

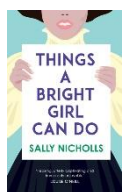
# Book List of High Quality Books



## **The House with the Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson**

Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. For Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka has always been told she too is destined to be a Yaga, but she feels very resentful of this prescribed fate. She longs to change her destiny and sets out to break free from her grandmother's footsteps, but her house has other ideas. When a thoughtless act endangers the life of her grandmother, Marinka must reassess her desires and ask herself what she will do to save those she loves.

*Inspired by a Slavic fairy tale this is a colourful, imaginative, story rich in descriptive language. Whilst Marinka is a fully authentic twelve year old girl; on the cusp of adulthood and eager for independence, she is full of the insecurities and frustrations familiar to many that age. With themes of trust, grief and belonging, this is an immersive read that remains vivid in the mind long after the last page.*



## **Things a Bright Girl Can Do by Susan Nicholls**

In 1914 the world stood on the edge of change, but in Britain women still had no vote. Although Evelyn is rich and clever she doesn't want the life set out for her, she'd prefer freedom and choice and the opportunity to go to university even if it means paying the highest price alongside her fellow Suffragettes. Meanwhile May is campaigning tirelessly for women's votes with other anti-violence suffragists. When May meets Nell, who has grown up in hardship, she finds a kindred spirit and together they dream of a world where all kinds of women can find their place.

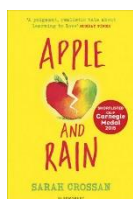
*The historical detail and contemporary dialogue are exemplary in this richly enjoyable yet hard-hitting and illuminating novel. By contrasting the social status, events and points of view of the main characters, the stories and dilemmas of the original women's movement is brought vividly to life in a jaunty, breezy style that shines a light on unexplored lives in the era of the Great War.*



## **Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay**

Samkad lives in a tribe deep in the Philippine jungle at the end of the nineteenth century, and has never encountered anyone from outside his own tribe before. He's about to become a man, and while he's desperate to grow up, he's worried that this will take him away from his best friend, Little Luki. However, Samkad's world is about to change utterly. A strange man with white skin arrives in his village, and Samkad discovers the brother he never knew he had. A brother who tells him of people called 'Americans'. Americans who are bringing war, and burning, to Samuel's home.

*Powerful, often poetic writing immerses the reader in an authentic sense of a different time and culture and wonderfully evokes the physicality of a very different place. At the same time very relatable characters and universal themes of coming of age and fear of the different make this a gripping historical adventure.*



## **Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan**

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.

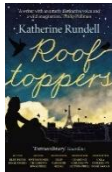
*This cleverly plotted story - ultimately about the meaning of family and love - draws a moving portrayal of a teenage girl's emotional upheaval as she needs to reassess all her previous assumptions. The writing is simple, but lyrical, dialogues are sharp and realistic, and the subtle use of poetry, 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.*



### **Tinder Orion by Sally Gardner**

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.*



### **ROOFTOPPERS by Katherine Rundell**

Sophie is found floating in a cello case in the middle of the English Channel on her first birthday. Her dramatic survival at such a young age is the perfect backdrop to an unconventional childhood. She is rescued and adopted by a scholar, Charles Maxim, who has never really known a child before. But despite her absolute devotion to Charles, Sophie struggles to accept that she's an orphan. In fact, she's convinced her mother is still alive and when no one believes her, she sets out to prove them wrong.

*Both eccentric and different, this is an enchantingly original narrative voice that completely convinces and engages the reader in Sophie's story. Beautifully written, this has lovely detail in the descriptions of Parisian roofs, vividly drawn characters and a plot which moves swiftly to a very satisfying conclusion.*