

Eight-Way Auction for the Funniest Book of 2020 goes to Usborne

After an intense and heated eight-way auction, Usborne have acquired the most exciting upcoming voice in children's funny fiction: hilarious, touching, and wise all at the same time. With a six figure advance for world rights, all languages, Fiction Director Rebecca Hill signed for three books with RCW agent Sam Copeland for the debut novel from Jenny Pearson, *The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates*.

With rights deals already flying off the shelf, including Italian rights sold to Mondadori and two more territories under offer, Freddie Yates will be the book of *both* the London Book Fair and Bologna Book Fair. As agent Sam Copeland says, *"It is rare to find a book that genuinely makes you laugh. It is rare to find a book that has a wonderful, well-drawn and warm friendship in its heart. And it's also rare to find a book that makes you properly cry at the end. It's impossibly rare to find all three together, but that's what this book succeeds in doing."* With an inimitable mix of laugh-out-loud calamity, exhilarating adventure, and a whole lot of heart, Jenny Pearson is an exceptional new talent and one to watch for 2020. Move over David Walliams, there's a new girl in town.

Meet Freddie, Ben and Charlie: three kids on the road to adventure

*Dad says people like a good story and if it makes them happy, why let truth get in the way?
I suppose that's what happened in Wales this summer. People saw what they wanted to see.
And they wanted to see miracles.*

Facts are everything to eleven-year-old Freddie Yates: once you know a fact it's yours to keep. A fact can't leave you and no one can take it away. But when Freddie discovers his biological father might be alive and well, he decides to follow the facts and track him down... Together with his best friends Ben and Charlie, they sneak off on an adventure of a lifetime (or, at least the summer holidays), unwittingly setting off a chain of 'miraculous' events, via an onion-eating competition, a couple of super-hero costumes, and some very angry antique thieves. But Freddie discovers that some things can't always be explained – and, sometimes, what you're looking for has been with you the whole time...

Fiction Director Rebecca Hill knew that she had something special when *The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates* was *"an instant hit with everyone in the Usborne offices. Debates raged over who snort-laughed the loudest at its side-splitting humour. With a voice that leaps off the page and straight into your heart, Jenny has written a book packed with laughs, tears and wisdom, and I'm so excited to welcome her to the Usborne list and for the stellar journey that lies ahead."*

Jenny Pearson has been awarded with six mugs, one fridge magnet, one wall plaque and numerous cards for her role as 'Best Teacher in the World'. While she has not met the rest of the teachers in the world in contention for this title, she believes the evidence is stacking up in her favour. When she is not busy being inspirational in the classroom, she would like nothing more than to relax with her two young boys, but she can't as they view her as some sort of human climbing frame. She has recently moved to the North East of England and while she has yet to meet Ant or Dec, she has learned how to use canny in a sentence. Which is dead canny, like.

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates will be thundering into a bookshop near you with awesome illustrations and a brilliant commercial package that will make you believe in miracles.

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