



DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS  
LITERARY AGENCY

## Frankfurt Rights Guide 2018

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◆ CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION ◆





## VANESSA CURTIS

Vanessa is the award-winning author of five novels for children, including *Zelah Green* which won the Manchester Children's Book Prize and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Prize 2009, and *The Haunting of Tabitha Grey*, a contemporary ghost story with a shocking twist.

Vanessa originally trained as a pianist and went on to play in various rock bands. She still teaches the piano when she's not writing novels. She reviews books for the national newspapers and has worked as a literary consultant. Vanessa is also the co-founder of the Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain and has written two biographies on Virginia Woolf.

### THE STOLEN ONES by Vanessa Curtis

**UK Publisher: Usborne (World English), January 2019**

**Age Group: YA 13+**

**Rights Sold: Audio (WF Howes), via Publisher**

*My name is Inge. I am sixteen.*

*I live with Mama and Papa in Munich. Food is still rationed, though the war ended over ten years ago.*

*My boyfriend is Jewish. I have to hide this from my parents.*

*Sometimes I think they are hiding something from me, too. Letters arrive every year on my birthday, but they are not addressed to me.*

*They are for a girl named Kasia.*

*This is her story.*

Exploring the secretive and disturbing legacy of the Nazi's Lebensborn programme, under which Polish children were stolen from their families to be brought up in the Aryan ideal, it's an emotive, powerful story with a strong element of mystery.

### Extract:

*Papa is attempting to shut the door on whoever is outside.*

*He appears to be winning. But then I see it. A small, narrow foot in a cracked black leather shoe. It slides past my father's leg and plants itself firmly in the middle of our front doormat.*

*There's a tussle, but the foot stays in place. Mama looks back at me, mute and in fear. Her face has unravelled from its usual smooth completeness into a mass of jagged angles and lines which don't seem to fit together.*

*'Inge,' she says again, but this time her voice is broken. 'You really should go upstairs.' But it is too late.*

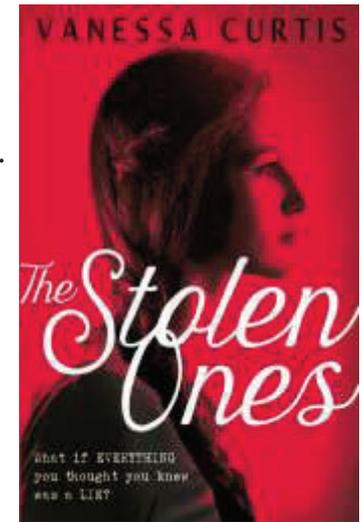
*The black-leather shoe has been followed by a body. A small, thin woman in a grey headscarf and a non-descript long black dress has slid into our hallway and is standing in front of me. She holds out her hands towards me.*

*'Kasia,' she says. I shake my head, confused.*

*'Inge,' I say. 'My name is Inge.'*

*She speaks, in a faltering voice and a language I don't understand. Except there is one word I already know. One word I hear every night in my bad dream. A word that somehow I knew was going to come from her mouth even before she said it, pointing at herself the whole time:*

*Matka.*



### Also by Vanessa Curtis:

'A tragic, harrowing and **deeply moving** account of the Holocaust from the perspective of an ordinary girl' – Fiona Noble, *The Bookseller*

'The novel's power comes from its focus on Hanna's feelings as she struggles with her Jewish-identity, as well as from its **strong sense of place** and details such as the food, from yomtov feasts to desperate, mouldy scraps.' - Angela Kiverstein, *The Jewish Chronicle*

**Publisher: Usborne, 2015 Rights sold: Danish (Forlaget 5)**



## SHARON GOSLING & STEVE WHITE

**Sharon Gosling** is the author of several fiction books for the middle grade, including *The Diamond Thief* (Redbridge Children's Book Award winner 2014), *The Ruby Airship* and *The Sapphire Cutlass*. She has also written YA horror *FIR*, which was shortlisted for four regional book awards in 2018. When not writing fiction

she writes non-fiction making-of books about television and film (*Penny Dreadful/Wonder Woman/Tomb Raider/Men in Black 4*).

**Steve White** has worked in the publishing industry for 30 years, as an editor, colourist, writer and artist. His career spans a broad range of titles from children's, science fiction and fantasy comics to critically acclaimed art books, including the *Dinosaur Art* series published by Titan Books and *Dinosaur Hunter* published by Osprey. He has also spoken at numerous lectures and events, including talks at the Natural History Museum on dinosaurs and how to draw them. He has been in love with dinosaurs since he was four and drawing them since he could hold a pencil.

## DINO RANGERS by Sharon Gosling & Steve White

**Status: On UK Submission, Series Proposal Available**

**Illustrated MG Adventure**

**Rights Available: All**

Dash Mendoza's mum Stephanie has quit the military and taken a top-secret new job. At first Dash isn't happy – after all, it means that it'll be two years before he can see the rest of his family and his friends – he'll be 15 by the time her contract is up. But everything changes when he finds out exactly where they're going: deep into the past to study real, live dinosaurs. He's not the only kid on the expedition, either. The timeship is home to a whole family, including twin teens Tethys and her brother Rheic, their older brother Kenor and their little sister Nena, all of whom have been travelling back to prehistory since they were small. Dash is about to embark on the most exciting trip he's ever taken. But the past is a dangerous place, especially when someone inside Project Phoenix has their own unpleasant plans for how it should be used...

### Book One: The Deccan Traps

Super volcanoes, apocalyptic weather and giant sauropods – as an introduction to time travel, Dash's first mission with Project Phoenix is a bit of an eye-opener. When the team's aeroflyer crashes with no way to communicate with the timeship, it looks as if it might also be his last...



### Extract:

*Rheic stayed absolutely still. The young tyrannosaurus raised its head from the pool of water, as if it had scented something. She was barely ten feet away. He'd been watching the animal through the thick foliage surrounding the small watering hole. The rex was mid-moult, slowly dropping the down it had hatched with. She'd lost most of the soft, feather-like layer that would have originally covered her all over, but patches of it still clung to her tough skin, like wispy balls of dirty cotton wool. Rheic had been planning to sketch her, but now something had caught the creature's attention.*

*Dinner, probably.*

*The Tyrannosaurus rex turned, water dripping from its open mouth, jagged teeth on full display. At first Rheic thought it was going to come straight for him, but instead it started off at an angle slightly to the west. He watched as the young creature leaned forward and extended her neck, her powerful back legs launching her into a run. He watched, pencil and sketchpad temporarily forgotten. It had always fascinated Rheic that a creature so huge, made of so much muscle and meat, could move so elegantly. Just then, the rex looked more like a bird than an elephant. A big bird. An ostrich, maybe, something fast and graceful despite its size. That would make an interesting sketch, he thought. A tyrannosaurus and an ostrich together, running. Although one would be running toward dinner and one would be dinner, obviously.*

*Then, through the dark green of the lush prehistoric foliage, he saw what the rex was aiming for.*

*It was his little sister, Nena.*

*She was standing not far away, one arm stretched out as if planning to give the gigantic creature a pat on the head. The rex sped up, honing in, her massive back legs pounding the earth so hard that Rheic could feel the vibrations through the soil.*

*"Nena!"*





## VIRGINIA MACGREGOR

Virginia Macgregor was brought up in Germany, France and England by a mother who never stopped telling stories. From the moment she was old enough to hold a pen, Virginia set about writing her own.

Her debut novel for adults, *What Milo Saw* (Little, Brown, 2014) was published to great acclaim and has so far been translated into 12 languages. Her second novel, *The Astonishing Return of Norah Wells*, was published in January 2016, and her third, *Before I Was Yours*, in January 2017. Her debut YA novel, *Wishbones*, was published by HQ HarperCollins in 2017. *As Far As The Stars* is her second novel for YA readers.

### AS FAR AS THE STARS by Virginia Macgregor

**UK Publisher:** HQ (WEL), April 2019    **Age Group:** 13+  
**Rights Available:** Translation

Two teenagers wait at Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C. Air is there to meet her brother Blake who is flying in from London. Christopher is waiting for his father, who is on the same flight.

But the plane never arrives.

With their worlds crashing down around them, Christopher and Air find themselves on a fast-paced road trip to Nashville—Air trying to convince herself that her brother must miraculously still be alive. That somehow he'd got on a different plane. Her wonderful, infuriating brother can't possibly be gone.

Christopher, meanwhile, can't tell Air his biggest secret—that his father was the pilot of the missing plane. And that he knows her brother isn't coming home. Because how can you tell someone something so terrible when you're falling in love with them? And how can he possibly be falling in love, when his world is falling apart?

AS FAR AS THE STARS is the powerful new YA novel from Virginia Macgregor, perfect for fans of Non Pratt, John Green and Jennifer E Smith.

### Extract:

Where the hell are you, Blake?

*I go up to a guy wearing what I recognise as a BA uniform:*

*'Excuse me –'*

*He spins round. His eyes are wide and kind of jumpy. BA officials have this way of looking totally calm. Like even if the airport was on fire every hair would stay in place. Mom says it's a British thing. But this guy doesn't look calm, not at all. Which is strange. Like it's strange that everyone around me is acting so stressed out. It's not like they've all got weddings to go to – or Moms like mine. Planes get delayed all the time.*

*'The plane – the one that's been delayed,' I say to the BA guy. 'I was meant to pick someone up.' I pause. 'Or I think I was. It's kind of complicated. Could you check the passenger list for me?'*

*He stares at me and blinks like I'm not speaking English.*

*I try again, trying to calm myself down enough to get the words out in the right order:*

*'I need to check whether my brother was meant to be on the plane that's been delayed.'*

*'I'm afraid we can't release that information.'*

*'I'm his sister.'*

*'We still can't release that information. Not at this point.'*

*'What point?'*

*He looks at me like I'm about two years old – or totally crazy – or both.*

*'I'm sorry I can't help,' the guy says, his eyes still darting around. 'I've got to go.'*

*My heart starts doing this weird arrhythmic pounding thing.*

*This can't be happening.*



### Praise for *Wishbones*, by Virginia Macgregor:

**"A hugely enjoyable read."** - TES

**"Compelling, gritty and suffused with promise, this is a true triumph of contemporary YA"** - [lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://lovereading4kids.co.uk)

**"A heartbreaking but hugely important read"** - *Laura Patricia Rose Blog*

**"A great book that should be read by adults and kids alike."** - *A Bookworm's Guide To Life*





## DAVID OWEN

David resents the fact that he was not raised by wolves and was therefore robbed of a good story to tell at parties. He achieved 1<sup>st</sup> class honours in BA Creative Writing and MA Writing for Children at The University of Winchester, where he went on to teach on the BA Creative Writing course for three years.

He is the Deputy Editor for [gapyear.com](http://gapyear.com) and a former freelance games journalist, contributing to review sites including *IGN*, *Rock Paper Shotgun* and *Polygon*. He

has been published as a poet in journals such as *Agenda* and *Seam*. David spends most of his time thinking about biscuits.

### ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE

by David Owen

**UK Publisher: Atom (UK & Commonwealth ex. Canada) January 2019**

**Age Group: YA/Crossover**

**Rights Available: US & Translation, Audio (direct)**

Everyone tells Kat that her online personality – confident, funny, opinionated – isn't her true self. Kat knows otherwise. The internet is her only way to cope with a bad day, chat with friends who get all her references, make someone laugh. But when she becomes the target of an alt-right trolling campaign, she feels she has no option but to *Escape, Delete, Disappear*.

With her social media shut down, her website erased, her entire online identity void, Kat feels she has cut away her very core: without her virtual self, who is she?

She brought it on herself. Or so Wesley keeps telling himself as he dismantles Kat's world. It's different, seeing one of his victims in real life and not inside a computer screen – but he's in too far to back out now.

As soon as Kat disappears from the online world, her physical body begins to fade and while everybody else forgets that she exists, Wesley realises he is the only one left who remembers her. Overcome by remorse for what he has done, Wesley resolves to stop her disappearing completely. It might just be the only way to save himself.

*All the Lonely People* is a timely story about online culture – both good and bad – that explores the experience of loneliness in a connected world, and the power of kindness and empathy over hatred.

#### Extract:

*Kat stumbled into the toilets and threw her bag onto the mucky tiles. The dizziness was passing, but every atom in her body seemed to shake like they were breaking their bonds. The smell of bleach scorched her nostrils, stinging eyes already raw with tears.*

*'Stop crying,' she whispered to herself. They had taken away everything, and she hadn't even put up a fight.*

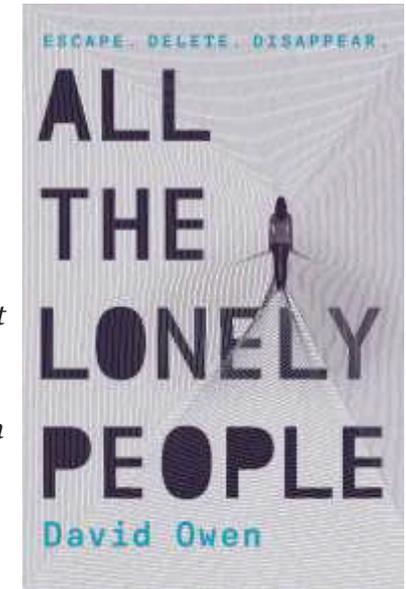
*She clenched her eyes shut before she could catch sight of herself in the mirror. Back in the classroom, as she'd gripped the edge of the desk, there had been something wrong with her hands. It was like she had seen through them, through skin and flesh and bone. A trick of the light, surely, tears in her eyes blurring her vision.*

*So why was she so frightened to look again?*

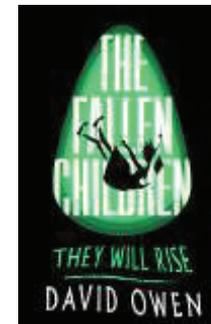
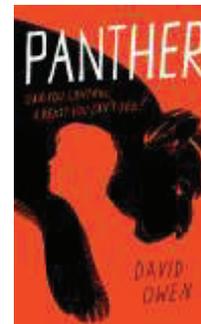
*Kat wiped her eyes with trembling hands – she could still feel them, solid against her skin. She turned towards the mirrors and forced herself to look.*

*A ghost peered back. Kat's reflection was where it should be, but it was faded somehow, a sunblind spectral afterimage. Slowly she turned her head side-to-side and the reflection followed. The toilet stalls behind her bore cleaning notices, and she saw them through herself, too hazy to make out the words.*

*Irrationally she spun around, expecting to find her body lying on the tiles - she had died and become a wayward spirit – but there was nothing.*



#### Also by David Owen:



"YA is in great hands with Owen ... he will be an **author to watch** "

- *We Love This Book*

