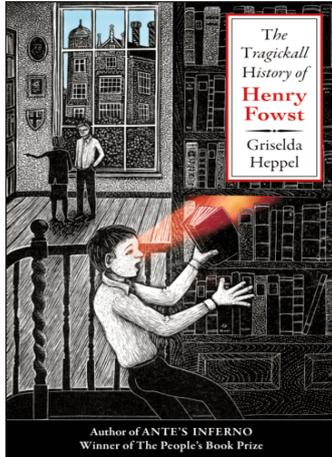




Matador®

PRESS RELEASE

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THE TRAGICKALL HISTORY OF HENRY FOWST

Life is about to take a turn for the worse for schoolboy Henry in Griselda Heppel's new children's novel...

Henry didn't breathe. Crouched down he listened into the darkness, not daring to move his head. No sound, no light; if anything the darkness intensified, and that weird consciousness, that sense of something lurking only just beyond the corner of his eye, returned with force.

"I love creating children's versions of the classics. My first book drew on Dante's *Inferno* (*Ante's Inferno*, Matador, 2012)," says Griselda Heppel. "*The Tragickall History of Henry Fowst* is inspired by Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, in which a man sells his soul to the devil in exchange for knowledge and power."

In the shadows of Walton Hall a demon lurks. His name: Mephistopheles. In 1586, John Striven struck a bargain with him in return for help against his murderous foster-brother. Yet somehow the demon's plan to trap the 12-year-old went wrong. All he needs now is another soul, in similar desperation, to call on him.

Enter 13 year-old Henry Fowst. A pupil at Northwell School, Henry longs to win the History Essay Prize. In the school's 16th century library he stumbles across John Striven's diary; soon he's absorbed in John's struggles with his jealous foster-brother, Thomas Walton, a conflict which uncannily echoes Henry's own life. When John calls 'an Angellick Spirit' to his aid, Henry can't resist following suit. But summoning Mephistopheles lands both boys in greater danger than they'd ever bargained for.

Griselda's first book, *Ante's Inferno*, won the **Children's award in the People's Book Prize 2013** and the Silver award in the 9-12 year-old category of the Wishing Shelf Independent Book Awards 2012. It was also shortlisted in *Writing Magazine's* 2013 Self-Publishing Award and featured in a number of publications, including the *Oxford Times*, *Juno* and *Aquila*.

"Griselda Heppel is a born storyteller. Your children will love her books and, to be honest, so will you."

The Wishing Shelf Book Awards

GRISELDA HEPPEL read English at Cambridge and worked in publishing for a few years before moving to Oxford with her husband to bring up their four children.



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PRESS PACK

FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS, REVIEW OR COMPETITION COPIES, ARTICLES, PHOTOS OR EXTRACTS PLEASE CONTACT SARAH TAYLOR

TEL: 0116 279 2299 EMAIL: SARAH_TAYLOR@TROUBADOR.CO.UK

TROUBADOR PUBLISHING, 9 PRIORY BUSINESS PARK, WISTOW ROAD, KIBWORTH, LEICESTER LE8 0RX