When I chose Two Hoots as my imprint name, I never imagined one day having to explain it to a Russian audience at the Moscow Book Fair. But they got it: unexpected, playful and warm, just like the books we publish.

In 2020, Ben Manley’s Albert Talbot tries out lots of names, from Anselom Facklejacket to Zandrian Delaclair, but Constance Hardpenny’s name already suits her perfectly: a rag doll bearing a life of misfortune with comic stoicism.

Bethan Woollvin’s Bo the Brave is a bold girl unafraid of monsters, while Duck and Tiny Horse are . . . a duck and a tiny horse, hunting spaghetti in Morag Hood’s funniest book yet. But do you know the name for a baby turkey? Find out in Julia Donaldson and Sharon King-Chai’s extravaganza of a counting book.

From familiar names like Emma Chichester Clark and Emily Gravett (Too Much Stuff! will be our twenty-fourth book together), to brand new ones like Soojin Kwak, our talented authors and illustrators continue to delight readers and award committees the world over. I’m sure you’ll see why as you enjoy this taste of Two Hoots and our beautiful, witty, wonderful books.

Suzanne Carnell, Publisher
Any new book from Julia Donaldson is a rich treat to treasure, and *Counting Creatures* is no exception. Glorious artwork from Sharon King-Chai pairs perfectly with Julia’s beautifully rhyming text – starring a huge cast of adorable baby animals to count, including a host of tiny spiderlings to spot throughout the book.

“This absolutely stunning book turns the alphabet into a wild exploration of the animal world” – *LoveReading*. With peep-through pages and fold-out flaps this stunning A-Z of animals has a brand new cover for Spring, with fresh green foliage and gorgeous rabbits.
Soojin Kwak

A Hat for Mr Mountain is an adorable and highly satisfying story about creativity, cooperation and kindness. Soojin Kwak won second place in the Macmillan Prize for Illustration for this story, and her gorgeous use of colour and detail show why.

Ben Manley
Aurélie Guillerey

We all like the idea of being someone else for a while. But Albert doesn’t have just one alter ego – he has one for every moment of the day. The second book from the talented Ben Manley, author of The Misadventures of Frederick, is a joyous celebration of imagination. With stunning retro artwork from the illustrator of Daddy Long Legs, this is a very exciting new picture book pairing.
Emma Chichester Clark
Ben Manley

Emma Chichester Clark and Ben Manley made the perfect partnership with their first collaboration, *The Misadventures of Frederick*. According to *The Times* the story is “perfectly pitched” while Emma’s artwork is “exquisite”. With stellar reviews in *The Guardian, The Sunday Times, Evening Standard* and *New Statesman*, this is a book that captures the imagination and the heart.

Constance in Peril brings Emma and Ben together once again, with Emma’s glorious, finely detailed art complementing Ben’s funny and original story of a melodramatic doll who is flung into the jaws of danger multiple times a day – and finds it all really quite trying.

September 2020
Emily Gravett

Emily’s award-winning *Tidy* won hordes of fans with its lush artwork and environmental message, and now we are returning to Pete’s forest with *Too Much Stuff* – all about the dangers of wanting and getting (you guessed it) too much stuff.

A Sunday Times Book of the Year, *Meerkat Christmas* is a “witty postcard adventure . . . about what really makes Christmas perfect” (Metro). It’s packed with gorgeous Christmassy flaps and is as full of clever jokes as its classic predecessor, *Meerkat Mail.*
“Grandparents are the rising stars of children’s fiction” according to one glowing Telegraph review of The Truth About Old People, and these grandparents really do shine. In November 2019, this book was awarded the Golden Pinwheel Picture Book Prize at the Shanghai International Book Fair, showing the global appeal of Elina’s ingenious story and her exquisite artwork.

David Roberts

“A lavish colour hardback replete with his distinctive, perceptive art, he offers fascinating insights into the complex history of the movement, looking beyond the stereotypes to include working-class women and diverse stories from around the world.” These words from The Observer sum up exactly why this book is so vital, and show why it made it on to the prestigious White Ravens List, compiled by the International Youth Library.
Morag Hood

The “superlative Morag Hood” (Guardian) is building a picture book world all of her own: with vegetables made from recycled plastic bags, lonely aardvarks, a jealous bat, an imposter penguin and a suspiciously pointy-toothed sheep. Joining the gang this year are Duck and Tiny Horse, who are hunting spaghetti, the trickiest of all the pastas.

“Morag Hood’s expertise at creating hilarious, tight concept books for 3- and 4-year-olds is more or less unsurpassed” according to BookTrust. She has also been called “a truly original rising star” (The Bookseller), and her books “crisply brilliant” (Times Literary Supplement).
Kate Read

One fox . . . two sly eyes . . . three plump hens better watch out! Kate Read broke new ground with the brilliant One Fox, a pre-school farmyard thriller in counting book form.

In February 2020 it was announced that Kate Read’s “engrossing” (Kirkus) debut has been shortlisted for the highly prestigious Waterstones Children’s Book Prize.
Bethan Woollvin

Bethan Woollvin is simply unlike any other illustrator working today. Her darkly funny twists on classic fairytales have been called “witty, sophisticated” (Sunday Times), “stylish, deliciously disruptive” (Bookseller) and “starkly beguiling” (Guardian).

I Can Catch a Monster is perfect for Bethan’s many fans – an entirely original new story, with a wild and gorgeous palette and a tiny and brilliant main character named Bo the Brave.

April 2020 (hardback)
September 2020 (paperback)
Maisie Paradise Shearring

There are many reasons that Maisie Shearring is a firm favourite of so many – David Roberts called I’m Actually Really Grown-Up Now “utterly brilliant”. There is a warmth that shines through her work, a seemingly effortless, childlike quality to her drawing that is deceptively simple – evidence of immense skill.

Sharon King-Chai

Sharon King-Chai’s self-penned folktale Starbird is a work of sheer beauty and wonder: with shimmering silver foil on every spread, it is a unique tale of freedom and love, and was named an Independent Booksellers’ Book of the Month.
Puck Koper

Puck Koper’s stylish debut Where Is Your Sister? elevates the search-and-find genre to a new level, with its joyfully chaotic romp through a richly patterned department store. Puck has an exceptional eye for design and composition, and won the Opera Prima prize for a debut book in the Bologna Ragazzi Awards 2020 as well as being shortlisted for the AOI World Illustration Awards 2019.

Daisy Hirst

In Hamish Takes the Train we are introduced to Hamish and Noreen, best friends who see the world in very different ways. Hamish yearns to explore, to discover the city and to take the train wherever it might lead. Soon he is off to satisfy his wanderlust – but despite the adventures the city has to offer, what does it mean if his dearest friend, Noreen, isn’t by his side? Blogger ReadItDaddy called it “a gorgeous tale . . . from an epic talent”.

March 2020 (paperback)

Winner
Bologna Ragazzi Awards 2020

WHERE IS YOUR SISTER?
Puck Koper

April 2020 (paperback)
Júlia Sardà

The surreal, astonishingly beautiful artwork of Júlia Sardà is a heaven-made match for Lewis Carroll’s dreamlike world of Wonderland. This paperback edition of the complete and unabridged Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland is filled with full-colour illustrations, as well as gorgeous chapter headings, illustrated folios and cover flaps to make this a sumptuous gift.

October 2020 (paperback)

“A masterful accomplishment” (Booklist), One Day in Wonderland by Júlia Sardà and Kathleen Krull takes us on a splendid journey through a day in Carroll’s life, learning about the words (“uglification”, “brillig”, “chortle”) he brought to the English language as well as the origin of the most famous little girl in children’s literature.

June 2020 (paperback)
Margaret Wise Brown
Clement Hurd

Goodnight Moon was one of the first picture books to be printed in colour, and since publication in 1947 has sold more than 48 million copies worldwide. The artwork is verging on otherworldly, and that hypnotic text never fails to lull tiny ones to sleep.

Lane Smith

Lane Smith is the legendary, New York Times-bestselling illustrator of A House That Once Was, I’m Just No Good At Rhyming and the creator of the CILIP Kate Greenaway-winning There Is a Tribe of Kids, among many other brilliant picture books.
Axel Sheffler • Frantz Wittkamp
Roger McGough

A collection of nonsense poetry with artwork from the undisputed King of Illustration, Axel Scheffler, Fish Dream of Trees is a book to treasure, with Frantz Wittkamp’s original text adapted by the UK’s patron saint of poetry, Roger McGough.

Carol Ann Duffy
Lydia Monks

Another legend of British poetry, Carol Ann Duffy, authored Queen Munch and Queen Nibble, illustrated by the bestselling Lydia Monks. Two Queens, one bubbly and bouncy, one pale as a mushroom, find a way to forget their differences and become firm friends (it involves eating a giant strawberry and weaving with raindrops).

Zehra Hicks

In Giraffe and Frog Zehra cleverly captures the silly arguments children (and some adults) seem almost to enjoy, with her characteristic wit and fresh, expressive brushstrokes.

Polly Dunbar

Something Fishy is a clever and playful approach to a new baby book, starring a delightfully grumpy jealous cat, from one of the most talented illustrators working today, with a matchless talent for childlike movement and expression.
Peter Brown

Peter Brown’s books are graphic, beautiful and very funny. These two modern classics celebrate teachers (revealing they might just be human beings after all), and the joy of discovering who you really are.
Special thanks to all our amazing authors and illustrators and the whole Two Hoots team, as well as to all our partners and supporters worldwide. Here’s to another fabulous year!

Suzanne Carnell, Publisher

Communications: Amber Ivatt amber.ivatt@macmillan.com
Home Enquiries & Trade Sales: Sarah Clarke sarah.clarke@macmillan.co.uk
Rights: Michele Young michele.young@macmillan.com
International Sales: internationalsales@macmillan.com

@twohootsbooks  Instagram

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