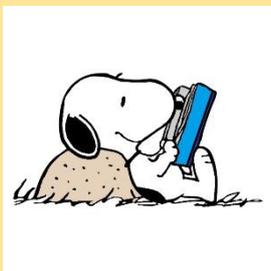


# CHENEY LIBRARY UPDATE

July 2021



Hello everyone

Welcome to the second edition of the Cheney Library Update.

It has been great to see the library slowly return to normal service; all students now have access during every lunch and break time and as a result I have seen loan figures return to close to normal. Students also continue to reserve books via the library software and I encourage everyone to check the system regularly for announcements of new books and reading initiatives.

In the coming year, as well as the never ending enthusiasm for fantastic fiction reads, there will also be an increased focus on how the library can support the school curriculum by encouraging internet literacy and the supply of quality non-fiction resources through the library to the classroom. More about this in the new school year.

Wishing everyone a restful and wonderful summer break.

Mrs Jill Fenton,  
School Librarian.

## How to find your perfect summer read

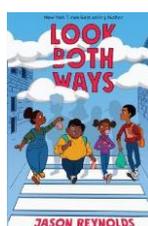
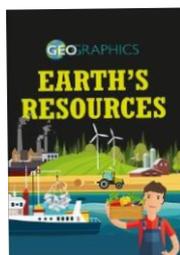
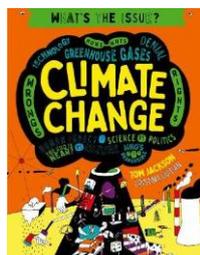


The long summer break is the perfect time to curl up with a good book – there are loads of new titles to explore and the space to do so; and it is the ideal time to try a new author or genre. However, finding the right book isn't always easy. Here are some suggestions on where to start...

- Take a look at the new books on the library app (Mrs Fenton has added about 150 new titles over the past month or so)
- Call into a local library – Headington, Barton, Cowley or Oxford City
- Take a look at [Booktrust Bookfinder](#) or [LoveReading4Kids](#)
- Speak to your friends – if they like a book, the chances are that you will like it too!
- Browse the titles at the end of this newsletter
- Speak to Mrs F (before the end of term!)

And remember, it's ok not to like a book. Just by reading the first couple of chapters, you're forming an opinion. BUT... do try and give a book a chance – read the first 50 or so pages before giving up.

## Books on climate change and the environment - Get the facts right – what can you do?



## Carnegie Prize Winner 2021 (it's awesome btw!)

Follows the home journey of four middle school friends as they walk back home after a day at school. When the bell rings and school is finished for the day, the walkers are finally set free. For ten blocks they have no-one telling them what to do; they can talk about bogies, skateboard, plan dramatic escapes, make jokes, face bullies, and hear about the school bus that fell from the sky. From hilarious escapades to brave challenges, join the walkers for one journey and many, many detours.

## Book review of the term (brilliant 😊)

Becky, year 8

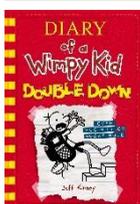
*This is a beautiful book with something to say. When I picked this book up the first time, I didn't really know what I was in for. This book is amazing. I stayed up far too late in the night reading, and in the few days I was reading it for, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I think part of what makes it so moving is the fact that it is written in verse, and you only generally get a fraction of a sentence on a line, and there is often art made out of the words, for example, there is a page about the main character's thoughts and what is going on inside her head, and on that page, there is just lots of words plastered everywhere, not really in any particular order. I found it extremely moving, and I would recommend it to anyone. Amazing.*



## Loved (or hated) a book? Why not write your own review?

Just find your book on the library software, log in and click on “write a review”. Every book review submitted wins ten house points (or 25 for a really awesome review).

## Cheney 2021 reading trends – who are Cheney’s favourite authors? Have you read any of the books mentioned?

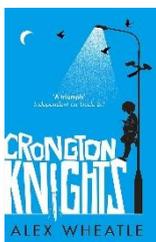
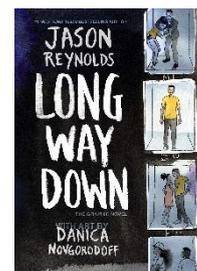


### Year 7

Liz Pichon (Tom Gates) and Jeff Kinney (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) dominate the charts with seven out of the top ten most borrowed titles. Morris Gleitzman (Once series) and Raina Telgemeier (Sisters) also make an appearance.

### Year 8

The most popular book in year 8 by a long way is the Cheney Choice graphic novel, **Long Way Down** by Jason Reynolds. Jeff Kinney makes four more appearances for year 8 but notably **Refugee** by Alan Gratz and **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas are also year 8 choices.

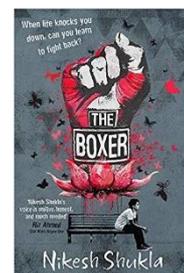


### Year 9

The favourite Year 9 books reflect the wonderful diverse culture of Cheney in that they address the politics of race, sexuality and gender. Alex Wheatle has two entries with **Liccle Bit** and **Crongton Knights**. Perennial favourite, Holly Bourne (Am I Normal Yet and It Only Happens At the Movies) and Angie Thomas (THUG and On The Come Up).

### Year 10

**The Boxer** by Nikesh Shukla is the year 10 favourite and then, impressively, number two on the Year 10 chart is **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte!



Overall, the book choice stats show that Cheney students have a real enthusiasm for books that address issues around race. Year 7 and 8 students also seem to love being scared as the loans for horror and suspense stories have doubled since last year and I can't seem to buy enough!

# NEW AND SUGGESTED READS

## YEARS 7 AND 8



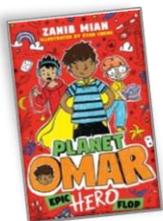
### **The Great Bank Heist by Onjali Q Rauf**

A young boy and his friends set out to stop the thieves who are stealing food from their local food bank. The Great (Food) Bank Heist is a moving story that gives a child's-eye view

of the increasing problem of food poverty.

On Thursdays, Nelson, Asha and Mum head out to the bank. But not just any old bank - the food bank. With its shining tins and packets of food stacked from floor to ceiling, Nelson thinks it's the best kind of bank there is. But there's a thief in town, and the shelves of the food bank are getting emptier each day, leaving people hungrier than ever.

For the sake of his family and everyone else's, Nelson needs to make them stop. But can he and his friends really be the ones to catch the bank robber?



### **Planet Omar: Epic Flop Hero by Zanib Mian**

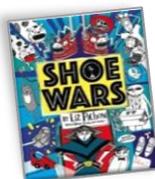
Welcome back to Planet Omar! The fourth book in Zanib Mian's laugh-out-loud series, with amazing cartoon-style illustrations. Perfect for fans of Tom

Gates and Wimpy Kid.

When Omar's best friend Daniel messes up at school, Omar decides to take the blame to save him from getting in trouble - which makes him feel like a hero!

With this taste of heroism, Omar takes the blame for a couple of small things other kids in the class have done - without realising that when something more serious happens, the signs will point to him since he's been so unusually troublesome.

The teachers are SURE the culprit must be Omar. Can his friends prove his innocence and show that he wasn't responsible for the chaos?



### **Shoe Wars by Liz Pichon**

Two children set out to rescue their kidnapped shoe-inventor father from an evil shoe designer who wants to steal his latest gadget.

Welcome to Shoe Town - and meet Ruby and Bear Foot. They are running out of time to rescue their inventor dad from his hideous boss, Wendy Wedge. She'll do ANYTHING to win the glitzy Golden Shoe Award and knows that entering flying shoes is her hot ticket to the trophy. Flying shoes that Ruby and Bear just happen to be hiding...

Get ready for a gadget-packed, wedge-of-your-feet adventure like no other!

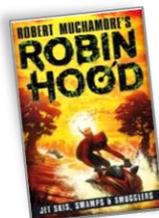


### **Hide and Secrets by Sophie McKenzie**

A lonely girl, a missing father and a trail of lies...

Fourteen-year-old Cat is facing a lonely summer. Her father is missing - presumed dead - her mother has retreated into her own world and her little sister, Bess, refuses to speak. But when a boy and his father come to stay nearby for the holidays, Cat finds herself opening up to the handsome Tyler.

Discovering some long-buried information, Cat and Tyler begin to unravel the trail of lies around her father's disappearance - a journey that will take them cross-country, uncover a dangerous gang, and a plot to steal a priceless jewel. With secrets exposed, will Cat be able to begin to mend her family?



### **Robin Hood (3) Jet Skis, Swamps and Smugglers by Robert Muchamore**

Twelve-year-old Robin Hood continues to fight back against Sherriff Marjorie and mobster Gisborne in the third part of this re-imagined, dystopian take on the Robin Hood legend.

There's a price on Robin's head, one that has attracted a gang of ruthless mercenaries who are determined to track him down and hand him over to

Guy Gisborne. So Robin is hiding out by the sea, but trouble has a way of finding him. Before long he is helping to rescue refugees and trying to avoid the attentions of Customs and Immigration officials. Then he and Marion discover a people-smuggling operation: desperate people brought into the country to work in slave-like conditions making cheap goods. It's only a matter of time before the two of them are trying to find out who is behind it - and Robin is again making the headlines with spectacular raids on the rich and powerful.

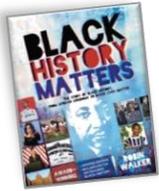


### Talking to Alaska by Anna Woltz

An unlikely plot premise but the characterisation is skilfully done and the emotions dealt with realistically portrayed. A surprising engaging read focussing on friendship and adversity, and Alaska will tug at anyone's heart strings!

Helped by an assistance dog, two thirteen-year-olds are able to come to terms with fear and difficulty in their lives, one from epilepsy and one from post-armed robbery trauma.

After the worst summer of her life, Parker desperately wants to be invisible. But her new classmate Sven has other ideas. He knows he has to do something memorable on his first day or he'll forever be the epileptic kid that everyone feels sorry for. Unfortunately for Parker, he decides to make her his target. So, when Parker discovers that Alaska, the dog she used to own and love, is now Sven's assistance dog, she hatches a plan to get her revenge...



### Black History Matters by Robin Walker

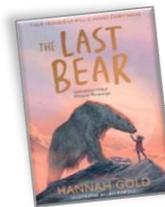
An overview of black world history from the earliest African empires to the #blacklivesmatter movement. Black history is an integral part of world history. From the injustices of the past and present, we can learn and be inspired to make the world we live in more fair, equal and just.

Black History Matters chronicles thousands of years of black history, looking at:

- The African kingdoms, from Ta-Seti and ancient Egypt to Songhai and Benin
- The transatlantic slave trade
- The colonisation of Africa
- Apartheid
- Segregation in the USA
- The Windrush generation
- The birth of the black civil rights movement.
- The origins of the #blacklivesmatter movement
- Black contributions to world culture today, from literature and music to sport

Along the way, biographies shine a light on inspiring black figures, from the poet and freed slave Phillis Wheatley to the peaceful reformer Dr Martin Luther King and the journalist and activist Claudia Jones, whose words and achievements live on today.

Shortlisted for the Information Book Award 2020



### The Last Bear by Hannah Gold

Eleven year old April accompanies her father to Bear Island in the Arctic for six months. There are no polar bears left on Bear Island, but one endless summer night, April meets one. Can she save him?

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life...

This moving story will win the hearts of children the world over and show them that no one is too young or insignificant to make a difference. The Last Bear is a celebration of the love between a child and an animal, a battle cry for our world and an irresistible adventure with a heart as big as a bear's.



### **The Accidental Diary of B.U.G. by Jen Carney**

A fun filled and amusing story that will be enjoyed by many. Could be good for Inclusion collections to show how families can be different, and friendship too.

A young girl becomes convinced that the new girl in her class is a thief and sets out to prove it.

There is a new girl at Billie's school, and Billie takes it upon herself to show her around, teach her the Biscuit Laws, and remind her that yes, two women can get married (after all, Billie's mums' wedding is the event of the year). But then suspicion sets in....

The new girl seems very close to Billie's best friend Layla. And doesn't she know a little too much about the latest big school heist - the theft of Mrs Robinson's purse... ?

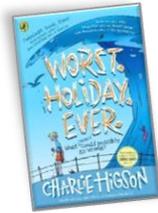


### **As Good As Dead by Holly Jackson (Good Girl's Guide To Murder)**

Pip Fitz-Amobi is haunted by the way her last investigation ended. Soon she'll be leaving for Cambridge University but then another case finds her...and this

time it's all about Pip.

Pip is used to online death threats, but there's one that catches her eye, someone who keeps asking: who will look for you when you're the one who disappears? And it's not just online. Pip has a stalker who knows where she lives. The police refuse to act and then Pip finds connections between her stalker and a local serial killer. The killer has been in prison for six years, but Pip suspects that the wrong man is behind bars. As the deadly game plays out, Pip realises that everything in Little Kilton is finally coming full circle. If Pip doesn't find the answers, this time she will be the one who disappears...



### **Worst Holiday Ever by Charlie Higson**

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our nations today - but what is it?

Hasn't it always been happening? What is making it worse? Why do some people deny its happening? The concept of climate change and all of its implications is discussed as part of the What's the Issue series. What's the Issue asks 'what's all the fuss about?' It reviews what is at stake when we think about climate change, with the aim of helping young people to understand this difficult subject and provide them with the tools to inform their own opinions on the issue.

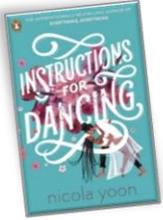


### **Teen Titans: Raven**

When a tragic accident takes the life of seventeen-year-old Raven Roth's foster mom-and Raven's memory-she moves to New Orleans to live with her foster mother's family and finish her senior year of high school. Starting over isn't easy. Raven remembers how to solve math equations and make pasta, but she can't remember her favourite song or who she was before the accident. When strange things start happening-impossible things-Raven starts to think it might be better not to know who she was in her previous life. But as she grows closer to her foster sister, Max, her new friends, and Tommy Torres, a guy who accepts her for who she is now, Raven has to decide if she's ready to face what's buried in the past.and the darkness building inside her. From the #1 New York Times bestselling co-author of Beautiful Creatures Kami Garcia, and artist Gabriel Pico, comes this first graphic novel in the Teen Titans series for DC Ink, Teen Titans: Raven.

# NEW AND SUGGESTED READS

## YEAR 9/ABOVE

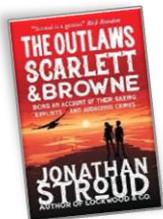


### Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon

A teenage girl discovers an ability to foresee doomed love that puts her off romance, until she meets a dancer who fascinates her and could change her mind.

Evie is disillusioned about love ever since her dad left her mum for another woman - she's even throwing out her beloved romance novel collection. When she's given a copy of a book called Instructions for Dancing, and follows a note inside to a dilapidated dance studio, she discovers she has a strange and unwelcome gift. When a couple kisses in front of her, she can see their whole relationship play out - from the moment they first catch each other's eye to the last bitter moments of their break-up. For Evie, it confirms everything she thinks she knows about love - that it doesn't last.

But at the dance studio she meets X - tall, dreadlocked, fascinating - and they start to learn to dance, together. Can X help break the spell that Evie is under? Can he change Evie's mind about love?



### The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne

Highly imaginative, slick world-building perfectly combines with masterful characterisation and thrill-a-minute adventure. Superb storytelling - unputdownable!

In a catastrophe-ravaged future England, two teenagers defy the rigid rules and they begin to acquire a legendary status. England has been radically changed by a series of catastrophes - large cities have disappeared and London has been replaced by a lagoon. The surviving population exists in fortified towns where they cling to traditional ways, while strangely evolved beasts prowl the wilderness beyond. Conformity is rigidly enforced and those who fall foul of the rules are persecuted: some are killed, others are driven out into the wilds. Only a few fight back - and two of these outlaws, Scarlett McCain and Albert Browne, display an audacity and talent that makes them legends.

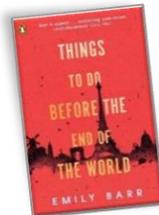


### The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna

A sixteen-year-old girl is offered a choice between being executed for being a demon or leaving everything she knows to being a new life as a secret warrior.

Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in Otera, a deeply patriarchal ancient kingdom, where a woman's worth is tied to her purity, and she must bleed to prove it. But when Deka bleeds gold - the colour of impurity, of a demon - she faces a consequence worse than death.

She is saved by a mysterious woman who tells Deka of her true nature: she is an Alaki, a near-immortal with exceptional gifts. The stranger offers her a choice: fight for the Emperor, with others just like her, or be destroyed...



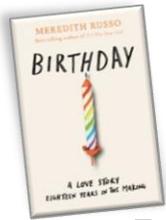
### Things To Do Before The End of The World by Emily Barr

Great characters & writing make for a wholly entertaining & thought provoking read.

As the air on Earth runs out, a teenage girl enjoys travels around Madrid and Paris with her apparently long-lost cousin but soon starts to suspect that she may have an agenda

What would you do when you hear the news that humans have done such damage to the earth that there might only be a limited amount of safe air left - a year's worth at most? You'd work through your bucket list, heal rifts, do everything you've never been brave enough to do before?

Olivia is struggling to do any of this. What is it she truly wants to do? Who does she wants to be? Then out of the blue comes contact from a long-lost cousin Olivia didn't even know existed. Natasha is everything Olivia wants to be and more. And as the girls meet up for a long, hot last summer, Olivia finds Natasha's ease and self-confidence having an effect on her. But Natasha definitely isn't everything she first appears to be...



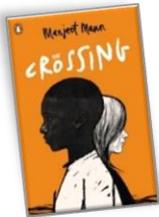
### **Birthday by Meredith Russo**

Cleverly constructed narrative enables the characters to develop naturally and allows the reader to engage fully.

Two best friends comes to terms with their bodies and emotions when Morgan makes the transition from male to female, and Eric realises that he has feelings for his friend.

Meet Morgan and Eric: born on the same day, at the same time, in the same place.

They've always shared this one day together, but as they grow up they begin to grow apart. Everyone expects Eric to get a football scholarship, but no one knows he's having second thoughts. Former quarterback Morgan feels utterly alone, as she wrestles with the difficult choice to live as her true self. Both of them are struggling to be the person they know they are. Who better to help than your best friend?



### **Crossing by Manjeet Man (she wrote Run Rebel)**

Powerful & often visceral style of writing really works well with the two interweaving narratives offering unusual parallels between the characters' lives

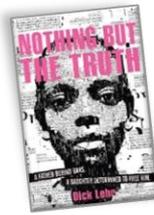
& drawing out the big issues in a harrowing, compelling way.

A teenage girl struggling with her mother's death and an Eritrean refugee find hope when fate throws them together.

Natalie's world has turned upside down. She's lost her mum and her brother is descending further and further into anger and violence with a far-right gang who march the streets of Dover.

Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes is a step into the unknown - into a strange country and a hidden future.

A twist of fate brings these two teens from opposite sides of the channel together, but will their journey end in hope or despair?



### **Nothing But The Truth by Dick Lehr**

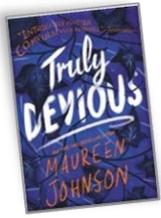
A girl fights for justice for her father who is serving life without parole for a murder he didn't commit.

On a hot summer night in Boston, a thirteen-year-old African-American girl became the innocent victim of gang-related gunfire. Amid public outcry, an immediate manhunt was on to catch the murderer, and a young African-American man was quickly apprehended, charged, and - wrongly - convicted of the crime.

Trell was only a baby when her father was imprisoned, but she has always been certain of his innocence. Twelve years after his conviction, she persuades a down-on-his-luck reporter and a determined lawyer to help clear her father's name. As they attempt to uncover back-door deals, track down crucial witnesses and unearth vital evidence that will prove her father's innocence, it becomes clear that some people in the neighbourhood want to keep this information hidden - at any cost.

In his first book for teenagers, Dick Lehr, a former reporter for the Boston Globe's famous Spotlight Team, has re-imagined a case he investigated to create a compelling story about a daughter determined to prove her father's innocence. Inspired by the true story of a young man's false imprisonment for murder, this is a gripping novel about a daughter's fight for justice against the odds.

convinced that he is the victim of racial prejudice. Can he stand up for what's right? When he comes upon her in the woods outside school in a compromising situation with another teacher, Jeevan can't help but film the scene on his phone. With this secret new ammunition at his fingertips dare he upload it to social media?



### **Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson**

Excellent writing; a thoroughly compelling, twisty plot, and a relatable and emotionally eloquent main character. Frustrating ending, but a series start well worth following!

A pupil at an exclusive private school investigates a famous unsolved murder and kidnapping case, but finds herself out of her depth when a fellow student dies in a bizarre accident.

Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest thinkers, inventors, and artists. It was founded by Albert Ellingham, an early twentieth century tycoon, who wanted to make a wonderful place full of riddles, twisting pathways, and gardens. "A place," he said, "where learning is a game." Shortly after the school opened, his wife and daughter were kidnapped. The only real clue was a mocking riddle listing methods of murder, signed with the frightening pseudonym "Truly, Devious." It became one of the great unsolved crimes of American history.

True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she has an ambitious plan: She will solve this cold case. That is, she will solve the case when she gets a grip on her demanding new school life and her housemates: the inventor, the novelist, the actor, the artist, and the joker. But something strange is happening. Truly Devious makes a surprise return, and death revisits Ellingham Academy. The past has crawled out of its grave. Someone has gotten away with murder.

The two interwoven mysteries of this first book in the Truly Devious series dovetail brilliantly, and Stevie Bell will continue her relentless quest for the murderers in books two and three.



### **The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe**

Electrifying thriller with powerful characterisation and an excellent plot, full of shocking twists. Intelligently written and a really enjoyable read.

A teenage girl trying to escape her con-artist past finds herself caught up in a bank robbery and must use all her skills to save herself and her friends.

As an ex con artist, Nora has always got herself out of tricky situations. But the ultimate test lies in wait when she's taken hostage in a bank heist. And this time, Nora doesn't have an escape plan...

Meet Nora. Also known as Rebecca, Samantha, Hayley, Katie and Ashley - the girls she's been. Nora didn't choose a life of deception - she was born into it. As the daughter of a con artist who targeted criminal men, Nora always had to play a part. But when her mother fell for one of the men instead of conning him, Nora pulled the ultimate con herself: escape.

For five years Nora's been playing at normal - but things are far from it when she finds herself held at gunpoint in the middle of a bank heist, along with Wes (her ex-boyfriend) and Iris (her secret new girlfriend and mutual friend of Wes... awkward). Now it will take all of Nora's con artistry skills to get them out alive.

Because the gunmen have no idea who she really is. And that girl has been in hiding for far too long ...



### **The Loop**

Gritty combination of Prison Break, Terminator and most zombie apocalypse movies. It's quite violent and gory in places but packs a punch with edge-of-your seat action and heroic derring-do.

Good start to the series

A group of teenagers escape their high security prison to discover a plot by ruling AIs to wipe out humanity. Luka Kane has been inside hi-tech prison the Loop for over two years.

A death sentence is hanging over his head but his day-to-day routine is mind-numbingly repetitive, broken only by the books brought to him by the sympathetic warden, Wren.

Then everything starts to change: rumours of war are whispered in the courtyard and the government-issued rain stops falling. On Luka's last, desperate day, Wren issues him a terrifying warning: breaking out of the Loop might be Luka's only chance to save himself - and the world.



### **The Block (The Loop 2)**

Terminator meets The Matrix! Not quite as gory as the first but still a tense, action-packed thriller that engages from the start with startling plot twists and epic characters. Best read in sequence and ends on a cliff-hanger! Bring it on...

Luka and his friends must try to stay out of the clutches of Happy, the all-powerful AI that rules their world.

Luka is imprisoned in the Block when an audacious break-out reunites him with his friends at last. Hiding out in the heart of the destroyed city, Luka realises the scale of their mission to defeat all-powerful AI, Happy. How can they stay hidden, let alone win the war?



### **Wolf Children: Ame and Yuki (light novel) by Mamoru Hosoda**

When Hana worked up the courage to speak to the mysterious loner in her college class, she never expected the encounter would blossom into true

love-nor that he was secretly a wolf living in human form. Their relationship was far from ordinary, but she wouldn't have had it any other way. Her joy only grows with the births of Ame and Yuki, who have inherited their father's unique ability to transform. But life is full of both joy and hardship, and Hana is left to bring up her little wolves on her own. Raising human children is hard enough...but how will she handle their wild side, too?

In this novelisation of his award-winning Wolf Children film, acclaimed director Mamoru Hosoda provides a deeper look at the emotional trials and triumphs of a very unique little family.