

# Sheil Land Associates Ltd

LITERARY, THEATRE AND FILM AGENTS

52 Doughty Street, London, WC1N 2LS

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## Alex Shearer

### Biography and Titles

**Alex Shearer** is a British novelist and scriptwriter. He was born in Wick, in the north of Scotland and now lives in Bristol. Alex Shearer sold his first TV script at the age of 29 and went on to write for television, film, theatre and radio (including plays and short stories for BBC Radio 4) for 14 years before turning his hand to novels.

His 2003 novel *The Speed of the Dark* was shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. *The Greatest Store in the World* was adapted into a television film by the BBC. His novel *Bootleg* was adapted for a television series by the BBC, and later adapted into manga and anime under its Japanese title *Chocolate Underground*.

### Available/ titles

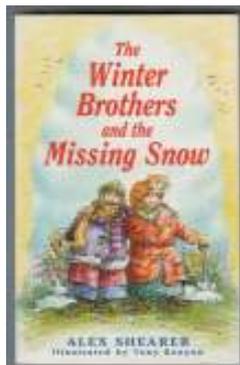
#### *Professor Sniff and the Lost Spring Breezes* (1996), Gollancz

Professor Sniff collects and supplies wind. Amongst his collection are bags of Huffs, sacks of Puffs and a few stray Whiffs. However, the spring breezes are late and Sniff is afraid he'll run out of stock. He gets more than he bargains for when a baby hurricane escapes from his barn.



#### *The Winter Brothers and the Missing Snow* (1997), Puffin

The Winter Brothers supply snowy products - snow to hot countries or a snow castle with 35 bedrooms. So when, on a winter's day, the snow disappears from the park, maybe the brothers will know what happened? This story is another in the series about Callender Hill.



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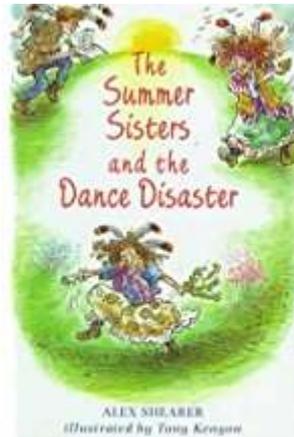
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## Dr. Twilite and the Autumn Snooze (1997), Puffin

Dr Twilite is happy running the Autumn Reclamation, Leaf Recycling, Environmental Nut and Mushroom Storage Company, supplying everything from spider's web stockings to cow-pat-fuelled heating - but what will she do when her potent Hibernation Mixture accidentally enters the local water supply?

## The Summer Sisters and the Dance Disaster (1997), Puffin

Melitia, Patricia and Arthur are able to inform their customers exactly what the weather will do in any given place at any given time. Trouble starts when they decide to branch out and actually supply weather. Things gradually get worse, until they lose the weather altogether.



## Box 132 (1997), Harper Collins – For adult readers

Giles West has been married and faithful to his childhood sweetheart for 20 years. But now, turning 40, Giles decides that to have slept with only one partner is not to have lived. What he wants is an affair without complications or recriminations, so he decides to advertise in the personal column.



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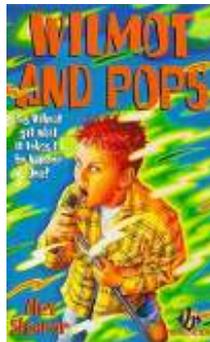
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## Wilmot and Pops (1998), Hodder

Wilmot Tanner knows the time is right to launch himself into the world of pop music. After all, he's got the talent, and he's got a band (well - sort of). To quote his brother and new 'manager', Terry, Wilmot's got what it takes to be a chart sensation!

When Terry enters Wilmot's band into a big talent contest, it's all systems go: Wilmot needs to write some songs, rehearse the band, and find the right, incredibly cool, image! A tin of red dye and plenty of adrenalin should do it. Wilmot is guaranteed to give a stunning performance. Unforgettable, in fact . . .



## The Great Blue Yonder (2002), Macmillan

*'You'll be sorry when I'm dead.'*

That's what Harry said to his sister, before the incident with the lorry. And now he is just that - dead.

And he wishes more than anything that he hadn't said it. He wishes he could say sorry. And say goodbye to everyone he left behind - his mum, his dad, his best friend Pete, even Jelly Donkins, the class bully.

Now he's on the Other Side, waiting to move on to the Great Blue Yonder. But he doesn't know how to get there - until he meets Arthur, a small boy in a top hat, who's been dead for years, who helps him say goodbye...



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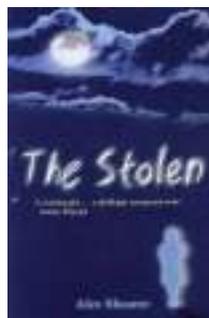
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## *The Stolen* (2002), Macmillan

Life's a game—and someone's cheating. Meredith is a new girl at school. An orphan, living with her elderly granny. She must be lonely—or so Carly thinks, trying to be nice. But sometimes nice doesn't work. Sometimes people are worse than you could ever imagine. And Meredith has a secret—a story Carly can hardly begin to believe, about a girl with no future and someone else's past, a vicious old lady who refuses to die, and a young life stolen. For Meredith is not Meredith at all.



## *Sea Legs* (2003), Hodder

Eric and Clive's widowed dad is a steward on a cruise ship, and every time he goes away, the twins miss him terribly. Eric (older and considerably wiser than Clive by about five minutes) and Clive decide that this time will be different. When their father leaves for his latest cruise, they will go with him! Only Dad doesn't know yet, because Eric and Clive are going to be stowaways!

How can their plan possibly fail? Okay, so Clive is a compulsive liar, with a tendency toward disastrous mishaps. It's worth the risk. All they have to do is keep out of Dad's way and stay out of trouble -- for three whole weeks..



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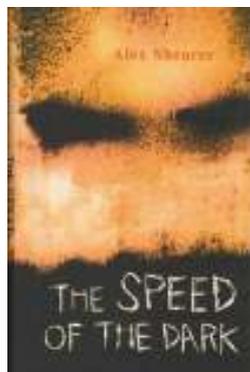
## *The Crush* (2003)

An enjoyable and often poignant novel about the trials and tribulations of growing up and the pain of having a crush on the lead singer of a boy band.



## *The Speed of the Dark* (2004), Macmillan

Christopher Mallan loves Ernst Eckmann's sculptures. He visits his gallery often on his way home from school to marvel at the creations. They are so tiny and perfect they appear almost real. One day, the impossible happens - Christopher sees a sculpture move and dance. It even seems to breathe.

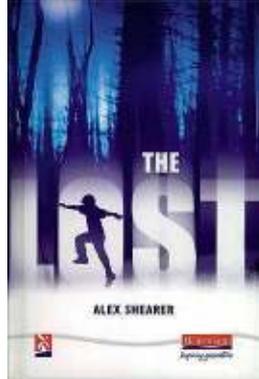


## *The Lost* (2004), Macmillan

A year, two years, three years pass and Joe still takes solitary bike rides into the countryside, one day meeting an attractive woman named Anna, who valiantly maintains her smallholding all alone. But Anna also lives with sadness - the death of her baby son, buried in the local churchyard. As their friendship grows, Joe finds an old, weathered, half-buried backpack - Jonah's backpack - on Anna's land. Now his life is in danger as he realizes that Anna has a terrible and terrifying secret ...

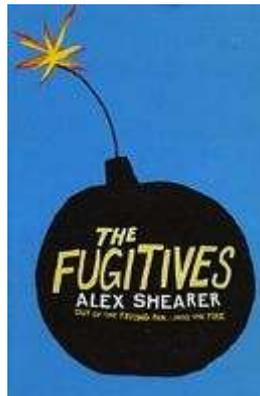
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*The Fugitives* (2004), Haddock

On the run after blowing up a deserted building with dodgy fireworks, Davy and Mike are taken in by a passing couple who witnessed their misdemeanor. It's almost like the loving family they never had, except it's not. But events take a sinister turn and things will never be the same again.



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## *The Great Switcherooie* (2006), Hodder

Bill Harris could not be more different from Benny Spinks, the son of a famous footballer and his pop singer wife. Bill knows nothing about football, is never picked for teams and on one occasion scores 6 own goals in an infamous 7–0 defeat. Then, one day, a freak hair-drying incident turns Bill into a Benny Spinks double. Bill is offered look-alike work and so comes to meet the real Benny.

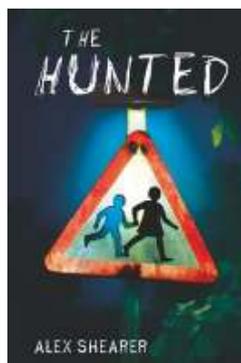
The boys like one another instantly and hatch a plan to swap lives for a day. On the actual day of the 'switch', chaos and confusion reign when both Bill and Benny are kidnapped by rival gangs. However, the boys manage to trick the kidnappers (through a cunning plan involving a nut allergy and a jar of peanut butter) and each returns to his own life, having learnt something very important about himself.



## *The Hunted* (2005), Macmillan

In a future world where people live to be 150, humans have paid the price for their longer lives – the cost being their fertility. Children have become a commodity: they are bought and sold, won and lost, and worst of all, are hunted by the 'kiddnappers' keen to make a quick buck on a big sale.

When Deet wins Tarrin in a card game he rents him out to childless couples. They pay for Tarrin to play in their houses, and they pretend he's their child for an hour or two. But as Tarrin gets older, Deet is keen to secure his future, and his interest in 'The Peter Pan' operation grows. By having 'The Peter Pan', Tarrin would stay a boy forever. He would grow old inside the body of a young boy. While Tarrin faces a difficult dilemma, someone is watching him. Someone who has plans of his own.



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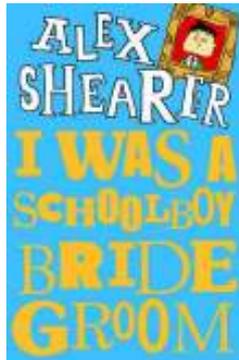
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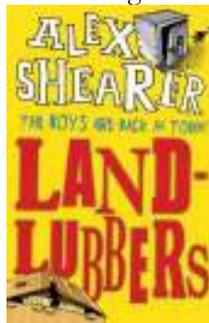
*I Was a Schoolboy Bridegroom (2006), Hodder*

Thirteen-year-old Bosworth Hartie didn't think his parents could inflict much more mental torture on him. However, they get it into their heads to find him a wife, to keep him on the straight and narrow! And they match him up with the spiteful Veronica Melling.



*Land Lubbers (2007), Hodder*

Twins Clive and Eric are back on dry land, their days of misadventure just a bad dream. But then their dad becomes manager of a swanky London hotel, and it isn't long before something goes wrong.



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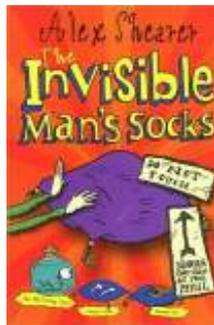
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## *The Invisible Man's Socks* (2007), Macmillan

Prepare to be terrified by the exhibits at the Museum of Little Horrors. But make sure you heed the warning: Do Not Touch! For ignoring these instructions can only lead to trouble.

Monstrously terrible trouble ...But Mr. Ellis' class don't take instructions as seriously as they should and, after running riot in the museum, the pupils aren't quite feeling themselves. Ashwin is a little sharper of tooth, Michael's a little less visible, even Mr. Ellis seems a little bit hairier and, altogether, they're just a little bit scarier. Will Mr. Ellis and his fiendish class find a way of lifting the evil curse and learn their lesson?



## *Tins* (2007, released in the United States as *Canned*)

Fergal is a self-confessed nerd with an eccentric hobby: tin collecting. He likes the lucky dip aspect of buying tins that have their labels missing - after all, you never know what might be inside. It's Fergal's idea of living dangerously. That is, until the day he innocently opens up a tin to find . . . a bloodied human finger. Everyone thinks it's a joke. But not Fergal - and when his next tin discovery is a note with the word 'Help' scribbled on it, he feels compelled to track down the factory responsible for these mysterious and macabre products. Fergal might be hungry to play detective, but has he opened a can of worms . . . ?



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## *The Cloud Hunters (2012), Hot Key*

Hunting the skies is not for the faint-hearted. In a world where water is scarce and deadly jellyfish swim through the sky, mollycoddled teenager Christien dreams of excitement and danger. When he meets the exotic and alluring Jenine and her family of Cloud Hunters, he becomes determined to fulfil that dream. . . .



## ”Sky Run” 2013 (Hot Key Books)

In a world where islands float above the sun and Cloud Hunters sail the skies for water, orphans Gemma and Martin live with their 120-year-old great, great, grand aunt Peggy and the sky-cat Botcher on a remote rock miles from civilisation. When Peggy decides they should visit City Island to register at school, the group embarks on a trip that will take them through uncharted territories, navigating a very dangerous sky. Encountering cloud pirates, sky rats and an axe murdering motel owner, Gemma and Martin must learn to fend for themselves, and fight for what's right in a perilous world. In this sequel to Alex Shearer's CLOUD HUNTERS, SKY RUN returns to a fantasy world filled with adventure, escapism and a sense of magic at every turn.



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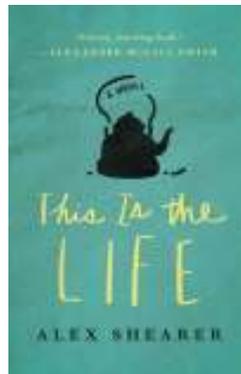
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"This Is The Life" 2014 (HarperCollins - Blue Door) – For adult readers

About two estranged brothers who come together when one of them discovers he has a brain tumor and the other emerges as his caretaker.

*This is the life: Not the one you thought you had yesterday. Or the one that might not be here tomorrow. Just this one. Here and now...*

This is the story of Louis, who never quite fit in, and of his younger brother, who always tried to tag along. As they got older, they grew apart. And as they got older still, one of them got cancer, and the other became his caretaker. Then they became close again, two brothers on one final journey together, wading through the stuff that's thicker than water.



"The Ministry of Ghosts" 2014 (Hot Key Books)

When they ring the bell at the house with the dusty windows and tarnished nameplate to inquire about the advertised "Saturday Person," Thruppence and Tim don't know what they're getting themselves into. A Saturday job sounds ideal! But had that nameplate been properly cleaned, Thruppence and Tim might not have been so keen to enter . . .

Pressured by the stern Minister Beeston from the Department of Economies, the Ministry of Ghosts has been given three months to prove the existence or nonexistence of ghosts, or else it will be shut down! As it seems that children are particularly magnetic to ghosts and supernatural beings, Thruppence and Tim are hired to join the ministry's ghost-catching team. And although neither of them is scared by talk of ghosts or monsters, they are unprepared for what they're about discover!



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## "A Message To The Sea" 2016 (Piccadilly Press)

It's been a year since Tom Pellow's dad was lost at sea. He was a sailor and Tom also finds himself drawn to the vast ocean; it holds so many possibilities, dangers and secrets. After hearing a song on the radio, Tom decides to write a message in a bottle, and throw it out into the sea. To 'cast his bread upon the waters'. He doesn't really expect to hear back, but Tom keeps writing anyway, sending messages out on the tide and searching the waves for a reply.

One day he finds one. It's a letter that seems to be from a ghost, deep down in Davy Jones's Locker - and the writer has a shocking answer to Tom's question.

But if Tom's dad didn't perish at sea, where is he?

