE SUN AND THE MOON LIVE IN THE SKY*, which was a New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book of the Year.

*JAMELA'S DRESS*, the first book in his delightful *JAMELA* series, was an ALA Notable Children's Book and gained a number of awards internationally. He has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgen Memorial Award, and twice for the Hans Andersen Award.

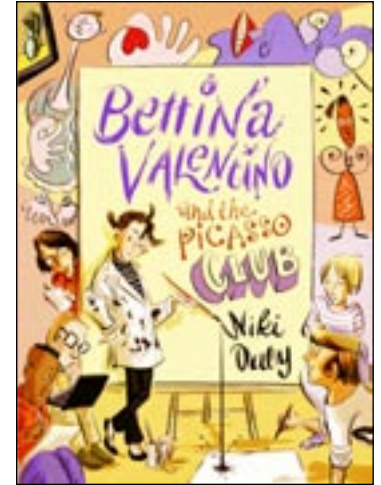
Daly's work, ranging from cartoon to realism, young picture books to middle grade readers, is noted for its fun and subtle observation. He returned to South Africa in 1980 and now lives in Mowbray, Cape Town, with his wife, illustrator Jude Daly.

*"A striking feature of Niki's pictures is the skill with which he depicts physical activity...conveyed by the excellence of the figure drawing and the rhythm apparent in both words and pictures."* Carousel

*"Lively and convincing"* Quentin Blake

## BETTINA VALENTINO AND THE PICASSO CLUB

Fifth-grader Bettina Valentino couldn't be a bigger fan of the funky new art teacher at Bayside Prep, who walks around barefoot to soak up the energy of the earth and is full of inspiring lessons about how art can be used to challenge, shock, and surprise. But when the teacher's unconventional methods get him into trouble with some influential parents, it's up to Bettina and some of her art-loving friends to nip the controversy in the bud and support freedom of artistic expression.



In his first chapter book, Niki Daly gives readers a quick-paced, profusely illustrated story about a boisterous heroine – as well as tidbits about famous artists such as Picasso, Klee and Warhol.

*"Not many middle-grade heroines seem like they're going to bounce off the pages, but they're not Bettina Valentino... Daly sometimes draws in the styles of famous artists, so readers get a real feel for their art. Like Bettina this book has a certain je ne sais quoi."* Booklist (starred review)



*"With tidbits about famous artists, this is a quick-paced, entertaining book about the power of art."* School Library Journal

*"An art competition, a student club (organized by Bettina), a parental complaint and a highly satisfactory resolution round out this light-hearted introduction to eccentricity, activism and art appreciation."* Washington Post

*"so funny readers will find themselves laughing out loud"* Infodad.com

**Age 7-11 years**

Published by Farrar Straus & Giroux (US), Protea Boekhuis (South Africa), Sallim Publishing Co (Korea)

## 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

*‘Forest 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

**Age 14 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 in Manchester and they have two grown-up daughters (one is the poet and writer, Sophie Hannah) and three grandchildren.

### Praise for TROY:

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

*"Powerful, clear and compassionate"* Philip Pullman

### Praise for ITHAKA:

*"Told with insight and compassion"* Guardian

*"An absorbing, sweeping novel"* The Bookseller

## DIDO

*"While she was still trembling with the complete unexpectedness of what Aeneas had just said and done, he leaned forward a little and kissed her on the mouth. Just one swift, soft touch of his lips on hers and then he turned and walked away".*

Love can be deadly. Especially when two women, one a queen the other her young serving girl, fall for the same man.

Elissa knows she is playing with fire, but she can't resist. Queen Dido suspects nothing, until one fateful night...Secrets are revealed, hearts are broken and as dawn breaks the tragedy unfolds.

A passionate tale of love and betrayal.

In her latest young adult novel Geras continues her unique interpretation of classical themes, showing the stories of young and ordinary people caught up in the events of the heroic poems of Homer and Virgil, as she did triumphantly in her previous books, TROY and ITHAKA.

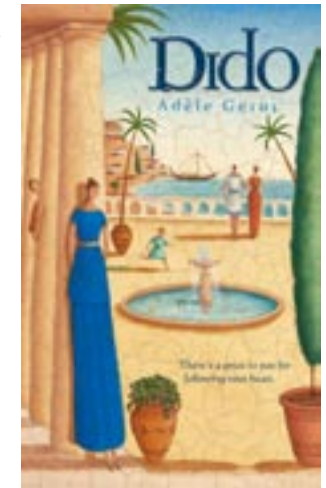
*"The thoroughly contemporary feel of characters and their relations makes the central themes of love and loss entirely credible and modern. Adèle Geras on top form."* The Bookseller

*"Geras's ability to weave a touching new tale in with the well-known one is unique to modern children's authors; Dido is a shining new jewel to her crown."* The Times

*"Geras, as in her previous novels, loses none of the power and fascination of the original story; and....intensifies and grounds Dido's tragedy through the half spoken desires, commonplace compromises, deceits and betrayals in the stories that are woven around it."* Books For Keeps

### Age 13 plus

Published by David Fickling Books (UK), Tudem (Turkey)



## Dianne Hofmeyr

Dianne Hofmeyr is one of South Africa's foremost writers for young adults, winning many prizes including The Sanlam Gold Award for Youth Literature (twice). Two of her novels, BLUE TRAIN TO THE MOON and THE WATERBEARER, were South Africa's English Language IBBY Honour Books. She also writes picture books with fellow South African, artist Jude Daly.



She grew up in the Western Cape of South Africa, where she taught art for twenty years. Dianne lived in Stellenbosch, Pretoria and Sandton before she and her husband moved to London.

*"Dianne Hofmeyr's language helps evoke the mystery and the power of the journey...the words lend themselves to reading aloud in cadences that are more like music."* New York Times

*"Hofmeyr's sensuous, elegant prose brings the ancient world to life in glorious colour and convincing detail"* The Bookseller

## EYE OF THE MOON

The beautiful Queen Tiy of Egypt has died. Now there is a plot to murder her eldest son, Tuthmosis, and steal his throne. Isikara has no choice but help to save him. On the run with the young prince, she travels to Nubia in search of allies to return him to his rightful throne. Their journey takes them along the Nile, across the desert and through bustling bazaars, as they fight to stay one step ahead of their pursuers: the High Priests who wish to silence them.

But danger and death are all around. Who can they trust? And where will their adventure lead them?

*"A novel that boys as well as girls will not be able to put down...Marvellous"* The Guardian

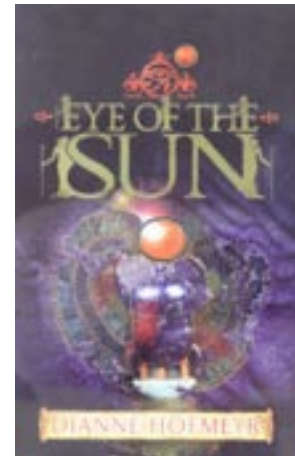
*"Thrilling murder mystery"* Publishing News

**Age 12 plus**

Published by Simon and Schuster (US & UK), Gallimard (France), Sauerlander (Germany), Mondadori (Italy), Santillana (Spain)



## EYE OF THE SUN



Tuthmosis has returned secretly to the city of Thebes with the impulsive, spirited Isikara to take action against the evil High Priest. But Nefertiti, the young, beautiful and ruthless Queen of Egypt is terrified that Tuthmosis is after her husband's throne. Isikara is arrested alongside Tuthmosis's friend Ta Miu.

The girls must escape prison to prove their innocence. Ta Miu is torn - to defend Tuthmosis she must betray her new-found love, Samut. Their lives depend on it.....

*"Exciting"* The Times

**Age 12 plus**

Published by Simon and Schuster (US & UK)

## Diana Wynne Jones

Diana Wynne Jones has won the Guardian Award, the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award (twice) and this year has been shortlisted for the Astrid Lindgren Award. She 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 more than eighteen languages.



Her book *HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE* was made into an animated film by Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki, which was nominated for an Oscar.

Diana lives in Bristol with her husband, a professor of Early English literature.

*"Wynne Jones belongs to an elect clan of the most treasured of British children's authors, creating her own unique brand of fantasy."* The Guardian

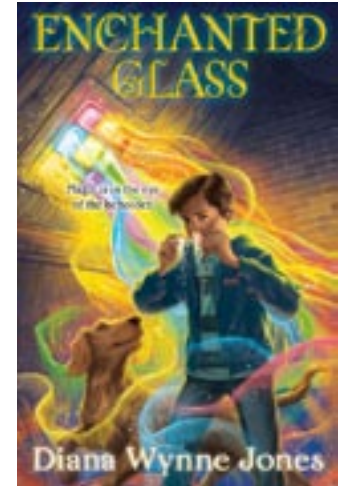
*"Her hallmarks include laugh-aloud humour, plenty of magic and an imaginative array of alternate worlds. Yet, at the same time, a great seriousness is present in all of her novels, a sense of urgency that links Jones' most outrageous plots to her readers' hopes and fears."* Publishers Weekly

*"Diana Wynne Jones is, quite simply, the best writer of magic there is, for readers of any age."* Neil Gaiman

## ENCHANTED GLASS

When the magician Jocelyn Brandon Hope died he bequeathed Melstone House to his grandson Andrew. He also left his 'field of care': an area of strangeness surrounding the land around the house, whose boundary Andrew must walk in order to preserve its power.

Andrew had always loved the house, but he finds owning it a lot more complicated, aside from all the magic. There is Mrs Stock, the tyrannical housekeeper who won't let him move the furniture and punishes him with her terrible cooking. Just as bad is the obsessive gardener who will only grow giant inedible vegetables. To add to his troubles, twelve year old orphan Aidan Cain suddenly arrives on the doorstep begging protection from magical stalkers, and Andrew's sinister rich neighbour, Mr Brown, begins to encroach on the 'field of care'. The one compensation is the gardener's beautiful niece, Stashe. Things become stranger and stranger until all is made clear with the help of the enchanted glass itself.



*"With a gleeful nod to A Midsummer Night's Dream, Jones hits all the bases with her fluid storytelling, trademark sly humor, and exquisitely drawn characters. The magical chaos culminates in a hilarious summer fete and a delightfully tidy resolution. With this enthralling book, Jones proves that she is still at the top of her game."* Booklist Starred Review

*"We get a stonking cat-fight between two fearsome ladies and the were-doggie is adorable"* SFX

*"Readers may start by wondering where exactly they are going as one extraordinary event or character follows another, but should soon be won over by writing of such charm, wit and intelligence"* The Independent

*"Blissful"* The Guardian

**Age 12 plus**

Published by Greenwillow (US), HarperCollins(UK), Tokyo Shogan-Sha (Japan), Nocturna Ediciones (Spain)

## Chloë Rayban

Chloë Rayban (a.k.a. Carolyn Bear) is a writer with her finger truly on the pulse of teenage life today. Praise for her novels has come from such diverse quarters as School Librarian, The Guardian and Attitude magazine.



Her highly successful JUSTINE SERIES has been translated into seven languages. It includes LOVE IN CYBERIA, shortlisted for both The Guardian Award and the Carnegie Medal, and VIRTUAL SEXUAL REALITY. This was runner up for The Guardian Award, and was made into the romantic comedy film Virtual Sexuality, directed by Nick Hurren (Columbia Tristar).

Her latest teen novel MWAH MWAH was published by Bloomsbury.

Formerly an advertising copywriter, she now writes full-time and divides her time between a beautiful 18th century French manoir and an Italian farmhouse in Piedmont.

*"(Chloe Rayban) makes an art out of the hectic and fashionably eccentric"*  
Books for Keeps

## MY LIFE STARRING MUM

Imagine your mum is a mega-star: massively rich, unbelievably famous and constantly stalked by the press. Meet Hollywood Bliss Winterman (Holly to her friends), the daughter of platinum-selling singer Kandhi.

So what does a girl do when she's trapped in the ultra-luxurious Royal Trocadero Hotel? When her mum wants to turn her into a mini version of herself - but she wants to be a vet? And when the only boy she sees is Shug, her least favourite person in the world, the son of Kandhi's new love, heart-throb Oliver Bream?



Chloë Rayban's novel is a satire on celebrity that has been waiting to happen. Mothers and daughters are often at odds but put them in a celebrity setting - and you are in for comedy pyrotechnics.

*"A fab and funny read"* Mizz

*"very funny, gripping and cool! A must-read"* Amazon Reader Review

## HOLLYWOOD BLISS MY LIFE SO FAR



When Holly's mega-star mother moves to New York, where she goes, like it or not, Holly goes too. Here are bright lights, this is big city, it's the land of opportunity, so maybe she should make the most of it...But life with rock royalty isn't all it's cracked up to be. Holly only wants the average things in life - like a home, a pet and a boyfriend. Is this so-oo much to ask?

Rayban's hilarious novel gives an insider view on celebrity culture.

*"Entertaining from start to finish...the budding romance is great...a light, breezy and fun read"*  
Chicklish website

**Age 12 plus**

Published by Bloomsbury (UK & US), Amber (Poland)

## 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.



This year he will publish a new Bartimaeus novel, THE RING OF SOLOMON.

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

*"The sky, like a bashful youth kissed for the first time, blushed with a peach-pink light. Through the open windows came the gentlest of breezes, carrying the fragrances of evening. It stirred the hair of the young woman standing alone and pensive in the centre of the marble floor, and caused her dress to flutter against the contours of her lean, dark limbs.*

*She lifted a hand; slim fingers toyed with a ringlet of hair beside her neck.*

*"Why so shy, my lord?" she whispered. "Come near and let me look on you."*

*In the opposite pentacle the old man lowered the wax cylinder in his hand and glared at me with his single eye. "Great Jehovah, Bartimaeus! You don't think that's going to work on me?"*

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.

*"Bartimaeus the djinni, a memorable and highly entertaining character. Rude, flippant, and cocky, his voice reflects the injustice of his millennia of service to powerful magicians who have summoned him to do their capricious bidding."*  
Booklist Starred Review (Amulet of Samarkand)

*"Trouble is, I am now left wanting much more of Bartimaeus. Can we have some more, please, Mister Stroud?"*

Reader review of Bartimaeus Trilogy, Amazon

### Age young adult

Published by Hyperion (US), Random House (UK), Bertelsmann (Germany), Schibsted (Norway)



## 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.



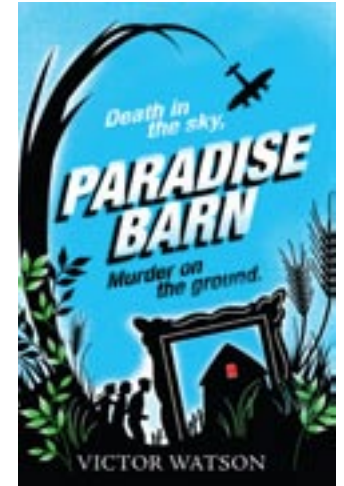
In 2000 he wrote Reading Series Fiction, an analytical account of series writers from Arthur Ransome and Enid Blyton to Susan Cooper and Antonia Forest. He is the editor of The Cambridge Guide to Children's Books in English, and has been a Trustee and Chairman of Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's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

## PARADISE BARN

*'The killer had not been found. The police had been enquiring, but it was wartime and they had too much to do. So far, they hadn't discovered who the dead man was.*

*Old Miss Morton had 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 and Abigail decide to solve the mystery. When Adam is evacuated to Molly's house, he quickly forms an alliance with them, and it is his passion for drawing and his interest in art that leads the three friends to discover a link between the murder and a notorious art theft. How this connects with Hilda Pritt, the woman pilot with a revolver in her handbag, Cuffey the mysterious lodger who befriends Molly, and Paradise Barn itself is gradually revealed in this tense thriller.

Victor Watson's enthralling first novel 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. A further mystery featuring Molly, Abigail and Adam will be published in 2011.

*"Familiar ingredients of Second World War Home Front Fiction are given a fresh, emotionally acute treatment." The Bookseller*

**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.



An exhibition devoted to Westall's work was recently on show at Seven Stories, The Centre for Children's Books, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, close to where he was born and brought up.

To coincide with this event, his autobiographical memoir *THE MAKING OF ME* was published by Catnip Publishers.

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

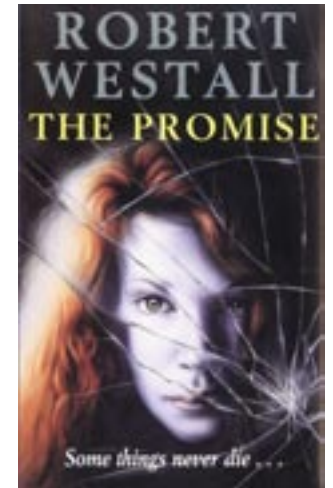
## THE PROMISE

*'Promise that if I ever get lost, you'll come and find me'.*

Valerie was beautiful, with her long red hair and her pale, pale face. Bob found it easy to make that promise - a boy in love will do anything he is asked.

But now Valerie is dying. And she's stronger in death than she was in life. Bob finds himself facing a force more powerful than anything he's ever known - a love that survives the grave; a promise that never dies....

A terrifying love story from the master of the supernatural.



*"This story of first love has an almost autobiographical feeling, so it's all the more unsettling when Valerie dies and begins to haunt Bob, insisting that he keep his promise. Valerie's transformation from nice girl to demanding ghost is quite credibly done, proceeding seamlessly from the realistic story."  
University of Chicago, the Center for Children's Books*

*"a wonderful ghost story" VOYA*

*"a stunning book" The Scotsman*

**Age young adult**

Rights sold: Japan (Tokuma)

## 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



**Dianne Hofmeyr**  
FISH NOTES AND STAR SONGS

Rights sold in South Africa  
Published by Simon & Schuster UK  
Age 11 plus



**Theresa Breslin**  
THE MEDICI SEAL

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



**Diana Wynne Jones**  
THE CHRESTOMANCI SERIES  
CHARMED LIFE

Winner of the Guardian Award  
Highly commended Carnegie Medal  
Silver pencil award (Holland)

CONRAD'S FATE  
LIVES OF CHRISTOPHER CHANT  
Runner up Carnegie Medal  
THE PINHOE EGG  
THE MAGICIANS OF CAPRONA  
MIXED MAGICS  
WITCH WEEK  
SLJ Best Book of the Year

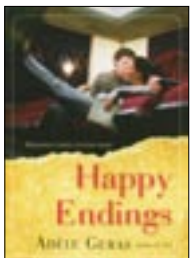


**Pauline Fisk**  
THE BEAST OF WHIXALL MOSS

Published by Faber Finds  
Age 11 plus



Rights sold in 24 countries  
Published by HarperCollins UK  
Age 10 - 14



**Adèle Geras**  
HAPPY ENDINGS

Rights sold Germany  
Published by Harcourt US  
Age young adult



**Philippa Pearce**  
FAMILIAR AND HAUNTING

Rights sold Japan  
Published by Greenwillow (US)  
Age all ages

For details of sales in foreign territories consult the website:

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



### **Chloë Rayban**

JUSTINE 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

PTOLEMY'S GATE

Winner of Corine Award 2006

Rights sold in 37 countries

Published by Random House UK

Age young adult



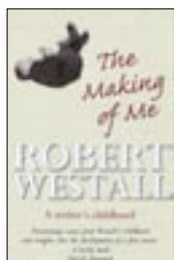
### **Jonathan Stroud**

THE LAST SIEGE

Rights sold in 4 countries

Published by Random House UK

Age young adult



### **Robert Westall**

THE MAKING OF ME

Published by Catnip Publishing UK

Age all ages