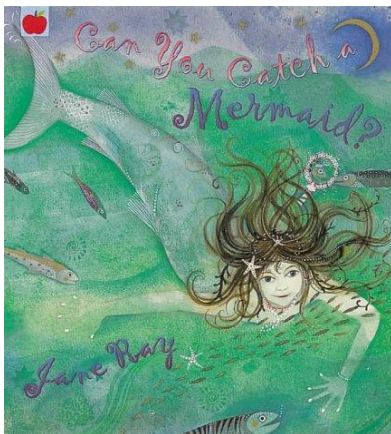


Author Focus

Jane Ray

Jane Ray is perhaps best known for illustrating fairy tales, whether traditional in origin or of modern invention. When many of her books are gathered together, it is really striking how many of them focus on freedom as a theme. Her illustrations frequently feature a culturally diverse range of characters. The inclusion of children with disabilities in children's books is also important to her. Jane Ray is the IBBY UK Illustrator nominee for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Awards. Find out more about her at: www.janeray.com

Picture Books

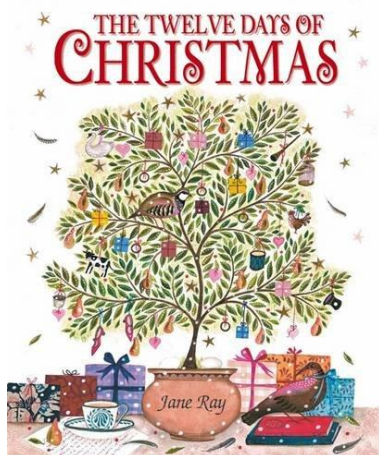


Can You Catch a Mermaid?

Orchard 9781841212968

A deep friendship develops between Eliza, who lives by the sea with her fisherman father who affectionately calls her Little Dolphin, and Freya, a mysterious girl who Eliza comes to realise is a mermaid. Freya loses a talismanic object without which she cannot return home. Will Eliza be able to help her find it? The blues and greens which dominate the illustrations reflect the light and dark moods of this haunting seaside story.

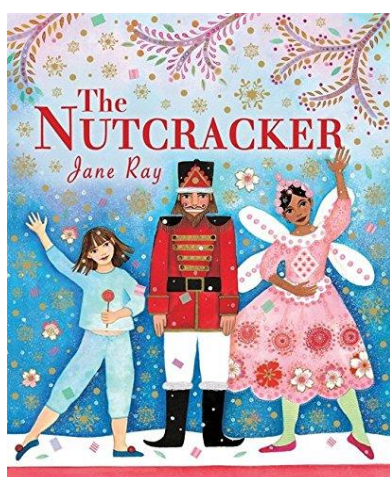




The Twelve Days of Christmas

Orchard 9781408307045

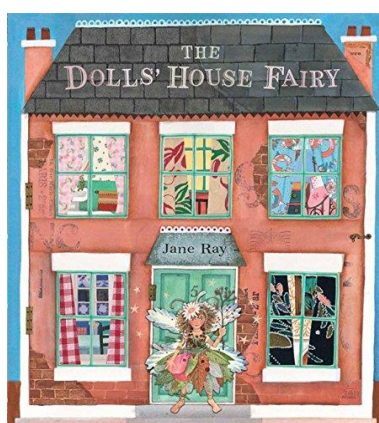
Jane Ray's illustrations for the traditional cumulative Christmas song emanate a rosy red glow. The five gold rings are playfully portrayed. The nine ladies dancing are 1920s flapper girls. The eleven pipers piping and the twelve drummers drumming and their musical instruments are from a variety of cultures. And look out for the inquisitive cat who is very interested in all those birds!



The Nutcracker

Orchard 9781408336441

A picture book portraying the story of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet is here given a modern day setting. Guests are arriving for the Ernst family's Christmas party and Clara is anticipating what her toymaker godfather, noted for his wonderful gifts, might bring. The present he gives her provokes a strange night time adventure allowing plenty of scope for fantastical illustrations.

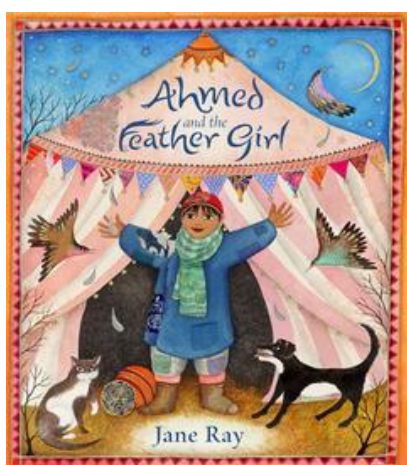


The Dolls' House Fairy

Orchard 9781846169090

Rosy's dolls' house is her favourite plaything and its interior is delineated in delightful detail. She and her dad share making furniture and other items for it and the close relationships within their dual heritage family are clearly shown in the pictures. Then one day Rosy's dad has to go into hospital for a time and that's when a very messy fairy called Thistle unexpectedly appears in the dolls's house.





Ahmed and the Feather Girl

Frances Lincoln 9781847803535

There is a spiritual depth to this picture book about a boy who frees a girl hatched from a golden egg and put on show in a travelling circus. After Aurelia has flown away, Ahmed always awakes clutching feathers and one day she returns and releases him too. The story takes place in a cold and snowy landscape where gold stars illuminate the deep blue sky and the only true warmth is in the relationship between the two central characters.



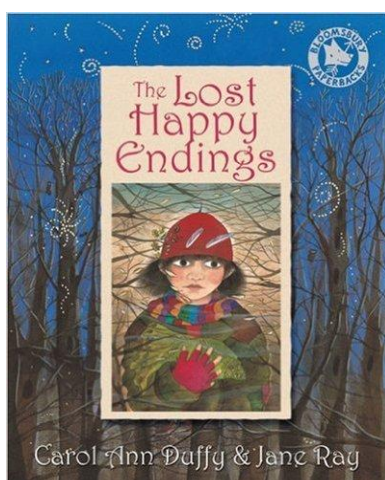
***Zeraffa Giraffa* by Dianne Hofmeyr**

Frances Lincoln 9780747581062

A picture book inspired by the true story of a giraffe sent as a gift to the King of France by the Great Pasha of Egypt in the 1820s. The skillfully composed pictures show the different stages of the journey made by Zeraffa, accompanied by her keeper, the young boy Atir. They travel downriver in a felucca 'to the place where the sea sipped up to the Nile' and cross the sea under a star-filled sky. On arrival in Marseilles, it becomes apparent that the only practical way to get Zeraffa to her destination is to walk the 550 miles to Paris where she becomes much admired and inspires some extraordinary fashions. The story ends on a note of connectedness between Europe and Africa.

Another picture by Dianne Hofmeyr and Jane Ray - *The Glassmaker's Daughter* - will be published by Frances Lincoln in 2017.

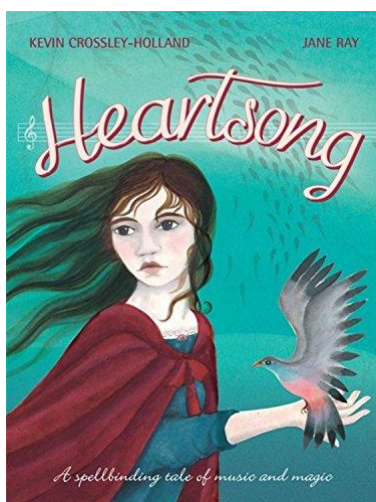




***The Lost Happy Endings* by Carol Ann Duffy**
 Bloomsbury 9780747581062

Jub has the important job of ensuring all the Happy Endings of stories are in the right part of the forest when bedtime arrives. She scatters the golden words into the air from a sack and they whizz around illuminating the night sky like fireflies and fireworks. Then one night as Jub traverses the forest, a scary woman snatches the sack from her. How will Jub restore the Happy Endings to their rightful place?

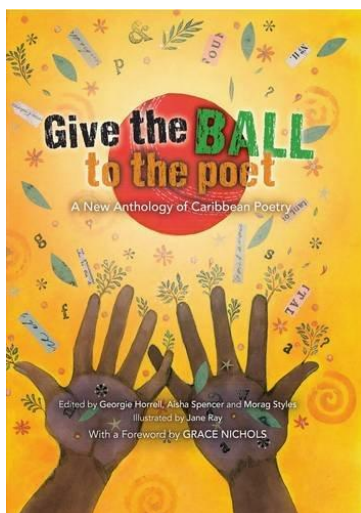
Fiction



***Heartsong* by Kevin Crossley-Holland**
 Orchard 9781408336076

Jane Ray's illustrations both illuminate and are an integral part of this story related from the viewpoint of Laura, a mute girl brought up by nuns in an orphanage in 18th century Venice. This exquisitely wrought novella was inspired by Jane's visit to the city's Ospedale della Pieta where she found a ledger listing the names of foundling babies and the tokens left by their mothers. She and Kevin Crossley-Holland created this story, weaving in the character of the composer Vivaldi who was director of a music school linked to the orphanage. Colour illustrations depict the light and dark of the city while sepia style miniatures convey a feeling of a bygone age. Feathers feature throughout – suggesting the wings of both birds and angels.

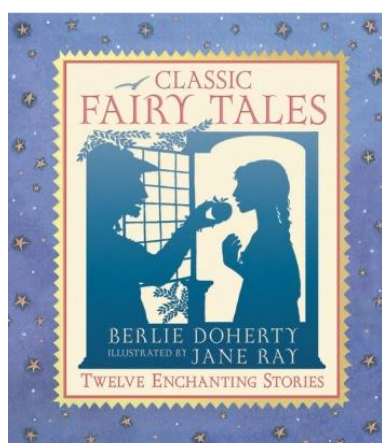
Collections



Give the Ball to the Poet edited by Georgie Horrell, Aisha Spencer and Morag Styles

Commonwealth Education Trust 9781909931008

A celebration of Caribbean culture and environment is threaded throughout all the sections of this vibrant anthology alongside the anger and sorrow begotten of the interdependent history of migration, slavery and exploitation between the Caribbean and Britain. There are poems about cricket as a way of life, the importance of sharing food and the way it evokes memorable moments and events, the power of music, the freedom and restrictions of childhood, and the significance for island peoples of proximity to the sea. The placing of each illustration on the page has been carefully considered so that it truly contributes to the splendour of the overall design as well as having individual beauty.

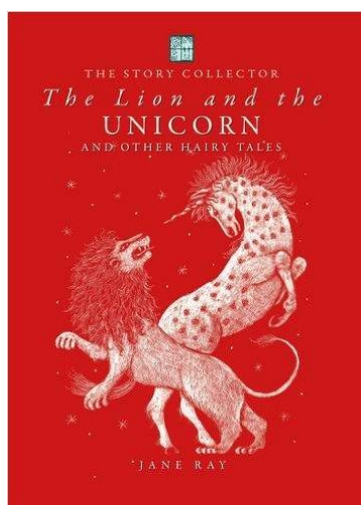


Classic Fairy Tales by Berlie Doherty

Walker 9781406365962 (hardback) 9781406317459 (paperback)

In compiling this collection of fairy tales, mostly taken from Western European tradition, Berlie Doherty has used several sources and shaped her own retellings. As she says, 'Even the most familiar stories have echoes in many different cultures around the world.' This is reflected in Jane Ray's sumptuous illustrations which frame every page, as she portrays the characters with a variety of skin hues. Available as a high quality softback and recently reissued in a hardback gift edition.





The Lion and the Unicorn and other Hairy Tales

Boxer Books 9781910716502

In Jane Ray's third exquisite collection of beastly tales she has inhabited and interpreted several stories and expressed the retellings in words and pictures. In a departure from the bright jewel-like illustrations usually associated with her, here she has used flat instead of glowing colours. The pictures are two-tone or black and white, delicately etched and cross-hatched, and carefully matched to each story. For example, in the Inuit tale 'The Old Lady and her Son' where the illustrations, especially those using blue, are reminiscent of the etchings on whalebone known as scrimshaw.

The human invention and feelings behind the tales are very present. Significant characters are depicted facing each other directly: Theseus and his father, the Old Woman and her Polar Bear son. The emotion in this last story is clear in the body language of the bear when his human mother dies. Tiny figures from the first story Brer Fox and Brer Rabbit adorn the heads of the pages. Encapsulated on the page, the latter will always be able to stay ahead of the former.

The earlier collections in The Story Collector series are:

The Emperor's Nightingale and other Feathery Tales

Boxer Books 9781907152597

The Little Mermaid and other Fishy Tales Boxer Books

9781907152740

