

The Known and Unknown Sea

FICTION

Alan Bilton

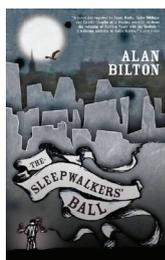
This haunting and comic fable from the critically acclaimed author of *The Sleepwalkers' Ball* is a beautiful and heartbreaking journey through memory, loss and imagination.

Rumour and suspicion engulf an eerily fog-bound town as its residents begin to receive tickets promising passage across the mist-shrouded bay to the mysterious 'other side'. For Alex and his family, this seems like the beginning of a great adventure, but as reports of a shadowy, half-glimpsed ship start to circulate, so too does the gossip and anxious speculation.

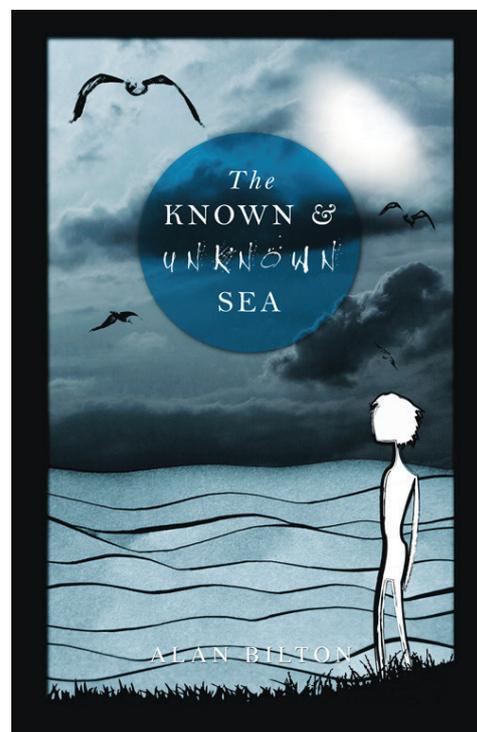
Dreamlike and immersive, it's a pantomime nightmare, surreal, terrifying and hilarious, full of masks and metamorphoses. It's a world seen through the eyes of children, magical, kaleidoscopic and incomprehensible.

- A page turning adventure story built around a central mystery with an unsettling and unexpected resolution.
- A mixture of anxiety dreams and childhood nightmares.
- Adult novel that will also appeal to teenagers with an advanced reading age.
- Inspired by silent films, surrealism and early 20th century art it is an intensely visual novel that blurs the boundary between the real world and the fantastical.
- Echoes with strange voices; Freud and Dylan Thomas, Dante, Kafka and Gunter Grass.

Also by Author



Alan Bilton was born in York in 1969. In keeping with the two main sources of employment back then, his family either worked on the railways or in chocolate; but he did neither. Rather, he received his undergraduate degree in Literature and Film from Stirling University in 1991, and his PhD from Manchester University in 1995. He is married, with one small child and one hairy dog. His first novel, *The Sleepwalkers' Ball*, described as 'Kafka meets Mary Poppins', was published by Alcemi in 2009. He is also the author of books on silent film comedy, contemporary fiction, and America in the 1920s, alongside short stories, essays and reviews. He teaches Creative Writing, fiction and film at Swansea.



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