

J. K. Rowling

"...Rowling was born to Peter James Rowling, a Rolls-Royce aircraft engineer, and Anne Rowling (née Volant), on 31 July 1965 in Yate, Gloucestershire, England. Her mother Anne was half-French and half-Scottish. Her parents first met on a train departing from King's Cross Station bound for Arbroath in 1964. They married on 14 March 1965. Her mother's maternal grandfather, Dugald Campbell, was born in Lamlash on the Isle of Arran. Her mother's paternal grandfather, Louis Volant, was awarded the Croix de Guerre for exceptional bravery in defending the village of Courcelles-le-Comte during the First World War..."



"...In May 2007, Rowling pledged a donation reported as over £250,000 or over \$495,000 to a reward fund started by the tabloid News of the World for the safe return of a young British girl, Madeleine McCann, who disappeared in Portugal. Rowling, along with Nelson Mandela, Al Gore, and Alan Greenspan, wrote an introduction to a collection of [Gordon Brown's](#) speeches, the proceeds of which are donated to the Jennifer Brown Research Laboratory."

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JK'S MAGIC TOUCH TO HELP KATE RAISE £1M

Book to fund search for Maddy

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WITH cash draining from the fund set up to hunt for Madeleine McCann, JK Rowling's pledge to help was a welcome boost to mum Kate.

The Harry Potter author gave the devastated 42-year-old advice and support as she wrote the harrowing details of the night her daughter vanished from their holiday apartment on the Algarve.

Kate's book is expected to raise £1million and she and husband Gerry, both 42, hope it will help shed new light on how Madeleine vanished four years ago.

Rowling, 45, is a supporter of the Madeleine Fund, which has dwindled to £200,000.

TRUTH

The book, called *Madeleine*, will be published on May 12, the youngster's eighth birthday. The money it raises should be enough to pay for private detectives to keep working on the case that gripped the world for another two years.

Kate, of Rothley, Leics, said: "My reason for writing is simple, to give an account of the truth."

"Publishing this book has been a very difficult decision and is one that we have taken after much deliberation and with a very heavy heart."

"However, with the depletion of Madeleine's fund, the decision has been taken out of our hands. Every penny we raise through its sales will be spent on our

► **DESPERATE** Mum Kate



▲ **HUNT** Madeleine disappeared search for Madeleine. Nothing is more important to us than finding our little girl."

Gerry added: "We are hopeful this book may help the investigation to find Madeleine."

"Our hope is that the book may prompt those who have relevant information to come forward and share it. Somebody holds that key piece of the jigsaw."

Rowling has been heavily involved in the search for Madeleine since she vanished in May 2007. The writer

offered a reported £1million reward to find the youngster. She also donated to the fund set up to aid the worldwide search. Rowling arranged for a poster featuring Madeleine to be made available to book retailers across the globe.

And last November she helped Kate and Gerry to secure their book deal. She suggested they use her literary agent Christopher Little, who arranged a publishing contract with Transworld.

Last January, Rowling met the couple, both doctors, at a fund-raising event in London to mark the 1,000th day since Madeleine vanished from Praia da Luz.

Her official website features a Madeleine section giving details of her case and phone numbers to contact with information.

PRIEST

Since the youngster disappeared on May 3, 2007, aged three, Kate, also mum to six-year-old twins Sean and Amelie, has made a number of secret trips back to the resort.

She goes alone and stays with Haynes Hubbard, the local Anglican priest and his wife Susan.

Father Hubbard said: "She doesn't enjoy being in front of the camera but she is prepared to do it because it might bring her child back."

"They need money to carry on the investigation. They will never stop looking and that's why this book has been written."

"It probably tears them apart to do this but the child is worth it."

Friends say Kate will "want to settle some scores" - particularly with the Portuguese police, who investigated the disappearance and became convinced, wrongly, the child's parents were involved.

After numerous false hopes in the search the book may be one last throw of the dice for the family.

WRITE PERSON

JK helped Kate with her new book



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