

Usborne Acquires Heart-Stopping LGBTQ+ Thriller from Own Voices UK YA Author William Hussey

Usborne are proudly continuing to support the UK YA scene with the acquisition of two YA



LGBTQ+ standalones from award-winning author William Hussey. Commissioning Fiction Editor Stephanie King acquired World English language rights for two books, including thriller *Hideous Beauty*, a compelling mystery with a powerful love story at its heart, from David Higham's Veronique Baxter. *Hideous Beauty* will be one of David Higham Associate's top YA titles presented at the London and Bologna book fairs.

When Dylan and Ellis's secret relationship is exposed on social media, Dylan is forced to come out. To Dylan's surprise they are met with support and congratulations, and an amazing reception at their high-school dance. Perhaps people aren't as narrow-minded as he thought? But Dylan's happiness is short-lived. Ellis suddenly becomes angry, withdrawn, and as they drive home from the dance, he loses control of the car, sending it plunging into Hunter's Lake. Barely conscious, Dylan is pulled free of the wreck, while Ellis is left to drown. Grief-stricken, Dylan vows to discover what happened to Ellis that night and piece together the last months of his boyfriend's life – and realises just how little he knew about the boy he loved.

Hussey says, *"For Usborne to be publishing Hideous Beauty is an absolute dream come true. My brilliant editor Stephanie King has helped to hone what we hope is not only a heart-breaking LGBTQ+ love story but a compulsive, page-turning mystery that also deals with issues of modern intolerance. Hideous Beauty came out of my work as an author visiting schools and conversations with dozens of LGBTQ+ student groups. In these discussions, young people often told me about the fear and dangers they encounter, even in apparently liberal, progressive environments, and how 'acceptance' can easily turn to hostility. This book really wouldn't have been possible without the frankness, bravery and insights of these students."*

"Assured, dynamic, expertly paced, moving and page-turning, William's writing is irresistible," his editor Stephanie King comments. *"His dialogue is some of the sharpest, wittiest and truest I have read in a very long time and his characters are strong, moving and he tells the story of Dylan and Ellis's relationship with authenticity, heart and refreshing frankness. This is a must-have summer read for all YA fans in 2020."*

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