

Rachel Bright - extended biography

Rachel is a writer of words, drawer of pictures and thinker of happy thoughts. With a cacophony of quirky characters tumbling tirelessly from her imagination, she has a quirky and prolific talent. Creating a growing portfolio of beautifully imagined children's stories, an award-winning global card and gift empire and a smorgasbord of delicate prints, Rachel brings her own unique sunshine to the very young and the slightly older alike.

After completing a Masters in Printmaking, Rachel put her new-found skills to use producing her debut picture book, *What does daddy do?*, (Puffin, May 2009) to great acclaim. Shortlisted for several awards (including the Heart of Hawick & Cambridgeshire Read it Again Awards) and long-listed for the Kate Greenaway medal, it is now under option for an exciting new TV series. Her 2nd book, *My sister is an alien* (Puffin, July 2010) won the Nottingham Children's Book Award and received fantastic reviews:

'Witty & delightful' - *The Evening Standard*

'this will undoubtedly be another great success for picture book rising star Rachel Bright, whose wonderful etched illustrations are particularly child-friendly.' - *Armadillo Magazine*

Her third title with Puffin, *MINE!* (May, 2011) is already causing a stir – selected by both the booksellers' choice as a must read, *Junior* magazine as one of the most promising new talents and Tesco bookclub as one of their top 10 picture book picks. Her newest title, *Love Monster*, her debut title for Harper Collins, will be published on Jan 5th 2011. Illustrated in the brand new technique of Solar etching, it has a charm all of its own. All of Rachel's stories have been featured on CBeebies Bedtime stories and she also works with several TV production companies as both a writer and illustrator.

Since she can't sit still for very long, Rachel also spends part of her time running an eye-wateringly impressive award winning card and gift empire, 'the brightside' (published by reallygood cards). An internationally best-selling range (Rachel has won three prestigious 'Henries' awards), The Brightside has now sold over 3 million cards, and hundreds of thousands of gifts across 4 continents (The range is stocked in major retail outlets in the UK such as John Lewis, Paperchase, Selfridges and WHSmith as well as thousands of independents). Created using her trademark letterpress alphabets, it celebrates the underrated art of being nice whilst concentrating on the important business of not taking life too seriously. A brand new range of pocket-sized mini-wisdom gift books is in the pipeline, the first 4 titles of which will be published by Templar in 2012.

Working with a number of lovely galleries and boutique shops across the country from Aberdeen to Dorset, Rachel also sells her eclectic portfolio of stand-alone prints for walls across the world and even offers a bespoke poetry service for special occasions. Rachel was selected for the Courvoisier/ Observer 'Rising stars to watch' and is a regular speaker at events (including the FCBG and YLG conferences as well as many school, library and bookshop appearances both in the UK and overseas), whilst also often appearing in magazine interviews and on the radio.

All that said, Rachel's big love in life is simply telling stories, drawing pictures and making people feel, well, a bit smiley. Her work helps us feel the magic of thinking like we're little again. Of letting our imaginations run wild and free. Of remembering how it feels to know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that *anything* is possible.