

Acquisition release: for immediate release

Two-time Children's Book Award winner Tom Palmer takes inspiration from the childhood of Audrey Hepburn in a gripping WWII drama about life under Nazi occupation

World rights to Tom Palmer's *Resist* were acquired by Barrington Stoke's Publisher Ailsa Bathgate from David Luxton at David Luxton Associates.

Re-imagining the incredible true story of a young Audrey Hepburn's daring work for the Dutch resistance, this poignant children's novel follows a multi-award-winning backlist of World War fiction from master storyteller Tom Palmer.

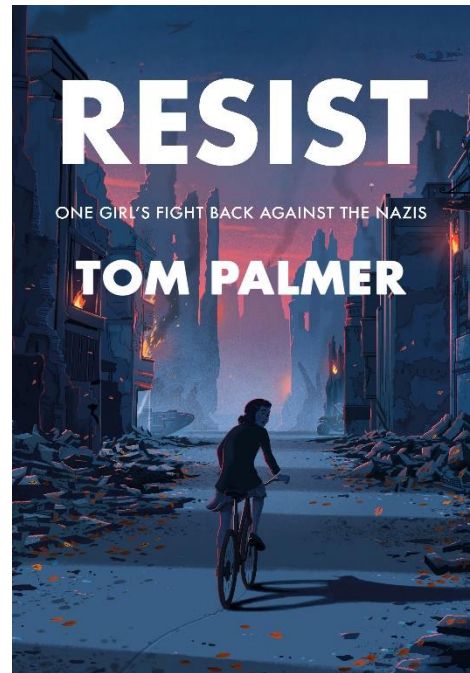
As the brutal Second World War stretches on with no end in sight, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is fraught with peril and hardship. There is very little to eat and the population lives under the constant threat of arrest and enslavement.

After the murder of her beloved uncle and the capture of her brother by the Germans, Edda is determined to do anything she can to help the resistance fight back against their oppressors. But what can a teenage girl do and how much risk is she willing to take?

Resist is inspired by the real-life experiences of Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn, who began working for the Dutch resistance during her teenage years spent trapped in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands. Drawing from biographies and the numerous interviews that Audrey gave throughout her career, Tom chronicles the astounding story of her courageous missions for the resistance, from delivering newsletters to performing in illegal concerts to raise money for others to flee the country. The book paints a powerful picture of life in the Netherlands during WWII, at a time where families were torn apart and resources and food commandeered, leaving millions on the brink of starvation.

Publisher Ailsa Bathgate says of the acquisition:

"In this heart-rending and immersive novel, Tom captures the horror of living under Nazi rule during some of the darkest days of the Second World War, but also shows us how powerful is the human will to survive and the determination to stand up to evil and oppression. This incredible story of courage and endurance is all the more remarkable for being told from the



Cover artwork by Tom Clohosy Cole

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point of view of a teenage girl who found the will to fight back even when brought to the brink of starvation. It is a feat of storytelling with an impact that lasts long after you have turned the final page.”

The novel is the latest addition to Tom’s stunning backlist of World War fiction with Barrington Stoke, including FCBG Children’s Book Award winners *Armistice Runner* and *D-Day Dog* and the bestselling *After the War*, which was longlisted for the 2021 CILIP Carnegie Medal and won the 2020 Young Quills Award (10-13 category).

Tom Palmer says:

“I’ve written a lot about the Second World War and have always been fascinated by stories of resistance – of ordinary people finding the courage to stand up to the Nazis who invaded and took over their homes, causing so much misery and hardship. It was such a brave thing to do and when I read about Audrey Hepburn’s work for the Dutch resistance when she was a teenager, I knew it was a story I had to explore further in order to share this inspiring aspect of the war with children today.”

Resist will publish 4 August 2022 with a stand-out cover by Tom Clohosy Cole, creating a stunning commercial package that sits perfectly alongside Tom’s other wartime fiction. Publication will be backed by a high-profile year-long PR campaign with prominent partnerships and trade events, in addition to a busy educational programme.

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 many books for young readers, including the acclaimed reboot of the *Roy of the Rovers* series, the FCBG Children’s Book Award winners *Armistice Runner* and *D-Day Dog*, and the Carnegie-longlisted *After the War*. 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.

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PRAISE FOR *D-DAY DOG*, *AFTER THE WAR* AND *ARCTIC STAR*

“The best children’s fiction book I’ve yet read about the Holocaust” **TIM ROBERTSON, CEO OF THE ANNE FRANK TRUST UK, ON *AFTER THE WAR***

“This is a beautiful, sensitive tale of friendship, courage and belonging ... written with a grace and simplicity that makes the story of these brave survivors even more powerful” **LANCASHIRE EVENING PRESS ON *AFTER THE WAR***

“One of the very finest historical storytellers for children. No word is wasted, no emotion left untapped” **PHIL EARLE ON *AFTER THE WAR***

“Devastatingly moving and massively important, and crucially, fantastically accessible” **BOOKS FOR KEEPS ON *AFTER THE WAR***

“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***

“Historical fiction doesn’t get much better than this” **LOVEREADING4KIDS ON *ARCTIC STAR***

“A touching, concisely told yet never dumbed-down story of childhood during wartime. If you are new to his books, then prepare to be astounded. Tom Palmer has a rare talent for making the truth of the past accessible to children without watering down the horrific facts or emotional impact ... The WWII genre is a crowded market, but *After the War* elbows its way to the front as a stunning reflection on the impact of war, perfectly pitched for an upper KS2 audience” **BOOKS FOR TOPICS ON *AFTER THE WAR***

“I’m awestruck by his ability to make history come alive and resonate emotionally in beautifully compact prose ... Palmer’s writing is sharp like a chisel, finding the heart under the harsh cold of war” **CHRIS SOUL ON *ARCTIC STAR***

“A slim yet impactful tale inspired by real-life events ... Tom Palmer is, to my mind, the best author writing accessible history inspired children’s fiction today” **NORTH OF SCOTLAND NEWSPAPERS ON *D-DAY DOG***