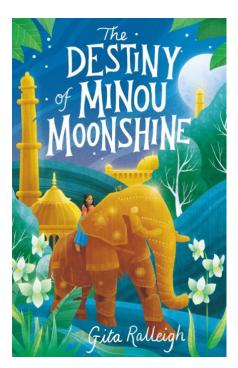
An Original Fantasy Adventure That Sparkles with Storytelling Magic:

Doctor, poet and writer Gita Ralleigh published her debut children's novel, *The Destiny of Minou Moonshine* on July 6th 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 Minon 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:

gita.ralleigh@gmail.com for lectures, school visits and festival appearances.

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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