

# booklist

## Spotlight titles November 2009

### Key Stage 1

#### ***Merry Christmas, Splat*** by Rob Scotton

The third hilarious story about Splat the Cat, the irresistible character from Rob Scotton, bestselling creator of Russell the Sheep. Splat the cat can't wait for Christmas and is SURE he's been good enough for Santa to bring him all the presents on his Christmas list. But just in case Santa needs reminding of what an exceptionally good cat he is, Splat makes himself EXTRA helpful around the house. It's tiring work being helpful, but when Splat goes to bed on Christmas Eve he's kept awake by a worrying thought... Just how good do you need to be for Santa to visit?

A charming Christmas story perfect for any eager child awaiting Santa's arrival.

**pub.** HarperCollins

**ISBN** 9780007326242

#### ***Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*** by Axel Scheffler

A stunning new edition of T.S. Eliot's beloved cat poems containing beautiful original colour illustrations by Axel Scheffler.

Cats! Some are sane, some are mad and some are good and some are bad. Meet magical Mr Mistoffelees, sleepy Old Deuteronomy and curious Rum Tum Tugger. But you'll be lucky to meet Macavity because Macavity's not there!

**pub.** Faber

**ISBN** 9780571240616

### Key Stage 2

#### ***The Magician's Elephant*** by Kate DiCamillo

What if? Why not? Could it be? When a fortune-teller's tent appears in the market square of the city of Baltese, orphan Peter Augustus Duchenne knows the questions that he must ask: Does his sister still live? And if so, how can he find her? The fortune-teller's mysterious answer (An elephant! An elephant will lead you there!) sets off a chain of events so remarkable, so impossible, that you will hardly dare to believe it is true. With atmospheric illustrations by fine artist Yoko Tanaka, here is a dreamlike and captivating tale that could only be told by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo. In this timeless fable, she evokes the largest of themes – hope and belonging, desire and compassion – with the lightness of a magician's touch.

**pub.** Walker

**ISBN** 9781406324471

#### ***Dear Hound*** by Jill Murphy

Alfie the deerhound is a large grey puppy. He loves his boy Charlie, and cheese and he's very good at digging holes. But poor Alfie has got lost and he's scared – of thunderstorms and being hungry and never seeing Charlie again . . .

Meanwhile, Charlie doesn't know what to do – but one thing is for sure: he'll

never stop looking for his dear hound. Can Alfie ever find his way back to Charlie – and his great big squashy beanbag in the kitchen?

**pub.** Puffin

**ISBN** 9780141383989

### Key Stage 3

#### ***Hush, Hush*** by Becca Fitzpatrick

A sacred oath, a fallen angel, a forbidden love...

This darkly romantic story features our heroine, Nora Grey, a seemingly normal teenage girl with her own shadowy connection to the Nephilim, and super-alluring bad boy, Patch, now her deskmate in biology class. Together they find themselves at the centre of a centuries-old feud between a fallen angel and a Nephilim...

Forced to sit next to Patch in science class, Nora attempts to resist his flirting, though gradually falls for him against her better judgment. Meanwhile creepy things are going on with a mysterious stalker following her car, breaking into her house and attacking her best friend, Vi. Nora suspects Patch, but there are other suspects too - not least a new boy who has transferred from a different college after being wrongly accused of murdering his girlfriend. And he seems to have taken a shine to Nora...

Love certainly is dangerous... and someone is going to have to make the ultimate sacrifice for it.

**pub.** Simon and Schuster

**ISBN** 9781847386946

#### ***Two Good Thieves*** by Daniel Finn

There are three things you need to be a good thief. You need to be faster than the speed of light. You need to be invisible. And, most of all, you need to be lucky. Baz and Demi have always been lucky.

In the searing heat of an unnamed South American city, a gang of child-thieves runs wild. Demi has the gift of speed – he can pick a pocket and be gone before his victim has even noticed he was there. Baz is his lookout – no one sees her unless she wants them to. It's like a game: dodging the law, keeping one step ahead, being the fastest, the cleverest, the best. But one day, almost by accident, they steal a dazzling, beautiful, priceless jewel - and make a very dangerous enemy. Suddenly they're sucked into a world where children's lives are worthless, where the rich and powerful are just adults who steal on a much grander scale, and where secrets are traded like gold. Their only hope is to make a brave bid for freedom - to head upcountry, away from the unrelenting heat, the dried-up river, the only home they've ever known. When good and bad are meaningless, two child thieves become the beating moral heart of an unputdownable thriller.

**pub.** Macmillan

**ISBN** 9780230737761