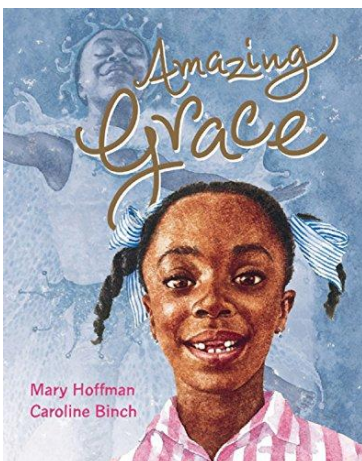


Author Focus

Mary Hoffman

Mary Hoffman has written over 100 books for children across the age range and including the popular picture books about Grace and the Stravaganza fantasy series set in a country that strongly resembles Italy. Mary now spends a lot of time in Italy, researching its history and interpreting it in her fiction. She has recently founded The Greystones Press www.greystonespress.com which publishes adult and YA books. Find out more about Mary at www.maryhoffman.co.uk . This booklist features a range of her currently available titles.

Picture Books

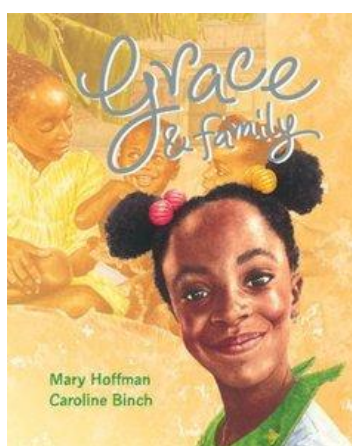


Amazing Grace illustrated by Caroline Binch

Frances Lincoln 9781845077495

A wonderfully affirmative story. Grace 'a girl who loved stories' is told that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school pantomime because she is black and female. With the help and support of her grandmother she comes to believe that she can be anything she wants. The excellent illustrations show Grace's shifting emotions as she copes with disappointment and triumph and her constant joie de vivre.

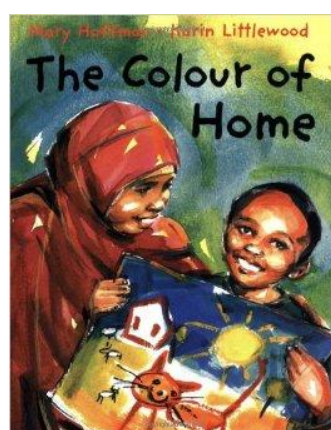




***Grace & Family* illustrated by Caroline Binch**

Frances Lincoln 9781845078065

In this sequel to *Amazing Grace*, Grace travels to the Gambia to visit her father and has to adjust to fresh relationships with his new wife and family. Her love of books and stories always sustains and enriches her life. Also: There are two more picture books: *Princess Grace* (9781845076696) and *Grace at Christmas* (9781845076696), both illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu.

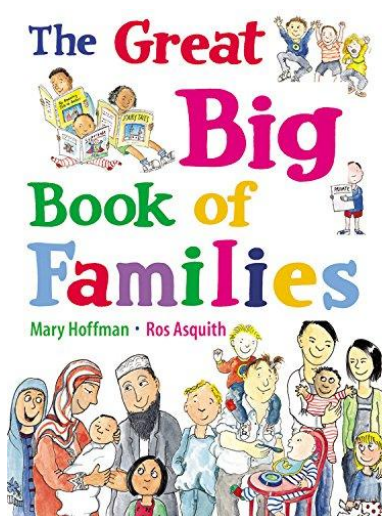


***The Colour of Home* illustrated by Karin Littlewood**

Frances Lincoln 9780711219915

This picture book lets us into the world of Hassan, a young boy who has just arrived in Britain from Somalia. He expresses his feelings about the terrors he has witnessed through making paintings. His teacher finds a way, with the help of an interpreter, to help him settle into his new home.





The Great Big Book of Families illustrated by Ros Asquith

Frances Lincoln 9781847805874

A picture book that challenges stereotypes and celebrates the diversity of family life, from who might form a family to the many activities they engage in, separately and together. Ros Asquith's comic illustrations complement and extend the text, providing lots to talk about.

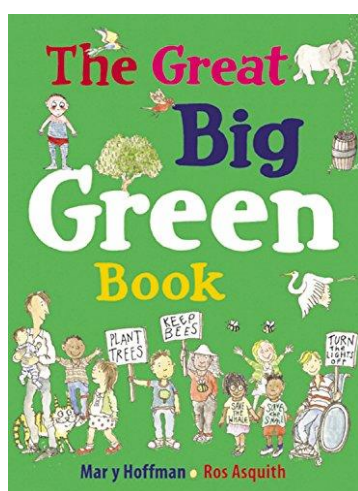
See also: *The Great Big Book of Feelings* Frances Lincoln 9781847807588

Welcome to the Family Frances Lincoln

9781847804617

The Great Big Body Book Frances Lincoln

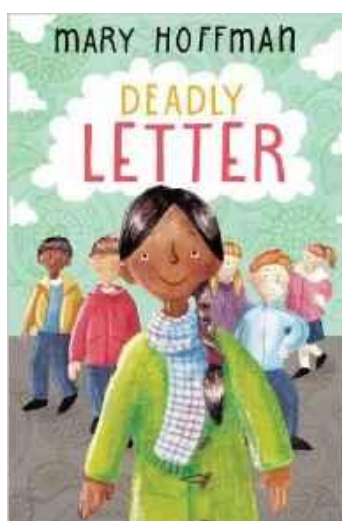
9781847808721



The Great Big Green Book illustrated by Ros Asquith

Frances Lincoln 9781847804457

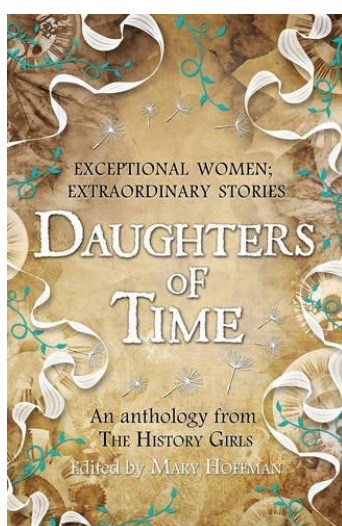
Following the same format as the author and illustrator's books about families and feelings, this book takes an accessible and good-humoured look at the environmental concerns facing our planet and what humans need to do to address these on an individual and collective basis. Ros Asquith's cartoon style illustrations add a more personal dimension and depict a diverse range of people.



***Deadly Letter* illustrated by Sophie Burrows**

Barrington Stoke 9781781123683

Prity is finding it hard to adapt to her new school in Tottenham, London, having recently arrived from India. Some children are friendly but the thoughtless racism of a few initially depresses her. However, it also makes her determined to fit in while still asserting her own identity. A focus of the story is how Prity learns the playground game 'Deadly Letter' which will stand her in good stead when her family moves on to Coventry and she has to start again at another new school.

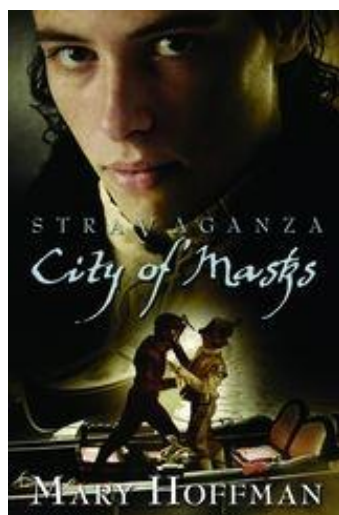


Daughters of Time

Templar 9781848771697

An anthology of thirteen enthralling short stories by authors who contribute to the blog www.the-history-girls.blogspot.co.uk and edited by Mary Hoffman. They highlight the lives of women across a huge swathe of time, from Boudica, Queen of the Iceni, to the women who occupied Greenham Common. Mary Hoffman's own story in the collection is a version of Lady Jane Grey's tragic tale told from the viewpoint of her Italian tutor.



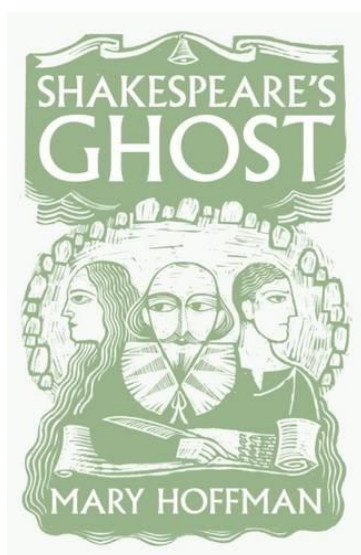


Stravaganza: City of Masks

Bloomsbury 9780747595694

Stravaganti are people who can travel between two worlds by means of a talisman. The first book in the Stravaganza series focuses on Lucien, living in 21st century England. The cancer from which he suffers restricts him in this life but when he stravagates to Talia, a parallel version of Italy, he becomes entangled in the political life of the city of Bellezza, having saved the life of its Duchessa.

www.stravaganza.co.uk/author.asp



Shakespeare's Ghost

Greystones Press 9781911122005

Ned Lambert is a player with the King's Men who perform the newly minted plays of William Shakespeare. As Ned transitions from boyhood to manhood and can no longer play female roles, he is conflicted in a choice between two women – the faerie princess Faelinn from the Other World and the faithful Charity who is wholly human. An involving story combining history and fantasy that suggests how Shakespeare's final play *The Tempest* may have evolved.

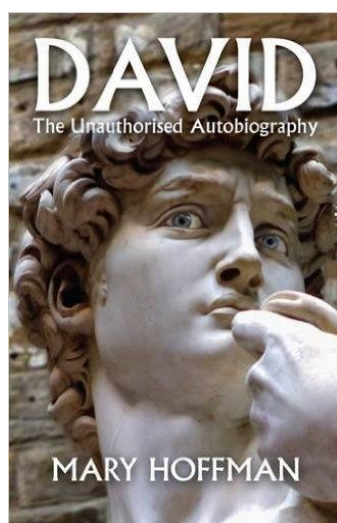




Angel of Venice

Barrington Stoke 9781781124024

A short novel chiefly set on the seas near Venice, at war with the Ottoman Empire in 1571. Luca finds himself embroiled in a sea battle by accident rather than design after he boards a ship to escape possible punishment for having been caught stealing peaches to impress an attractive young woman.



David. The Unauthorised Autobiography

Greystones Press 9781911122074

Combining fact and fiction, this is the imagined story of the desirable young man who was the model for Michelangelo's famous statue of David in Florence. The plot deals with the complicated love life of Gabriele, entwined with the dangers of being a spy and double agent often opportunistically involved in Florentine politics in the early 16th century. Real life characters include the artist Michelangelo himself, suckled by the same mother and therefore Gabriele's milk brother, and his sometime rival Leonardo da Vinci.

