

# Megan Rix (aka Ruth Symes)



Megan Rix is an award-winning author of historical and contemporary children's novels about animals, and a Sunday Times bestselling adult memoir. Under her given name, Ruth Symes, she has written children's picture books, novels and TV scripts.

Prior to becoming a full-time writer, Megan was a SEN teacher, and she promotes her books with great flair at school events and literary festivals, often accompanied by her dogs Bella and Freya, who demonstrate the work that trained assistance dogs do. An animal advocate, Megan is involved with several animal charities and has judged children's story writing competitions for both the RSPCA and the PDSA.

Having lived with hearing loss since childhood, Megan is also involved with deaf culture and is a member of the National Deaf Children's Society. She is a proficient lip-reader and is beginning to use BSL sign language in her school and festival events.

## Books by Megan Rix

- Untitled historical novel (due from Puffin, September 2019)
- *Florence and the Mischievous Kitten* (due from Puffin, January 2019)
- *The Paw House* (Puffin, September 2018)
- *Emmeline and the Plucky Pup* (Puffin, January 2018)
- *Winston and the Marmalade Cat* (Puffin, 2017) – a Booktrust pick for November 2017
- *The Great Fire Dogs* (Puffin, 2016)
- *Echo Come Home* (Puffin, 2016)
- *The Runaways* (Puffin, 2015)
- *The Hero Pup* (Puffin, 2014)
- *A Soldier's Friend* (Puffin, 2014)
- *The Bomber Dog* (Puffin, 2013) – shortlisted for the Red House Children's Book Award, 2014, alongside David Walliams and Pamela Butchart; winner of the Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest Book Award 2014

- *The Victory Dogs* (Puffin, 2013) – winner, Stockton Children’s Book of the Year Award, 2014
- *The Great Escape* (Puffin, 2012)

#### ADULT MEMOIR:

- *The Puppy that Came for Christmas* (Penguin / Michael Joseph, 2010) – a Sunday Times Bestseller

## Picture books by Ruth Symes

- *Little Rex, Big Brother* (Piccadilly Press, UK; Albert Whitman & Co, USA, 2010)
- *Little Rex* (Piccadilly Press, 2010)
- *Harriet Dancing* (Chicken House, 2008)
- *Little Tail* (Orion, 2006)
- *Mondays at Monster School* (Orion, 2005) – read on BBC television by Jenny Seagrove as part of the bedtime story hour
- *Floppy Ears* (Orion, 2004)
- *The Sheep Fairy* (Chicken House, 2003)

## Novels by Ruth Symes

- *The Secret Animal Society: Snowball the Baby Bigfoot* (Piccadilly Press, 2015)
- *The Secret Animal Society: Spike the Sea Serpent* (Piccadilly Press, 2015)
- *The Secret Animal Society: Cornflake the Dragon* (Piccadilly Press, 2014)
- *Bella Donna: Bella Bewitched* (Piccadilly Press, 2013)
- *Bella Donna: Witch Camp* (Piccadilly Press, 2013)
- *Bella Donna: Cat Magic* (Piccadilly Press, 2012)
- *Bella Donna: Witchling* (Piccadilly Press, 2011)
- *Bella Donna: Too Many Spells* (Piccadilly Press, 2011)
- *Bella Donna: Coven Road* (Piccadilly Press, 2010)
- *Frankie's Romeo* (Orion, 2002) – received a PAWS drama award
- *The Mum Trap* (Andersen Press, 2000) – voted in the top 100 children's books of 2000
- *The Master of Secrets* (Puffin, 1997) – nominated for the Carnegie Medal

## TV, radio and more...

Ruth (aka Megan) has an MA in Screenwriting and her credits include several scripts for pre-school TV series *The Hoobs* (Channel 4 / Jim Henson Company), and several for pre-school animation series *PicMe* (RTE / Nick Junior).

She was the Resident Writing Coach and Write a Children's Short Story competition judge on Channel 4's *Richard & Judy*, and regularly does interviews and media appearances to promote her books.

She is also a national karate champion, having won both a gold and silver medal in the 2017 National GKR Karate Championships!

For more information, please visit [www.meganrix.com](http://www.meganrix.com) and [www.ruthsymes.com](http://www.ruthsymes.com).

## Praise for Megan Rix

"A moving tale told with warmth, kindness and lashings of good sense that lovers of Dick King-Smith will especially appreciate." – The Times

"Every now and then a writer comes along with a unique way of storytelling. Meet Megan Rix ... her novels are deeply moving and will strike a chord with animal lovers." – LoveReading

"If you love Michael Morpurgo, you'll enjoy this." – Sunday Express

"A perfect story for animal lovers and lovers of adventure stories." – Travelling Book Company

"I never liked reading until one day I was in Waterstones and I picked up some books. One was ... called *The Bomber Dog*. I loved it so much I couldn't put it down" – Luke, aged 8

"I found this book amazing" – Nayah, aged 11

"One of my favourite books" – Chloe, aged 12

## Praise for Ruth Symes

"I have been writing children's books for more than thirty years but I learned something from this talented newcomer." – Antonia Barber on *The Mum Trap*

"An engaging text ... Warm, woolly whimsy prevails when Wendy, a sheep, interrupts her grass eating to rescue a fairy ... Few collections have too many books with flying sheep that have rescued fairies, and this one may be just the ticket." – School Library Journal on *The Sheep Fairy*

"The story's sweet simplicity and familiar fantasy elements earn top marks for humor and child appeal." – Booklist on *The Sheep Fairy*

"A funny and sensitive story on an ever-relevant topic to which we can all relate." – Carousel Magazine on *Mondays at Monster School*