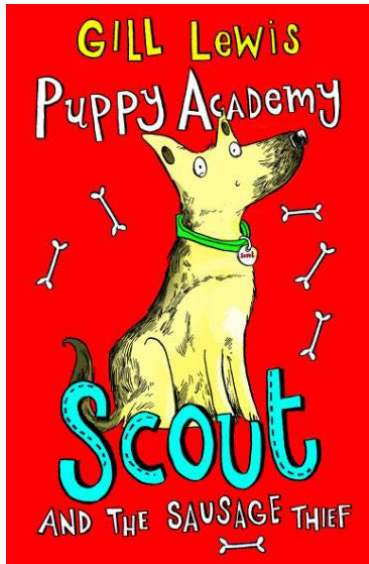


2nd July 2015



PUPPY ACADEMY

Scout and the Sausage Thief

Written by GILL LEWIS

PB • 978-0-19-273920-9 • £4.99

From the best-selling author of *Scarlet Ibis* a new series for younger readers inspired by real-life working dog heroes

About the story

Welcome to Puppy Academy! A brand new series for younger readers inspired by real life working dogs from the pen of vet and animal lover turned acclaimed children's author, Gill Lewis. *Puppy Academy* tells the stories of four puppies training to be professional working dogs and launches with *Scout and the Sausage Thief* this July.

Based on Gill's own childhood pet, her Alsatian, Zac, *Scout and the Sausage Thief* stars Scout, a German shepherd puppy training to be a police dog. A departure from Gill's previous books, *Scout and the Sausage Thief* is a fun adventure to excite and engage young children.

Scout wants nothing more than to be a police dog, just like her mum and dad. But a misunderstanding at the Academy throws doubt on her police-dog capabilities. So, when a sausage-thief strikes, it's up to her to catch the culprit and prove her merits.

The other three books in the series feature sheepdog Star, water-rescue Border collie Murphy, and Pip, the Labrador training to be a helper for a wheelchair-bound girl. Each book in the series will be illustrated by Sarah Horne.

About the author

After realising her childhood dream of becoming a vet, Gill worked in the UK and overseas, everywhere from Africa to the Arctic.

Lewis's previous books for children – *Sky Hawk*, *White Dolphin*, *Moon Bear* and *Scarlet Ibis* all published to critical acclaim and have been translated into many languages. Lewis won the Little Rebels Award in 2015 for *Scarlet Ibis* and has been shortlisted and longlisted for many other awards including the Red House Children's Book Award, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the CILIP Carnegie Medal.

Lewis lives in Somerset with her family and their collection of pets including guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, dogs and a rescued Shetland pony. She writes from a tree house in her garden, surrounded by squirrels.



Notes to editors:

The Puppy Academy series release schedule is as follows:

Scout and the Sausage Thief, published July 2015

Star on Stormy Mountain, published October 2015

Pip and the Paw of Friendship, published February 2016

Murphy and the Great Surf Rescue, published July 2016