



## TRADE NEWS RELEASE

**\*\*Embargoed until 00.01 hrs GMT Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021\*\***

### **Knights Of, BookTrust and CLPE partner on Black British middle-grade anthology, *HAPPY HERE***

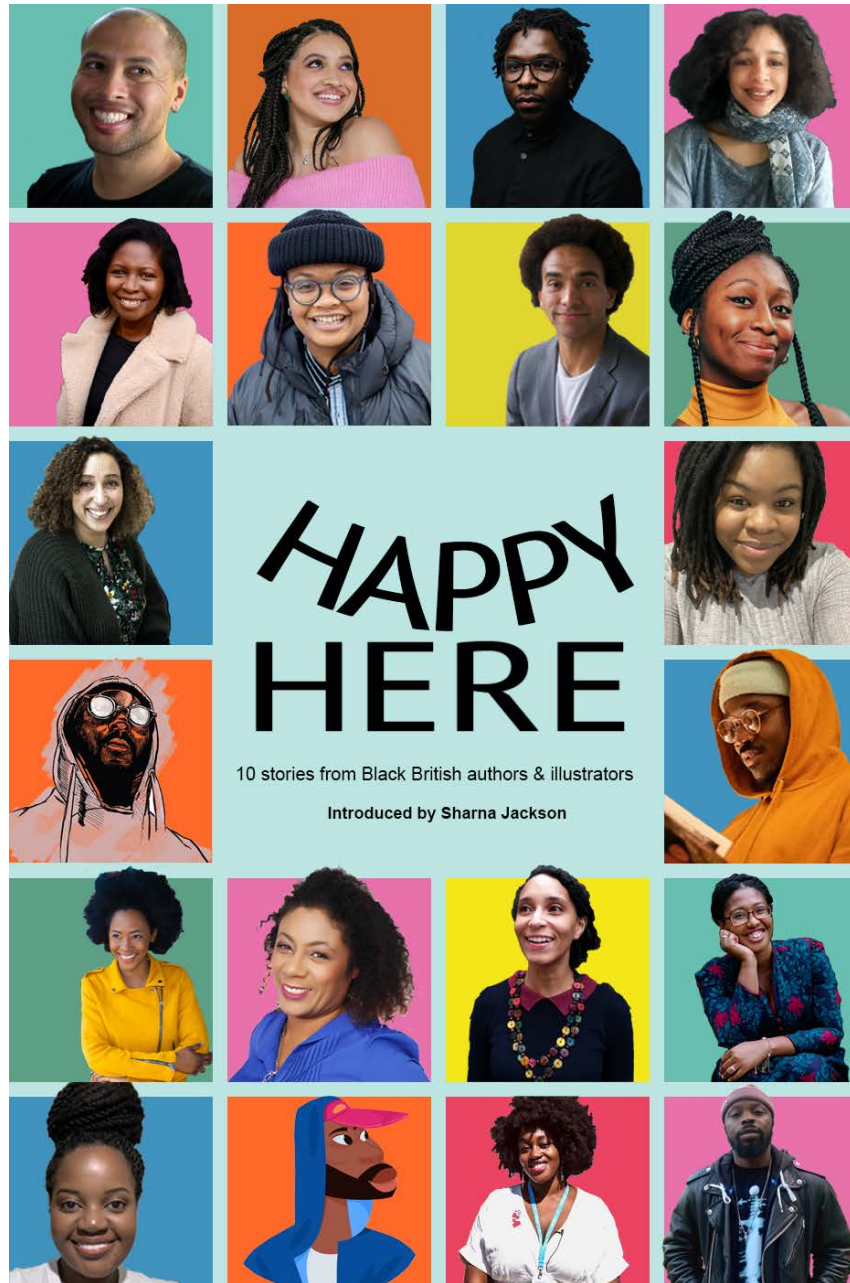
Inclusive publisher **Knights Of**, is partnering with children's reading charity **BookTrust** and the **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)** to publish ***HAPPY HERE***, an anthology for all middle grade readers.

Featuring stories from **Dean Atta, Joseph Coelho, Kereen Getten, Patrice Lawrence, Theresa Lola, E.L. Norry, Jasmine Richards, Alexandra Sheppard, Yomi Şode and Clare Weze**, ***HAPPY HERE*** will publish on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (Knights Of, £6.99 paperback original).

Aimed at children aged 7+, ***HAPPY HERE*** will feature an introduction from bestselling author Sharna Jackson and include stories and poems exploring themes of joy, home and family through a wide range of genres and styles. Each author has been paired with a different illustrator to spotlight Black British artistic talent.

BookTrust will provide a free copy of the anthology to every primary school in England and, in partnership with CLPE, will create and distribute free curriculum resources. They will also sponsor author events for schools to support the book, along with a programme of ongoing professional development for teachers to broaden the scope of literature taught in schools.

2020 saw the publication of BookTrust Represents Interim Research and CLPE's Reflecting Realities Survey of Ethnic Representation within UK Children's Literature, which highlighted the under-representation of children's authors and illustrators of colour, and of minority ethnic characters within children's books, respectively. Working with Knights Of, they aim to help directly redress this imbalance to ensure that children across the UK can see themselves reflected in the books and authors they read.



**THE AUTHORS:**

Dean Atta  
 Joseph Coelho  
 Keren Getten  
 Patrice Lawrence  
 Theresa Lola  
 E.L. Norry  
 Jasmine Richards  
 Alexandra Sheppard  
 Yomi Şode  
 Clare Weze

**THE ILLUSTRATORS:**

Olivia Twist  
 Selom Sunu  
 Camilla Ru  
 Dorcas  
 Mo Fadera  
 Chanté Timothy  
 Wumi 'Wumzum' Olaosebikan  
 Onyinye Iwu  
 Lucy Farfort  
 Will Kay

**Aimée Felone, co-founder, Knights Of says:**

*“Being able to commission work that has no motive other than to amplify, uplift and celebrate what it means to exist in the UK today as Black British is liberating for our team. Each and every author and illustrator has focused not on the trauma or hardship of their existence, which is too often highlighted in children’s fiction, but the experience and possibility of happiness for their characters.*”

*Working alongside BookTrust and CLPE, organisations committed to equipping children, parents, teachers and librarians across England with books to increase literacy, learning and understanding, has been inspiring. As partners on **Happy Here** it is encouraging to know that these stories and resources will reach children everywhere.”*

**Jill Coleman, Director of Children’s Books at BookTrust says:**

*“**Happy Here** is going to thrill and inspire children in families and schools across the country and we want to make sure it is read by thousands of children. We are proud to be working with Knights Of and CLPE as part of our effort to drive a long term, sustainable increase in the diversity of voices published in children’s literature.”*

**Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive, CLPE says:**

*“We are so pleased to be working together with our colleagues at BookTrust and Knights Of to bring new stories, characters and settings to children in classrooms across the country and to be part of a brilliant partnership that supports real, meaningful and continued change for the creators of today and the readers of tomorrow.”*

#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

##### **ABOUT KNIGHTS OF:**

KNIGHTS OF is an inclusive publisher focused on ensuring the most inclusive team possible, from across backgrounds and communities, work on every book. The team works with retailers to make bookshops approachable to communities and families who do not regularly visit, supporting events, outreach, marketing and partnerships. In areas without bookshops, engagement is focused on non- traditional community spaces as well as schools, libraries and youth groups.

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##### **ABOUT CLPE:**

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is an independent UK charity dedicated to raising the literacy achievement of children by putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning. It is a charity with a national and international reputation for excellent literacy training, teaching resources and research. The charity was the 2019 winner of the Eleanor Farjeon Award. Visit [www.clpe.org.uk](http://www.clpe.org.uk) for further information.

To view **CLPE’s Reflecting Realities Survey of Ethnic Representation within UK Children’s Literature** [click here](#).

Twitter @clpe1 | Instagram clpe.org.uk | Facebook CLPE | #ReflectingRealities

**ABOUT BOOKTRUST:**

BookTrust is dedicated to getting children reading because we know that children who read are happier, healthier, more empathetic and more creative. Their early language development is supported and they also do better at school.

We are the UK's largest children's reading charity; **each year we reach 3.9 million children** across the UK with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading, because we know that reading can transform lives.

We work with a variety of partners to get children excited about books, rhymes and stories, because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. Our books are delivered via health, library, schools and early years practitioners, and are supported with guidance, advice and resources to encourage the reading habit. [booktrust.org.uk](http://booktrust.org.uk)

To view **BookTrust Represents report *Representation of people of colour among children's book creators in the UK*** [click here](#).

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