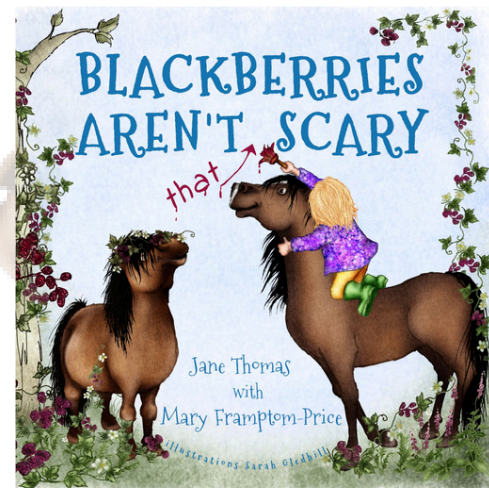


# The 'Cornish Stories' series

by Jane Thomas, with Mary Framptom-Price

*"Eating the blackberries,  
purple and plump,  
picking out tree trunks  
for scratching the rump..."*

Out 12th  
September



*Blackberries aren't that scary* is the first in the Cornish Stories series. Serving as an introduction to Baz, a retired racehorse, and his sister Nutmeg, a rescued Dartmoor Pony, the book is written in a charming clip-clop rhythmical rhyme. Answering the question, 'What makes a horse so special that he gets to have two different names?' the story takes readers from the racetrack to the meadow.

Each book also includes a local myth or legend that features a horse, and a page of playful fun facts to educate and engage young readers.



Jane has spent decades travelling the world and poking her nose into other people's lives, so it's perhaps unsurprising that her books are about adventures in obscure places with an intention to reveal hidden truths. Oxford educated, she sees research as a sport and writing as an opportunity to share her discoveries.

When seething over injustices and stark realities becomes too much, Jane invariably retreats to the coast. She is often found with her van, Flo, armed with a large crocheted octopus and glaring at a cryptic crossword.

Born and raised in the USA, Mary began riding at the age of 5 and has never been far from a horse since. With a PhD from Boston College she spent most of her professional life in academia, before a somewhat whimsical late-life adventure when she moved to Cornwall with her English husband.

Replacing showjumping and cross-country gallops for gentle hacks along Cornish lanes, Mary spends her days with her former racehorse, Baz, and his three rescued Dartmoor Pony sisters. When not peering out at the world from atop a horse, she can be found with her nose buried in a book and dreaming of future travels.





### Q. What do racehorses and Dartmoor ponies have in common?

Think of the sportiest person you know. That's Baz. Now think of the person who sits in a cardboard box and makes 'vroom vroom' noises while spraying crisp crumbs everywhere. That's Nutmeg. And yet, these two opposites are best friends. Just like people, horses need and want a family. Although they may look at life differently - Baz is terrified of everything and Nutmeg is insatiably curious - there is a lot of love between them.



### Q. How is the book linked to Racehorse Relief?

Founded in 2011, Racehorse Relief is the only rehoming centre in the southwest accredited by Retraining of Racehorses. The number of racehorses disposed of at the end of their careers is horrifying and we are proud to be supporting an important, local charity who instead provide the chance of a second career. £1 from the sale of every copy of 'Blackberries aren't that scary' goes to supporting Racehorse Relief.



### Q. What makes the books eco-friendly?

Produced as part of Books & Bicycles Press, the books are as eco-friendly as possible. They are printed in the UK on recycled paper and can only be bought either in indie bookshops or via a website; when bought from the site they are sent out in eco-friendly packaging via Royal Mail. Furthermore, 5% of profits go to small, grassroots literacy charities around the world. While copies are available via Amazon, we encourage readers to choose the eco-version that is readily available to them.



### Q. Is the book relevant to schools?

Absolutely. While not sticking rigidly to a single part of the curriculum as many books do, it offers children the chance to engage in conversations about friendship by looking at the parallels between horses and people. Perhaps even more importantly, it introduces children to the idea that animals are sentient creatures. While Baz and Nutmeg have clear personalities they are not personified and patronised: they are horses, but it is what we hold in common with them that is important. Teachers will find resources both on Jane's personal site, [www.jane-thomas.co.uk](http://www.jane-thomas.co.uk) and on [www.thecornishstories.co.uk](http://www.thecornishstories.co.uk).



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Available for interview? Yes!