

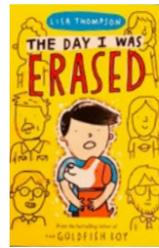
# Out this month



## The Boy Who Flew With Dragons

Andy Shepherd

Tomas' little dragon Flicker is his best friend. With his pals Ted, Kat and Kai, he loves growing dragons on the dragon-fruit tree in the garden. But his promise to his Grandad that he will let the dragons go back to where they belong isn't easy to keep when they're having so much fun. Especially when Tomas is so close to uncovering the true story of the mysterious dragon-fruit tree.



## The Day I Was Erased

Lisa Thompson

Maxwell is always in trouble. But although he's a menace to his teachers and his family, he also rescued his dog Monster from being run over and checks on his elderly neighbour after school. One day he finds himself erased from his own life. It's great being able to walk around without being yelled at, but Maxwell soon starts to miss his old life.



## Marvel Fearless and Fantastic! Female Superheroes Save The World

Illustrated comic-book profiling more than 50 female superheroes from Marvel Comics to inspire girls of all ages to be powerful, passionate and persistent. All the superheroes use intelligence, strength, kindness and courage to save the world. With a foreword by Marvel Comics writer Kelly Thompson and divided into four chapters entitled Determined, Daring, Compassionate and Curious.



## Everyday Journeys of Ordinary Things

Stella Gurney

Why does a light come on when you flick a switch? Where does your poo go when you flush the loo? These and many more questions are answered with illustrations and text clearly explaining how everyday processes work. Ecological processes are also touched on, including recycling and water cycle. For children who wonder "how?"

All books are available with free shipping from [bookdepository.com](http://bookdepository.com)

## Pig tales

Author Sarah Brennan introduces Ping Pong Pig, the heroine of her latest - and last - Chinese Calendar Tale

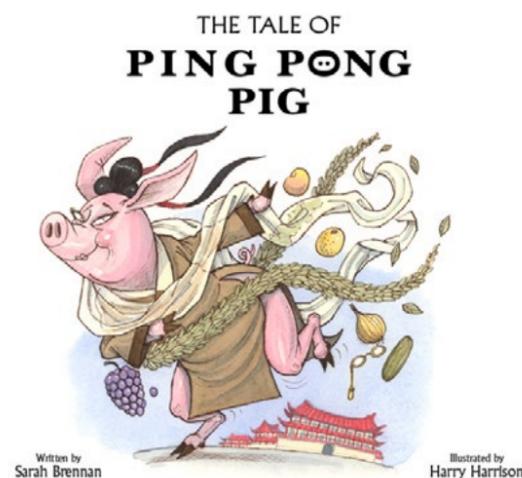
### So what's the story about?

My final *Chinese Calendar Tale*, *The Tale of Ping Pong Pig*, is a real corker (I'd like to say porker, too). It's about a happy little pig who lives in the lanes of Beijing, just outside the brand new Forbidden City in the early 15th century, during the reign of the Yongle Emperor (or Emperor Zhu Di), who built the Forbidden City when he transferred the seat of power of the Ming Dynasty to Beijing.

The Yongle Emperor loves everything about his new palace - but most of all he loves pork. So when Ping Pong is lured into the palace by the Emperor's wily Minister of Most Important Things, her tasty hide is in terrible danger. She flees from room to room and, as a would-be actress, dons a new disguise each time. But will she escape being served up on a Ming Dynasty platter?

### What are your feelings now you've reached the end of your *Calendar Tales* project?

As both author and publisher of *The Chinese Calendar Tales* series for the last 13 years, it's fair to say that it has dominated my life for over a decade. It's also been the opportunity for so much learning, travelling and huge fun working with kids and schools all over the world. So I'm very proud indeed that I, and my wonderful artist Harry Harrison, have managed to complete a 13 book series over 13 years without a hitch - it's a publishing feat which, without any false modesty, I believe any publishing company anywhere in the world would have been proud to have achieved. It's been an adventure and a challenge every year, and I will truly miss it. However, it's not the end of the life of our



Written by Sarah Brennan

Illustrated by Harry Harrison

lovely series, and I intend to be travelling far and wide introducing the *Tales* to more schools in more countries, especially in Asia and mainland China, over the coming years. Last year I also had a lovely, unexpected success with *Storm Whale*, an illustrated children's book that has collected short-listings for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and Queensland Literary Awards, a CBCA Notables listing in Australia, and the Runner Up prize in the UK's TeachPrimary Awards. It was also longlisted for the UK's Kate Greenaway Medal. This has opened some fantastic doors for me both in the UK and Australia and I have several more books in the pipeline in the same style. *Storm Whale* is also, rather wonderfully, on the Irish primary school curriculum this year, so I hope to be visiting some Irish schools later in the year.

### I hear there is a *Chinese Calendar Tales* boxed set in the offing?

The Boxed Set is absolutely beautiful and I'm hugely excited about it. It contains all 12 *Chinese Calendar Tales* as well as *The Tale of Pin Yin Panda*, a story book with stickers which explains how all the animals got into the Chinese Zodiac - and why the panda didn't make it. The box is available in Hong Kong bookstores now, and will be formally launched, alongside *The Tale of Ping Pong Pig*, at Bookazine Exchange Square on Saturday January 26. It's going to be an extra-special event this year, with a story reading, book signing, quiz with prizes for young and old, pictures to colour in, and this year Harry Harrison will be doing some live drawing of characters from the series. AND it's a costume launch, so kids are invited to dress up as 'their' Chinese zodiac animal, with a Boxed Set as the prize for best costume.

### What is your own Chinese zodiac sign?

I was born in the Year of the Rat, and I must say that I'm a typical Rat! I'm ambitious and driven, and I love being on the go constantly - in fact, just like zodiac Rats, I get very ratty if I've got nothing to do.

### What does the year of the pig mean for 2019?

Pigs are just lovely (in fact my husband is a perfect Year of the Pig pig!). Pigs are sincere, hard-working, generous and helpful to others. They pursue their goals with great concentration, and are quick to apologize if things go wrong. On the down-side they can be a bit gullible and easily tricked. They make great caterers, entertainers, interior



Local author Sarah Brennan

decorators, vets and doctors - just like Ping Pong Pig in my story.

### How will you be spending Chinese New Year?

Up to Chinese New Year and just afterwards I'll be very busy visiting schools in Hong Kong, Beijing and Brisbane. So I plan to do as little as possible over the Chinese New Year holiday, except, of course, watching the fireworks - and walking and bird-watching with my family in the beautiful Nature Reserve near our home in Tai Po.

Of all the tales, do you have a favourite? I'm afraid I can't answer that question, or

the beasties that I've left out will come to haunt me in my dreams! Actually, kids ask me this question a lot, and what I tell them is true: the *Tales* are like my children, and like all good mums I'll never choose a favourite, and I love them equally though for different reasons. I do tend to be more protective and pay a lot more attention to my baby in the series - which this year of course is *The Tale of Ping Pong Pig*.

**Sarah Brennan will be launching her latest tale, *The Tale of Ping Pong Pig*, 2-4pm, January 26, Bookazine, Shop 305-07, One Exchange Square, Central. [sarahbrennanblog.com](http://sarahbrennanblog.com)**