



BOOKS

1. *After You* – Jojo Moyes
 2. *The Girl on the Train* – Paula Hawkins
 3. *Get Even* – Martina Cole

4. *Murder House* – James Patterson
 5. *Me Before You* – Jojo Moyes
 Chart from WHSmith



Edited by
NATASHA HARDING



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

HALO TORA

WHO: Chris Alexander (vocals/guitar), Ian McCall (vocals/guitar), Mark Young (bass), Ryan Connery (piano/keys), Chris McKeown (drums).

WHERE: Glasgow.

FOR FANS OF: Biffy Clyro, Mogwai, Coheed and Cambria.

JIM SAYS: Since releasing their debut album *OmniOne* last year, Halo Tora have been on a roll.

Back in May they played The Great Escape in Brighton, the UK's biggest and most influential showcase for emerging acts.

Last month the band were in action at Scotland's premier rock and metal festival, Wildfire.

Chris Alexander and Chris McKeown previously played with Airdrie outfit Anavris, coming together as Halo Tora around 2011.

Chris Alexander told me: "We wanted to take our sound in a different direction and this required a different line-up. We knew Ian from playing shows with his band at the time so we got him in. I met Ryan in a music shop that I worked in and he told me he played piano. I practically grabbed him and gave him no choice but to come for a jam. The bass position has reshuffled a few times but we are dead set now with Mark at the helm."

"The response to the album has been incredible. At Wildfire we were hearing people sing the words back to us in a place that isn't our home. For people to get the record enough to listen and learn the songs is absolutely



amazing. We are truly grateful to everyone that has taken notice of it."

OmniOne is a glorious mix of metal, prog and post-rock. An atmospheric soundscape that hooks you in, it has a certain cinematic quality.

Chris explained: "There are a million things that inspire and influence us on a daily basis. Speaking for myself I'd have to say someone like John Carpenter is a huge influence on me creatively. He wrote, directed and scored the music for the Halloween movie franchise."

Always challenging themselves musically, Halo Tora are a band forever moving forward.

Chris said: "We have always stayed clear of pigeon holes with this band. We write what we like."

"With the album we tried to push the boundaries as far as we could. It was a challenge but we are incredibly proud."

After sell-out shows at Audio and King Tut's in Glasgow, Halo Tora now have their sights set further afield, with a European tour planned for October. The guys are also working on new material.

Chris added: "We can't wait to unleash our new work. We've been working hard writing for another record. It costs an unbelievable amount of money to make an album so we just need to finance it. If there are any rich music enthusiasts out there, hit us up."

More info: www.halotora.com

● **Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays, 2-4pm.**

www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.com

Watch video of band at:
thescottishsun.co.uk

WE DELVE INTO PHIZZ-WHIZZING ARCHIVES OF BGF GREAT ROALDing back the years

THE BFG movie launches in cinemas today and promises to be the film of the summer. The book about little Sophie's adventures with the Big Friendly Giant was published in 1982, just eight years before Roald Dahl's death in 1990. To coincide with the film, there is a new BFG exhibition at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Great Missenden, Bucks.

Here we delve into the amazing archives to see just where all the whizzpoppers and Gobblefunk came from.

THE INITIAL IDEA

Roald kept two ideas books to write down his early thoughts.

In one of the books, the notes read: "A Fantasy... The man who captured and kept in bottles ideas from the brain... thoughts... pieces of knowledge... jokes."

Underneath this, Roald had written "B.F.G." and "Big Friendly Giant".

The next note seems to suggest he was initially thinking of this as something quite spooky.

It says: "Not many people know about the Big Friendly Giant. He only comes out at night. He moves very silently. He is careful not to be seen."

Alongside this text, Roald drew a picture of a trumpet-like implement blowing a smoke-like substance towards a sleeping child.

FIRST APPEARANCE IN PRINT

As true Roald fans will know, the character of The BFG first appears in his earlier novel *Danny, The Champion of the World* in a story told by Danny's dad.

Roald wrote a poem about The BFG for the original draft of *Danny*, which included these lines:

*And out of the door
 In the grassy floor
 There comes a giant man
 With a jet black cloak
 He is tall as a tree
 He creeps on his toes
 Towards the caravan
 Straight for the caravan.*

The poem did not make it into the final draft.

FIRST DRAFT

In the original draft of *The BFG*, the central character is a boy called Jody not a girl named Sophie. And the BFG talks in normal language, not Gobblefunk.

He wears a tall black hat, a leather apron, black trousers and black leather boots. Instead of a suitcase, he carries a knapsack.

He is 18ft tall. In the final draft he is 24ft.

The snozzcumber makes an appearance but there is no mention of frobscottle or whizzpoppers yet.

GOBBLEFUNK

Roald ultimately decided to make up a whole new language for the BFG, and called it Gobblefunk.

NEW VERSION IS BRILLIDICIOUS

THE BFG

Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake, £11.99

BOOK OF THE WEEK

THIS beautwiddle edition is available exclusively at Waterstones, with some editions also available in the House of Illustration shop. We asked ZAK HOPE, ten, to review the new version of the book. He writes:

"I've read all of Roald Dahl's books and *The BFG* is one of my favourites. This version is really special. It's got lots of pictures I haven't seen before and that makes it seem more memorwizzle. The BFG tells the story of Sophie's adventures when she's taken from her bed in the dead of night by a giant.

It sounds really scary but it isn't because the giant, although HUGE, is actually very friendly and he looks after Sophie really well and they go on a magical journey together where they catch dreams.

I love the way that the giant speaks, it makes me laugh a lot. I've read this book three times before, but I'll read it again. It's brillidicious.

★★★★★



WHIZZPOPPING

Writing to his editor about one of the later versions of the story, Roald tells him that he has added a scene in which The BFG does a whizz-popper for the Queen.

Roald knows this is vulgar but he also knows that children will love it. (This is a great scene in the movie, too!)

In an interview, Roald states his belief that children find nothing funnier than an adult farting!

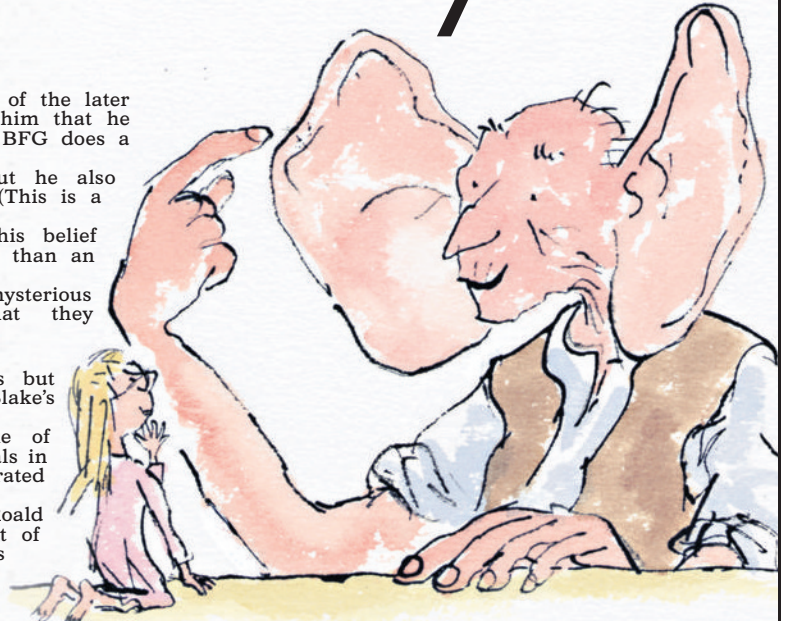
He thinks bodily functions are mysterious and funny to kids and that they also humanise adults.

WHAT THE BFG WORE

The BFG originally wore boots but they didn't look right in Quentin Blake's initial illustrations.

One day, Quentin received one of Roald's own giant Norwegian sandals in the post which he then incorporated into the drawings.

This is probably the only time Roald ever made alterations to the text of his story to suit Quentin's illustrations.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL®

VAREKAI™

Tales of the Forest

THE TRADEMARKS VAREKAI AND CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ARE OWNED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AND USED UNDER LICENSE.

15-19 MARCH 2017

THE SSE HYDRO GLASGOW

CIRQUEDUSOLEIL.COM | LIVENATION.CO.UK | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

OFFICIAL PARTNER



A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION