

## Usborne acquires mesmerizing young adult mystery

Rebecca Hill, Usborne Fiction Director, has acquired World Rights from Ben Illis of The Ben Illis Agency for ***Deep Water*** by Lu Hersey – a YA must-read for 2015.

Winner of the 2013 Mslexia Children’s Novel Writing Award, ***Deep Water*** is a mesmerizing mystery set in a beautiful, remote Cornish village.

When Danni’s mum goes missing, she has no choice but to go and live with Dad – in a remote Cornish fishing village, miles away from home. But when she arrives, complete strangers seem to recognize – and shun – her, despite Danni only having visited once or twice. Worse, strange things start to happen: salt-water seeps through her hands. Her dreams become nightmares. Then her nightmares begin to reflect reality, and Danni discovers she is not entirely who – or even what – she had always assumed.

***“Outstanding... I raced through it.” - Malorie Blackman***

The village has a dark and disturbing past – and one she’s somehow connected to. With the help of Elliot, a boy who works in Dad’s shop, and her friend Levi from home, she sets out to discover the truth and save her mother. But Danni’s journey is far weirder and more dangerous than anything she could have imagined as she comes up against people who would prefer to see her – and all her kind – wiped off the face of the earth...

Rebecca comments on the acquisition: “***Deep Water*** has it all: a thrilling, fast-paced story, which pulled, pushed, twisted me through and left me gasping to know *what, why* and *how*; a stunning, lyrical and highly atmospheric voice, with descriptions so vivid I could taste the tang of sea water, and feel the rush of the waves around me; and, above all, a enthralling – and very *real* cast of characters – with Danni, and her secret, at its heart.”

***“Such an accomplished, tightly-shaped book.” - Julia Eccleshare***

Lu Hersey worked as an advertising copywriter until she escaped to become a librarian and study for an MA in writing for young people at Bath Spa University. She shares her house with a surfeit of young adults who won’t leave home and keep calling her “Mum” – although, surprisingly, she finds their dialogue, strangely disturbing habits and erratic sleeping patterns a constant source of inspiration. She lives in Bristol, but her heart is in Cornwall. ***Deep Water*** is her first novel.

***“A lovely, mythical quality” - Elen Caldecott***

For more information on ***Deep Water*** by Lu Hersey please contact Amy Dobson, Senior Publicity Executive:  
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