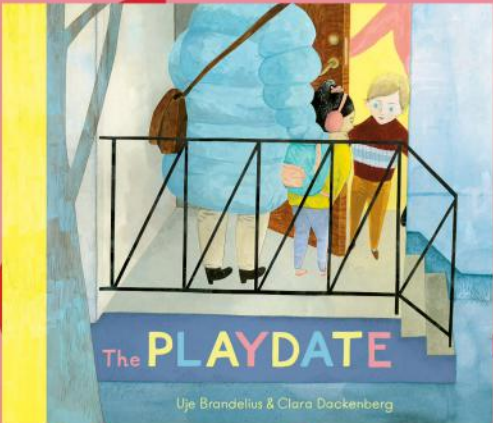
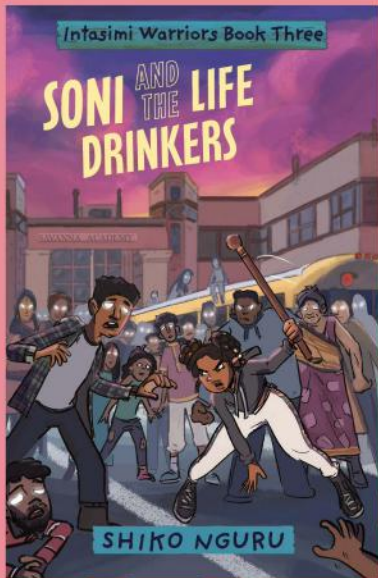
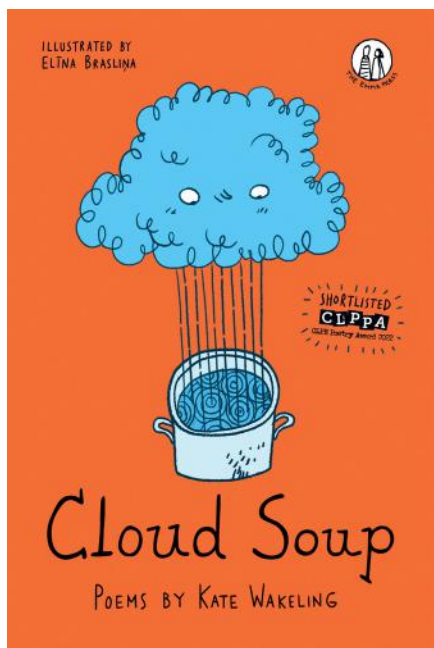


2025 Children & YA Small Press Highlights





Cloud Soup: Poems

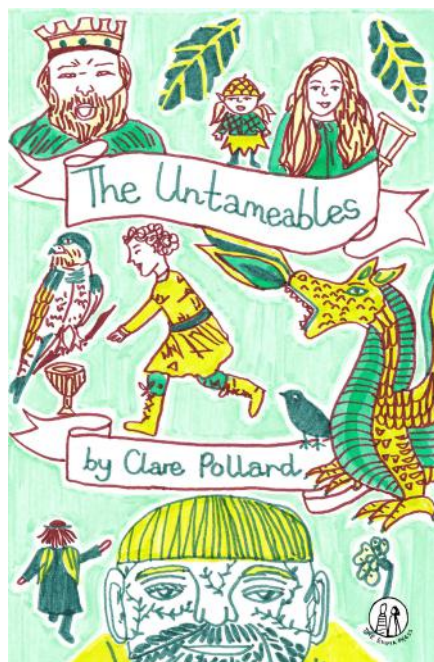
Kate Wakeling, illustrated by Elina Brasliņa

Shortlisted for the 2022 CLIPPA

Bake a weird cake, pay a visit to the Deep, and get some inspiration for your very own word hoard! Anything is possible in the world of *Cloud Soup*, **Kate Wakeling's** breathlessly imaginative collection of poems for children.

Quieter poems sit alongside riotously funny ones in this sequel to *Moon Juice*. Readers are encouraged to look more closely at clouds, water, dust and trees, and to reflect on the knottier areas of life.

The Emma Press | 9781912915743 | £8.99
| 15/07/2021 | BC | 112pp | YDP



The Untameables

Clare Pollard, illustrated by Reena Makwana

Arthurian legends re-examined turned on their head.

Under the bloody rule of King Arthur – as the cruel knights of the round table wage wars and hunt magical creatures – the ordinary people of Camelot are getting sick. Something is poisoning the land. No one in Arthur's court seems to care, but a spark of hope remains... The Holy Grail could save them all, and two children embark on a quest to find it. Shy, gentle Roan, a young dog keeper who works for the knights, is desperate to find a cure for his mum. He befriends Elva, a generous and outspoken kitchenhand.. Together, can they beat the knights to find it?

The Emma Press | 9781915628268 | £9.99
| 21/03/2024 | BC | 160pp | YFC

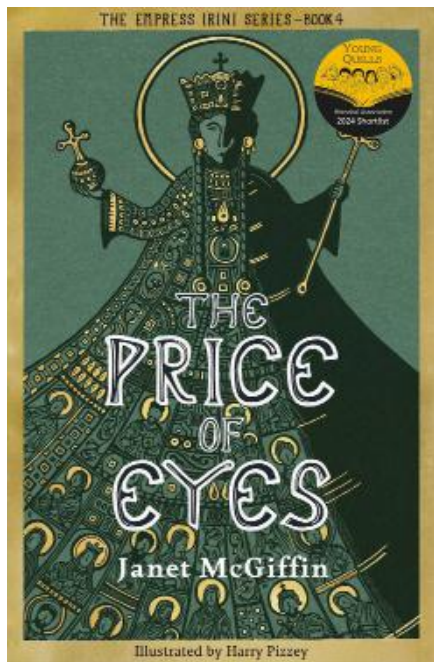
The Language of Flowers

Written by
Shyala Smith

Illustrated by
Aaron Asis

A whimsical illustration of a night scene where animals are celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival. A boy sits on a tree branch holding a lantern, surrounded by cats, dogs, and rabbits under a crescent moon.

**Lantana Publishing | 9781915244994 |
£7.99 | 05/03/2024 | BC | 40pp | YBCS**



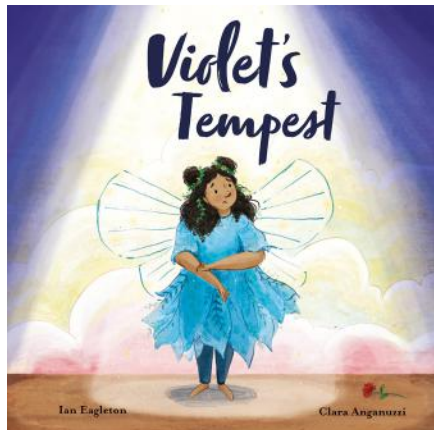
The Price of Eyes

Janet McGiffin

Janet McGiffin beguiles in the final installment of her feminist fantasy adventure.

The Empress Irini Series is a coming of age, four-part YA series with a Gothic edge, set in the Roman Empire of the East - brimming with fear, intrigue and violence. In this series, **Janet McGiffin** presents us with the fantastical worlds of Medieval Christianity and Greek Mythology: Fates, curses, miracles and the ghosts of bygone patriarchs. Our central character, Thekla, a seventeen year old on the run in Constantinople, must rely solely upon her own courage and quick wits to survive this vigorous, glittering capital of the East.

Scotland Street Press | 9781910895825 | £9.99 | 14/02/2025 | BC | 320pp | YFT



Violet's Tempest

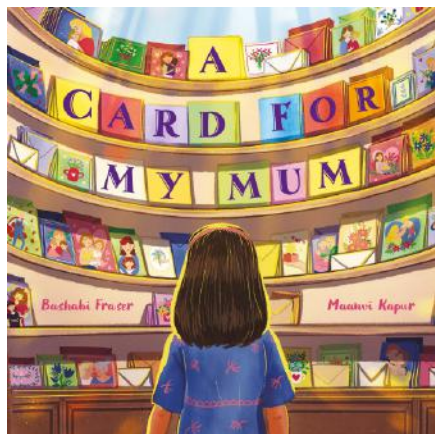
Ian Eagleton, illustrated by Clara Anganuzzi

A moving story that will resonate with anyone who has ever felt their voice silenced by stage fright

Violet's world has changed. Her voice has gone from a giggle to a whisper. So when her teacher casts her in the school play, she is filled with worry. How will she ever stand in front of a crowd and overcome her shyness? With the love and support of her family, Violet must find her inner confidence and turn that whisper into a roar!



Lantana Publishing | 9781836290247 | £7.99 | 04/03/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC



A Card for My Mum

Bashabi Fraser, illustrated by Maanvi Kapur

The perfect book that celebrates what makes one's mother unique

It is Mother's Day tomorrow and the shops are sparkling with lights and gifts, with people, laughter and excitement – looking for the perfect gift to bring a smile of joy to mums at home.

Among the candles and balloons, the orchids and chocolate hearts, one young girl searches for a card that features a mum who looks like hers.

A lively, inclusive picture book about identity and belonging that joyfully celebrates mums and motherhood.



Lantana Publishing | 9781836290087 |
£7.99 | 06/03/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC



Watch Me Bloom

Krina Patel-Sage

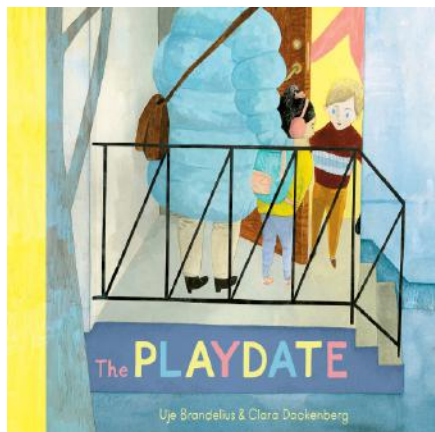
Mindful haiku poems to help us rediscover our natural surroundings without travelling far from home.

Some flowers are the subject of nursery rhymes and childhood games while others help us celebrate love, remember our homelands or mark the passing seasons. These mindful haiku poems invite us to explore twenty-four flower species growing close to home, from wildflower meadows to urban window boxes.

The nature-themed follow up to *My Mindful A to Zen*, this gorgeous collection of poems teaches us that treating ourselves and our planet mindfully can also be a treat for the senses.



Lantana Publishing | 9781836290254 |
£7.99 | 01/04/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC



The Playdate

Uje Brandelius, illustrated by Clara Dackenberg, translated by Nichola Smalley

A powerful story about friendship across socio-economic divides

For one little girl, the prospect of a playdate at her friend Henry's house fills her with excitement. But while the text tells one story, the illustrations slowly reveal another. As the kids tear around the house enjoying each other's company, their mums experience the playdate very differently. Soon we find that the little girl and her friend Henry live lives that are poles apart.

A powerful story about friendship across economic divides that encourages readers to question why we live in a society where those who have and those who have not live very different lives.



Lantana Publishing | 9781836290179 | £7.99 | 03/04/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC

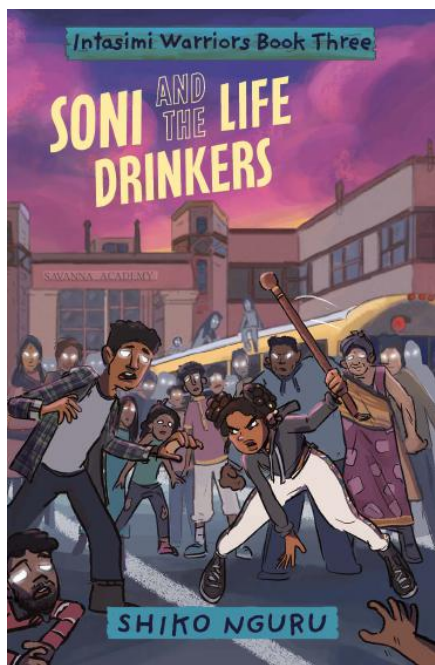
Soni and the Life Drinkers

Shiko Nguru

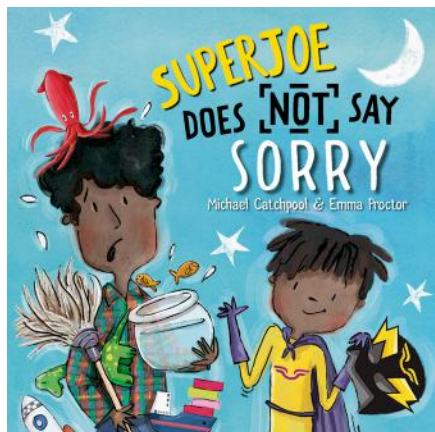
Third instalment in award-nominated Kenyan fantasy series.

The Intasimi Warriors are about to embark on their third and most challenging adventure to date – saving their beloved mentor from dying at the hands of the Life Drinkers. And when Soni discovers that her mum has a twin sister with a dark secret, she might just have found the key to discovering the Life Drinkers' identity.

A heart-stopping, thrill-a-minute journey into the heart of an alternative Kenya where monsters roam the streets and one brave 12-year-old, with the help of her closest friends, will learn a lesson in self-sacrifice that she will never forget.



Lantana Publishing | 9781836290285 | £8.99 | 01/05/2025 | BC | 200pp | YFH



SuperJoe Does NOT Say Sorry

Michael Catchpool, illustrated by Emma Proctor

A caped crusader learns that he's never too busy to say sorry . . .

SuperJoe – superhero in the making – is far too busy to say sorry. He tears around the house sending invading space aliens back into orbit, rescuing passengers from sinking ships, and bravely facing prehistoric perils, while leaving a trail of broken toys, spilled bath water and displaced goldfish in his wake. But one sound keeps interfering with his supersonic hearing . . . and that's the sound of his little sister crying. Can SuperJoe swallow his pride and say the one little word that will make everything better?

**Lantana Publishing | 9781836290223 |
£7.99 | 06/05/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBCS**

Women: The Heartbeat of Sport

Manisha Tailor, MBE

**A celebration of South Asian women
in sports for young readers.**

This is the second book from the author of *Dream Like Me: South Asian Football Trailblazers*. Unlike the first, this book not only deals with football but all sports, including, water polo, figure skating and cricket. The book focus on South Asian women of diverse culture and faiths. 16 personalities have added their signature to their stories. Through a collection of short stories the book aims to sharpen the critical thinking skills of young people to foster a growth mindset. Each individual story is accompanied by a workbook with targeted questions to stimulate comprehension and retention in the young reader.

HopeRoad | 9781913109516 | £10.99 |
24/07/2025 | BC | 172pp | YNWA



The Great Henna Party

Humera Malik, illustrated by Sonali Zohra
A celebration of the age-old South Asian tradition of painting with henna.

Noor's cousin is getting married tomorrow, and tonight, her family is throwing her a henna party. Noor is especially excited to play the henna name game. The henna artist will hide the name of the person Noor loves the most in the pattern she paints on Noor's hands. But whose name will Noor choose?

As Noor encounters each member of her family, she finds it harder and harder to make her choice. What should she do if she loves them all? A heart-warming story that traces the patterns of family love through the age-old South Asian tradition of painting with henna.

Lantana Publishing | 9781836290230 | £7.99 | 02/09/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC



Mama's Special Wonton Soup

Wai Mei Wong, illustrated by Xin Yue Zhu
A warm portrayal of village life in Southern China

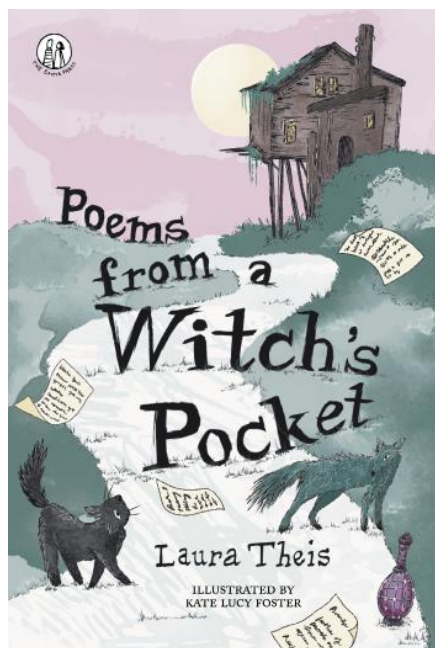
One day, in a village in Southern China, a young girl leaves her mama's house to buy ingredients for wonton soup. On the way to market, she meets a wonderful array of characters going about their daily lives.

As the girl greets each of them they gift her with something special for her mama's cooking pot. By the time the little girl reaches home, she has more food than her and her mama can possibly eat. What should the two of them do now?

A charming story of cooking, sharing and peaceful rural life that soothes the soul in today's fast-paced, high-tech world.

Lantana Publishing | 9781915244901 | £7.99 | 04/09/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC





Poems from a Witch's Pocket

Laura Theis, illustrated by Kate Lucy Foster

A witchy poetry book for older children.

A hard-working junior witch strides around a magical landscape, learning her craft. Her cloak is stuffed with scraps of paper – letters, notes and lists – some of which have tumbled out and been collected into this book.

Nature blends with magic and sometimes more everyday concerns in these soothing, playful, empowering poems. A to-do list for planning a pumpkin party. A blessing for a tiny tree. An identification spell for a bird curse.

**The Emma Press | 9781915628428 | £9.99
| 18/09/2025 | BC | 80pp | YDP**

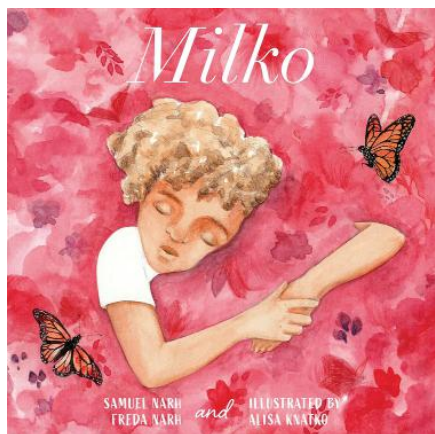
Milko

Samuel Narh, Freda Narh, illustrated by Alisa Knatko

For every child who's ever missed someone they love.

Milko misses his mother, who left Bolivia for Ethiopia a year ago. Without her, home feels off-kilter: his sister cries, Papa struggles with daily tasks, and Milko quietly counts the days. Through lyrical text and lush watercolour illustrations, this tender picture book captures the emotional landscape of longing, love, and resilience.

As Milko waits for Mama's return, readers are reminded of the strength found in hope, memory, and the bonds that hold families together - even across oceans and seasons.



**Chasing A Spider | 9781734789751 |
£9.99 | 02/10/2025 | BC | 40pp | YBC**

A Kite for Melia

Samuel Narh, Freda Narh, illustrated by
Valeria Suria

**A gentle, uplifting story about love,
loss and the power of holding on,
and letting go.**



There is beauty in determination and ingenuity. These attributes are evident in Melia, whose friendship and connection with Ginger transcends time.

A Kite for Melia delicately deals with the idea of loss and acceptance, using soft words woven with meaning that can be understood by everyone. Melia's story is a universal one that will bring joy to readers of all ages.

**Chasing A Spider | 9781734789744 |
£9.99 | 02/10/2025 | BC | 40pp | YBC**

Step Into My Shoes

Alkisti Halikia, illustrated by Fotini Tikkou,
translated by Konstantine Matsoukas

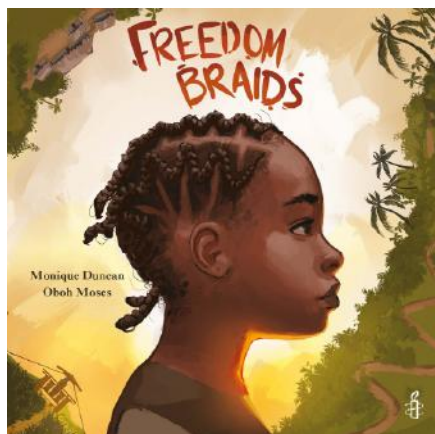
A delightful story about empathy.



On her walk home through a quiet Paris suburb, Matou tries on shoes left outside a mosque and begins imagining the lives of their owners. Why are some shoes pristine, others worn thin? With no answers, she creates her own. When her mother misses an afternoon together, Matou feels let down, until stepping into Mama's shoes helps her understand. This tender picture book explores empathy and imagination with warmth and curiosity, and invites readers to consider the stories behind everyday objects and the connections that help us understand one another.



**Lantana Publishing | 9781915244963 |
£7.99 | 07/10/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC**



Freedom Braids

Monique Duncan, illustrated by Oboh Moses

A picture book of love, liberation and legacy

Day after day, Nemy sows seeds, pulls weeds, and strips leaves in the sugarcane plantation where she is enslaved. But one night, she follows a woman called Big Mother to a hidden shack. There, she finds a group of women braiding each other's hair. But these are no ordinary braids. Hidden in each elaborate pattern is a secret – a message that signals their intent to flee and a map to guide them in their escape. Will the paths these courageous women weave bring Nemy to a new home where she can be free?

**Lantana Publishing | 9781836290377 |
£7.99 | 21/10/2025 | BC | 32pp | YBC**

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