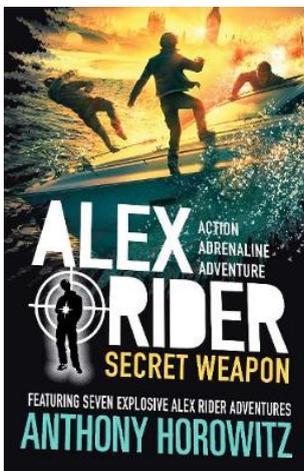


## The Cousins

**Author:** Karen M. McManus **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/12/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

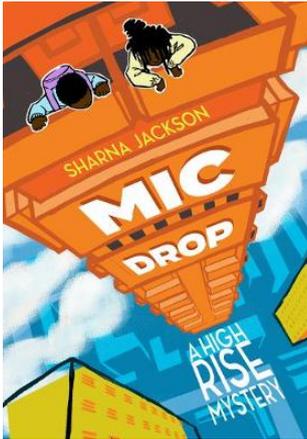
Fans of the blockbuster crime thrillers like *One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus would like no better Christmas treat than this, another novel full of fascinating characters and a plot full of family secrets, jaw-dropping twists and a touch of romance. Narrated in the first person by the three eponymous cousins and occasionally by their parents at the same age, we can see the secrets they are keeping as well as watching the Story story gradually unravel. The original quartet of Story siblings were brought up in the lap of luxury on a glamorous tiny resort island off the East Coast but, not long after the death of their father, they were disinherited by a terse note from their mother " You know what you did". Since then, no contact with her, nor each other, so even the Cousins know nothing of each other's very different lives. Until a mysterious invitation from their grandmother invites them to spend the summer working at the resort and they bond in their determination to find out what caused the rift. What follows is a thoroughly satisfying and skilful unveiling of what has made the Story family the stuff of local legend and what makes the Cousins tick and the unexpected twists surprise the characters as convincingly as the readers. Altogether this is sure to be a book that does not dwell neglected upon shelves but will be in constant demand.



## Secret Weapon

**Author:** Anthony Horowitz **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

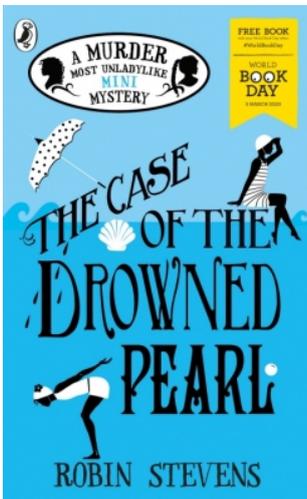
Blimey, but can Anthony Horowitz pack huge amounts of tension, excitement and humour into his short stories! He shows off a breath-taking ability to conjure adventure out of the most unlikely beginnings, and in his hands even a trip to the dentist turns into a full-on, peril-laden caper. There's everything in this collection that makes the Alex Rider novels so addictive: dangerous situations, daring escapes, gadgets galore. And of course, there's Alex himself - super-smart, super-resourceful, super-cool. Irresistible, unbeatable reading. LoveReading4Kids Loves Alex Rider! Find out more about Alex Rider in our Series of the Month feature.



## Mic Drop

**Author:** Sharna Jackson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/04/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

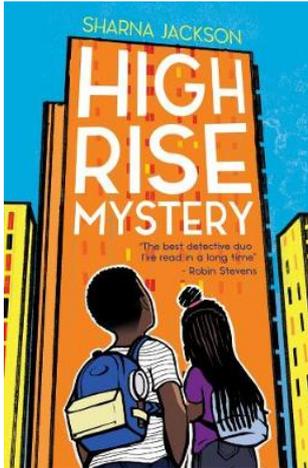
Detective siblings Nik and Norva are back with a blast in this second novel set around The Tri high-rise block. If the highly-acclaimed High-Rise Mystery was a devastatingly good debut (it was), this is a full-on firecracker of a follow-up. A classic kids detective series slickly rebooted for the twentieth-first-century - think Harriet the Spy with a smartphone and added spark. Rising global music star Trojkat is back in her old 'hood to make a music video when she dies in The Tri while shooting a scene. Most people - including the police - assume Trojkat's death is a tragic accident, but sleuth-minded Nik and Norva suspect otherwise. With the help of their mate George, the determined duo set about piecing together a hotchpotch of clues to solve a case that has personal resonance. There are plenty of poignant moments along the way, such as when Nik expresses how it feels to lose a person you love: "It made you feel empty. Fragile. Like you could shatter into a million pieces if someone gently blew in your direction". Overall, this is a super-charged detective story that fizzes with a whole lot of quick-witted, ping-ponging exchanges between Nik and Norva, with a sensational revelatory showdown to round things off.



## The Case of the Drowned Pearl: A Murder Most Unladylike Mini-Mystery

**Author:** Robin Stevens **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

A thrilling mini Murder Most Unladylike mystery, specially written and published for World Book Day 2020. Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are best friends, schoolgirls - and detectives. And wherever they go, mysteries will find them... While on a seaside holiday with their friends George and Alexander, the Detective Society discover the body of famous swimmer Antonia Braithwaite - nicknamed The Pearl - on the beach. Everyone presumes that she drowned accidentally - but how could such a famous swimmer have struggled to swim? Even more mysteriously, three guests at the girls' hotel all wanted Antonia dead... Can the Detective Society solve this mystery? Or will they sink under the pressure?

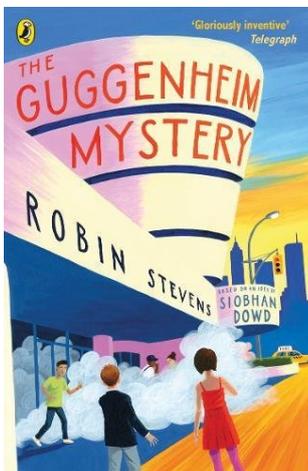


## High-Rise Mystery

**Author:** Sharna Jackson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/04/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Winner of the Younger Readers' category of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020 | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Longlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2020**

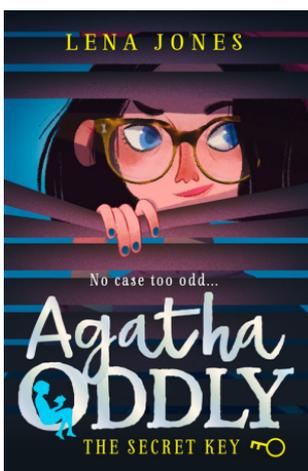
Sisters Nik and Norva would agree that they are slightly obsessed with murder mystery series on the television so, when a body is discovered in their block of flats, they are sure they are the right people to discover the truth. Balancing jokey dialogue and insights into the reality of city life, Sharna Jackson has written a very likeable, fast-paced book. Books in the High-Rise Mystery Series: 1. High-Rise Mystery 2. Mic Drop



## The Guggenheim Mystery

**Author:** Robin Stevens, Siobhan Dowd **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

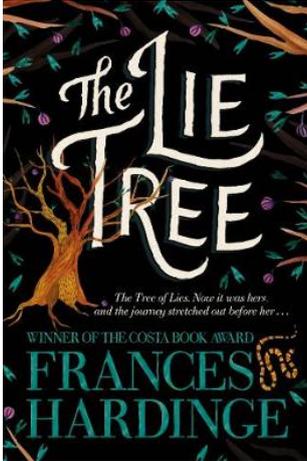
A sequel to The London Eye Mystery, The Guggenheim Mystery is the story of Ted Sparks (he's 12 years and 281 days old, with seven friends) and the most unusual theft of a painting. Ted is a boy who sees the world very differently to the rest of his family - his brain works on a different operating system to everyone else's, and that makes him an excellent detective. He's very kind, and very thoughtful, and a brilliant hero. A great read.



## The Secret Key

**Author:** Lena Jones **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/06/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

The resurgence in crime stories for young readers, led so stylishly by Lauren Child (Ruby Redfort), Lauren St John (Kat Wolfe Investigates) and Robin Stevens (Murder Most Unladylike) continues and readers will find their interest piqued and their brain cells given a good workout by this new detective series. Agatha (after Christie) Oddly has a nose for mystery. Just as well - a hit and run in Hyde Park where she lives with her park keeper dad, leads her into some very strange and really rather dangerous goings on, involving an attempt to destroy the city of London and a very secret, secret society. Added treats for readers include Agatha's quirky best friend Liam and her rivalry with a bunch of snobby girls at her posh school (she's on a scholarship).

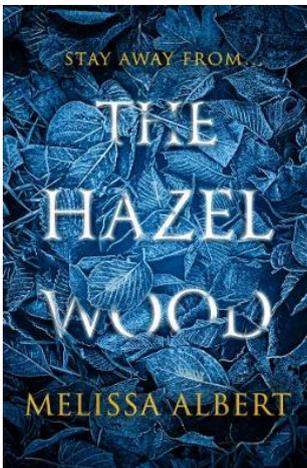


## The Lie Tree

**Author:** Frances Hardinge **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/03/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Award-winning Frances Hardinge is spellbinding in this hugely entertaining and dramatic Victorian thriller. When Faith's father dies suddenly she knows she must try to find out exactly what he was hiding in the local caves she had recently visited with him. Discovering the extraordinary Lie Tree which thrives off hearing lies and, in turn, reveals secrets long kept hidden Faith begins to uncover a web of secrets and mysteries that will change her view of the world forever. Faith is a feisty heroine whose courage combined with a determination that girls can be brave and resolute leads to the exposure of much dishonesty and many deceptions. ~ Julia Eccleshare. WINNER of the 2015 COSTA BOOK OF THE YEAR and Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016. Winner of the UKLA 2016 Book Award in the 12 - 16 year old category. The Lie Tree is only the second children's book to take the overall Costa Book of the Year prize, and the first since Philip Pullman won with *The Amber Spyglass* in 2001. James Heneage, chair of the final judges, said: "Part horror, part detective, part historical, this is a fantastic story with great central characters and narrative tension. It's not only a fabulous children's book but a book that readers of all ages will love."

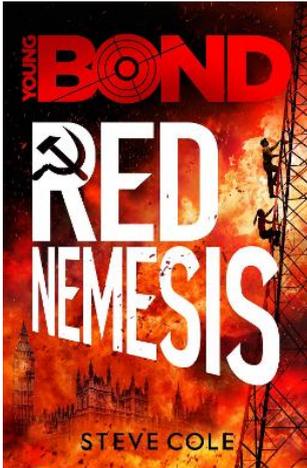
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## The Hazel Wood

**Author:** Melissa Albert **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/02/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

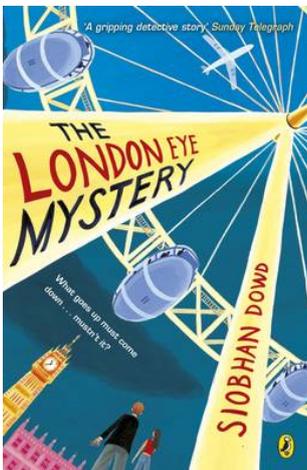
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## Red Nemesis

**Author:** Steve Cole **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2017  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

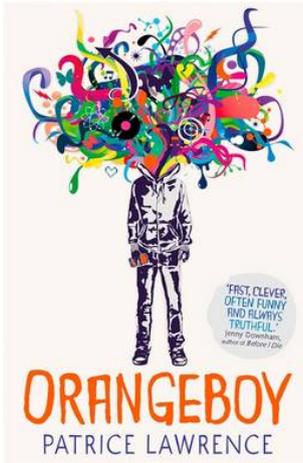
The discovery of a lost communication from his father sent just before his tragic death some years earlier, sends the young James Bond off on a dangerous, possibly deadly trip to Moscow and the heart of the old Soviet Union. Once again Steve Cole gives Bond fans (of any age) the action-packed adventure they love, along with the glamorous, sharply described settings that are so important to the books, and he adds more than a touch of sharp humour too. Once again, it works brilliantly. Cole understands exactly what makes Bond Bond, and he seems to have real sympathy for his character and his obsessive fascination with danger. Great stuff.



## The London Eye Mystery

**Author:** Siobhan Dowd **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

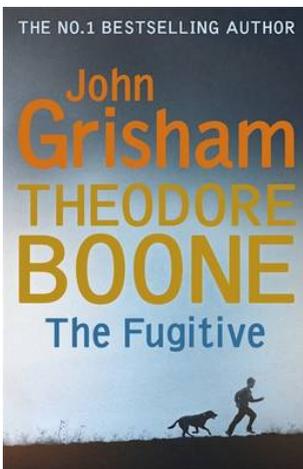
This was only Siobhan Dowd's second novel but it's clear her talent as a superb storyteller is beyond question. Sadly, however she died in late 2007 so whatever you do don't miss her four novels. Her first, A Swift Pure Cry, was shortlisted for nearly all the major awards and although this second novel is very different it has that same page-turner quality about it. It's a beautifully written mystery set in Manchester and London and featuring two young boys, one of whom disappears on the London Eye shortly before he's due to emigrate to the US with his mother. This edition features an Introduction from bestselling author Robin Stevens. Siobhan sadly only wrote 4 books in total before her tragic death from cancer in 2007. They were Solace of the Road, Bog Child, A Swift Pure Cry and The London Eye Mystery but her memory lives on in a Trust that has been set up in her name as well as through her writing. ~ Julia Eccleshare Shortlisted for the Nasen and TES 'Special Educational Needs Children's Book Award' 2007.



## Orangeboy

**Author:** Patrice Lawrence **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/06/2016 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

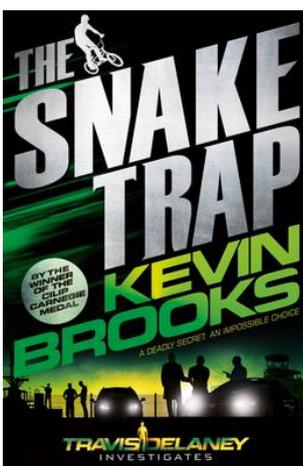
**Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award | Winner of the YA Book Prize 2017 | Winner of Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017, Older Fiction category | Shortlisted for Best Crime Novel for Young Adults, CrimeFest Gala Awards 2017 | Shortlisted for the Costa Book Awards, Children's Book category, 2016** A young man has an impossible choice to make, in this powerful coming of age urban thriller. The action is uncompromising and powerful, yet punctuated by moments of extraordinary tenderness and it will challenge preconceptions and melt the hardest heart.



## Theodore Boone: The Fugitive

**Author:** John Grisham **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/03/2016 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

He was supposed to be having fun with his friends, not playing detective and stalking a serial killer. Theodore Boone - teenage lawyer and courtroom hero - is on a class trip seeing the sights of the capital city. But he hadn't counted on seeing the most wanted man in the history of his home town, Strattenberg. Suddenly Theo is caught in the hunt for an accused murderer, alongside the FBI. Theo knows he's getting in deep - and things could become even more dangerous. Because if this case goes back to court, it will be down to him. Will justice finally be done...or will the killer's criminal allies be out for revenge?



## The Snake Trap Travis Delaney Investigates

**Author:** Kevin Brooks **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/07/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

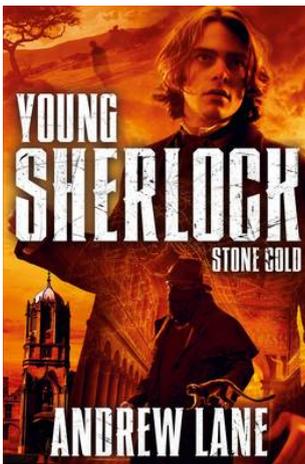
This is the third adventure for Kevin Brooks' teen private investigator and it starts with an almighty bang. Terrorists lob a grenade into the offices of Delaney & Co leaving one man dead. Then they kidnap Travis. The action continues at this pace throughout the book as Travis, still on the hunt for the people who killed his parents, finds himself in all sorts of life-or-death situations. Brooks' style - direct and urgent - is brilliantly suited to this sort of story and he's skilful enough too to allow time for reflection and nuance. An excellent thriller with an impressive and impressively convincing teen central character. ~ Andrea Reece



## The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow

**Author:** Katherine Woodfine **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

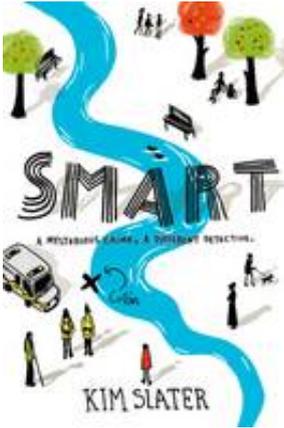
One of our Books of the Year 2015 - June 2015 Debut of the Month An Edwardian department store provides a glamorous setting for this sparkling girls' detective story, and there's something of the Little Princess about its central character Sophie Taylor too. Left penniless when her father dies she's pleased to find a job in the millinery department of Sinclair's. The other girls decide she's stuck-up but she makes friends with Billy a junior porter and beautiful Lil, who models clothes during the day and dances in the chorus at night. A daring burglary plunges them all into an exciting - and dangerous - adventure. Sophie is an appealing heroine, the mystery is cleverly plotted and leads to a thrilling climax, while the period details - clothes, hats, tea and cake - add to the charm. Splendid! ~ Andrea Reece



## Stone Cold

**Author:** Andrew Lane **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/02/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

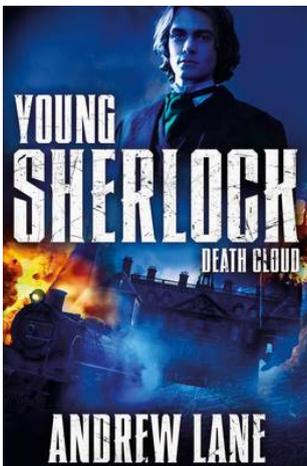
This is your chance to play a crime solving sleuth alongside one of the greatest fictional detectives of all time, because the clues are there, ready for you to unravel them. Even if you haven't come across Young Sherlock before, this works really well as a standalone novel despite it, technically, being the 7th in the series. Enter Oxford and a fascinating world of body part snatchers, houses that move position overnight and a particularly vicious weapon wielding monkey. If that tickles your taste buds then dive in, once you start reading you won't want to stop. Sherlock is at his best with an accomplice alongside and Matty is particularly adept at the more crooked side of life. The author allows you to work alongside the Young Sherlock, to observe as he learns his craft, to meet the intriguing people who shape his life. This is a hugely enjoyable cracker of a read. ~ Liz Robinson



## Smart A Mysterious Crime, a Different Detective

**Author:** Kim Slater **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/02/2015  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

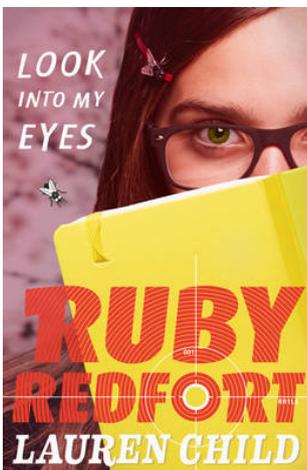
**Shortlisted for Children's Book Award 2016, Books for Older Readers category - Shortlisted for the Waterstone's Best Fiction for Teens Award 2015** Kieran watches the world carefully. He's good at noticing things that others don't which makes him an excellent detective. Born with learning difficulties and living with a violent stepfather, Kieran has a lot to contend with but his inner resilience gives him great strength as he sets out to solve some of the many mysterious that are intertwined around his life. An evocative and compelling debut for fans of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.



## Young Sherlock Holmes 1: Death Cloud

**Author:** Andrew Lane **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 19/06/2014  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

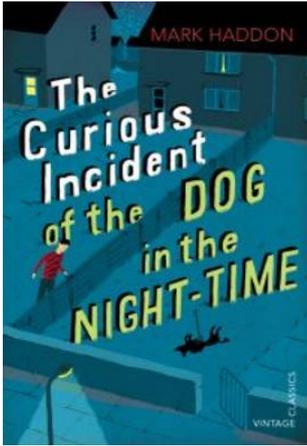
**June 2010 Mega Book of the Month** Two dead bodies. One unforgettable hero. The beginning of a legend. Followers of the young James Bond and junior spy Alex Rider will enjoy the adventures of school boy Sherlock Holmes who already shows many of the trademark skills that later make him a world renowned detective. Sent to live with chilly relatives in Holmes Manor for the school holiday, young Sherlock soon sets out to discover the truth behind two dead bodies. Following the trail leads him into the heart of London's Dockland underworld where his exceptional observation skills help to defuse a deadly plot in an exciting and atmospheric adventure.



## Look into My Eyes

**Author:** Lauren Child **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2012  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Best-selling Lauren Child's super sleuthing Ruby Redfort is a fast-talking, fast-thinking 13 year olds girl whose sharp eye for the unexpected leads her on some fantastic adventures - especially after she is recruited as a secret agency...The wise cracks flow fast as Ruby and her best friend and great side-kick Clancy, take up the challenges. Books in The Ruby Redfort Series: 1. Look into my Eyes 2. Take Your Last Breath 3. Catch Your Death 4. Feel the Fear 5. Pick Your Poison 6. Blink and You'll Die



## The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

**Author:** Mark Haddon **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2012  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Mark Haddon's best-selling story of how Christopher, a boy with Asperger's syndrome, sees the world and makes sense of it in his own particular way became a success for children and adults alike. When Christopher finds a dead dog on his neighbour's lawn he applies the principles he has learnt from Sherlock Holmes, his own literary hero, to the situation and so begins the narration of his own remarkable story. In particular, Christopher traces the mystery surrounding his mother's absence and his father's unexpected behaviour, drawing on the clues he can understand. Christopher's use of clues that help him rather than using the more familiar props of emotional recognition make this story a very special journey of discovery. This edition is part of the Vintage Children's Classics series which is aimed at and shaped by 8-12 year olds, and the adults in their lives. It is a broad, affordable selection of books that will inspire a life-long love of reading; these stories that have secured a place in the hearts of thousands. They are all unabridged. To view all the Vintage Children's Classics titles [click here](#). They are books to be given as gifts, and passed down the generations. In addition, story hungry children often don't want the adventure to end, so why not take a look at the fully interactive website - World of Stories - which contains lots of extra material - the backstory: with quizzes, activities and fascinating facts about the books and their authors.

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