

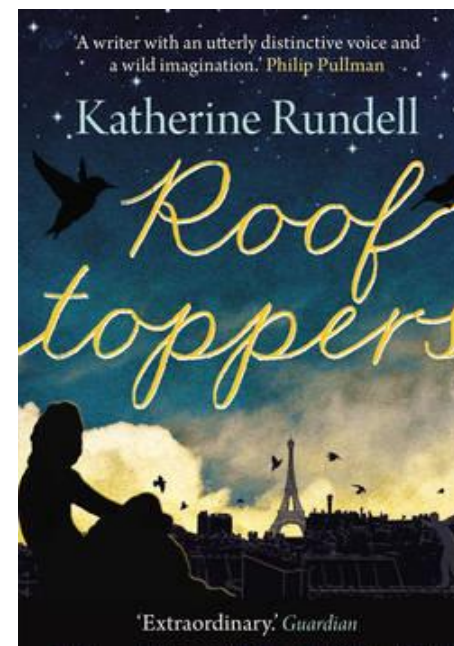
## Chapter 1

On the morning of its first birthday, a baby was found floating in a cello case in the middle of the English Channel.

It was the only living thing for miles. Just the baby, and some dining-room chairs, and the tip of a ship disappearing into the ocean. There had been music in the dining hall, and it was music so loud and so good that nobody had noticed the water flooding in over the carpet. The violins went on sawing for some time after the screaming had begun. Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.

The baby was found wrapped for warmth in the musical score of a Beethoven symphony. It had drifted almost a mile from the ship, and was the last to be rescued. The man who lifted it into the rescue boat was a fellow passenger, and a scholar. It is a scholar's job to notice things. He noticed that it was a girl, with hair the colour of lightning, and the smile of a shy person.

Think of night-time with a speaking voice. Or think how moonlight might talk, or think of ink, if ink had vocal chords. Give those things a narrow aristocratic face with hooked eyebrows, and long arms and legs, and that is what the baby saw as she was lifted out of her cello case and up into safety. His name was Charles Maxim, and he determined, as he held her in his large hands – at arm's length, as he would a leaky flowerpot – that he would keep her.



## **‘Rooftoppers’ Katherine Rundell**

1. Where was the baby found floating?
2. What was the baby wrapped in? Do you think her parents cared for her?
3. The baby has hair like ‘lightning’. What does this suggest about the sort of personality she might have when she grows up?
4. How has the author used music in paragraph 2 to show something bad was about to happen?
5. What happened to the ship? How do you know?
6. Why did Charles Maxim hold the baby at arm's length?
7. Should Charles keep the baby? Give evidence for and against.

## Chapter 1

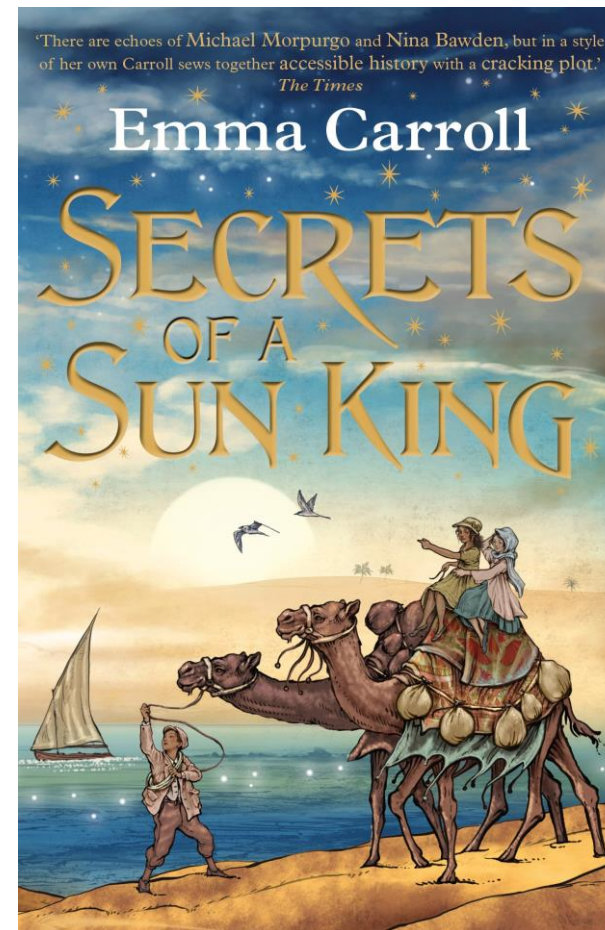
One filthy wet Wednesday morning, the world stopped making sense. I wish I could say I's been expecting it, like those clever people who smell thunderstorms or feel tidal waves before they hit, but that wasn't quite how it happened.

We'd been eating breakfast, Mum and me, bumping knees under our tiny kitchen table as we polished off the last of the bread and dripping. I'd be hungry again within the hour: I always was. I was also dreading school. So you could say the day had started as grim as any other. Until, that was, I saw the headline in the morning paper:

'HUMAN FEET FOUND IN BLOOMSBURY TOWN HOUSE.'

1. What does it mean if you 'polish off' something?
2. **Find and copy a sentence** which indicates the kitchen table wasn't very big.
3. How does the author 'hook' the reader in?
4. Find and copy a word which means the narrator was anxious about going to school.
5. Find and copy the expanded noun phrase in the sentence below:  
*One filthy wet Wednesday morning, the world stopped making sense.*
6. What is an archaeologist?
7. What is an Egyptologist?
8. Is an Egyptologist the same as an archaeologist? Why? Why not?

**EXTRA** Predict what the story is about using the front cover, the blurb and the extract above to help you.



'Secrets of a Sun King'  
Emma Carroll

### Blurb

When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England!

The mysterious package holds the key to a story...about a King whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for.