



# Books for Strong Girls!

*A reading guide of to inspire and empower book loving girls*

*Brought to life by Brave Girls Book Club subscription boxes*

**FESTIVAL  
— OF —  
THE GIRL  
2020**



# About this guide

*This reading guide has been put together especially for you to document great and powerful books for each reading age. It is so important for young girls to see themselves represented fully in what they consume. Did you know that by the age of 7, a child's aspirations appear to be shaped by gender related stereotypes?*

*On top of this, only 4% of children's books published in 2017 featured BAME characters. Additionally, we know from official research that male characters are twice as likely to take leading and speaking roles in children's books. It is so entirely vital that girls see themselves in stories, characters, leads; so that they can be inspired, empowered and fuelled by it. These are some of our favourite books that we would recommend for each age range exactly for this purpose!*

*Because when girls see themselves represented, magical things happen!*

The logo for Brave Girls Book Club is centered in a light purple circle. The text "Brave Girls Book Club" is written in a white, bubbly, cursive font with a dark red outline. The words are stacked vertically: "Brave" on the top line, "Girls" on the second line, "Book" on the third line, and "Club" on the bottom line.

Brave  
Girls  
Book  
Club

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Girls  
Book  
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# Who are we?

*This feminist reading guide has been lovingly curated by the team at Brave Girls Book Club, the world's first book subscription box for young girls; bringing diverse stories and powerful protagonists to your door. Here's a little about us!*



*Brave Girls Book Club is the world's first book subscription box especially for young girls. Filling the gap of underrepresentation of girls and women in the curriculum, publishing and media; Brave Girls Book Club puts the female-led, empowering literature in the hands of young readers to inspire them through positive role models, new-found knowledge, and fun gifts. We are also a one-stop platform for conscious parents looking to educate their children on worldly topics with resources, help and guidance.*

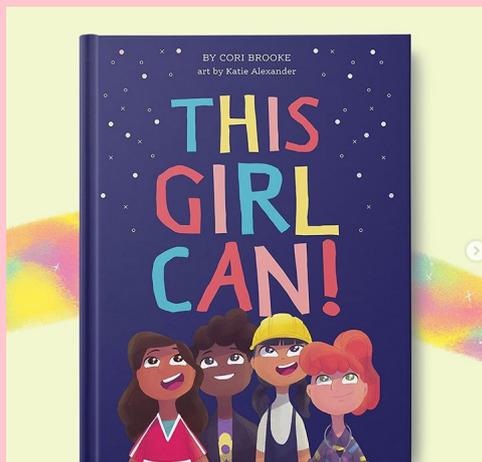
*We know that when young girls see themselves represented, great things happen.*

**Subscribe for just £17 a month, and use the code  
FESTIVAL20 for 20% off your first box!**

**[www.bravegirlsbookclub.com](http://www.bravegirlsbookclub.com)  
Social media: @bravegirlsbookclubuk**

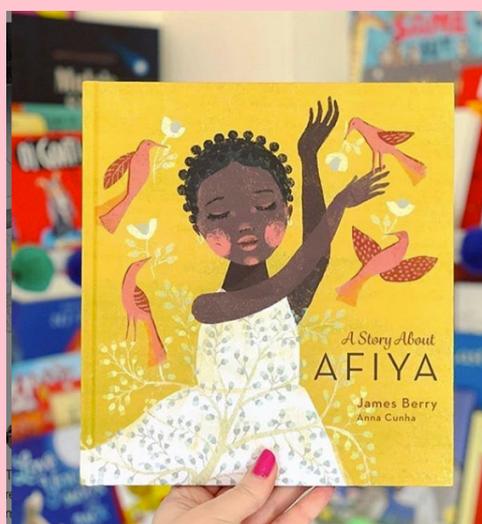
# Books for early readers

*Inspiring little ones is all down to representation, diversity and interactive narratives they can see themselves in. These are some of our favourite picture books, hand picked by the team at Brave Girls Book Club!*

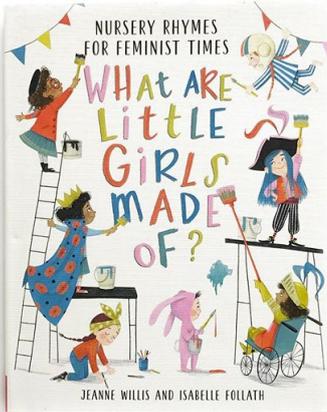


**This Girl Can! is a joyful, colourful romp through the world of jobs and professions, introduces readers to the WIDE range of options open to them. Hitting shelves this October, this picture book is sure to be favourite with its messages of personal freedom and self-love!**

**A brand new picture book brought to life by crowd funding publisher Formy Books. A tender look at Afro-Caribbean life, where Dad happens to stay at home and Mum happens to go to work. The young boys avidly wait for their mummy to return home in a soft and enjoyable narrative that challenges gender roles and includes a diverse and culture-rich storyline.**

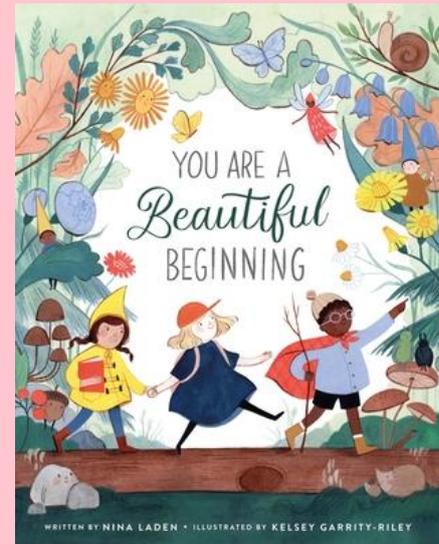


**Some people have dresses for every occasion but Afiya needs only one. Her dress records the memories of her childhood, from roses in bloom to pigeons in flight, from tigers at the zoo to October leaves falling. A joyful celebration of a young girl's childhood, written by the late Coretta Scott King Book Award-winning Jamaican poet James Berry.**



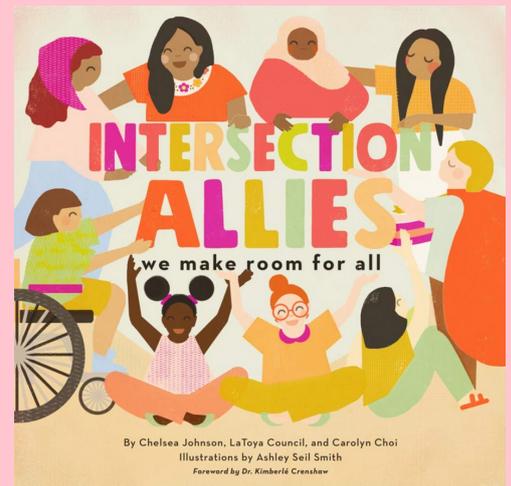
**A modern and feminist take on the favourite classic (Mother Goose) nursery rhymes, proving that girls can indeed be the heroes of any story. The brilliantly funny poems perfectly break down gender stereotypes and provide little girls with the message that they can be, and do, anything that they set their minds to! The poems depict girls being made of 'heart and brain', and rhymes in which Jill rescues Jack from disaster, brave Little Miss Muffett becomes friends with the spider, Humpty Dumpty gets rescued by a female doctor, and Little Bo-Peep rescues all of her sheep!**

**"It is not wishing to be different. It is learning to love being you." A picture book that is equal parts inspirational story and peaceful lullaby, YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING encourages readers old and young to discover their own endless potential.**



**The Little People Big Dreams collection is an empowering array of books documenting the lives and triumphs of true world leaders and inspirational figures such as Frida Kahlo, Rosa Parks, and many more.**

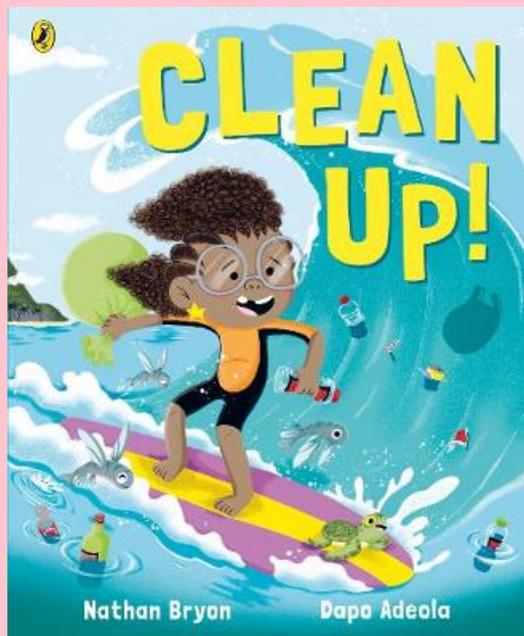
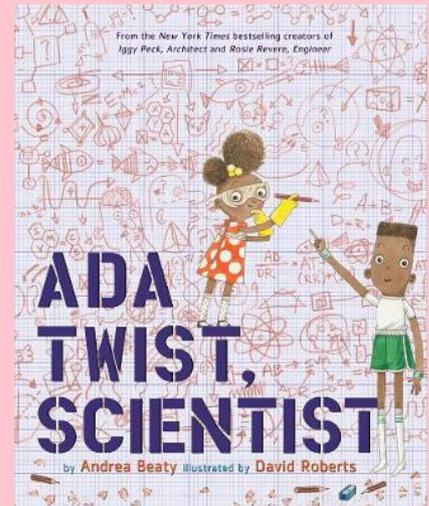
**An amazing manifesto of being a feminist in the 21st century, nuanced in an accessible and understandable way for little ones. It's all about being a supportive, empathetic, welcoming, caring, and kind citizen of our world.**





**A smaller (in size!) series for teeny hands all about diverse feminist icons. These are very similar to the Little People Big Dreams collection but in thick hardback format for grabby fingers and bright colours to ogle at and be inspired by - because representation can never come soon enough!**

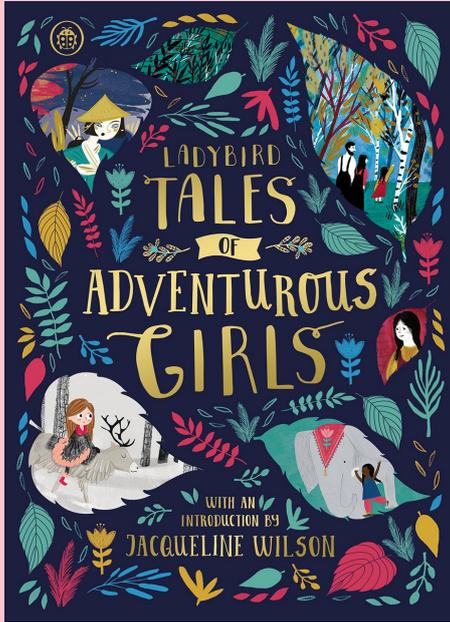
**Ada Twist's head is full of questions. Like her classmates Iggy and Rosie-stars of their own New York Times bestselling picture books Iggy Peck, Architect and Rosie Revere, Engineer-Ada has always been endlessly curious. Even when her fact-finding missions and elaborate scientific experiments don't go as planned, Ada learns the value of thinking her way through problems and continuing to stay curious.**



**Join lovable, passionate Rocket as she sets off on a mission to save a Caribbean island from plastic pollution! When Rocket goes for a holiday to visit her grandparents, she's shocked by the pollution that is spoiling their island home and putting the local sea life at risk. Can she think of a way to save the day? This is a heartwarming, timely and empowering picture book, showing how we ALL can make a difference.**

# Books for 5+

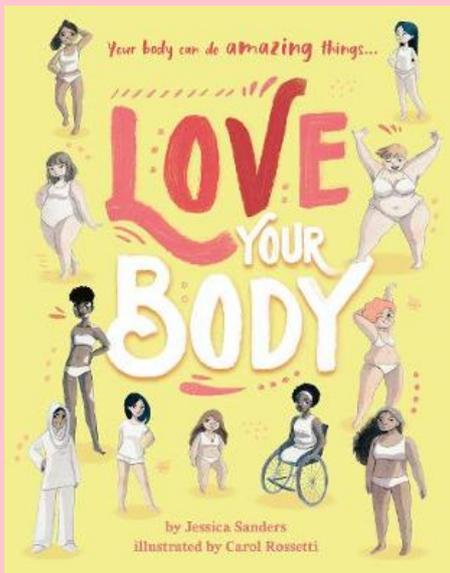
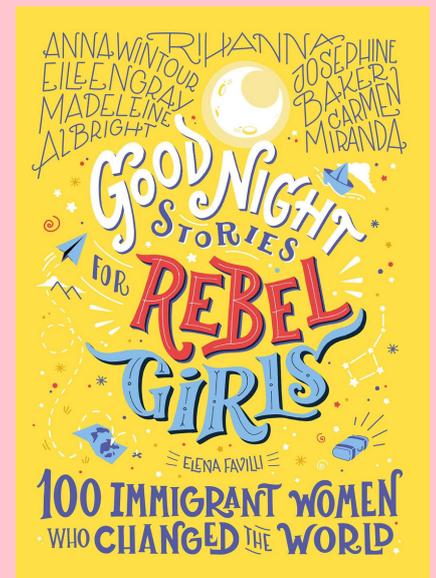
*These reads are perfect for bedtime, guided reading time, and classroom learning. As children approach free reading, these books not only have narratives to guide them towards that goal, but ones that will inspire them too!*



**A collection of six stories from around the world starring witty, courageous and strong girl heroes!**

**It has an introduction by the iconic Jacqueline Wilson who talks about how she loved reading fairy stories as a child, but always wondered: “Why couldn’t the princesses rescue themselves?” Well, in this collection - THEY DO! And Jacqueline gives our six heroines “top marks for being imaginative, quick-witted and daring.”**

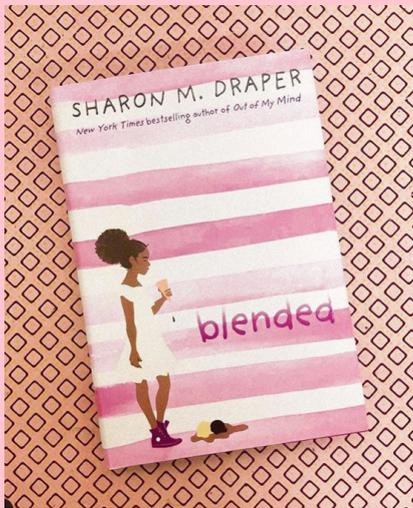
**Packed with 100 all-new bedtime stories about the lives of incredible female figures from the past and the present, this volume recognizes women who left their birth countries for a multitude of reasons: some for new opportunities, some out of necessity. Readers will whip up a plate with Asma Khan, strategize global affairs alongside Madeleine Albright, venture into business with Rihanna, and many more.**



**What if every young girl loved her body? Love Your Body encourages you to admire and celebrate your body for all the amazing things it can do (like laugh, cry, hug and feel) and to help you see that you are so much more than your body. Bodies come in all different forms and abilities. All these bodies are different and all these bodies are good bodies. There is no size, ability or colour that is perfect. What makes you different makes you, you - and you are amazing! Love Your Body introduces the language of self-love and self-care to help build resilience, while representing and celebrating diverse bodies, encouraging you to appreciate your uniqueness. This book was written for every girl, regardless of how you view your body. All girls deserve to be equipped with the tools to navigate an image-obsessed world.**

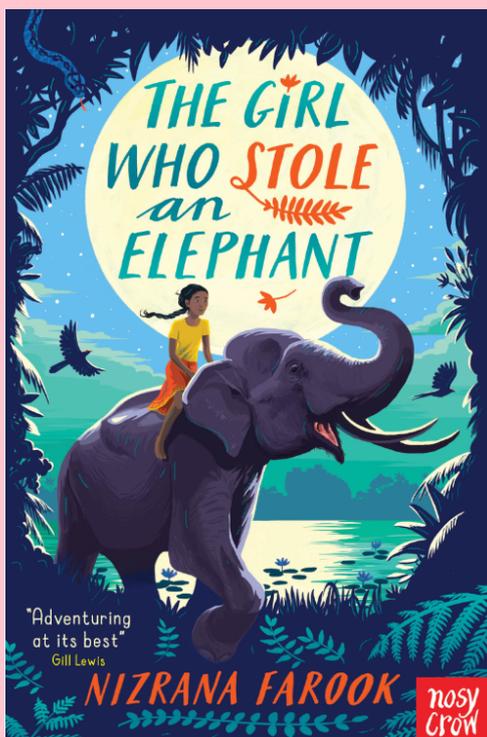
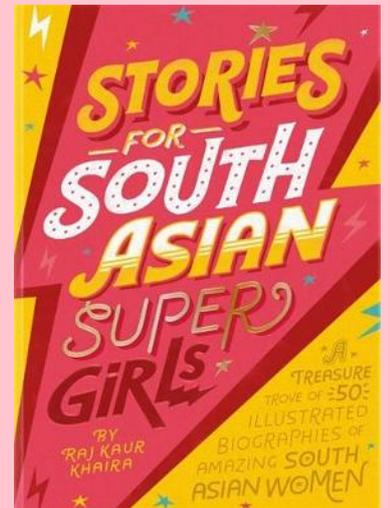
# Books for middle grade

*These are some of our fave picks for middle grade free readers, ideally readers aged 8-12 years of age!*

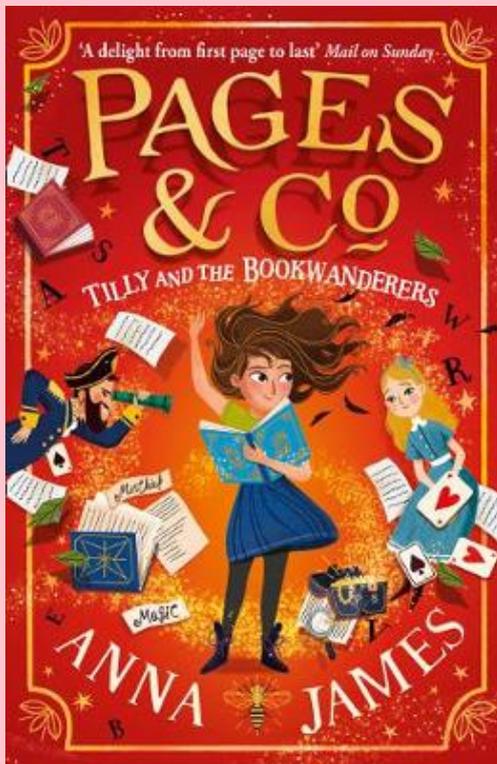


**Blended follows 11 year old Isabella as she navigates changes within her family life, friendships, and her own identity. Blended touches on topics of divorce and racial identity, and is perfect for ages 8-12.**

**Through the inspirational stories of 50 famous and under-celebrated women from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, South Asian girls will have a chance to dream about lives for themselves that radically differ from the limited narratives and stereotypes written for them by their culture, wider society and the mainstream media.**

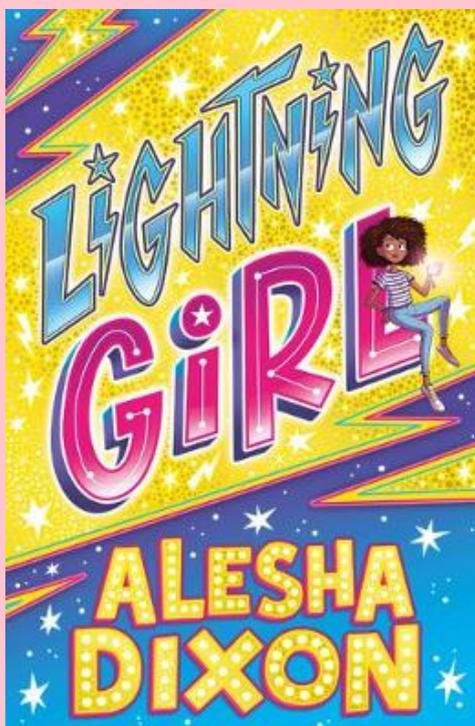
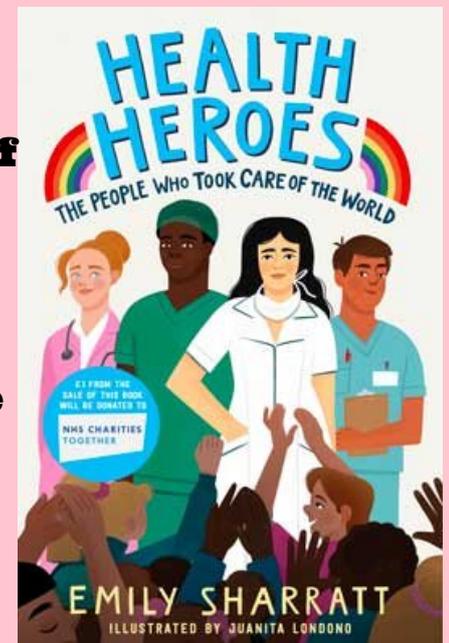


**Introducing a heroine as loveable, feisty and roguish as Robin Hood, Sri Lankan-raised author Nizrana Farook's debut is children's fiction at its finest. On the run from the royal palace, jewel thief and rebel Chaya - along with an intrepid gang and a purloined elephant - is driven headlong into the depths of the jungle where she must face up to revolutionary forces, untold dangers and her own misdemeanours in a battle for survival. Pitching readers into the heart of a vibrantly evoked landscape that lives and breathes from the page, The Girl Who Stole an Elephant is an adventure full of heart and courage from a dazzling new voice.**



**A magical adventure to delight the imagination. A curl-up-on-the-sofa snuggle of a debut from a uniquely talented author. Eleven year-old Tilly has lived above her grandparents' bookshop ever since her mother disappeared shortly after she was born. Like the rest of her family, Tilly loves nothing more than to escape into the pages of her favourite stories.**

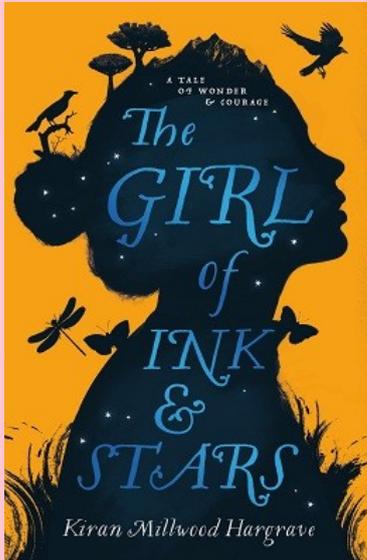
**For readers aged 8+, Health Heroes is packed full of true stories of healthcare workers past and present, from all walks of life and from all around the world - from Florence Nightingale and Alexander Fleming to the midwives, doctors, paramedics and carers of today. From famous names to unsung heroes, these are real people being amazing - making new discoveries, putting themselves on the front line, and helping to take care of people in need, in all sorts of ways.**



**10-year-old Aurora Beam lives at home with her utterly unremarkable family... until the day she sees her little sister being picked on in the playground and suddenly beams of light shoot out of her fingers! It's time for her parents to drop a life-changing bombshell. Mum is a secret superhero, fighting crime across the globe while Dad looks after the kids at home. As Aurora's own powers come into play, will she be able to balance her new super skills training with school?**

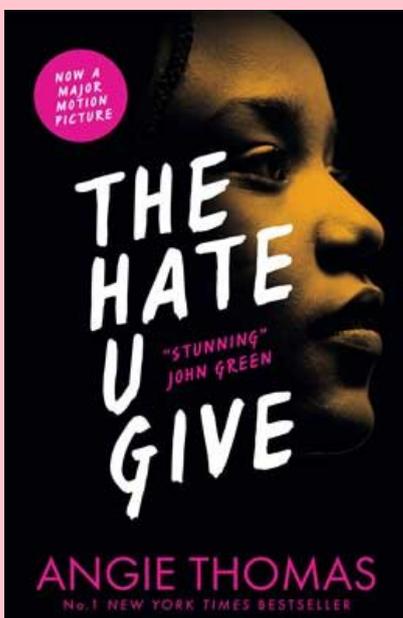
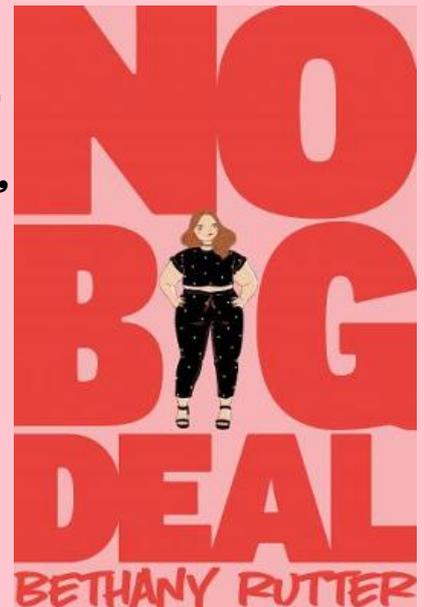
# Books for YA readers

*Young adult fiction is perfect for early-late teens, exploring more complex characters, narratives and social issues that enlighten and empower readers with the education they need to walk into the world compassionate, empathetic and knowledgeable people.*

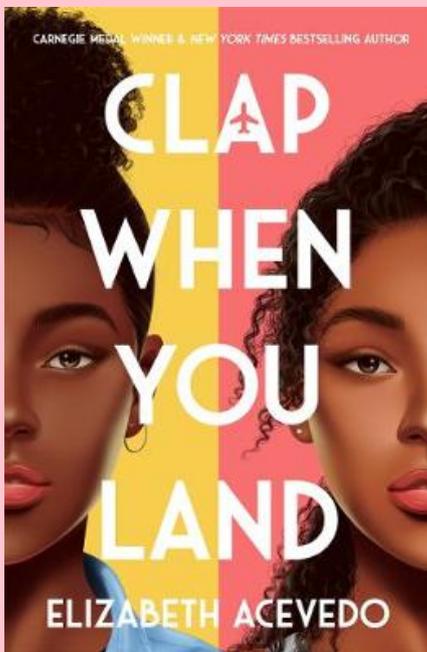


**Isabella Riosse is the daughter of a cartographer who lives on the island of Joya; an isle both steeped in mythology and shrouded in mystery. For the last thirty years, a strict Governor has forbidden the island inhabitants from venturing beyond their small township. Isabella is fascinated with the ancient myths of Joya, which is said to have once floated freely over the seas. Preoccupied with ideas of exploration and inspired by the far-flung places her father once documented, she yearns for adventure.**

**Emily knows she's fat. She doesn't need anyone to tell her any of these things - she likes herself and she likes her body. She just thinks it's time everyone else caught up. With a newly-slim bestie, a mum knee-deep in fad diets and increasing pressure to change, Emily faces a constant battle to be her true self. But when she meets gorgeous Joe, things start to change. Somehow, she's going to have to convince everyone, including herself, that it's no big deal. No Big Deal is a funny and inspiring debut YA novel from Bethany Rutter: influencer, editor and a fierce UK voice in the debate around body positivity.**

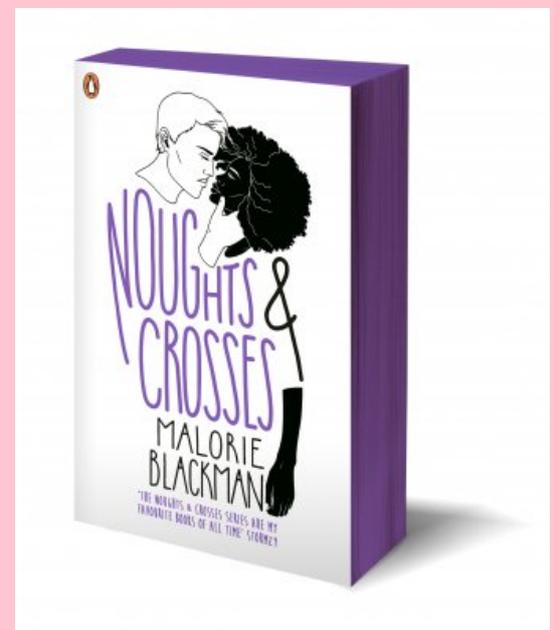


**Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful, gripping and piercingly relevant YA novel about inequality, police violence, 21st century prejudice and one girl's struggle for justice. Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.**



**Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.**

**A dystopian Romeo and Juliet that makes eloquent statements about race relations and the burning passions of the teenage heart, Noughts and Crosses is absolutely pivotal in the evolution of the Young Adult novel. The first of an astonishingly consistent series from former Waterstones Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman, Noughts and Crosses stands as trailblazing work of literature.**



**Frankie is nearly fourteen and teenage life certainly comes with its ups and downs. Her mum is seriously ill with MS and Frankie can feel herself growing up quickly, no thanks to Sally and her gang of bullies at school. When Sally turns out to be not-so-mean after all, they strike up a friendship and are suddenly spending all of their time together. But Frankie starts to wonder whether these feelings she has for Sally are stronger than her other friendships. Might she really be in love?**

