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Children's Rights Guide
Bologna 2025

Contents

TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT

MIDDLE GRADE - SERIES

MIDDLE GRADE - STAND ALONE

JUNIOR SERIES

GRAPHIC NOVEL

PICTURE BOOKS

AWARD WINNING BACKLIST

RECENTLY PUBLISHED



Australian Government



This project has been assisted by the
Australian Government through Creative
Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

CBCA 2025 Notables

Book of the year: Older readers

A Way Home (Emily Brewin; MidnightSun Publishing)

My Brother Finch (Kate Gordon; Riveted Press)

Return to Sender (Lauren Draper; Hachette)

Book of the year: Younger readers

Ella and the Amazing Frog Orchestra (Casey Polimeni; illus by Hykie Breeze; UWAP)

Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail (Rebekah Sharpe Shelberg; illus by Sofya Karmazina; Walker Books Australia)

Six Summers of Tash and Leopold (Danielle Binks; Hachette Australia)

Small Acts (Kate Gordon and Kate Foster; Walker Books Australia)

Book of the year: Early childhood

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tooth Fairy (Briony Stewart; Hachette)

Night Watch (Jodi Toering; illus by Tannya Herricks; Walker Books Australia)

Willows Gumboots (Beverley McWilliams; illus by Hélène Magisson; MidnightSun Publishing)

The Wobbly Bike (Darren McCallum; illus by Craig Smith; Walker Books Australia)

Picture book of the year

Tilly in a Tangle (Margrete Lamond; illus by Monty Lee; Westwords)

Book of the Year: The Eva Pownell Award

Seed to Sky (Pamela Freeman; illus by Liz Anelli; Walker Books Australia)

Shortlists announced on Tuesday 25 March 2025

Winners and Honours: Friday 15 August 2025

Shadowers' Choice Awards: Friday 15 August 2025



Rights Sold

Stuck Up and Stupid by Angourie Rice and Kate Rice

North America: Candlewick

United Kingdom: Walker Books

Italy: Piemme

Poland: Dressler Dublin

Portugal: Porto Editora

Brazil: Vergara Y Riba (VR Editore)



The 113th Assistant Librarian by Stuart Wilson

France: Larousse (two-book deal)

The Netherlands: Moon (two-book deal)

Turkey: Timaş (two-book deal)

Russia: Mann, Ivanov and Ferber Publishers

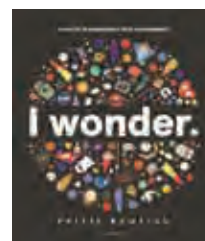
Japan: Tokyo Sogensha



Something Terrible: Becky Brush-Your-Hair by Sally

Barton and Christopher Nielsen

Italy: Battello a vapore



I Wonder by Philip Bunting

Germany: Mixtvision

Portugal: Penguin Random House Portugal

(BookSmile)

Brazil: Vergara Y Riba (VR Editore)

Italy: Panini



Gymnastica Fantastica! by Briony Stewart

North America: Penguin Random House (Viking)

Israel: Matar Publishing



One Day by Shirley Marr and Michael Speechley

China (China CITIC), North America (Candlewick)



Dropbear by Philip Bunting

North America (Charlesbridge)



How to Avoid being Eaten by Sharks by John Larkin and

Chrissie Krebs

Poland: Wydawnictwo Kobiect

Get Your Story Straight by Briar Rolfe

North America: Levine Querido



Teen and Young Adult

We Saw What You Started CARLA SALMON



Is it ever ok to make the wrong decision for the right reasons?

Fifteen-year-old Otto Teixeira thought he knew wildfires – he's Californian, after all. But days after moving to his aunt's Australian beach town, a blaze rips through the foreshore, dismissed as an accident.

Otto soon befriends Jasper Baker, son of the local surf club president and king of the social scene. But Jasper was in the dunes just before the fire started, and Otto looked the other way. When a second blaze destroys a local business, Otto keeps quiet – because he was there too.

Wrongly blamed for the crime, Otto confides in Jasper's twin sister, Milly. Together, they vow to protect Jasper and clear Otto's name. But as their lies stack up, one question ignites: what if the real arsonist is closer than they think?

Told from dual perspectives, *We Saw What You Started* is a pulse-pounding mystery about loyalty, family, and the secrets we protect.

CARLA SALMON is an author, teacher, and former communications professional. Before teaching, Carla worked in public relations and marketing, where she managed campaigns for international brands. Now, Carla blends her expertise in communication and education to share her love of storytelling through her debut YA mystery, *We Saw What You Started*.

Why this book?

- Fans of *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen McManus, *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, and *Outer Banks* will be drawn to the book's blend of suspense, drama, and beach-town vibes
- Combines a small town setting with the intensity of a crime thriller, making it ideal for fans of contemporary mysteries and character-driven stories
- Otto, a teenager caught in a moral dilemma, and Milly, the determined sister of a suspect, both struggle with loyalty, friendship, and the desire to protect those they care about.

The Stolen Child

KATRINA ROE

In a tale woven with magic, love, and sacrifice, *The Stolen Child* explores the boundaries between human and faery, the power of promises, and the courage it takes to find one's true self.

Katie has always known she was different. Stolen by faeries as a baby and reclaimed by her determined mother, she has grown up with the haunting legend of *The Stolen Child*.

But when a tragic accident scars her beloved sister, Katie's world is turned upside down.

Desperate to find a cure, she embarks on a perilous journey into the heart of faery folklore.

As Katie uncovers the truth about her heritage, she must navigate a world where every gift comes with a price and every promise must be kept. With the fate of her family and the faery folk hanging in the balance, Katie must decide who she truly is and where she belongs.

KATRINA ROE is a broadcaster, podcaster and audio book narrator and the author of award-winning picture books. *The Stolen Child* is her first title for young adults.

cover art
to come

Why this book?

- The author builds a world that feels both magical and grounded
- The intricate descriptions of settings, customs, and magical elements create a fully realised which seamlessly weaves in elements of Scottish folklore and mythology
- The dynamic between Katie and Lady Kate is beautifully real, capturing the ups and downs of sisterhood
- The faery queen and other faery characters aren't bad guys that you empathise with – they have depth and real motivations
- A beautifully crafted world where faeries, ancient legends, and magical creatures come alive
- There's a rhythm and cadence to the prose that keeps you turning the pages

This Castle a Dungeon

MARGOT MCGOVERN

A haunting tale of friendship, courage, and moving on – even from the ghosts that refuse to let go.

For Lyssa, school is a place of pressure and loneliness. For George, whose family name is etched into the school's history, it's now just a backdrop for endless hours spent gaming. The two roommates couldn't be more different – except for one connection: Jude Sinclair.

Jude was George's best friend and Lyssa's perfect fairytale romance. But when Jude dies, both girls are shattered. George is furious over unresolved truths, while Lyssa is lost in grief.

Lyssa's sorrow takes a dark turn when she becomes convinced that Jude isn't really gone. When eerie events grip the campus, even their classmates start whispering about his return.

Determined to uncover the truth, George follows Lyssa one night and discovers the impossible: Jude is back, and he has no intention of letting go. As Lyssa spirals deeper into danger, George must confront her own past and find the courage to break Jude's grip.

MARGOT MCGOVERN is a YA and horror author based in Adelaide, South Australia. Margot's debut YA novel, *Neverland*, was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. *This Castle a Dungeon* is her third novel.

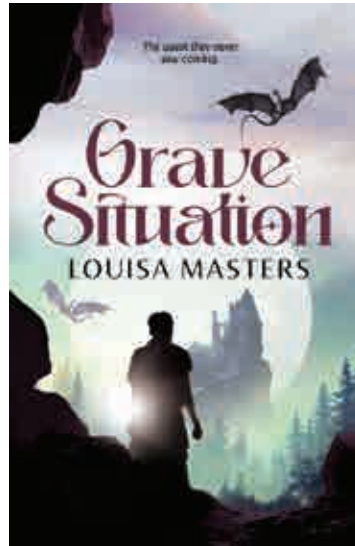


Why this book?

- Seamlessly blends psychological suspense, supernatural elements, and contemporary coming-of-age drama, appealing to fans of *The Dead and the Dark* by Courtney Gould and *The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert.
- Lyssa and George are vividly developed characters grappling with grief, identity, and belonging. Their unlikely friendship forms the emotional core of the story
- With its eerie school setting, stormy climax, and spectral hauntings, this book has strong visual appeal, making it ideal for TV, film, or graphic novel adaptations.

Grave Situation

LOUISA MASTERS



Talon Silverbright never imagined he'd be chosen to save the world from a zombie apocalypse.

When a mysterious stone selects Talon Silverbright for a mission of utmost importance, he must leave behind his life as a mage instructor and embark on a perilous journey.

He's joined by his twin sister, a dragon rider; an attractive healer who once saved his life; a sentient, god-like rock; a disdainful dragon; and a matchmaking horse. Together, they navigate a journey filled with magic, humour, and unexpected challenges.

As the fate of the world hangs in the balance, Talon and his companions must navigate treacherous terrain and uncover ancient secrets. Will Talon rise to the challenge and save humanity?

Why this book?

- A high-stakes journey filled with magic, danger, and heart-stopping romance as he fights to save the world from a zombie apocalypse
- Slow-burn, emotionally charged relationship between Talon and Jaimin will have you swooning as they navigate love, duty, and the perils of war
- Talon evolves from a reluctant hero into a powerful force, overcoming adversity and finding his true purpose
- Sharp, witty dialogue and humour

LOUISA MASTERS started reading romance much earlier than her mother thought she should. Louisa has a long list of places first discovered in books that she wants to visit, and every so often she overcomes her loathing of jet lag and takes a trip that charges her imagination.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • PUBLISHER: Indie

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

When Dark Waters Burn

ZENA SHAPTER



When Dark Roots Hunt (Book 1)

Don't go out onto the lake.

Sala's village survives hidden behind a wall of poisonous ivy because everyone knows that you don't go out onto the lake.

But when a strange comet crosses the night sky, Sala is thrown into a race through tree-infested swampland to unearth long-hidden truths. Sala must do whatever it takes to face the truth of who she is: to save her village, to save her family, and to save herself. If only they had listened.

When Dark Waters Burn (Book 2)

Stay out of sight. Stay hidden under the lake.

Unrest surges in the swamps, getting closer and closer. Sala will only be safe for as long as their ship's location remains a secret.

But when a horrifying threat ignites close to home, it unleashes a wreckage of terror and destruction on the world of Palude.

If Sala is to have any kind of future, she must fight to accept the collapse of her past. Hiding from it was never an option.

ZENA SHAPTER is 'a specialist in the weird, wacky, wonderful' (Writing NSW), writing 'dark fantasy at its blood-soaked finest' (Australasian Horror Writers' Association) and 'beautifully crafted and well told stories that deserve to be read many times' (Glen Miles Short Story Prize).

Why this book?

- *When Dark Roots Hunt* was shortlisted for the Ditmar Award for Best Novel 2024
- 'Shapter has created an immersive, fantastical world with tension poised to snap at any moment. I couldn't put it down.' USA Today bestselling author Dionne Lister, author of *The Circle of Talia*
- 'When Dark Roots Hunt is a great read – fresh, action-packed and utterly compelling. I loved it.' Ian Irvine, author of *The Gates of Good and Evil* series
- Intense plot filled with twists and turns, dark, moody atmosphere and, of course, romance
- Mixes dark fantasy elements with a thrilling, edge-of-your-seat pace

PUB DATE: May 2023 / May 2025 • PUBLISHER: MidnightSun Publishing

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

How to be Normal

ANGE CRAWFORD



Takes the tropes of YA and adds another layer – the need to escape a home environment governed by coercive control

Astrid is about to start her last year of high school. But it's also her first. She's been homeschooled for the past few years; her protective mother doing everything she can to keep the peace; to keep life to the tightly controlled routine and standards set by Astrid's father.

But Astrid's father has lost his job; her mother needs to go to work, Astrid needs to go school. Her father needs to find new ways to keep both his wife and daughter under his supervision.

At school Astrid adapts to an enlarged world and the dynamics of friendship and finds new strengths and new parts of herself – coming of age and coming out – finding her place, and finding out who she really is.

Why this book?

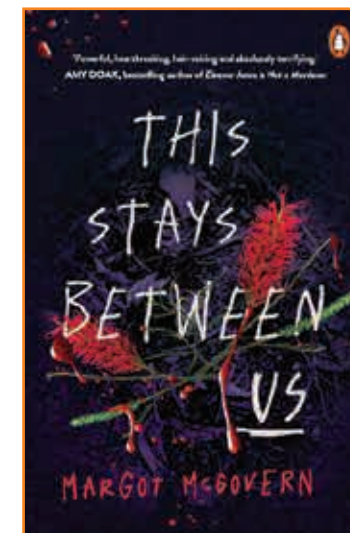
- Ange Crawford knows her audience, she is her audience. She's a queer, neurodivergent author who knows that survival requires community, friendship, and celebration no matter how old you are.
- Strong and contained cast of characters, from Astrid and her parents to her brother who fled years ago, to neighbours who look away, and to new friends and experiences.
- Explores coercive control, challenging family dynamics and queer identity with insight, humour and pathos.
- Winner of the inaugural Walker Books Manuscript Prize
- Themes include coercive control, coming of age, and finding yourself
- Author authentically deals with timely issues with insight and sympathy

ANGE CRAWFORD is a queer writer and editor with a Bachelor of Social Science and a Master of Arts in Writing. She has published digital poetry, reviews, fiction and feature articles, and contributed volunteer editorial work for *Asymptote* and the *Lifted Brow*. This is her debut novel.

PUB DATE: February 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

This Stays Between Us

MARGOT MCGOVERN



Edgy and subversive, this dark YA novel combines late 90's slasher vibes with the elevated themes of prestige horror

Shelley dreads the upcoming school camp. Always the outsider, being the new girl amplifies her unease. But when séances and ghostly tales unfold at the camp, her buried past resurfaces, haunting her.

Mack anticipates awkward days ahead. After an unexpected kiss with her best friend, Raffi, the two girls aren't speaking.

Priya, on the other hand, eagerly awaits camp's first night when she plans to take the next step with her boyfriend.

Yet, when Raffi orchestrates a séance, invoking the spirit of Smiling Jack, events take a chilling twist.

Mysterious noises, shadowy figures, and flowers left on pillowcases unravel the girls' reality.

Is a ghost truly haunting them, or is something more sinister at play?

MARGOT MCGOVERN is a YA and horror author based in Adelaide, South Australia. Margot's debut YA novel, *Neverland*, was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. *This Stays Between Us* is her second novel.

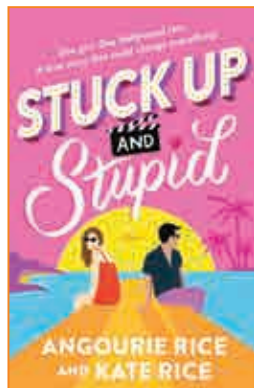
Why this book?

- Supernatural and horror are right on trend, particularly for the teen and YA audience
- Shelley's past, in particular, adds a touch of Carrie and explores the supernatural as means for high school revenge
- Combining elements of mystery, horror, and drama, this is a gripping narrative that keeps readers on the edge of their seats.
- The séance and ghostly occurrences provide a thrilling and suspenseful atmosphere
- Each character has a unique and relatable storyline. Shelley's struggle with being an outsider, Mack's complicated feelings after the kiss, and Priya's decision to sleep with her boyfriend add relatability

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

Stuck Up and Stupid

ANGOURIE RICE &
KATE RICE



Rights sold in
six territories to
date and book
to screen rights
under option

An ordinary girl. A Hollywood star. A love story that could change everything. *Pride and Prejudice* gets a modern twist from two debut authors who know their material – and deliver it with heart and hilarity.

Lily has the whole summer stretched out before her—endless days of sunshine and friends at beautiful Pippi Beach. Then superstar Dorian Khan arrives, with his party of Hollywood types.

While most of the locals, including Lily's glamor-obsessed mum, are thrilled to be so close to the A-listers, Lily can't help but see them as superficial and arrogant, especially Dorian, the most famous of them all.

But as Lily's and Dorian's paths continue to cross, she begins to wonder if she's got him all wrong.

Why this book?

- Playwright Kate Rice and her daughter, Hollywood actor Angourie Rice, team up to write a teen romance novel from those who know firsthand what the international film industry is really like.
- Inspired by the ever-popular Austen fandom, *Stuck Up and Stupid* is for a generation of teens who are definitely NOT looking for love.
- Massive buzz around the North American publication with a cover reveal in *People Magazine*. Simultaneous publication in North America and the UK.
- A fresh, contemporary reimagining of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.
- Filled with sharp, witty humour and heartfelt moments.

ANGOURIE RICE is an actor with international feature film and television credits, including *The Last Thing He Told Me*, *Mean Girls* and *Mare of Easttown*. KATE RICE is an AWGIE award-winning playwright.

PUB DATE: November 2023 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS OPTIONED:** Book to Screen (Hello Sunshine)

RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Candlewick), United Kingdom (Walker Books), Italy (Piemme), Poland (Dressler Dublin), Portugal (Porto Editora), Brazil (Vergara Y Riba)

Middle Grade - Series

First of a three-book series

The Feathers of Farwood (Book 1)

JAYNE MCINTRYE



Welcome to Farwood, a town where legends come to life, secrets whisper through the trees, and magic is just around the corner.

When her father is turned into an owl by the mysterious Gripps curse, Eva Feather and her family move to the enigmatic town of Farwood in search of a cure.

But Farwood is no ordinary town – it's a place where ancient books hold powerful secrets, and the line between human and animal blurs.

Determined to save her father, Eva teams up with loyal friend Harvey and unlikely ally Jessica. Together, they uncover the existence of the Book of Names, a magical tome hidden deep within the Town Hall's secret archives.

But retrieving the book is no easy task. The trio must navigate a maze of hidden passages, outsmart a cunning lizard-man named Lyall Lacey, and face their deepest fears.

As Eva delves deeper into the mysteries of Farwood, she learns that the Gripps is not just a curse but a gift that can be controlled.

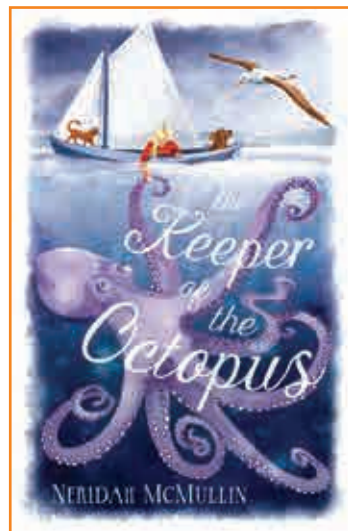
Why this book?

- Enchanting landscapes and so many intriguing secrets
- Eva and Harvey's friendship is the best. They have each other's backs no matter what
- Lyall Lacey is the kind of bad guy you love to hate. He's sneaky, he's mean, and you can't wait to see him get what he deserves
- Packed with thrilling adventures, hidden passages, and mysterious clues
- Features a variety of fascinating creatures and characters, from talking animals to cunning lizard-men (!)
- From the brave Eva to the mysterious Hunters, every character in this book is memorable and unique and you'll want to read Book 2 immediately.

JAYNE MCINTRYE is a children's author and marketing professional. Jayne has worked as a print and web editor, copywriter, and Marketing Manager.

The Keeper of the Octopus

NERIDAH McMULLIN



Engaging, heartfelt and imaginative – magical realism from the award-winning author of *Evie and Rhino*

Since her father sailed away, Uncle Isaac is the only family Pippy has left. Together they spend their days fishing off the coast, until one day Pippy is knocked into the sea and rescued by a gentle, giant creature.

Uncle Isaac knows it's time to tell Pippy the truth. Pippy is the descendent of a long line of Keepers – the Keeper of the Octopus, responsible for the giant octopus who protects the fisherfolk of the village.

At first, Pippy is hesitant to meet Octavia, but soon the octopus is sharing her dreams with Pippy and they recognise each other as kindred spirits. But when the Calamary Brothers come to Portablow, she learns of their search for a particular giant octopus. It's up to Pippy – and her rag-tag crew of a cat, a dog, a hobgoblin called Ferg and an albatross – to rescue Octavia from the Calamary's clutches.

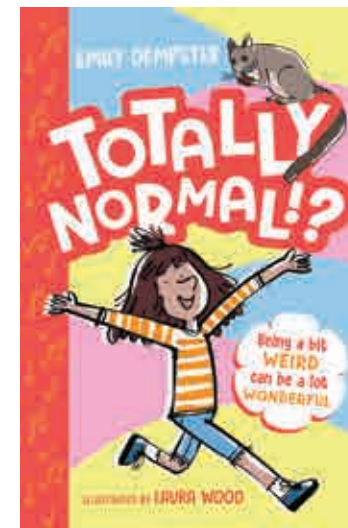
NERIDAH McMULLIN loves history and true stories. An author of eight books for children, Neridah is also an award winning short story writer and poet.

Why this book?

- Explores the disconnect between child and parent, and the impact of grief on relationships
- Wonderful animal characters, including a seafaring cat, a navigating albatross and a giant octopus!
- The story is woven through with an environmental thread, showing the dangers of over-fishing and hunting, and how that can upset the delicate balance of the sea

Totally Normal

EMILY DEMPSTER & LAURA WOOD



Being a bit weird can be a lot wonderful! Hilarious fiction about family, friends and a fool proof plan. For fans of Dork Diaries, Tom Gates and Wimpy Kid.

Children are like pancakes – the first one is always a bit weird.

Well, the first pancake in my family, is me.

Ellie finds it hard to focus on boring stuff like **homework** and **chores**. She would much rather hang out with her BFFFL Arya or play improv games in drama class. Mum and Dad want Ellie to be more like her eight-year-old brother Stewart, or as Ellie likes to call him, **Mr Perfect**.

But Ellie has a **truly excellent, fool-proof** plan to get out of doing homework, chores and school for good: she's going to become a **famous pop star!**

Why this book?

- The diary format makes chapters short and approachable, complete with fun illustrations to keep reluctant readers engaged in Ellie's world.
- A fun and funny snapshot of life at ten years old in the modern world
- Ellie writes candidly about her fears and worries, and how her parents, teachers, friends and psychologist help her develop strategies to succeed.
- Ellie is quirky, funny and totally relatable and wild schemes and plans will keep you hooked
- Great sibling dynamics with Ellie's perfect brother Stewart and mischievous sister, Bea
- Bea's tantrums are legendary and oh-so-funny

EMILY DEMPSTER is a freelance writer who loves to write about family, parenting and kids. Her articles have been published online and in print.

The Disappearing Circus

KATE GORDON &
DR HELEN EDWARDS

A heartwarming tale of resilience and wonder, *The Disappearing Circus* invites readers to believe in the extraordinary.

Emme is searching for something to heal the loss of her best friend and missing mother. Ivy, guided by a mysterious voice, escapes her orphanage in hopes of a new beginning. Their paths collide at a magical circus hidden in a desolate landscape—a place of mythical creatures, ghosts, and long-lost wonders.

Under the watchful eye of the enigmatic Ringmistress Seraphina, Emme and Ivy must unlock their hidden talents to save the circus from fading forever. With the help of their new friends—Peppy the fire-eater, Grey the contortionist, and Cindertail the nuralagus—they embark on a journey to restore the circus to its former glory.

But the circus holds secrets of its own, and the girls must confront their deepest fears and sorrows to unlock the magic within.

In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. In 2021 she won CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for *Aster's Good*, *Right Things* and in 2023, *Xavier in the Meantime* was shortlisted in the same category. Dr HELEN EDWARDS writes diverse stories of nature, magic and history.

cover art
to come

Why this book?

- A beautifully written, emotionally resonant story that combines fantasy and adventure
- Set in a hidden circus brimming with mythical creatures, ghosts, and extinct animals, the fantastical elements transport readers into a realm of wonder and imagination – what's not to love?!
- As you'd expect from these two authors, lyrical descriptions, vivid imagery, and engaging dialogue bring the circus and its characters to life
- From quirky performers to magical creatures and, of course, our beloved Emme and Ivy you'll want to want to revisit these pages time and again

PUB DATE: August 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Haunting of Hindmarsh Hall: Book 1

KATE GORDON



The Three Investigators meets *Scooby-Doo* for a fresh generation of aspiring detectives, featuring neurodiverse characters who bring a different perspective to sleuthing

Rocko Jarvis, the least cool kid in Table Cape Bay, faces a challenge: how to turn his luck around. With best friend Cosmo, they've tried every club – movies, Chinese checkers, even a pink polo shirt club.

But when Mingus Reid, the town's second coolest kid, unexpectedly joins their Scrabble club, everything changes. Mingus, Rocko, and Cosmo share a love for the Trio of Sleuths books. They ditch Scrabble for a new mission: become real detectives.

Enter PD Watkins, a renowned author seeking solace at Hindmarsh Hall – the 'haunted house on the hill'. But strange occurrences disrupt his writing retreat.

The boys, fuelled by admiration for their favourite author, vow to uncover the truth and *The Secret Detectives Club* is born.

Soon, they'll face more mysteries than they ever imagined.

In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. Kate's books include *Writing Clementine*, *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling* and *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn*. In 2021 she won CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for *Aster's Good*, *Right Things* and in 2023, *Xavier in the Meantime* was shortlisted in the same category.

Why this book?

- Rocko, Cosmo and Mingus are characters that many kids can relate to. Their quest to find their place and turn their luck around is a universal theme
- There's a light hearted humour here, and the friendship between the boys provides the heart of the story
- Author is known for her brilliant characters and dialogue
- First in a series

PUB DATE: March 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Bat Brikson and the Quest for Drakkonbarq

SARAH GIDDY



Discover a Tiny World of Big Adventures!

Meet Batoldrian Brikson, or Bat for short – a twelve-and-a-half-year-old Cattenveldt who's anything but ordinary.

In a world where grass blades are towering skyscrapers and raindrops can crush your home, Bat's curiosity knows no bounds. He's always wondered what lies above the grass, and one stormy day, he decides to find out.

But Bat's adventure is more than just a quest for answers. He must navigate the dangers of giant insects, confront the fearsome Bittenklores, and uncover secrets about his past that will change his life forever. With the help of new friends like the fierce Elfrida and the kind-hearted Silvana, Bat learns what it truly means to belong and be brave.

A lifelong storyteller and artist, SARAH GIDDY brings imagination to life through words and illustrations. With a Bachelor of Visual Art and Design (Dean's Award recipient), her work spans exhibitions, commissions, and accolades including the Young Archie and Mosman Youth Art Prize, as well as a first-place win in the CYA Illustration Competition.

Why this book?

- Bat's journey is packed with thrilling climbs, daring flights, and mysterious quests. Who wouldn't want to explore a world where grass blades are towers and raindrops are like boulders?
- The Groundlands and the world above the grass are so creatively imagined that you'll feel like you're stepping into a whole new universe. Every leaf, rock, and creature is part of an epic landscape waiting to be explored
- Y'Liondand Scholary is possibly the coolest school ever, with grass towers, amber windows, and epic classes like Biocurosophy. School has never been this fun!

Aster's Next, Good Thing

KATE GORDON



The fifth book in the acclaimed award-winning 'Aster' series of interconnected (but can be read as stand alone) titles.

Things have changed in Aster's life, and she's really not okay. Her dad is the one person who has always been there for her, but now Aster feels like she's being pushed out – like the space that used to be hers is getting smaller and smaller.

The good, right things – she did them because she was scared of not being seen, of being left, but they don't work anymore. Instead of waiting for someone else to do the leaving – like her mum did – Aster decides she'll be the one to make that change.

Overwhelmed, she makes a decision that could have awful ramifications for two families, not just hers.

Facing up to what she's done is hard – but doing the right thing is very different to doing the easy thing.

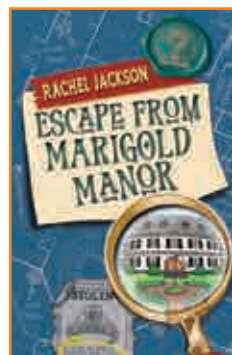
In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. In 2021 she won CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for *Aster's Good, Right Things* and in 2023, *Xavier in the Meantime* was shortlisted in the same category.

Why this book?

- The Aster series wraps readers in a story that feels like coming home—a place where they can always be themselves
- Gently incorporates themes and discussion points such as mental health, sibling rivalry, parental expectations and perfectionism
- The five books are set in the same world but can all be read as stand alones
- Aster's friendships are filled with ups and downs, just like real life, teaching readers how to care for the people who matter most
- Even when things are hard, these books gently remind readers that better days are always possible.

Solve it Your Way series

RACHEL JACKSON



Books 3
and 4 to
follow in
late 2025

Escape From Cuttlefish Cove

This isn't your ordinary book – in *Escape from Cuttlefish Cove*, YOU are the hero, and YOU control the story.

Make the wrong choice, and your adventure could end at the point of a pirate's cutlass or by walking the plank into shark-infested waters! Or maybe you'll become the Pirate Captain, rich beyond your wildest dreams.

With 64 possible endings, the adventure never ends. Are you ready to escape? Think carefully before you go any further!

Escape from Marigold Manor

You are the greatest detective in the land, and Marigold Manor has just become your biggest case. Trapped inside with a group of strangers, you must solve the mystery to escape.

With each decision, you'll uncover secrets – from a stolen tiara to a missing captain, and even a murder. Will you follow a fleeing maid, or question the mysterious Miss Marigold? Each twist leads you through hidden passages and cryptic clues, but beware the cats – they have their own agenda.

There are 32 possible endings, with puzzles and brainteasers to crack as you gather clues and solve cases.

RACHEL JACKSON is a senior intelligence analyst – just like in her books – she looks for clues, solves puzzles and explores options to help the good guys win the day.

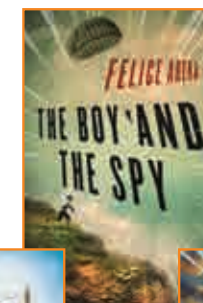
Why this book?

- Puts readers in control, allowing them to choose their own path and make decisions that shape the story, making each reading experience unique.
- A threat of pirates, shark-infested waters, and hidden treasures,
- An epic, interactive pirate adventure
- 'Debut author Rachel Jackson knocks it out of the park with *Escape from Cuttlefish Cove*' *Books+Publishing*
- 'Recommended particularly as a book to offer reluctant readers and also for the enjoyment of all readers.' *ReadPlus*

Epic Histories Series

FELICE ARENA

New to
Rights
List



The Boy and The Spy

Life has never been easy for Antonio, but since the war began there are German soldiers on every corner, fearsome gangsters and the fascist police everywhere, and no one ever has enough to eat. But when Antonio decides to trust a man who has literally fallen from the sky, he leaps into an adventure that will change his life and maybe even the future of Sicily.

Fearless Frederic

When the river rises and the city of Paris begins to disappear under water, Frederic decides to help those who can't help themselves. But as his heroic acts escalate, so does the danger. Frederic will have to battle an escaped zoo animal and fight off pickpockets and looters but, as the waters subside, can he find justice for his father and find out what courage really means?

A Great Escape

When Peter's family leaves for a trip across the border, he stays behind. So when the government builds a wall through the city, guarded by soldiers, tanks and ferocious dogs, he's trapped. Everyone says he might never see his family again. But Peter has a courageous plan.

FELICE ARENA is one of Australia's best-loved children's writers. He is the author and creator of many popular and award-winning children's books for all ages.

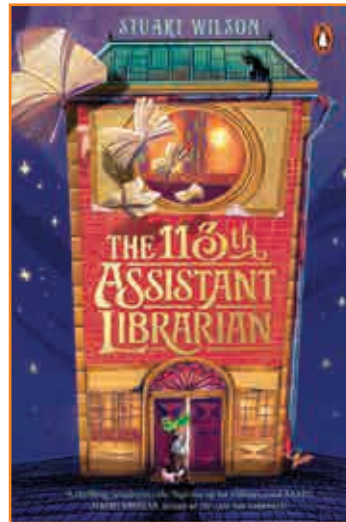
Why this book?

- Each of these books is an exciting, page-turning, standalone story – the story of a child's life in a different period in European history.
- First published by Penguin Random House Australia and recently published in North America.
- Brilliant repackaging by the North American publisher to promote the books as a series in 2023.
- Ideal for reluctant readers
- Inspires interest in children in their own further historical research

The 113th Assistant Librarian

STUART WILSON

Lost in
a Book
coming in
October
2025!



If you liked *The Grandest Bookshop in the World* or *The Book of Wondrous Possibilities*, you'll love this fantasy adventure story where books have power, cats are more than they seem, and the library is the most dangerous place in the city . . .

Oliver Wormwood wants to be like his older sisters and apprenticed to one of the heroic Trades.

Instead, Hieronymus Finch-Thackeray picks him as the new Assistant Librarian. But, on his very first day, Hieronymus dies of a heart attack before explaining how the library works.

The library is enormous and borrowers come thick and fast: the mages need their spell books, the historians are desperate for their versions of the truth, while the scientists argue about classification systems. His only companions are nine library cats – that hinder as often as they help.

Then Oliver discovers that the tools in his Librarian's bandolier have magical properties, and that he needs to learn just how much power lies between the covers of books.

STUART WILSON is the author of the Prometheus High series.

Why this book?

- Oliver needs to learn fast . . . if he wants to live longer than the 112 assistant librarians before him.
- 'This one's for you, book lovers. A thrilling, wondrous read about the power of books and those who keep them. Sign me up for a library card ASAP!' Jeremy Lachlan (*The Jane Doe Chronicles*)
- An adventure story with deeper coming-of-age themes that all kids will relate to – how to live up to the high expectations you set for yourself
- Backed by a MAJOR publicity and marketing campaign by Penguin Random House Australia

Down the Plot Hole

ANNALEISE BYRD



A fun-filled fractured fairytale adventure series in a very surprising Grimm world.

'There's a word missing.' Terry pointed to the book. 'The maid plucked the ... ready for the spit.' He flipped back a page. 'It said she was sitting beside a black hen, right?'

It was true. The words 'black hen' were gone. All that remained was a larger-than-usual space.

A gap. An emptiness. A hole.

A hole ... in the plot.

Basil Beedon and Terry Clegg are once again reading from *The Complete Fairytales of the Brothers Grimm*, but this time, words – well, chickens – are disappearing!

Realising their friends are in grave danger of being sucked into oblivion by the plot holes, they go back into the fairytale world to warn them.

But what they discover there is not what they expected. It's up to Basil and Terry to find out what's going on, and how to stop all the plot holes from destroying everything ... including their way home.

ANNALEISE BYRD writes picture books, poetry, short stories and middle grade fiction. Her favourite stories nearly always involve kids having grand adventures with no grown-ups in sight!

Why this book?

- Funny, clever, with two likeable main characters and a savvy plot. This series straddles the reluctant reader/literary reader market - so perfect for all readers 9+
- A middle-grade take on Jasper Fforde's Thursday Next series
- The concept of being transported into a fairy tale through a plot hole is imaginative and oh so much fun
- Subtly promotes the value of reading and teamwork. Terry's growing appreciation for books and Basil's newfound respect for princesses can inspire young viewers to embrace reading and challenge stereotypes
- Two books to date in series

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: France (Editions Larousse), The Netherlands (Moon); Turkey (Timaş) all in two book deals and Japan (Tokyo Sogensha) and Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)

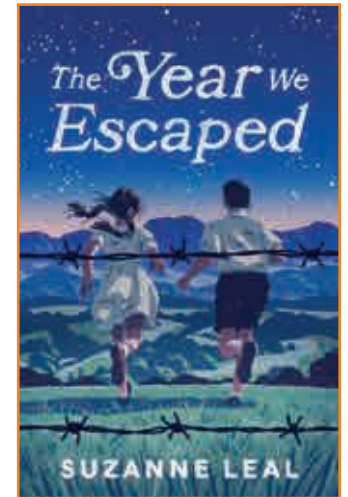
PUB DATE: March 2024 / April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Middle Grade - Stand Alone

The Year We Escaped

SUZANNE LEAL



Europe, 1940

With war on their doorstep, German classmates Klara and Rachel, and French brothers Lucien and Paul, are forced to leave their homes. They are taken to Gurs, a French detention camp in the south-west of France.

It's a crowded place, with little comfort and even less food.

When Klara and Rachel are promised safe refuge in a remote French village, Lucien and Paul are anxious to join them — and will risk their own lives to get there.

Filled with adventure, danger and intrigue, this is the story of four unlikely friends desperate to escape from a war that keeps coming closer.

Author note: Gurs Internment Camp – little known and little explored

When I started writing *The Year We Escaped*, my plan was to write about a cluster of French villages where many, many Jewish children were given refuge during the Second World War.

Instead, I found myself heading towards the still relatively unknown French internment camp of Gurs. Little has been written in English about this camp and the daily lives of the internees.

Fluent in French and German, my research into life in Gurs relied heavily on source documents, primarily testimonies and memoirs, most of which were in French.

Why this book?

- None other than Tom Keneally praised *Running with Ivan*: '... the very best tradition of the time slip, of one era seeping into another, one culture and dangerous set of events invading another
- Author's personal connection to France and her extensive research into the historical context add credibility and depth
- Ultimately a story of hope and resilience
- Leal's previous book, *Running with Ivan*, was a CBC (Australia) Notable book, and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Awards (Young People's History Prize)

SUZANNE LEAL is the author of novels *Running With Ivan*, *The Teacher's Secret*, *Border Street* and *The Deceptions*, winner of the Nib People's Choice Prize.

PUB DATE: June 2025 • PUBLISHER: HarperCollins Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • PRIMARY RIGHTS HOLDER: Margaret Connolly & Associates

Anna's War

DJ TAYLOR



Will Anna's unwavering spirit be enough to survive the war?

In occupied Netherlands, fourteen-year-old Anna Jansen's life is turned upside down as her father hides to avoid forced labour. With food scarce and danger lurking everywhere, Anna becomes a key member of the Dutch resistance, delivering secret messages and helping downed Allied airmen.

When she meets Karl, a young officer, Anna is torn between distrust and the hope he may be an ally. As her family faces accusations of collaboration, Anna's courage is tested.

Their escape to her grandmother's farm leads them to dig a bunker to survive bombings, while Anna finds strength in her family's love and the hope of a better future.

Anna's War is a gripping story of bravery, resilience, and family, inspired by true events.

Why this book?

- The manuscript was a finalist at the 2021 CYA All Stars Writers and Illustrators Conference and was short-listed in the Young Adult category for Just Write for the Kids' Pitch It! Competition 2021
- Amid the darkness of war, *Anna's War* ultimately carries a message of hope, showing that perseverance and love can guide us through even the hardest times.
- *Anna's War* offers a gripping look at the everyday struggles of children and families living in occupied Netherlands

DJ TAYLOR is a retired a primary school teacher and later and teacher-librarian and now watercolour artist and author. *Anna's War* is her debut novel.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

On Gallant Wings

HELEN EDWARDS



Set against the backdrop of war, this is a powerful story of friendship, loyalty, and courage.

Thirteen-year-old Ava lives in Darwin with her family and their homing pigeons, including her favourite, Essie. Her best friend Kazuo, the son of Japanese neighbours, shares her love of adventure.

But after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, life changes dramatically. Ava's father is overseas, her brother Fred joins the militia, and Kazuo's family is forcibly taken to a holding camp.

When Darwin is bombed in 1942, Ava and her mother are evacuated to Lake Boga, where the truth about the destruction is kept secret. Desperate to contribute, Ava's mother joins the WAAAF, while Ava faces a moral dilemma when Kazuo escapes the camp and finds her.

Should she protect her friend or follow the rules?

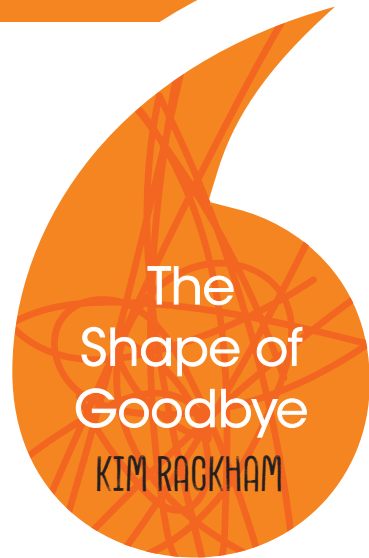
Why this book?

- Incorporates little known aspects of Australian wartime history, including the evacuation of Darwin, the secret Catalina Flying Boat Base at Lake Boga, internment camps and the brave Australian pigeons of the Corps of Signals Pigeon Service.
- The strong friendship between Ava and Kazuo offers an inspiring story of loyalty and trust despite prejudice and war
- Letters to/from Ava and her father, and Ava and her brother, illustrate the impact of censorship

Dr HELEN EDWARDS writes diverse stories of nature, magic and history. She likes to include characters in her stories who are neurodivergent and/or who live with physical and mental health conditions, out in the world, having adventures. Her debut novel, *The Rebels of Mount Buffalo*, was published by Riveted Press in 2023.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



A heartfelt verse novel about friendship, change, and finding new beginnings – even when you don't feel ready.

Hannah's world is just right.

She walks to school with her best friend, Izzi. She spends afternoons with Nana and Pop. She has the best teacher ever, Mr. Spicer, who reads *The BFG* aloud and wears odd socks.

But when Mr. Spicer announces he's leaving, Hannah feels everything shifting. At least she still has Izzi – until she doesn't. Izzi is moving away too, and suddenly, Hannah's world feels like it's tumbling down.

Holding tight to the worry stone Nana gave her, Hannah wishes things could stay the same. But wishes don't stop change. And when a moment of anger threatens to ruin everything, Hannah must find the courage to make things right – before it's too late.

KIM RACKHAM is the author of the picture book *My Arms Your Legs*.

cover art
to come

Why this book?

- The individual verses come together like puzzle pieces, offering a sense of discovery as readers piece together Hannah's journey
- Hannah's struggles with worry, frustration, and learning to let go mirror real-life emotions kids face
- The uplifting ending reassures young readers that change isn't just about loss – it can bring new possibilities and friendships.



Two feuding families, two daughters stuck in the middle, not quite knowing why they are meant to hate each other, until one finds a house submerged in the lake and start unravelling old mysteries

Living in the shadow of her family's legacy and the weight of financial troubles, Nell is determined to find a way to secure her future at St Helen's School. But when she discovers a hidden box in the depths of Lake Ullswater, she unearths more than just family heirlooms – she uncovers a century-old feud between the Souths and the Wilsons.

As Nell and her new friend Charlie navigate the murky waters of their families' past, they must decide whether to continue the cycle of rivalry or forge a new path of friendship.

With the clock ticking and the stakes higher than ever, can they find the true treasure that lies within their shared history?

GISELA ERVIN-WARD is a children's author and specialist literacy teacher passionate about helping neurodivergent children learn to read. Raised on a farm in Western Victoria, she spent years as an aid worker in South-East Asia before returning to Australia. *True South* is her debut novel.



Why this book?

- 'This story is a treasure submerged in character, mystery and heart.' Nean McKenzie, author of *Cryptosight*, *Xenoflight* and *Timefire*
- 'A page-turning adventure, filled with mystery and heart - I adored *True South*!' Anna Battese, author of the *PD McPem Mysteries*
- '*True South* capsizes the notion of a sleepy rural life when friendships (and long-standing grudges) are put to the test in the race to resurface drowned secrets. As much adventure of the heart as high-stakes competition between feuding families.' Michael Earp, bookseller and editor of *Kindred*, *Everything Under the Moon* and *Avast!*

Jungle Escape

NATHAN LUFF



From acclaimed author Nathan Luff – a new middle grade adventure full of action, danger, creepy crawlies and lots of laughs!

Dear Evolution

If the bird you have made is too big to fly, it is TOO BIG – FULL STOP!

Yours, Branson Hawthorne Esquire.

Branson is being sent to an exclusive retreat in a rainforest that promises poolside luxury, cuisine interior decoration classes.

But, when they arrive learn they've been duped! The building is in ruins, the bathroom's covered in slime, and the pool is empty.

The owners have lured the kids to Jungle Escape as free labour to restore the resort.

They need to find a way out of this hell hole and the Rainforest.

Will they be able to escape this jungle, or will they end up as cassowary – or crocodile – lunch?

NATHAN LUFF is the author of *The Nerd Herd* series and the middle grade novels *Chicken Stu* and *Bad Grammar*. Nathan writes plays for young audiences and works part time as a primary school teacher specialising in creative writing and the performing arts.

Why this book?

- From well-known author, Nathan Luff, comes a hilarious, action-filled adventure story where not everything is as it seems.
- The combination of humour, engaging illustrations, and relatable characters and complete silliness will especially appeal to reluctant readers
- Nathan's characters are underdogs who face and overcome challenges
- Themes of friendship, teamwork, and resilience
- *The Nerd Herd* series (Scholastic Australia) has been published in Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic and China

The Extraordinary Misadventures of Lake and Birdy (and their remarkable fortitude)

DAMIEN LEITH



A darkly comic debut novel for fans of *Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Matilda* and *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*.

This is a story so strange; it might almost be unbelievable ...

Sisters Lake and Birdy are latest arrivals at the Charitable Home for Poor Unfortunates Touched by Tragic Circumstances.

And if you think that sounds bad, that's just the beginning. Luck is not on the sisters side, it seems. Or is it? Depending on the way you look at it, together these sisters are capable of surviving everything and anything.

But it is going to take all of Lake and Birdy's courage to face their biggest misfortune of all: the dreadful, the awful, the terrible ... Miss MacGregor.

A darkly comic, fantastic and fantastical tale, with only a few embellishments, the very odd exaggeration, and much to enjoy.

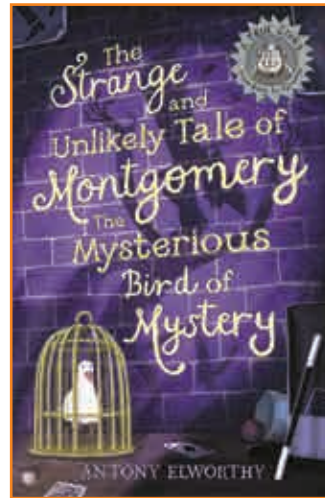
DAMIEN LEITH is a multi-talented singer/songwriter. Born in Ireland, he moved to Australia and became an Australian citizen. In 2006 Damien won *Australian Idol*. He is the author of two novels for adults, *One More Time* and *Remember June*. *The Extraordinary Misadventures of Lake and Birdy (and their remarkable fortitude)* is his first novel for young readers.

Why this book?

- Two sisters, one dreadful home, endless misfortunes!
- A page turning misadventure, full of twists, turns and surprises
- Told by a friendly, informative and occasionally, unreliable, narrator
- Dark humour and whimsical storytelling
- Lake and Birdy are resilient and resourceful and all-round gorgeous characters!
- Damien Leith is not only a celebrated singer-songwriter but also an accomplished author

The Strange and Unlikely Tale of Montgomery, the Mysterious Bird of Mystery

ANTONY ELWORTHY



From the animator of *The Corpse Bride*, *Coraline* and *Isle of Dogs*, comes a hilarious, illustrated tale of magic, mystery and revenge.

Gramps likes to entertain his grandson with tall tales of his youth.

He was known as The Astounding Alfredo. Alfredo's signature trick, for which he is renowned throughout the land, is a spectacular dove-out-of-the-hat routine. Everybody loves this trick, except the dove, whose name is Montgomery, The Mysterious Bird of Mystery.

Eventually Montgomery manages to snatch Alfredo's wand and reverse the trick so that Alfredo is transformed into a dove and sucked through the ether into Montgomery's backstage birdcage ... and stuck there forever!

Or until he can outsmart a very smart, very dastardly dove.

ANTONY ELWORTHY is an illustrator, animator and children's book author who has worked on critically acclaimed television and Oscar-winning feature film productions around the world. His most recent film credit was Lead Stop Motion Animator on *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*. He was also Lead Animator for Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* and Tim Burton's *Frankenweenie* as well as Animator on *Coraline* and *Corpse Bride*. He is currently Director of Animation on *Sauvages*, a new film by Claude Barras.

Why this book?

- The relationship between Gramps and his grandson, is so, so wonderful
- Reminiscent of *The Princess Bride* with layers of charm and nostalgia
- Antony Elworthy has worked as Animator and Lead Animator on high-profile films directed by Tim Burton and Wes Anderson
- As you'd expect with Antony Elworthy's background in animation and illustration, readers will find this descriptive and imaginative

The Lastling

VICTOR KELLEHER



An extraordinary adventure set in a disturbing future, *The Lastling* is a thought-provoking exploration of what it really means to be human.

Guido, a mild-mannered Android, works as a guide in the Wilderness Park – a last remaining tract of unspoiled country.

Verne, a human girl, works as a thief in the city.

Their fates are soon to be entangled.

On the day that Guido's destiny changes forever, he is guiding a family through the wilds when he receives shocking news: Enforcers have been dispatched to eliminate him and all the other Droid guides. Desperate to survive, he does the forbidden thing – he disobeys a direct order – an action that will have dire consequences.

Years later, Verne, who knows nothing of Guido, is hired to break into the home of an old Enforcer and retrieve a mysterious weapon.

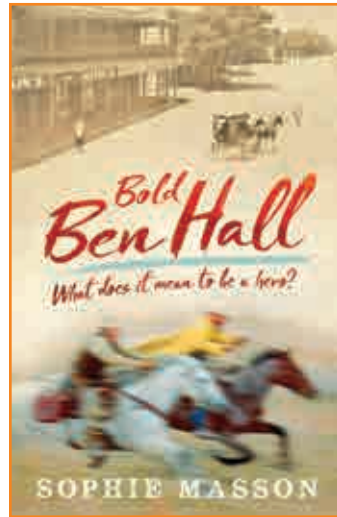
Why this book?

- Verne and Guido's journey reveals dangerous truths about the world they thought they knew
- Kelleher is known for his imaginative settings. His previous two titles were set in the prehistoric eras, now he returns to the future
- Wonderfully relatable characters, including the robot, Guido
- Subtly weaves in philosophical questions and critical thinking

Author of more titles that can be counted, award-winning VICTOR KELLEHER continues to be one of Australia's most celebrated authors.

Bold Ben Hall

SOPHIE MASSON



A compelling historical fiction adventure, set during the Australian gold rush. When bushrangers were feared, and legendary. Sophie Masson asks what makes a hero, or a villain?

Lily and her parents are travelling performers are delayed in Canowindra, just as famous bushranger Ben Hall and his gang – who has pulled off the biggest gold robbery ever – arrive.

The gang hold everyone in town hostage. But instead of threats, hold a strange, giant three-day party, and Lily is in enthralled. She writes a secret play *Bold Ben Hall* and dreams of sending it to a famous theatre company in Sydney or Melbourne.

Meanwhile, in Forbes, stable boy Sam works for Sir Frederick Pottinger, Hall's nemesis. When Lily and Sam meet, the two are soon at loggerheads about their heroes determined to prove the other wrong.

SOPHIE MASSON is author of more than 100 books novels for young people adults. Her work is published worldwide. *My Australian Story: The Hunt for Ned Kelly* (2011) won NSW Premier's Literary Awards: Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature. Her bestselling adult title, *The Paris Cooking School*, was written under the name Sophie Beaumont.

Why this book?

- A new middle grade historical fiction series called 'Our History' by Sophie Masson, one of Australia's most prolific and awarded writers of historical fiction for young readers
- A gripping story of Ben Hall - one of Australia's most famous, notorious and legendary bushrangers - who in 1862 pulled off the biggest, boldest gold robbery ever.
- Asks important questions: what is a hero, what is a villain, and how do we decide which is which; and how do we separate fact from fiction?

Junior Series

Lexie Moon and the Word Burgling Bungle

MELISSA GARSIDE & LAUREN MULLINDER

First in
a new
series



A fast-paced junior fiction adventure with a strong, 10-year-old female lead, full of quirky inventions.

Lexie Moon's latest invention, The Vocabuliser, helps people say tricky words like 'spaghetti' and 'Worcestershire' – and it works perfectly on her little sister.

But when the infamous thief Gizmo Lightfinger steals it, Lexie and Grandad are determined to get it back.

Using her Nose-Knows sniffer tracker, they follow Gizmo's trail, discovering that his stolen gadgets are causing chaos. But when Gizmo boosts The Vocabuliser's power, it turns into The Word Grabber 9000, stealing people's words instead!

Lexie must stop Gizmo before it's too late – but with her invention malfunctioning, can she fix it in time, or will the glitch cause even bigger problems?

MELISSA GARSIDE combines her passion for language with a deep understanding of what children love to read, honed through years of teaching. She lives south of Sydney with her family, their golden retriever, and free-range chickens. LAUREN MULLINDER is an illustrator, graphic designer, artist and educator. Lauren has illustrated a number of children's books and loves visiting schools and running illustration workshops.

Why this book?

- 'If this book doesn't encourage young readers to invent something themselves, it will at least inspire them to read.' BOOKS+PUBLISHING
- Through her inventing, Lexie learns that not everything turns out the way you want it to.
- Lovely grandfather/granddaughter relationship
- Accessible example of ethics in science, with Lexie taking responsibility for resolving any unintended consequences caused by her inventions
- Themes of creativity, inventiveness, responsibility, perseverance, problem-solving and resilience

PUB DATE: February 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Cockatoo Crew

LORA INAK AND KRUTI DESAI

cover art
to come

The Cockatoo Crew is a new junior fiction series set at a fictional English language school featuring a group of fun and adventurous refugee and migrant schoolchildren.

With superhero energy, a group of 8 kids from different backgrounds are learning a new language and new cultures in a fun school setting.

The four-book deal will see the first two titles *Elif's Itchy Hand* and *Sambu Won't Grow* published in mid-2025 with books three and four to follow in 2026.

LORA INAK immigrated to Australia from Türkiye in the 1980s and is the author of children's and young adult fiction as well as non-fiction and memoir. KRUTI DESAI is an illustrator and graphic designer, based in the UK. After globe-trotting adventures that had her hopping between countries like a character in own illustrated tale, she developed a unique perspective shaped by her experiences in different cultures.

Why this book?

- A celebration of cultural diversity, migration experiences, and the challenges of learning a new language
- Featuring superhero-like vibes and energy
- Promotes empathy in young readers.



PUB DATE: TBC 2025 • PUBLISHER: UWA Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • PRIMARY RIGHTS HOLDER: Jacinta di Mase Management

The Something Terrible series

SALLY BARTON &
CHRISTOPHER
NIELSEN



Tim Tie-Your-Shoelaces!

Tim Mulligan lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is his name, because most people think his name is Tim Tie-your-shoelaces.

But no matter how many people tell him, or how often, Tim never ties his shoelaces. One morning, just as Tim was leaving for school, his mum called, 'Tim! Tie your shoelaces. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Becky Brush-Your-Hair!

Becky Culpepper lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is her name, because most people think her name is Becky Brush-your-hair.

But no matter how many people tell her, or how often, Becky never brushes her hair. One morning, just as Becky was leaving for school, her mum called, 'Becky! Brush your hair. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Wanda Wear-Your-Glasses!

Wanda Hushberry lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is her name, because most people think her name is Wanda Wear-your-glasses.

But no matter how many people tell her, or how often, Wanda never wears her glasses. One morning, just as Wanda is leaving for school, her mum called, 'Wanda! Wear your glasses. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

SALLY BARTON previously worked for the police but was happiest at her job in a public library while she finished her degree in Legal Studies. CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN is an Australian author/illustrator specialising in bringing joy and wonder to children through his art and storytelling.

Why this book?

- Roald Dahl meets *Round the Twist* meets *The Treehouse* in this hilarious series about the misadventures, mayhem, mistakes and mess of the terrible somethings that happen in Rufus Street.
- The series' premise of kids ignoring their parents' advice and facing hilarious consequences is both funny and relatable.
- Each character has a unique quirk that leads to their misadventures.
- While primarily entertaining, the series subtly teaches lessons about listening to advice and the consequences of ignoring it.
- Easy-reading stories full of illustrations and emphasis words that will keep any reluctant or avid reader engaged.

Ella and the Frogs series

CASSY POLIMENI &
HYKIE BREEZE



Four
Book
series

Ella and the Amazing Frog Orchestra (Book 1)

Eight-year-old Ella hates her new house. She wants to be back in her old house with her best friend Viv next door ... until one day Ella discovers a secret pond in her neighbours' backyard with an orchestra of frogs!

At her new school Ella meets Mai and learns about their class frog bog project. But when Ella finds out that the neighbours' secret pond is under threat Ella and Mai must come up with a plan to save the frogs – before it's too late!

Ella and the Sleepover Safari (Book 2)

Ella's worlds collide when her old friend Viv and new friend Mai finally meet at Ella's birthday party – a sleepover at the zoo!

Ella can't wait to explore and learn about the animals, but it's hard to have a good time when your two best friends aren't getting along. The search for an escaped animal threatens to drive them all even further apart, or can they learn to work together?

CASSY POLIMENI is a Melbourne-based children's author with a passion for the environment. Cassy was awarded an Australian Society of Authors/Copyright Australia mentorship to develop her junior fiction series.

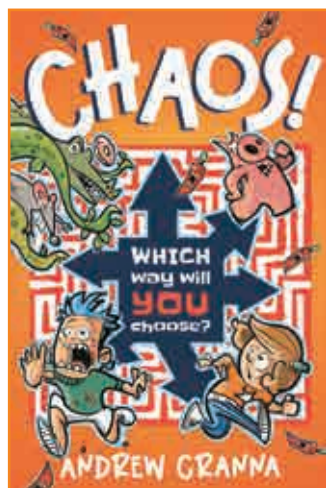
HYKIE BREEZE is a Hong Kong born graphic designer and illustrator living in Sydney.

Why this book?

- 'A delightful new JF title for young readers who love their stories with a sprinkling of facts. Perfect for nature lovers and budding young scientists and eco-warriors.' Megan Daley
- Themes of moving to a new place, making new friends, and finding a sense of belonging
- Highlights the importance of environmental conservation and the impact of development on natural habitats
- Ella and Mai are strong, proactive characters who take initiative to solve problems.
- The secret pond, the orchestra of frogs, and the various frog expeditions is brought to life by Cassy's gorgeous writing and Hykie's illustrations

Chaos

ANDREW CRANNA



A chaotically hilarious illustrated middle-grade novel, with multiple reader-choice paths of ridiculous adventure

Chaos Theory: the scientific theory that a single occurrence, no matter how small, can change the course of the universe forever.

Bodhi, Jemima and Kevin the pig are often making decisions without thinking about the consequences. Will you help them make the right choices? The fate of their world, and ours, depends on it!

Dive into this outrageously funny multi-path adventure story where our three heroes stumble upon Grandpa's famous Amazonian Chili Collection. But this is not any ordinary chili collection and the two kids, and their pig are about to find out just how powerful they are.

Why this book?

- A wonderfully hilarious adventure story, where the reader can choose the outcome. Whatever the choice, laughs are guaranteed
- This comical, fully illustrated, interactive adventure will hold the attention of reluctant readers and enthusiastic readers alike – keeping them entertained, engaged and laughing to the end
- Andy Griffiths meets Dav Pilkey in this middle-grade graphic novel
- Perfect for readers of *Dog Man*, *Bad Guys*, *Just Disgusting* and the *You Choose* series.

ANDREW CRANNA studied Primary Education, travelled the world teaching, later gaining a master's degree in art education, he currently teaches at Sydney Grammar Prep. His books include *The Bloodbound Boys: The Great Blood Bank Robbery* (2013) and *The Bloodbound Boys: The Monster Truck Tremor Dilemma* (2014).

PUB DATE: June 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Paw Prints series

DANNY KATZ & MITCH VANE
MICK ELLIOTT



Making tracks with reading! A series for emerging readers, written and illustrated by some of the funniest creators.

Dog People, Ugh! Danny Katz & Mitch Vane

Dog people, ugh. They want to pat dogs play with dogs, cuddle dogs, talk to their dogs, jog with their dogs, kiss their dogs.

How they're happy to carry around dog poop in little plastic bags like they've just gone shopping at a poop-supermarket.

Yuck. I don't get it.

A tail, umm, tale, of someone who doesn't get dogs, or get people who get dogs. Until they do.

Mr Duckins' Chickens Mick Elliott

Meet Mr Duckins. Not only is he the funniest, silliest strangest, year 4 teacher in the universe (with a tattoo to prove it), he's also the most EPIC.

That's because Mr Duckins isn't like other teachers.

He doesn't believe in tests. Or homework.

Or opening doors before he runs through them.

But when he hatches a plan to break the WORLD RECORD for eating THE MOST EGGS IN A DAY, Mr Duckins and his loyal class of misfits embark on a chicken-filled adventure that could turn rotten.

Why this book?

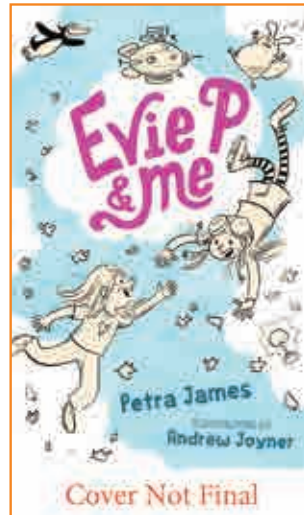
- Paw Prints is Walker's new series to encourage new readers with fun stories, from their favourite creators
- A cracking 3000-word comedy-adventure for emerging readers, featuring laugh-out-loud cartoon illustrations in the style of *Squidge Dibley*, *WeirDo*, *Tom Gates* and *The 13 Storey Treehouse*.
- Designed to face both trade and educational markets, with recognisable and consistent 'paw print' branding.

PUB DATE: March 2025 and June 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Evie P and Me

PETRA JAMES &
ANDREW JOYNER



An unforgettable character at the heart of a story filled with imagination and adventure.

Evie P, the air-explorer has arrived for her first day at school, her unusual life spent in an air balloon has left her bereft of “ordinary” experiences, like classrooms, and friends, but she is full of quirk, adventure, and above all, inspiration.

This story celebrates imagination, language, the joy of finding a sparkly new friend, and the art of play. With timeless illustrations by Andrew Joyner.

Why this book?

- A story celebrating the power of imagination, perfect for young readers
- Delightfully illustrated by internationally acclaimed illustrator of Dr Seuss' Horse Museum, Andrew Joyner.
- Celebrates language and the importance of play an aspirational story of friendship and connection
- Evie P is an unforgettable character with a unique background. Her quirks and adventurous spirit will captivate readers of all ages

PETRA JAMES has written several fiction titles for children such as *The Most Ungrateful Girl in the World* and the seven books in the Arkie Sparkle series. ANDREW JOYNER is an award-winning illustrator from South Australia. Since his first picture book in 2009, *The Terrible Plop*, written by Ursula Dubosarsky, his books have been published in over 25 countries.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Junkyard Fairies series

EDWINA WYATT &
LAUREN O'HARA



Fur, Tip and Nug are junkyard fairies. They live in a chipped, China teapot at the bottom of the junkyard. They are messy, bossy and never eat their vegetables.

Junkyard Fairies 1: Dig Deep

With the help of a burping toad, a sleeping giant and a monstrous caterpillar, the junkyard fairies can find a way to fix just about anything. Join them as they navigate life at the bottom of the heap, making rusty magic and turning trash into treasure.

Junkyard Fairies 2: Set Sail

On a quest to find their new home, the fairies and their friends sail down the junkyard river on the back of a turtle called Old. Join them as they navigate life on the river, meet new friends and learn what makes a home.

Junkyard Fairies 3

Determined not to sleep through winter in their picnic basket home, the fairies fill their days with sled races, making junk soup and rescuing an abominable snowrat.

Join them as they navigate life in the chill of winter, wait for the thaw of spring, and learn about letting go.

EDWINA WYATT is an awardwinning Australian children's author. LAUREN O'HARA is an illustrator from the north of England, and among her many titles, she is the illustrator of *Madame Badobedab* by Sophie Dahl.

Why this book?

- A series full of magic and charm from Edwina Wyatt, author of the *Magnolia Moon* series, and Lauren O'Hara, co-creator of *Frindelswyld*
- Edwina and Lauren are experts in weaving charm and magic for junior fiction
- A magical, whimsical world of fairies, with an edge!
- Beautifully published as a hardback first edition

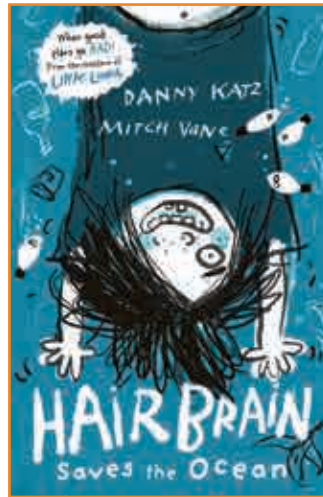
PUB DATE: October 2024 / May 2025 / October 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Book 2
coming
soon

Hairbrain Saves the Ocean

DANNY KATZ &
MITCH VANE



Junior fiction from the best-selling creators of Little Lunch. Hairbrain has lots of ideas. Unfortunately, Hairbrain's ideas are a bit ... hairbrained. Even the good ones.

This is a story about how I came up with a MASSIVELY brainy plan to CLEAN UP all the disgusting pollution on the beach to help save the whole WORLD!!!!!!

(And also save my whole school holidays)

(Which is not as important as saving the world, I know)

(But thought I'd mention it anyway)

(In case you guys are interested)

Why this book?

- Hilarious new illustrated junior fiction from the best-selling creators of *Little Lunch*
- Laugh out loud first title in a new series featuring Hairbrain and Hairbrain's little sister Zammi – who always saves the day
- Witty and relatable writing style incorporating subtle environmental messages, kindness, and social responsibility
- Highly illustrated, in Mitch Vane's signature style
- Much-loved series *Little Lunch* series has been adapted as the highly acclaimed 28 episode TV show currently available on Netflix

DANNY KATZ is the author of many books for kids and adults. After failed careers as a musician, comedian and car-washer, he turned to writing and became a columnist for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

MITCH VANE is a multi-disciplinary artist creating quirky, humorous characters with watercolour and her scratchy dip pen and her distinctive, energetic style.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Hazel's Treehouse

ZANNI LOUISE &
JUDY WATSON



Acclaimed author, Zanni Louise and illustrator Judy Watson have created 'an Australian Winnie-the-Pooh with a collection of warm and whimsical stories in a beautifully produced hardback edition.

Hazel is nine years old, as long as her bunk bed and as kind as a marshmallow.

She and her friends – Odette, a pademelon, Walter the wombat, Tiny, a honey possum and Poky – an echidna who changes colour depending on Hazel's mood – live together in a treehouse in the bush.

Every day brings new adventures, sometimes mistakes . . . and always, always, imagination and friendship.

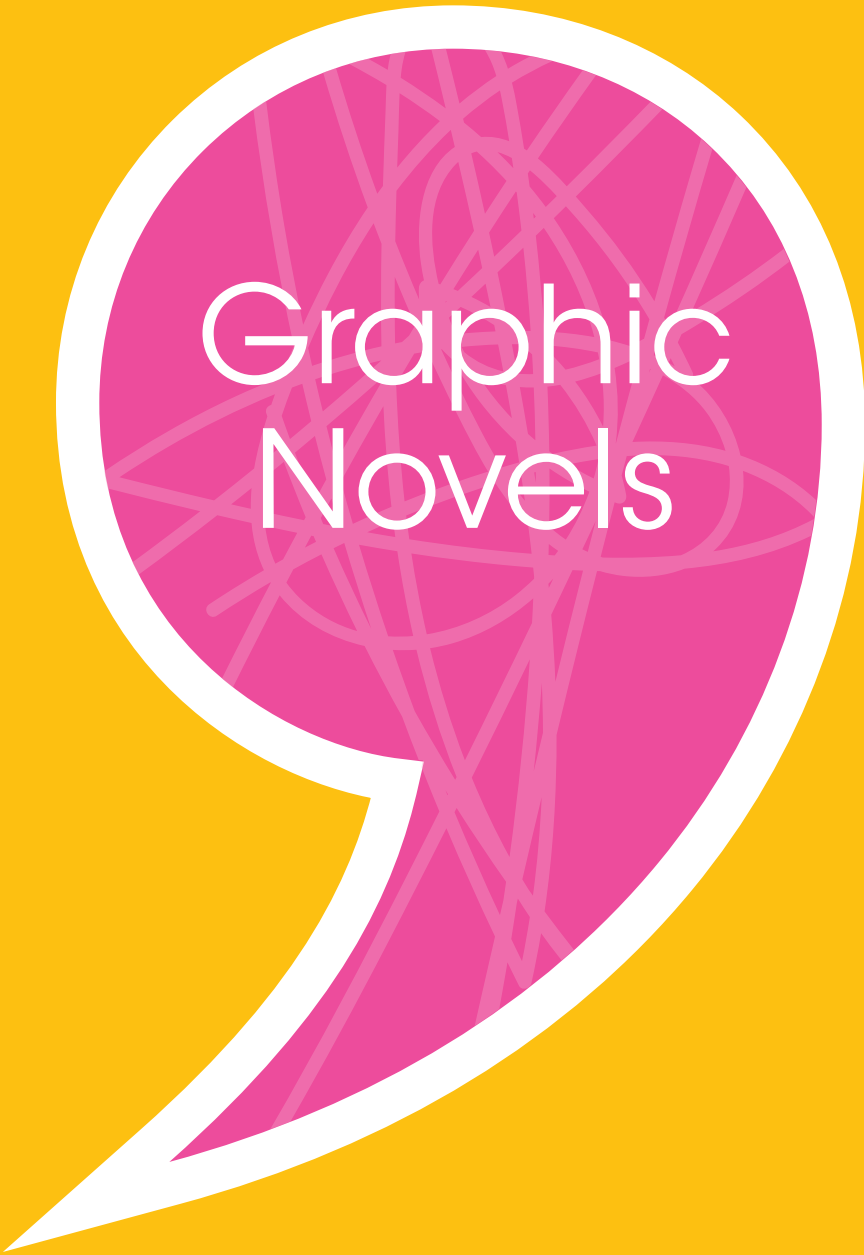
ZANNI LOUISE has written 30 books for children, including picture books and junior fiction. Her books have been described as quirky, warm and funny, and are sold in many foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: *The White Ravens*. Judy Watson's first picture book won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction. She has illustrated over 20 books for children.

Why this book?

- *Winnie-the-Pooh* meets *Snugglypot* and *Cuddlepig* in this collection of heartwarming and whimsical stories set in the Australian bush
- Delightful, whimsical celebration of childhood
- Acclaimed author, Zanni Louise has twice been recognised in the CBCA Notables lists.
- Perfect as a read-aloud book, stories can be read stand alone or all together
- Charming line illustrations, reminiscent of EH Shepard's classic drawings for *Winnie-the-Pooh*, from celebrated illustrator Judy Watson
- Luxury gift edition, in hard cover

PUB DATE: November 2024 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

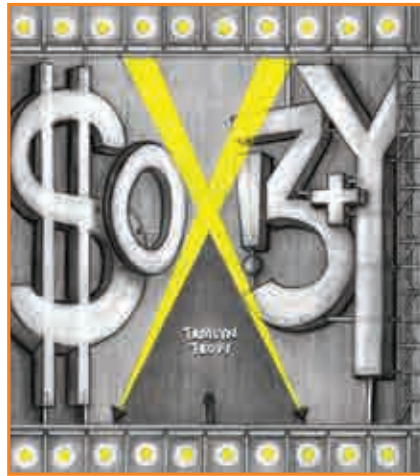
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Graphic Novels

SoXietY

TAM TEOW



Drawing inspirations from films such as *Her*, *Idiocracy* and *Blade Runner*, Tam Teow creates a mood and atmosphere oscillating between despair and fragile hope

In a melancholic present-day concrete jungle resides tech addicts of all different kinds, surrounded by never-ending skyscrapers and the incessant flashing of neon signs and lit up screens.

At night they return to lonely isolation, in soulless, utilitarian apartments, where all they have to turn to is more of the same. Spiralling further into depression and anxiety, consuming more but never being nourished, one man is so diminished that he shrinks, becoming less and less until he eventually falls through the grate on a roadside drain.

In that mysterious underworld – a dark land filled with strange plants and unusual creatures – a metamorphosis begins. And when the man eventually returns to the world above, a seed travels with him.

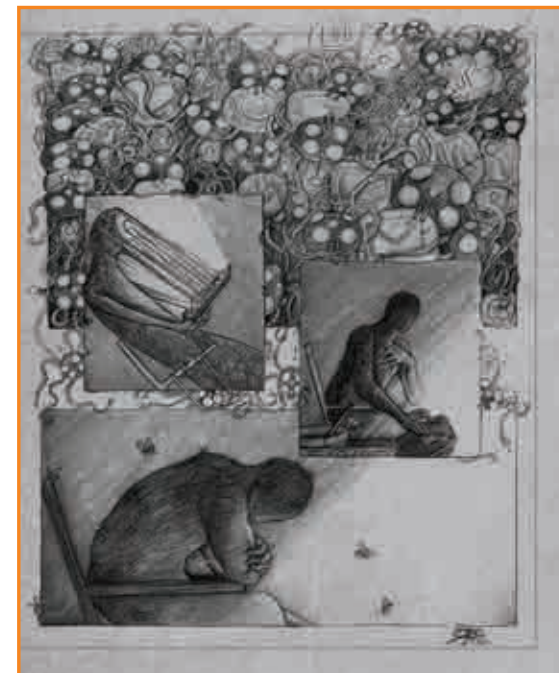
A seed of community.

A seed of hope.

TAM TEOW is an artist based in Australia with interests in narrative and emotionally themed work. Her aim is to create art that inspires the imagination. Tamlyn has worked in design, as a scenic and concept artist and props painter on various film/TV productions (the most recent being *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*) and art installations.

Why this book?

- An incredibly profound, multi-layered and subversive almost-wordless graphic novel
- Explores the destructive impact that dopamine addiction, fuelled by technology, has on our mental health
- Evocative art reminiscent of Shaun Tan and Armin Greder and while dark, it is ultimately hopeful and encouraging that a return to human connection really is possible
- This is the type of unusual work that stops people in their tracks
- SoXietY would make a thought-provoking and unique animated short about a topic that is very much in the headlines – the impact of social media and technology on our wellbeing and mental health



PUB DATE: March 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Get Your Story Straight

BRIAR ROLFE



In a twist on the fake wedding romance trope, the adventures of Henry, a young trans man out to everyone except his conservative Christian parents

When Henry realises his best shot at accessing top surgery is faking an engagement to his friend Cooper, he learns it isn't easy to plan a wedding – even a fake one. His mum wants to control everything, his dad is convinced that nonbinary Cooper is a closeted gay man, Henry might be developing feelings for his fake fiancé – and the Australian Government has just announced the 2017 Marriage Equality plebiscite.

Is the cost of staying closeted worth the pain of coming out? What does a fake wedding mean if you're not allowed to have a real one? And is a person really torn to pieces by a crocodile in North Queensland every three months?

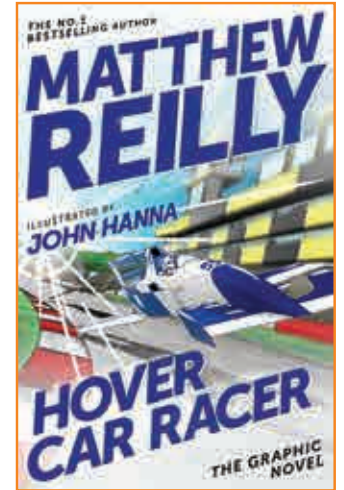
BRIAR ROLFE is a non-binary illustrator, comic artist and graphic designer who was shortlisted for a Ledger Award in 2017, and highly commended by the Kat Muscat Fellowship in 2020. Briar has spent the last five years of their practice involved in the Melbourne indie comics scene, where they have built a large body of work focusing on genre bending and format-pushing comedy stories.

Why this book?

- Truly unique – a transgender love letter to the romcom genre
- Heartbreaker meets *Heartbreak High!*
- Inspired by the classic fake romances from *As You Like It* to *She's The Man* and *The Proposal*
- Underlines the irony that false identities and fake relationships part of everyday life if you grow up in the closet
- Book rights sold to US publisher before its Australian debut

Hover Car Racer

MATTHEW REILLY & JOHN HANNA



Matthew Reilly's blockbuster novel *Hover Car Racer* explodes off the page as a thrilling new graphic novel, brilliantly illustrated by John Hanna.

Never give up. Never say die.

Meet Jason Chaser, hover car racer. He's won himself a place at the International Race School, where racers either make it on to the Pro Circuit – or they crash and burn.

But he's an outsider. He's younger than the other racers. His car, the Argonaut, is older.

And on top of that, someone doesn't want him to succeed at the School and will do anything to stop him.

Now Jason Chaser isn't just fighting for his place on the starting line, he's racing for his life.

MATTHEW REILLY's books are published in over 20 languages with worldwide sales of more than 8 million copies. *Interceptor*, directed by Matthew and co-written with Stuart Beattie, streamed on Netflix in 2022 and was number 1 around the world with over 100 million hours viewed. JOHN HANNA is the writer and artist behind *Midnight Runners Comics*.

Why this book?

- Matthew Reilly's page-turning, speeddefying, bestselling YA novel brilliantly realised as a graphic novel – the perfect format for this adrenaline-fuelled, action-packed story!
- Set in a world where hover car racing is the most popular and thrilling sport, Jason dreams of becoming a top racer.
- Think the intensely popular F1 with sci-fi elements aimed at teen boys (arguably the biggest viewers of F1!).
- Matthew Reilly is a *New York Times* bestselling author, published in 20 territories with sales of over 8,000,000 copies.
- The original edition of *Hover Car Racer* was published in North America, Korea, Italy, Sweden, Portugal, Germany, Bulgaria and Denmark

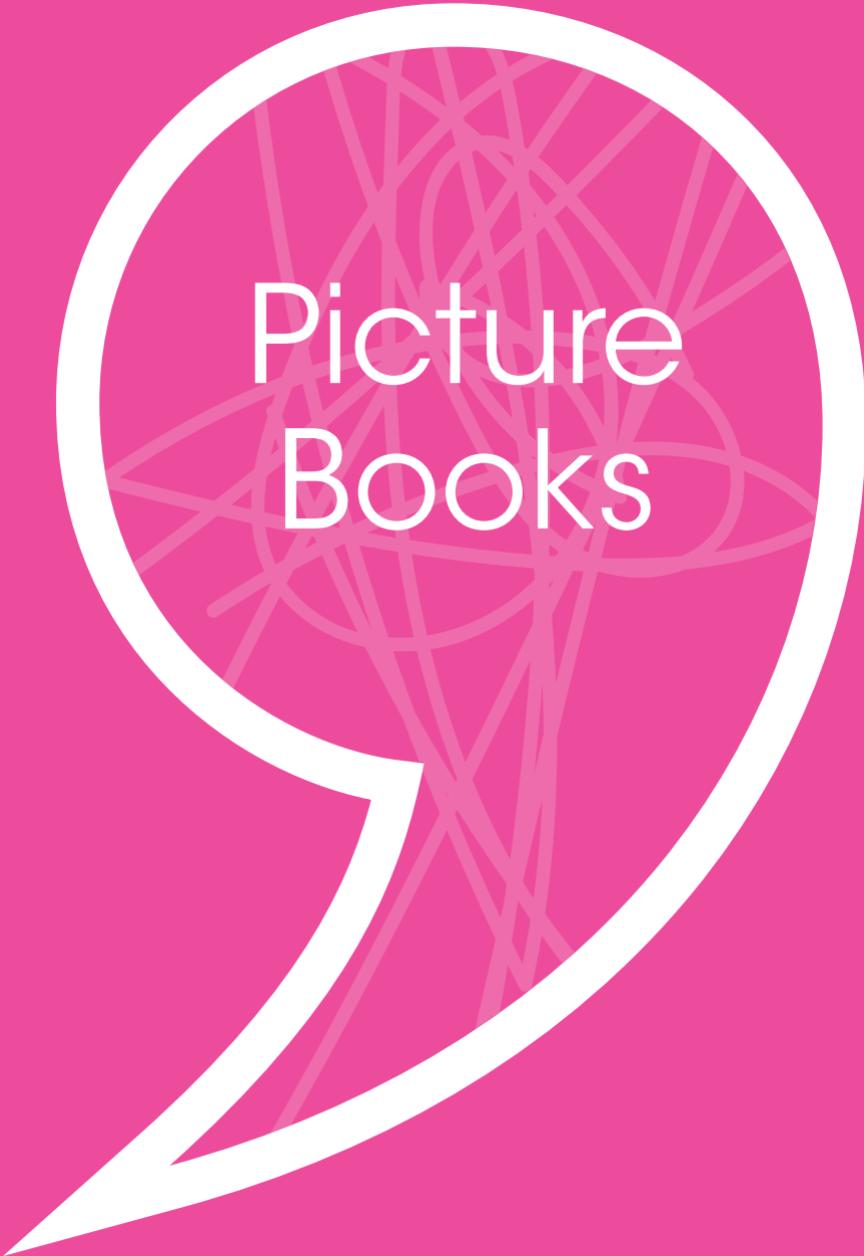
PUB DATE: September 2026 • PUBLISHER: Hachette Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: WEL (excl ANZ, Spanish and Dutch (Levine Querido))

PUB DATE: November 2024 • PUBLISHER: Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Picture
Books

The Grown-Up Guide to Picture Books

LARA GAIN GRAY & ILLUSTRATED
BY LORENA GARRINGTON &
TIMOTHY IDE

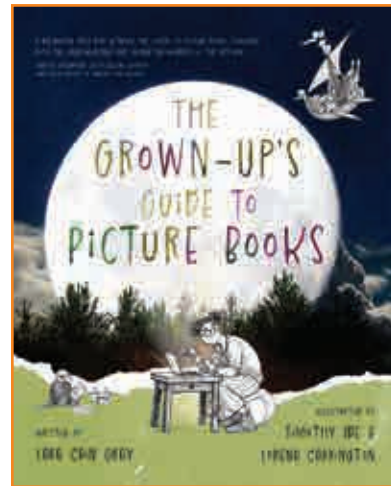
'I know of no other book that will so quickly improve a grown-up's ability to engage more deeply with that which is so human – the combination of words and pictures to tell stories.' – **Matt Shanks, award-winning Australian picture book author and illustrator**

A picture book is a book with pictures, but
it's so much more than that!

This A to Z guide helps you level up your picture book reading experiences, empowering yourself and the young readers in your world to dive deeper into what makes a great picture book great.

With histories, insights and handy talking points for shared reading, come and explore the complexities of modern picture books.

Dr LARA CAIN GRAY is a writer, librarian and storytelling advocate. Her professional past spans library and museum curatorship, academic research, and corporate and creative writing and editing. TIMOTHY IDE is an Adelaide based illustrator with a number of children's books under his belt, LORENA CARRINGTON is an illustrator whose books have been published in Australia and internationally.



Why this book?



Tiny Dancer

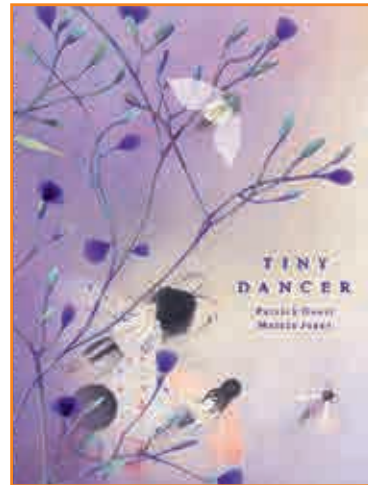
PATRICK GUEST &
MATEJA JAGER

Some living creatures live for decades or even centuries, but the mayfly lives for just a day

Tiny Dancer is about the beauty and wonder of such a day, and about a mayfly reimagined as a girl who hatches, plays, dances and leaves between the gleam of dawn and the setting of the sun.

Inspired by thoughts of both the brevity of life and its unfathomable splendour, this spare and simple text evokes our own sense of wonder, while the illustrations uplift and inspire even as they underscore the tenuousness of what it means to be alive.

PATRICK GUEST's great love was always storytelling. He is the author of dozens of books, many of them best sellers and published internationally, as well as several award-winners. MATEJA JAGER is a Slovenian-born Australian illustrator. She studied fashion and textile design at the University of Ljubljana and is self-taught in illustration.



Why this book?

- Mirralee the mayfly goes on a fun and emotional adventure. She plays, makes friends, and says goodbye
- Helps children appreciate all kinds of life and the beauty in every moment.
- shares important lessons about enjoying life, cherishing moments, and valuing friendships
- The artwork, created with pencil drawing, watercolour, collage, and digitally finished in Photoshop is stunning



The Frumpling

JOANNA VAN DER BORGH
& JO BEASLEY

A fresh and irresistible read-aloud tale of friendship from the creators of *The Terrakeet*

The Frumpling lived a lonely life and this book will tell you why:

he smelled, and looked, so squaffy that every beast just walked on by, their noses toward the sky.

Except for one – the Poppeltort.

An endearing and smelly tale of help from unlikely friends ... and the power of a good wash!

JO VAN DER BORGH grew up in London and spent most of her holidays on the Atlantic coast of Ireland. She has always had a passion for nonsense poetry and moral tales and will always find inspiration in the wild scenery of Ireland. Jo still lives in Greater London. JO BEASLEY grew up in England now lives in Auckland where she works as a freelance illustrator. She keeps a watercolour sketchbook on the go for capturing the simple beauty in her everyday life. Jo and Jo were friends in school, and *The Frumpling* is their second picture book together



Why this book?

- Meet the unforgettable Frumpling, Poppeltort, and Tompink Poots – characters children will adore and remember
- Packed with cool lessons about self-care, kindness, and being nice to others – perfect for sparking great chats with your kids
- all about feeling good about yourself and being kind, helping your kids learn empathy in a fun way.
- The story makes good hygiene habits fun and easy to talk about, so bath time might just get a little easier
- Themes of friendship, transformation, and acceptance never get old, making this book a keeper for years to come



Where the Heart Is

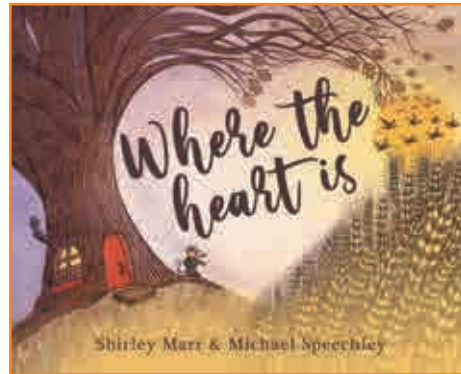
SHIRLEY MARR & MICHAEL SPEECHLEY

A heart-warming story of longing - and belonging - from award-winning creators of *One Day*

A mouse who has only ever lived in his little house in a field contemplates the great migrations that other creatures make – geese flying home for the summer, arctic terns from one pole to the other, wildebeest moving over two countries, humans searching for sun in the winter.

With a *Fear Of Missing Out*, mouse feels like he must embark on a journey of his own, only to find that his purpose and importance is right where he is.

SHIRLEY MARR is the author of the award winning *A Glasshouse of Stars*, which won the CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers 2022. She is the author of two picture books with Walker Books, *One Day* and the forthcoming *Where the Heart Is*, both illustrated by Michael Speechley. MICHAEL SPEECHLEY has been a graphic designer and high school art teacher. His first picture book, *The All New Must Have Orange 430* was shortlisted and awarded as an Honour Book in the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Children's Book of the Year Award in 2019.



Why this book?

- Who doesn't love a cute mouse story? Especially this intrepid, traveller Mouse on his heartwarming journey through changing seasons
- Shirley Marr's touching narrative will tug at your heartstrings and leave you feeling all warm and fuzzy
- From flying geese to colourful butterflies, this book is a delightful celebration of nature
- The soothing story and gentle rhythm make it an ideal bedtime book for little ones
- Teaches children about change, friendship, and the beauty of nature in a fun and engaging way
- The book's cozy, fireside scenes are perfect for snuggling up with your favourite blanket



PUB DATE: June 2026 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Candlewick)

The Giant

SOPHIE MASSON
& LORENA
CARRINGTON

A heartwarming tale of rediscovery, friendship, and the magic of play.

In a cave on a hill, a giant wakes from a long slumber, only to find that the world has forgotten him.

As he ventures down to the town, his presence causes fear and confusion.

But with the help of two brave children, the giant is reminded of the joy of friendship and play. The giant's tears turn into rivers and create a celebration that brings the whole town together.

SOPHIE MASSON is the award-winning author of over 90 books for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. In 2019, Sophie received an AM (Member, General Division) award in the Order of Australia honours list. LORENA CARRINGTON has also been published internationally. Her works are created using photography and digital montage techniques to form richly layered images.



Why this book?

- Invites the reader to build empathy and use their imagination
- The fable works on the idea that sometimes what we read as children is real.
- Lorena Carrington's illustrations are enchanting and bring the story to life
- Gentle humour as the giant first awakes and goes out to find his friends, not knowing how long he's been asleep
- The giant's realisation of his loneliness followed by the acceptance of the children and the love and celebration of play.



Windy Washing Day

YVONNE LOW &
KATE TALBOT

A funny story about what can happen when children help out with chores and how an ordinary day becomes extraordinary

It's a dry, sunny day and perfect for hanging out the wash.

But what happens when an unexpected wind pulls the washing off the line and carries it next door – to the Zoo!

Will the animals give up their new-found clothes and can all the washing be returned safely?

Find out in this fun-filled read-aloud rollicking romp.

YVONNE LOW is an award-winning fine artist, writer, and illustrator specializing in picture books, poetry, and junior fiction. KATE TALBOT has a passion for quirky stories. She has a degree in filmmaking and spent several years as a film producer. In 2011, she made the shift to children's writing and illustration after moving to Germany with her Spanish husband.

Why this book?

- What do you do when the washing blows off the line on a windy washing day? If you happen to live next to the zoo, the clothes might find their way to all kinds of animals who enjoy dressing up!
- The wise monkey's calm and clever approach to gathering the washing and resolving the chaos provides a positive example of problem-solving and leadership
- The teamwork between the toucan and pelican as they help return the washing adds an element of cooperation and collaboration
- Quite simply, laundry day has never been this much fun!



One Day

SHIRLEY MARR &
MICHAEL SPEECHLEY

Award winning creators Shirley Marr and Michael Speechley have created a remarkable, unforgettable celebration of LIFE

Early one morning, a mayfly takes flight.

Her one day is the day, and is a day filled with possibility – with things to do, places to see, and friends to meet.

Join her as she makes the most of every single moment, marvelling at what her life has to offer.

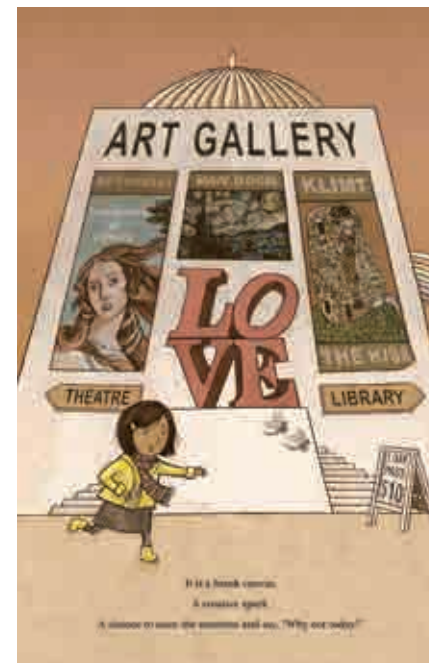
An inspiring story about living life to the fullest . . . and seizing the day, every day.

SHIRLEY MARR is the author of the award winning *A Glasshouse of Stars*, which won the CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers 2022. She is the author of two picture books with Walker Books, *One Day* and the forthcoming *Where the Heart Is*, both illustrated by Michael Speechley. MICHAEL SPEECHLEY has been a graphic designer and high school art teacher. His first picture book, *The All New Must Have Orange 430* was shortlisted and awarded as an Honour Book in the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Children's Book of the Year Award in 2019.



Why this book?

- Encourages readers to seize the day and live life to the fullest, making it a perfect read for both children and adults who need a reminder to appreciate every moment
- A winning combination – Shirley Marr is known for her lyrical storytelling, and illustrated by Michael Speechley, whose work is intricate, detailed and full of hidden elements
- Presented in a large "calendar" format
- Stunningly illustrated, with humour and visual puns and clues
- A celebration of the joy and possibility of life.



PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Candlewick); China (China CITIC)

The Letter Writer

BINNY TALIB

A story of fears, friendship and a little bit of outer space.

Jasper has just moved to a new school and feels invisible.

Next door Juniper is afraid of creatures lurking in the shadows at night.

When Juniper writes a letter to the night creatures, it mysteriously lands on Jasper's bed. Jasper knows what he must do.



Why this book?

- Captivating, contemporary and whimsical illustration style combined with a winning narrative
- Multi-award winning author and illustrator
- Binny is known for crafting engaging narratives that entertain children as much as adults
- The perfect gift book for children or adult
- Celebrates the joy and solace of connection; and the lost art of letter writing
- Themes of feeling alone, facing fears and finding friendship
- Binny's books have been published widely internationally

BINNY TALIB is an award-winning author/illustrator with a whimsical, contemporary style and has illustrated over 30 books. Binny also creates Wallpaper, cushions, and porcelain mugs for grownups. Her wallpaper is produced with Milton and King and her Mugs are produced by the German porcelain maker Konitz.

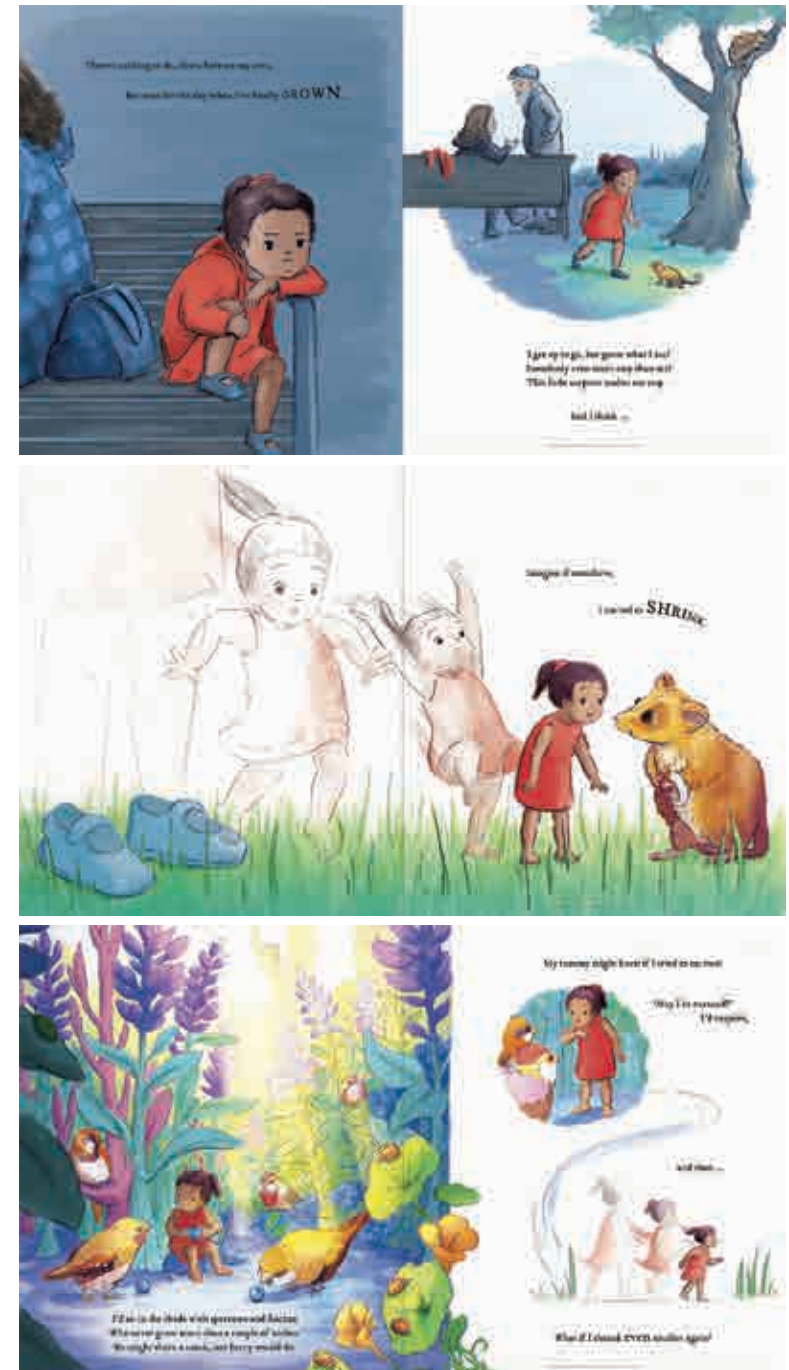
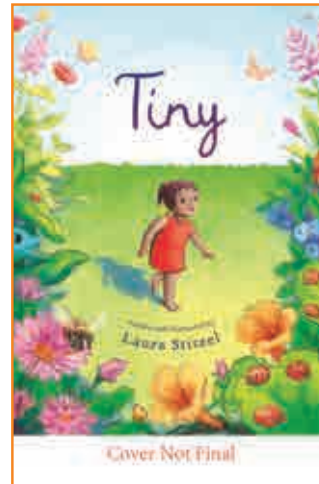


PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

LAURA STITZEL

PRIMARY AGENT: Annabel Barker Agency • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation



Bound Together

BETH DOLAN &
RONAK TAHER

Set in the infamous Changi prison in Singapore after the Japanese invasion in 1942, the story revolves around a group of Girl Scouts who secretly create a quilt for their leader.

The girls of Changi Prison are not free but they share a great bond; they are bound together by their love of their Girl Guide leader, Mrs Ennis.

To show their love, they work for months to create an intricate and beautiful quilt for their leader who educates them all during their imprisonment.

RONAK TAHER is an Iranian-Australian filmmaker and visual artist. She obtained a Bachelor Degree in Visual Art (Graphic Design) from Tehran University of Art. In 2013, Ronak was celebrated as one of the three hundred upcoming world talents in film industry at the Berlinale Film Festival, Germany. Ronak's Paintings are installed in Melbourne suburbs as light boxes and wall murals.



Why this book?

- In a world facing numerous challenges such as pandemics, conflicts, and natural disasters, the story of the girls' resilience and ability to find hope and solidarity in difficult times (World War II) is particularly poignant and encouraging
- Secret meetings, the fear of being caught by guards, and the act of creating something beautiful in adverse conditions
- Subtly resonates with ongoing global movements advocating for women's rights and gender equality
- Heartwarming ending which will leave the reader hopeful



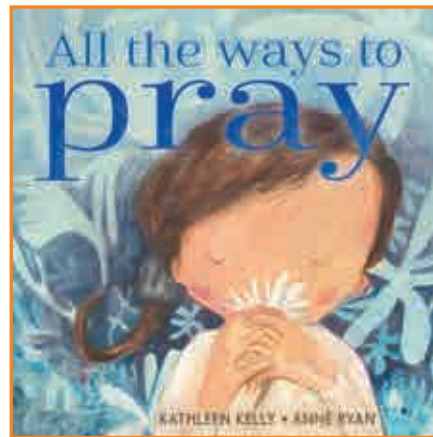
All The Ways to Pray

KATHLEEN KELLY
& ANNE RYAN

All the Ways to Pray prompts young readers in everything from empathy to gratitude. It is a gentle reminder of the power of taking a moment to reflect.

Grace, gratitude, love and hope.

Whether I am feeling strong, or things go completely wrong, these are all the ways to pray.



Why this book?

- Explores universal themes such as positivity, strength, gratitude, friendship, and hope
- Addresses various emotions children experience, such as happiness, sadness, and hope, providing comfort and understanding
- Includes prayers that children can relate to and use in their daily lives, such as the 'Today Will be a Good Day' prayer and the 'I Will do My Best' prayer, helping them feel positive and strong
- Encourages children to engage in different activities like waiting, watching, listening, singing, walking, and running as forms of prayer, making it interactive and fun

KATHLEEN KELLY is an author and educator. She lives in Melbourne and spends her time writing in cafes and watching the locals and their dogs. ANNE RYAN is an author, illustrator, artist, and art educator who lives and works in Melbourne. She is passionate about sharing storytelling, visual literacy and creativity with young children through art making and children's picture books.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Wild Dog Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



The Friendship Book

ZANNI LOUISE & NICKY JOHNSTON

A joyful look at the friendships we make and how to nurture them from award-winning author Zanni Louise and illustrator, Nicky Johnston

*Friends can come from anywhere!
From school, the park, the shopping square.*

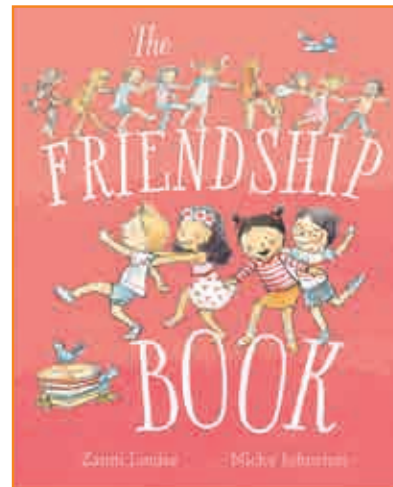
A bookstore, circus, from the zoo ...

But how will we know what to do?

How do we find friends, make friends or be a friend? Zanni Louise and Nicky Johnston weave a story of building friendship and community through kindness, inclusion and imagination in this delightful journey through a day of meeting, greeting and laughing and playing together.

A perfect gift for every child, whether moving to a new neighbourhood, starting school, or starting a new class.

ZANNI LOUISE has written 30 books for children, including picture books and junior fiction. Her books have been described as quirky, warm and funny, and are sold in many foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book Archie and the Bear was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: The White Ravens. NICKY JOHNSTON is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator with several bestselling titles published in Australia and internationally.



Why this book?

- From the much-loved author of Hazel's Treehouse, and The Human Kind series
- Uses relatable examples as a gentle guide to making and keeping friends – a skill required for pre-school, starting school, starting a new class, and a lifetime
- Nicky Johnston's visual narrative encapsulates the ways we can interact and include new friends
- The perfect gift for anyone in a new class, school, neighbourhood, and beginning a new chapter!



Noisy Noisy City

ANDREW KELLY &
HÉLÈNE MAGISSON

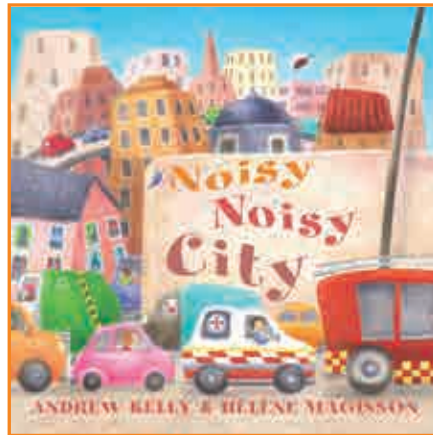
Noisy Noisy City takes us through the streets of a busy city. Readers will have lots of fun mimicking the noises found in the Noisy Noisy City. This dynamic read-aloud picture book will be a hit for kids aged 3 and up.

Ding Ding – Ratatat

Veroom Veroom – Beep beep beep.

The marvellous chorus of the noisy, noisy chit.

Inspired by true events in a city near you!



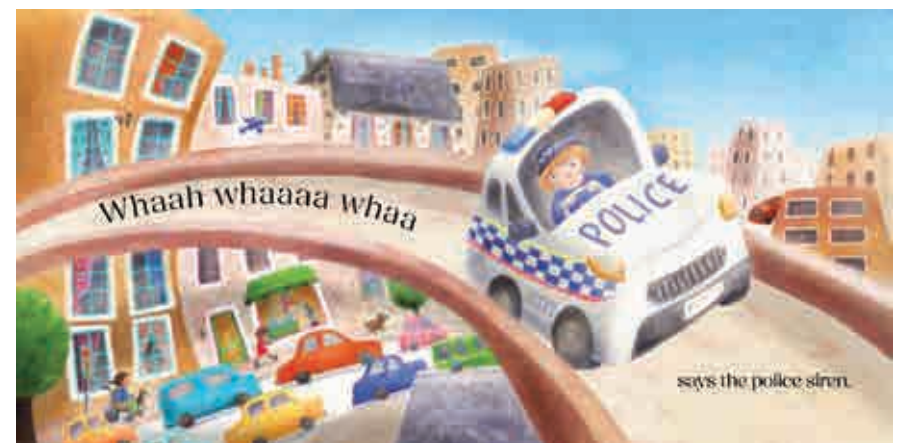
Why this book?

- Filled with fun and repetitive sounds which are fun for children to mimic and engage with
- Features a variety of vehicle sounds, such as trams, helicopters, jackhammers, rubbish trucks, and cars, which are always fascinating to children who are intrigued by different types of vehicles
- Picture books focussing on vehicles and noises are always popular among children

ANDREW KELLY is an author of numerous books for children, including *Peregrines in the City*, *Wilam: A Birrarung Story*, and *The Accidental Penguin Hotel*. His work often focuses on urban wildlife and the environment, aiming to foster a deeper appreciation for nature among young readers. HÉLÈNE MAGISSON is a critically acclaimed illustrator of many books for children. Before Hélène turned to book illustration, she trained in the art of medieval illumination.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • PUBLISHER: Wild Dog Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



The Construction Site Band

JENNIFER LOAKES & KELLY CANBY

The construction site band is ready.

It's time for the day to begin.

A delightfully noisy book that celebrates the all the noise and colour of city life.

'I enjoyed thinking about how the machinery sounds would interact with people's day. Perhaps one of the most special things for me about this book, is the idea that people can hear music in their lives, if they listen closely and use their imagination.' Jennifer Loakes



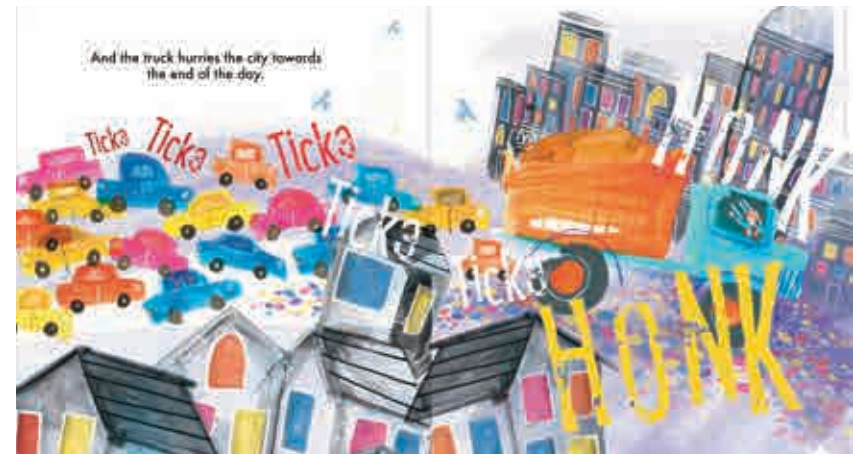
Why this book?

- Fun noisy read aloud for young children
- A celebration of the activity in the city.
- A look at the way people live with the sound of machinery in their lives.
- Kelly Canby won the CBCA Book of the Year award for her book *Timeless*

JENNIFER LOAKES is an internationally published children's author. *The Construction Site Band* is her fourth book with Windy Hollow Books. KELLY CANBY is an award-winning, internationally published, illustrator and author of over two dozen books for children.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



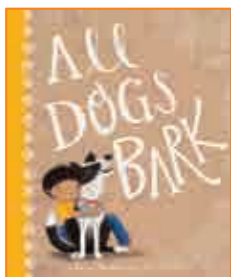
Beep Beep

CATHERINE
MEATHERINGHAM
& DEB HUDSON

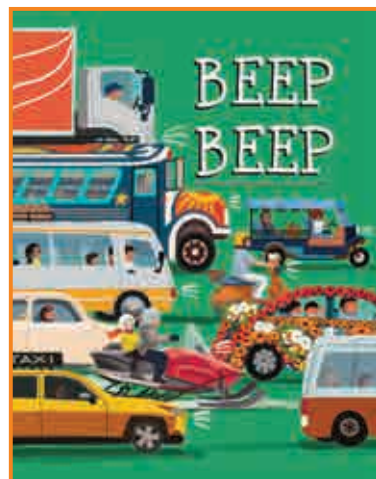
A joyful rhyming Suessian romp that puts a playful twist on getting a pet.

From the author and illustrator team that created the successful, *All Dogs Bark* and *Knock Knock*, comes a new book exploring language and culture and children around the world.

Beep Beep explores the sounds cars make in different languages whilst also giving the reader an insight in to transport and leisure activities in other countries.

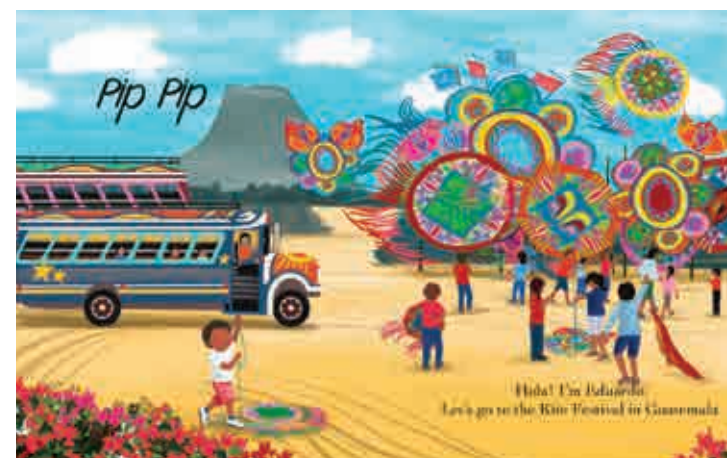


CATHERINE MEATHERINGHAM loves to write picture books full of music and onomatopoeia to encourage children to join in with the story. DEB HUDSON is an illustrator of children's picture books, and creator of other artistic works including pattern design, stationery and giftware. She loves colour and finds joy in creating illustrations that celebrate life, love, growth and wonder.



Why this book?

- Deb Hudson's work has been described as whimsical, carrying you off to fantastic places and worlds.
- Catherine Meatherringham's *My Possum Plays the Drums* and *All Dogs Bark* were both shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year awards
- Celebration of language and culture and a springboard to further exploration of different countries and customs
- Great read aloud



Where Shall We Travel Today?

KRISTIN MARTIN & NICKY JOHNSTON



A delightful story about the power of the imagination, of stories and of exploring the world together.

A group of neighbourhood friends search for adventure. They climb mountains, sail through waterfalls and snorkel the reef. At night, they marvel at the sky above and wonder where to go next.

Why this book?

- Teaches children about different places like Antarctica and the Amazon in a fun way
- Encourages curiosity and shows how amazing the world is
- Funny and playful, like riding camels and swinging on vines, which kids will love
- Multi-award winning illustrator



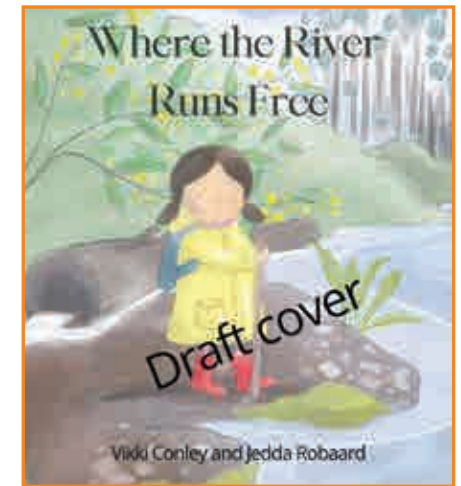
KRISTIN MARTIN is the author of a picture book, *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular*, and the children's poetry collection *To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme?*. NICKY JOHNSTON is an educator, speaker, and author/illustrator of children's books. Nicky's illustration style is often described as whimsical, emotive, soft, and expressive.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Where the River Runs Free

VIKKI CONLEY & JEDDA ROBAARD



Wibble-wobble over the rumble-tumble stones and past peek-a-boo trees to where the rainbows sing. You never know who's flip-flop-floating your way!

From the author of the CBCA award-winning book *Where the Lyrebird Lives* comes this delightful family adventure celebrating the magic, surprise and precious moments of a walk along the river.

Why this book?

- Celebrating time spent outdoors
- Springboard to further exploration of flora and fauna
- Award-winning author and illustrator



VIKKI CONLEY is a CBCA notable author with many internationally published picture books. She has worked as a professional writer, photographer and marketer, with diverse communities across three continents, for over 20 years. JEDDA ROBAARD is an illustrator and graphic designer. She was the director of a successful art school for children, and continues to use her own children, chickens and her guinea pigs as inspiration in her illustrations.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Susurras

GENEVIEVE YOUNG &
CATE JAMES



A celebration of the things we can hear.
We can't see them, but we can imagine!

'Listen. Can you hear the susurras?' said Grandma.

'What's a susurru?' asked Frankie.

Frankie doesn't know what a susurru is. She knows it not it's not a platypus, an octopus, or even a kind of saurus.

So, Frankie searches for the susurru, while her friend Andy has suggestions as to what a susurru might be. Everyone has a go at guessing what a susurru is. But no one has ever seen one.

What is a susurru? Frankie now knows. Do you?

Why this book?

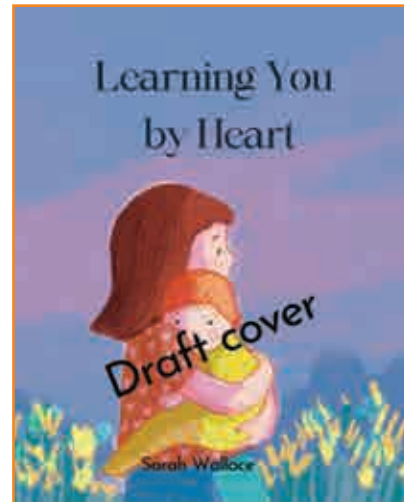
- A whimsical celebration of the sound of language and the language of sound
- Explores imagination, the things we know exist but can't see in delightful readaloud prose
- Anthropomorphic story-telling
- Charming characters and full of surprises and room for a reader to make their own guesses about what a susurru is, and what it might look like.

GENEVIEVE YOUNG enjoys creating heart-warming and humorous stories. CATE JAMES is a full-time illustrator who has illustrated over 30 books for publishers in the UK, US and Australia and was awarded the Penguin Random House Illustrators' Showcase Award in 2019.



Learning You by Heart

SARAH WALLACE &
MICHELLE CONN



*I love everything about you, and I've loved you from the start
I want you always to be with me, so I'm learning you by heart.*

A beautiful love song from a parent to their child.

Why this book?

- A perfect gift for parents of a new baby
- lyrical text makes for soothing read aloud
- celebrates all the little things in a baby's day from morning right through to bedtime



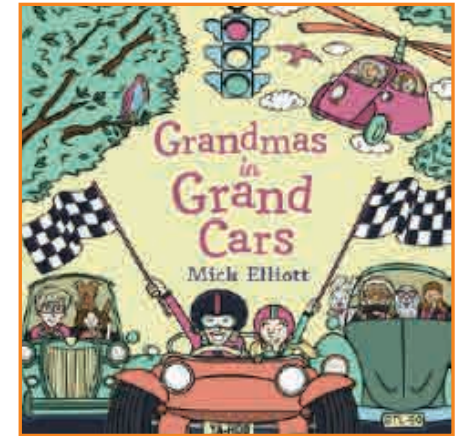
SARAH WALLACE writes words to inspire wonder. She has qualifications in English Literature and Education, spent several years as a children's book reviewer. MICHELLE CONN is a children's book author and illustrator who was shortlisted for the New Illustrator Award by the Children's Book Council of Australia for her debut picture book *Raised by Moths*.

PUB DATE: October 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Grandmas in Grand Cars

MICK ELLIOTT



From bestselling author-illustrator, Mick Elliott, comes a gorgeous celebration of grandmas!

Look at all the Grandmas in their grand cars!

A glorious, grand-full and glee-full celebration of all the different grandma's and their grand cars!



Why this book?

- A joyful picture book celebrating the relationship between grandmas and their grandchildren; full of fun, mischief, laughter and some very grand cars!
- Perfect for Grandparent's Day, special occasions or just to celebrate a grandma!
- Aimed at new parents through to grandparents as a read-along experience to treasure with young children . . . and the not so young.
- Celebrates the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren
- A delightful follow-up to Mick Elliott's *Dads and Dogs* and *Mums and Mogs*!

MICK ELLIOTT is an author, illustrator, TV producer, screenwriter and literacy ambassador. His illustrated middle grade series, *Squidge Dibley*, has been sold into six international territories. Mick has written and produced acclaimed children's programs for Nickelodeon, the Sesame Workshop, Channel TEN and the ABC.

APRIL 2025: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Jo and the No

KYLE MEWBURN & JUDY WATSON

A gentle fable about overcoming our inner fears and resistance.

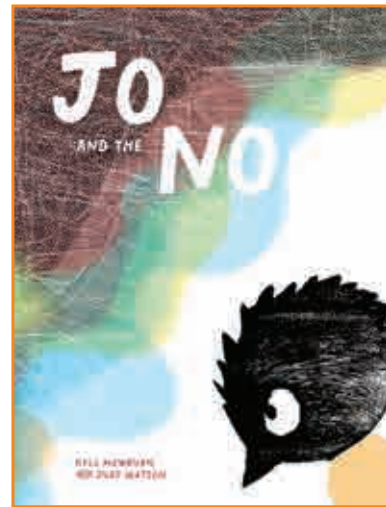
Jo has come across a No.

It will not let them pass,
no matter how hard they try to get under, over,
through or around it.

Notes: *Jo and the No* can be read in many ways. Jo initially thinks the No is a toadstool, or a cloud – something tangible that needs to be feared and outrun, before realising that the No is something to be lived with and perhaps not be feared after all. Kyle Mewburn leaves the idea of the No to our imagination – it represents any fear that we, or a child, might have. Judy Watson's illustrations beautifully showcase how unwieldy and overwhelming that No can be... but the No is never scary or threatening.

KYLE MEWBURN is one of New Zealand's finest and most eclectic writers. Over her twenty years as a published author, Kyle has written multi-layered picture books, laugh-out-loud junior fiction series and adult fiction. Her titles have been translated into eighteen languages and won numerous awards.

JUDY WATSON is an illustrator and mixed-media artist. She has illustrated over twenty books which have been shortlisted for and won several awards.



Why this book?

- Featuring a non-binary character and written by a transgender author
- Jo's encounter with the immovable "No" is a metaphor for the obstacles everyone faces
- Provides an opportunity for parents and educators to discuss important topics such as gender identity, anxiety and depression
- There is so much within these pages for younger children to take comfort in – the idea of overcoming obstacles and the strength and empowerment of moving forward.



PUB DATE: March 2025 • PUBLISHER: WestWords / Dirt Lane Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

A Rabbit's Tale

JACKIE HOSKING &
LUCINDA GIFFORD

A quirky alphabet book full of fun, laughter, pets and hilarious word play.

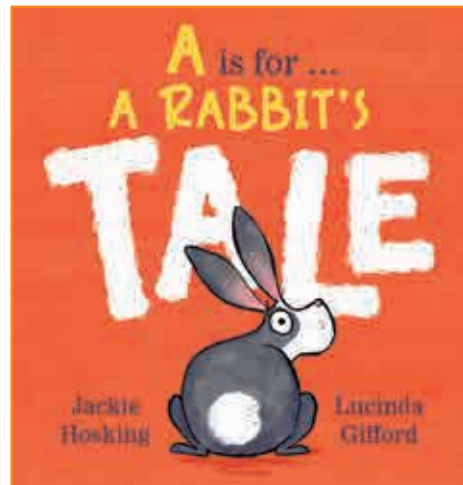
A quirky, funny and clever alphabet book with a twist - with bright and colourful illustrations by much loved illustrator Lucinda Gifford

A is for... A rabbit.

B is for... Buy this book!

A hilarious alphabet story - for anyone who ever wanted a pet ... and for everyone who loves a wonderful tail, um, tale with a twist!

JACKIE HOSKING is the author of *The Croc and the Platypus* and *An Amazing Australian Road Trip*. Jackie loves to write in rhyme and when she's not writing in rhyme she enjoys helping others with their rhyme. LUCINDA GIFFORD is the author and illustrator of many well-loved children's books. She has illustrated over 30 books, eight of which she has also written.



Why this book?

- A quirky alphabet book full of fun, laughter, pets and hilarious word play.
- From best-selling comedic picture book author Jackie Hosking
- Gorgeous and funny illustrations by Lucinda Gifford, much loved and awarded author illustrator.



PUB DATE: July 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

You Can't Pat a Fish

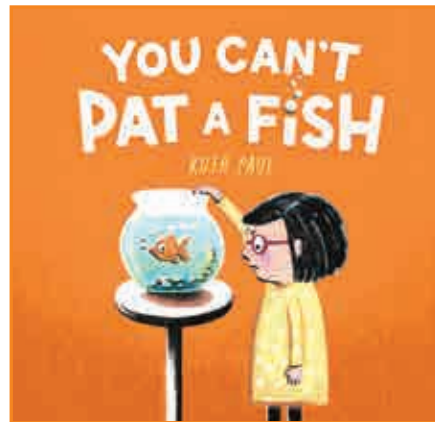
RUTH PAUL

A joyful rhyming Suessian romp that puts a playful twist on getting a pet.

If it's wet, it isn't a pet!

You can play with a puppy and snuggle a bunny, but as much as you wish, you can't pat a fish.

A visit to the pet shop is just the beginning of this delightful, insightful and fun-filled story of not getting what you wished for!



Why this book?

- Funny, fresh, unexpected and a perfect read-aloud
- Reminiscent of the best of Dr Seuss' classic picture books
- From award-winning and internationally celebrated creator, Ruth Paul For any and every child who wishes for a pet of their own
- (To confirm: A fish can absolutely be a pet!)

RUTH PAUL is an award-winning writer and illustrator of children's picture books, and a New Zealand Arts Laureate (2019). Her books have been published in ANZ, North America, the United Kingdom and translated into five languages including Chinese (simplified characters) and Korean. She has twice won the Picture Book Award at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

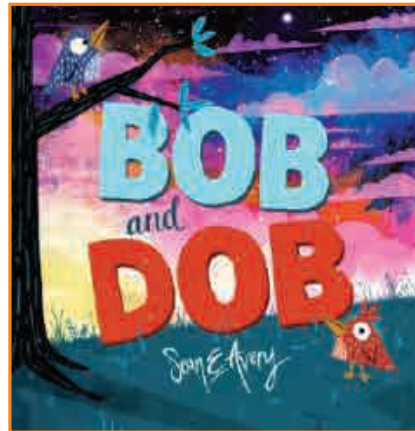
PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Bob and Dob

SEAN E AVERY



A hilarious new take on tall tales and 'crying wolf' from the award-winning creator of *Frank's Red Hat* and *Ducky the Spy*

There once was a small bird called Bob.

Bob had a brother called Dob. Dob was also a small bird. A small bird who enjoyed telling tall tales.

Especially tall tales that get his brother Bob into trouble.

A hilarious story of brothers in a spot of bother

The perfect book to explore and celebrate the playfulness and pitfalls of sibling relationships

Why this book?

- New picture book from the award-winning creator of *Frank's Red Hat*
- Sean E Avery is fast becoming one of Australia's –and more importantly kids' – favourite creators
- Funny, silly and relatable story – that appeals to both kids and their parents
- Perfect book to explore and celebrate the playfulness and pitfalls of sibling relationships
- *Frank's Red Hat* was published in the United Kingdom, North America, Korea, Denmark, Germany and France.

SEAN E AVERY is a teacher, writer-illustrator, sculptor and designer. He's best known as the writer-illustrator of wellloved children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Harold and Grace*. Internationally, he's best known as a sculptor who uses CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections all around the world.



Dob would do.

BOB! It is NOT safe to hunt for worms on your own!



Bob was delighted.



PUB DATE: May 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: United Kingdom, Translation • RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Candlewick Press)

Dropbear

PHILIP BUNTING



Philip Bunting – author/illustrator of award-winning titles *Mopoke* and *Not Cute* – introduces the most enigmatic creature in the Australian bush – the DROPBEAR!

They say Dropbear is mean,
Dropbear is savage.

But They are the gossips.

Meet Dropbear, if you dare,
and decide for yourself!

Why this book?

- Beautiful hardback edition with a stunning limited palette
- A hilarious introduction to the enigmatic legend of the Australian bush - Dropbear!
- From Philip Bunting, creator of internationally acclaimed fiction and non-fiction including *Mopoke*, *Not Cute*, *Give Me Some Space!*, *How Did I Get Here?*, *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants*, and *I Wonder*.

PHILIP BUNTING's work deliberately encourages playful interaction between the reader and child, allowing his books to create a platform for genuine intergenerational engagement, and fun. Philip's books have been translated into multiple languages, with rights sold in 38 territories to date. Since his first title was published in 2017, Philip has received accolades from around the world.

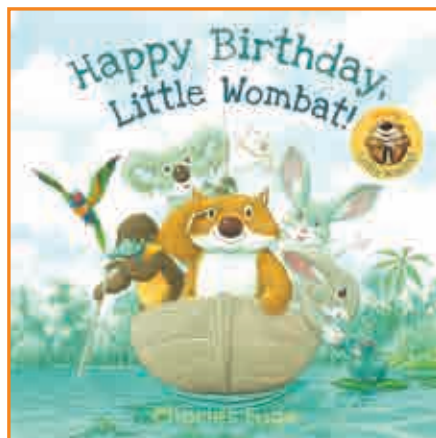
PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Charlesbridge)



Happy Birthday, Little Wombat

CHARLES FUGE



An internationally bestselling series now over 20 years old with over **1 million** copies sold globally

It's Little Wombat's birthday!

His friends plan to make it the best day ever. They have a few surprises planned for Little Wombat and he cannot wait to experience them all.

Well, almost all . . .

An endearing story of how friendship makes birthdays so much better. Especially if there's a boat!

Why this book?

- Garnered international recognition for its warm and humorous depiction of an iconic marsupial
- Beloved for its gentle storytelling, beautiful illustrations, and the heartwarming lessons it imparts to young readers.
- Each book highlights themes of friendship, curiosity, and the joys of exploration.
- Adorable illustrations and charming stories – total comfort viewing!
- The lovable wombat and his friends all have distinct personalities which could be expanded upon
- People have grown up with this series, and are now having children of their own

CHARLES FUGE's interest in wildlife translated into the drawing of animals. He won the Macmillan Prize in 1988 for *Bush Vark's First Day Out*, which won the Mother Goose Award the following year. He has since illustrated a raft of picture books including *Sometimes I Like to Curl Up in a Ball* which was runner-up for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2001.

PUB DATE: February 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Little Wombat series follows the charming adventures of a young wombat and his friends in the Australian bush.

Found You Little Wombat

Pub date: May 2021

Little Wombat loves playing hide-and-seek with his friends, even though he doesn't understand all the rules of the game. So when it's his turn to look, he hides again, then calls out "Two, TEN" and opens his eyes.

Swim, Little Wombat, Swim

Pub date: September 2021

Little Wombat is so excited! He's found a fun new friend to play with who walks strangely, has a funny little face and, most amazingly of all, can swim like a fish in the water! But when Platypus tries teaching Little Wombat to swim, Rabbit and Koala begin to wonder if wombats should, after all, stick to dry land!

Watch Out, Little Wombat

Pub date: December 2021

Little Wombat is hunting the bunyip – a mythical creature said to inhabit swamps, bogs, and riverbeds. He's convinced Bunyip exists, even if his friends Rabbit and Koala don't agree. So Little Wombat sets off alone to find the muddy monster...

Little Wombat's Easter Surprise

Pub date: February 2022

Little Wombat is busy collecting eggs on his Easter hunt when he sees Rabbit hop by wearing a special Easter Bunny costume. It's such a good costume that the tail and nose won't come even off – but wait, is that really Rabbit? Or is it his new friend, Bilby?

Where to, Little Wombat?

Pub date: July 2022

Little Wombat is tired of living in his burrow, and so sets out to see what kind of homes his other friends live in. Koala, Frog, and Mole invite him to live with them, but wombats can't climb trees or walk on lily pads or live under rocks with the ants – none of these homes seem to be quite right for a little wombat!

Merry Christmas, Little Wombat

Pub date: October 2024

It's Christmas and Little Wombat and his friends are so excited to celebrate! They have a fun-filled Christmas day planned with carols, decorating and, of course, a big Christmas lunch at the beach. But with no Christmas tree in sight, the friends find something, or someone, else to decorate!



Tilly in a Tangle

MARGRETE LAMOND &
MONTY LEE

When things go wrong, following our instinct yields unexpected results.

Tilly works hard at keeping her boat shipshape, striving to retain the approval of those around her, following their advice and conforming to their opinions.

But when disaster strikes, and her friends are called to act instead of administering advice, Tilly discovers her own way of doing things works best – for both her and her friends.

'Lamond's story encourages calmness in the face of unavoidable obstacles and finding the confidence to forge your own path. Lee's illustrations match perfectly with the text, conveying the movement of swirling water and Tilly's determined look as she solves problems.' *Books + Publishing*

MARGRETE LAMOND is a multi-award-winning picture-book author and an acclaimed publisher of picture books. Margrete holds a master's degree in visual storytelling and runs advanced courses for illustrators and authors. MONTY LEE is an artist and illustrator whose quirky, playful style has earned her an international following. Her work has been featured in prestigious international illustration magazines.



Why this book?

- Tilly's journey from seeking approval to discovering her own strengths is a powerful message of self-reliance and confidence
- Independence, problem-solving, and the importance of being true to oneself
- Monty Lee's quirky and playful illustrations bring the story to life



The Kids Who Rescued Easter

JACKIE HOSKING &
NATHANIEL ECKSTROM

Creators of *An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree* and *When Santa Got Stuck in a Gum Tree*, comes an Easter adventure full of laughs, friendship and surprises.

It's Easter time and the Easter bunny has lost his eggs!

But not to worry, as all the neighbourhood kids are here to help.

Or so they think.

Paired with Nathaniel Eckstrom's charming illustrations, this is the perfect book to celebrate Easter.



Why this book?

- The Easter Bunny has dropped his eggs! The kids in the neighbourhood gather to save the day ... but are they really helping?
- A deliciously sweet – and hilarious – spin on an iconic tale, from the best-selling team behind *An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree*.
- An egg-citing and sweet picture book from well-known and well-loved pairing, Jackie Hosking and Nathaniel Eckstrom.
- Over 20,000 copies of *An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree* have sold to date.
- Jackie Hosking has reimaged an Australian classic, *The Man From Snowy River*, into a fun and entertaining Easter adventure story.

JACKIE HOSKING is the author of *The Croc and the Platypus* and *An Amazing Australian Road Trip*. Jackie loves to write in rhyme and when she's not writing in rhyme she enjoys helping others with their rhyme. NATHANIEL ECKSTROM has worked on a number of children's picture books including *Stubborn Stanley*, *The Hole Idea*, *Roadtrip* and *The Dress-Box*. His previous titles with Walker Books include *Duck!*, written by Meg McKinlay, and *Ten Little Figs*, written by Rhian Williams.



The background is a solid orange color. In the bottom-left corner, there is a white line-art graphic consisting of several overlapping, curved lines that form a stylized, abstract shape. On the right side of the image, there is a large white speech bubble with a thick white outline. Inside the speech bubble, the text "Award-Winning Backlist" is written in a white, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

Award-
Winning
Backlist

Flight

NADIA WHEATLEY &
ARMIN GREDA



Flight tells a powerful, universal tale that resonates just as much today as when it was first published, with themes of survival, freedom, and hope.

Tonight is the night

The family has to flee

They've been tipped off that the authorities are after their blood.

The 'Flight' of this book may at first seem to be a re-telling of the Christmas story, but the little family of refugees who travel through this book are living in a time and place that is all too familiar from the television news.

In Armin Greder's illustrations, the seemingly unending line of the horizon shows that the journey will be long and arduous. In Nadia Wheatley's narrative, the sparse and understated words allow readers to experience the characters' fears and hopes for themselves.

As the story ends, and the child repeats his mother's promise that they will find their new home, we are left with the feeling that we want to help this family, and others like them.

In a literary career spanning over three decades, NADIA WHEATLEY has written award-winning picture books, novels, and works of history for children and adults. In 2013 Nadia was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing. ARMIN GREDER is an internationally renowned illustrator who has illustrated many distinctive picture books. He is the recipient of international recognition including the Bologna Ragazzi Award, and he has been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

AWARDS

- Winner, Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year (2016)
- Shortlisted, New South Wales Ministry of the Arts Awards (2016)

'Nadia Wheatley's narrative steers us through one family's perilous journey, with a text rich in both the suspense of external events and the warmth and reassurance between the adults and their child. Armin Greder's illustrations are breathtakingly wrought in dark and sombre shades.'

— Judges' Report, NSW Premier's Literary Awards, 2016

Two Sparrowhawks in a Lonely Sky

REBECCA LIM



What if you were forced to set sail for a country that didn't want you, to meet a father you couldn't remember?

Thirteen-year-old Fu, his younger sister, Pei, and their mother live in a small rural community in Southern China that is already enduring harsh conditions when it is collectivised as part of Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward campaign that ultimately led to economic disaster, widespread famine and millions of deaths.

After tragedy strikes, and threatened with separation, Fu and Pei set out on a perilous journey across countries and oceans to find their father, who left for Australia almost a decade ago. With nothing to guide them but a photograph and some documents in a language they cannot read, they must draw on all their courage and tenacity just to survive - and perhaps forge a better life for themselves.

'This exciting and immediately engaging story is rich in memorable characters, full of tension, moments of tenderness and high emotion, with a deep, challenging core questioning our beliefs and prejudices.'

StoryLinks

REBECCA LIM is an award-winning Australian writer, illustrator and editor and the author of over twenty books, including *Tiger Daughter*, *The Astrologer's Daughter* (a Kirkus Best Book and CBCA Notable Book) and the bestselling *Mercy*.

AWARDS

- Winner, Young People's History Prize, NSW Premier's History Awards (2024)
- Winner, Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction (2024)
- Shortlisted, Margaret and Colin Roderick Literary Award (2024)
- Shortlisted, Children's Literature Prize, Prime Minister's Literary Awards (2024)
- Longlisted, Children's and Young Adult Fiction Prize, ARA Historical Novel Awards (2024)

The Year the Maps Changed

DANIELLE BINKS



One extraordinary year will
change them all

Sorrento, Victoria, 1999. Fred's family is a mess. Her mother died when she was six and she's been raised by her Pop and adoptive father, Luca, ever since. But now Pop's had to go away, and Luca's girlfriend Anika and her son have moved in. More and more it feels like a land-grab for family and Fred is the one being left off the map.

Even as things feel like they're spinning out of control for Fred, a crisis from the other side of the world comes crashing in. When a group of Kosovar-Albanian refugees are brought to a government 'safe haven' not far from Sorrento, their fate becomes intertwined with the lives of Fred and her family in ways that no one could have expected.



AWARDS

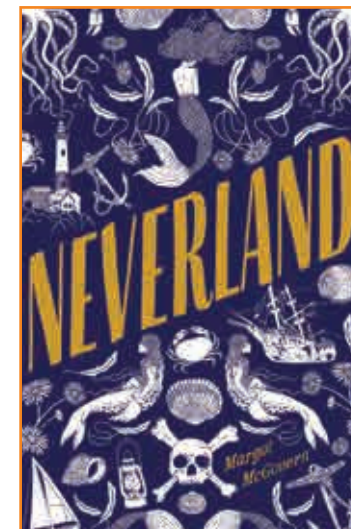
- Shortlisted, Prime Minister's Literary Awards (2021)
- CBCA Notable Book in the Younger Readers (2021)
- Shortlisted, Readings Children's Book Prize (2021)
- Longlisted, ABIA Book of the Year Award for Young Children (2021)
- Longlisted, Indie Book Awards (2021)

DANIELLE BINKS is a writer, literary agent and lecturer in creative writing at RMIT University. Her debut novel, *The Year the Maps Changed*, was a CBCA Notable Book for Younger Readers and shortlisted for the Readings Children's Book Prize. She is also the author of *The Monster of Her Age* and *Six Summers of Tash and Leopold*.

PUB DATE: April 2020 • **PUBLISHER:** Hachette Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management
RIGHTS SOLD: North America: HarperCollins. Poland: Widnocrag

Neverland

MARGOT MCGOVERN



Kit Learmonth would rather die than
grow up and leave Neverland

After doing herself near-fatal harm, Kit has returned to her island home. But it's a place she hardly recognises: the witch and the mermaids are hiding and the pirates have sailed to more bountiful shores. In their place is Neverland and its inhabitants – damaged teens too sick to be in regular school, watched over by her psychiatrist uncle.

And now Kit is one of them.

Kit has a choice. She can use illicit night-time adventures with friends and mysterious new boy Rohan to avoid the truth. Or she can separate harsh reality from childhood fantasy and remember the night of her parents' deaths.

What really prompted her family's departure from the island? Did a monster drive them away?

Is the monster still there?

MARGOT MCGOVERN is a YA and horror author based in Adelaide, South Australia.

AWARDS

- Shortlisted, Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature (2020)
- Shortlisted, Text Prize

'Darkly sublime, subversive and haunting,
lush and honeyed – everything
I love in a book.'

Allyse Near, author of
Fairytales for Wilde Girls

PUB DATE: April 2018 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Sunshine on Vinegar Street

KAREN COMER



A novel-in-verse evocatively capturing the challenges of a new school, new conflicts and hopefully... new friends. For fans of Pip Harry and Jacqueline Woodson.

When Freya changes school, the move seems insurmountable, particularly after an early encounter with the school bully, Val.

Freya's determined not to like her new school, even as she starts making new 'friends' like the iconic Skipping Girl sign she can see from her new apartment's balcony. There's also Eva, who is a year ahead of her in school.

But when Val and Eva become friends and concoct an awful plan to deface and ruin her beloved Skipping Girl sign, Freya must take a stand for everything she's coming to hold dear.

'Very tender and also very funny – a tumbling collage of words and wonderings, fears and triumphs, where the child's world is both the hard, real thing and the stuff of magic.'

Ursula Dubosarsky, Australian Children's Laureate 2020-2021

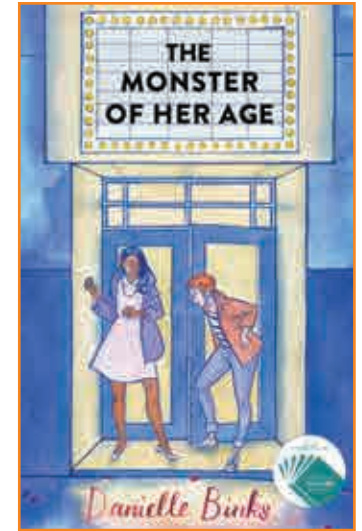
KAREN COMER is a freelance editor and presents writing workshops to children and adults. Karen's debut YA novel, *Grace Notes*, was published by Hachette Australia in February 2023, with *Summer on Vinegar Street* (MG) published by Allen & Unwin in June 2023.

AWARDS

- Winner, Queensland Literary Awards, Children's Book Award (2024)
- CBCA Notable Book in the Younger Readers (2024).

The Monster of her age

DANIELLE BINKS



Everything Leads to You by Nina LaCour, with a dash of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, for the YA set.

infamous Lottie Lovinger, with whom she once shared the screen, playing the child monster in an indie horror film.

Now seventeen, Ellie has returned home for the first time in years; to be with Lottie and to try and heal the rifts that her iconic film role wrought.

But forgiveness feels like playing make-believe, and memories are like ghosts. Until, she meets a girl called Riya at a horror film club and might finally find a way to take off her monster mask.

A novel about the power of art, family, forgiveness – and embracing the things that scare us.

DANIELLE BINKS is a writer, literary agent and lecturer in creative writing at RMIT University. Her debut novel, *The Year the Maps Changed*, was a CBCA Notable Book for Younger Readers and shortlisted for the Readings Children's Book Prize. She is also the author of *The Monster of Her Age* and *Six Summers of Tash and Leopold*.

AWARDS

- Winner, Indie Book Awards, Young Adult Category (2022)

'*The Monster of Her Age* is an instant classic full of heartfelt moments, emotional insight and charming characters set in a unique and memorable world.'

ArtsHub

A Way Home

EMILY BREWIN



AWARDS

- Winner, Readings Young Adult Prize (2024)
- Winner, Gab Williams Readings Prize (2024)

'A gritty and moving novel about a vulnerable young woman's capacity to endure, and to find courage, despite the shocking dysfunction in the lives of those she depends on.'

Ingrid Laguna, award-winning writer of *Kit and Arlo*

A big-hearted novel that explores the complexities of growing up with a parent who is struggling, and about the places and people we call home

Sixteen-year-old Grace lives under a bridge in Melbourne's CBD. It's cold and wet, but hidden. Safe, at least, until she can go home.

When winter drives her to the City Library one morning, Grace meets Louie, a weird kid with his own problems, and discovers a community piano. The piano reminds Grace of her mum, a celebrated pianist whose mental illness makes life a rollercoaster — and not always a fun one.

When Grace comes up with a plan to find the help she and Mum need, life begins to look up. But things don't work out as Grace imagines and suddenly her world's turned upside down again, and maybe for good this time.

EMILY BREWIN is the author of two adult novels, *Hello, Goodbye* and *Small Blessings*. She was awarded an Australian Society of Authors Emerging Writers' and Illustrators' Mentorship and was shortlisted for Hachette Australia's Manuscript Development Program and Varuna's Publisher Introduction Program. This is her first book for young adult readers.

Pearly and Pig series

SUE WHITING & REBECCA CRANE



Following the adventures of Pearly Woe, a young girl who worries A Lot, and her pet pig, named Pig.

Pearly and Pig and the Great Hairy Beast (Book 1)

Pearly worries about everything, especially that she'll never be brave enough to become a member of the top-secret group of stealth adventurers – The Adventurologists' Guild. Pearly also has a special talent – she can talk to animals. Her favourite animal to talk to is her pet pig, called Pig. But with her parents missing, Pig pig-napped and Pearly a stowaway on an icebreaker heading for Antarctica, Pearly's worries just got REAL.

Pearly and Pig and the Lost City of Mu Survan (Book 2)

There is no room for worries when you are trying to prove yourself. Yet this is little comfort to Adventurologist-in-training, Pearly Woe, as she motors down the mighty Mekong River on jungle adventure. What could go wrong? Everything. Of course!

Pearly and Pig and the Island of Secrets (Book 3)

On remote Mammút Island off the coast of Iceland, Pearly's worrying is put to the ultimate test when she and Pig are winched from a helicopter onto the island to complete a five-day survival challenge – alone. But they are not alone. And that is not the only surprise in store for Pearly and Pig as Mammút Island reveals its many secrets.

SUE WHITING is an awardwinning children's and YA author and editor who has worked in publishing for more than twenty years. REBECCA CRANE studied Illustration at Edinburgh University and has an MA in Character Animation.

AWARDS

Pearly and Pig and the Lost City of Mu Survan:

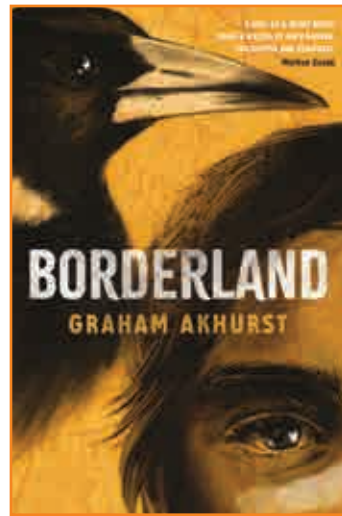
- CBCA Notable Book in the Younger Readers (2024)
- Shortlisted, YABBA Awards, Younger Readers Category (2024)
- Shortlisted, KOALA Awards, Younger Readers Category (2024)

Pearly and Pig and the Great Hairy Beast

- Longlisted, Sisters in Crime, 23rd Davitt Awards (2023)

Borderland

GRAHAM AKHURST



'A hell of a debut novel from a writer at once daring, insightful and heartfelt'

MARKUS ZUSAK, author of *The Book Thief*

Jono, a city-born Indigenous teenager is trying to figure out who he really is.

Life in the city hasn't exactly made him feel connected to his Country or community. Luckily, he's got his best friend, Jenny, who has been by his side through high school. After graduating, Jono and Jenny intern with a documentary crew.

Life takes a turn when they land in Gambari. Suddenly, Jono's intuition becomes his best guide. He's haunted by an eerie omen of death, battling suffocating panic attacks, and even experiencing visions of Wudun – a malevolent spirit from the Dreaming.

Are the documentary crew hiding something from Jono?
And could Wudun be a messenger from the land,
fighting back against the invasion?

GRAHAM AKHURST is a First Nations writer and academic hailing from the Kokomini of Northern Queensland. He was the recipient of the 2019 Fulbright WG Walker scholarship, the first Indigenous recipient of the award. Akhurst travelled to New York City in August 2019 to fulfil the program and completed an MFA at Hunter College in 2021.

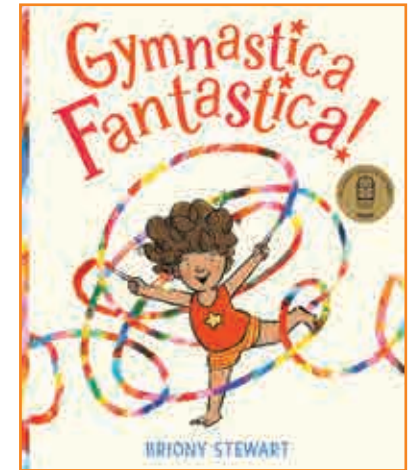
AWARDS

- CBCA Notable Book in the Book of the Year Older Readers (2024)
- Finalise, Aurealis Awards Finalist, Best Horror Novel and Best Young Adult Novel (2024)
- Shortlisted, Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance (2024)
- Shortlisted, Young Adult Book Award in the 2024 Queensland Literary Awards (2024)

PUB DATE: September 2023 • PUBLISHER: UWA Press
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management

Gymnastica Fantastica!

BRIONY STEWART



Gymnastica Fantastica! is an exuberant picture book where a child discovers and explores new physical skills and puts on a wonderfully imperfect show.

Quick! Come and see!

Something fabulous, it's . . . me!

Join Gymnastica, a small person with big energy, as they bend and balance, bounce and roll, attempt a cartwheel and a spectacular trapeze flip-out finale. Written in playful rhyming text and with brightly energetic and appealing illustrations, this is a book that kids and parents alike will find irresistible to read aloud and delight in its energy and humour.

Bursting with colour and movement, *Gymnastica Fantastica!* is an exuberant picture book about a child discovering and attempting new physical skills and putting on wonderfully imperfect shows for anyone who will watch them.

BRIONY STEWART is an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books. In 2022 she won the Prime Minister's Literary Award in the category of Children's Fiction. She is the author and illustrator of the award-winning Kumiko and the Dragon series and *We Love You Magoo*, which was a CBCA Early Childhood Honour Book for 2020.

AWARDS

- Winner, CBCA Book of the Year for Early Childhood (2024)

'This book conveys so much energy and life which children will connect with immediately. Pencil, ink, crayon, gouache, and digital illustrations are filled with zoom in action and movement matching the equally energetic text.'

CBCA Judges

PUB DATE: November 2023 • PUBLISHER: Hachette Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management
RIGHTS SOLD: North America: Penguin Random House (Viking), Israel (Matar Publishing)

Paper-Flower Girl

MARGRETE LAMOND &
MATEJA JAGER



Paper-flower Girl is a story about what happens when you don't follow your heart.

Paper Flower Girl tells the story of a girl who creates beautiful paper flowers for customers who never come. She lives in the Plain of Small Surprises, where she spends her days creating beautiful and delicate paper flowers. The Hill of Big is home to a giant who sends for the Girl and forces her to create something loud, and angry and flashy.

The Girl refuses to compromise her artistic vision and, frustrated, the Giant eventually sends her away.

The Girl returns home where she continues to create her beautiful flowers.

MARGRETE LAMOND is an author of 20 previous titles as well as an editor and publisher at Dirt Lane Press. MATEJA JAGER is a Slovenian-born Australian illustrator. She studied fashion and textile design at the University of Ljubljana and is known for her quirky greeting cards and prints. Mateja's work has been featured in the prestigious international *Brightness Magazine*.

AWARDS

- Shortlisted, CBCA Picture Book of the Year (2024)

'In presenting universal issues that are relevant to so many areas of life today, the merging of written and visual language in this book is sublime. Somehow in *Paper Flower Girl*, words paint pictures and pictures convey words. The artwork, with its changing colour palette and black & white elements, reflects and enhances the narrative mood. This book will reward re-reading time after time, such is its depth and scope.'

KidsBookReview

Where the Lyrebird Lives

VIKKI CONLEY &
MAX HAMILTON



High in the mountains through the sleepy clouds.

Deep in the forest past the chiming birds.

Will we see the lyrebird? I don't know. Tip-toe, tip-toe.

The beauty of the Australian rainforest and the magic of family-time come together in this lyrical and delightful story of intergenerational connection, habitat and adventure.

AWARDS

- Winner, CBCA Book of the Year, Early Childhood (2023)

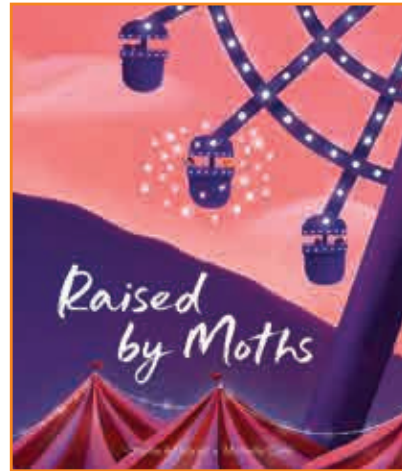
'This book delights and entices the reader from beginning to end. Lush green spreads fill the pages, beautifully capturing the setting of cool climate forests in watercolour and pencil. The sparse descriptive narrative sets a gentle pace and reads aloud well, drawing the audience in with questions and facts. Readers are encouraged to slow down, listen and look, for every now and then there is a sign of the hidden lyrebird.'

CBCA Judges

VIKKI CONLEY is a CBCA notable author with nine internationally published picture books. She has worked as a professional writer, photographer and marketer, with diverse communities across three continents, for over 20 years. MAX HAMILTON is an award-winning illustrator, graphic designer and most enthusiastically a maker of children's books. She enjoys noticing the little details in things and loves to get lost in the world of illustration and stories.

Raised By Moths

CHARLIE ARCHBOLD &
MICHELLE CONN



'A magical story of the relationship between animals and humans, as well as a whimsical adoption tale.' *Readings*

Willow jumps on the Ferris Wheel and is intrigued to see a boy surrounded by moths. As they travel high above the fairground he tells her the reason why the moths love him so much: he was raised by moths.

Wonderfully fantastical and thought-provoking with stunning illustrations, *Raised by Moths* is quite unlike anything you've read before.

'This wonderful book is pure fantasy and brings a sense of joy to the reader with the thoughtful and engaging text. The stunning illustrations add to the imaginative quality of the story and will delight readers, both young and old.' *ReadPlus*

AWARDS

- Shortlisted – CBCA Award for New Illustrator (2024)

'This book delights and entices the reader from beginning to end. Lush green spreads fill the pages, beautifully capturing the setting of cool climate forests in watercolour and pencil. The sparse descriptive narrative sets a gentle pace and reads aloud well, drawing the audience in with questions and facts. Readers are encouraged to slow down, listen and look, for every now and then there is a sign of the hidden lyrebird.'

CBCA Judges

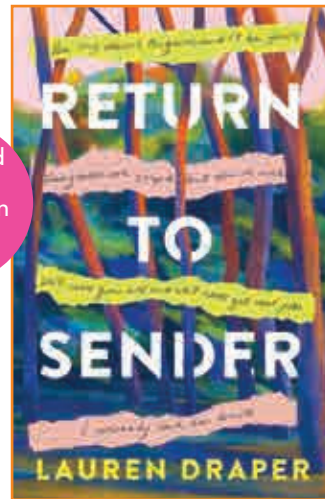
CHARLIE ARCHBOLD is an award-winning author of middle grade and YA. *Raised by Moths* is her first picture book. MICHELLE CONN is a children's book illustrator and author who combines watercolour and pencil with digital illustration to create worlds filled with wonder and emotion.

Recently
Published /
Did You Miss? –
YA and teen

Return to Sender

LAUREN DRAPER

Published
in North
America in
August
2024



This layered and compelling cozy mystery is all about found family, first love, and one town's tragedies, perfect for fans of Melina Marchetta, Kristin Dwyer, and Nina LaCour.

After three years away, seventeen-year-old Brodie McKellon has returned to live with her eccentric grandmother above the last remaining Dead Letter Office – the place letters go when no one is left to claim them.

Soon, Brodie is consumed by an unsolved mystery – the unclaimed letters of a group of teens who seemed to vanish many years ago – while also attempting to reconcile with her former best friends, Elliot and Levi.

As the trio is drawn into the riddle of the dead letter writers, they discover that the past is never truly past, and that it's never too late for old wrongs to be put right . . .

LAUREN DRAPER is a graduate of RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing program and now works in publishing. Her debut novel, *The Museum of Broken Things*, was acquired after it was shortlisted in the 2020 Text Prize, and went on to be shortlisted for The Readings Prize and Indie Book Awards, and longlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year (Older Readers).

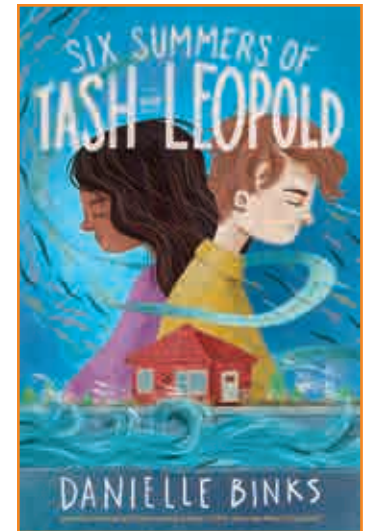
Why this book?

- An intriguing central mystery involving unclaimed letters and a group of vanished teens
- The Dead Letter Office is such a great setting adding a twist to the story
- Lauren Draper excels in creating well-developed, relatable characters
- Tackles a range of important issues such as loyalty, family secrets, domestic violence, and grief, providing depth and resonance for reader
- 'Draws a full cast of richly detailed and well-developed characters. . . The well-crafted dialogue moves the story along and the funny banter, especially between the three friends, shows the authenticity of their long-standing friendship and genuine interest in each other.' *Books+Publishing*

PUB DATE: July 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Annabel Barker Agency • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation
RIGHTS SOLD: North America (HarperCollins)

Six Summers of Tash and Leopold

DANIELLE BINKS



A new middle-grade novel for anyone who enjoys a big, hopeful, coming-of-age middle-grade book that features complicated families and life-changing summers.

Alytash and Leopold – Tash and Leo – are neighbours who used to be best friends, but aren't anymore, for reasons that Leo doesn't entirely understand. But now it's the last week of Year Six and Tash is standing in Leo's front yard with a misdelivered letter – and a favour to ask.

It's a request that will set off a chain of events in their neighbourhood.

As they solve an unfolding mystery and help Ms Shepparson, a reclusive neighbour with a tragic past, Tash and Leo each has to confront fault lines in their own recent histories and families.

They will discover that friendships can grow and change, that bravery takes many forms, and that, most of all – whatever the future holds – friends and family are what matter.

DANIELLE BINKS is a writer, literary agent and lecturer in creative writing at RMIT University. Her debut novel, *The Year the Maps Changed*, was a CBCA Notable Book for Younger Readers and shortlisted for the Readings Children's Book Prize. She is also the author of *The Monster of Her Age*.

Why this book?

- Perfect for anyone who enjoys a big, hopeful, coming-of age middle-grade book that features complicated families and life-changing summers
- Addresses the issue of school refusal which is becoming increasingly prevalent and discussed
- Both Leo and Tash are compelling characters. Leo is sensitive, big-hearted and missing his father who is recovering from addiction. Tash is vibrant in fluro colours and with a love of manga, but dealing with her own issues following illness
- 'Friendship, family and finding your way. This book perfectly captures the complex world of being twelve. I loved it.' Nova Wheetman

PUB DATE: September 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Hachette Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Small Acts

KATE GORDON &
KATE FOSTER



From acclaimed authors Kate Foster and Kate Gordon, a special story about being kind to others ... and yourself.

Josh wants a friend but he doesn't know how to find somewhere to belong.

Ollie wants to express herself but doesn't want to be noticed.

Small Acts introduces two kids with great hearts who know that helping others can start with one small act of kindness. Josh has a plan to start with just that. So does Ollie. What Josh and Ollie don't know yet is that they need each other to make their plans work.

A book about being kind to others and yourself, and searching for those moments when you can brighten someone's day and leave things a bit better than you found them.

Why this book?

- Written in alternating chapters by each of the main characters, Josh and Ollie
- A story about leaving things in life better than you found them and helping those around you.
- The first collaboration between two bestselling and award-winning neurodiverse authors
- A gorgeous story that will appeal to readers of Katrina Nannestad, Pip Harry, Rebecca Lim
- An important story that encourages kindness and finding your place and people in the world.

KATE FOSTER is passionate about encouraging and teaching a wider understanding of autism and mental illness via positive approach and representation. In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. In 2021 she won the prestigious CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for her novel *Aster's Good, Right Things*.

PUB DATE: September 2024 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Legend of the Lighthouse Moon

HELEN EDWARDS



A dazzling tale of family, resilience and the enduring magic of the sea.

In 1970, 13-year-old Mona McKenna lives at Cape Willoughby lighthouse with her grandparents, eight-year-old brother Albert, and their dog Biscuit. They help maintain the lighthouse, but two people are missing: their mother, lost in a tragic night, and their father, whose absence remains a mystery.

Mona, struggling with type 1 diabetes, finds solace in collecting beach flotsam and caring for a sea lion pup.

As they care for the pup, Mona and Albert uncover a family secret about their father's disappearance.

When the lighthouse is threatened, they must unite to protect their home and the sea lions.

Can they keep their family secret, protect the sea lions, and save their lighthouse home?

Why this book?

- Tackles profound themes such as loss, family secrets, and the challenges of living with type 1 diabetes
- Highlights the importance of protecting endangered sea lions and the natural environment
- The isolated lighthouse on Kangaroo Island provides a unique and atmospheric setting
- Author's use of memories and flashbacks seamlessly weaves past and present

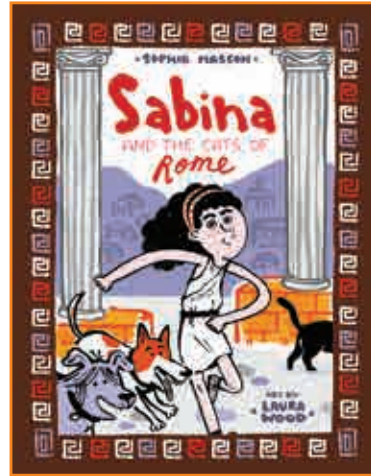
Dr HELEN EDWARDS writes diverse stories of nature, magic and history. She likes to include characters in her stories who are neurodivergent and/or who live with physical and mental health conditions, out in the world, having adventures. Her debut novel, *The Rebels of Mount Buffalo*, was published by Riveted Press in 2023.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Sabina and the Cats of Rome

SOPHIE MASSON



This light-hearted fantasy will transport you to ancient Rome. Dive into a world where cats talk, heroes rise, and extraordinary adventures await!

One afternoon, Sabina ventures into the wild part of her garden, where anything can happen.

But on this extraordinary afternoon, Sabina discovers something unexpected perched in a tree – it's a cat! And not just any cat, but a princess! Cleo, the only daughter of the King of the Cats in Rome, and she possesses the incredible ability to speak both cat and human languages.

There's trouble afoot. A wicked spell has been cast on the princess's father, and she desperately needs Sabina's help to save him.

Sabina teams up with Cleo and with the help of Major and Minor, they embark on a race against time. Their mission: to find help for the King of the Cats before it's too late.

SOPHIE MASSON is the award-winning author of over 90 books for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. In 2019, Sophie received an AM (Member, General Division) award in the Order of Australia honours list. LAURA WOOD has illustrated many books, for both Italian and Australian publishers.

Why this book?

- A princess cat who can speak both cat and human languages, is a magical and whimsical touch
- Sabina and Cleo have a clear mission. With the inclusion of Sabina's dogs, Major and Minor, we have a dynamic team that readers can cheer for
- The plot's central quest to save the King of the Cats from the King of the Rats and a wicked spell provides plenty of humour, adventure and suspense

PUB DATE: October 2024 • PUBLISHER: Christmas Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Ducky the Spy

SEAN E AVERY



Laugh-out-loud who-dunnit ridiculousness in this new graphic novel series from Sean E Avery

Ducky the Spy: Expect the Unexpected (Book 1)

Ducky works as a spy on Mr Pig's farm, with his friend, a ditzy donkey called Donny. Ducky's mission is to find the thief who is stealing from Mr Pig's food trough. But then Ducky and Donny are tasked with a harder ask - confronting the cat gang. Luckily Gretta the Inventor is on hand to help.

Ducky the Spy: Pumpkin Patch Panic (Book 2)

Ducky the Spy and Donny the Donkey are tasked with a protect and deliver mission. Mr Pig's prize pumpkin, Brunhilde (Hildy for short) needs to arrive safely at the Big Veggie contest. Unfortunately, Hildy is destroyed and Ducky has to think on his feet to replace it before the competition begins.

Why this book?

- Hilariously funny and full of absurdity and (for the grown-ups) evokes nostalgia for the Looney Tunes cartoons
- Quacktastically wonderful Ducky and his sidekick, gastro-challenged Donny are on the case and full of inventiveness and misguided intentions
- No matter how badly they mess up in the beginning and how frustrated their boss, Mr Pig, becomes, they always manage to save the day
- Visual gags (fart jokes galore!)
- Perfect for fans of Aaron Blabey and Dav Pilkey

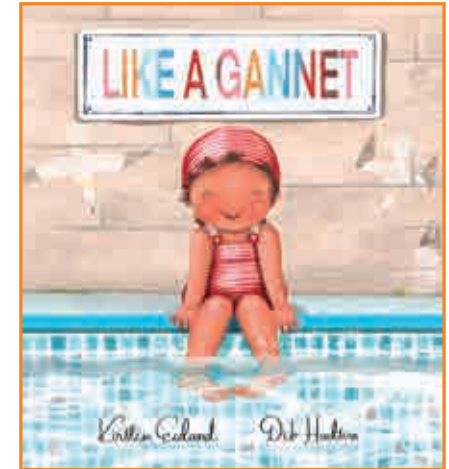
SEAN E AVERY is a teacher, writer-illustrator, sculptor and designer. He's best known as the writer-illustrator of beloved children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Harold and Grace*. Internationally, he's best known as a sculptor who uses CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections all around the world.

PUB DATE: April 2024 / September 2024 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Recently Published / Did You Miss? – Picture Books

Like a Gannet KIRSTEN EALAND & DEB HUDSON



Aim for the stars, or in this case the highest diving board!

Francie can glide like a swan, dabble like a duck and cut through the water like a cormorant.

So, when she sees her older cousins diving like gannets from the high diving board, she wants to do it too.

But can she be a gannet if she cannot even dive?

Francie faces the challenge in her own way in this joyous celebration of summer days at the pool, cousins and one little fledgling who wants to be a gannet.

Praise for Like a Gannet

'I'm impressed how picture book authors such as Ealand convey a story and imply complex themes with just a few, short sentences and carefully chosen words. *Like a Gannet* builds a suspenseful narrative about protagonist, Francie, facing her fears and concludes that persistence, problem solving and support of a friend are the solution. I also love the symmetry of consistently using bird metaphors to describe Francie's feelings and experiences, which also creates a satisfying pattern.' *Reading Time*

KIRSTEN EALAND spent long summer hours in the pool pretending to be a dolphin or a mermaid and has always wished she could dive like a gannet. DEB HUDSON finds joy in creating illustrations that celebrate life, growth and wonder, highlight all the beauty around, especially the tiny unnoticed details.

Why this book?

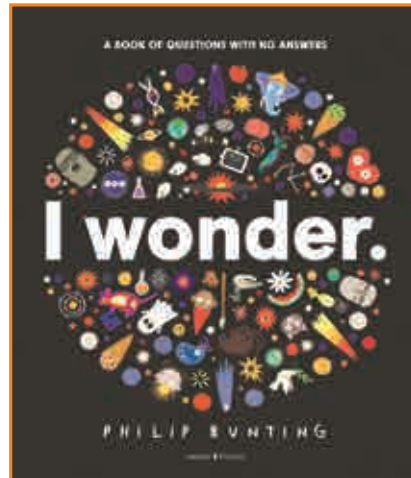
- A fresh take on a first experience story, it depicts the joy of swimming and the universal excitement and apprehension of that first time on the diving board
- An inspiring tale of courage and perseverance
- An ideal summer read, perfect for poolside storytime or as a gift for young swimmers and adventurers
- Francie's older cousins serve as positive role models, encouraging her to push her limits and try new things

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

I Wonder

PHILIP BUNTING



Celebrating that the very act of wondering is what drives us towards knowledge, from internationally bestselling author – and the master of questions without answers – Philip Bunting

*I wonder if there is life out there ...
I wonder what love is ...*

From the meaning of life to a cure for the hiccups, *I Wonder* explores a few of the things that lie just beyond the edges of our understanding. Questions to which we have no answers (yet)

‘While *I Wonder* is a collection of questions to which we have no answer, it is ultimately a book created to celebrate the joy of intellectual exploration – encouraging the reader to take a second look at what’s going on behind their eyes, and in the world around them.

I Wonder tracks through many non-fiction topics, tip-toeing around physics, biology, neuroscience, art and more. The through-line that intersects these disparate disciplines is, of course, Wonder.’ Phillip Bunting

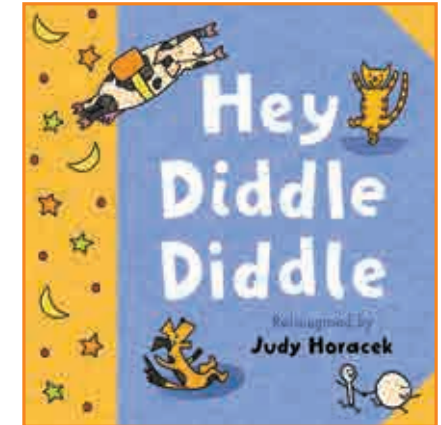
PHILIP BUNTING’s work deliberately encourages playful interaction between the reader and child, allowing his books to create a platform for genuine intergenerational engagement, and fun. Philip’s books have been translated into multiple languages, with rights sold in 38 territories to date. Since his first title was published in 2017, Philip has received accolades from around the world.

Why this book?

- From Philip Bunting, best-selling, multi-award winning creator of internationally acclaimed titles *Mopoke*, *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants* and *The Gentle Genius of Trees*
- Philip’s books have become a perennial favourite, in Australia and internationally
- Echoing the big questions often asked by children, exploring them in an accessible and humorous way
- Offers the possibility of hope to young readers - that they might find the answers through the power of wonder
- Stunning illustrations and infographics

Hey Diddle Diddle

JUDY HORACEK



A favourite nursery rhyme, re-imagined by the co-creator of the much loved and internationally bestselling *Where is the Green Sheep?* featuring Judy’s instantly recognisable art and humour

Hey Diddle Diddle is an English nursery rhyme that has been loved and sung by generations for centuries. Judy Horacek reimagines this favourite rhyme with her trademark wit and whimsy.

Hey Diddle Diddle is the first of a series of reimagined rhymes by Judy Horacek with *Hickory Dickory Dock* and *Row Row Row Your Boat* to follow.

Why this book?

- From best-selling creator Judy Horacek
- First of a series of “re-imagined rhymes”
- Featuring Judy Horacek’s instantly recognisable art and humour
- Nursery rhymes create cognitive skills - teaching how language works and improving memory, concentration, spatial intelligence.
- Beautifully produced in hardback, the perfect gift

JUDY HORACEK is a cartoonist, author and illustrator. When a tiny green sheep caught the eye of author Mem Fox, it became the internationally bestselling picture book *Where is the Green Sheep?*. Judy has since published five picture book collaborations with Mem Fox, including nursery rhyme storybooks *Good Night, Sleep Tight* and *Bonnie and Ben Rhyme Again*, as well as four of her own solo titles.

PUB DATE: August 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: North America, Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany (Mixtvision), Italy (Panini), Portugal (Penguin Random House Portugal (BookSmile) and Brazil (Vergara Y Riba)

PUB DATE: August 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Willow's Gumboots

BEVERLY MCWILLIAMS &
HÉLÈNE MAGISSON



A delightful story for anyone who has ever had a favourite piece of clothing.

Willow loved her gumboots. She wore them wherever she went. The gumboots were there in the garden, at the beach and even at parties.

But one day Willow discovered that something was wrong with her beloved gumboot.

Praise for Willow's Gumboots

'A beautiful story full of detail, imagination and joy, this picture book deserves a space on the family bookshelf and is sure to be loved for many years to come.' LAUREN MULLINDER,
Illustrator and Artist

Why this book?

- Highlights the importance of reusing and cherishing items, promoting a sustainable mindset
- Willow's journey with her gumboots can inspire children to think creatively about how to repair and repurpose their own beloved items, fostering a culture of sustainability
- Features stunning, vibrant illustrations
- Delightful and heartwarming story

BEVERLEY McWILLIAMS is a children's author from South Australia with a passion for historical fiction. Her debut picture book *Born to Fly* was a CBCA notable book. HÉLÈNE MAGISSON is a critically acclaimed illustrator of many books for children. Before Hélène turned to book illustration, she trained in the art of medieval illumination.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

How to Draw a Dragon

KATE TALBOT



What is the 'right' way to draw a dragon?

Everybody knows what a dragon looks like.

Don't they?

Dragons have wings.

Dragons breathe fire.

Maybe dragons wear rollerskates?

And shoot marshmallows from their tails!

How to Draw a Dragon showcases a humorous conversation between a parent and a child, highlighting their attempts to find the 'perfect' way to draw a dragon.

As rules and opinions start to restrict their artistic expression, they stumble upon a valuable lesson: the key ingredient to creativity lies in embracing one's unique perspective and breaking free from constraints.

Why this book?

- A glorious celebration of creativity, imagination and collaboration
- A very funny and inventive celebration of the art of compromise
- A hilarious exploration of imagination, creativity and teamwork, perfect to share with children who love drawing . . . or having opinions.
- Will inspire you to get out the pencils and paper - whether you are 5 or 105!

KATE TALBOT has a passion for quirky stories. She has a degree in filmmaking and spent several years as a film producer. In 2011, she made the shift to children's writing and illustration after moving to Germany with her Spanish husband. She now lives in New Zealand.

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Sarah McKenzie Literary Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Mini and Milo Series

VENITA DIMOS &
NATASHIA CURTIN

About the series

This popular series features two adorably endearing leads: Mini, an elephant, and her best friend Milo, a rabbit who wants to be a magician.

The stories combine the emotional satisfaction and the entertaining appeal of *Bluey*, the recognition of the depth of children's intellect, curiosity and feelings and the keys to manage through relatable characters, an approach mastered for decades by Fred Rogers, and an abundance of visual humour.

All texts have been written as discrete titles so that they can stand alone, out of order. The stories work on several levels, providing reading enjoyment at face value, but the plots and characters are layered to maximise the opportunity for children to learn resilience and conflict intelligence.

There are currently six titles in the series, with more stories to come.



#1 Teeny Tiny Voice

Pub Date: March 2023

Mini is an elephant ... and not really mini at all. But she has a tiny house, a tiny bedroom, and a tiny best friend who dreams of being a magician. She also has a big secret – she hears a tiny invisible voice that sometimes causes big trouble.

Can Mini learn to manage the invisible mischief maker?

KEY SKILL: Positive self-talk

#2 The Big Flappy Ears

Pub date: September 2023

Mini's ears are bigger than big and huger than huge ... but she has a problem. They aren't very good at listening. When Mini misses out on the excursion, she tries everything she can to fix her ears – even pegging them up, so that they look like her best friend Milo's ears. But nothing works. Eventually she realises that maybe her ears aren't the real issue after all.

KEY SKILL: LISTENING

#3 Elephants Can't Jump!

Pub date: March 2024

Mini's best friend Milo always gives the best presents.

But when Mini's birthday comes around, she is very unhappy with Milo's present. A trampoline? What was Milo thinking? Mini is so cross she can't even speak to him. Instead, she does everything she can to hide from him. Which is quite hard, when you are an elephant. Mini eventually realises that sometimes what you avoid might be the answer you needed all along.

KEY SKILL: COMMUNICATION

#4 The Last Plum

Pub date: September 2024

Mini is wild about plums, and even wilder about winning.

She is about to enter her plum pie into the Annual Delicious and Delightful Cooking Competition, and discovers that she is one plum short. Luckily, her friend Milo loves plums too. Will Mini manage to make her plum pie, or will she find that she needs to find another, very special, ingredient?

KEY SKILL: COMPETITION

#5 Elephants Never Forget

Pub date: March 2025

Mini has the best memory in the whole animal kingdom. She remembers the good stuff, the bad stuff and everything in between. And because Mini remembers everything, she also remembers mistakes. Usually other people's mistakes. So when her best friend Milo accidentally loses Mr Cuddles, Mini has to learn how to forgive ... and forget.

KEY SKILL: FORGIVENESS

#6 Room for One

Pub date: August 2025

Mini's dream boat was no ordinary boat. It was silky, snuggly and soft. But when Mini's best friend Milo wants to get on board, Mini doesn't want to share. When she gets cross, things go wrong, and she discovers her boat, and her friendship, is heading in the wrong direction. Can Mini find a way to fix it?

KEY SKILL: SHARING

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

For over 20 years, VENITA DIMOS has helped thousands of people solve complex problems and navigate difficult times in their lives. She is passionate about empowering children with the skills and resilience to navigate the inevitable curveballs that life throws at them. NATASHIA CURTIN is the award-winning author and illustrator of *Vernon the Penguin*.

Brilliant

ROSI NGWENYA
& SANDY FLETT



A journey into the impressive microworld of an ant colony – narrated by words that end in 'ant'.

Ants are anything but ordinary. Throughout this book you'll follow the journey of one specific ant, from before her birth through to her successful career as a soldier ant.

Ants really are BRILLI-ANT! Their primary focus is taking care of their community. They put others before themselves. They can lift weights many times heavier than their own bodies ... and if they were humans, we'd probably consider them to be superheroes!

Why this book?

- You'll discover how ants live and what makes them so amazing. It's like having a mini adventure in the world of ants!
- Easy to follow with fun words, and perfect for children to practice reading by themselves.
- Makes you want to go outside and look for ants and other bugs
- Sandy Flett's illustrations are super cheeky and this is one little ant with loads of personality

ROSI NGWENYA writes quirky and engaging children's stories. When she's not doing that, she can be found working as an oral health therapist for children, looking into the mouths of small people and helping them to stop sucking their fingers and thumbs. SANDY FLETT is the creator and presenter of the internationally successful YouTube channel, Kids Art School.

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