

S P Q H K T O S P S O S E K R E C N A L L E V R A M S M I L
 B S H A W N F Q O O R C C E B A U N B L Y G G X G G S J Q G
 I R V Y P E R I A N T H C A R O I Z Y A D N C B F C I O F W
 V A R A E P Z P D B N R O U V Z H U O I I W N Q G W Z U X D
 W B O S K I X Q T Q Z O K X L E G A M E L D N A C R L T T W
 T R J R E S L I T V C K A Y V O N F R Y H U L D R N O G K I
 A S F U U T O R S K S U D Y D N R G M J Q Z S T B C O Y E H
 A P L C I L X U D P J B U U Y A C U E I G S H I G H P M N A
 X F P C U E Y Z W Y A U O I X H U A M R W O O N I G H T J S
 D H M U W H T N Y R A R B I L T F J T J S L Q K E Y O O C R
 E O R S G J O E A S H W K L E A K S I S E N I K S I L A T Y
 S H C T C O A C Y S S T R L J I U X A R Y L I A Y K E U R M
 T F O S K P R N I T B I E V E V D C S D X I F B D Z S C X R
 M J E U T A E E W E I K L M R A H Y L D Q R Z P K M U P P V
 Q J P N V V H S Q K C V I K F L V C X R T S P R N C S U V D
 B U K K M S T S P F P E C N E L O V E L A M N J E B T F L F
 P S Q A J J N E E E R O L D I V I S I B I L I T Y V I S D N
 A F S F M V A T W S T S L I Q M J T C H J E E U E K N G K O
 L K Y H M J P N O B W G P M I T E L Q J O T H U W R K N L U
 D I B U M G I I H K I O V W M D U H S I R T N I W Z W I J J
 F E M H Q V F U L N P Y R G W R X R M B J B X D X H O L O T
 O J P X L X H Q T I C P J D F L E T B L Q U X B N F R P D Z
 J K S D U L X E A L G K O X G T G S B J Z N I H A X T M B G
 D N S H L V I X E G C A H A N L M E G F A D M V M V R I D Y
 J N A O Y V H W T C I Y P I P V U M K E I L A S S Z I Q I D
 U Z D S P F F R R X L X W C U L R U Z K Q E K S I Q S S I K
 C R Z L I N E C X T R D H E B B R L Y Q H R Z L L J C Y X G
 L D D Y P O P K K F I Z N K R Y W A N Q G S D S A W A P C P
 S M V Y O L T S U M A L A C O X O M U C A C D Z T U V Y N Y
 H S R A L O W M L J X Z B G M T T B O J H R S M L P A S G G

Can you find these words?

MARVELLANCE
 ARYLIA
 MIDWINTER
 NIGHT HAG
 TALISMAN
 ESLIT
 BUNDLERS
 SCAVENGERS
 IMPLINGS
 RELIC
 SWORD

DIVISIBILITY
 MALEVOLENCE
 EPISTLE
 LORE
 STINKWORT
 QUINTESSENCE
 CALAMUS
 SUCCURSA
 SHROUD
 NOOK
 ORB

CANDLEMAGE
 LIBRARYNTH
 LOOPHOLES
 MALUMEST TOR
 PERIANTH
 PANTHERA
 OCCULORUM
 SPARKLE
 LAVIATHAN*
 TALISKINESIS
 CRANNY

MASK
 WINTRISH

UQP

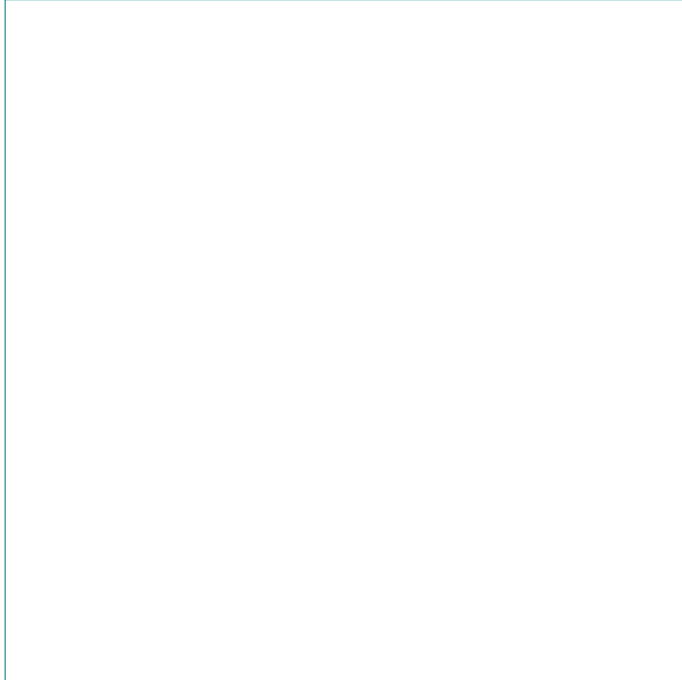


*The correct spelling is Leviathan, which is a real word meaning 'sea monster'.
 I changed it to Laviathan in The Wintrish Girl because my sea monster swims in lava!



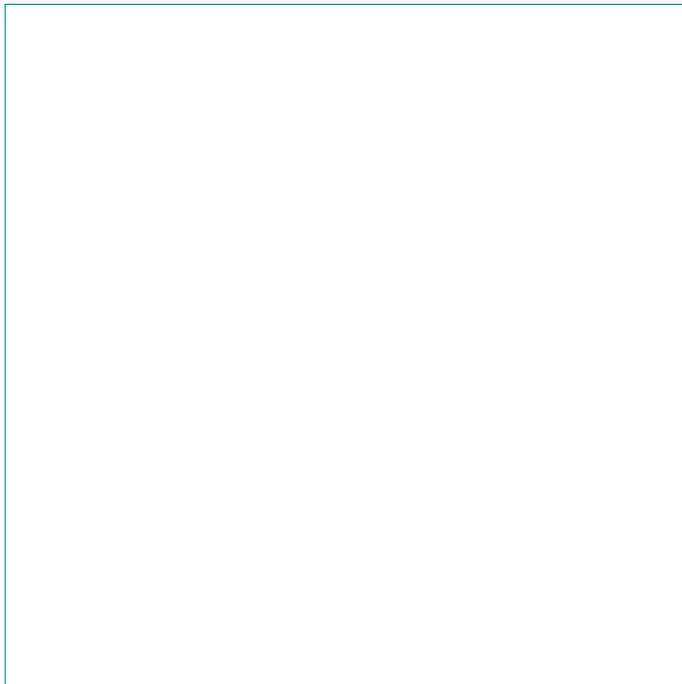
Creatures and Beasts Drawing Challenge

Below you'll find a list describing some of the creatures and beasts that appear in *The Wintrish Girl*. Draw a picture based on the description and feel free to add or change things the way you imagine it! If you're up for an extra challenge, think about the setting and the action too. Is the Night Hag flying? Is Ajax at Juniper's cottage or in Thondir Forest? Or is Ned the Huggle Beast doing something he shouldn't be doing? (Probably.)



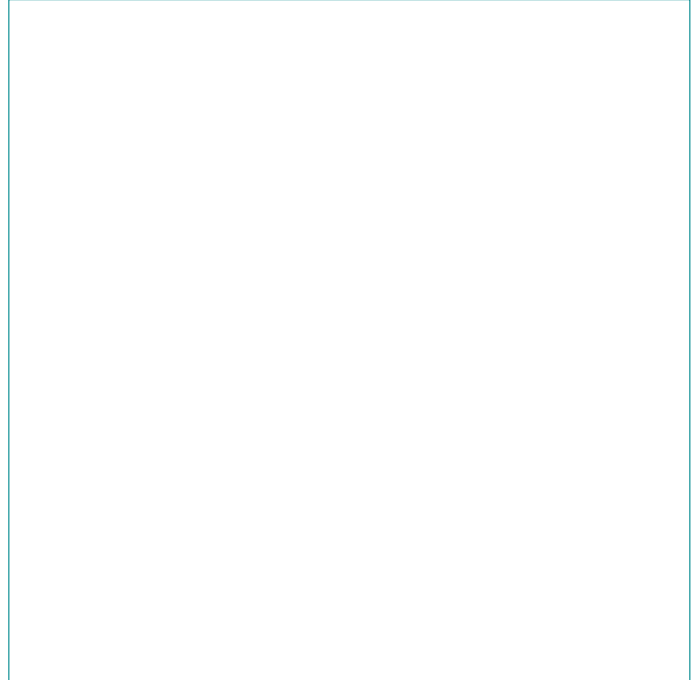
Ajax

Ajax is the first dragon to be seen in Arylia since the War ended. He has shining turquoise scales, a ridge of dark-blue triangular plates along his spine and an immense tail. His eyes are golden with green irises.



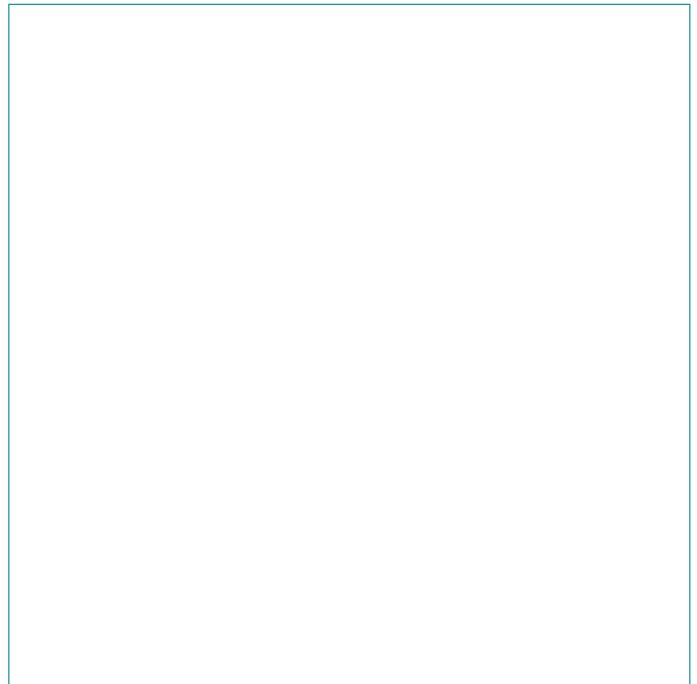
Bundlers

Small, blue-haired creatures with six legs. Immensely strong and used by the Arylians for carrying packages or delivering things. The Bundlers in the Library at Anamora wear bow ties.



Blood Hound

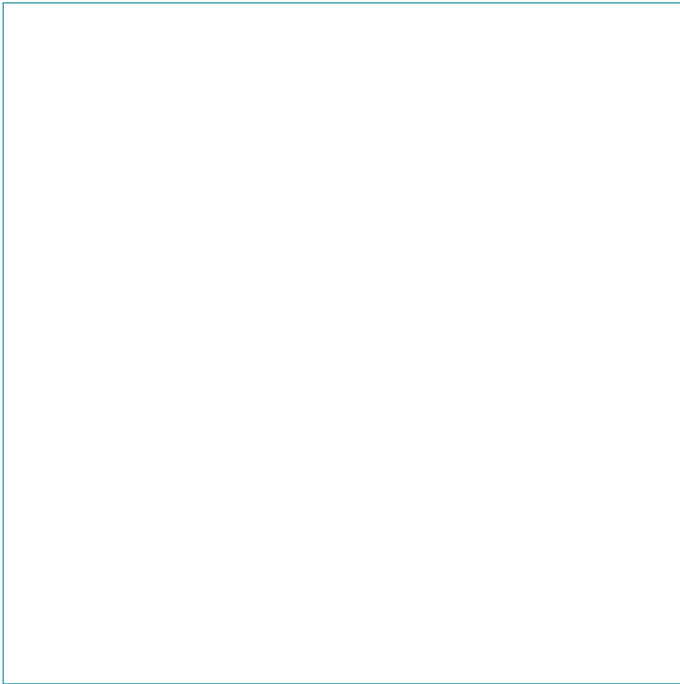
The Blood Hound is a Hybrid, one of the half-and-half creatures that the Malevolents created. It has a gigantic black dog's head, stands upright on furred hind legs and has black leathery wings and sharp fangs.



Implings

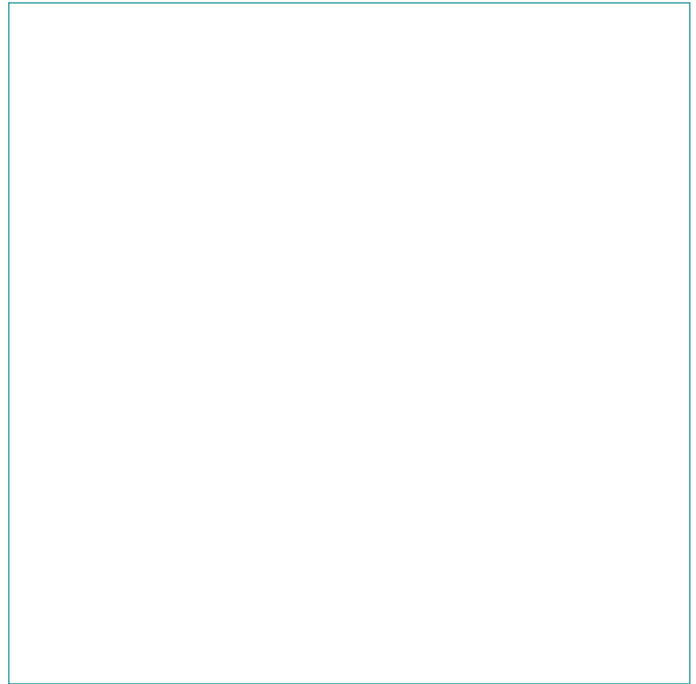
Small creatures with over-sized, grey bottom lips, webbed feet and large bat-like ears on the tops of their bald, leathery heads.

Creatures and Beasts Drawing Challenge



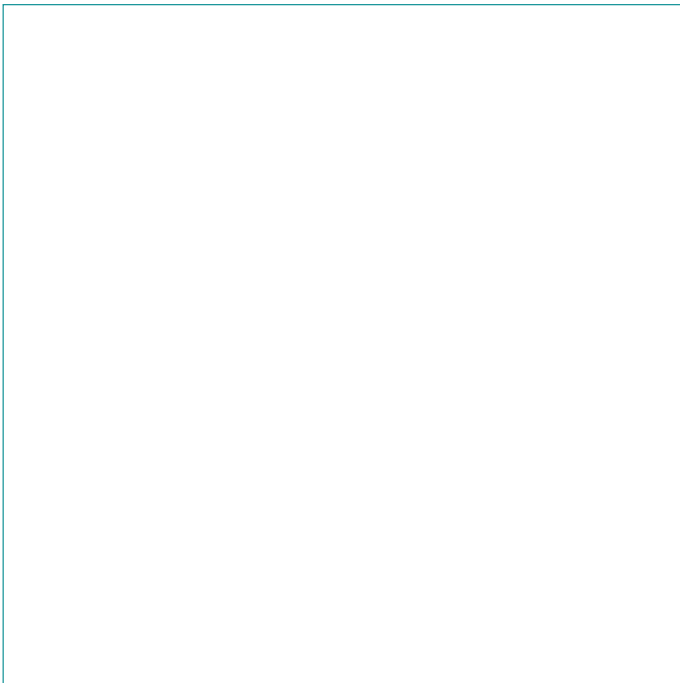
Ina

A bad-tempered bird-like creature with a bald head, scabbed feet and goose-pimpled flesh. Her long tail has only a few dirty, straw-coloured feathers left.



Ned the Huggle Beast

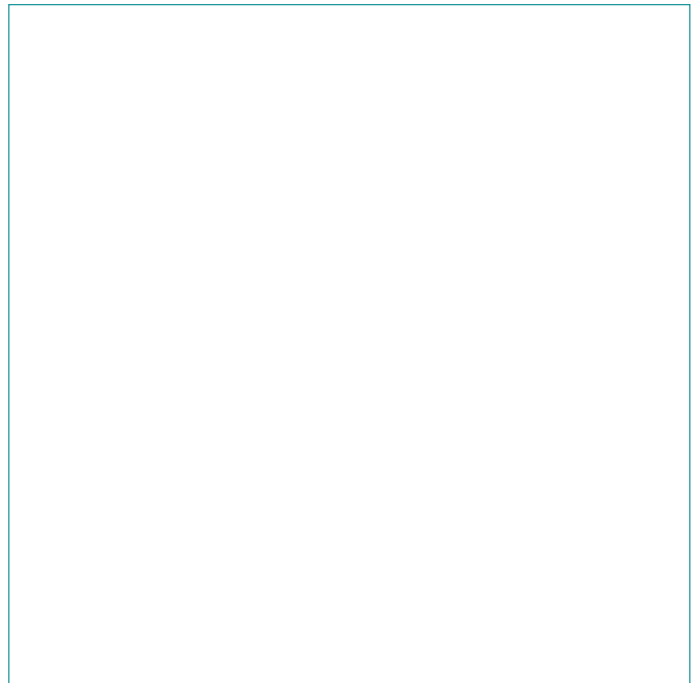
A small fluffy bundle of soft golden fur with big eyes, long limbs and a tail. In an emergency, Ned can stretch himself out into a very long rope. Ned is very affectionate and loving but can also be extremely naughty and rude.



Laviathan

The Laviathan is a sea monster, whose skin is made of twisted folds of lava-like scales. It has gleaming red eyes and a huge mouth with flames leaping within. It uses its huge fluke tail* to swat the eggshell boats containing travellers over the edge of the lavafall.

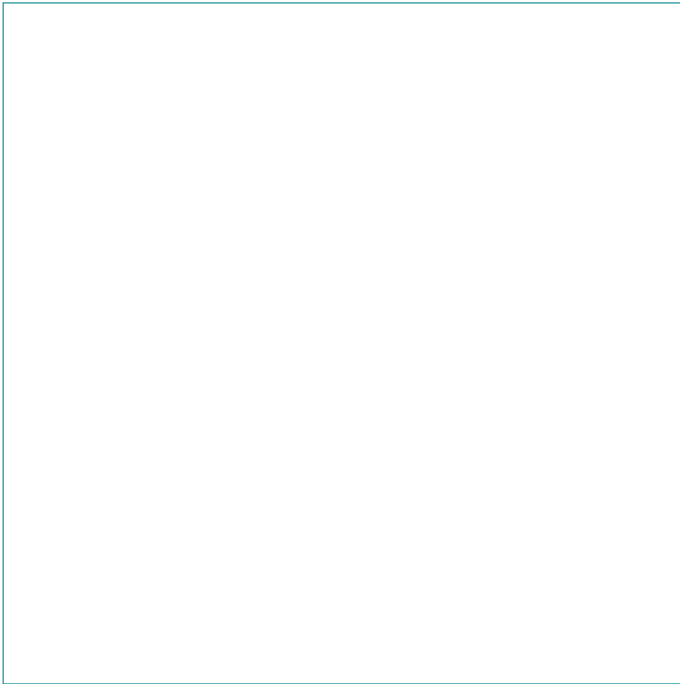
*A fluke tail is the same kind of tail that whales, dolphins (and mermaids!) have, with two flat fins joined together.



Night Hag

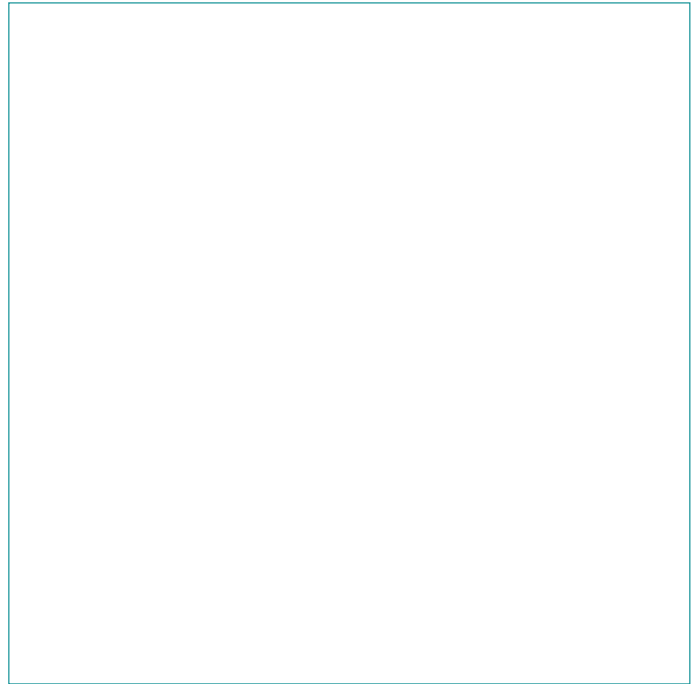
This fearsome creature has the power to freeze you where you stand if you're unlucky enough to get caught in its shadow. It can only communicate through nightmares. It's gigantic, with bone-white, leathery skin, a skeletal frame and blood-red eyes. The Night Hag is wreathed in moving shadows, nameless things that slither and scuttle.

Creatures and Beasts Drawing Challenge



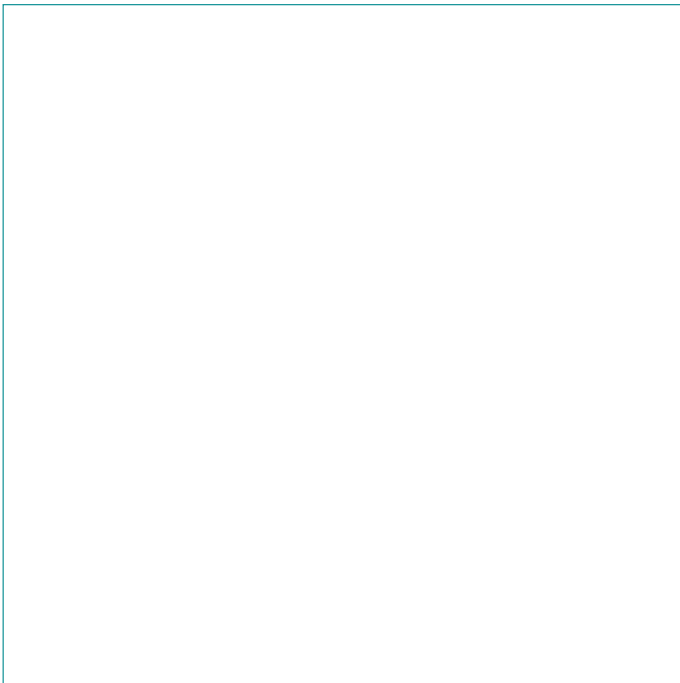
Panthera

The Panthera lies in a Marvellous sleep at the foot of the Arylian throne. It has a gleaming black coat, huge wings and wears a jewel-studded collar. When it's awake, you can see its terrifying fangs and emerald green eyes.



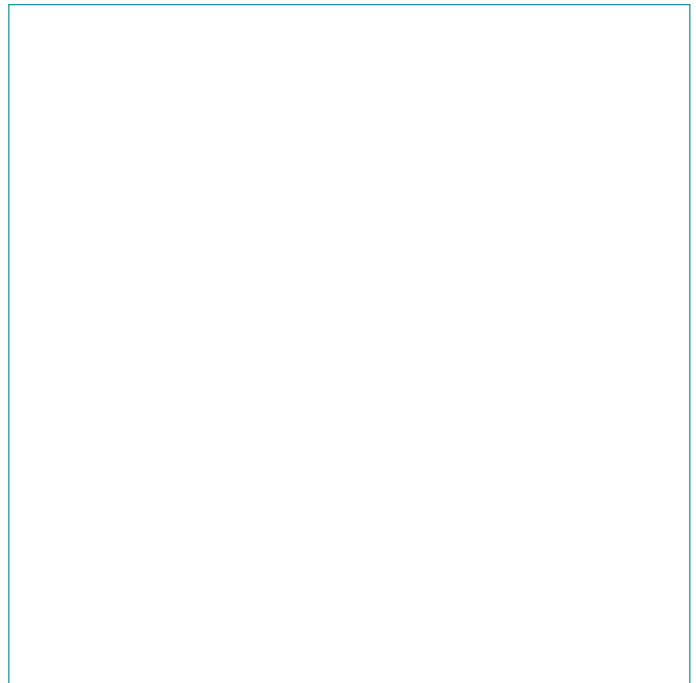
Smungles

Small, aggressive, hairless creatures with popping bloodshot eyes and scaly tails. They like to bite humans and jump from trees onto people's heads.



Scavengers

These dangerous Malevolent creatures can shape-shift from human form into a beast-like form that's better suited for hunting down their prey. They have mangy yellow-grey hair, sharp teeth and yellow eyes. Around their throats, they each wear a strange metallic collar with a crimson wax seal that holds a small, carved bone pendant in place.



Tantivies

The huge, antlered beasts that the Arylians ride are a dangerous combination of size and remorseless speed.

Hidden Meanings in *The Wintrish Girl*

Hello!

If you're reading this, I assume you've already read *The Wintrish Girl* and want to know a bit more about Penn's world. If you haven't read the book yet, these aren't exactly spoilers but it will all make a lot more sense if you read the book first. I had a lot of fun using things from the real world in *The Wintrish Girl*. Here are some of them.

Stickwort, Stinkwort and Calamus are all real herbs. Stickwort is the folk name for a herb called Agrimony which people used to think could protect them from evil. They also believed it could make someone sleep like the dead. Black Hellebore is a real and very dangerous poisonous herb. Strangely, one of its other names is the lovely sounding Christmas Rose! If you happen to come across any Calamus please don't go near it - it's poisonous. Long ago, people really did believe that Calamus could be used to strengthen spells or obtain treasure.

The Library at Anamora is organised according to the Hypatian system. I named the library's system after a real woman named Hypatia (born around 350-370 – died 415 AD) who lived in Alexandria in Egypt, which was then a part of the Roman Empire. Hypatia was considered to be the greatest mathematician and astronomer of her time. She also taught philosophy and this was all at a time when most girls and women didn't receive any education at all. There are persistent stories linking Hypatia to the Great Library of Alexandria. Some people say she was the last recorded member of the library, others say that the library no longer existed during her lifetime. Nobody knows for sure, but I love the idea of this extraordinary scholar working in the most famous library of the ancient world.

Etymology is the study of the history of words. I am endlessly fascinated by the origins of words so in *The Wintrish Girl* you'll find words that might sound made-up but are actually real, (just very old), words. For example:

- **Eslit** is from the old French word for *elite*, meaning 'elected or chosen ones'.
- **Succursa** I based on the medieval Latin word *succursus*, meaning 'help'.
- **Quintessence** is a real word. In ancient and medieval times it was believed to be the fifth element, (the other four are earth, air, fire and water). The name is from the Latin words meaning 'Fifth essence'. People used to believe that this fifth element was what the stars and the planets were made from. They thought that if they could capture it, it could be used to cure illnesses and disease.
- **Tantivies** are named after the word *Tantivy*, which means at full speed or galloping and was also used as an old hunting cry.

And, last but not least, Juniper and her parents Edyth and Thaddeus live in Bibliobibuli Cottage. *Bibliobibuli* means people who read too much – but we all know there's no such thing as reading too much, right?

There are more hidden meanings in the book, let me know when you find them!

Thank you for reading *The Wintrish Girl*. I hope it made you laugh and think and taught you how to escape from an invincible prison tower. I'll see you in Arylia for more of Penn's adventures in Book 2 of the *Talismans of Fate* series. Until then, remember to stay away from wild berries. Those things can be vicious.

Melanie