

Conville & Walsh, Children's Rights Guide, Spring 2009

March 2009

Here, with pleasure, is our guide to some of the children's and young adult titles we are working on in Spring 2009.

This market is one that we plan to expand this year, under the auspices of Jo Unwin. In order to give you an idea of the base upon which Jo will be building, however, we also enclose a brief summary of authors in whose work we have sold world rights.

If you would like to see any of the titles in which we do hold rights, please don't hesitate to contact Alexandra McNicoll:

rights@convilleandwalsh.com

Or:

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You might also like to visit our website, which has up-to-date information on new sales and more on these, and other, titles:

www.convilleandwalsh.com

Attending the book fair will be:

Jo Unwin: +44 (0) 7799 606 661 (m)
Jake Smith-Bosanquet: +44 (0) 7876 223 885 (m)

Happy reading!

THE TALENT

Philip Caveney

Praise for SEBASTIAN DARKE: Prince of Fools

Shortlisted for the 2007 Waterstone's Children's Book Prize

Colourful and Surreal...

– Telegraph

Great Britain in the not-too-distant-future is a pretty grim place. Poverty is everywhere and the streets team with Rag People (the ranks of the unemployed). Meanwhile, sixteen year old Josh Williams holds down an unfulfilling job, stacking shelves in a Manchester supermarket.

But there is one glimmer of hope on Josh's horizon – *The Talent*. This country-wide, government sponsored competition offers the only chance of escape from the drudgery of everyday existence. Last year's winner Kendra is now a megastar; and, as for Josh, well, he's finally old enough to enter. Josh plays the guitar and writes and performs his own songs, and he is pinning everything on his dream of stardom. But when he attends the audition for the series, it looks as though that dream is going to be shattered.

However, a twist of fate throws him into contact with Holly Porter, a skinny kid with a chip on her shoulder... and the voice of a rock star. Can these two overcome seemingly impossible odds to emerge as the ultimate winners?

THE TALENT will appeal to any youngster who has ever suspected that they were destined for stardom.

Philip Caveney was born in North Wales. After a successful career writing thrillers for the adult market, he turned his hand to writing fiction for younger readers. His debut, SEBASTIAN DARKE: Prince of Fools, was short-listed for the Waterstone's Prize and two sequels, PRINCE OF PIRATES and PRINCE OF EXPLORERS, have followed since. He is also the author of the ALEC DEVLIN trilogy. Philip lives in Manchester with his wife and young daughter, where he is a leading light of the Manchester Writers' Workshop.

Age Range	10+
Status	Unedited Manuscript
Length	80,000 words
Agent	Jo Unwin

All rights available

COOPER BARTHOLEMW IS DEAD

Rebecca James

Cooper Bartholemew is dead.

Suicide. That's the official verdict, that's what almost everyone believes. And it makes sense too. Cooper has been strange and withdrawn for months and, with that last apologetic email to his girlfriend Libby, there's hardly any room for doubt.

Libby isn't convinced. Cooper might have had some minor problems but they'd been happy together. They'd made plans, after all, they'd both been looking forward to the future. Why would he kill himself?

Cooper may be dead. But he's still around, somehow, in some form. There's something he's got to put right, something he's got to fix. And then there's Libby. He's got to let her know the truth, protect her from all his stupid mistakes.

Libby has also been having very strange dreams, dreams about Cooper – and in her dreams Cooper is crazy with rage, incoherent with grief. In her dreams Cooper tells her that he didn't kill himself. In her dreams he screams of things that terrify her – of drugs, blackmail, murder...

Rebecca James was born in Sydney, Australia, in 1970. She has worked as a waitress, an ESL teacher in both Indonesia and Japan, and a kitchen designer. She wishes that she had finished any of the numerous degrees that she has started so that she could find useful employment. Instead, she writes. She lives in Australia with her partner and their four sons.

Age Range	YA [N.B. SOME ADULT CONTENT]
Status	Unedited Manuscript
Length	70,000 words
Agent	Jo Unwin

All rights available

CRAZY MABEL

Rebecca James

And suddenly it's as if the world is coming to me in slow motion, through some kind of haze or fog. I can't stop looking at Mabel. Her eyes are cold, appraising, and the pupils so large that all I can see is black. Cold, impenetrable, black.

Following the brutal murder of her talented little sister, Katherine Patterson's once-perfect family is left shattered. In order to escape the attention of a cruel and relentless media, Katherine moves to a new city, starts at a new school, and looks forward to a new life of quiet anonymity.

But when Katherine meets the gregarious and beautiful Mabel Parrie her resolution to live a solitary life becomes difficult. Katherine is unable resist the flattering attention that Mabel pays her and is so charmed by Mabel's contagious enthusiasm that the two girls soon become firm friends. Mabel's *joie de vivre* is transformative; it helps Katherine forget her painful past and slowly, tentatively, Katherine allows herself to start enjoying life again.

But being friends with Mabel is complicated – and as Katherine gets to know her better she discovers that although Mabel can be charming and generous she can also be selfish and egocentric. Sometimes, even, Mabel is cruel. And when Katherine starts to wonder if Mabel is really the kind of person she wants as a friend, she discovers something else about Mabel... she doesn't *like* being cast off.

Rebecca James was born in Sydney, Australia, in 1970. She has worked as a waitress, an ESL teacher in both Indonesia and Japan, and a kitchen designer. She wishes that she had finished any of the numerous degrees that she has started so that she could find useful employment. Instead, she writes. She lives in Australia with her partner and their four sons.

Age Range	YA [N.B. SOME ADULT CONTENT]
Status	Unedited Manuscript
Length	65,000 words
Agent	Jo Unwin

All rights available

THE DESERTER (Book II of the Bone World Trilogy)

Peadar O'Guilin

Praise for THE INFERIOR, Book I of the Bone World Trilogy

Read this, and remember why science-fiction lit your fire in the first place

– Deathray

This is a stark, dark, written with great energy and confidence

– TES

Alien races are hunting mankind to extinction through the ruins of a vast city. Poisons are everywhere, but a simple rule keeps the survivors going: if it's intelligent, it's food – the same species that savour human flesh make good eating themselves...

Stopmouth and his gang are back in THE DESERTER, book two of the brilliantly original Bone World Trilogy, which opens as the ferocious Diggers are closing in on a small tribe of humans. The only woman who can save them has been missing for half a year. The young hero, Stopmouth, follows her trail all the way to the great civilisation of The Roof. Little does he realise that the horrors awaiting him there dwarf anything he has ever seen before.

Meanwhile, The Roof's food is running out, the air is going bad and Earth hasn't made contact in a generation. Little time remains before a hundred billion people die.

Stopmouth's quest will bring him face-to-face with supersoldiers, aliens and many other bizarre and terrifying circumstances as an entire civilisation crumbles around him.

Peadar O'Guilin grew up in Donegal on the beautiful west coast of Ireland. His strange short stories have been appearing for years in speculative fiction magazines and anthologies around the world. His first novel, THE INFERIOR was published by David Fickling in 2007.

UK Publisher	David Fickling/Random House
Delivery	Summer 2009
Age Range	12+
Status	Edited manuscript
Length	90,000 words
Agent	Patrick Walsh

All rights available excluding UK & Commonwealth, Bulgaria (Delacort), Denmark (Sesam/Aschehoug), Germany (Bertelsmann), Italy (RCS), Japan (Asunaro), Korea (BIR), Russia (Tarna)

GETTING ABBY SORTED

Rosie Orr

What do you do when absolutely nothing in your life is going right? When you've got the stepsister from hell – and an equally nightmarish stepmother?

Abby is 15, and a pupil at a large comprehensive school on the outskirts of Oxford. She lives with her teacher father, Jack, a recently acquired stepmother Stella (a home hairdresser) and 16 year old, perfectly groomed 'n' toned stepsister, Gemma.

Yuck! Happy families or what? Gemma is in the year above Abby at school; she spends all her free time at the local stage school and is hell-bent on winning the next big TV talent competition. She loathes Abby, and she and her wannabe-model cronies never miss a chance to make her life misery.

So what helps Abby cope with all this hassle? Music – Abby's a supremely gifted pianist. And then Stefan – a brilliant and charismatic young Polish violinist – joins the sixth form... Despite a series of misunderstandings, love begins to blossom and life for Abby is suddenly worth living. But not for long. Because Gemma also has set her sights on Stefan, and has been rejected. So when she finds out that Abby's been invited to star in the school Christmas concert, she'll literally stop at nothing to prevent her...

Rosie Orr began her literary career as a poet. In 1980 she was the winner of the South Bank Show Poetry Competition, and she has had work published in several magazines and anthologized in a PEN Anthology and The Virago Book of Love Poetry. After a succession of jobs ranging from Brass Rubbing Instructor to English Language Tutor, she began to see the funny side of life, and following the production of her play GOING DOWN at the Burton-Taylor theatre she took part in several workshops led by Sir Alan Ayckbourn. GETTING ABBY SORTED is her first YA novel.

Age Range	12+
Status	Unedited Manuscript
Length	75,000 words
Agent	Jo Unwin

All rights available

THE COMPANY OF ANIMALS

Piers Torday

Kester Jones can talk to animals, but not to humans. It should be a gift, yet it only gets him into trouble.

Trouble like Spectrum Hall, where your only friends are pigeons and cockroaches.

But that was before his father disappeared on an expedition in the Congo, and he escaped to go after him.

In an overheated, overcrowded world, a mute teenage boy finds himself at the centre of a power struggle between animals and humans for control of a dying planet.

He doesn't know it yet, but he might just be the one hope we have. A hope that his uncle, a fanatical government scientist, is determined to stop at any cost...

Piers Torday was born in Northumberland. He is a TV producer working and living in London. This is his first book. His father, Paul, is author of *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*.

Age Range	12+
Status	Unedited Manuscript
Agent	Jo Unwin

All rights available

BLOOD HUNTERS

Steve Voake

Praise for bestseller **THE DREAMWALKER'S CHILD**

Excellent writing and a moving ending

– Independent

An ingenious and fast-paced thriller... [Voake's] book buzzes and hums with ideas

– The Times

A brisk, adventure filled quest

– Observer

From the best-selling author of **THE DREAMWALKER'S CHILD** comes **BLOOD HUNTERS...**

When Joe McDonald's father is arrested for murder, Joe enlists the help of his friend Giles to try and prove his innocence. But when more people are attacked in mysterious circumstances, Joe begins to realize that the dark shapes he has seen are more than just his imagination. Suddenly the search for justice becomes a desperate fight for survival...

Steve Voake was formerly headmaster of a Primary School in the West of England. Following the huge success of his first novel, **THE DREAMWALKER'S CHILD**, he chose to work full-time as a writer, and has since published two more novels with Faber & Faber, **THE WEB OF FIRE** and **THE STARLIGHT CONSPIRACY**. He is also author of the very successful Daisy Dawson series, published by Walker Books. Steve currently lives near Bath with his wife and two children, and is a Senior Lecturer in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University.

UK Publisher	Faber & Faber
UK Publication	April 2009
Age Range	12+
Status	Finished copies
Length	45,000 words
Agent	Clare Conville

All rights available excluding UK & Commonwealth

OTHER CONVILLE & WALSH AUTHORS

Conville & Walsh is also proud to represent a distinguished list of children's authors in whose work world rights have been sold.

Please find further details in the following pages.

John Burningham **Author and Illustrator**

John Burningham is one of the UK's most distinguished illustrators, with an appeal that is recognized the world over. John went to the Central School of Art in London in 1956, graduating in 1959 with a National Diploma in Design, as well as the School's own Diploma. Unsure of his future, he moved to Israel where he worked on models and puppets for a film company until his return to England in the autumn of 1960, when his life as an illustrator began. He created posters for London Transport, drew cartoons for magazines and made Christmas card designs until the publication of his first book in 1963. He is married to Helen Oxenbury, another popular children's illustrator.

Prizes and Awards

1963 Kate Greenway Medal: *Borka: The Adventures of a Goose With No Feathers*

1970 Kate Greenway Medal: *Mr Gumpy's Outing*

1984 Kurt Maschler Award: *Granpa*

2000 Nestlé Smarties Book Prize (Bronze Award: 0-5 years category): *Husherbye*

Select Bibliography

BORKA: The Adventures of a Goose With No Feathers (Cape), MR GUMPY'S OUTING (Cape), COME AWAY FROM THE WATER SHIRLEY (Cape), WOULD YOU RATHER (Cape), THE SHOPPING BASKET (Cape), AVOVADO BABY (Cape), GRANPA (Cape), WHERE'S JULIUS (Cape), CLOUDLAND (Cape), HUSHERBYE (Cape), WHEN WE WERE YOUNG: A Compendium of Childhood (Bloomsbury), IT'S A SECRET (Cape)

Tess Berry-Hart **Author**

Tess Berry Hart is 32 and writer-in-residence at the Blue Elephant Theatre, London. She is also director of the Long Shot Screenwriting Company, was the British representative at the Festival of Young European Playwrights 'Interplay Europe' event in Warsaw in September 2000, and was a student in the prestigious Royal Court Young Writers' Programme. Her first novel, ESCAPE FROM GENOPOLIS was published by Scholastic in 2007.

Bibliography

ESCAPE FROM GENOPOLIS (Scholastic), RETURN TO GENOPOLIS (Scholastic)

Kate Cann

Author

Kate writes books for teenagers, and believes that this age group needs a particular literature that caters for them alone. Kate studied English and American Literature at Kent University, and went on to work as a copy editor and writer. She decided to work as a freelance editor whilst looking after her two children, who are now teenagers themselves

Prizes and Awards

2007 Southern Schools Book Award: *Leaving Poppy*

2008 Angus Book Award: *Leaving Poppy*

Select Bibliography

FOOTLOOSE, FIESTA, ESCAPE (Scholastic), MOVING OUT, MOVING IN, MOVING ON (Scholastic), DIVING IN, IN THE DEEP END, SINK OR SWIM (Scholastic), LEAVING POPPY (Scholastic)

Timothy Knapman

Author

Timothy Knapman studied history at Oxford. Since then he has spent his time writing plays, opera libretti, song lyrics and children's books. Tim's books have been translated into ten languages and are frequently read on CBeebies Bedtime Stories. New stories are forthcoming from Macmillan, Puffin, Random House, Scholastic and OUP. Tim participates in many school and bookshop readings. His hobbies include swashbuckling.

Bibliography

MUNGO AND THE PICTURE BOOK PIRATES (Puffin) MUNGO AND THE SPIDERS FROM SPACE (Puffin), MUNGO AND THE DINOSAUR ISLAND (Puffin), GUESS WHAT I FOUND IN DRAGON WOOD (Puffin), THE MERMAID THE PRINCE AND THE HAPPY EVER AFTER (Puffin), WOW 366: Speedy Stories in Just 366 Words in which you'll find Tim's VERY SHORT story, The Naughtiest Alien (Puffin)

Jill Lewis

Author

Jill Lewis taught reluctant readers for many years, holding coordinator positions in English, Drama and Special Needs in schools and writing material for use in the classroom. Dorling Kindersley commissioned her to write a boxed set of four books for their *Read Along, Read Aloud, Read Alone* series. She was Educational Advisor for Collins Educational and Inky Press on spelling books as well as an anthology of poetry for use in schools. She wrote a

pilot TV programme based on her reading scheme for Yorkshire Television; Willy Rushton recorded four of Jill's moral poems for children, some of which DK asked to be developed further. She has also worked on two separate educational software projects. Her first picture book, MUM IN A MILLION, is to be released this year by Chrysalis and Koala Books. Work on a sequel is underway and there are many other stories for young children in production. Jill is married with teenage children.

Bibliography

COCONUT JACK (Egmont), DON'T READ THIS BOOK (Egmont), MUM IN A MILLION (Chrysalis Children's Books)

Astrid Lindgren

Author

Conville & Walsh is proud to represent the Estate of Astrid Lindgren in the UK and Commonwealth territories. Astrid was born in 1907. In the early 1940s, she created stories about the free-spirited, red-haired character of Pippi Longstocking to entertain her own daughter who was ill with pneumonia. PIPPI LONGSTOCKING was published in Sweden in 1945 and was an instant success with children. Astrid Lindgren once commented about her work: 'I write to amuse the child within me, and can only hope that other children may have some fun that way, too.' Astrid went on to spend a lifetime writing for children: in addition to Pippi's further adventures, there are stories featuring the much-loved characters Lotta, Emil and Karlson on the Roof. Her books have sold over 145 million copies worldwide in some 91 languages. During her lifetime, Astrid Lindgren was awarded dozens of Swedish and international prizes, among them the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Medal in 1958. She died in 2002.

Selected Prizes and Awards

1945 Rabén & Sjögren Prize

1956 Deutscher Jugendbuchpreis

1958 Hans Christian Andersen Medal

1965 Swedish State Award for Literature

1971 The Swedish Academy's Gold Medal

1987 Leo Tolstoy International Gold Medal

1993 International Book Award (From the UNESCO International Book Committee)

Select Bibliography

PIPPI LONGSTOCKING (OUP), PIPPI GOES ABOARD (OUP), PIPPI IN THE SOUTH SEAS (OUP), LOTTA SAYS NO (OUP), LOTTA MAKES A MESS (OUP), KARLSSON ON THE ROOF (OUP), EMIL AND THE GREAT ESCAPE (OUP), EMIL'S CLEVER PIG (OUP)

PJ Lynch

Illustrator

P.J. Lynch was born in Belfast in 1962, the youngest of five children. He studied art at Brighton Art College (where one of his tutors was Raymond Biggs) and is now a well-established and critically acclaimed artist. THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OF JONATHAN TOOMEY has sold more than a million copies in the United States alone, and has recently been made into a motion picture starring Tom Berenger and Joely Richardson. In recent years PJ has been commissioned to design posters for Opera Ireland and the Abbey Theatre. He has also designed several sets of stamps for An Post (the Irish Postal service), including four Christmas issues. P. J. Lynch lives in Dublin with his wife and their three young children.

Prizes and Awards:

1987 Mother Goose Award: *A Bag of Moonshine* by Alan Garner

1995 Kate Greenway Medal: *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski

1996 Christopher Award: *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski

1997 Kate Greenway Medal: *When Jessie Came Across the Sea* by Amy Hest

Select Bibliography

THE STEADFAST TIN SOLDIER by Hans Christian Andersen (Andersen Press), THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OF JONATHAN TOOMEY by Susan Wojciechowski (Walker Books), OSCAR WILDE: Stories for Children (Hodder Children's Books), EAST O' THE SUN AND WEST O' THE MOON by Naomi Lewis (Walker Books), WHEN JESSIE CAME ACROSS THE SEA by Amy Hest (Walker Books), IGNIS by Gina Wilson (Walker Books), A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens (Walker Books), THE GIFT OF THE MAGI by O. Henry (Walker)

Bel Mooney

Author

Bel Mooney made her name as a national journalist, columnist and broadcaster, before writing fiction for adults and children. Her best-selling series of stories for young girls, including I DON'T WANT TO! and SO WHAT?, was inspired by her own daughter, Kitty. Her career as a radio and television interviewer began in 1982 with the programme *Mothers By Daughters* for Channel 4. She has also written two books for younger readers, and more story and activity books are commissioned for the future. For the adult market, she is the compiler of an anthology on marriage and has written five novels as well as short stories and scripts. She writes regularly for the Times. Bel Mooney holds an honorary D.Litt from Bath University and is a Fellow of University College London and Liverpool John Moores University.

Select Bibliography

KITTY AND FRIENDS Series (Egmont), BONNIE BOOKS Series (Walker Books), THE MOUSE WITH MANY ROOMS (Heinemann Young Books), THE GREEN MAN (Barefoot Books), THE STOVE HAUNTING (Puffin Books), FLOWER OF JET (Penguin Putnam), THE VOICES OF SILENCE (Mammoth), JOINING THE RAINBOW (Mammoth), LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER (Ed.) (Kingfisher Books)

Joshua Mowl

Author and Illustrator

Joshua Mowl studied at art school before working as a graphic artist in newspapers. He has worked for the Mail on Sunday since 1994, illustrating everything from maps, diagrams and space flights to medical procedures and aircraft crashes. Joshua didn't think about writing until he inherited the Honourable Guild of Specialists archive from his great-aunt. He lives in London.

Bibliography

OPERATION RED JERICHO (Walker Books), OPERATION TYPHOON SHORE (Walker Books), OPERATION STORM CITY (Walker Books)

Niamh Sharkey

Author and Illustrator

Niamh is a best-selling author and illustrator/creator of I'M A HAPPY HUGGLEWUG, THE RAVENOUS BEAST and SANTASAUROS. Her books have won many awards, including the Mother Goose Award and The Bisto Book of the Year Award, and have been translated into 20 Languages.

Prizes and Awards

1999 Mother Goose Award: *The Gigantic Turnip* by Aleksei Tolstoy

1999 Bisto Book Award: *Tales of Wisdom and Wonder*

Select Bibliography

TALES FROM OLD IRELAND by Malachy Doyle (Barefoot Books), TALES OF WISDOM AND WONDER by Hugh Lupton (Barefoot Books), THE GIGANTIC TURNIP by Aleksei Tolstoy (Barefoot Books), THE RAVENOUS BEAST (Walker Books), SANTASAUROS (Walker Books), CINDERELLA by Max Eilenberg (Walker Books), I'M A HAPPY HUGGLEWUG (Walker Books)

Nicky Singer

Author

Nicky has written four novels for adults, five for young people and two books of non-fiction. FEATHER BOY won the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award and has been adapted both for television (winning a BAFTA for Best Children's Drama) and as a musical (with lyrics by Don Black and music by Debbie Wiseman) for the National Theatre Shell Connections series; DOLL, shortlisted for BookTrust Teenage Prize; and THE INNOCENT'S STORY, winner of the of the Erskine Stewart's Melville Book Award. Nicky co-founded, and for ten years co-directed, Performing Arts Labs – a charity dedicated to training writers for screen, theatre and opera. She has worked in television, notably as the on-screen presenter of BBC2's six-film documentary series, *Labours of Eve*, and she also wrote the foreword to the book which accompanied the series. Nicky lives in Brighton with her husband and their three children.

Prizes and Awards

2002 Blue Peter Book Award: *Feather Boy*

2003 Booktrust Teenage Prize Shortlist: *Doll*

Select Bibliography

THE INNOCENT'S STORY (OUP), DOLL (Collins) FEATHER BOY (Collins), GEM X (Holiday House)