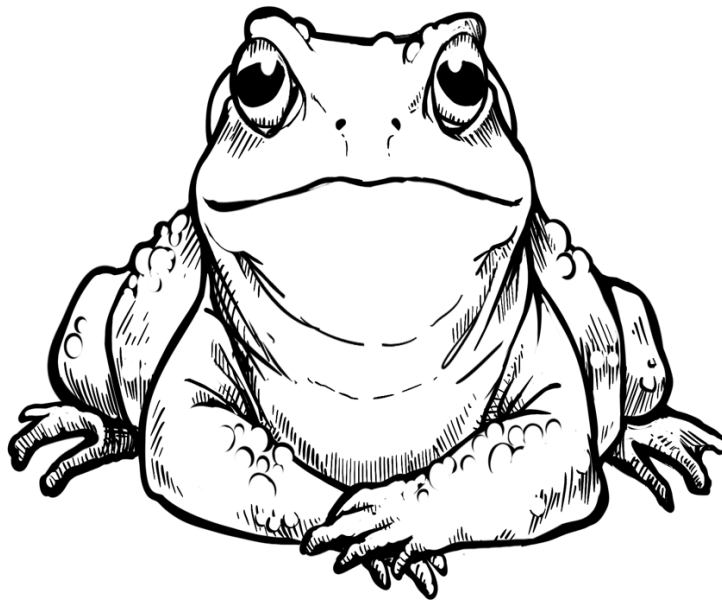
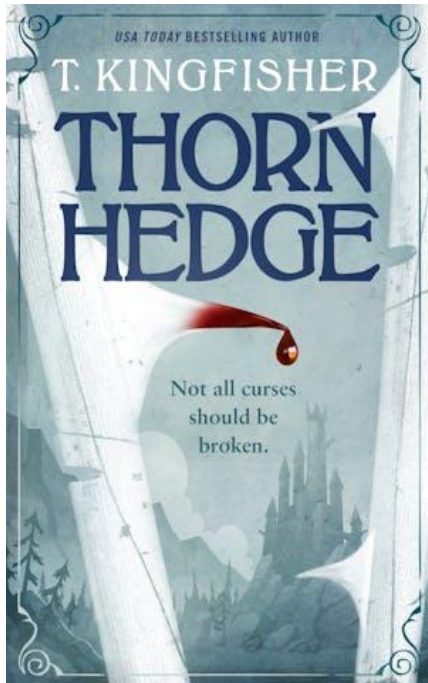


**Cornerstone Literary Agency**  
**Middle Grade / Young Adult Rights Guide**  
**Bologna 2023**



**Illustration by Ursula Vernon**



## Thornhedge by T. Kingfisher

Page Count: 128 (novella)

Genre: Fantasy

Publisher: Tor /Macmillan

On Sale: 15 August 2023

Young Adult/Adult crossover

**From *USA Today* bestselling author T. Kingfisher, *Thornhedge* is an original, subversive fairytale about a kind-hearted, toad-shaped heroine, a gentle knight, and a mission gone completely sideways.**

**There's a princess trapped in a tower. This *isn't* her story.**

Meet Toadling. On the day of her birth, she was stolen from her family by the fairies, but she grew up safe and loved in the warm waters of faerieland. Once an adult though, the fae ask a favor of Toadling: return to the human world and offer a blessing of protection to a newborn child. Simple, right?

If only.

Centuries later, a knight approaches a towering wall of brambles, where the thorns are as

thick as your arm and as sharp as swords. He's heard there's a curse here that needs breaking, but it's a curse Toadling will do anything to uphold...

"I opened, I devoured. Absolutely delightful and full of charm and truth." —Naomi Novik, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Deadly Education*

"Immensely charming, unexpected, full of heart, I was utterly delighted by this incredibly original retelling of Sleeping Beauty." —Katherine Arden, bestselling author of *The Bear and the Nightingale*

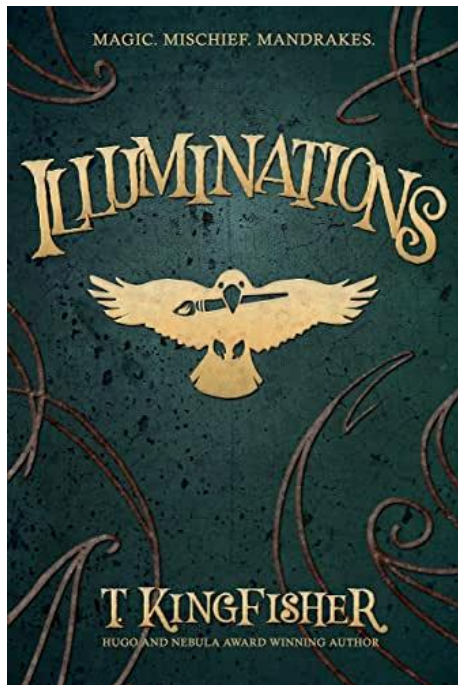
"Kingfisher never fails to dazzle."—Peter S. Beagle, Hugo-, Nebula-, and Locus-Award winning author of *The Last Unicorn*

"The way *Thornhedge* turns all the fairy tales inside out is a sharp-edged delight." —Katherine Addison, author of *The Goblin Emperor*

"At every turn, Kingfisher subverts familiar fairytale tropes into a fresh, complex, and extremely human story about loneliness, and the protective barriers we put around ourselves." —Sunyi Dean, author of *The Book Eaters*

"Kingfisher weaves elements of fairy tale, folklore, and history in this beautifully crafted story of loss, endurance, terror, and kindness. *Thornhedge* is sheer magic from beginning to end!" —Juliet Marillier, author of the Blackthorn & Grim and Warrior Bards series

"Haunting and unusual—a unique retelling of a classic tale!" —Tamora Pierce, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Tortall series



## Illuminations by T. Kingfisher

Page Count: 227

Genre: Fantasy

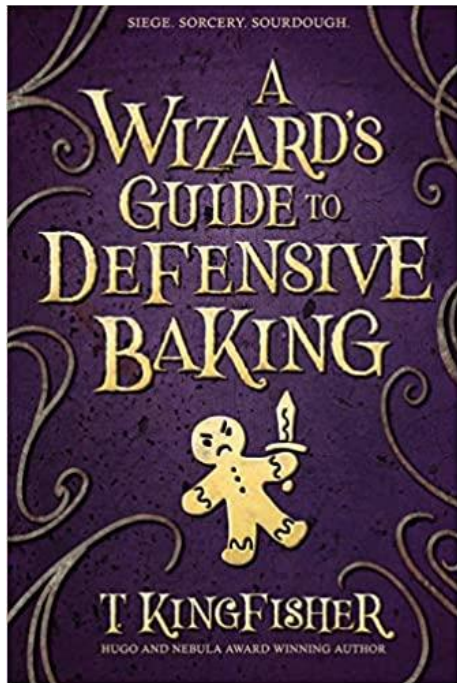
Publisher: Argyll Productions

Publication date: 25 November 2022

Middle Grade

Rosa Mandolini knows in her heart that her family are the greatest painters of magical illuminations in the city. But the eccentric Studio Mandolini has fallen on hard times and the future is no longer certain. While trying to help her family, Rosa discovers a strange magical box protected by a painted crow. But when she finds a way to open the box, she accidentally releases the Scarling, a vicious monster determined to destroy the Mandolini family at any cost.

With the aid of her former best friend and a painted crow named Payne, it's up to Rosa to stop the Scarling before it unmakes the magical paintings that keep the city running, and hopefully save her family in the process!



## **A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking by T. Kingfisher**

Page Count: 320

Genre: Fantasy

Publisher: Argyll Productions

Publication date: 21 July 2020

Middle Grade

Rights sold:

Catalan, Raig verd Editorial;  
Czech, SLOVART

German, Second Chances Verlag  
Japan, Hayakawa Shobo  
Slovak, SLOVART  
Spanish, Océano;

Fourteen-year-old Mona isn't like the wizards charged with defending the city. She can't control lightning or speak to water. Her familiar is a sourdough starter and her magic only works on bread. She has a comfortable life in her aunt's bakery making gingerbread men dance.

But Mona's life is turned upside down when she finds a dead body on the bakery floor. An

assassin is stalking the streets of Mona's city, preying on magic folk, and it appears that Mona is his next target. And in an embattled city suddenly bereft of wizards, the assassin may be the least of Mona's worries...

**Winner of the 2021 Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book**

**Winner of the Andre Norton Nebula Award for Middle Grade and Young Adult Fiction**

**Winner of the Locus Award for Young Adult Fiction**

**Winner of the Dragon Award Best Young Adult / Middle Grade Novel**

**Winner of the Mythopoeic Award for Children's Literature**

**Winner of the C oyotl Award for Best Novel**



## Minor Mage by T. Kingfisher

Page Count: 176 pages

Genre: Fantasy

Publisher: Argyll Productions

Publication date: 29 July 2019

Middle Grade

Rights sold:

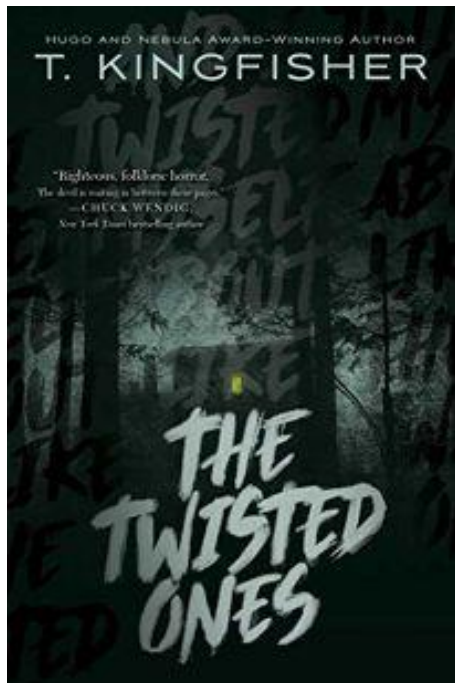
Iran, Porteghal;

Spain, Océano;

Oliver was a very minor mage. His familiar reminded him of this several times a day. He only knew three spells, and one of them was to control his allergy to armadillo dander. His attempts to summon elementals resulted in nosebleeds, and there is nothing more embarrassing than having your elemental leave the circle to get you a tissue, pat you comfortingly, and then disappear in a puff of magic. The armadillo had about wet himself laughing.

He was a very minor mage.

Unfortunately, he was all they had.



## The Twisted Ones by T. Kingfisher

Page Count: 399 pages

Genre: Horror

Publisher: Saga Press / Simon & Schuster

Publication date: 1 October 2019

Young Adult / Adult crossover

**Winner of the RUSA Award for Best Horror**

**A Library Journal Best Horror Book of 2019**

Rights sold:

Taiwan, Apex Press

UK, Titan Press

**When a young woman clears out her deceased grandmother's home in rural North Carolina, she finds long-hidden secrets about a strange colony of beings in the woods in this chilling**



**novel that reads like *The Blair Witch Project* meets *The Andy Griffith Show*.**

When Mouse's dad asks her to clean out her dead grandmother's house, she says yes. After all, how bad could it be?

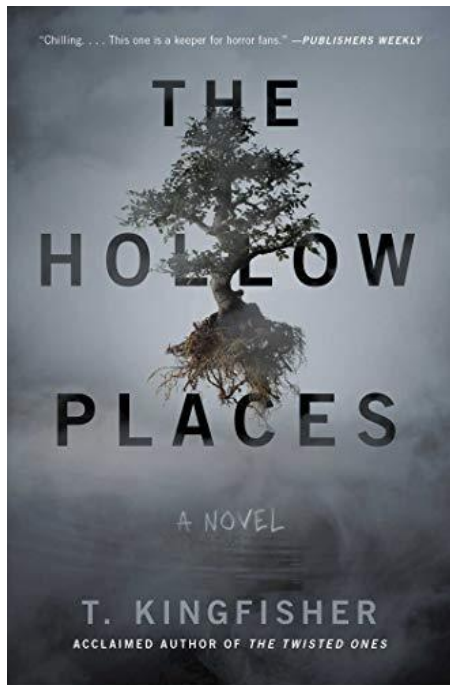
Answer: pretty bad. Grandma was a hoarder, and her house is stuffed with useless rubbish. That would be horrific enough, but there's more—Mouse stumbles across her step-grandfather's journal, which at first seems to be filled with nonsensical rants...until Mouse encounters some of the terrifying things he described for herself.

Alone in the woods with her dog, Mouse finds herself face to face with a series of impossible terrors—because sometimes the things that go bump in the night are real, and they're looking for you. And if she doesn't face them head on, she might not survive to tell the tale.

From Hugo Award-winning author Ursula Vernon, writing as T. Kingfisher, *The Twisted Ones* is a gripping, terrifying tale bound to keep you up all night—from both fear and anticipation of what happens next.

*T. Kingfisher. Saga, \$24.99 (400p) ISBN 978-1-5344-2957-4*

A witty young girl and horrific creatures tangle in this atmospheric folk horror novel from Kingfisher (a pen name for Ursula Vernon). When Melissa (aka Mouse) is asked by her father to clean out her grandmother's house, she heads to North Carolina with her coonhound, Bongo. What she finds is a hoarder's nest. After a few days digging through junk, she unearths a rambling journal belonging to her stepgrandfather, Frederick Cotgrave, which tries to retell a fairy tale. Everything in it sounds like the ravings of a man losing his mind until bizarre creatures show up outside Mouse's window. Her neighbor, Foxy, calls these creatures the holler people. Mouse wants nothing more to do with the house, but before she can leave, Bongo disappears, and she refuses to go home without him. Kingfisher neatly combines modern elements into a combined folktale and horror story that is rich in atmosphere and characterization ("She hadn't just hoarded; she'd made walls and ramparts out of her possessions like she was expecting a siege"). Mouse is a down-to-earth character with a quick wit that never wavers, even when her circumstances are disturbing. This occult thriller with heart boasts genuine scares.



## The Hollow Places by T. Kingfisher

Page Count: 348 pages

Genre: Horror

Publisher: Saga Press / Simon & Schuster

Publication date: 6 October 2020

Young Adult / Adult crossover

Rights sold:

Russia, AST

UK, Titan Books

**A young woman discovers a strange portal in her uncle's house, leading to madness and terror in this gripping new novel from the author of the "innovative, unexpected, and absolutely chilling" (Mira Grant, Nebula Award-winning author) *The Twisted Ones*.**

*Pray they are hungry.*

Kara finds the words in the mysterious bunker that she's discovered behind a hole in the wall of her uncle's house. Freshly divorced and living back at home, Kara now becomes obsessed with these cryptic words and starts exploring this peculiar area—only to discover that it holds portals to countless alternate realities. But these places are haunted by

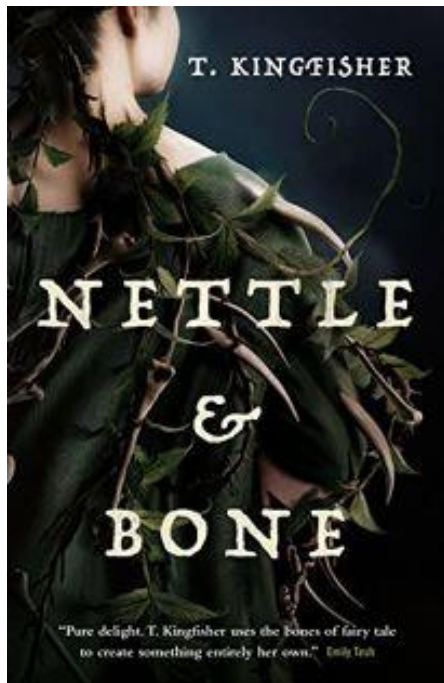
creatures that seem to hear thoughts...and the more one fears them, the stronger they become.

With her distinctive “delightfully fresh and subversive” (*SF Bluestocking*) prose and the strange, sinister wonder found in Guillermo del Toro’s *Pan’s Labyrinth*, *The Hollow Places* is another compelling and white-knuckled horror novel that you won’t be able to put down.

“Kingfisher imagines the horrors lying between worlds in this chilling supernatural thriller...Kingfisher has crafted a truly terrifying monster with minimal descriptions that leave the reader’s imagination to run wild. With well-timed humor and perfect scares, this one is a keeper for horror fans.” —*Publishers Weekly*

"There are no cheap scares here...entirely of the author’s wonderfully twisted and endlessly fertile imagination....The perfect tale for fans of horror with heart." —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Can horror even be this rollicking, this fun, while still delivering on the creepiness, the dread, the ick? In Kingfisher’s hands, it can.”  
—Stephen Graham Jones, acclaimed author of *The Only Good Indians*



## Nettle & Bone by T. Kingfisher

Page Count: 256 pages

Genre: Fantasy

Publisher: Tor / Macmillan

Publication date: 26 April 2022

Young Adult/ Adult crossover

Rights sold:

Poland, Wydawnictwo SQN

Spanish, Océano

UK, Titan Books

**An Instant *USA Today* & Indie Bestseller**

**An Oprah Daily Top 25 Fantasy Book of 2022**

**A *Vulture* Best Fantasy Novel of 2022**

**An NPR Best Sci Fi, Fantasy, & Speculative Fiction Book of 2022**

**A Goodreads Best Fantasy Choice Award Nominee**

**From Hugo, Nebula, and Locus award-winning author T. Kingfisher comes an original and subversive fantasy adventure.**

**\*A very special hardcover edition, featuring gold foil stamp on the casing and custom endpapers illustrated by the author.\***

*This isn't the kind of fairytale where the princess marries a prince.  
It's the one where she kills him.*

Marra never wanted to be a hero.

As the shy, convent-raised, third-born daughter, she escaped the traditional fate of princesses, to be married away for the sake of an uncaring throne. But her sister wasn't so fortunate—and after years of silence, Marra is done watching her suffer at the hands of a powerful and abusive prince.

Seeking help for her rescue mission, Marra is offered the tools she needs, but only if she can complete three seemingly impossible tasks:

- build a dog of bones
- sew a cloak of nettles
- capture moonlight in a jar

But, as is the way in tales of princes and witches, doing the impossible is only the beginning.

Hero or not—now joined by a disgraced ex-knight, a reluctant fairy godmother, an enigmatic gravewitch and her fowl familiar—Marra might finally have the courage to save her sister, and topple a throne.

***“Nettle & Bone is the kind of book that immediately feels like an old friend. Fairytale mythic resonance meets homey pragmatism in this utterly delightful story. It's creepy, funny, heartfelt, and full of fantastic characters I absolutely loved!” —Melissa Caruso, author of *The Tethered Mage****

PW Review:

## ★ Nettle & Bone

*T. Kingfisher. Tor, \$25.99 (256p) ISBN 978-1-250-24404-8*

This deeply satisfying and darkly funny feminist fairy tale from Hugo Award winner Kingfisher (*What Moves the Dead*) finds its unlikely heroine in Marra, youngest princess of the Harbor Kingdom. Marra is better at knitting than politicking, and is relieved to be sent to a convent while her older sisters make

political marriages to nobles from the Northern Kingdom. However, when Marra learns that the wicked Prince Vorling has murdered her older sister and seems likely to murder his abused second wife, Marra's middle sister, as well, Marra takes action. She assembles a rag-tag team bent on overthrowing Vorling—including Bonedog, a resurrected dog skeleton; a dust-wife (a kind of necromancer) with a demonically possessed chicken for a familiar; a suicidally honorable and surprisingly diplomatic knight rescued from a Christina Rossetti-esque goblin market; and a frazzled fairy godmother who can only grant gifts of good health. The plot snaps along as quickly as a good joke, and beneath the whimsy, there's an underlying sympathy and sincerity that enables Kingfisher to handle tricky issues like domestic violence with great compassion and care. At its heart a story of good people doing their best to make the unjust world a fairer place, this marvelous romp will delight Kingfisher's fans and fairy tale lovers alike. (Apr.)

Reviewed on : 01/13/2022

"Deeply satisfying and darkly funny feminist fairytale.... At its heart a story of good people doing their best to make the unjust world a fairer place, this marvelous romp will delight Kingfisher's fans and fairytale lovers alike."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Blending fairy-tale familiarity and common-sense characters, Kingfisher's prose balances grim circumstances with humor and heart. Readers of Alix E. Harrow's *A Spindle Splintered* and Melissa Albert's 'The Hazel Wood' series should pick this up immediately." —*Library Journal*, starred review

"Kingfisher is an inventive fantasy powerhouse, and *Nettle & Bone* represents the burgeoning "hopepunk" ethos at its finest, with its winsome characters and focus on their fight to make the world a better place."—*Bookpage*, starred review

"Clever and bold-hearted . . . this rollicking feminist fairy tale is filled with redemption, community and courage, its dark passages the road to a satisfyingly uplifting endgame."—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"*Nettle & Bone* leans into the macabre and evokes the Grimm-est of stories... Highly recommended for fans of fractured fables like Naomi Novik's *Uprooted* (2015) and Helen Oyeyemi's *Gingerbread* (2019)." —*Booklist*, starred review

"*Nettle & Bone* is full of delights and surprises—and proves that [Kingfisher] has more than a few tricks left up her sleeve."—*Locus*

"With NETTLE & BONE, T. Kingfisher solidifies her place as natural and inevitable heir to the greats of her genre, while remaining clearly and unquestionably a unique voice in fantasy. This book is a modern classic and belongs alongside *The Last Unicorn* and *Spinning Silver* on your shelf."—Seanan McGuire

"This book is so exciting, deeply wise, sad, brutal and compassionate all at once. And beautifully written, with a plot as cunning as fine embroidery. . . . When I finished I could hardly bear to tear myself away

from this eerie, vivid world, with its struggling, flawed, wonderful characters.”—Catriona Ward, author of *Last House on Needless Street*

“*Nettle & Bone* brings Kingfisher's signature honesty and authenticity to a fairy tale setting—the result is refreshing, earnest but not naive, and deeply satisfying. I devoured it. This is one that's going to stay with me for a long time.”—Sarah Gailey, author of *Magic for Liars*

"Kingfisher's combination of comedy with feminist rage in a complex fairytale setting makes for a wholly entertaining read." -- *Buzzfeed*

“Witty, sparkling tale of a heroine’s quest, full of matter-of-fact magic, impossible tasks, and a group of fantastic and charming companions. A delight throughout.”—Louisa Morgan, author of *A Secret History of Witches*

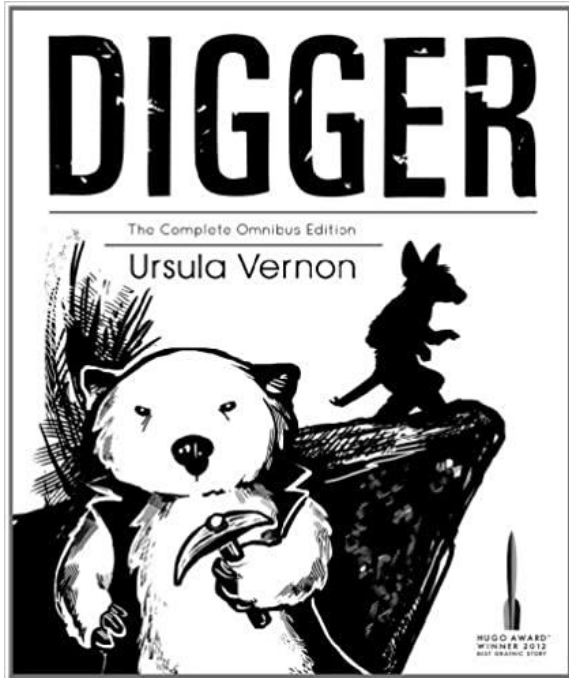
“*Nettle & Bone* is pure delight. T. Kingfisher uses the bones of fairy tale to create something entirely her own, written in gloriously clear and transparent prose. I devoured this story of a princess-nun rescuing her sister from an abusive marriage, and every fresh turn delighted me.”—Emily Tesh, Hugo finalist, *Silver in the Wood*

“*Nettle & Bone* is what happens when all the overlooked bit players of classic fantasy somehow wind up on the main quest. It's funny, frightening, and full of heart; I loved it.”—Alix E. Harrow, author of *The Ten Thousand Doors of January*

“Charming and macabre—often both at the same time—*Nettle & Bone* has bite, proper jokes, effortlessly good storytelling and a really wonderful tomb labyrinth.”—A. K. Larkwood, author of *The Unspoken Name*

"Kingfisher is a master. *Nettle & Bone* is a wonderful entwining of darkness & whimsy - witty and brutal and hilarious and true in all the ways that matter. Also, I must immediately have my very own Bonedog."—Travis Baldree, author of *Legends & Lattes*

“Somehow, Kingfisher writes stories that put you at your ease and make you want to crawl out of your skin at the same time. I loved the way this horrified me—and, in the end, gave me hope.”—Kevin Hearne, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Iron Druid Chronicles  
Show



## **Digger: The Complete Omnibus edition by Ursula Vernon**

Page count: 850 pages

Sofawolf Press

Graphic novel

Publication date: 15 November 2013

Young adult / Adult crossover

**Digger** Is a story about a wombat.

More specifically, it is a story by author and artist **Ursula Vernon** about a particularly no-nonsense wombat who finds herself stuck on the wrong end of a one-way tunnel in a strange land where nonsense seems to be the specialty. Now, with the help of a talking statue of a god, an outcast hyena, a shadow-being of indeterminate origin, and an oracular slug she seeks to find out where she is and how to go about getting back to her Warren.

**This Omnibus Edition** collects all six printed volumes, covering all twelve chapters of the complete webcomic.

**2013 Mythopoeic Awards WINNER**

**2012 Hugo Awards WINNER**

**Eisner-nominated**