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Watership Down author Richard Adams dies, aged 96

London.—The author of *Watership Down*, Richard Adams, has died aged 96, his daughter said last night

The tear-jerking children's classic about a group of rabbits in search of a new home after the destruction of their warren was first published in 1972.

The tale, first told by Adams on a long car

journey with his daughters, turned into a best-seller.

Adams, from Newbury in Berkshire, also wrote *Shardik*, *The Plague Dogs* and *The Girl in a Swing*.

Watership Down, which won the Carnegie Medal for children's fiction in the year of publication, was first adapted for screen in 1978.

Spain's property market goes through the roof



- Home prices at pre-crisis levels in some areas.
- Construction supporting economic growth.
- Fears it could slow if interest rates rise.
- Boom fuels mergers at property firms: Page Three



STAR WARS ACTOR CARRIE FISHER DIES AT 60

London.—Carrie Fisher, who rose to fame as Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* films and later endured drug addiction and stormy romances with show business heavyweights, died last night, *People* magazine reported, citing the family's publicist.

"It is with a very deep sadness that Billie Lourd confirms that her beloved mother Carrie Fisher passed

away at 8:55 this morning," the statement from family spokesman Simon Halls read. Fisher was 60 years old. The daughter of a Hollywood power couple movie star Debbie Reynolds and entertainer Eddie Fisher, she achieved her own fame portraying Princess Leia in the cinematic space saga launched in 1977. Fisher appeared as Leia in the origi-

nal trilogy from 1977 to 1983 and reprised the role last year in Disney's reboot of the *Star Wars* franchise, *The Force Awakens*, when the character carried the title of General Leia Organa in the rebel alliance. Fisher's career has been dogged at times by substance abuse and mental health issues, about which she has spoken openly.