

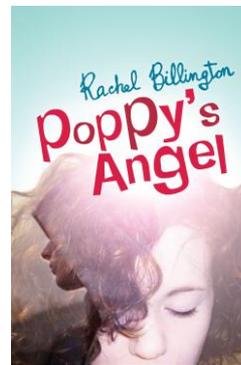
POPPY'S ANGEL

by Rachel Billington

3rd January 2013 £6.99

paperback: 9781847803627

ebook: 9781781011058



"More children experience the imprisonment of a parent than the divorce of a parent, and the number of children with a parent in prison each year has risen from 160,000 a decade ago to 200,000 in 2012. This is around two and a half times the number of children in care, and over six times the number of children on the Child Protection Register (26,000).

Prisoners' children are the hidden victims of crime, and feel that they serve a 'hidden sentence' and carry the stigma of their parent's crimes. They come from all walks of life, but losing a parent to prison, and having a parent who is an offender, can be traumatic and lonely. It is a story that is seldom told, and often told badly.

*It is wonderful that Frances Lincoln Children's Books have published two books that sensitively and realistically echo the experience of children with a parent in prison: Rachel Billington's novel **Poppy's Hero**, and a picture book for younger children, **When Dad Was Away**."*

**Andy Keen-Downs,
Chief Executive of the Prison Advice and Care Trust**

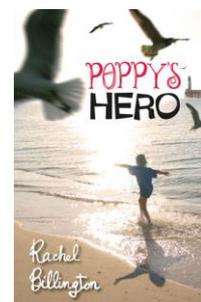
Praise for **Poppy's Hero**:

'A well observed story inspired by the author's 20 years of prison work' The Independent on Sunday

'An enjoyable read. . . Could help children like Poppy . . . feel less alone.' - Inside Time

'Sharply realistic.' - Books for Keeps

'A fast moving story about family, friends and adventure.' Carousel



In **Poppy's Angel**, Poppy's dad is still in prison. Her mum has rushed back to Poland to look after her seriously ill mother, and Poppy is sent to stay with her friend Jude. But Poppy feels stifled. At times like this she needs Angel, the joker among her friends - dodgy, wild, can't read or write much, yet bursting with energy and one of life's natural wits. But Angel, like Poppy, feels a bit orphaned, and has joined a gang.

One evening she goes to her empty flat and finds blood stains on the floor. She follows their trail into the kitchen. There, under the table and bleeding from an arm wound, she finds Angel. How has he been hurt? Why hasn't he rung 999? Who else is involved?

Poppy's mission to help Angel seems doomed to failure when Angel tries to escape the police on the roof of a tower block. And then her dad, Big Frank, now in an open prison, needs saving as well as he plans a return to his dangerous past.

Rachel Billington's dramatic follow-up to *Poppy's Hero* features two opposing kinds of London kids, with Poppy straddling the gulf between them as she and her friends are drawn into a strange, unimaginable world. It also tells two stories as Angel and Poppy lead some eccentric new friends in the chase to save Big Frank from flying out of England into big trouble.

RACHEL BILLINGTON is a renowned and successful novelist for adults and children. She has been an editor and regular contributor to *Inside Time*, the national newspaper for prisoners, since it was founded over twenty years ago.

She is vice-president of English PEN and has recently been appointed an OBE for Services to Literature. Rachel has four children and five grandchildren and lives in Notting Hill, London and near Sherborne, Dorset.

For more information log on to Rachel's website: www.rachelbillington.com

'a generous and perceptive writer...' The Sunday Times
'...an accomplished storyteller.' The Guardian

For more information please contact:

Nicky Potter, Publicity nicpot@dircon.co.uk 020 8889 9735
or Fabio Grandi fabiog@frances-lincoln.com



FRANCES LINCOLN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
74-77 White Lion Street London N1 9PF
Tel: 0207 284 9300 Fax: 0207 485 0490
www.franceslincoln.com