



## AUTHOR

**Simon Fox** spent 20 years working in accountancy, before turning to writing, starting with *Running Out of Time* (Nosy Crow, 2022). 'It was when my son started to read the Alex Rider books that I decided to go for it. I loved the stories and wanted to write something similar.' (Reading Zone, 2023) *Deadlock* is Simon's second book. He lives in Sussex with his wife and two teenage children.

## WEBSITE

<https://nosycrow.com/contributor/simon-fox/>

## LINKS

Q & A with Simon Fox, plus a short film of the author introducing *Deadlock*, including tips on how to create tension. The film could be used as a trailer.

<https://www.readingzone.com/authors/simon-fox/>

Three exciting activities to download from the publisher's website.

<https://nosycrow.com/resource/deadlock-activity-sheets/>



# DEADLOCK

Older Readers Shortlist 2024

## INTRODUCTION

An **exciting** edge-of-your seat **contemporary thriller** that pits a boy with superb lock-picking skills against a shadowy group of **criminals**. Introduce the book by reading aloud from pp 1 – 6, which provide a great insight into Archie and his policeman father's relationship. It is not until much later in the book, however, that Archie's pent-up anger and his mother's absence is fully explained. Until then, he makes it his mission to discover the truth about the stolen diamond necklace and exonerate his father from its **theft**. Along the way he meets Bunny, an equally spirited teenager, who joins forces with him in what turns out to be a very dangerous game.

## ACTIVITIES

**Read** Have fun finding out about some real-life diamond heists.

<https://people.howstuffworks.com/five-largest-diamond-heists.htm>

**Write or illustrate** Have a go at the 'Design a Perfect Disguise' activity sheet. (See publisher's website in Links section)

**Create** a new book cover for *Deadlock*, paying attention to the image, use of colour, choice of typography and strapline.

## NOW READ ON

*Running Out of Time* by Simon Fox (Nosy Crow, 2022). Simon's first (debut) novel is a high impact sci-fi thriller.

*Nightshade Revenge* by Anthony Horowitz (Walker, 2023) Latest title in the popular Alex Rider series. See also *Skeleton Key* (Walker, 2002) which won the Children's Book Award in 2003.

*Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel* by Eoin Colfer (Puffin, 2019)

Graphic novel adaptation of the first book in the series about a 12-year-old criminal genius.