

## An Original Fantasy Adventure That Sparkles with Storytelling Magic:

Doctor, poet and writer Gita Ralleigh published her debut children's novel, *The Destiny of Minou Moonshine* on July 6<sup>th</sup> with Zephyr/Bloomsbury. Aimed at ages 9-12, the book follows fierce orphan girl Minou as she sets off with a secret, a map and a mechanical elephant, through the lush landscape of Indica, in search of her destiny.



### About the Author

Gita Ralleigh grew up reading fantasy adventures that took her to faraway lands. The closest she came was on family holidays to India, where old palaces, ice-capped mountains, monkeys and elephants were part of everyday life. After a career as a medical doctor, she studied for an MA in Creative Writing and published short stories and two poetry books. *The Destiny of Minou Moonshine* is her debut children's novel. She lives in London with her two children and teaches creative writing to undergraduates at Imperial College.

“As a child, I loved fantasy adventures. At the time, I never expected to find a small brown girl within those stories. I was determined that my fantasy adventure, *The Destiny of Minou Moonshine*, would be about a girl like me who discovers both her inheritance and her very own magic. I set my story in Indica, an alternate India, with a dynasty of queens and a goddess, the Dark Lady, who guides Minou to her destiny. I cannot wait for young readers to meet her.”

## Contact:

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## Reviews

'a remarkable debut...poetic, imaginative and gripping.' — The Guardian.

'Masterful, a wonderfully original fantasy adventure that feels like a timeless classic. A brilliant new voice in the world of children's fiction.' -- Anthony McGowan, winner of the 2020 CILIP Carnegie Medal for LARK

'Gita Ralleigh builds a vivid world bursting with jeopardy in this beautifully lyrical debut. So many unexpected twists to love, including the mechanicals. Minou is a great hero - kind-hearted, brave, and full of fire.' -- Jasbinder Bilan, Costa prize-winning author of AASHA AND THE SPIRIT BIRD

'An awesome alt-India middle grade book, with adventure and emotional twists, tied together with friendships and the family we find, and an incredible heroine in Minou, who fights for freedom and Queendom!' -- Roopa Farooki, author of A DOUBLE DETECTIVES MEDICAL MYSTERY: THE CURE FOR A CRIME

'A rich and thrilling adventure.' -- Sophie Anderson, author of THE THIEF WHO SANG STORMS

'Magical, multi-sensory storytelling...that will enchant readers, rest in memories and spark imaginations.' -- Sita Brahmachari, Yoto-Carnegie shortlisted author of WHEN SHADOWS FALL

'High adventure and a lavish, sensory world of mystery, magic and mechanical marvels. With an indomitable hero in Minou Moonshine, this is an inspiring, delightful read - young readers are in for a ripping ride.' -- Finbar Hawkins, author of WITCH

'With forbidden goddesses, a lost queen and a mechanical elephant, this is a gently unfolding, rich narrative full of fantasy and wonder, which champions the power of girls and women to manage their own destinies.' — The Bookseller, One to Watch