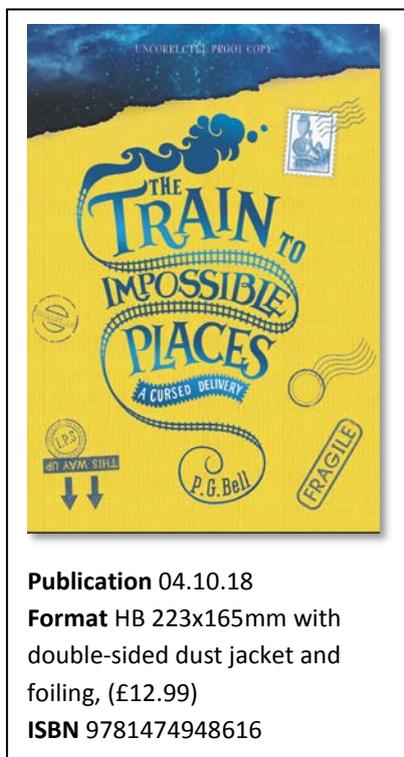




**** PRESS RELEASE ****

Usborne win hotly-contested, six-way auction to publish

The Train to Impossible Places by P.G. Bell



Rebecca Hill and Becky Walker at Usborne have acquired UK and Commonwealth (excl. Canada) rights to three books in a series by debut author P.G. Bell, from Gemma Cooper at the Bent Agency, in what is the independent publisher's most significant acquisition to date.

The hotly-contested six-way auction resulted in wins for Usborne in the UK and Feiwel & Friends (Macmillan) in the US. The Bent Agency accepted pre-empts from France, Italy and China and have since sold rights in the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, and just closed an auction for Polish rights.

The first book in *The Train to Impossible Places* series, *A Cursed Delivery*, will publish in hardback simultaneously in the UK and the US this October 2018. Usborne will be releasing *A Cursed Delivery* on Super Thursday as their super-lead autumn title, with a collectible Christmas gift package and a major marketing and publicity campaign. Paperback editions will follow in 2019 and books two and three will follow in quick succession.

This deal cements a strong relationship between the Bent Agency and Usborne – the publisher will release *Orphan Monster Spy* by Matt Killeen (from Molly Ker Hawn at TBA) in March and *The House with Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson (also from Gemma Cooper) in April this year. *The Train to Impossible Places* is another breakout middle grade debut from the agency that launched the careers of Jessica Townsend (*Nevermoor*), Stephanie Garber (*Caraval*) and Robin Stevens (*The Murder Most Unladylike Mysteries*) and the publishing team behind Peter Bunzl (*The Cogheart Adventures*), Lara Williamson (*A Boy Called Hope*) and rising star Helena Duggan (*A Place Called Perfect*).



Continued over...

Welcome to the Impossible Places... Where there's fuzzics not physics, where adventure meets magic and where the journey will never, ever take you where you expect it to.

When Suzy Smith discovers an ill-tempered troll building a railway through her house, she knows something is amiss. For the gigantic steam train that crashes through her hallway moments later is the Impossible Postal Express – the trusty delivery service of the Union of Impossible Places. Or it was, until Suzy is taken aboard and given her first package...which just so happens to be cursed. And so, the Impossible adventure begins.

***The Polar Express* meets *The Wizard of Oz*, with a dash of J.K. Rowling's magic, Philip Pullman's characters and C.S. Lewis's world-building...**

"With The Train to Impossible Places, P.G. Bell has written that incredibly special type of story - one which turns children into readers. Bursting at the mailbags with wild imagination, astonishing adventure, fabulous humour and characters that take you to the moon and back; Usborne are Impossibly delighted to be publishing this series and we can't wait to welcome readers aboard for the journey of a lifetime."

– Rebecca Hill, Editorial Director, Usborne Publishing

"What struck me the most when reading The Train to Impossible Places for the first time was the confidence and surefootedness of the writing. When I learned I was reading a first draft that had only been finished a week before, I knew P.G. Bell was a special writer with a natural talent. Suzy Smith is the smart, science-loving heroine of my dreams and I'm thrilled Usborne have jumped on board to bring her adventures to readers."

– Gemma Cooper, The Bent Agency



About the author

P.G. Bell is a native of south Wales, where he was raised on a diet of Greek mythology, ghost stories, and Doctor Who. He's had all sorts of jobs over the years, from lifeguard to roller coaster operator, but has always wanted to write stories. *The Train to Impossible Places* is Peter's debut novel, and started life as a bedtime story for his eldest son when he was three years old. Having requested a new instalment every night for a week, the story began to evolve and, after a while, Peter began writing – often in the science library where he worked evenings. On quiet nights in between the stacks, *The Train to Impossible Places* steamed into motion.

He lives in Wales with his wife Anna and their two children.

Follow P.G. Bell on his journey to publication on Twitter [@petergbell](https://twitter.com/petergbell)

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