



M E L V I N B U R G E S S

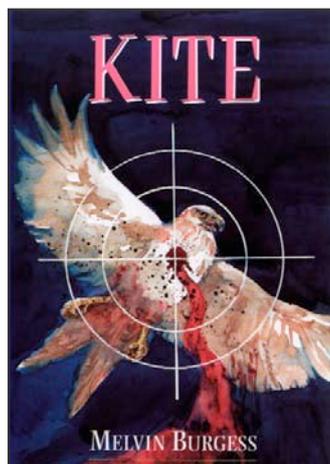
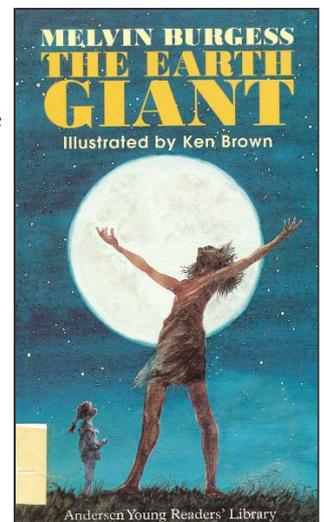
Each of Melvin Burgess's books tackles challenging subjects. Best known for his explosive novel **JUNK** about teenagers who become hooked on heroin, he gives young people insights into subjects as diverse as homelessness, Alzheimers, sex, witchcraft, abuse. Creating unforgettable characters and powerful narrative, Melvin entertains, thrills, shocks, moves but always grips his reader until the last page. Several of his books have been made into films. Here we present the books according to average age group of reader.

"A writer of the highest quality with exceptional powers of insight." *The Sunday Times*
"A powerful talent who offers few easy solutions." *The Times*

The Earth Giant (age 8-11 - 1995)

As a great storm rages round their house, Amy and her brother Peter hear a terrible noise like a dying giant. Amy knows that the sound is an ancient oak tree half a mile away being ripped from the ground, and she alone understands the secret that is revealed. But as her investigation becomes dangerous her brother is torn between telling on his sister or helping her out of trouble.

"The excitement never flags...this is a beautiful, challenging book, highly recommended."
School Librarian



Kite (age 9+ - 1997)

Taylor steals the eggs of a pair of rare birds (red kites - birds of prey) which his gamekeeper father has been told to destroy despite the fact they are a protected species. When one of the eggs hatches out, Taylor and his friend rear the bird in secret and try to protect it from Taylor's father and his boss, the local landowner. A gripping read about loyalty, survival, and cruelty.

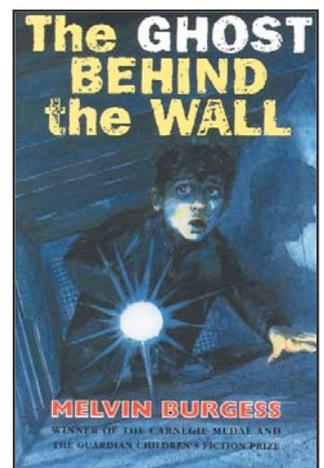
"Brilliantly written by an author who credits his readers with judgement and courage."
The Scotsman

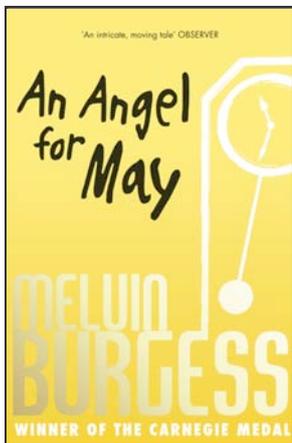
The Ghost Behind the Wall (age 9+ - 2000)

Runner up to the Carnegie Medal

When his father works late, David climbs into the ventilation pipes where he lives and enters other people's flats to cause mischief. One of his victims is an old man with Alzheimer's. When David is caught and has to apologise to the old man a friendship forms between them but who is the ghost that seems to carry on causing mischief and how can he be stopped?

"Aimed at children of ten plus, the story races along with enough action, credibility and compassion to keep a wide range of ages gripped." *The Teacher*
"This book is full of humour, excitement and glorious empathy with the characters - old, young, male and female." *The Observer*





An Angel for May (age 10+ - 1992)

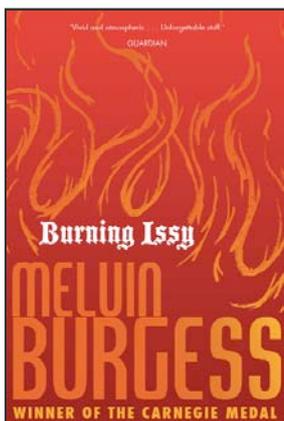
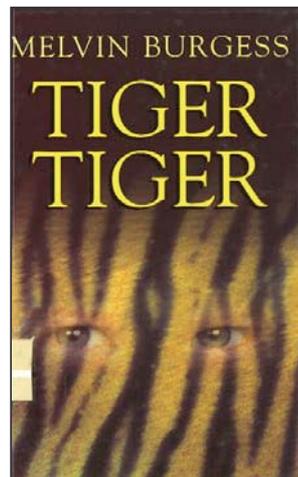
Tam often takes refuge in the ruins of Thowt It Farm when he is unhappy at home. One day he follows an old beggar woman and her dog to the farm and is transported back to the Second World War. There he makes friends with May who has been rescued from a bombed-out house and now refuses to eat or sleep indoors. When Tam gets into trouble in the town, May comes to his rescue. Gradually he realises that the girl (May) from the second world war setting is the beggar woman he knows today and he realises it is now his turn to help her.

Made into a film by Harley Cokeliss <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igzPbkI6qA4>
"An atmospheric, eerie book...it handles a time slip in a completely believable way." Carnegie Medal judges

Tiger Tiger (age 11+ - 1996)

Tigers are now extinct in the wild but in the Yorkshire Dales there is the world's largest Tiger Park. Tiger bones are still prized in Chinese medicine and Mr Yung, the head of a Chinese gang, is after the Malham Tigers. He is particularly anxious to procure a young tigress called Lila, who is a rare 'Spirit Tiger'. When the poaching goes horribly wrong, there is a massacre of tigers and men, but, thanks to Lila, some of the tigers escape. With her supernatural powers, which include shape-changing into a young girl, Lila pursues everyone involved in the massacre of her species.

"This is a moving and powerful written story which combines stark realism with a believable touch of fantasy." Northern Echo

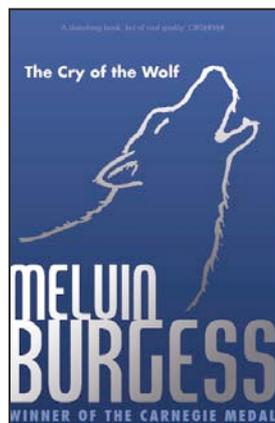


Burning Issy (age 12+ - 1992)

Issy lives in 17th-century Lancashire, at the time of the famous Pendle Witch Trials. When she begins to display paranormal powers, she is thought to be a witch. The Christian witch-hunters are bigoted and cruel, but Issy doesn't trust witches either. By the end of the book she understands that the benign magic or healing which she is able to do is not evil, and she escapes to live with like-minded companions.

"This remarkable historical novel erupts into life from the very first page." Financial Times
"Burgess convincingly recreates the confusions, fears and superstitions of a bigoted and cruel age, and Issy's troubled but successful efforts to find herself make a compelling story, exploring difficult themes in a clear, strong narrative accessible to readers of ten and over." Books for Keeps

"A convincing story that plays by all the rules...thoroughly satisfying." Kirkus review



Cry of the Wolf (age 12+ - 1992)

It was a mistake for Ben to tell the Hunter that there were still wolves in Surrey. For the Hunter was a fanatic, always on the lookout for unusual prey. Driven by an ambition to wipe out the last English wolves, the Hunter set out on his savage quest.

"An ecological thriller that will draw nature lovers and horror fans alike." School Library Journal

"So powerful that we had to include it. The characterisation of the wolves was masterful." The judges for the Carnegie Medal

"A disturbing book, but of real quality, you will applaud the end." Observer

The Baby and Fly Pie (age 12+ - 1993)

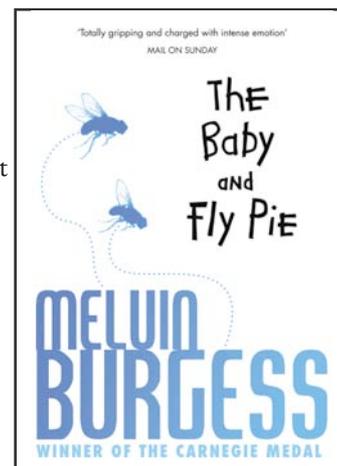
Runner up for the Carnegie Medal - Film option sold

Davey, his sister Jane and Sly Sham are rubbish kids who work for Mother Shelly. They meet a dying gangster who has kidnapped a baby to get ransom money. The gangster dies and the three kids decide to look after the baby in the hope of collecting the ransom or a reward and being able to break out of the misery which has been their lot so far. They soon have the gang and the police on their trail and they begin to realise that as outsiders of society they have no chance and will be treated as rubbish themselves.

"Gritty and realistic, this novel touches and challenges, and certainly can't be put down."

Books for Keeps

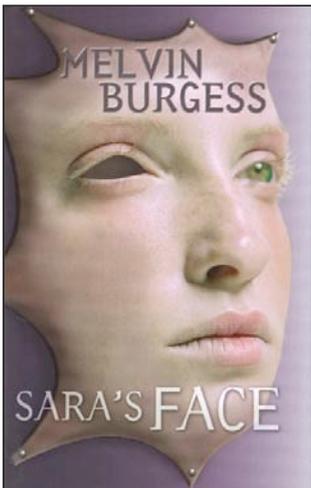
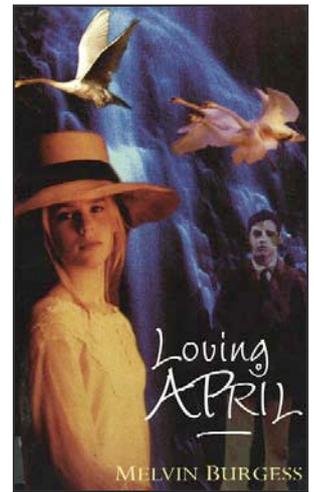
"Funny, fast and chirpy, despite its ultra-serious subject." The Guardian



Loving April (age 12+ - 1995)

A powerful love story about two outsiders struggling against social prejudices in the 1920s April has been deaf since an accident in the school playground at the age of five - locked into her own magical world, she is shunned by the villagers and tormented by the local boys. Tony's world has also fallen apart when he arrives in April's village with his mother. Forced out of their middle-class existence they seek temporary refuge in an old cottage. Unable to cope with domesticity, Tony's mother befriends April, who then introduces the former private school pupil to her safe world. As he becomes more familiar with the estuary, its swans and April's old boat, friendship blossoms into teenage love, despite the fact that local hooligans seem intent on shattering their idyll.

"An exceptional novel, both brutal and sensitive, with strong characters." *Books for Keeps*



Sara's Face (age 12+ - 2006)

Sara Carter wants to be famous. Fame is her obsession. So when legendary rock star Jonathon Heat offers her star training and the cosmetic surgery she thinks she wants, Sara can't believe her dream will come true.

But Jonathon Heat doesn't want Sara's talent. Having ruined his own face with too much plastic surgery it is Sara's face that he is after. Can he dupe her enough to make her agree, and does she know what's in store for her? Does she have any choice?

"A chilling, unputdownable, sinister thriller." *The Bookseller*



Bloodtide (age 12+ - 1999)

In this futuristic reworking of a Norse myth, London is in ruins and in the hands of two warring gang-lords. To cement a truce between the families, Val offers Conor the hand of his spirited 14 year old daughter. But the wedding feast is interrupted by the dramatic coming to life of a mysterious one-eyed prisoner whom the people believe to be the God Odin, come to play a part in the affairs of men. War, revenge, love, hate, intrigue and magic combine in Burgess's complex and gripping work.

"This is a novel that eats its way into your soul as you read it. Burgess has conjured up a dystopian vision that will rank along with the 20th century classics." *Sunday Telegraph*

Bloodsong (age 12+ - 2005)

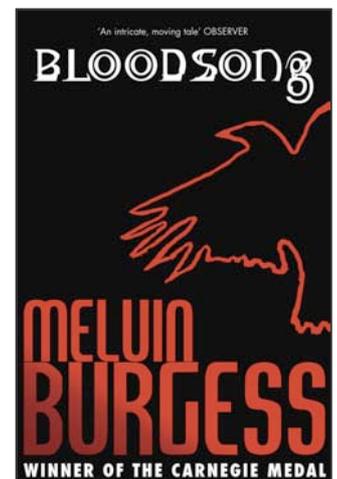
A sequel to BLOODTIDE

This thrilling new story based on the Siegfried legend is a blend of science fiction and bloodthirsty action, with themes of love, revenge and what it is to be human. Sigurd has a fabulous but frightening future predicted; to begin with he must go and kill a dragon. The dragon lives in a post apocalyptic London, a blasted and poisonous wasteland left 'after the foreign planes came and nuked London flat'. Sigurd prevails but in doing so he falls into the underworld and there meets the love of his life, Bryony. Sigurd eventually rescues her but their fate is not to be a happy one.

"A gripping story of horrific proportions from a prize-winning author." *Publishing News*
"...this is more than a vivid story, full of passion, intrigue and terrifying violence. It is also beautifully wrought." *Anne Johnstone, Glasgow Herald*

"Burgess' imagination is amazing - he takes you to the brink every time." *John McLay, The Bookseller*

"Bloodtide was good. This is better. It's the best thing I've read by Melvin Burgess... This is a novel that matches the power of its ancient inspiration and remakes it for another time." *Books for Keeps*



Junk (age 12+ - 1996)

Winner of Guardian Fiction Children's Award 1997 and Carnegie Award, made into a film by Zenith North.

Two teenagers run away from home to Bristol and are lured into the seemingly exciting and glamorous world of heroin addiction.

"A compelling, brutally informative and important novel." *School Librarian*

"Remarkable for the insight and understanding with which the author develops the characters as each of them follows a subtly different trajectory through the story." *The Guardian*

"This novelist is an artist, and if the Health Education Council is battling against the glamorous image of drug taking, then this book should be their bible." *Children's Books*

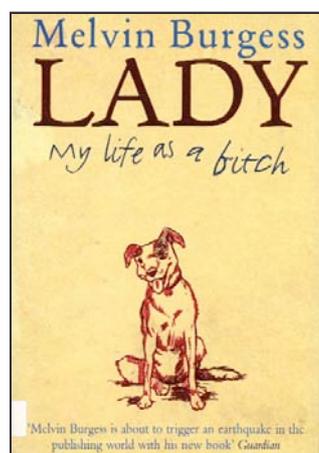
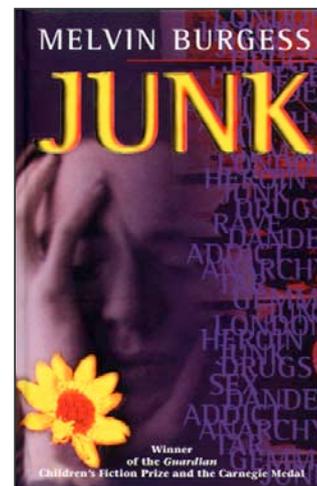
"It is believable and utterly readable. I couldn't put it down." *Nina Bawden, the Evening Standard*

"Occasionally a 'teenage novel' comes along which makes one reconsider the whole genre and its potential. Such a book is Melvin Burgess's *Junk*." *Children's Books in Ireland*

"Bold and cunningly structured - a real novel with an unpatronising tone... *Junk* offers no easy solutions, but, both in content and execution, it respects the intelligence of its readers, leaving them shaken, probably, but informed and ready to make their own judgements." *The Guardian*

The Guardian

"The most talked-about children's book for years." *Mail on Sunday*



Lady (age 12+ - some explicit content - 2001)

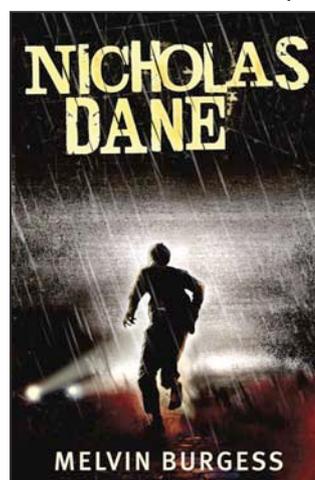
Sandra Francy is having too much fun. Everyone wants to stop her but the problem is, she likes it. When she gets accidentally turned into a dog she's horrified at first, but soon starts to wonder if being human is worth the effort. Torn between enjoying freedom and pleasures she scarcely knew existed as a dog and the desire to return to her human existence, family and friends, Sandra's account is funny, moving and gripping and provokes reflection on responsibility and moral choice.

Doing It (age 12+ - some explicit content - 2003)

A daringly honest account of teenage life and the ups and downs surrounding early sexual experiences. Dino, Jon and Ben are three friends who each have very different problems: a girlfriend who won't give in and have sex, a girlfriend who won't give up until she's had it, and a nymphomaniac drama teacher determined to have an affair with her pupil. A whole group of friends live their lives and learn about love, lust and 'doing it' in this ground-breaking new novel that young adults everywhere will want to read.

"Funny, honest and touching with engagingly mixed-up protagonists ... realistic, but utterly uncynical." *The Observer*

Made into a TV series by Touchstone



Nicholas Dane (age 12+ - some explicit content - 2009)

When Nick's mother dies suddenly and unexpectedly, the 14 year old is sent straight into a boys' home, where he finds institutional intimidation and violence keep order. After countless fights and punishments, Nick thinks life can't get any worse - but the professionally respected deputy head, Mr Creal, who has been grooming him with sweets and solace, has something much more sinister in mind. Nick has no choice but to escape. Living on the run, he falls in with a modern Fagin, a cheerful Rasta who fences stolen credit cards and car stereos. The scarring, shaming experience he suffered at the hands of Mr Creal can never quite be suppressed, and when the old hatred surfaces, bloody murder and revenge lead to an unforgettable climax.

"An exceptional novel, a tour-de-force from an outstanding writer." - *Jake Hope, Lancashire Libraries*

www.andersenpress.co.uk

Andersen Press . 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road . London SW1V 2SA

Sarah Pakenham: spakenham@randomhouse.co.uk T: +44 20 7840 8704

Mathilde Coffy: mcoffy@randomhouse.co.uk T: +44 20 7840 8729