

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
CROOK



STUDIO CROOK OPTION THE BELOVED AWARD WINNING NOVEL WHEN THE SKY FALLS BY PHIL EARLE FOR TV

Studio Crook have acquired the television rights to *When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle adding another popular title to their expanding scripted slate spanning best-selling comedy and drama titles.



THE SYNOPSIS

When the world is at war, when the sky is falling, and when resources are scarce: when your own life is pure chaos and you've been abandoned by everyone you love, where do you fit? For twelve-year-old Joseph Palmer, the answers lie in those least likely to help him: an enigmatic and surly stranger called Mrs F. and a terrifying silverback gorilla. Joseph Palmer is out of control: his outbursts so destructive that he is sent against the tide and into the city, as there lives the one person prepared to take him in: a middle-aged woman called Mrs F, who runs a dilapidated zoo. Animals at the zoo are scarce, already shipped out or put to sleep due to lack of food. Among the few with nowhere else to go are a family of gorillas: mother, baby and the mighty, but surly Silverback, Adonis. When Joseph and Adonis meet, it almost ends in tragedy, but could an unlikely friendship ultimately offer both Joseph AND Adonis' salvation?

'A MAGNIFICENT STORY...
IT DESERVES EVERY PRIZE GOING'
PHILIP PULLMAN

'AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY WITH
HISTORICAL AND FAMILY TRUTH AT
ITS HEART, THAT TELLS US AS MUCH
ABOUT THE PRESENT AS THE PAST.
DEEPLY FELT, MOVINGLY WRITTEN,
A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT'
MICHAEL MORPURGO

'VERY MOVING. I ALMOST NEVER
CRY AT BOOKS - BUT THIS ONE
HAD ME IN TEARS BY THE END'
JACQUELINE WILSON

'IT'S A WONDERFUL STORY OF
HURT, KINDNESS AND WHAT
IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN IN AN
INHUMANE WORLD'
CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR
- THE TIMES

Phil on the success of the novel and its adaptation as a gripping heartfelt family show for TV:

"Before I started working on When The Sky Falls novel, I hadn't written a word in over two years. Divorce had cost me my greatest friend and the role of dad that I cherished. What I didn't realise at the time, but will always be grateful for now, is that this book brought me back. Without realising it I took every bit of pain, and loss and anger that I felt and I channelled it into the characters.

In adapting the novel for TV I've allowed myself the space and imagination to expand upon the world of the novel for older and younger characters alike. The harsh realities, the human connections, the joyful, funny place animals have in our hearts and minds – and the ability of those connections to heal.

The book has really connected with people of all ages, not just with children. It's sold incredibly well in the UK, won many awards and been translated around the world. People have responded to the truth and universality of the story."

What appealed to Studio Crook was its heart and contemporary resonance. We loved its broad universal family appeal and have delighted in the expansion of the world as it has developed into script.

"It's very much a story for our generation; as war rages in Ukraine, and in the UK people are forced into the impossible choice of 'eat or heat', the hangover of a global pandemic still hangs heavy like a shadow, whilst climate change threatens the resources that are our very future. The forgotten animals in a WWII zoo in provide a perfect, quirky microcosm of our future, with solutions born out of hope, determination and the love of a gorilla called Adonis."

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?

For years the modern classic 'Goodnight Mr Tom' was the staple WW2 novel choice to study in primary schools. Now schools are changing to When The Sky Falls as their set study text for KS2 Literature.

AWARD WINNING:

(NUMBER 6
SUNDAY TIMES
BESTSELLER)

(A SUNDAY TIMES
BOOK OF THE
YEAR 2021)

(TRANSLATED
INTO 8
LANGUAGES.)

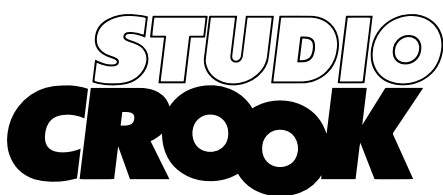
(SHORTLISTED FOR
THE CARNEGIE
MEDAL 2022)

(BOOKS ARE MY BAG
2021 READERS AWARDS
- WINNER, BEST
CHILDREN'S NOVEL)

(BRITISH BOOK
AWARDS WINNER
2022 - BEST
CHILDREN'S NOVEL)

(THE TIMES
CHILDREN'S BOOK
OF THE YEAR 2021)

Published in USA to critical acclaim by Bloomsbury US, the recipient of 2 starred trade reviews.



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Founded in 2021 by Matt Crook, Studio Crook produces a range of broadcast content in both the scripted and unscripted space having already produced and transmitted 18 hours of television since inception. When the Sky Falls is one of a series of titles acquired by the business as it continues to bolster the scripted department.

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