

Introducing MG Harris and THE JOSHUA FILES

THE JOSHUA FILES Published in the UK in spring 2008, **Invisible City**, the first title in THE JOSHUA FILES sequence, was the fastest-selling children's fiction debut of that year.

It launched MG Harris as a major new children's author, was shortlisted for several book awards and has been translated into seventeen languages including American.

Followed by the acclaimed, rollercoaster sequels *Ice Shock*, *Zero Moment*, *Dark Parallel*, and the 2012 finale, *Apocalypse Moon*, *The Joshua Files* is entertaining children and adults across the world. It has been variously compared to the thrillers of Michael Crichton and Matthew Reilly, to the *Indiana Jones* and *X-Files* movies, to *Doctor Who*.

The Joshua Files is a tightly plotted, twisting-turning blend of myth, action-adventure, scifi, magical realism, with a touch of teen romance.

Reviews of *The Joshua Files*

'A gripping survival story ... a fantasy of pyramids, caves and tunnels' *Daily Telegraph*

'A fast-paced first-person thriller'...It's the Mexican and Mayan flavourings that give Harris's adventure yarn that bit of extra bite as she weaves a satisfyingly twisty plot" *Financial Times*

'A splendid adventure story of UFOs, ancient Mayan documents and a lost city' *Mail on Sunday*

'Fast-paced and exciting, this is one for fans of Alex Rider and Young Bond' *The Bookseller*

"An enthralling, satisfying read that will leave its audience hungry for future installments" *Books for Keeps*

"Explosive and compelling" *LoveReadingforkids*

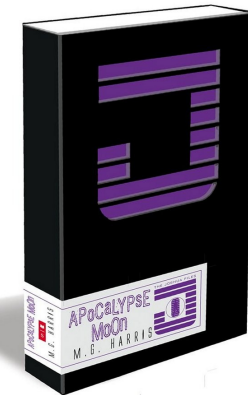
"This series is destined to be a hit. Not only is the non-stop action enthralling, but the many mysteries and unanswered questions will have the reader begging for the rest of the series." *Library Media Connection*

"Touches of science fiction and fantasy add flavor to the adventure and action. A good bet for the thrill-seeking middle-school crowd." *Kirkus Reviews*

this pack contains

- Information about *The Joshua Files* books
- Author biography
- Author interview with BookZone4Boys
- Author event information

An international
bestseller



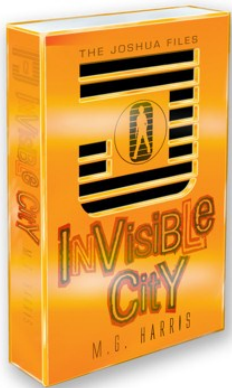
New for 2012: APOCALYPSE MOON

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Invisible City

The story begins...



Joshua's life was pretty average until his archaeologist father was reported dead in a plane crash. Josh's dad had been searching for the Mayan Codex, said to contain key information about the 2012 Mayan prophecy foretelling the end

of the world. Was the crash simply a tragic accident, or is there more to his father's death than the authorities are willing to tell him?

This first novel in the action-packed Joshua Files brings Josh to the depths of the Mexican jungle and into a secret society existing beneath an ancient Mayan pyramid. Sucked into a vortex of intrigue, Josh becomes a target for danger as he learns that his father, grandfather, and Josh himself are the key to solving the mystery of the prophecy. Can Josh find the missing codex in time to save mankind?

Author Biography

M.G. Harris (M.G. stands for Maria Guadalupe) was born in Mexico City. When her parents split up, five-year old M.G. moved to Frankfurt, Germany, with her stewardess mother and younger sister, and later to Manchester, England.

Growing up as a Mancunian, M.G. based her formative years around the television series Doctor Who and Blake's 7 and the fortunes of Manchester United.

As a teenager, during regular visits to her father in Mexico, M.G. became fascinated by Mayan archaeology. She made several trips to Mayan ruins in Yucatan and Chiapas and one such trip gave her the seed of the idea of what would later become The Joshua Files: Invisible City.

As a student, M.G. was interested in molecular



biology and studied biochemistry at St Catherine's College, Oxford University. Going on to pursue a doctorate at St Cross College, Oxford, M.G. spent several

years working in research laboratories before setting up her own internet company.

Whilst visiting family in Switzerland in 2004, a skiing accident left M.G. with a shattered tibia plateau (top of shin bone). Forced to spend many weeks recuperating from surgery, she decided to keep a promise she'd made to herself to one day pursue a career as a novelist. Writing on a laptop next to her bed, M.G. began work on a techno-thriller which combined her two intellectual loves – archaeology and biology. From this initial manuscript (later published as THE DESCENDANT) came the idea for a story featuring a young boy searching for a lost Mayan codex ... and The Joshua Files were born.

In an attempt to cover up the fact that at heart she's a bit of a geek, M.G. spends as much time as possible going out to salsa clubs to dance. She adores anything written by her quartet of literary gurus: Haruki Murakami, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Jorge Luis Borges and Italo Calvino.

When she's not dragging her family around the world to research locations for her

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www.thejoshuafiles.com

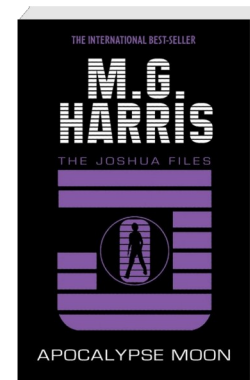
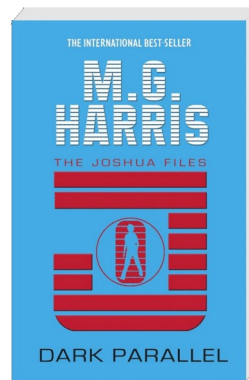
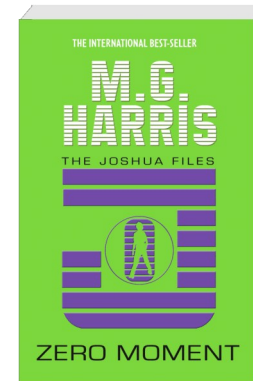
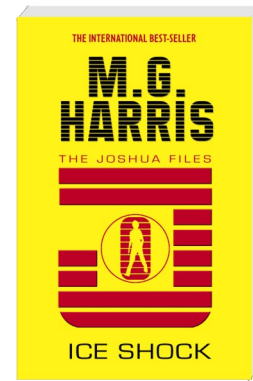
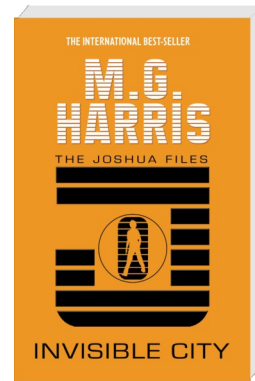
www.themgharris.com

The Joshua Files

The Joshua Files is a heart-stopping adventure series which blends intrigue, time-travel and Mayan prophecies about the end of the world.

In *INVISIBLE CITY*, Josh discovers that his archaeologist father has been murdered. Determined to uncover the truth, Josh finds himself in a race to find the legendary Ix Codex - an ancient Mayan book containing a prophecy about the end of the world.

The mystery continues in *ICE SHOCK*, in which Josh finds himself questioning his closest allies. Maybe the only person he can trust is Ixchel - his reluctant betrothed from the 'invisible city'. An emotional adventure brings Josh and Ixchel closer. By the time *Zero Moment* begins, Josh realises, unhappily, that he is falling for



Ixchel.

In *ZERO MOMENT* Josh solves the puzzle of time travel-but soon faces an even bigger dilemma. Should he use it to go back in time and save his father? When his mother and his best friends are kidnapped by the people who want to see the ancient prophecy predicting the end of the world in 2012 come true, Josh must choose between

focusing on the present to save his mother and Ixchel and his past to save his father.

In *DARK PARALLEL*, Josh and Ixchel are tricked into travelling through time where they face the horrors of human sacrifice in the past and a dark, parallel reality of the 21st century where things have gone terribly wrong. Yet perhaps the shared dangers will finally force Josh and Ixchel to admit their true feelings for each other. .

The final chapter, *APOCALYPSE MOON*, sees Josh risking himself with a leap into the post-2012 future, where he intends to discover the final secret of how to prevent an apocalypse. He arrives in a world ravaged by plague and chaos, with a new world government on the rise. Josh can't escape his destiny – but can he return to his own time?

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Q&A with MG Harris

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Zero Moment is the third book in the Joshua Files series, and you have said that there will be five books in total. Have you plotted out the storylines for these already?

I've written Joshua #4 already. I haven't plotted the final instalment yet. The plot and indeed book itself will be better if I leave as much time as possible and maybe write something different in between.

Time travel is an integral part of Josh's story, and you develop this even more in Zero Moment. How on earth do you manage to keep track of this element of the story?

Timelines! I have timelines for the city, for all characters who've time travelled and for the Bracelet of Itzamna itself. I've worked out that it changes hands 10 times



throughout the course of *The Joshua Files*.

I might just add one more handover...

Capoeira is used increasingly as Josh's story is progressing. How did you carry out the research into this martial art?

I've watched capoeira performed quite a bit in real life, here and in Brazil. Then there's YouTube, the movie 'Only the Strong' and all those capoeira websites.

There are some new locations in Zero Moment, namely Brazil and Switzerland. Did you visit these places as part of your research?

Yes, some great friends of ours are Brazilian so we went for a joint holiday/research trip! The exciting day of dune buggies, river barbeque and zipwire fun that Montoyo promises Josh is one we actually enjoyed. Poor Josh, he never gets to have any proper fun! My brother and his family live in Switzerland so I'm there quite often. The Sustenpass alpine location in *Zero Moment* was a surprise discovery one summer. We ended up on the high mountain pass by mistake...mid August but up there, it was snowing!

Zero Moment also delves deeper into aspects of genetics and science. How has your background in biochemistry helped you develop your story?

Totally. If you have that kind of knowledge ready to hand, certain plot solutions easily come to mind.

Zero Moment deals a lot with Josh's emotions and his confusion about his relationship with Ixchel. As a female author, have you found it

difficult to write your books from a boy's point of view?



It's the most difficult part. I have to think about things for hours and remember the boys I knew when I was younger, listen to songs written by young guys, to help me judge if I'm on the right track.

My natural sympathies often lie with his mother or Ixchel, so it's a matter of shifting the perspective, seeing things from Josh's point of view. I tend to ask my husband a lot of questions about how teenage boys feel about things. He's the touchstone there. Usually he confirms all my suspicions!

Do you have a favourite author? What really appeals to you about their work?

Gabriel Garcia Marquez wrote two of my favourite novels, including '*One Hundred Years Of Solitude*' and '*Love In The Time Of Cholera*'. The wisdom in those works, the language, vision, the understanding of the essential tragedy of life, stories just pouring out of him. Dazzling to achieve that in one novel really, but twice...

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Q&A with MG Harris

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BookZone4Boys

Like me, you were a big fan of the Tintin stories when you were younger? What was it about them that appealed to you?

The exotic locations, the very traditional adventure plots. Tintin himself is a really appealing character for girls too. He isn't macho or aggressive, he's honourable and cares deeply for his friends. There are some terrific other characters too. Like Bianca Castifiore! Those books always made me laugh. In fact, finding one in the library was always like finding treasure.

In addition to Tintin, what were your favourite books when you were younger?

Other comics like *Asterix* and *Roy of the Rovers*, also E. Nesbit, Ray Bradbury, Robert Heinlein's juveniles, most of all the William stories of Richmal Crompton.

Can you give us any hints as to what we can expect from your next book in the *Joshua Files* series?

"*Dark Parallel*" is the big time-travel episode. I had to have at least one! So I tackle the bigger questions of causality...if

someone changed history, what could happen on a personal scale? To the world around you? Then there's the question of Josh and his unrequited feelings. Is he ever going to 'man up' and confront Ixchel?

If you could time travel when/ where would you go to and why?

Purely for nostalgia purposes, I think it would be Mexico City in the 1970s. I once found an old travel guide from the seventies in a hotel room in Mexico and it said, "Muggings are very unusual in Mexico". Can you imagine? Even in the eighties that was laughable. I was (very politely) mugged in Mexico City, in 1986. Now they sometimes kidnap you and worse. It's terribly sad. I still love Mexico City, it's the most exciting place I know. But you need your wits about you. And of course I'd be able to meet my parents when they were in their 20s! They both died aged 46 so I haven't seen them for a while.

Can you recommend one book that you think every boy should read at some point?

"*Ender's Game*" by Orson Scott Card. It's about a boy who's picked to go to a special Battle School where kids are trained to fight an alien force that is on its way to eliminate humanity. It's not written as a book for children but all the main characters are children or teenagers. It was published when I was 18, and I really enjoyed it but I would have loved it madly and deeply if I'd read it aged 13.



Is there anything else you would like to say to your readers?

Late childhood (10-14) is an amazing time for your brain, before it's finished developing and before the serious hormonal stuff starts. That's the time to hit your imagination...what sticks then will stay for life. So, read at least one amazing book or series and get your parents to take you to Disneyland before it's too late for you to enjoy it as a child.

For more terrific reviews and interviews visit

bookzone4boys.blogspot.com

www.thejoshuafiles.com
www.themgharris.com

MG Harris via email:
contactmg@mgharris.net

Meet M.G. Harris

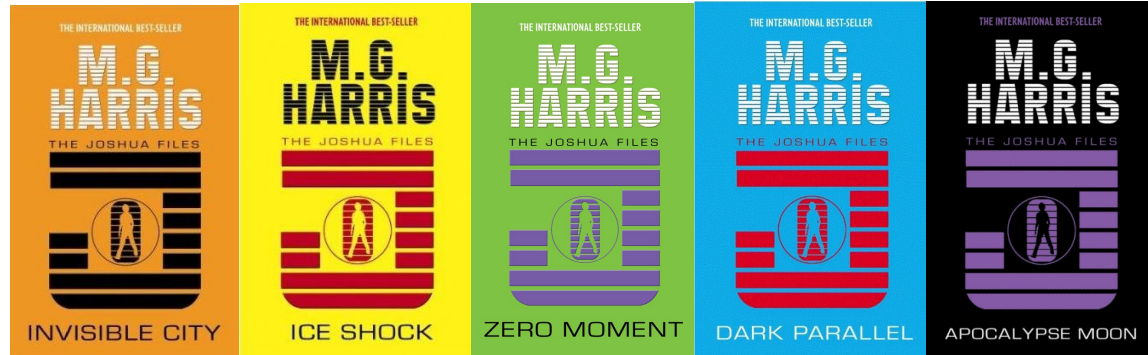


Internationally best-selling author MG has entertained audiences of readers at schools in the UK and Australia as well as at major literary festivals including at Hay-on-Wye, Edinburgh and Oxford.

“**Secrets of The Joshua Files**” is an audio-visual presentation in which MG introduces the audience to her conspiracy-thriller adventure series *The Joshua Files*. Shortlisted for several book awards and translated into seventeen languages, *The Joshua Files* blends elements of Mayan mythology, action-adventure and time-travel. The audience will also hear the story of how MG’s Mexican background and a skiing accident inspired her to write these high-octane adventures .

MG can also lead a **story-building** or **code-cracking** workshop or even a brief, fascinating session in which students will learn to decipher some ancient Mayan hieroglyphs (as featured in the British Museum).

Suitable for readers aged 10-15, up to 400 per session. Workshops are ideally suited to smaller groups of 30.



Book sales in school promote reading!

In the experience of the publisher, if you plan to sell books at the event, parents should ideally be notified in writing **at least a week** in advance so that children can be given money should they wish to buy.

Ways to sell books in school:

1. Contact a local bookstore and ask them to run a stall at your event. The bookseller will sell copies direct and may offer a discount.
2. Ask a local bookseller to supply copies and then invoice you for the number sold. Usually they will be dropped at your school and any unsold picked up after the event. It may be possible to negotiate a discount with your local bookseller, especially if the book is on promotion in the store.
3. To earn up to 60% commission on book sales, your school could organise a Scholastic Book Fair in the week when MG visits.

Booking an event:

Session Length: One hour, plus book signing.

Rates from January 2012:

Single session	£150
Half Day (max 2 sessions)	£250
Full Day (max 3 sessions)	£350
Plus expenses (travel, accommodation etc.)	

An event with the author of internationally-bestselling sequence,

THE JOSHUA FILES

CHECKLIST: Technical requirements

MG’s presentation includes short video films which can be shown from her own laptop computer. Could you please check that you can arrange for:

1. Desktop projector and cable
2. Screen
3. Audio speakers and cable
4. Workshop only—whiteboard or flipchart and pens