

# Media Kit: THE CHARMED CHILDREN OF ROOKSKILL CASTLE

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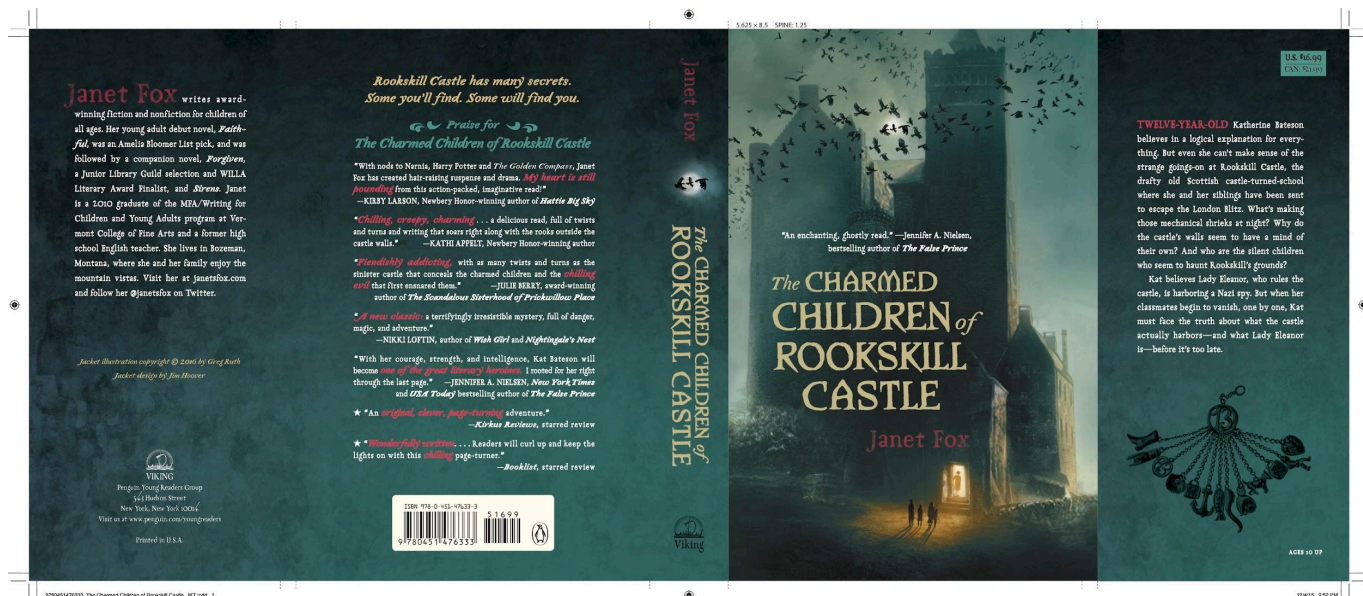
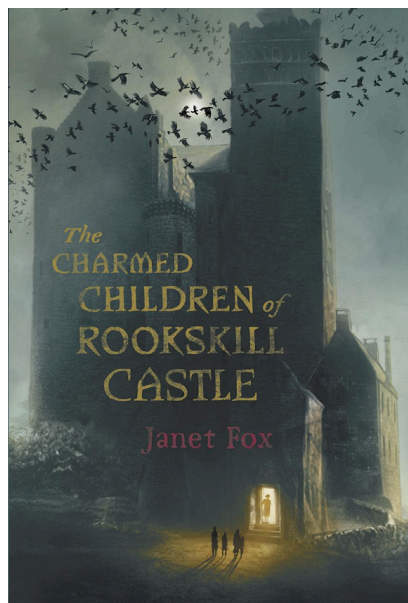
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## Janet's Headshots



## Cover



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## Janet's Bios

Short funny bio:

Janet Fox is an author, mom, outdoor enthusiast, and former teacher. She's been to the bottom of the ocean in a submersible, and had a brief fling with rock stardom. Her novels are written for children and young adults but have won her fans of all ages. Her most recent novel, *THE CHARMED CHILDREN OF ROOKSKILL CASTLE*, is a gothic middle grade fairy tale set in Scotland and has received a whole bunch of stars, and the lovely Crystal Kite Award. At the moment she's sporting blue stripes in her hair. She lives in Bozeman, Montana. Find out more at [www.janetsfox.com](http://www.janetsfox.com).

Long bio:

Janet Fox writes award-winning fiction and non-fiction for children of all ages. Her published works include the non-fiction middle grade book *GET ORGANIZED WITHOUT LOSING IT* (Free Spirit, 2006, new edit 2017), and three YA historical romances: *FAITHFUL* (Speak/Penguin Group, 2010), *FORGIVEN* (Penguin, 2011), and *SIRENS* (Penguin, 2012).

Janet's debut middle grade novel *THE CHARMED CHILDREN OF ROOKSKILL CASTLE* (Viking, 2016) received starred reviews from Kirkus, Booklist, Publishers Weekly, and Shelf Awareness, is a Junior Library Guild selection, a 2016 Indies Next pick, an ALA Notable Books nominee, and an SCBWI Crystal Kite Award winner.

Her debut picture book *VOLCANO DREAMS* (Web of Life Books, 2018) is nonfiction set in Yellowstone National Park, and her next book is a companion novel to *CHARMED CHILDREN* (Viking 2020) tentatively titled *THE WITCH'S WATCH*.

Janet is a 2010 graduate of the MFA/Writing for Children and Young Adults program at Vermont College of Fine Arts, and is a former high school teacher, and she has a MS in Marine Geology. She lives in Bozeman, Montana with her husband and their rambunctious yellow lab. She's been involved with SCBWI for almost 15 years. She's represented by Erin Murphy, Erin Murphy Literary Agency, and you can also find her at [www.janetsfox.com](http://www.janetsfox.com)

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## About THE CHARMED CHILDREN OF ROOKSKILL CASTLE

THE CHARMED CHILDREN OF ROOKSKILL CASTLE, Viking, March 15, 2016

ISBN 978-0451476333

“Keep calm and carry on.”

That’s what Katherine Bateson’s father told her, and that’s what she’s trying to do: when her father goes off to the war, when her mother sends Kat and her brother and sister away from London to escape the incessant bombing, even when the children arrive at Rookskill Castle, an ancient, crumbling manor on the misty Scottish highlands.

But it’s hard to keep calm in the strange castle that seems haunted by ghosts or worse. What’s making those terrifying screeches and groans at night? Why do the castle’s walls seem to have a mind of their own? And why do people seem to mysteriously appear and disappear?

Kat believes she knows the answer: Lady Eleanor, who rules Rookskill Castle, is harboring a Nazi spy. But when her classmates begin to vanish, one by one, Kat must uncover the truth about what the castle actually harbors—and who Lady Eleanor really is—before it’s too late.

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## Blurbs And Reviews

*The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle* is a **Junior Library Guild** selection and a **Spring 2016 Indies Next** pick.

### BLURBS:

“An enchanting, ghostly story that had me in its grip until the last page. With her courage, strength, and intelligence, Kat Bateson will become one of the great literary heroines. I rooted for her right through the last page.” —Jennifer A. Nielsen, *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author of *The False Prince*

“With nods to Narnia, Harry Potter and *The Golden Compass*, Janet Fox has created hair-raising suspense and drama. My heart is still pounding from this action-packed, imaginative read!” —Kirby Larson, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hattie Big Sky*

“Chilling, creepy, charming . . . a delicious read, full of twists and turns and writing that soars right along with the rooks outside the castle walls.” —Kathi Appelt, Newbery Honor-winning author

“Fiendishly addicting, with as many twists and turns as the sinister castle that conceals the charmed children and the chilling evil that first ensnared them.” —Julie Berry, award-winning author of *The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place*

“A new classic: a terrifyingly irresistible mystery, full of danger, magic, and adventure.” —Nikki Loftin, author of *Wish Girl* and *Nightingale’s Nest*

### REVIEWS:

From **School Library Journal**: “Fox presents readers with a wonderfully paced, exciting story with enough twists to keep the pages turning. The strong female lead and adventure on every page will keep any reader entertained from the first page to the last.”

From **School Library Connections**: “Middle school readers who enjoy historical fiction, science fiction, or horror will not want to miss this book!”

From **Kirkus**: “Witchy magic, Nazi menace, and clockwork all come into play, along with an Enigma machine and spies for both the Allies and the Nazis seeking occult

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sources of power or protection. After the breathtaking climax, various threads of the story are tied up in a drawing-room denouement in which the characters decide to dispose of toxic magical artifacts rather carelessly—though in a way that invites anticipation (and fortuitously leaves room for sequels). An original, clever, page-turning adventure.” **Starred review**

From **Booklist**: “This wonderfully written gothic fairy tale pairs the horror elements with a steampunk witch and mysterious staff, all while telling a war espionage tale. Embedded lessons—even including Plato’s cave allegory—from a pair of sympathetic castle teachers provide clues to defeating the evil witch. Readers will curl up and keep the lights on with this chilling page-turner.” **Starred review**

From **Booklist**, **Review of Audio Book**: “Pair this one with other stories of evacuees from the Blitz, like 2015’s Odyssey winner, *The War That Saved My Life*, or with time-slipping horror tales such as the *Emerald Atlas* (2011). Hardingham’s masterful telling will keep listeners on the edge of their seats, and the ending leaves the door open for a sequel that promises to be equally as chilling.” **Starred review**

From **Publishers Weekly**: “True-to-life protagonists, the skillful interweaving of flashbacks and the chatelaine motif, a masterful final encounter, and a satisfying denouement attest to Fox’s craftsmanship.” **Starred review**

From **Shelf Awareness**: “This gothic middle-grade novel, set in Scotland, mixes ancient magic with World War II spycraft.” **Starred review**

From **The Wall Street Journal**: “In artful, grisly flashbacks, Janet Fox equips the reader with just enough information—more than Kat has, certainly—to intensify our alarm when the visiting children begin to disappear, one after another, and our heroine is forced to grapple with a dark and ancient magic that has Rookskill in its thrall.”

From **Barnes & Noble**: “Reading *The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle* is like spiraling deeper and deeper down a very dark hole. Author Janet Fox’s storytelling is so gripping that you can’t pull yourself out (trust me, I had the bleary-eyed, morning-after look to prove it). You’re along for the ride, wherever the story takes you, even as you kind of want to pull back because you’re not sure you like where the story is going. The ending, when it comes, is complete and satisfying, allowing this book to be read as a stand-alone. And yet, she leaves the door open for a continuation of the tale. And I, for one, hope that I’ve not seen the last of the Bateson siblings.”

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From **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB)**: "Various loose ends and the continued German threat create room for likely sequels, which should thrill both historical mystery and middle-grade fantasy fans alike."

Also:

- 2016 **Junior Library Guild** selection
- **Spring 2016 Indies Next** pick
- **ALA Notable Books Nominee 2016**
- 2017 **Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Shortlist Honor Book**
- 2017 **Texas SPOT (Spirit of Texas Award)** selection
- 2017 **Wisconsin State Reading Association** selection
- 2017 **Maine Student Book Awards** list
- **Booklist Top 10 Books For Youth Fantasy/Horror 2016**
- **Brightly Best Books 2016**
- **Bank Street Best Children's Books 2016**
- **Winner**: Crystal Kite Award for Western Division SCBWI, 2017