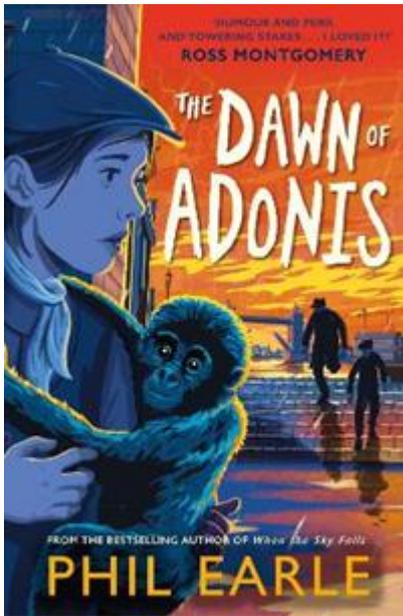
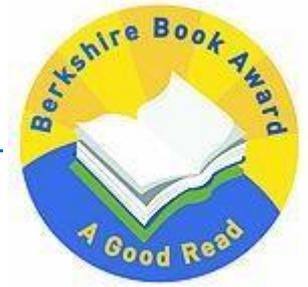


## Berkshire Book Award 2026: Longlisted title



### ***The Dawn of Adonis* by Phil Earle**

In 1911, before the start of World War One, London's docks thrum with underhand deals, none so great as the arrival of a valuable, rare and exotic animal – a baby silverback gorilla.

The baby gorilla stands to make one man very, very rich. Heaven help anyone who gets in his way. But then one night a twelve-year-old girl is unwittingly drawn into his criminal underworld. Can she find a way to escape and rescue the baby gorilla?

### Discussion Questions

- This is a companion novel or prequel to *When the Sky Falls*. Have you read this book and if so, did it enhance your enjoyment of this later book? If you have not read it, would you now consider doing so?
- Before reading this book, had you ever thought much about the plight of animals in pre-war and wartime settings? If relevant, compare to the other books in the series by the same writer.
- Did you feel any empathy for Toff? Is Toff really as bad his master, Goliath Deeds? Or is he a victim of circumstances and just trying to survive?
- This book has some wonderfully descriptive language: *The mountain howled, the jungle cried, the sky wept....* Make a word cloud by hand or using an app such as wordart.com incorporating some of the atmospheric vocabulary.