

Meg Rosoff was born in Boston, USA. She has worked in publishing, public relations and most recently advertising, but thinks the best job in the world would be head gardener for Regents Park. Meg lives in Highbury, North London. In April 2016 she won the [Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award](#) for literature aimed at children and young adults. The prize is given annually in Sweden and worth 500,000 Swedish Krona (around £430,000). The last British winner was Philip Pullman in 2005.

How I Live Now was Meg Rosoff's debut novel published by Penguin in 2004. It won the Guardian and Branford Boase Awards and was short-listed for the Orange Prize for New Fiction as well as the Whitbread. It garnered the sort of rave acclaim most writers only ever dream of. Mark Haddon, author of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, championed it right from the beginning, saying, 'That rare, rare thing, a first novel with a sustained, magical and utterly faultless voice. After five pages I knew that she could persuade me to believe almost anything.' Meg wrote *How I Live Now* soon after her younger sister Debby died of breast cancer. Meg realised that life was too short to put off writing the novel she'd always been meaning to write. She took leave from her advertising job at J Walter Thompson and set about writing *How I Live Now*. A few months later Meg found herself at the heart of a bidding war between several of the UK's leading publishers. *How I Live Now* is dedicated to her late sister Debby.

On the verge of publishing glory in August 2004, Meg was also diagnosed with breast cancer. As wonderful reviews and prizes flooded in, she had to turn to the business of survival but has since been given the all clear. Since *How I Live Now*, Meg has gone on to write several award-winning books including *Just in Case*, which won the coveted and most prestigious children's book prize, the Carnegie Medal in 2007, and *What I Was*, set in Suffolk where Meg has a second home.