

Frankfurt Book Fair  
2022 Rights Catalogue

# SEVEN SEAS

The children's collection from:

NEEM TREE  
PRESS



@sevensseasbooks



# NEEM TREE PRESS

We are a vibrant, women-owned independent publishing house producing books that change and broaden perspectives. Dedicated to the enthusiastic discovery of both British and international literature, we are truly global in scope, publishing titles from across the world.

Our award-winning Seven Seas collection focuses on middle grade fiction that showcases diverse cultures and protagonists. Seven Seas titles invoke a sense of adventure and exploration with stories grounded in art, culture, and history.



*Note:* This catalogue exclusively contains our selection of children's titles; for our adult catalogue, please contact [sales@neemtreepress.com](mailto:sales@neemtreepress.com).

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**For rights queries, please contact:**

Emily Randle

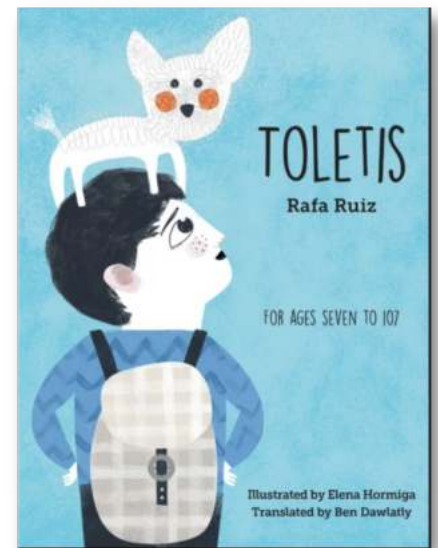
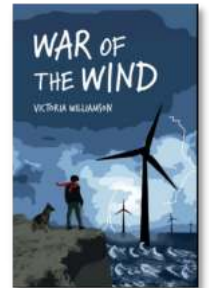
[emily@randleeditorial.co.uk](mailto:emily@randleeditorial.co.uk)

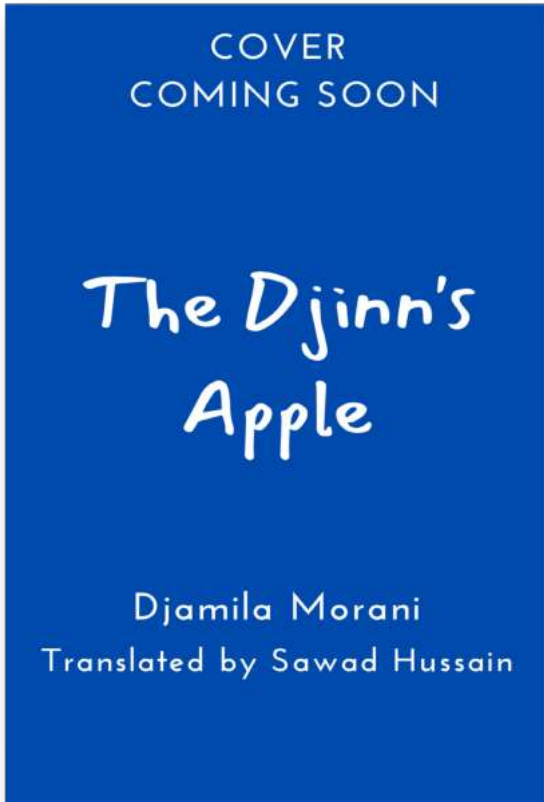
   @neemtreepress

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## The Djinn's Apple

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Winner of a prestigious English PEN Translates grant, this is a fast-paced crime novel featuring a strong female protagonist who breaks cultural and historical stereotypes.

*The Djinn's Apple* is a fast-paced whodunnit set in the Abbasid period (700-800 AD), and told through the eyes and inner monologue of twelve-year-old Nardeen. Splashed across the opening pages of the novel is the storming of her home by mysterious men frantically searching for something. Or someone. Nardeen manages to run away while the rest of her family is left behind, and murdered that very night. The rest of the book details Nardeen's quest to find her family's killer.

Part crime novel, part historical fiction, *The Djinn's Apple* is an enlightening and gripping read, particularly as the reader gets to see the evolution of the gutsy Nardeen as she grows to positively flout society's expectations of girls at that time.

Perfect for readers of both *The Wrath and the Dawn* and *Flame in the Mist* series by Renee Ahdieh.

Sawad Hussain is an Arabic translator who is passionate about bringing narratives from the African continent to wider audiences. She was co-editor of the Arabic-English portion of the award-winning Oxford Arabic Dictionary (2014). Her translations have been recognised by English PEN, the Anglo-Omani Society and the Palestine Book Awards, among others.

Djamila Morani is an Algerian novelist and an Arabic language professor. Her first novel, released in 2015 and titled *Taj el-Khatiaa*, is set in the Abbasid period in Kazakhstan.

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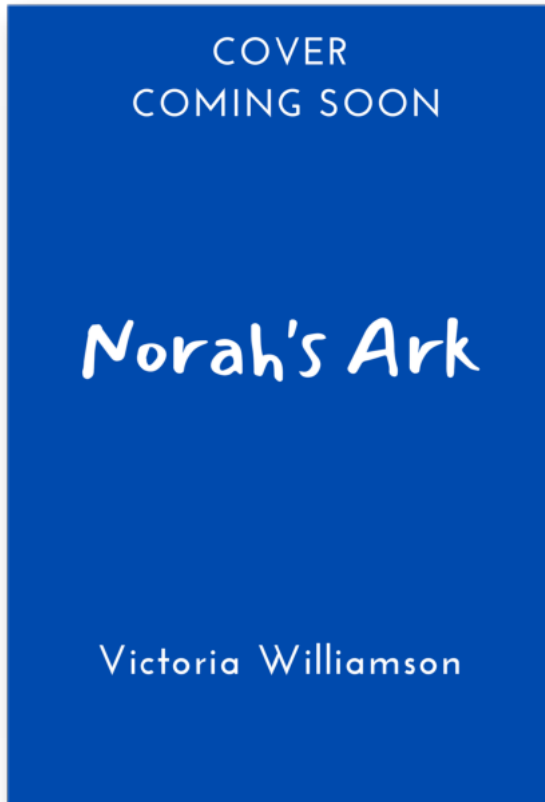
**Spring 2024**

Young Adult

Final files available 02/2023

**Rights**

All worldwide rights available



Victoria Williamson is an award-winning children's author from Glasgow. She has taught maths and science in Cameroon, trained teachers in Malawi, taught English in China and worked with children with special needs in the UK. Victoria is a qualified primary school teacher. She is passionate about creating inclusive worlds in her novels where all children can see themselves reflected. Her books have been long-listed for the Branford Boase Prize, Waterstones Children's Prize, and she has won the Bolton Children's Fiction Award in 2020 and 2021.

## Norah's Ark

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An uplifting middle-grade tale of friendship and overcoming life's obstacles.

*Norah's Ark* is a novel set in present day Hull. The book is told from the point of view of two eleven-year-old children, Norah and Adam, who are from different social backgrounds. Norah is dealing with homelessness and has to rely on food banks due to her father struggling to find work. Although Adam at first seems to have the perfect life and everything he wants, Norah gradually discovers that his life isn't so perfect – he's recovering from leukaemia.

Norah and Adam bond over their love of animals, which they have to rescue when climate change-linked flooding threatens the animals' safety. Through their rescue efforts, Adam finds the courage and self-confidence he thought he'd lost forever to leukaemia, and Norah uncovers the secrets of her past in the form of a family she never knew she had.

### Bookseller praise for Victoria Williamson:

'We're big fans of Victoria's books here at Silverburn!

— Clara Owen, Waterstones Silverburn

'My daughter has really enjoyed all of Victoria's previous books'

— Polly Markham, Golden Hare Books  
(Independent Bookshop of the Year 2019)

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**29 August 2023**

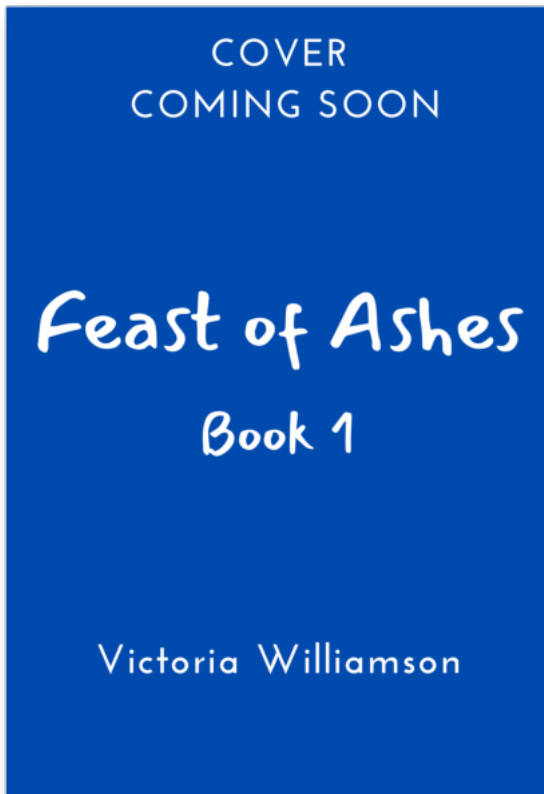
Middle Grade (10-13 yrs)

63000 words

Partially edited manuscript available

### Rights

All worldwide rights available



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## Feast of Ashes: Book 1

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An action-packed young adult dystopian novel — the first in a thrilling new trilogy — set in East Africa.

It's the year 2123, and sixteen-year-old Adina has just killed nearly every person she knows. All fourteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-six of them.

Brought up in the East African eco-bubble of Eden Five, as far as she knows the whole world had been destroyed by ecological disasters brought about by human greed for profit. The Amonston Corporation built eco-bubbles across Africa to keep the remaining plant and animal species safe, and their generosity saved thousands of people. When Eden Five is incinerated by an explosion caused by a routine maintenance job Adina skipped, she and a small group of survivors have to brave the toxic wilds outside the ruined dome to get to the Sanctuary before their biofilters give out and their DNA starts to mutate in the toxic outside air.

With a strong environmental theme, and warnings on the dangers of corporate takeover, this action-packed novel takes a deep look at family, friendship, romance and sacrifice.

A stand-alone novel, *Feast of Ashes* is the first in an explosive trilogy which includes *Seeds of Hunger* (2024) and *Harvest of Flame* (2025).

BY TWO-TIME WINNER OF THE BOLTON CHILDREN'S FICTION AWARD 2020 AND 2021

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**12 October 2023**

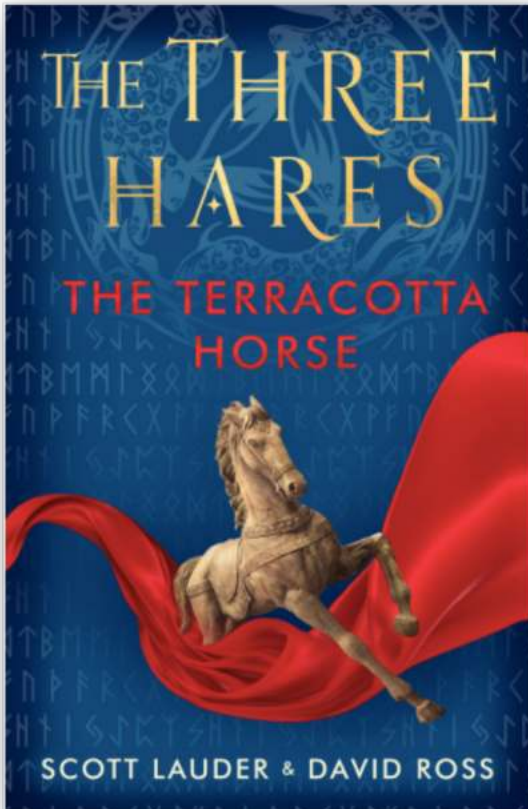
Middle Grade (10-13 yrs)

75,000 words

Final files available 12/2022

### Rights

All worldwide rights available



Scott Lauder was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. Having taught in Greece, Japan, and England, he now lives with his wife and four cats in the UAE where he teaches English. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and drinking good coffee.

David Scott Ross has traveled and taught throughout Asia since he first moved there in 1987. He currently teaches in upstate NY, where he lives with his wife and two sons. When David is not writing or teaching, he dreams about becoming a chef, a rock star, maybe an actor, but probably not all at once.

## The Three Hares

*The Terracotta Horse*

A middle grade historical fantasy series taking us across the ancient Silk Road to the British Isles. Rich in mythology, history, and adventure, these books will thrill readers, every twist of the way.

Salma Mansour is a black belt in taekwondo, a skill she will need to stay alive. One second, she's in the British Museum, the next a thousand years away in a battle between the Saxons and Vikings. And she's supposed to help?

In this standalone final instalment of the series, The Three Hares must work together to defeat a wealthy gang leader and the power that controls him... or else.

'Middle grade to young adult readers seeking a quest fantasy that is a serious notch above other genre reads will appreciate the depth, insights, action, and surprising twists [that make this] a standout production.'

— D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review



### Also in the series

*The Jade Dragonball*  
9781911107170

*The Gold Monkey Key*  
9781911107071

**6 October 2022**

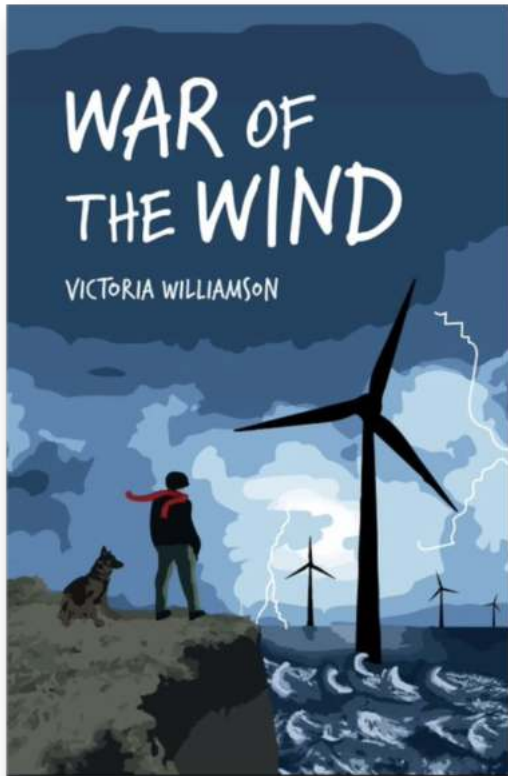
Middle Grade (10-13 yrs)

240 pp

Final files available

### Rights

All worldwide rights available



Victoria Williamson is an award-winning children's author from Glasgow. She has taught maths and science in Cameroon, trained teachers in Malawi, taught English in China and worked with children with special needs in the UK. Victoria is a qualified primary school teacher. She is passionate about creating inclusive worlds in her novels where all children can see themselves reflected. Her books have been long-listed for the Branford Boase Prize, Waterstones Children's Prize, and she has won the Bolton Children's Fiction Award in 2020 and 2021.

## War of the Wind

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A middle grade eco-thriller that offers delightfully diverse disability representation.

Set on a remote Scottish island, *War of the Wind* introduces us to a cast of characters with additional support needs. It is simultaneously a page-turning eco-thriller about government testing gone wrong and a heartwarming celebration of our differences.

Williamson uses a variety of fonts throughout the book to demonstrate how we all communicate in our own way. The resource section, which includes a fingerspelling BSL guide, helps kids and families talk about accessibility, ableism, and more.

*20% of author royalties will be donated to the British Deaf Association*

'A thought-provoking, contemporary, utterly fabulous story with a brave protagonist.'

— Clare Fulton, Scottish Book Trust

'The book that absolutely needed to be written: children with additional support needs see themselves reflected in the characters of a contemporary story...Empathetic and honest.'

— Barbara Henderson, award-winning author of *The Reluctant Rebel* and *The Chessmen Thief*

'This exciting eco-thriller held me from first line to the last. Strongly recommend.'

— Beverley Birch, author of *Song Beneath the Tides* and *Rift*

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**23 September 2022**

Upper Middle Grade (10-12 yrs)

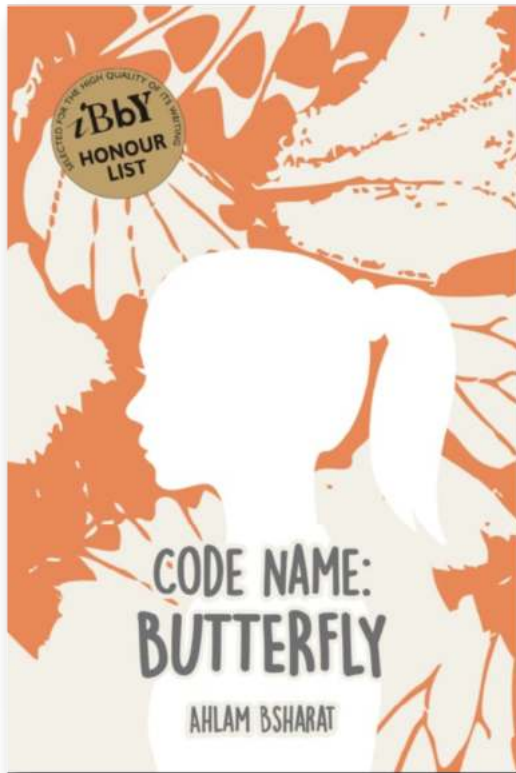
250 pp

Final files available

### Rights

UK audio rights sold - Little Acorns, Ulverscroft

All other worldwide rights available



Ahlam Bsharat is a Palestinian writer who grew up in a village in Northern Palestine and completed her MA in Arabic Literature at An-Najah National University in Nablus. Her books have received many awards, including the IBBY Honor List for 2012. Ahlam has been active in numerous cultural forums, has lead creative writing workshops for children and adults and her craft has taken her across Europe and to Dubai as a resident artist.

## Code Name: Butterfly

Written with irony and poignant idealism, this is a story for all teenagers grappling with friendship, family and the emotional storms ahead.

Butterfly draws us into her world of adult hypocrisy, sibling rivalries, unrequited love, and the political tension of Palestinian life under occupation. As she observes her fragile environment with all its conflicts, Butterfly is compelled to question everything around her. Is her father a collaborator for the occupiers? Will Nizar ever give her the sign she's waiting for? And why is 'honour' such a dangerous word, anyway?

SHORTLISTED FOR THE PALESTINE BOOK AWARDS 2017

'The best Arab young adult novel, hands down!'  
— Susanne Abou Ghaida, Researcher in Children's Fiction, Glasgow University

'[Bsharat's] observations of life under occupation are both astute and amusing.'  
— National Centre for Research In Children's Literature (NCRCL)



The original novel in Arabic,  
available exclusively through NTP  
9781911107002

27 May 2016

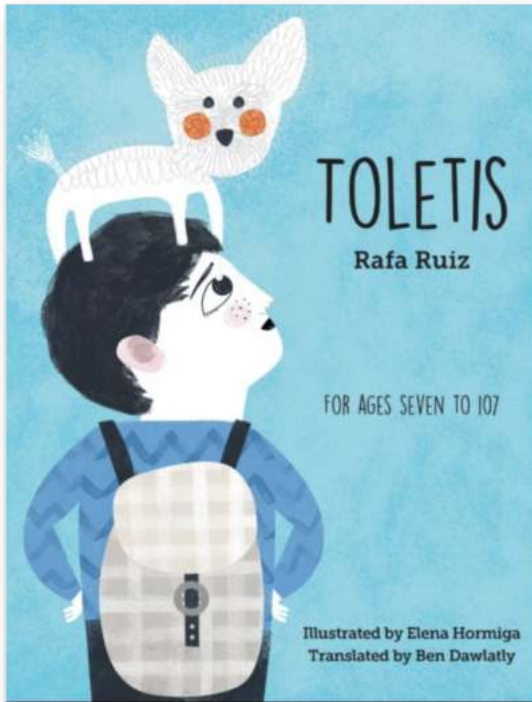
Middle Grade Fiction (8-12 yrs)

140 pp

Final files available

### Rights

All worldwide rights available



## The Adventures of Toletis, Amenophis & Friends

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Translated from Spanish, this is a beautiful story for our times about rewilding and treating our planet with the kindness and care it deserves.

The trees and grass are disappearing to make way for a new section of road. Toletis, his dog Amenophis, friends Claudia and Tutan are on a mission to find ingenious ways of replacing them and turning their little valley town, set deep in the mountains, lusciously green again. The odds are stacked against them. Can they succeed... with some very unusual help?

'If you believe that the best hope we have for a safe, peaceful planet is to teach children to love the environment and one another, then I recommend that you read [this book] with the children in your life.'

— Green World Magazine

'A delightful book full of wisdom and love for the natural world and beautifully enhanced by the striking illustrations.'

— Joy Court, Lovereading4kids

Rafa Ruiz is a journalist and author who has a staunch commitment to culture, art and the environment, and the majority of his career has been focused on these three topics. He is also one of the partner-founders of the Press Association for Environmental Information (APIA).

Elena Hormiga is an illustrator with a sense of humour. Her fun pictures are imbued with irony and metaphor. She studied and worked as an engineer and later turned to illustration. She currently works creating images for stories, articles and posters.

Ben Dawlatly completed his masters in Hispanic Studies and Translation Theory at UCL. His technical translations focus on human rights and the environment, but his real calling is for fiction and poetry.

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**19 October 2017**

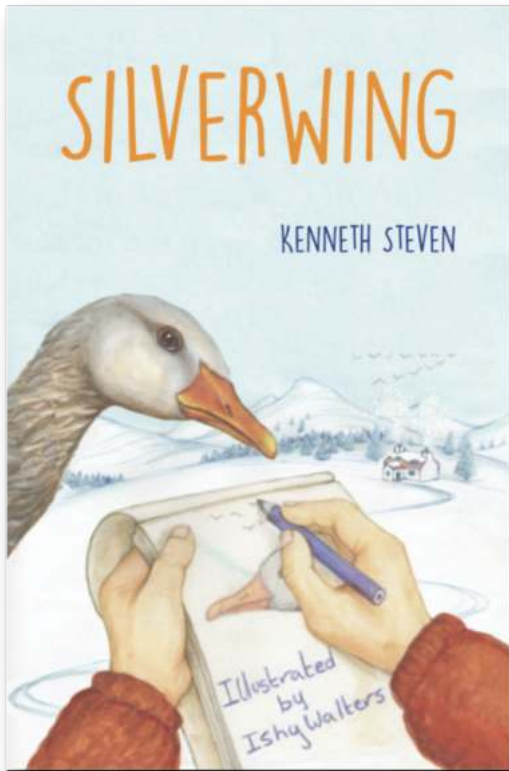
Lower Middle Grade (6-10 yrs)

162 pp

Final files available

**Rights**

All worldwide rights available



**Kenneth Steven** is an award-winning poet, novelist, painter, and children's writer who has published some 25 books. Fluent in Norwegian and Sami, Kenneth has been published as both a writer and a translator. His BBC Radio 4 documentary on the island of St Kilda won him a Sony Award. He grew up in Highland Perthshire in the heart of Scotland, and now lives in Argyll on the country's west coast; it's these landscapes that have inspired his poetry and prose.

## Silverwing

This heartwarming tale of a young boy and an injured goose explores how children can navigate through grief.

Silverwing is a moving story about ten-year-old Douglas who has recently lost his mother to cancer. The boy and his father haven't been able to communicate since her death, and the house is a place of sadness. One day, Douglas finds an injured Greylag goose and so begins their mission to nurse the bird, and themselves, back to health. The story deals with bereavement, school bullies, father-son connection, and the enormously healing power of nature and art.

'A short and beautifully illustrated novel for children that explores grief with gentleness and emotional sincerity.'

— **The Baptist Times**

"Despite all the sadness the main message I took away from the book was how important nature is for all of us."

— **Books Up North, Josh, 12 years old**

'A new Children's Classic. I'd recommend this as a most wonderful gift for 7-12 year old readers.'



— **Amazon Reviewer**

**24 June 2021**

Lower Middle Grade (6-10 yrs)

100 pp

Final files available

### Rights

All worldwide rights available

# SEVEN SEAS

The children's collection from:

# NEEM TREE PRESS



Rights Queries: [emily@randleeditorial.co.uk](mailto:emily@randleeditorial.co.uk)



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