

**USBORNE PUBLISH FREE EBOOK, 'THE WOMEN WHO MADE ME A FEMINIST'  
BY YA AUTHOR MATT KILLEEN  
IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**AUTHOR'S PERSONAL SELECTION OF 14 FEMALE HEROES AND FEMINIST ROLE-MODELS  
WERE FIRST PUBLISHED AS INDIVIDUAL POSTS FOR A BLOG TOUR TO MARK THE PUBLICATION  
OF HIS DEBUT NOVEL *ORPHAN MONSTER SPY*, ALSO PUBLISHED TODAY**

While writing *Orphan Monster Spy* Matt Killeen, a committed feminist, immersed himself in a world where a courageous and resourceful young woman was forced to go undercover to resist an immoral, exploitative regime, defined and driven by men.

*Orphan Monster Spy* is the realisation of Matt's desire to create an inspirational and powerful young female character, in part as tribute to his own female fictional and historical heroes. The blog tour, which has been running since mid-February with UKYA book bloggers, has showcased a very personal selection of female heroes from Matt and not necessarily the most obvious or worthy of candidates. For example, he wrote a post about SOE agent Violette Szabo for the blog My Little Library in the Attic, a very direct inspiration for *Orphan Monster Spy*, although more successful or laudable SOE agents, like Norr Inayat Khan existed.

'The Women who Made me a Feminist' compiles the blog posts together into one list and is out now, available from Kindle, iBooks and Google Play.

**Matt Killeen comments:** *"This was never meant as an exhaustive list of female fictional and historical heroes, only those that have touched my life the most. It's a very personal selection and I realise I have barely scratched the surface.*

*I was disappointed by how few of these names were persons of colour. By drawing from the novels of my childhood, the list demonstrates some of literature's unconscious bias, if not its essential racism. That I learned about very few historically significant people of colour in my youth is likewise a symptom of both a society designed for the privileged that it has, consciously or otherwise, edited those prominent women and people of colour that there were out of the collective memory. Where did Mary Seacole vanish to until quite recently? You only have to muse on the fate of scientist Lise Meitner after the war to see how and why this happens.*

*This is why representation, particularly in books for young people, is so important. There's no shortage of male, white and straight heroes. It's one of the many reasons that Sarah of Orphan Monster Spy was created – or rather created herself and harassed me until I wrote her story – a girl with characteristics drawn from the women who made me a feminist."*

The lists of bloggers hosting Matt's guest posts about his female heroes included: Typewritered, The YA Nightstand, No Safer Place, My Little Library in the Attic, Kelly's Rambles, Drinking Books, Tales of Yesterday, Book Murmuration, Be My Anchor, Never Judge a Book by its Cover, A Little But A Lot, Coffee, Stars, Books, Tea Party Princess, The Queens of Geekdom, The Bibliophile Chronicles, YA Bookers, Chouett and Pretty Books. For logistical reasons not all posts were included in the eBook but where they have been, bloggers are acknowledged.

**About the *Orphan Monster Spy*:** *Orphan Monster Spy* by Matt Killeen is published by Usborne on 8th March 2018 in paperback, priced £7.99, aimed at YA and adult readers.

Set at the outbreak of WW2, *Orphan Monster Spy* follows 15-year-old Sarah, a blonde-haired, blue-eyed German-Jewish girl who is enlisted by an underground resistance movement after being orphaned in a failed attempt to escape Nazi Germany.

*“Set in a brilliant, terrifyingly-imagined Third Reich Germany, Orphan Monster Spy's Sarah sits alongside Lyra and True Grit's Mattie Ross as one of the best spiky, clever, daring, unyielding protagonists I've read.”* - **Martin Stewart, author of *Riverkeep***

*“Deeply disturbing and chillingly good.”* - **Elizabeth Wein, author of *Code Name Verity***

*“A riveting plot-driven thriller...Sarah's psychological journey is particularly compelling”* - **Fiona Noble, The Bookseller**

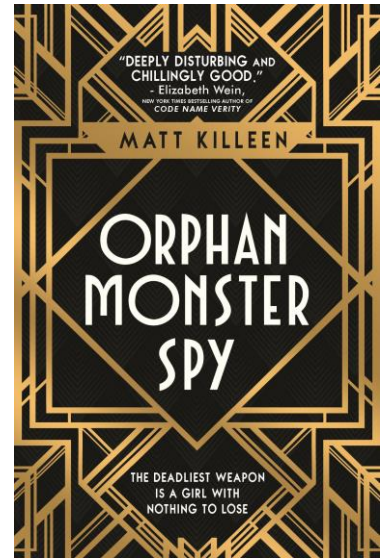
*“Delivers dark, disturbing truths, wrapped tight in a story that twists turns and threatens to stab you in the back. Both unforgiving and brilliant - a book to leave you breathless.”* - **Non Pratt, author of *Second Best Friend***

*“I found myself mesmerized by Sarah's journey into a world of human monsters. Orphan Monster Spy weaves one heroine's courage through a spectrum of darkness, and the effects resonate long after the final page.”* - **Ryan Graudin, award-winning author of the *Wolf By Wolf* duology**

*“Killeen expertly conjures the day-to-day evil of Nazi Germany in this terrific page turner.”* - **Paul Dowswell, author of *Auslander***

**About the author:** Matt Killeen was born in Birmingham, UK in the 1970s. After careers in advertising and journalism he took a course in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University and began *Orphan Monster Spy*, inspired, in part, by the young, female SOE agents of WW2. He now writes full time. This is his first novel. Location: Surrey, UK.

-Ends-



**For more information please contact: Fritha Lindqvist at [fritha@frithalindqvistpr.com](mailto:fritha@frithalindqvistpr.com) or on 07798 734565 or Hannah Reardon Steward at [hannahr@usborne.co.uk](mailto:hannahr@usborne.co.uk) or on 0207 890 3174**