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PRESS RELEASE
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**Floris Books is delighted to announce the publication
of the first in a new series of CONTEMPORARY KELPIES:**

THE CHAOS CLOCK

Gill Arbuthnott

198 x 130 mm • 160pp
0-86315-422-0 • original paperback • £4.99
Age 9-12 • Publication: 23 October 2003

- The first brand-new Kelpie published in over eight years
- The first of a new breed of **Contemporary Kelpies**, novels for children set in contemporary Scotland
- Set in contemporary Edinburgh – uses real locations around the city
- An exciting adventure/fantasy story about the battle to control time itself

Kate and David are eleven-years-old and best of friends, playing football and doing their museum project together. But in Edinburgh, where they live, time is coming unstuck and the past is breaking loose. Old Mr Flowerdew needs their help in the war between the Lords of Chaos and the Guardians of Time, centred around the mysterious Millennium Clock at the Royal Museum.

Can Kate use her grandmother's golden necklace to restrain the power of Chaos, and will David be able to help the Guardians, even if it means losing his mother all over again?

Praise

'A most engaging fantasy novel. What might have been a straightforward tussle is enriched and complicated by the personal circumstances of the children, particularly David for whom the temptation to return to a time when his mother is still alive proves desperately appealing. Edinburgh, and particularly the city's Museum of Scotland, provides the atmospheric setting and props for this tightly plotted novel. Dynamic and satisfying. For readers aged nine to 12.' – Lindsey Fraser, *Sunday Herald*, 5 October 2003

'Gill Arbuthnott knows just what a strange and alien place a museum can be and she exploits the otherworldliness to spine-chilling effect. An unusual, enjoyable combination of fantasy thriller and psychological drama with a warmly satisfying ending.' – Kathryn Ross, *The Scotsman*, 13 December 2003 (Christmas Picks)

'A dramatic read, well crafted, well sustained and imaginative. Kate and David's friendship is based on that between Gill Arbuthnott's daughter and her friend, and its feeling of unforced authenticity is one of the strengths of the story. The relationships within the two families are also utterly convincing, written without affectation of self-consciousness. Aimed at 8 to 12 year olds.'

– Di Hope, *Times Education Supplement Scotland*, 14 November 2003

About the Author

Gill Arbuthnott lives in Bruntsfield, Edinburgh and is the mother of two children, Ellen and Robert. She teaches biology at the Edinburgh Academy. *The Chaos Clock* is her first novel.

Gill draws the inspiration for her writing from the city of Edinburgh, and many real-life locations appear in the book. But it is the museum on Chambers Street which forms the heart of the story, in particular the Millennium Clock which gives the book its name. In fact Gill has described the book as 'an extended love-letter to the Museum of Scotland'.

About the Series

The best-selling Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Canongate published over 75 titles in the Kelpies series between 1984 and 1995, including Kathleen Fidler's *The Desperate Journey*, Mollie Hunter's *The Thirteenth Member*, and Theresa Breslin's *Simon's Challenge*. Floris Books acquired the series in 2002 and has steadily been making the classic stories available again to a new generation of Scottish children. *The Chaos Clock* is the first in a new series of CONTEMPORARY KELPIES