

The day that Christopher rescued a drowning baby griffin from a hidden lake would change his life forever.

It's the day he learned about the Archipelago—a cluster of unmapped islands where magical creatures of every kind have thrived for thousands of years, until now. And it's the day he met Mal—a girl on the run, in desperate need of his help.

Mal and Christopher embark on a wild adventure, racing from island to island, searching for someone who can explain why the magic is fading and why magical creatures are suddenly dying. They consult sphinxes, battle kraken, and negotiate with dragons. But the closer they get to the dark truth of what's happening, the clearer it becomes: no one else can fix this. If the Archipelago is to be saved, Mal and Christopher will have to do it themselves.

KATHERINE RUNDELL is the author of *Rooftoppers* (an ALA-ALSC Notable Book, winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize), *Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms* (a *Boston Globe*–Horn Book Award winner), *The Wolf Wilder*, *The Explorer* (winner of the Costa Children's Book Award), and *The Good Thieves*. She grew up in Zimbabwe, Brussels, and London, and is currently a Fellow of St. Catherine's College, Oxford and a Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. Her books for adults include *Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne* (winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize), *Vanishing Treasures: A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures*, and *Why You Should Read Children's Books, Even Though You Are So Old and Wise*. She is learning, very slowly, to fly a small plane.

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