

**A SELECTION OF THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG ADULTS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH  
IN THE UK IN 2014/5**

**Eurolis** is grateful to the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals for providing this inspiring selection of children's books in English to the Eurotoolbox Collection for 2015.

**The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal Shortlist for 2015**  
**Judges' comments are listed in italics**



The Kate Greenaway Medal was established in 1955, for distinguished illustration in a book for children. It is named after the popular nineteenth century artist known for her fine children's illustrations and designs.

The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal is awarded annually for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people.

The winner receives a golden medal and £500 worth of books to donate to a library of their choice.

Since 2000, the winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal has also been awarded the £5000 Colin Mears Award. Colin Mears, a Worthing based accountant and children's book collector, left a bequest providing every Greenaway winner with a cash award as well as the coveted Medal.

The medal is awarded by CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

Please note: The "age range" listed below is intended as a guide only, as determined by the 2015 judging panel.

**Carlin, Laura (illustrator) Davies, Nicola (text)**

**The Promise Walker (8+)**

**ISBN: 9781406337280 (hardback) 9781406355598 (paperback)**

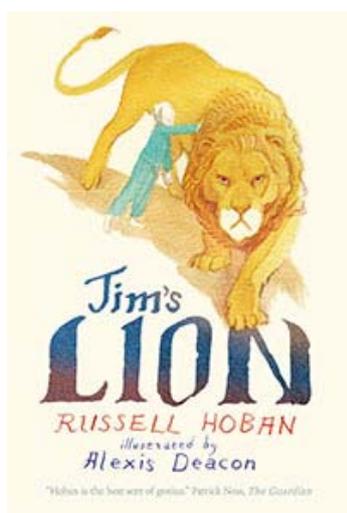


On a mean street in a mean city, a young thief tries to snatch an old woman's bag. But she can't have it without giving something in return: The Promise. She finds herself with a bag of acorns, and promises to plant them all. Thus begins a journey that will change the city forever, in a story that will touch the heart and imagination of every reader, young and old.

The beautiful and distinctive illustrations effortlessly reflect this simple story of transformation through use of colours and shades. Bleak cityscapes in grey perfectly capture the sombre, claustrophobic and harsh urban reality. Then a quick flash of colour, and a touch of light appears, slowly replacing the bleak monochromatic world with vibrant colours. This book is filled with imaginative techniques, from the way that Carlin's soft palette creates atmosphere, to her sense of scale and perspective. Beautiful, unique and very uplifting.

**Alexis Deacon (illustrator) Russell Hoban (text)**

**Jim's Lion Walker (9+) ISBN: 9781406346022 (hardback)**



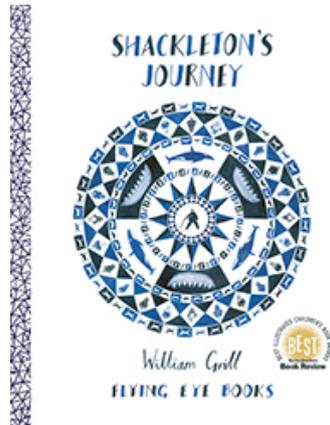
A touching story about a boy in hospital, who dreams wild and extraordinary dreams as he faces a life-saving operation. Jim is in hospital. He's frightened. What if the doctors send him somewhere that he can't find his way back from? Nurse Bami tells Jim that he must go to his "good place" and there, his "finder" will come looking for him. Everyone has a finder. And so, deep in Jim's dreams, he finds his: a lion.

Alexis Deacon's extraordinary and striking illustrations combine perfectly with Russell Hoban's classic text to create a stunning and powerful book. With a muted palette and impressive graphic imagery and symbolism, the reader is taken on a journey through dream sequences and altered states of consciousness, where the sense of blood, pain, strength and faith are all too real. The illustrations alone make for an uncomfortable yet unforgettably moving read.

**William Grill**

**Shackleton's Journey Flying Eye Books (10+)**

**ISBN: 9781909263109 (hardback)**



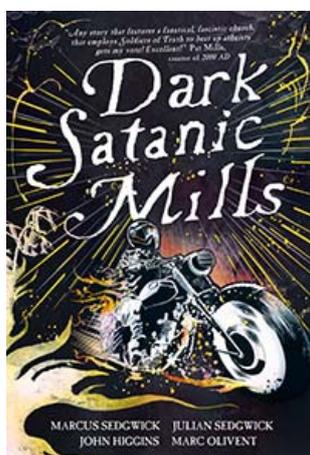
In the last days of the Heroic Age of Exploration, Ernest Shackleton dreamed of crossing the frozen heart of Antarctica, a place of ferocious seas, uncharted mountains and bone-chilling cold. But when his ship, the Endurance, became trapped in the deadly grip of the ice, Shackleton's dreams of crossing Antarctica were shattered. Stranded in a cold, white world, and thousands of miles from home, the men of the expedition set out on a desperate trek across the ice in search of rescue.

This beautiful non-fiction book seems to effortlessly bring a modern and fresh feel to the story of Ernest Shackleton, whilst remaining traditional and classic. The use of stark white space expertly conveys a sense of isolation. The detailed small illustrations wonderfully bring to life the intricacies of life during the journey, whilst the breath-taking larger illustrations provide a strong sense of scale and highlight the enormity of the natural world. This is an exciting, quality book which provides a true experience and reminds us that it is the people, not the journey, that truly matter.

**Higgins, John & Olivent, Marc (illustrators) Sedgwick, Marcus & Sedgwick, Julian (text)**

**Dark Satanic Mills Walker Books (11+)**

**ISBN: 9781406329889 (paperback)**



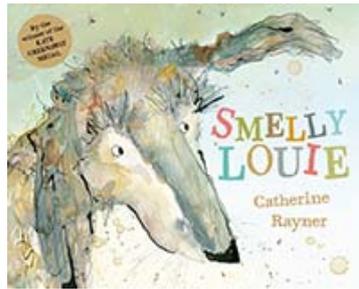
Set in a near-future Britain, Dark Satanic Mills tracks a young woman's journey from the flooded landmarks of London to the vast, scorched and abandoned hills of the North. Framed for a murder she did not commit, fearless and resourceful loner Christy has no other choice but to run for her life. The graphic novel format epitomises the total synergy between text and images. The dark and very oppressive black and white illustrations are a perfect match for the sombre story line and subject matter. They pick up the symbolism from the text through

beautiful imagery, incredible use of light and excellent framing and perspective. Visions of post-apocalyptic London and of a scorched desert in the north of England are powerful and discomfiting. The result is a modern and dynamic book, which maintains a consistent high quality throughout.

**Catherine Rayner**

**Smelly Louie Macmillan (3+)**

**ISBN: 9780230742505 (hardback)**



Nobody smells quite like Louie. This pongy pooch has his own particular odour and it is definitely NOTHING like roses and apple blossom. After he's forced to have a bath, Louie is determined to recreate his Special Smell so he sets off on a mission - what will he find? An old boot that smells like mouldy cheese? Some stinky bins?

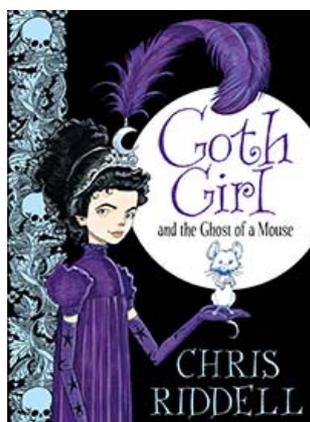
None of them are quite right ... but what will happen if they are all mixed together?

This vibrant picture book perfectly captures the energy and movement of a mischievous dog in search of the best (or worst) smells. The sense of hideous smell is visually conveyed beautifully, creating a wonderful synergy between the humorous text and illustrations. Impressive use of layout creates a visual treat on every page. This is a fun, expressive book that will delight readers of all ages.

**Chris Riddell**

**Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse Macmillan (7+)**

**ISBN: 9780230759800 (hardback)**



Meet Ada Goth. She lives in Ghastly-Gorm Hall with her father, Lord Goth, lots of servants and at least half a dozen ghosts, but she hasn't got any friends to explore her enormous, creepy house with. Then, one night, everything changes when Ada meets a ghostly mouse called Ishmael. Together they set out to solve the mystery of the strange happenings at Ghastly-Gorm Hall, and get a lot more than they bargained for...

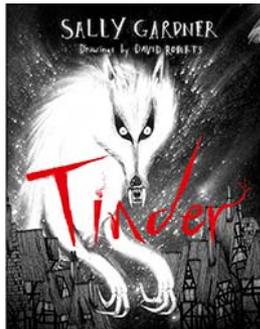
Chris Riddell's characteristic and detailed line drawings combine wonderfully with the witty text to create the original and imaginative world inhabited by Ada Goth. The book is beautifully produced and a visual experience from the

start, from the silver skulls on the vintage style endpapers, to the delightful vignettes showing many of the strange characters that appear in the story. Every tiny detail, consistent throughout, enhances as well as depicts the text and the delight of this book would be lost without them.

**David Roberts (illustrator) Sally Gardner (text)**

**Tinder Orion (11+)**

**ISBN: 9781780621494 (hardback)**



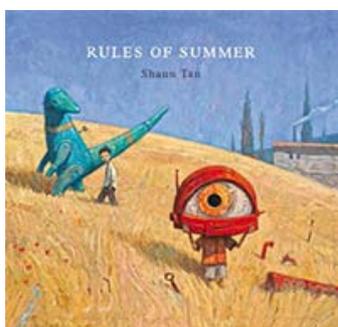
Wounded in battle, Otto Hundebiss defies Death and finds himself on a journey to a realm of dark magic and mystery. He meets Safire, brave of heart and pure of spirit, and learns the powers of the tinderbox and the secret of the wolves.

Truly stunning and distinctive illustrations further amplify the full horror and sinister atmosphere of the terrors faced by Otto Hundebiss. The tale is often violent and the illustrations do not shy away from this. Monochrome with splashes of blood red, this is a tale dripping in the blood of the battlefield from the blood red of the cover typography to the endpapers. Exquisitely detailed attention to the costume of the stylised people perfectly captures the medieval feel and sense of other worldliness. Clever use of perspective and space within the page creates depth and alludes to the overwhelming size of nightmarish visions.

**Shaun Tan**

**Rules of Summer Lothian Publishing (8+)**

**ISBN: 9780734410672 (hardback)**



Combining humour and surreal fantasy, Shaun Tan pictures a summer in the lives of two boys. Each spread tells of an event and the lesson learned. By turns, these events become darker and more sinister as the boys push their games further and further.

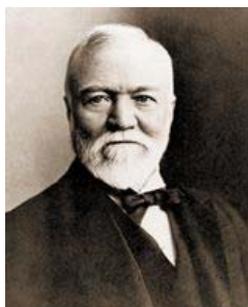
Every page is a discovery in this breath-taking, character-driven story charting two boys' relationship and their adventures. This perfectly conveys that time of childhood where imagination becomes reality and the mundane is transformed into wondrous landscapes where anything is possible. The surreal, beautifully textured paintings convey so much emotion and a real sense of claustrophobic menace builds. Depressing dystopian images vie with

steam-punk to saturate every page of this book, but coalesce into something far happier in the final resolution.

The Carnegie Medal is awarded annually to the writer of an outstanding book for children.

It was established by in 1936, in memory of the great Scottish-born philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919). Carnegie was a self-made industrialist who made his fortune in steel in the USA. His experience of using a library as a child led him to resolve that "if ever wealth came to me that it should be used to establish free libraries."

## The Carnegie Medal



Carnegie set up more than 2800 libraries across the English speaking world and, by the time of his death, over half the library authorities in Great Britain had Carnegie libraries.

First awarded to Arthur Ransome for 'Pigeon Post', the winner receives a golden medal and £500 worth of books to donate to a library of their choice.

The medal is awarded by CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

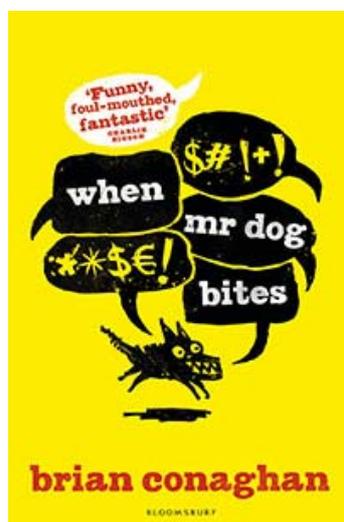
### The CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist for 2015 Judges' comments are listed in italics

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#### Brian Conaghan

**When Mr. Dog Bites Bloomsbury (14+)**

**ISBN: 9781408842539 (hardback) 9781408838365 (paperback)**



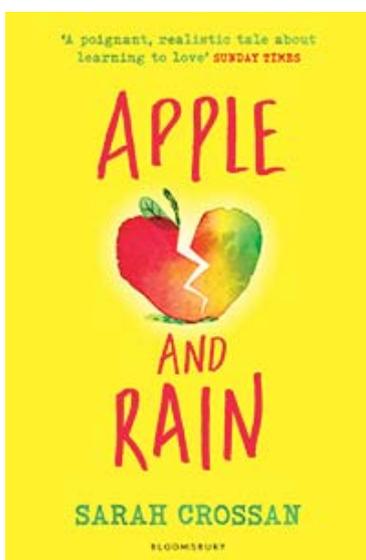
Dylan Mint has Tourette's. His life is a constant battle to keep the bad stuff in - the swearing, the tics, the howling dog that seems to escape whenever he gets stressed. But a routine visit to the hospital changes everything. Overhearing a hushed conversation between the doctor and his mother, Dylan discovers that he's going to die next March.

A heart-warming novel, which deals with a lot of serious issues, with humour and honesty. With strong characterisation and a compelling narrative voice, the book provides an unflinchingly sincere account of life in a special school, and as a Tourette's sufferer. The candour of the narrator, the strength of his relationships and his route to realisation and eventually reconciliation, has the reader rooting for him, even though, thanks to subtle clues throughout the novel, the reader is always a step ahead, adding insight and empathy. This book is genuine, eye-opening, thought-provoking and hilarious.

**Sarah Crossan**

**Apple and Rain Bloomsbury (11+)**

**ISBN: 9781408853061 (hardback) 9781408827130 (paperback)**



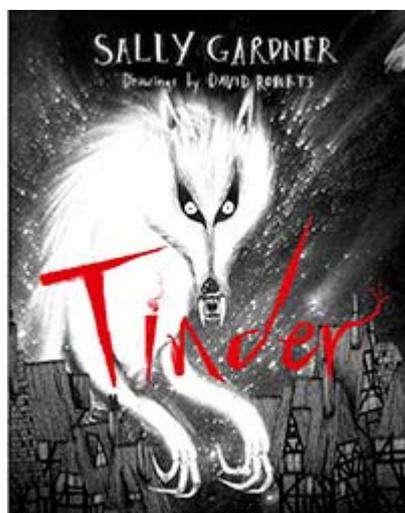
When Apple's mother returns after eleven years of absence, Apple feels whole again. She will have an answer to her burning question - why did you go? And she will have someone who understands what it means to be a teenager - unlike Nana. But just like the stormy Christmas Eve when she left, her mother's homecoming is bitter sweet, and Apple wonders who is really looking after whom. It's only when Apple meets someone more lost than she is, that she begins to see things as they really are.

This cleverly plotted story - ultimately about the meaning of family and love - draws a moving portrayal of a teenage girl's emotional upheaval as she needs to reassess all her previous assumptions. The writing is simple, but lyrical, dialogues are sharp and realistic, and the subtle use of poetry, woven throughout the book, adds emotional depth. All the characters are well-developed and the relationships between them are particularly well drawn. This is a powerful and poignant story with the perfect ending.

**Sally Gardner**

**Tinder Orion (11+)**

**ISBN: 9781780621494 (hardback)**



Wounded in battle, Otto Hundebiss defies Death and finds himself on a journey to a realm of dark magic and mystery. He meets Safire, brave of heart and pure of spirit, and learns the powers of the tinderbox and the secret of the wolves.

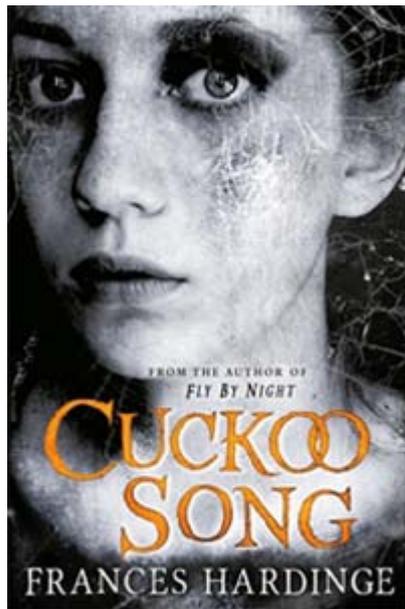
Sally Gardner's vividly descriptive and powerful writing brings to life this re-imagining of the classic fairy tale The Tinderbox. The plot is played to an atmospheric, fantastical, yet at times terrifying, historical background; with the

themes of death, love, lust and power, strong throughout. Otto, wounded in battle, finds he is facing death, but escapes only to fall for the more powerful force: love. The characters are vivid, bursting off the page and both convincing in their realism as well as in their traditional tale qualities.

**Frances Hardinge**

**Cuckoo Song Macmillan (11+)**

**ISBN: 9780330519731 (paperback)**



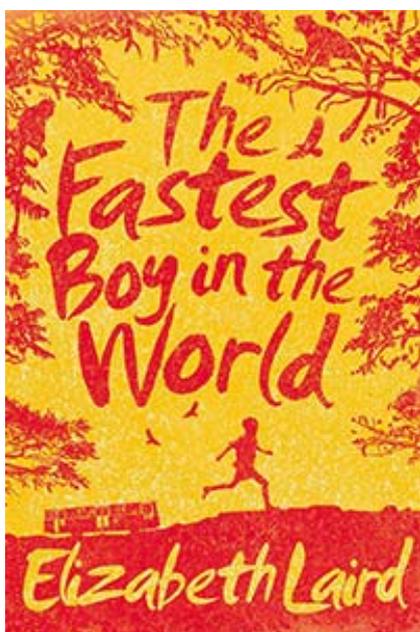
When Triss wakes up after an accident, she knows that something is very wrong. She is insatiably hungry; her sister seems scared of her and her parents whisper behind closed doors. She looks through her diary to try to remember, but the pages have been ripped out. Soon Triss discovers that what happened to her is more strange and terrible than she could ever have imagined, and that she is quite literally not herself. In a quest find the truth she must travel into the terrifying Underbelly of the city to meet a twisted architect who has dark designs on her family - before it's too late.

This highly original story is full of twists, turns and very strange happenings, but the strength of the beautiful writing ensures that it is easy to follow and understand. The reader is kept on tenterhooks and wholly engaged within the created world. All of the characters are believable, and their actions make complete sense in the contexts of their back-stories. This is a wonderfully atmospheric and creepy novel with a slow, claustrophobic build up of tension and a satisfyingly imperfect and credible ending.

**Elizabeth Laird**

**The Fastest Boy In The World Macmillan (9+)**

**ISBN: 9781447267164 (hardback) 9781447267171 (paperback)**



Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run! The great athletes of the Ethiopian national team are his heroes and he dreams that one day he will be a gold-medal-winning athlete like them, in spite of his ragged shorts and bare feet.

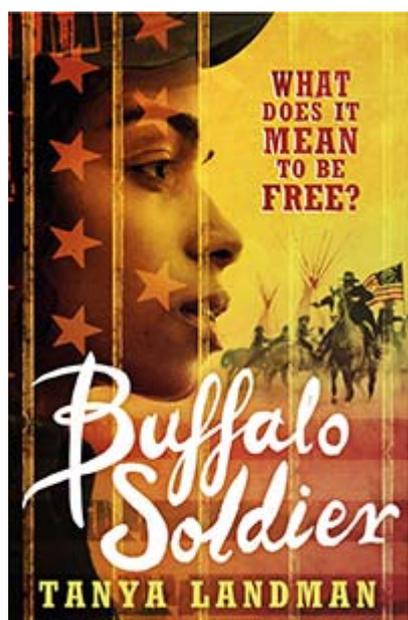
This tightly woven story is a delight for readers as we journey from the simplicity of an Ethiopian village to the bustling city of Addis Ababa. The beautiful, yet simple, writing ensures that we are fully immersed in the culture described. The characters are all well drawn and leap off the page; particularly Solomon, through whose eyes we learn the importance of dreams and friendship. This is a

solidly plotted novel with engaging characters that perfectly embraces new and old cultures.

**Tanya Landman**

**Buffalo Soldier Walker (14+)**

**ISBN: 9781406314595 (paperback)**



Charley, a young African-American slave from the Deep South, is freed at the end of the American Civil War. However her freedom is met with tragedy after her adopted mother is raped and lynched at the hands of a mob, and Charley finds herself alone with no protection. In a terrifyingly lawless land, where the colour of a person's skin can bring violent death, Charley disguises herself as a man and joins the army. Trapped in a world of injustice and inequality, it's only when Charley is posted to Apache territory to fight "savage Indians" that she begins to learn about who she is and what it is to be truly free.

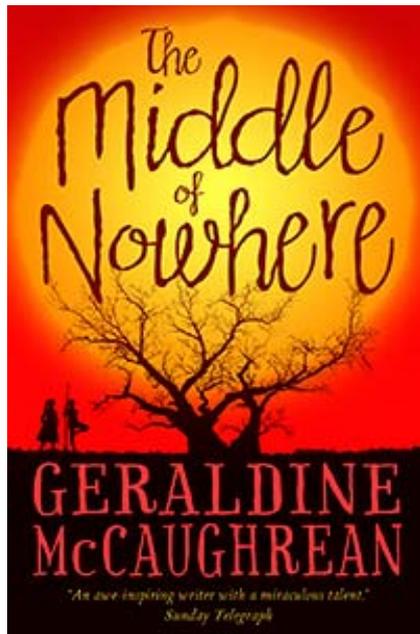
This brutal and heart breaking story is engrossing from the very beginning. The strong narrative voice engages the reader in the world described;

perfectly conveying raw emotions without the overuse of sentimentality. The book skilfully deals with difficult issues of race, gender and the essence of freedom, against the backdrop of a beautiful landscape and the horrors that humans inflict upon each other. The subtle changes in language expertly mirror Charley's personal growth. This is a beautiful, powerful piece of writing that will remain with readers long after the last page.

**Geraldine McCaughrean**

**The Middle of Nowhere Usborne (11+)**

**ISBN: 9781409522003 (hardback) 9781409570516 (paperback)**



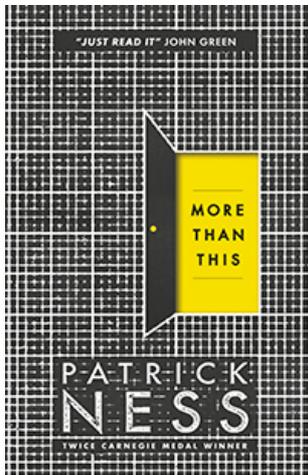
When her mother dies from a snake bite, Comity's life in the Australian Outback changes for ever. With her father lost in his grief, Comity makes friends with Fred, the Aboriginal yard boy. But then the evil Quartz Hogg arrives, who delights in playing cruel games. And when he sets his murderous sights on Fred, it's up to Comity to stop him.

Geraldine McCaughrean's powerful storytelling evokes a sense of place, isolation and spiralling chaos in this novel. The isolation and loneliness of the Australian Outback is reflected in the inner thoughts and behaviour of the characters, especially Comity, who is left on her own for much of the story. The portrayal of Aboriginal culture, racism and segregation comes alive on the page and is handled with sensitivity. This novel provides a real and immersive read with plenty of drama.

**Patrick Ness**

**More Than This Walker (14+)**

**ISBN: 9781406331158 (hardback) 9781406350487 (paperback)**



A boy drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments. He dies. Then he wakes, naked, bruised and thirsty, but alive. How can this be? And what is this strange, deserted place? As he struggles to understand what is happening, the boy dares to hope. Might this not be the end? Might there be more to this life, or perhaps this afterlife?

A beautifully written novel with a meticulous control of plot and language to ensure that, from the harrowing opening to the deliberately ambiguous ending, this has the reader gripped and intrigued. Seth knows that he has died and, as he searches to make sense of what is happening to him, the reader is plunged into the same confusion and uncertainty. All the characters, even those you do not meet directly, are incredibly well realised with convincing back stories. The book is heart-wrenching, thought provoking, and has a lasting impact on the reader.