

WALKER BOOKS

PRESS RELEASE

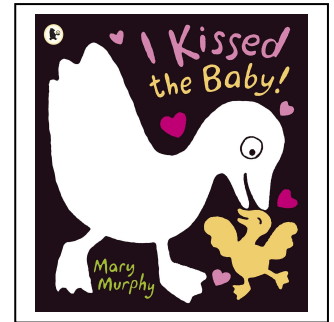
I Kissed the Baby! By Mary Murphy

Publishing in paperback, 3rd January 2011, £4.99 Age 2+

All the animals love the baby – and so will you!

"I saw the baby! Did you see the baby?" "Yes! I saw the baby, the teeny, weeny thing." "I tickled the baby! Did you tickle the baby?" "Yes! I tickled the baby, the wriggly, giggly thing!"

Perfect for reading out loud, *I Kissed the Baby!* is a bright, beautiful picture book for the very youngest of children that will be enjoyed again and again!



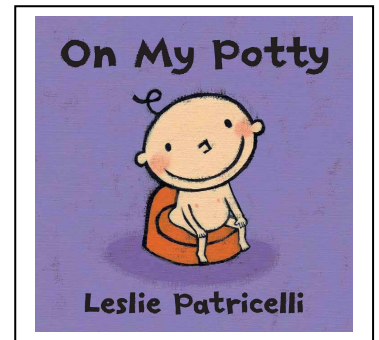
On My Potty By Leslie Patricelli

Publishing in board book, 3rd January 2011, £4.99 Age 1+

Leslie Patricelli's beloved baby is back in this first potty board book.

When you've got to go, you've got to go! But where? There comes a point in every toddler's life when the question must be raised – should I go in my potty? With pitch-perfect humour and pacing, Leslie Patricelli follows one baby's thoughts and hilarious actions as they learn to use the potty for the first time.

Ideal for use as an entertaining toilet-training tool, *On My Potty* is, pants down, the funniest potty book on the market!



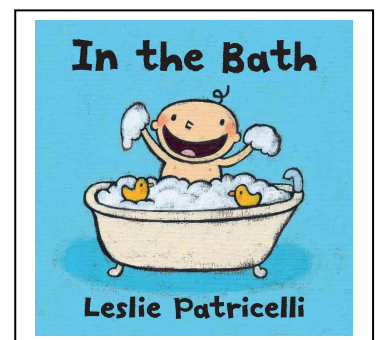
In the Bath By Leslie Patricelli

Publishing in board book, 3rd January 2011, £4.99 Age 1+

What's more fun than getting dirty? Having a bath! Join the fun in this first bathtime board book.

A favourite bedtime ritual takes on new joy in Leslie Patricelli's enticing bright artwork, exuberant language and simple, familiar scenes. Share the bathtime fun as baby plays, counts rubber ducks, swims and blows bubbles – only to be scooped up and tickled!

Perfect for reluctant **and** enthusiastic bathers, *In the Bath* is sure to become part of every toddler's bedtime routine!



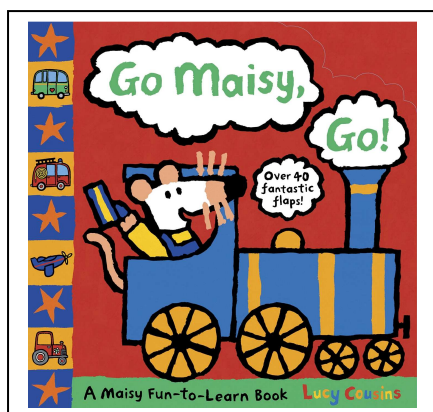
**For more information about any of these titles please contact Ruth Maurice on
020 7396 2960 or ruth.maurice@walker.co.uk**

About Walker

Walker Books is one of the world's leading independent publishers and is part of a vibrant international group that includes Candlewick Press in America, and Walker Books Australia. Founded in 1980 Walker now publishes over 300 books a year across all genres, while remaining true to its original ethos: the pursuit of excellence. Walker Books is home to many award-winning authors and illustrators including Anthony Horowitz, Helen Oxenbury, Michael Morpurgo, John Burningham, Allan Ahlberg and Michael Rosen. Further information can be found at www.walker.co.uk.

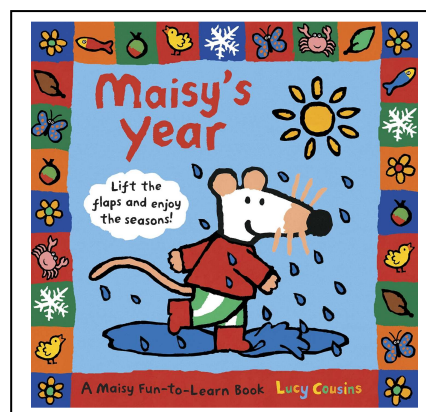
WALKER BOOKS

A feast of Lucy Cousins' picture book fun this spring



Go Maisy, Go! By Lucy Cousins
Publishing on 3rd January 2011, board book, £7.99

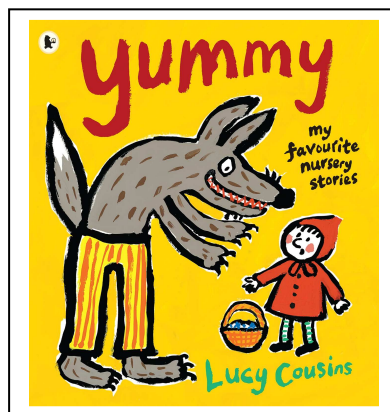
Maisy is always on the move in this colourful lift-the-flap book ... and readers can travel with her too - by bus, train or even aeroplane. Surprises hidden on every spread, along with bold illustrations and delightful rhymes, make this a real winner.



Maisy's Year by Lucy Cousins
Publishing on 3rd January 2011, board book, £7.99

A colourful interactive introduction to the seasons with everyone's favourite friends.

Spring, summer, autumn or winter, Maisy and her friends are always busy! Now young children who are crazy for Maisy can be with her all year round. They will love lifting the flaps and turning the wheels to learn about the seasons with Maisy and her friends.



Yummy by Lucy Cousins
Publishing on 7th March 2011, paperback, £9.99

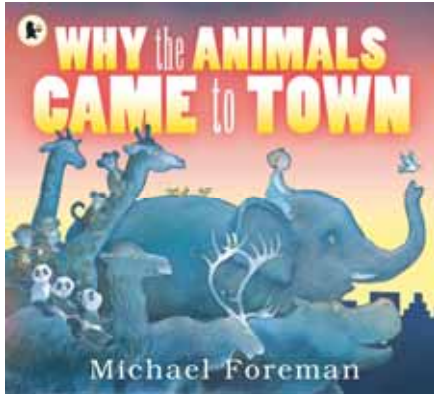
Lucy Cousins has created the ultimate collection of nursery stories for very young readers, brightly and boldly illustrated and full of fun. Lucy's style is already familiar and loved by parents and children alike and *Yummy* will appeal to both.

In *Yummy*, Lucy moves away from the safety, comfort and friendliness of Maisy's world and offers children their first taste of drama and narrative. The book features Lucy's eight favourite nursery stories, including well-known tales like *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Goldilocks* and *The Three Bears*, and lesser known stories like *Henny Penny* and *The Musicians of Bremen*.

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Why the Animals Came to Town By Michael Foreman

Publishing in paperback
January 2011

£5.99 Age 4+

A powerful environmental plea from one of Britain's finest illustrators now in paperback

When a young boy is woken in the night he opens his eyes to the most amazing sight... every kind of animal from all around the world coming down his street! But the dancing, prancing animals come with an important warning and open his eyes to something far more serious.

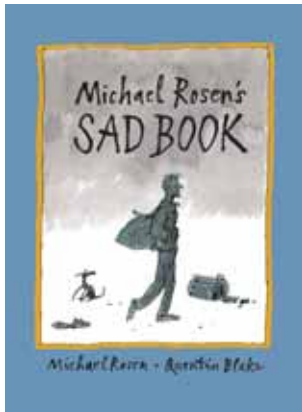
Told in rhythmic verse and brought to life with delightful illustrations, award-winning illustrator Michael Foreman has created a beautiful picture book with a serious message about global warming.

One of the most outstanding creators of children's picture books today, Michael Foreman has won the Kate Greenaway award three times and two Nestle Smarties prizes. His titles for Walker Books include *Beowulf*, *A Child's Garden*, *Mia's Story*, and *Hello World*. Michael lives in London.

**For further information, please contact Eve Warlow in Walker
Publicity on 020 7396 2468 or eve.warlow@walker.co.uk**

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Michael Rosen's Sad Book
by Michael Rosen
illustrated by Quentin Blake

Published 3rd January 2011
• £5.99 paperback • Age 5+

Publishing in paperback for the first time, this best-selling classic is the heartbreakingly honest account of a father's grief for his son from the illustrious pairing of two former Children's Laureates

What makes Michael Rosen most sad is thinking about his son, Eddie, who died. For the first time in paperback he writes about his sadness, how it affects him and some of the things he does to try and cope with it. Whether or not you have known what it's like to feel deep sadness, its truth and rawness will surely touch you.

Winner of the English 4-11 Exceptional Award, the Smarties Book Prize: 6-8 Category Bronze Award and shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, this is a very personal story about a universal issue – the loss of a much loved one.

“Beautifully judged, a book of honest grace” *The Observer*

“This is certainly a book that makes you sad, but its honesty is surprisingly uplifting”
The Sunday Times

About the author and illustrator

Michael Rosen is an eminent writer, broadcaster, poet, performer and, in 2007, was appointed as the Children's Laureate. He received the Eleanor Farjeon Award for services to children's literature in 1997.

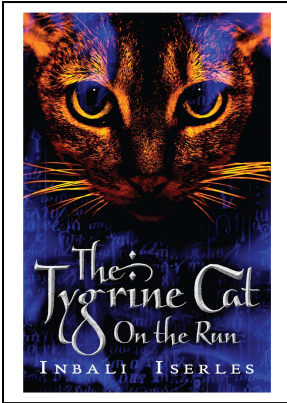
Quentin Blake was the very first Children's Laureate. One of the world's foremost illustrators, he has won numerous awards for his books and is most well-known for his work with Roald Dahl.

**For more information please contact Eve Warlow on
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WALKER  BOOKS



The Tygrine Cat on the Run

by Inbali Iserles

3rd January 2011

Publishing in paperback

9+, £5.99

The gripping sequel to the award-winning fantasy, *The Tygrine Cat*

"Evidently Inbali Iserles was an Abyssinian cat in a previous existence. She and her hero Mati share a sixth sense about feline life and she thrills us with his daring in the face of danger"

MARY HOFFMAN, bestselling author of the *Stravaganza* series

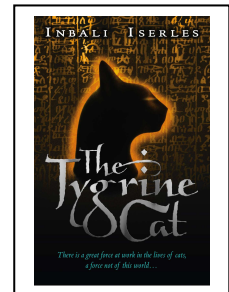
Long before humans walked the earth, there were two tribes of cats: the Sa Mau of the Nile Delta, and the Abyssinia Tygrine from ancient Nubia. Armed with mysterious powers, the ruthless Sa sought to crush the Tygrine and condemn all cats to darkness. Even those who believe the legend claim the tribes became extinct 9,000 years ago with the domestication of cats.

They are mistaken... Mati lives among the street cats at Cressida Lock. But Mati is different – he is a Tygrine, the last of his kind. The Suzerain, his implacable foe, has set a murderous creature on his trail. As a shadow falls over Cressida Lock, the young cat must find the strength to lead his friends from danger.

In this heart-stopping sequel to *The Tygrine Cat*, Mati must pass through three gates of the feline spirit realm and confront his enemies. The first gate takes him to a place of chaos and flame; the second to the ancient land of his ancestors; the last to the world of memory, where his fallen friends remain. Can cruelty and despair crush Mati's will – or is there an even greater power at work?



Inbali Iserles was educated at Sussex and Cambridge Universities and works as a lawyer in the City of London. She lives in Islington with her degus – exotic rodents rescued from the RSPCA. In her spare time she's a committed globetrotter, a passion that has taken her to the depths of the Amazon Rainforest and the bubbling geysers



For further information, please contact Ruth Maurice in Walker Publicity on 020 7396 2960 / ruth.maurice@Walker.co.uk

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Halfling

By Rebecca Lloyd

Publishing in paperback

3rd January 2011

£5.99 Age 9+

A Captivating first novel filled with magic and imagination

After a horrible accident leaves Danny the carer of his disabled dad, he is forced to grow up quickly and take on a life of responsibility, swapping playing for cooking, cleaning and tidying. When their neighbour, John Seeping, goes on holiday he asks Danny to feed his tropical fish. Little does Danny know that John's wife, Vaquita, whom everyone thought moved away years ago, is still living in the house – in the bath. But Vaquita is not all she appears to be. She tells Danny that, not only is she a halfling creature, but that she also longs to return to her home... in the sea.

Should Danny believe her? Can he find it within himself to believe in the magic? If Vaquita's story is true, then that would mean that the magic really does exist... and this magic seems capable of freeing not only Vaquita, but Danny as well.

From first-time children's author Rebecca Lloyd – winner of the inaugural Bristol short Story Prize 2008 – *Halfling* explores the powerful effect that belief can have on a person's life, and will have readers, both young and old, longing to believe in magic.

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TOBY FORWARD

Dragonborn

OUT OF THE FLAXFIELD QUARTET,
SOMETHING POWERFUL, GRIPPING
AND EXHILARATING IS BORN.

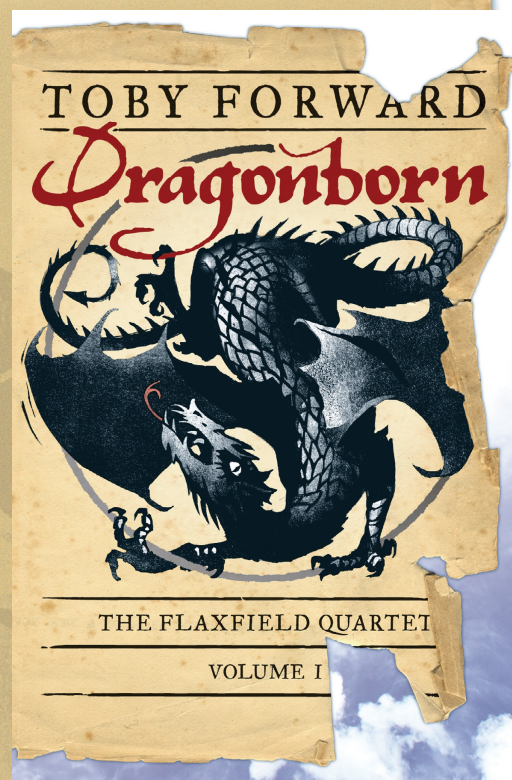
Dragonborn is the thrilling, quest-driven coming-of-age story of Sam, a 12-year-old apprentice working under the wise and wonderful wizard, Flaxfield. Sam's life is thrown into chaos when Flaxfield dies unexpectedly, leaving Sam alone in the wizarding world with only his loyal pet dragon Starback for company.

Flaxfield's death propels Sam from boy to man, apprentice to wizard - forced to decide whom he can and cannot trust. Sam's biggest trial comes as the wizards gather to execute Flaxfield's Finishing. Discovering that magic has gone astray and that only he can restore its harmony, Sam sets off with Starback, little realising the perils that lie in wait. In a world where magic has become wild, and evil is afoot, can the forces of good ever prevail?

In this electrifying first volume in *The Flaxfield Quartet*, Toby Forward expertly weaves a high-octane tale of abandonment, courage and personal growth, with adventure, magic and dragons. Where Harry Potter and Percy Jackson fear to tread, here walks Sam: noble, triumphant, and most importantly, dragonowner.

Toby Forward is the author of many children's books including *The Wolf's Story*, *The Christmas Mouse*, *The First Day of School* and *Travelling Backwards*. Toby lives in Liverpool.

For more information please contact Eve Warlow,
eve.warlow@walker.co.uk or 020 7396 2960



Publishing 3rd January 2011
in paperback
£6.99 Age 10+

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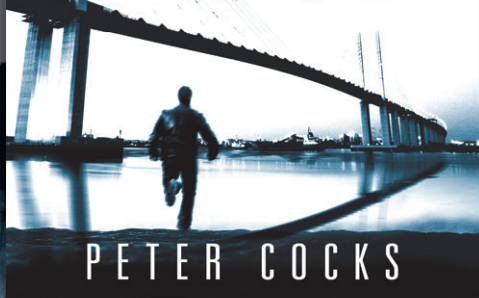
LONG REACH

AN EDDIE SAVAGE THRILLER

LONG REACH

"Powerful, compelling stuff that pulls no punches"

MARK BILLINGHAM



Long Reach by Peter Cocks

Published in paperback on 3rd January 2011 £6.99

"Powerful, compelling stuff that pulls no punches"

MARK BILLINGHAM

Long Reach is a gritty thriller set in the criminal underworld among the gangsters and grime of London's East End with a new lead character who girls will lust over and boys will want to be. This real life drama, set in the present day, is written by one of the most exciting writing talents in the UK, Peter Cocks. Eddie Savage is set to become the biggest lead character in teen fiction and Long Reach is just the start of an exciting sequence of books featuring him.

Seventeen-year-old Eddie Savage is horrified to learn that the body of his brother, Steve, has just been washed up in the Thames. Long Reach follows him trying to avenge his brother's death. Behaviour gets bad and lives are turned upside down as Eddie tries to infiltrate the notoriously violent Kelly family. Flash cars and fast women begin to distract Eddie as he gets closer to finding out the truth, before long Eddie is up to his neck in the Kelly business and sinking fast.

For further information please contact Ruth Maurice on 020 7396 2960 or at ruth.maurice@walker.co.uk

Peter Cocks has written extensively for television including comedy, drama and animation, he is also an actor appearing in dramas, commercials and children's television in a variety of disguises. He has also worked as a model for Hermes. Peter wrote his first novel for teenagers, Triskellion, with crime writer Mark Billingham under the pseudonym Will Peterson.

Peter lives on the Kent coast with his wife, two children and three dachshunds. *Long Reach* is his first thriller.

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