

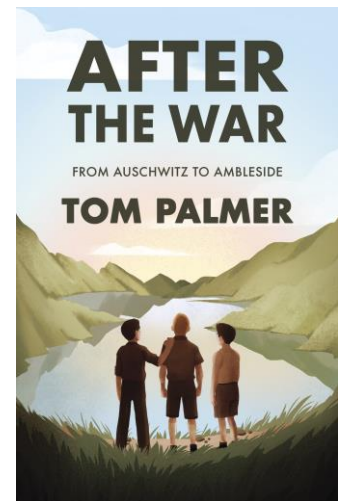
Acquisition release: For immediate release

## Ruth Rendell winner Tom Palmer marks WWII anniversary with a story close to home; *After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside* explores real-life story of child refugees in the Lake District

World rights to Tom Palmer's *After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside* were acquired by Barrington Stoke Editorial Director Ailsa Bathgate from David Luxton at David Luxton Associates.

A deeply moving and powerfully told story of friendship, hope and belonging, inspired by the incredible lives of the real Windermere Boys, this children's novel marks 75 years since the end of the Second World War and the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.

Summer 1945. The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Leo and Mordecai are among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District. Having survived the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps, they've finally reached a place of safety and peace, where they can hopefully begin to recover. But Yossi is haunted by thoughts of his missing father and disturbed by terrible nightmares. As he waits desperately for news from home, he fears that Mordecai and Leo – the closest thing to family he has left – will move on without him. Will life by the beautiful shores of Lake Windermere be enough to bring hope back into all their lives?



Cover art by Violet Tobacco

Editorial Director Ailsa Bathgate says of the acquisition:

*“How do people find the strength to endure the unendurable? How can they rebuild their lives after witnessing the very worst of what human beings can do to one another? How can love and friendship survive the horrific brutality of war and genocide? **After the War** tackles these huge questions by following the journey of three boys rescued from Nazi concentration camps at the end of the Second World War. After they are taken to Lake Windermere to recover, we see them struggle to come to terms with the loss of everyone they've ever known and to put the horrors of the camps behind them. This powerful story of a friendship forged in the worst of circumstances is ultimately a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit and a moving act of remembrance.”*

Rooted in the real-life story of the refugees known as the Windermere Children, ***After the War*** was researched and written with the support of the Lake District Holocaust Project. This organisation was established in 2013 after years of intense research activity, Holocaust education work, oral history interviews, travels to Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Holland, France and throughout the UK, and acts as a living commemoration of the remarkable connection between The Holocaust and the Lake District.

*Acquisition release: For immediate release*

The BBC are commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a film called *The Windermere Children*, the first dramatisation of this remarkable true story set in the Lake District in the aftermath of the Holocaust, based on the powerful first-person testimony of survivors who began their new lives in the UK. The film aired on BBC Two at 9 p.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Tom Palmer says:

*"I wrote **After the War** because my wife had heard a radio programme about 300 Jewish orphan children who survived the Holocaust and came to stay at Windermere, direct from the concentration camps. She knew I'd be interested because I love the Lake District, having spent most of my childhood holidays there. I quickly became fascinated with what it would be like for children who had endured the worst experiences any children have had to suffer to come to such a lovely place. In the interviews they talk about it as going from hell to heaven. But how could they enjoy the heaven of the lakes and mountains, nature and activities after the hell of what they had been through? I also heard what those children – now very old men and women – said about why they tell their story. So that we don't forget. So that it doesn't happen again. And how they are concerned that, once they are dead, the story may disappear. That made me want to write **After the War**."*

**After the War** is Tom Palmer's 50<sup>th</sup> published book and follows the successful publication of *Armistice Runner* and *D-Day Dog*, which have sold a combined 40,000 copies since release in September 2018 and May 2019 respectively. The new novel comes on the heels of a remarkable past year for Tom which saw numerous award wins and nominations, record sales and recognition of his continued passionate literacy work with the presentation of the National Literacy Trust's Ruth Rendell Award. Tom will donate royalties from **After the War** to the Lake District Holocaust Project.

**After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside** will publish on 6 August 2020 in Barrington Stoke's middle-grade Conkers series.

#### **EARLY REVIEWS FOR AFTER THE WAR**

"Published to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, this is rooted in the real events and lives of the Windermere Boys. Palmer is a leading author for Barrington Stoke" ONE TO WATCH, THE BOOKSELLER PREVIEWS

"Tom Palmer and Barrington Stoke have already proved that they are a winning combination and this is definitely a book to watch out for" A LIBRARY LADY, BLOG

"A story told with crystal-clear clarity, sympathetic to the devastation experienced by the main characters. Such emotional depth and, as in previous books, Tom does not shy away from the hard parts, but gets the presentation of them spot on" THAT BOY CAN TEACH, BLOG

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Tom Palmer was a reluctant reader as a child and credits articles about football with getting him into reading. He went on to become a bookseller and then worked in reader development. He is now the multi-award-winning author of several books for young readers including the acclaimed reboot of the *Roy of the Rovers* series and the FCBG Children's Book

*Acquisition release: For immediate release*

Award winner *Armistice Runner*. In 2019 Tom was awarded the National Literacy Trust's Ruth Rendell Award in recognition of his significant contribution to literacy work in the UK. He lives in Halifax.

Twitter: @tompalmerauthor | [www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk)

### **ABOUT THE PUBLISHER**

Barrington Stoke has over 21 years' award-winning experience of publishing super-readable books accessible to young people with dyslexia or reading reluctance.

Twitter: @barringtonstoke | [www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk)

For further details or to register interest in a review copy, please contact Kirstin Lamb on [kirstin.lamb@barringtonstoke.co.uk](mailto:kirstin.lamb@barringtonstoke.co.uk) or 0131 225 4113

### **PRAISE FOR *ARMISTICE RUNNER* AND *D-DAY DOG***

"A brilliant thought-provoking book, packed with issues that children can relate to: friendship, family, loss. Wrap that cleverly in a story of sport and war, and *Armistice Runner* is, without doubt, one of the finest war books I have read in a long time" THE READING ZONE

"World War One remains a subject of fascination for readers of all ages, but Tom Palmer finds an original way in to the topic in this poignant new story ... Today and yesterday are seamlessly woven together in a story that will move readers in lots of different ways" ANDREA REECE, LOVEREADING4KIDS, ON *ARMISTICE RUNNER*

"Powerfully poignant ... not to be missed. If there is one WWI story you read this year, let it be this one!" SCOTT EVANS, THE READER TEACHER, ON *ARMISTICE RUNNER*

"Another very emotional read from Tom Palmer and Barrington Stoke – they're the perfect pairing" PHIL EARLE ON *D-DAY DOG*

"A beautiful, engaging story focusing on the courage of soldiers now as well as in the past, the age-old bonds between humans and dogs, and the loving ties of family and friendship" LANCASHIRE EVENING POST ON *D-DAY DOG*

"Fantastic writing with a wide-ranging narrative, this story will prompt all who read it to think differently about conflict" NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST ON *D-DAY DOG*

"Tom Palmer sensitively yet unflinchingly discusses the consequences and emotions involved in warfare. Brilliantly researched, the book is full of fascinating facts which are woven together to create a truly moving and gripping read" BOOKS FOR TOPICS ON *D-DAY DOG*

### **AWARDS FOR *ARMISTICE RUNNER***

#### **NOMINATED**

- Carnegie Medal 2020

#### **LONGLISTED**

- Essex Schools Library Service Junior Book Award 2019
- UKLA Book Award 2020

*Acquisition release: For immediate release*

- Bury Grammar School Book Award 2020
- Steel City Book Club Awards 2020
- Spellbinding Award 2020 – Cumbrian Secondary SLS

**SHORTLISTED**

- Portsmouth Year 5 Book Award 2019
- Lancashire SLS Fantastic Book Award 2019
- Derbyshire Schools Book Award 2020
- Shrewsbury Bookfest Big Book Award 2020

**WINNER**

- FCBG Children's Book Award 2019 – Older Readers Category
- Cheshire Schools Book Award 2019
- James Reckitt Hull Children's Book Award 2019
- Tees Valley Education Book of the Year 2019

**AWARDS FOR *D-DAY DOG***

**LOGLISTED**

- Glenthorne Bookling Award 2020

**SHORTLISTED**

- James Reckitt Hull Children's Book Award 2020
- Cheshire Schools Book Award 2020
- Grampian Children's Book Award
- Spellbinding Cumbria Primary School Book Award 2020