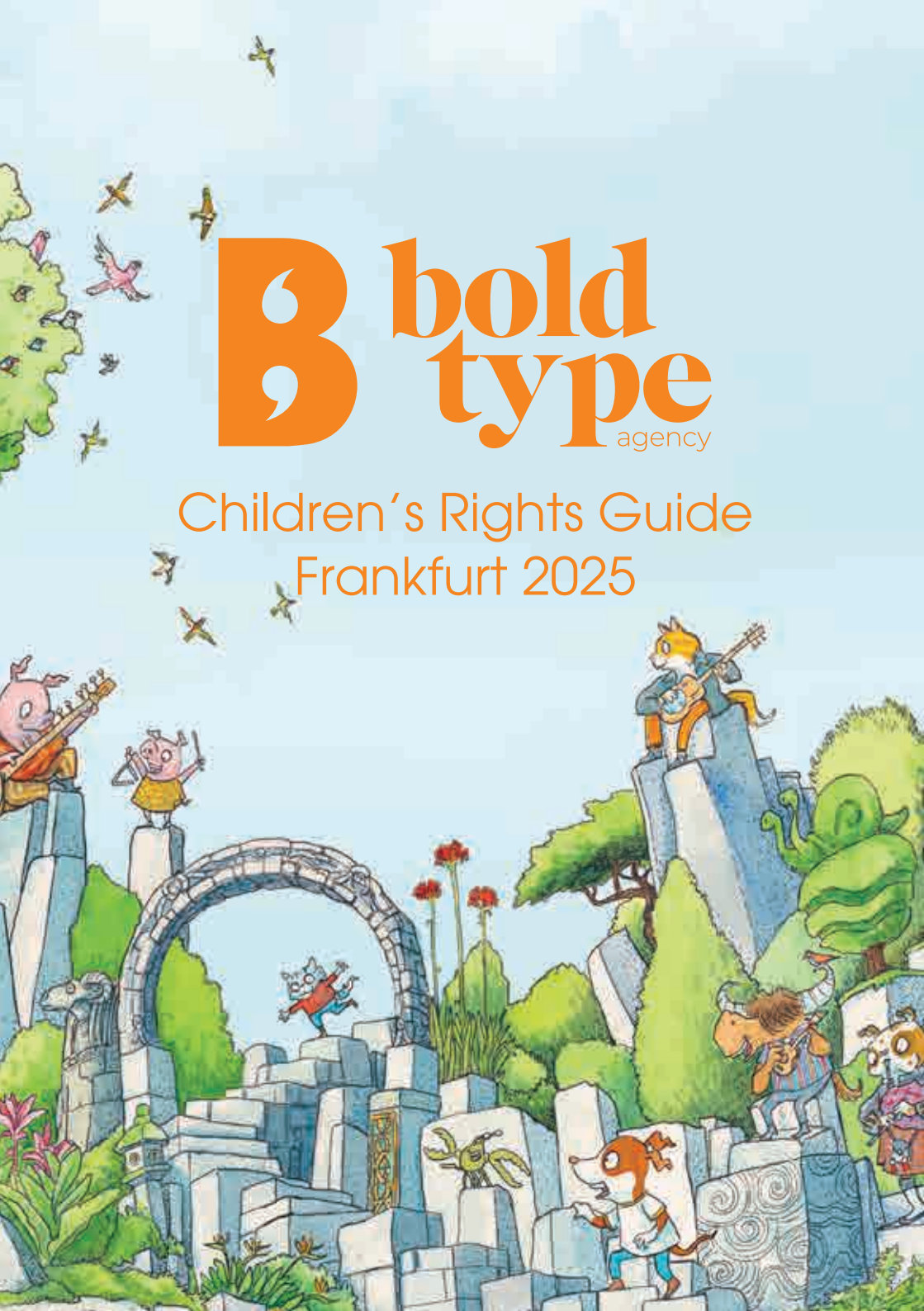




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Children's Rights Guide Frankfurt 2025

Contents

TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT
MIDDLE GRADE - STAND ALONE
MIDDLE GRADE - SERIES
JUNIOR SERIES
GRAPHIC NOVELS (ALL AGES)
PICTURE BOOKS
RECENTLY PUBLISHED



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)

France: Hachette Jeunesse



The 113th Assistant Librarian by Stuart Wilson

France: Larousse (two-book deal)

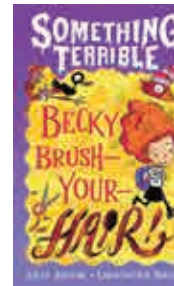
The Netherlands: Moon (two-book deal)

Turkey: Timaş (two-book deal)

Russia: Mann, Ivanov and Ferber Publishers

Japan: Tokyo Sogensha

China: Beijing Science and Technology



Something Terrible: Becky Brush-Your-Hair by Sally Barton and Christopher Nielsen

Italy: Battello a vapore

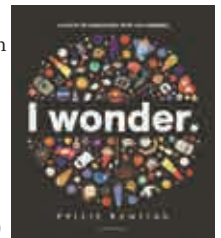
I Wonder by Philip Bunting

Germany: Mixtvision

Portugal: Penguin Random House Portugal (BookSmile)

Brazil: Vergara Y Riba (VR Editore)

Italy: Panini



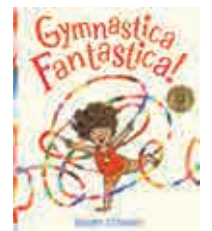
Gymnastica Fantastica! by Briony Stewart

North America: Penguin Random House (Viking)

Israel: Matar Publishing

One Day by Shirley Marr and Michael Speechley

China (China CITIC), North America (Candlewick)



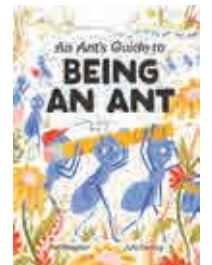
Get Your Story Straight by Briar Rolfe

North America: Levine Querido

An Ant's Guide to being an Ant

by Zoe Meagher & Julia Darling

Estonia: Tammerraamat



Frontlist – YA and Teen

A New Kind of Beautiful

SUZY ZAIL

cover art
to come

Paige Wilding knows exactly what she wants for her future: a scholarship to the New York Academy of Art where she can paint hyper-realistic art that *matters*. Plus, a gallery job to pay the rent on the Manhattan loft she'll share with her best friend Jazz.

But her dreams of New York – and painting altogether – come to a crashing halt when Paige is diagnosed with Stargardt's Disease, a genetic eye disease for which there is no cure.

At school, only Jazz knows that Paige is losing her sight. But as the months go by, and as Paige's central vision worsens, it becomes harder and harder for her to keep up – with homework, with her carefully curated social life, and with painting.

When Paige's art rival Zac Buccaletti learns about her vision loss, he tells Paige that art doesn't need to be perfect to be beautiful. Paige has never heard something so ridiculous ... but as her world darkens, and as she spends more time with Zac, Paige learns that the boy who speaks in rainbows might just be right.

Why this book?

- Losing your vision is terrifying, but Paige never gives up on living big.
- It shows the messy side of popularity and not just the glossy TikTok version and makes you question what beauty really means beyond likes and filters.
- There's a best-friend duo you'll wish was yours. Paige and Jazz are ride-or-die, even when they fight.
- It's romantic, but not perfect. Ben is hot and exciting... but he's not everything Paige needs.
- Art is at the heart of the story. If you've ever doodled in a notebook or dreamt of creating, you'll get it.

SUZY ZAIL is the author of *The Wrong Boy* (short-listed for the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards, the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature, the WAYRBA, USBBY and YABBA awards), *Alexander Altmann A10567* (a Notable Book at the CBCA Awards and *I Am Change*. Suzy's books have been published in Germany, the UK, U.S. Sweden, Italy, Romania and the Netherlands.

PUB DATE: July 2026 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Our Dark Unravelling

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. *Our Dark Unravelling* 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.

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.

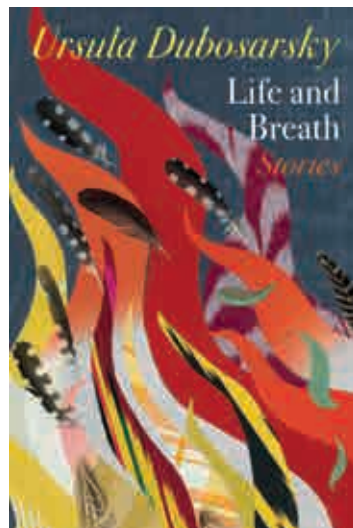
cover art
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Why this book?

- 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

Life and Breath: Stories

URSULA
DUBOSARSKY



'The most graceful, most original writer for young people in Australia - probably the world' - Sonya Hartnett

It was a sunny, light-aired day, and we walked quickly down the street strewn with gumnuts. I remember taking several deep breaths, as if to reassure myself that whatever had happened to my strong, smiling uncle, I was still alive and was going to keep on living, and that life and breath were very good things.

Discoveries from the past, hopes for the future – and the decisions we make on a knife edge that clarify our own sense of self.

These elements inform Ursula Dubosarsky's multi-award-winning novels and are in sharp, bright evidence in these eleven beautifully crafted short stories, by turns poignant, funny, reflective and joyful – nearly always mercurial – collected together for the first time.

URSULA DUBOSARSKY, former Australian Children's Laureate (2020–2021), is the award-winning author of over sixty books for young readers. Her work has been translated into fifteen languages, staged internationally, and honoured with multiple state and national prizes, as well as nominations for the Astrid Lindgren and Hans Christian Andersen awards.

Why this book?

- This is Ursula's first-ever anthology of short stories aimed at upper-middle-grade/YA readers.
- The thirteen stories range from poignant to joyful, reflective to mercurial, creating a rich emotional tapestry that resonates across moods.
- Themes of identity, memory, choices, and becoming are explored on the 'knife-edge' between past and future.
- Ursula has written new author's notes for each story, offering glimpses into their origins and giving the collection an extra layer of intimacy.
- A rare joint release with the book to be published simultaneously in Australia and the UK in March 2026.

Frontlist – Middle Grade – Stand Alone

The Prime Minister Problem

BRENTON CULLEN

A heartfelt and timely story about an anxious boy who ignites a viral campaign to bring the Prime Minister to his rural town in a bid to reunite with his grandmother.

Wren Somerville is ten, quiet, and full of worries.

While his classmates bicker about footy and friends, Wren frets about bushfires, animals, and his grandma's health.

When his teacher sets a project on the Prime Minister, Wren takes it to heart – writing letters that beg for help with the big problems nobody else seems to notice. But when the replies don't come the way he hopes, Wren learns that even small voices can matter, and that courage isn't always about standing at the front of the class.

A heartfelt, funny, and deeply relatable middle-grade novel about politics, family, and finding your voice – even when you're the quiet one.

BRENTON CULLEN is a children's author from Queensland whose passion lies in picture books and middle-grade fiction. *The Prime Minister Problem* is Brenton's debut novel and will be followed by publication of his debut picture book with Wombat Books in 2027.

cover art
to come

Why this book?

- Puts a shy ten-year-old in direct conversation with the Prime Minister, blending politics and childhood perspective in a way that's original and fun.
- Wren Somerville is quiet, anxious, and thoughtful, giving voice to the children who often feel overlooked in classrooms and stories.
- Wren's relationships with his sister and grandmother are central, offering emotional grounding and intergenerational depth.
- Introduces topics like climate change, healthcare, and fairness through Wren's letters, making complex ideas approachable for young readers.
- Funny classroom banter and warm family moments offset the weight of Wren's worries.
- Sparks curiosity about how governments work and why civic engagement matters.

PUB DATE: June 2026 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Hannah Backwards

KIM RACKHAM

Book 2
coming
in 2026



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.

Why this book?

- A heartwarming story about two best friends whose world changes when one has to move away.
- Told in playful, poetic language that's simple, rhythmic, and fun to read aloud.
- Big themes of friendship, family, and growing up are explored with warmth and gentle humour.
- Sign language is woven into the classroom, encouraging inclusivity and sparking curiosity.
- Nana and Pop bring intergenerational love and wisdom, adding depth and comfort to Hannah's story.
- Mixes schoolyard dramas, family life, and personal rituals in a way every child will recognise.

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

PUB DATE: September 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Only the Wild

VICTOR KELLEHER

cover art
to come

From one of Australia's foremost children's authors comes *Only the Wild* — bold, thrilling, and thought-provoking.

In a reimagined future Antarctica, a brutal war rages between farming clans fighting for survival and the Wilders, eco-warriors determined to erase all human presence and return the Great Southland to wilderness.

Evan, the son of a farming family, dares to imagine a middle path between the warring sides – a dangerous idea that makes him a target for both. When he rescues a young girl, the sole survivor of a neighbouring massacre, Evan draws the deadly attention of Reyne, a ruthless Wilder. Narrowly escaping with the child, he finds himself hunted, with Reyne relentless on his trail.

What follows will spark an extraordinary chain of events destined to reshape the fate of the Great Southland across time.

VICTOR KELLEHER is a past winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year Award, has twice received the CBCA Honour Award, and has either won or been short-listed for many other such prizes, including the Carnegie Medal. Lorena Carrington is award-winning illustrator and author, receiving honours including a CBCA Notable listing and a May Gibbs Fellowship.

Why this book?

- Tackles big questions about land, sustainability, and how people live with nature wrapped up in a gripping adventure.
- Packed with danger and high-stakes chases, with tough choices that will keep you hooked until the last page.
- Meet Evan, 15 and brave at heart, resilient, compassionate, and determined to carve his own path, even when it means standing against everyone else.
- If you love epic adventures like *Gregor the Overlander* or Michael Morpurgo's survival stories, this is for you.

The Disappearing Circus

KATE GORDON &
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.

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

Flight of the 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.

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!

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.

PUB DATE: October 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Escape from Sherwood

BEATTIE ALVAREZ

Fast, funny, and full of danger, *Escape from Sherwood* is a thrilling middle-grade adventure where sibling chaos, fierce friendships, and Robin Hood lore collide with gaming glitches.

Michael Robins has a new game. It's cool. It's retro. It has bows, arrows, an evil king—and something lurking just out of sight.

When a glitch (and his little sister's sticky fingers) pulls Michael and his friends inside the computer, the game becomes terrifyingly real. Now they're racing through Sherwood Forest, dodging the Flush, and trying to outwit the Master before he resets the program.

Time is running out. Complete the levels or be deleted.

BEATTIE ALVAREZ is a voracious reader, writer, illustrator, editor, graphic designer, toy shop owner and dragon maker. She's half of the creative duo Phoebe McArthur (author of the Lucy Newton series).

cover art
to come

Why this book?

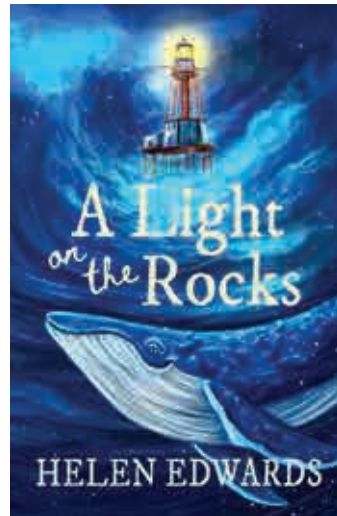
- Robin Hood Meets Roblox as classic outlaw legend collides with video-game logic in a fresh, funny mash-up.
- Penny is chaos on legs, and Michael has to keep her alive in a world where lives really matter.
- School bully Alex joins the team, and her villainous brother turns out to be... King John.
- Text boxes, glitches, and LOLs make the story feel like you're playing as much as reading.

PUB DATE: November 2025 • PUBLISHER: Christmas Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

A Light on the Rocks

HELEN EDWARDS



From the real *Admella* tragedy comes a magical, time-swept story of loss, resilience, and the ocean's power.

Fourteen-year-old Daisy is aboard the SS *Admella* when it strikes a reef off Cape Banks in one of Australia's worst maritime disasters.

A century later, siblings Max and Rose spend their summer at Cape Jaffa Lighthouse, where they stumble upon a ghostly horse—one of six lost with the ship.

As secrets of the past surface, an accident leaves their father and the assistant keeper injured, and Max and Rose must care for them while keeping the lighthouse burning through the night.

Told across two timelines and bound by place, mystery, and magic, this haunting tale of survival, resilience, and the sea blends ghost horses, singing whales, and real history into an unforgettable adventure.

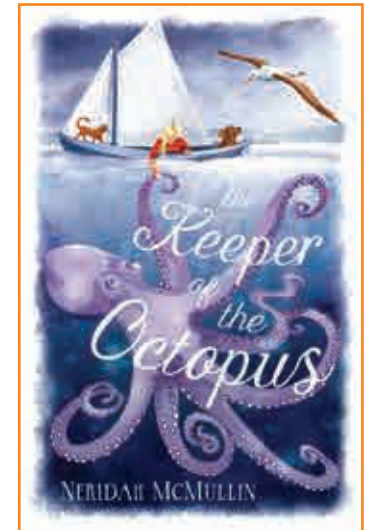
Dr HELEN EDWARDS writes diverse stories of nature, magic and history. She likes to include characters in her stories who are neurodivergent and/or who live with physical and mental health conditions, out in the world, having adventures.

Why this book?

- Weaves real survivors, events, and places with imaginative storytelling, appealing to history and adventure fans.
- Blends history with ghost horses, singing whales, and mystery to captivate middle-grade readers.
- Survival, courage, conservation, connection, and resilience at the heart of the story.
- Features characters with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and asthma, conditions rarely acknowledged in historical fiction.

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

Frontlist – Middle Grade – Series

The Feathers of Farwood (Book 1)

JAYNE MCINTRYE

First of
a three-
book
series



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

When Eva Feather's father is cursed into an owl by the dreaded Grippe, her mother whisks Eva and her sisters away to Farwood—a town where folklore and whispers come to life.

Determined to save her dad before her own feathers start to show, Eva teams up with her new friend Harvey and unlikely ally Jessica. Together, they must break into Farwood's secret archives and uncover the fabled Book of Names, said to hold the cure.

But cunning creatures and hidden dangers stand in their way, and Eva soon learns the Grippe may be more than just a curse.

Packed with mystery, adventure, and magical realism, this enchanting first book in a trilogy will captivate readers and spark imaginations.

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 113th Assistant Librarian

STUART WILSON



Book 3
coming
in 2026!



The 113th Assistant Librarian

Oliver Wormwood is sure his new job in the library will be boring. Until he learns that books hold great power – and danger.

By the end of his first day, Oliver has witnessed a death, been frozen by a book, met a perplexing number of cats, and fought off a horde of terrifying creatures. With only a mysterious girl called Agatha to show him the ropes, Oliver needs to learn fast . . . if he wants to live longer than the 112 assistant librarians before him.

Lost in a Book

Oliver has settled into his life as the 113th assistant librarian. But when he discovers a rare edition of a history book with unique wording, he realises the slightest misinterpretation could endanger the entire kingdom. Determined to solve this mystery, he and Agatha leave the library to establish the truth. But can they prevent Annabel Clowritch, the esteemed Member for Upper-Lower Tumbledown Barrows, from using the text to her own advantage and stop a war?

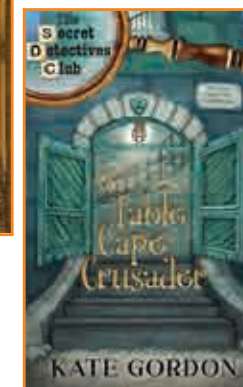
STUART WILSON is the author of the Prometheus High series.

Why this book?

- Haunted libraries, secret societies, cryptic texts: this is a magical universe begging for multiple re-reads.
- In this universe, books aren't just for reading, they're powerful, dangerous, and can fling you into whole new worlds.
- Oliver only lands the job of 'assistant librarian', and his journey from overlooked to unlikely hero is hilarious.
- Agatha (who's only *mostly* human) brings sass, smarts, and heart to the story.
- Short, fast-paced chapters hook reluctant readers, while layered themes keep more confident kids fully engaged.
- In *Lost in a Book*, the action explodes beyond the library, mixing politics, history, and high-

The Secret Detectives Club series

KATE GORDON



The Haunting of Hindmarsh Hall (Book 1)

In Table Cape Bay, Rocko Jarvis and his friends Cosmo and Mingus never expected to trade Scrabble for sleuthing. When bestselling author PD Watkins is haunted by eerie happenings at Hindmarsh Hall, the boys vow to investigate. From strange noises to sinister messages, their first mystery uncovers more than they bargained for—and the Secret Detectives Club is born.

The Table Cape Crusader (Book 2)

The Secret Detectives Club's second case starts with missing milk jugs—but quickly spirals into chaos. Strange pranks turn dangerous, mysterious symbols appear on walls, and the whole town feels at risk. Rocko, Cosmo, and Mingus must crack the case fast, before the next target is Rocko's family... or Rocko himself. The stakes are higher than ever for the young detectives.

Why this book?

- A lively new detective series from award-winning author Kate Gordon, perfect for fans of *The Hardy Boys*, *Nancy Drew* or *Scooby-Doo*.
- Friendship at its funniest: Rocko, Cosmo and Mingus bicker, get jealous, and stumble their way toward true teamwork (and less self-doubt).
- Haunted houses, strange noises and cryptic messages bring just-creepy-enough thrills – no nightmares attached.
- Heart as well as mystery: Rocko also faces bullies, anxiety and the struggle of being 'uncool', making the story as relatable as it is adventurous.

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 Heart song 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.

PUB DATE: October 2024 / October 2025 / October 2026 • PUBLISHER: Penguin Random House Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary • RIGHTS HELD: Translation

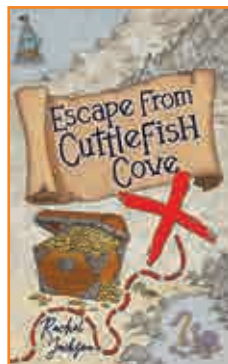
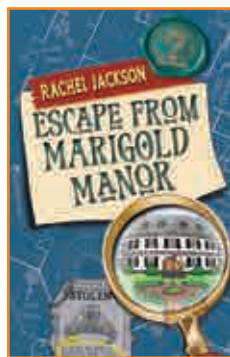
RIGHTS SOLD: France (Editions Larousse), The Netherlands (Moon); Turkey (Timaş); China (Beijing Science and Technology) all in two book deals and Japan (Tokyo Sogensha) and Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber) for Book 1

PUB DATE: May 2025 / October 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Solve it Your Way series

RACHEL JACKSON



YOU are the hero, and YOU control the story.

Escape From Cuttlefish Cove

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

Step into the role of master detective. Trapped in a grand manor full of secrets, you must unravel thefts, betrayals, and even murder. Each decision leads to hidden passages, cryptic clues, and 32 possible endings. Can you solve the case before time runs out?

Escape from Firestone Fortress

As a young wizard's apprentice, you must steal the legendary firestone and hatch the first dragon in a thousand years. But will you master its power or perish in flame? With 38 unique endings, lost texts, riddles, and countless dragons to discover, your fate is in your hands.

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*

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.

Frontlist – Junior

Freddie Jones: The Mystery of the Troublesome Trees

KATE FOSTER

Meet Freddie Jones in a new series full of adventure and mystery from award-winning author Kate Foster

Freddie, along with his trusty assistance dog Hobnob and Grandma Lilly, is off to join his parents at a luxury resort for his first ever holiday. He can't wait to see the rainforest and its incredible and dangerous inhabitants like cassowaries and crocodiles.

But it turns out there's more to explore – and in store – than Freddie ever imagined. The ecosystem is not behaving as it should, and noises, lights and sounds are popping up all around the resort, leaving behind a trail of mysterious and unexpected trees. Who, or what, is behind it?

Can Freddie, Hobnob and Grandma Lilly solve the mystery, or will it be too late?



Why this book?

- Freddie's world, Freddie's words. An autistic hero who shows kids it's okay to share feelings and be yourself..
- Quirky, funny, and full of surprises, Grandma Lilly adds big laughs.
- Hobnob, Freddie's assistance dog, is as brave and lovable as they come.
- Freddie's parents and Grandma show the power of love and teamwork.
- Positive representation. Freddie's autism is celebrated, helping kids understand and value neurodiversity.
- Freddie and Grandma make a brilliant mystery-solving team.

KATE FOSTER is a children's author writing about friends, family, and dogs. Originally from a small town in the south east of England, she now lives on the stunning Gold Coast in Australia with her family and second-hand dogs. She is passionate about encouraging and teaching a wider understanding of autism and mental illness via positive approach and representation.

Animal Force

CERISE MADSEN &
SALLY HEINRICH

Friendship, mystery, and adventure collide in this thrilling junior novel about family, courage, and the magic of finding your place in the world.

Twins Leo and Kelly thought they were ordinary kids. But when a birthday camping trip to Ember Island stirs strange dreams, family secrets, and flashes of impossible power, everything changes.

With bushfires raging, bullies circling, and developers threatening their beloved wetlands, Leo and Kelly must discover the truth about where they came from – and what they're capable of.

cover art
to come

Why this book?

- A fresh twist on magical realism, with mysterious sparks of colour and power woven into an everyday setting.
- Explores adoption and identity, themes with global relevance that invite empathy and conversation.
- Animal connections as spirit guides, echoing popular global trends in children's storytelling.
- Madsen said, 'I wanted to create a fun wildlife adventure that explored the urgency of protecting nature and gave children a voice while also celebrating the joy of connecting with the wild world around them.'

Animal Force is CERISE MADSEN debut title. SALLY HEINRICH has illustrated 40+ books, written across genres, created art from wine labels to zoo murals, run workshops for all ages, and received fellowships and exhibitions in Australia and Asia.

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 *Frindelswylde*
- 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

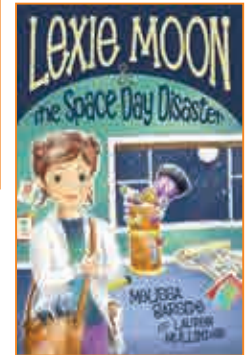
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Lexie Moon and the Word Burgling Bungle

MELISSA GARSIDE & LAUREN MULLINDER



Book 3
coming
in 2026



Lexie Moon and the Space Day Disaster (Book 1)

Lexie Moon invents the Vocabuliser to help people say tricky words. But when it's stolen by gadget thief Gizmo Lightfinger, the device is turned into the Word Grabber 9000, snatching words away entirely! With Grandad's help and a sniffer-tracker device, Lexie follows Gizmo's trail of stolen gadgets. But when Grandad is zapped into silence, it's up to Lexie to stop Gizmo and save her invention before everyone is left speechless.

Lexie Moon and the Word Burgling Bungle (Book 1)

Joining the school Stargazing Club, Lexie builds the Stellascopes, a gadget that reveals stars in daylight. But during Space Day, popstar Oscar Buzz's livestream is interrupted when Gizmo escapes custody and hijacks the Stellascopes plunging the world into darkness! With her reputation and the sun on the line, Lexie must find a solution fast. Every problem has an answer if she can outsmart Gizmo in time.

MELISSA GARSIDE combines her passion for language with a deep understanding of what children love to read, honed through years of teaching. 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?

- Inventor-heroine Lexie uses creativity and science to solve problems, showing kids that curiosity and persistence can save the day. STEM with sparkle!
- From word-stealing machines to a device that swallows the sun, each story delivers wild, page-turning adventures with a techy twist.
- Gizmo Lightfinger isn't just a thief, he's a recurring nemesis whose schemes challenge Lexie's wit and resilience.
- Grandad is more than sidekick; he's mentor, co-inventor, and comic relief, grounding the stories in family and heart.
- Fast-paced, funny, and inventive, these books hook reluctant readers.

PUB DATE: February 2025 / August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Cockatoo Crew

LORA INAK AND KRUTI DESAI



Eight kids. Eight languages. One chaotic classroom.
The Cockatoo Crew prove that friendship speaks louder than words.

Elif's Itchy Palm (Book 1)

On her first day at Cockatoo Hill English Language School, Elif feels nervous about making friends in a new country. But when her palm itches in class and her lucky coin disappears, she stumbles onto a secret: her classmates are part of 'The Cockatoo Crew', a 'superhero-ish' team ready to help. Can they track down the missing coin and become the friends Elif's been hoping for?

Sambu Won't Grow (Book 2)

Sambu wants nothing more than to grow tall and strong like his Maasai ancestors, especially before his eighth birthday celebration. But when a classmate steps over him, he's convinced he's been cursed never to grow. With his sisters teasing and strange noises keeping him awake at night, Sambu turns to The Cockatoo Crew. Can his friends help him break the curse before

Why this book?

- A joyful celebration of multiculturalism, bringing together kids from around the globe in a relatable, school-based setting.
- Shows how connection, courage, and kindness transcend language barriers, making it universally resonant.
- With humour and a touch of magic, the Cockatoo Crew's adventures feel larger-than-life, while staying grounded in real-world emotions.
- Inak and Desai create stories that celebrate migration, language, and friendship, blending heartfelt storytelling with playful energy.

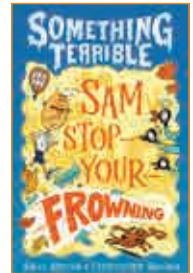
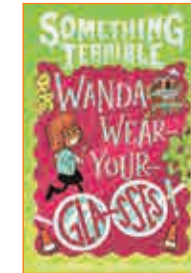
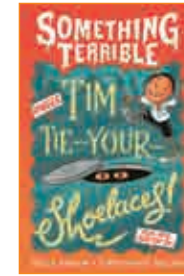
LORA INAK, an Australian author of Turkish heritage, writes fiction and non-fiction exploring identity and belonging. KRUTI DESAI, a UK-based illustrator and designer, brings diverse cultures to life through vibrant visuals.

PUB DATE: October 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, though most people call him Tim Tie-your-shoelaces. No matter how often he's told, Tim never ties them. One morning, as he leaves for school, his mum warns, 'Tim! Tie your shoelaces. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Becky Brush-Your-Hair!

Becky Culpepper of 34 Rufus Street is better known as Becky Brush-your-hair. Despite endless reminders, she never brushes it. One morning her mum calls, 'Becky! Brush your hair. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Wanda Wear-Your-Glasses!

At 4 Rufus Street lives Wanda Hushberry, though everyone calls her Wanda Wear-your-glasses. She never puts them on, no matter how many times she's told. One morning her mum cries, 'Wanda! Wear your glasses. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Sam Stop-Your-Frowning!

Sam Crisp lives at 6 Rufus Street, but most people call him Sam Stop-your-frowning. He never listens and never smiles. One morning, his mum warns, 'Sam! Stop your frowning. 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.

PUB DATE: February 2025 / May 2025 / August 2025 / February 2026 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • RIGHTS SOLD: Italy (Piemme) (Becky Brush-Your-Hair)

Ella and the Frogs series

CASSY POLIMENI &
HYKIE BREEZE



Four
Book
series

Big adventures begin in small backyards
– just ask Ella!

Ella and the Amazing Frog Orchestra (Book 1)

Eight-year-old Ella hates her new house and misses her best friend Viv. Everything changes when she discovers a secret pond in the neighbours' yard – home to an orchestra of frogs! With new friend Mai, Ella must save the pond before it's too late.

Ella and the Sleepover Safari (Book 2)

Ella's old friend Viv and new friend Mai finally meet at her birthday sleepover at the zoo. Exploring after hours should be magical, but when an animal escapes, the girls must put aside their rivalry and work together.

Ella and the Mystery of the Missing Frogs (Book 3)

When everything goes wrong, things get worse for Ella: the frogs in her backyard disappear. Convinced the two are connected, she sets out to solve the mystery – if only her little brother Will would stop getting in the way.

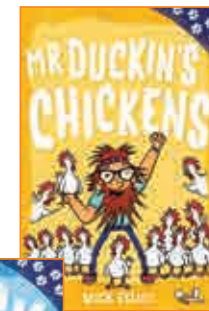
CASSY POLIMENI is a Melbourne-based children's author with a passion for the environment.
HYKIE BREEZE is a Hong Kong born graphic designer and illustrator living in Sydney.

Why this book?

- Frogs, zoos, and backyard mysteries bring animals and nature to the heart of every story, feeding children's endless curiosity about the world around them.
- The stories sneak in real-world science, from frog habitats to ecosystems, giving kids eco-awareness without ever feeling like homework.
- With Ella as a bold, curious, and determined heroine, the series puts a clever and adventurous girl front and centre.
- The addition of her pesky little brother Will creates chaos, comedy, and the sibling squabbles kids know all too well.

The Paw Prints series

VARIOUS AUTHORS



Dog People, Ugh! by 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 by 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.

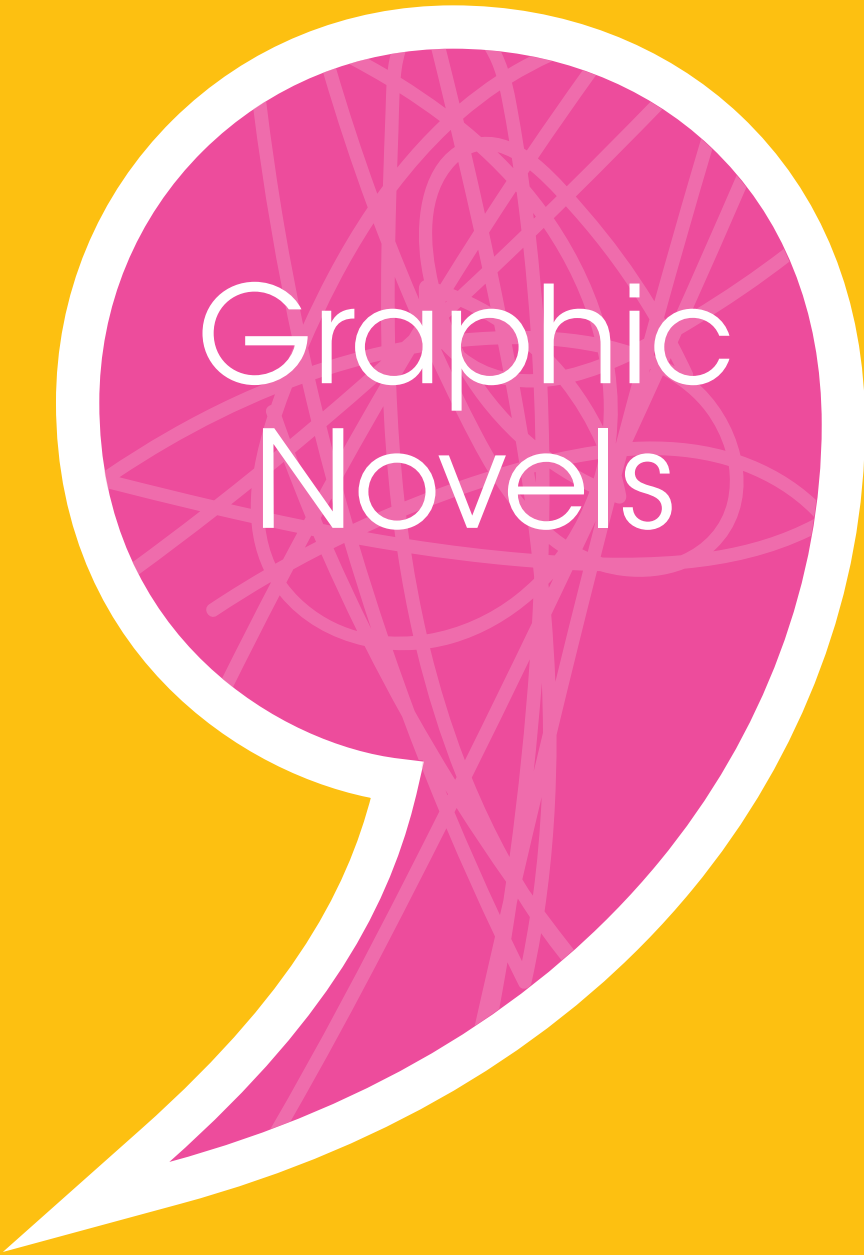
But when he hatches a plan to break the WORLD RECORD for eating THE MOST EGGS IN A DAY, Mr Duckins and his loyal class of misfits embark on a chicken-filled adventure that could turn rotten.

Stuck in a Handstand by Andrew Hansen & Jessica Roberts

Pattie Cake would love to have a special talent, just like everyone else in her class. Luckily, her school principal (umm, make that 'un-principal') has a magic fish. It grants Pattie the special talent she longs for – doing handstands. The only problem is, she gets stuck upside down! Will she ever be the right way up again?

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.



Graphic Novels

Daisy and Bug: Treehouse Troubles

KIM DE HAAN

Book 1
in
series!

cover art
to come

Friendship, fiascos, and nonstop laughs for early readers everywhere.

Daisy has a bad reputation for 'good' ideas – like building the biggest treehouse ever.

With Bug's reluctant help, this odd duo discovers that even the worst ideas can grow into the best adventures and the most exciting problems to solve.

Why this book?

- A laugh-out-loud graphic novel for ages 4–9, blending simple text, bold visuals, and fast-paced humour to hook even reluctant readers.
- An unforgettable odd-couple duo with Daisy's wild optimism blending with Bug's weary loyalty sparking instant comedy and endless adventure.
- Packed with slapstick mishaps and escalating chaos, but underpinned by themes of resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Every child can find themselves here, whether they're big-dreaming like Daisy or nap-loving like Bug.

KIM DE HAAN is a Sydney-based writer and illustrator creating warm, quirky, and optimistic stories for kids. A former architect and designer, she now blends digital illustration with hand-drawn textures. When not storytelling, she's often crafting, cooking, or enjoying a well-earned nap.

PUB DATE: April 2026 • PUBLISHER: Perentie Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Izzy and Bart: The Case of the Unidentified Creature

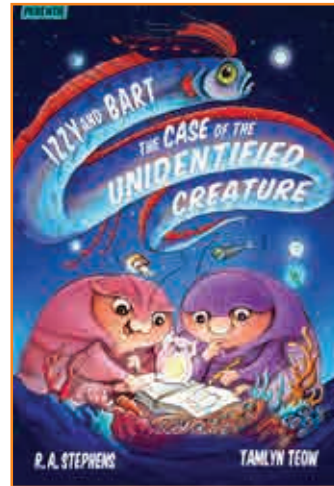
R.A. STEPHENS &
TAM TEOW

Sea creatures, teamwork, and laughs –
perfect for early graphic novel fans.

Anthropomorphic isopods Izzy and Bart are best friends. Bart enjoys drawing everything under the sea and Izzy loves dragging Bart on her adventures.

When Bart draws a creature neither of them have seen before, they quest to discover its identity, meeting many underwater friends on the way.

Will the quirky and courageous Izzy and Bart solve the case of the unidentified creature without getting in deep trouble?



Why this book?

- Izzy the reporter and Bart the illustrator combine their unique strengths to solve mysteries under the sea!
- This is fast-paced and accessible: a 64–72 page graphic novel designed to hook early readers with short, engaging chapters.
- Perfect for fans of Octonauts and Wild Kratts, with a fresh underwater twist that blends adventure and education.
- Packed with unusual sea creatures (giant isopods! dumbo octopuses!) sparking curiosity about the ocean's hidden wonders.
- An adventurous storyline that avoids scary villains while promoting problem-solving and curiosity.
- Introduces fascinating animal facts while promoting environmental care in a playful, visually appealing way.

R. A. STEPHENS is a teacher, writer, editor, and publisher whose passion lies in blending science, maths, and storytelling to inspire and engage young readers. TAM TEOW 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.



PUB DATE: September 2026 • PUBLISHER: Perentia Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Seasons of Clementine

JESS GALATOLA &
JASMINE BERRY

cover art
to come

A sweet and lyrical standalone coming-of-age graphic novel for readers 8+.

Told through season-themed chapters, poetic text, and whimsical, restricted-palette illustrations, this heartwarming story follows Clementine, a dreamy tween navigating the ups and downs of friendship, creativity, and growing up.

Why this book?

- Perfect for pre-teens navigating change, family transitions, friendships, and the ups and downs of school life.
- Clementine faces her parents' separation, a sister and best friend moving abroad and her grandmother's illness with honesty and heart.
- Showcases a healthy co-parenting relationship and the quiet strength of both mother and father.
- Strong emphasis on the joy and resilience found in friendship.
- Music, journaling, dreaming, and cloud gazing capture Clementine's creativity and unique way of seeing the world.
- A diverse, relatable cast of characters gives weight to the ordinary experiences and big feelings of everyday life.

JESS GALATOLA is a children's author and former Drama/English teacher passionate about storytelling, creativity, and helping kids see themselves in the magical pages of picture books. JASMINE BERRY is an illustrator and designer with over a decade in publishing and multimedia, creating whimsical, heartfelt visuals for children's books and sharing drawing prompts and creative resources online.

PUB DATE: June 2026 • PUBLISHER: Perentia Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Caught between the allure of artistic perfection and the ties to her real life, Mimi must make a choice: stay in the utopia of art or return to her imperfect but meaningful world.

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



Sample Final Pages



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))

Monster

NATASHIA CURTIN

cover art
to come

What happens when a little girl behaves monstrously? A (mostly) wordless story exploring the power of words.

Katsumi's first day at her new kinder is turning out to be noisy and overwhelming. And when something awful happens, who is the monster responsible?

A graphic novel from author-illustrator Natasha Curtin exploring the power of words.

Why this book?

- With bold, expressive visuals and minimal text, this picture book/graphic novel hybrid empowers even the youngest or emerging readers to follow the story independently.
- Shows kids that in disagreements, both sides can share responsibility, while modelling the importance of apology and forgiveness.
- The 'monster' is not frightening but playful and over-the-top, helping kids explore conflict without fear.
- Saturated colours, dynamic compositions and varied lettering styles echo graphic novels while keeping the simplicity of a picture book.
- Created and illustrated by Natasha Curtin, acclaimed for her work on the hugely successful Mini and Milo series.

NATASHIA CURTIN grew up in a Yolngu township and Papua New Guinea before moving to Melbourne to study graphic design. A bookworm and artist since childhood, she now writes and illustrates while raising two boys.

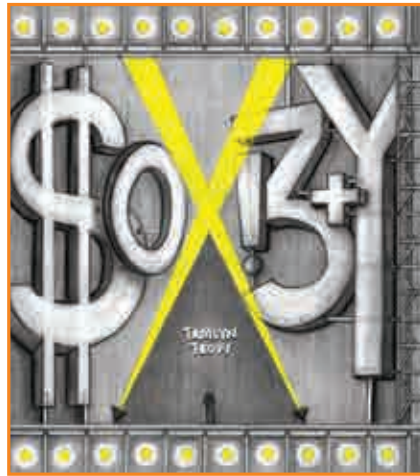
PUB DATE: TBC 2027 • PUBLISHER: Perentie Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



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.

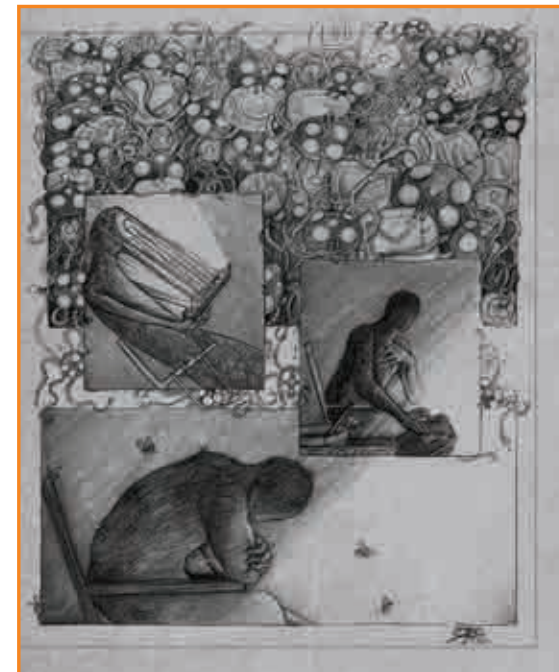
A seed of community.

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



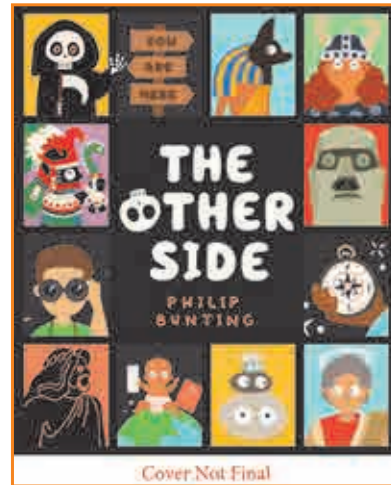
PUB DATE: March 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Picture
Books

The Other Side

PHILIP BUNTING



From the creator of *How Did I Get Here?* and *Who Am I?*, Philip Bunting, a fascinating, humorous and enlightening exploration about what might come next ... and how it can inspire us to live the best life we can, while we can!

*If you are reading this, then – congratulations!
– you are alive.*

Take a peek into the Never Never and explore some of our most wild and wonderful ideas about what might happen after death.

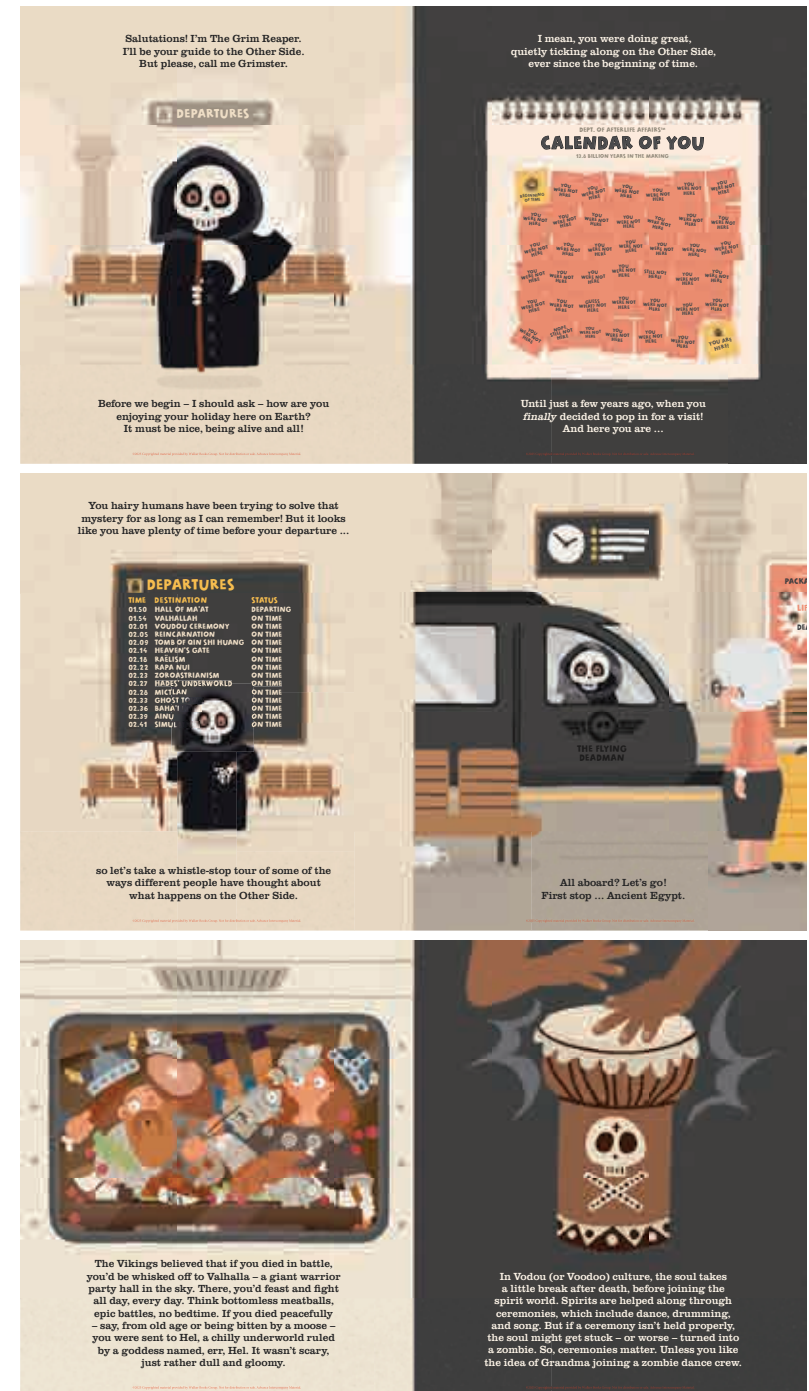
From *memento mori* to *The Matrix*, *Ragnarök* to reincarnation, this book explores the finitude of human life, and what we might do to make the most of the time we have.

Why the depth of our experience matters more than the length of our life. How we might think about death after a loved one has passed away. And how we might live on, once our time is up.

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?

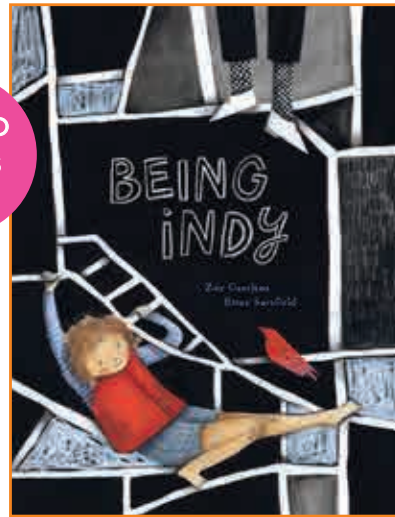
- From the best-selling, multi-award winning creator of internationally acclaimed and thought-provoking titles such as *How Did I Get Here?* *Who Am I?* *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants* and *The Gentle Genius of Trees*.
- Explores the BIG question often asked by children, and examines it in an accessible, informative, humorous and LIFE-AFFIRMING way.
- Offers gentle entry points for talking about grief, loss, and what it means to live well, supporting families and educators.
- Engaging illustrations encourage repeat reading and provide space for children to reflect and ask their own big questions.



Being Indy

ZOE GAETJENS &
ESTEE SARSFIELD

New to
Rights
List!



A tale of courage, kindness, and finding
your place in a world that says you don't
belong

There was no finer place to be than on the Mountain.

The rising sun shone at just the right angle.

The view stretched to the horizon on every side.

This is a story of trying to fit in and discovering
the true worth of being yourself. There was no
finer place to live than on North Mountain. Folks
came from everywhere wanting to live there
including Indy.

But the mountain was ruled by Percival, and he
had rules.

Mostly, that he didn't let just anyone in.

Set in Estee Sarsfield's bold and surprising world
of playgrounds, big hair and defiant colour, Zoe
Gaetjen's insightful and heartfelt text charts Indy's
journey to independence.

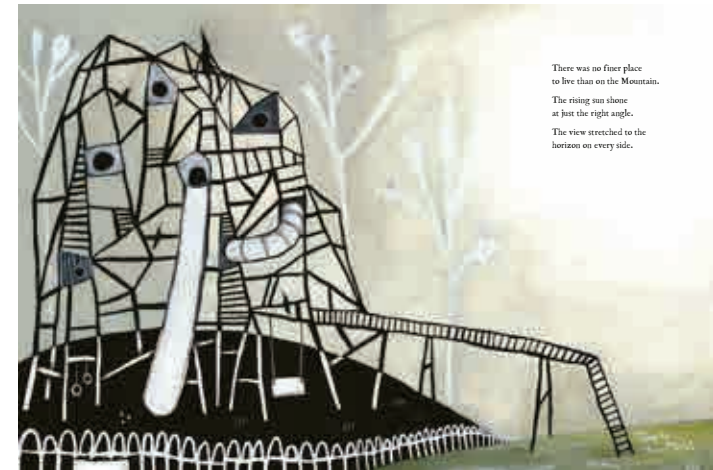
Why this book?

- Challenges ideas of exclusion and "rules" about who belongs, with a gentle resolution that celebrates diversity.
- Percival's mountain becomes a metaphor for real-world prejudice and acceptance, told in a way kids can easily grasp.
- Indy shows courage and creativity as she disguises herself, then finds strength in her true identity.
- Percival transforms from gatekeeper to participant, modelling change and growth.
- Estee Sarsfield's gouache, wax pastel, and pencil illustrations layer texture and colour, perfectly balancing whimsy and emotional depth.
- Crows, rain, and the bright bird carry symbolic weight, giving children extra layers to interpret through pictures.

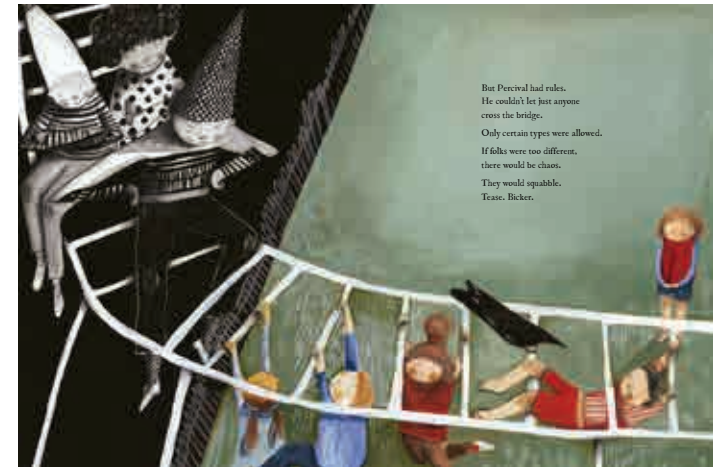
ZOE GAETJENS is a high school English teacher and children's and young adult author. Her board book *Little Angler* was short listed as a Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year in 2024 and her YA title will be published in 2026. ESTEE SARSFIELD is an illustrator, designer and educator and *Being Indy* is her first picture book.

PUB DATE: October 2025 • PUBLISHER: WestWords

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



There was no finer place
to live than on the Mountain.
The rising sun shone
at just the right angle.
The view stretched to the
horizon on every side.



But Percival had rules.
He couldn't let just anyone
cross the bridge.
Only certain types were allowed.
If folks were too different,
there would be chaos.
They would squabble.
Tease. Bicker.

A story for our times . . .



When it was Indy's turn to cross the bridge,
Percival frowned his lips.
He inspected her clothes, then checked her hair
with his crows examined her thickness.



He waited for the tickling to begin.
He watched for the poking and pulling.
He listened for name calling and finger pointing.
There was none.

You, Me, Community

ZANNI LOUISE & TONY
FLOWERS



Do you ever feel alone? Look around you and soon you'll see, you're part of a community. Our home, our friends, our class, our school our soccer team. Our town. Our state. Our family.

A celebration of community of all kinds

Why this book?

- Shows kids that every community is stronger (and happier) when everyone brings their unique quirks.
- Reminds readers how good it feels to share, connect, and be part of a group.
- From families to ecosystems, it introduces kids to all the amazing ways living things stick together.
- Encourages children to think about their own communities and the connections that matter most to them.
- Offers gentle reassurance that we're always part of something bigger.
- Ants in matching pants? Imaginative community depictions keep kids laughing while they learn.
- Highlights pods of whales, hives of bees, and other real-life examples of community in action.

ZANNI LOUISE has written 30 children's books, praised as quirky, warm, and funny, and published internationally. Twice listed in the CBCA Notables, her *Archie and the Bear* was selected for *The White Ravens* catalogue. TONY FLOWERS is an award-winning illustrator of over 50 books sold worldwide. Known for humour and detail, his art often hides nods to his passions – motorcycles, cars, cats, and dogs – delighting readers on every page.

PUB DATE: August 2026 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Do you ever feel alone?



Stranded like a washed-up stone?



Look around and soon you'll see
you're part of a community.

Not only do we have just one.
Count them all. We have a tonne!



Sharing language, food, a game!

Sometimes people share a name.

Communities are
everywhere,
joined by all
the things they
share.



And if we sometimes disagree
with members of community,

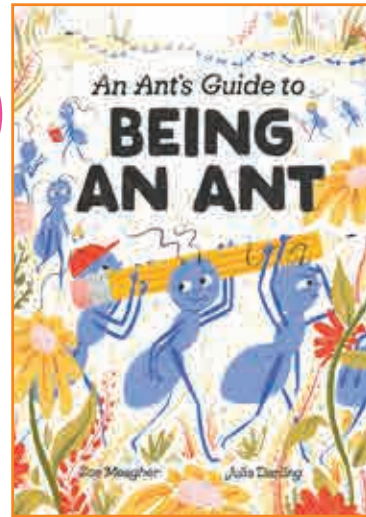


we take a breath. Communicate.
We listen, think, negotiate.

An Ant's Guide to Being an Ant

ZOE MEAGHER & JULIA DARLING

New to Rights List!



What's it like to be an ant? This playful peek into ant life is as cheeky as it is hilarious.

Learn all about ants in this book dedicated to improving the public image of ants. Not just a picnic pest, ants are an important part of our natural world and we can learn so much from them about community, working together and caring for each other.

But first, the rules:

This book is for ants.

If you are not an ant,
DO NOT READ this book.

If you haven't memorised all the ant rules yet, don't worry!
This book is here to help.

Find out the importance of having a secret signature smell (good for telling your friends about cool things you've found).

Learn how to take care of ant eggs.

Discover the delicacies of ant cuisine (the joys of vomit soup are best shared with friends).

Why this book?

- Written for ants, it flips the viewpoint, inviting kids to imagine life inside the colony.
- Rules like 'An egg is not a football' mix science with silliness, sparking giggles.
- Backed by entomologist expertise, it sneaks in fascinating ant facts while keeping the tone cheeky.
- Pheromones and 'signature smells' turn science into something quirky and relatable.
- The 'ant rules' double as funny, practical lessons in teamwork, hygiene, and problem-solving.
- Ant teamwork mirrors human communities, offering opportunities for discussion about cooperation.
- Bugs, humour, and gross bits (like spitting up food) hook reluctant readers too.

ZOE MEAGHER, an experience developer at Museums Victoria, brings scientific credibility and storytelling flair to the mix, making the content both educational and irresistibly fun while Julia Darling's vibrant, detailed illustrations bring each rule and ant-quirk to life - sparking smiles and STEM questions in equal measure.

PUB DATE: January 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Museums Victoria

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Estonia (Tammerraamat)

PRIMARY AGENT: Annabel Barker Literary



My Ball is Broken

ROB GRAVES-MORRIS

For every child (or dog) who's ever felt
a little stuck.

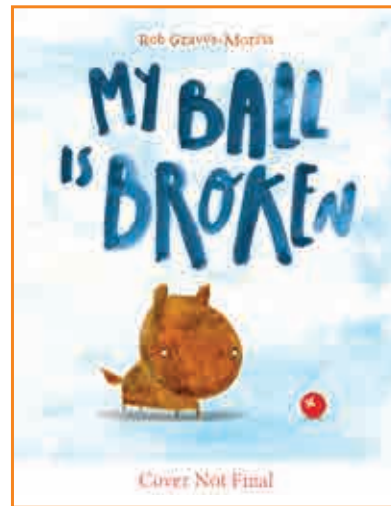
*It looks just like a normal ball, it weighs less than an ounce
It's red, it's round, it rolls and rolls but why does it not bounce?*

An adorable, and overthinking, dog has a ball that won't bounce. He wonders and worries if something is wrong – there are just so many possible reasons why his ball no longer can bounce up to the sky.

Will this worried woofers ever work out what his ball needs?

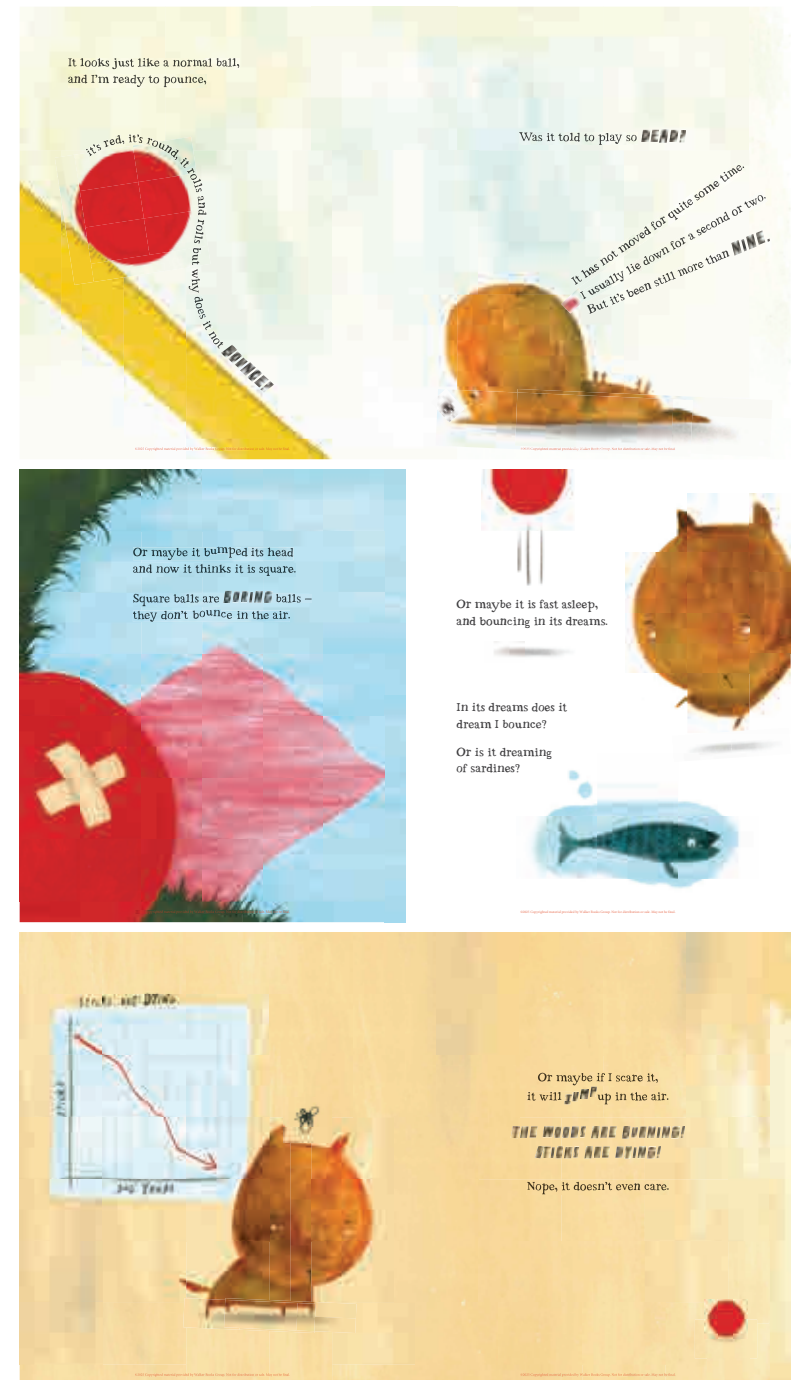
Everyone – child, adult, or dog – sometimes feels stuck. The story offers reassurance that those feelings are normal and pass with support and play.

ROB GRAVES-MORRIS is an award-winning copywriter who's worked in advertising for 10+ years. He is the author of a series of dog books for Pedigree named 'Dogphonics'. He has an adorable British Bulldog who suffers from anxiety, and understands the power of play in overcoming anxiety and related issues.



Why this book?

- Silly speculations ('maybe it's square now' or 'maybe it ate too much dirt') make kids laugh while normalising feelings of confusion and fear.
- Despite worry and misunderstanding, the dog keeps trying different strategies – singing, scaring, waiting – encouraging persistence and creative problem-solving.
- Kids enjoy the funny ball mystery, while adults recognise deeper parallels to anxiety, self-doubt, and coping strategies.
- Shows dogs not just as playful companions, but as creatures with inner lives and vulnerabilities, deepening empathy in children.



Monsters

JACKIE HOSKING &
KATRIN DREILING

When monsters keep interrupting a little girl's dreams of picnics, fairgrounds and fairies, she starts to wonder if monsters might be more fun to dream about instead.

*There's no such thing as monsters,
they're only in your head.*

*They're not behind the curtain
or underneath your bed ...*

Mum insists that there's no such thing as monsters, but monsters keep interrupting the girl's dreams. They gobble up all the apple pies and ruin all the fairground rides. But when she thinks about it, the girl wonders – does she even like those things? Perhaps the monsters might be more fun instead!

JACKIE HOSKING is the author of *A is for ... A Rabbit's Tale*, *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. KATRIN DREILING is a German-born language teacher. She creates quirky illustrations that feature different media, such as gouache, watercolour, coloured pencils, and ink.

Why this book?

- Tackles the universal childhood fear of monsters under the bed with humour and warmth. Instead of hiding from monsters, the child learns to embrace them, turning scary thoughts into playful companions!
- Katrin Dreiling's expressive artwork makes the monsters goofy rather than terrifying, striking the perfect balance for young readers. Monsters crashing picnics, ruining fairground rides, and stomping through dreams in ways kids will find both silly and delightful.
- Shows children they can take control of their fears by reframing them through imagination.
- Combines rhyme, rhythm, and rich illustrations into a bedtime story that feels both soothing and mischievous.



The Agatha Series

ANNA PIGNATARO



Beautifully reissued, the *Agatha* books return to charm a new generation.

Agatha (Book 1)

Agatha isn't like everyone else and sometimes she wishes she were. She's a little bit different, and that makes her feel left out. But as Agatha begins to see herself through new eyes, she realises that being different is what makes her truly special.

Agatha and the Dark (Book 2)

Agatha is brave in many ways, but the dark still scares her. At bedtime, her imagination runs wild, shadows become monsters, noises become threats. With a little courage and a lot of heart, Agatha learns to face her fears and discovers that the dark isn't so frightening after all.

Agatha and Marie Antoinette (Book 3)

When Agatha meets a very proper hen called Marie Antoinette, she feels clumsy and out of place beside her new friend's poise and elegance. But as their friendship grows, Agatha realises that being herself is far more important than being perfect and that true friends love you just the way you are.

Why this book?

- With warmth, humour, and exquisite illustrations, the *Agatha* books follow a lovable little pig-bear navigating life's big feelings.
- From learning to love her differences to conquering her fear of the dark, Agatha's adventures offer comfort, courage, and charm for children everywhere.
- At the heart of the series is Agatha, a half pig, half bear whose big feelings are instantly relatable.
- Agatha's adventures explore identity and belonging while easing childhood fears with warmth, humour, and reassurance.
- Originally published in 2015 and 2016, the *Agatha* books return in beautiful reissues for a new generation.

ANNA PIGNATARO is a multi-award winning, internationally bestselling author and illustrator of children's books.

PUB DATE: August 2026 • PUBLISHER: Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Hickory Dickory Dock

JUDY HORACEK

A favourite nursery rhyme, re-imagined with wit and whimsy by one of Australia's most loved and bestselling illustrators, and the co-creator of *Where is the Green Sheep?*

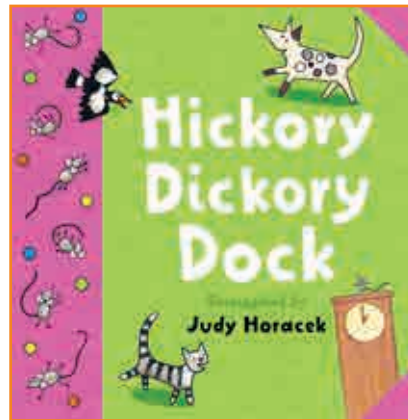
Hickory Dickory Dock

The mouse climbed up the clock ...

Join three friends at the spectacular mouse circus, in this delightful and surprising re-imagining of a favourite nursery rhyme by bestselling author and illustrator, Judy Horacek.

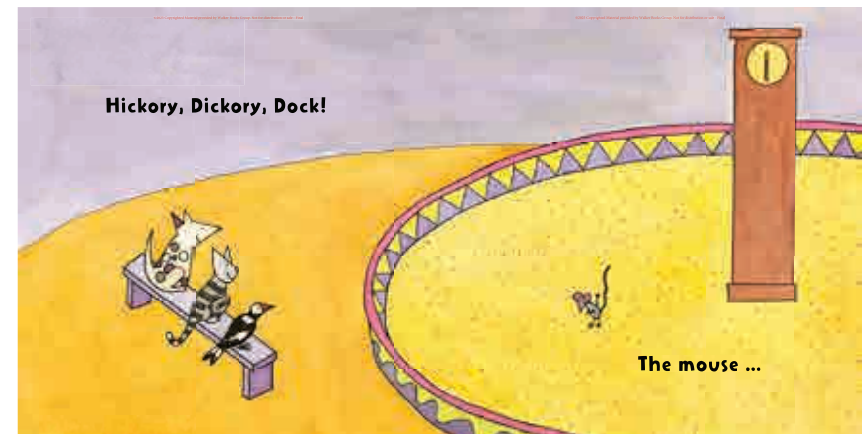
Following the success of *Hey Diddle Diddle*, Horacek once again reimagines a beloved rhyme, transforming it into a playful, imaginative story that delights toddlers, preschoolers, and adults alike. Together, these books form a distinctive 'nursery rhyme reimagined' collection with more titles to come in this series.

JUDY HORACEK is a cartoonist, author and illustrator. When a tiny green sheep caught the eye of author Mem Fox, it became the best-selling 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.



Why this book?

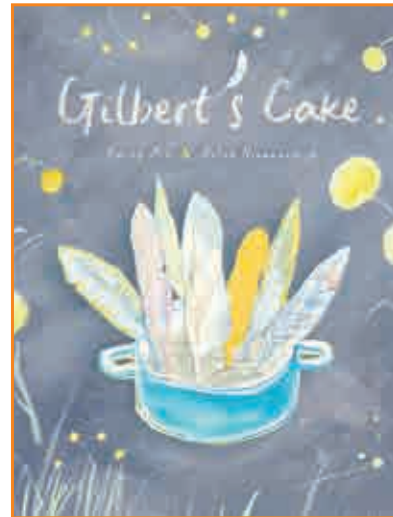
- The traditional mouse/clock story is reimagined with quirky twists, allowing children to enjoy both recognition and novelty.
- Horacek's illustrations aren't just accompaniments; they build on the text to create comedic, unexpected layers of meaning.
- The pared-back rhyme gives space for the pictures to drive the narrative, inviting active participation from young readers.
- The repetitive structure encourages children to chant, anticipate, and join in.
- Horacek adds witty details that subvert expectations, rewarding re-reads as children discover fresh visual jokes.



Gilbert's Cake

EMILY MIR & HELEN NIEUWENDIJK

New to Rights List!



At Hattie's house, there were four pairs of boots at the door. But there were five people in Hattie's family.

It is Gilbert's seventh birthday. Hattie's parents and twin brother Flynn set off over the sand dunes to watch the waves. But Hattie knows a birthday is not a birthday without a cake.

This deeply poignant story about celebrating a life – even when that life was brief – is both courageous and inspiring. Told from the heart by Emily Mir, with sensitive illustrations by Helen Nieuwendijk, *Gilbert's Cake* is a one-of-a-kind picture book that belongs on every bookshelf.

EMILY MIR is a social worker whose family's experience of stillbirth inspired *Gilbert's Cake*, a story of love, loss, and remembrance. Illustrator HELEN NIEUWENDIJK has studied and taught visual arts internationally. A lifelong picture-book enthusiast, she brings warmth and sensitivity to her debut as a children's illustrator.

Why this book?

- A tender exploration of sibling grief told from a child's perspective
- Balances sadness with hope and gently shows that love and remembrance can co-exist with sorrow.
- Helen Nieuwendijk's mixed-media art (ink, gouache, collage, pencil) conveys both poignancy and warmth.
- Portrays open, age-appropriate conversations between parents and children about death and remembrance.
- Avoids euphemism, treating children with respect and honesty while remaining accessible and comforting.
- A childhood ritual (the mud cake) becomes a metaphor for agency, creativity, and love in the grieving process.
- Offers schools, libraries, and therapists a gentle entry point into discussions on loss, remembrance, and resilience.



At Hattie's house, there were four chairs at the table and four pairs of boots at the door. But there were five people in Hattie's family.



"Gilbert needs a cake," Hattie said to Mum.
"Can we make a chocolate one?"
"I'm too sad to bake today, sweetheart," said Mum.



She fetched an old spoon and a tin from the cubby.
She scooped up the rich mud. It smelled sweet, almost like chocolate.
She patted it down and smoothed the surface.

The Goodbye Tree

PIP HARRY & CHRISTINA BOOTH

A moving and insightful story of creating a memorial for a loved one, from award-winning author Pip Harry

One summer morning, Max and his family wake up early, and gather items to take with them. Today, they will plant a tree – a tree that will reach towards the sun and bring shade to those who rest beneath it. Together they will sow the seeds of a living memorial to someone who has gone before them, but will never be forgotten.

The Goodbye Tree is a poetic and insightful story of a family coming together in grief, and shows how loss can be the source of unexpected gifts.

PIP HARRY is an award-winning author whose middle grade novels *The Little Wave*, *Are You There, Buddha?* and *August & Jones* have been honoured by the CBCA, NSW Premier's Literary Awards and YABBA. CHRISTINA BOOTH is an author-illustrator whose acclaimed books include *Kip*, *Welcome Home* and *One Careless Night*, winners of CBCA, Environment and Whitley awards.



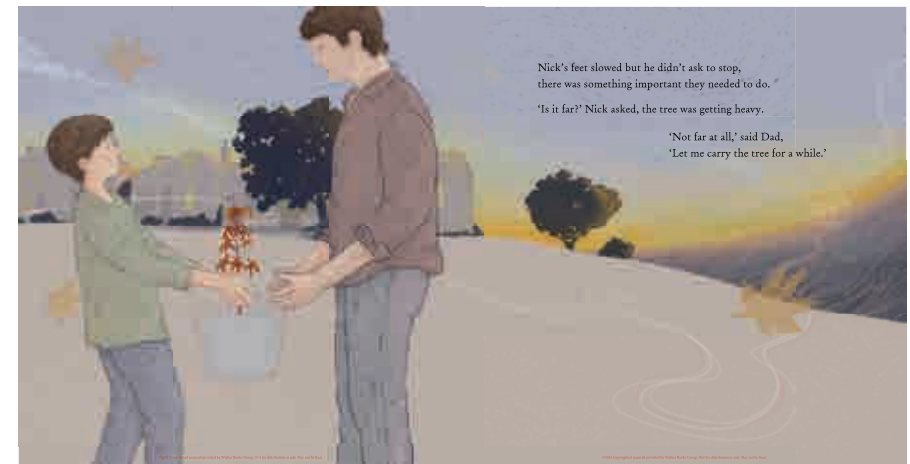
Why this book?

- A moving exploration of grief, memory, and keeping the spirit of loved ones alive.
- Celebrates the strength and closeness of family when facing loss.
- The tree-planting ritual shows how nature can heal and create living legacies while symbolic objects like the doll, letter, and beads enrich the story with deeper meaning.
- Lyrical, evocative text pulls readers into the family's emotional journey.
- Christina Booth's luminous artwork blends vibrant colour and fine detail to capture both nature's beauty and the story's emotional core.
- Simple, thoughtful actions – like placing memory stones in the river – invite readers to reflect on their own lives.



Nick and his family woke up early,
and gathered items to take with them.
Charlie placed a doll inside a basket,
and Pa a yellowed envelope.

Nanna nested a book of poetry,
Auntie Sophie some flowers, and
Dad a string of blue beads and a
box of smooth river stones.



Nick's feet slowed but he didn't ask to stop,
there was something important they needed to do.
'Is it far?' Nick asked, the tree was getting heavy.

'Not far at all,' said Dad,
'Let me carry the tree for a while.'



Soon, it would untangle spindly roots,
twist them into the earth
and find a steady footing.

And in time,
red leaves,
like elegant fingers,
would reach upwards.

The Boo Zoo

KYLE MEWBURN &
LISA ALLEN

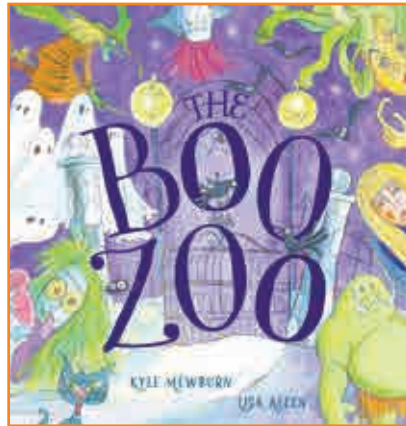
Perfect for Halloween - a ghoulishly fun adventure through the spookiest zoo in town!

*We're off on a trip to the Boo Zoo,
in the creepiest part of town ...*

There's zombies and witches and goblins galore,
banshies and werewolves and so much more.

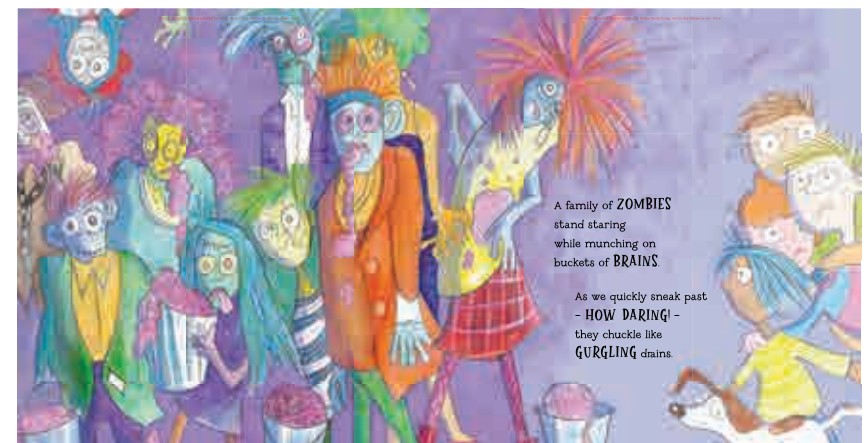
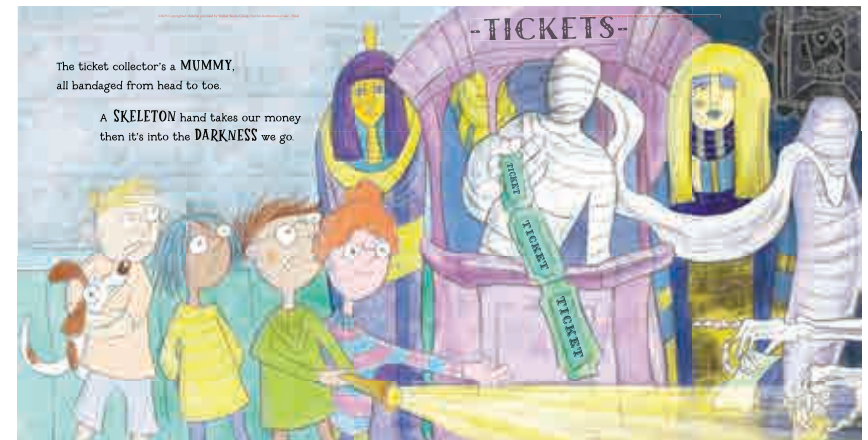
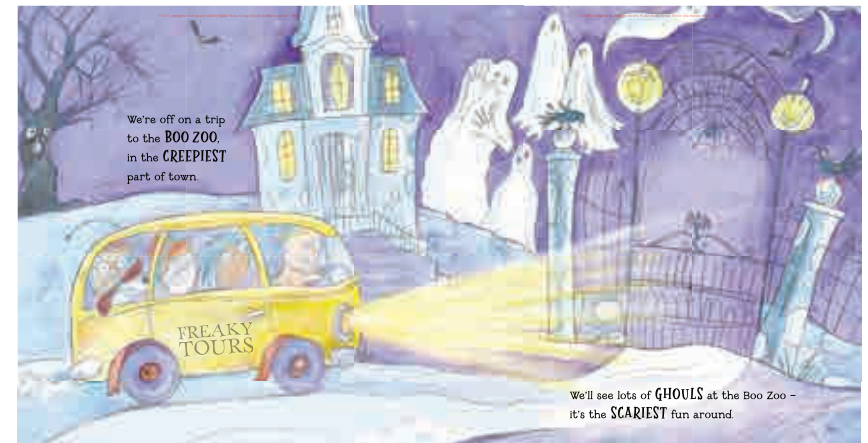
So come on a trip to Boo Zoo ... where there's a
welcome for someone like you!

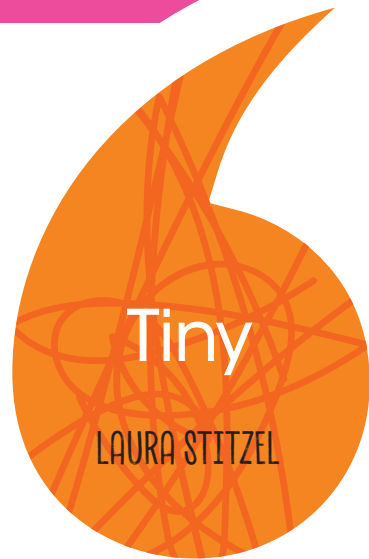
KYLE MEWBURN is one of New Zealand's finest and most eclectic writers. Over her twenty years as a published author, Kyle has written multi-layered picture books, laugh-out-loud junior fiction series and adult fiction. Her titles have been translated into eighteen languages and won numerous awards. Lisa Allen is a freelance illustrator & book designer based in Muriwai on Auckland's west coast.



Why this book?

- A zoo like no other – ghouls, goblins, and monsters turn a normal visit upside down, with thrills that are more giggle than gasp.
- Bouncy, rhyming text makes it a joy to read aloud, keeping kids hooked on every line.
- Just-scary-enough moments get a silly twist – like Medusa snapping selfies – so the fun always outweighs the fear.
- A clever ending reveals the monsters are watching us too – perfect for that extra 'oooh!' on rereads.
- A Halloween hit for sure, but its spooky-fun energy makes it a winner all year round.





TINY is the story of a little girl and her desire to be big! A colourful, joyful celebration of looking at things differently and finding perspective.

I'm tiny. Too tiny. I'm really too small.

The world is so big. The people so tall.

There's nothing to do, down here on my own,

But wait for the day when I've finally GROWN.

Come on a magical adventure when a little girl longing to be big shrinks instead, and discovers that the world for tiny creatures, is perfect ... and perfectly wonderful.

Why this book?

- Shrink down and explore a world where even a twig becomes a skyscraper!
- Celebrates the power of looking down, not just up - and the beauty of the tiny world around us, seen through a child's eyes and imagination
- Learn that being just the right size is the best size of all
- Packed with positive messages about self-acceptance and adventure
- End the story with a warm, fuzzy feeling and a smile on your face

LAURA STITZEL an author, illustrator and animator from Melbourne. Her work is a combination of watercolour, ink and painting. She is the author/illustrator of two picture books, *Mr Mo Starts to Grow* and *Moonlight Mums*. She has illustrated books for Penguin Random House, Hachette, Scholastic, Affirm Press and Hinkler Books. As a background artist and animator in Australia and Canada, Laura has worked on animated television shows for PBS, Disney, Warner Bros, Netflix, ABC and more.

PUB DATE: February 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Annabel Barker Agency • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation



My Pet Archie

KARYN SAVAGE &
TAM TEOW

Having a pet like Archie is a wonderful adventure. He is fun, sweet and playful – and regularly misunderstood.

This clever and engaging story is told in playful rhyme – each line beginning with the next letter of the alphabet. In between those pages, we see Archie behind-the-scenes, making a friend (out of a kit), creating art, crying, eating popcorn and playing music – all the things you don't expect a dragon to do!

The illustrations include lots of opportunity to play 'find a word beginning with?' and other alphabet-related games, supporting the learning while adding to the funny narrative and increasing interest for young readers.

KARYN SAVAGE is a teacher and *My Pet Archie* is her debut picture book. 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. Tam Teow 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?

- What could be cooler than a pet dragon? Archie brings laughs, fantasy, and everyday chaos kids will love.
- A big-hearted story about kindness, friendship, and looking past first impressions – told in a way kids instantly connect with.
- Archie looks fierce but feels sweet, and Tam Teow's colourful art makes him as lovable as he is larger-than-life.
- From fiery sneezes to vet-waiting-room mayhem, Archie's misadventures guarantee giggles on every page.



Audrey Skips

ANDREA ROWE &
LISA COUTTS

Bright and shiny Audrey loves to skip a jump rope rhyme, right off her rooftop and through the sleeping streets of a city. Skittering across the skyline and peering in windows, Audrey spies folks struggling with hard times as her own light dims.

With a little help from city friends, Audrey's light and her hopeful spirit shine again, brighter than ever.



Why this book?

- Audrey's fading light and renewal mirror struggles and recovery familiar to communities everywhere.
- Celebrates kindness and cooperation, showing how a whole city rallies to bring light back, a message with global resonance.
- Inspired by Melbourne's 'real life' Skipping Girl, but told in a way that makes the story accessible beyond Australia.
- 'Little Audrey' became a symbol of joy, energy, and hope, appealing to readers worldwide.
- Lyric, rhythmic text, filled with repetition and rhyme, perfect for read-aloud
- Lisa Coutts' mixed-media style blends charm, quirk, and warmth.

ANDREA ROWE is an award-winning, best-selling picture book author, winner of the CBCA Picture Book of the Year (*Jetty Jumping*) and a May Gibbs Fellow. She writes stories that spark big conversations about nature, feelings and family. Illustrator Lisa Coutts has worked on 20+ books, including Emma Allen's *The Great Book Swapping Machine*. Her whimsical, mixed-media style has been described as charming, quirky, and heart-warming.

PUB DATE: January 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

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: 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*.

Where the Heart Is

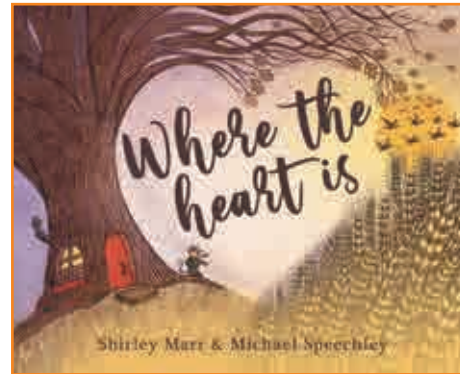
SHIRLEY MARR & MICHAEL SPEECHLEY

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

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



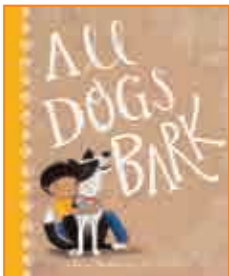
Beep Beep

CATHERINE
MEATHERINGHAM
& DEB HUDSON

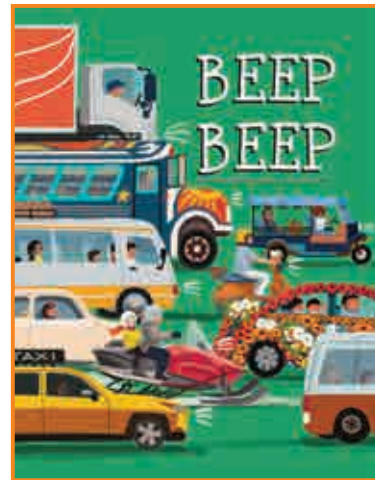
A joyful rhyming Suessian romp that puts a playful twist on getting a pet.

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.

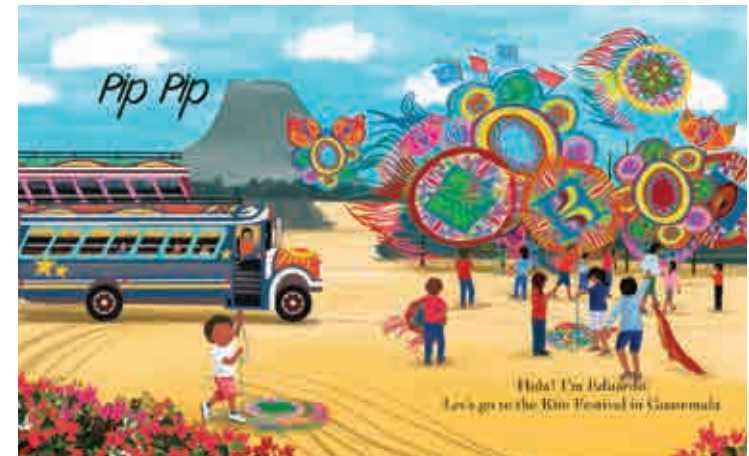


CATHERINE MEATHERINGHAM loves to write picture books full of music and onomatopoeia to encourage children to join in with the story. DEB HUDSON is an illustrator of children's picture books, and creator of other artistic works including pattern design, stationery and giftware. She loves colour and finds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



PUB DATE: July 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Tiny Dancer

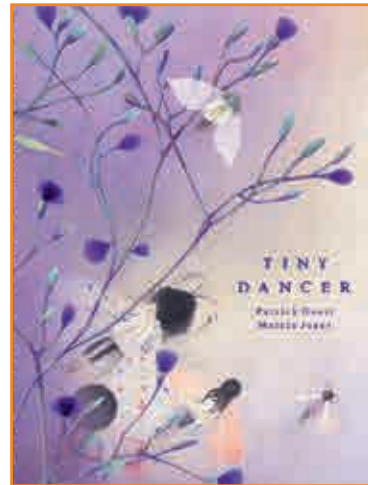
PATRICK GUEST &
MATEJA JAGER

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 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.*

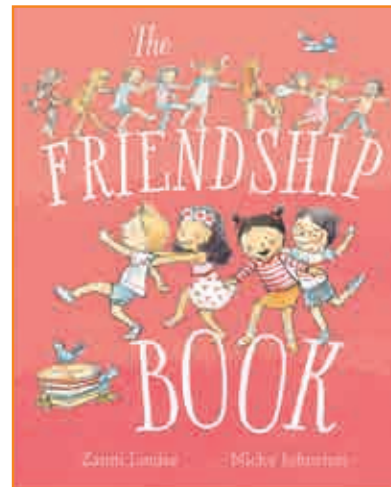
A bookstore, circus, from the zoo ...

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 staring 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!



PUB DATE: October 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • RIGHTS SOLD: Israel (Modan)

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)



The Giant

SOPHIE MASSON
& LORENA
CARRINGTON

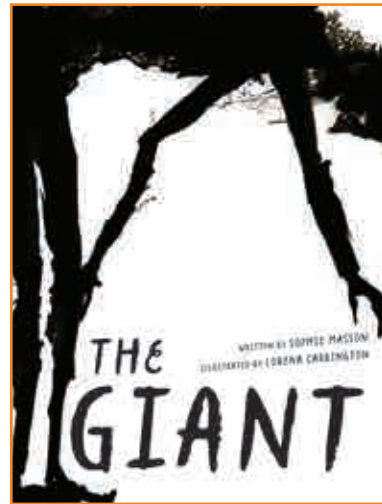
A heartwarming tale of rediscovery, friendship, and the magic of play.

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.

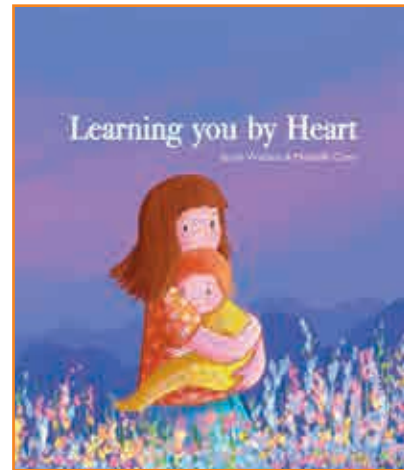
Why this book?

- 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!



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.



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*.

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

Fanny and Mina: The Fastest of Friends

SAMANTHA TIDY &
HILARY CRESP



The story of Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie, who against the odds, became the very first women to win Olympic medals in swimming.

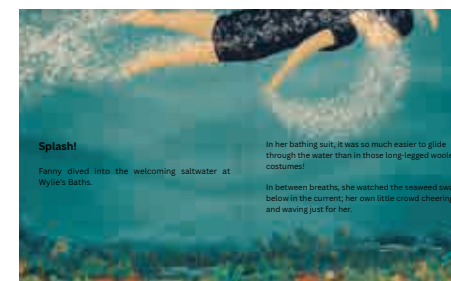
Women's Swimming at the 1912 Stockholm Games!

When Fanny and Mina see the headline that women will compete in swimming for the first time at the Stockholm Olympic Games they are determined to make the team.

But first they have to convince the Australian Olympic Committee that sending women is not a waste of money.

Why this book?

- This inspiring picture book tells the true story of Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie, the first women to win Olympic swimming medals.
- Celebrating resilience, friendship, and equality, it blends history with lyrical storytelling and evocative illustrations, making it ideal for families, classrooms, and young readers everywhere.

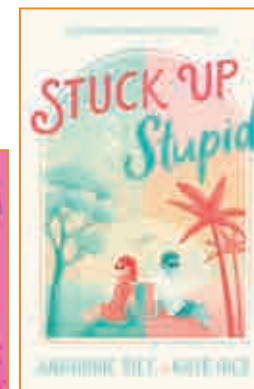


SAMANTHA TIDY is an award-winning writer of children's and adult books, creating fiction and nonfiction that foster community and connection. Her previous title with Windy Hollow was *Cloudspotting*. Melbourne-based HILARY CRESP illustrates adventurous, imaginative stories inspired by nature, city life, and childhood curiosity.

Recently Published - YA and Teen

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), France (Hachette Jeunesse)

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.

Grave Situation

LOUISA MASTERS

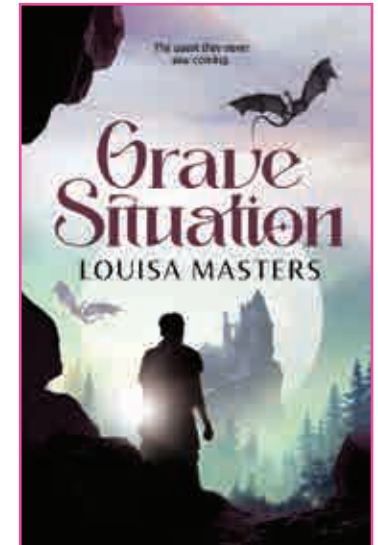
Talon Silverbright never imagined he'd be chosen to save the world from a zombie apocalypse.

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?

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.

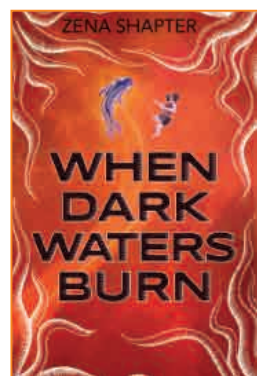


Why this book?

- 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

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.

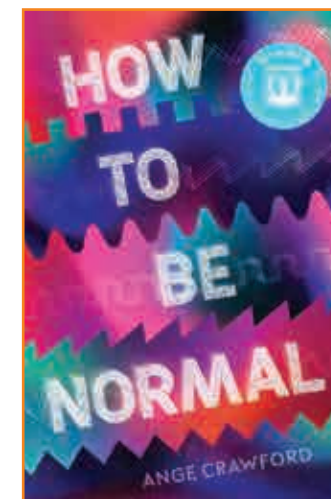
ZENA SHAPTER is 'a specialist in the weird, wacky, wonderful' (Writing NSW), writing 'dark fantasy at its blood-soaked finest' (Australasian Horror Writers' Association) and 'beautifully crafted and well told stories that deserve to be read many times' (Glen Miles Short Story Prize).

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

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.

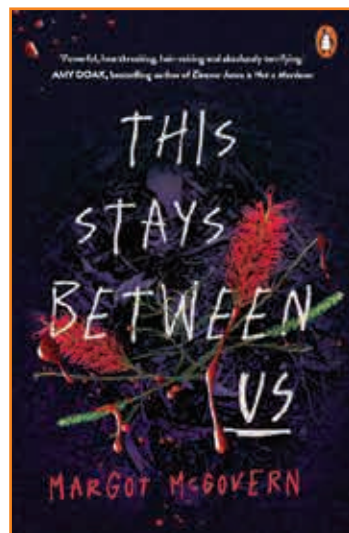
ANGE CRAWFORD is a queer writer and editor with a Bachelor of Social Science and a Master of Arts in Writing. She has published digital poetry, reviews, fiction and feature articles, and contributed volunteer editorial work for *Asymptote* and the *Lifted Brow*. This is her debut novel.

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

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?

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

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.

Recently
Published -
Middle
Grade

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

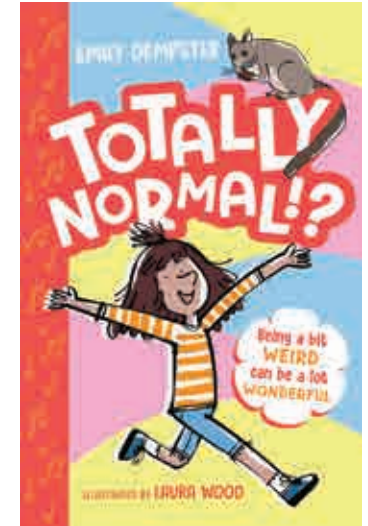
PETRA JAMES has written several fiction titles for children such as *The Most Ungrateful Girl in the World* and the seven books in the Arkie Sparkle series. ANDREW JOYNER is an award-winning illustrator from South Australia. Since his first picture book in 2009, *The Terrible Plop*, written by Ursula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

PUB DATE: July 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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. LAURA WOOD is originally from Treviglio, a small town in the north of Italy. She studied illustration in Australia, and started her illustration career in 2012. Laura currently lives and works in Milan, Italy.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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!

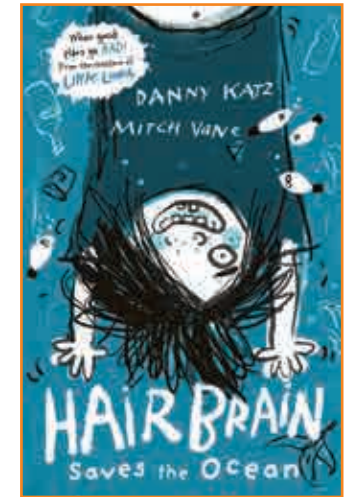
Why this book?

- 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

Hairbrain Saves the Ocean

DANNY KATZ & MITCH VANE

Book 2 coming soon



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?

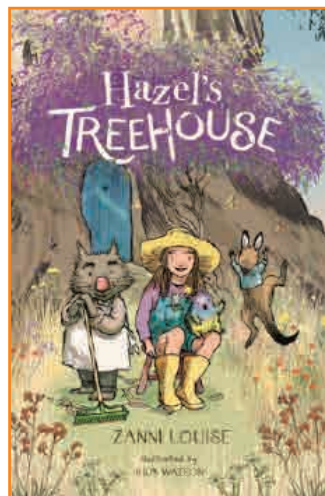
- Hilarious new illustrated junior fiction from the best-selling creators of *Little Lunch*
- Laugh out loud first title in a new series featuring Hairbrain and Hairbrain's little sister Zammi – who always saves the day
- Witty and relatable writing style incorporating subtle environmental messages, 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.

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 *Cuddlepie* 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

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.

Why this book?

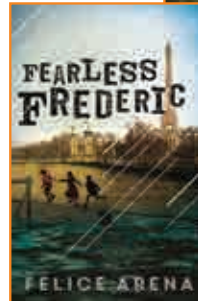
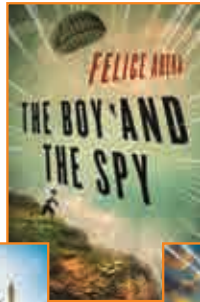
- The Aster series wraps readers in a story that feels like coming home—a place where they can always be themselves
- Gently incorporates themes and discussion points such as mental health, sibling rivalry, parental expectations and perfectionism
- The five books are set in the same world but can all 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.

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.

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.

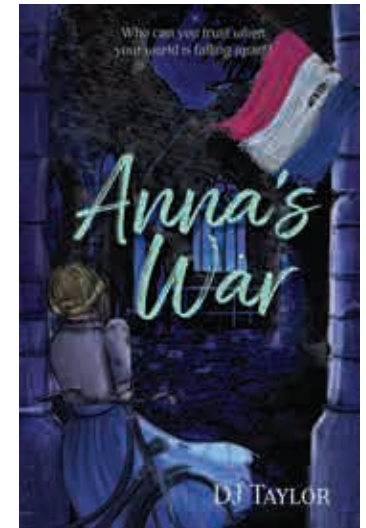
FELICE ARENA is one of Australia's best-loved children's writers. He is the author and creator of many popular and award-winning children's books for all ages.

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

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.

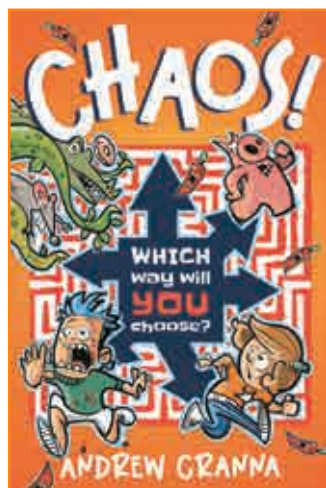
Why this book?

- 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 a teacher-librarian and now watercolour artist and author. *Anna's War* is her debut novel.

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.

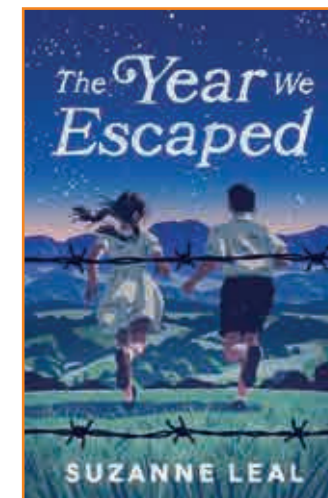
ANDREW CRANNA studied Primary Education, travelled the world teaching, later gaining a master's degree in art education, he currently teaches at Sydney Grammar Prep. His books include *The Bloodbound Boys: The Great Blood Bank Robbery* (2013) and *The Bloodbound Boys: The Monster Truck Tremor Dilemma*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

PUB DATE: June 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The 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

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?

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.

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

PUB DATE: April 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

True South

GISELA ERVIN-WARD



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?

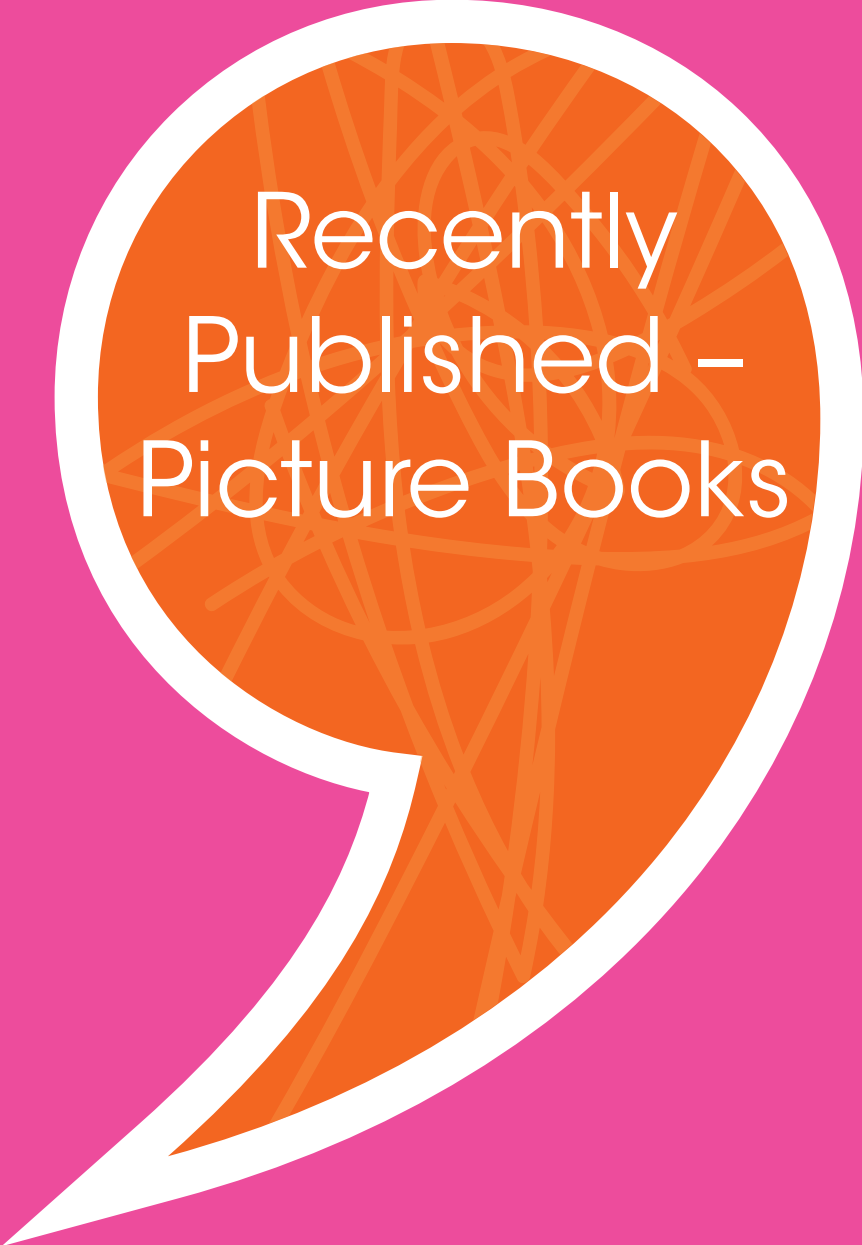
GISELA ERVIN-WARD is a children's author and specialist literacy teacher passionate about helping neurodivergent children learn to read. Raised on a farm in Western Victoria, she spent years as an aid worker in South-East Asia before returning to Australia. *True South* is her debut novel.

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!*

PUB DATE: May 2025 • PUBLISHER: MidnightSun Publishing

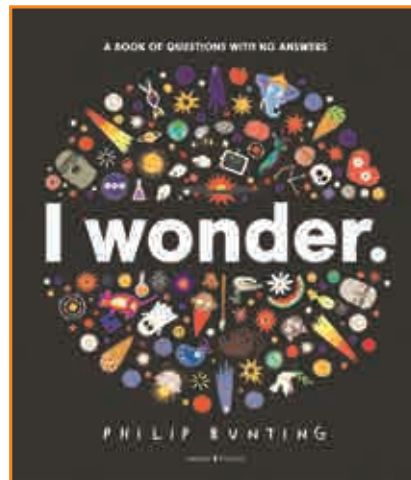
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Recently
Published –
Picture Books

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?

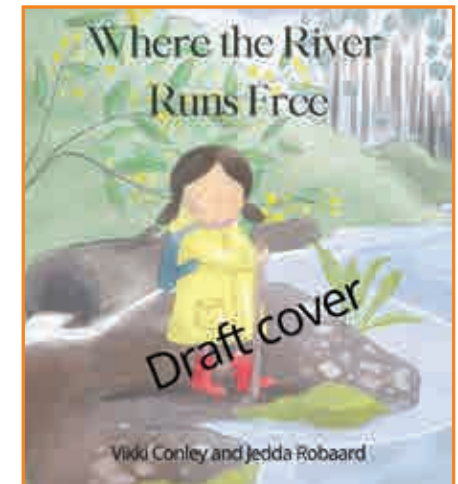
- From Philip Bunting, best-selling, multi-award winning creator of internationally acclaimed titles *Mopoke*, *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants* and *The Gentle Genius of Trees*
- Philip’s books have become a perennial favourite, in Australia and internationally
- Echoing the big questions often asked by 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

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)

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



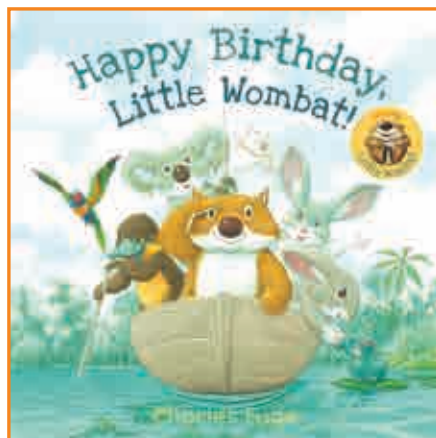
VIKKI CONLEY is a CBCA notable author with many internationally published picture books. She has worked as a professional writer, photographer and marketer, with diverse communities across three continents, for over 20 years. JEDDA ROBAARD is an illustrator and graphic designer. She was the director 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

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!



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.

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.

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

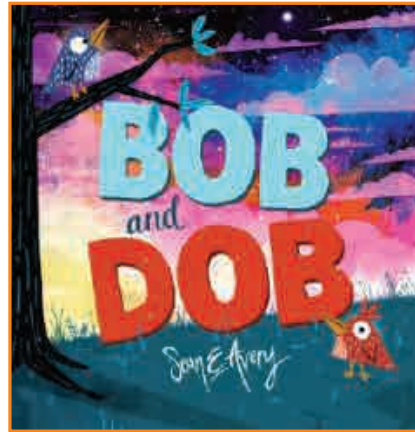


PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

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)

Noisy Noisy City

ANDREW KELLY &
HÉLÈNE MAGISSON

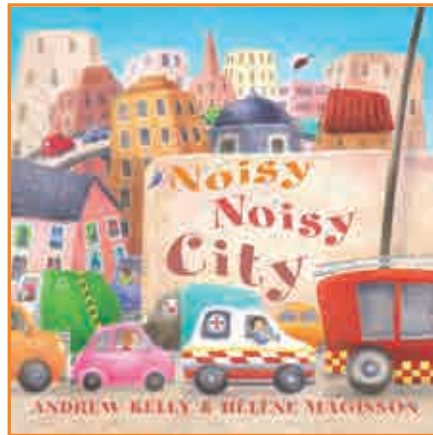
Noisy Noisy City takes us through the streets of a busy city. Readers will have lots of fun mimicking the noises found in the Noisy Noisy City. This dynamic read-aloud picture book will be a hit for kids aged 3 and up.

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!



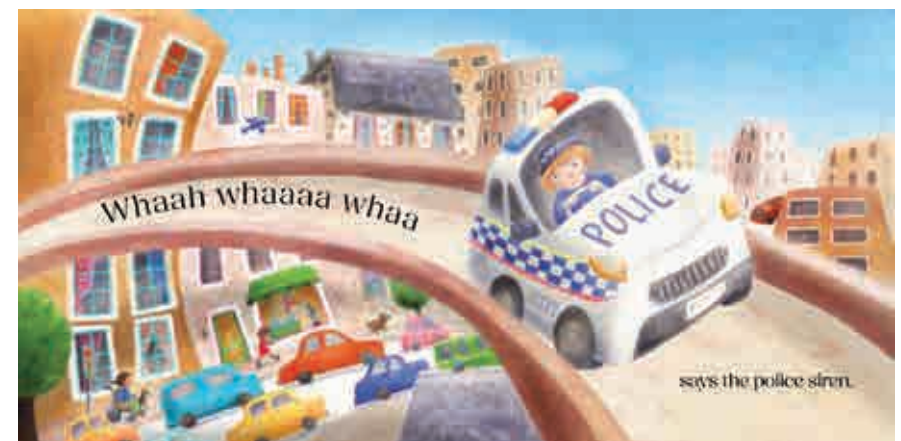
Why this book?

- 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.

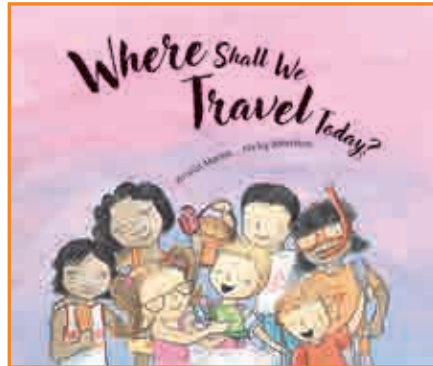
PUB DATE: May 2025 • PUBLISHER: Wild Dog Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



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



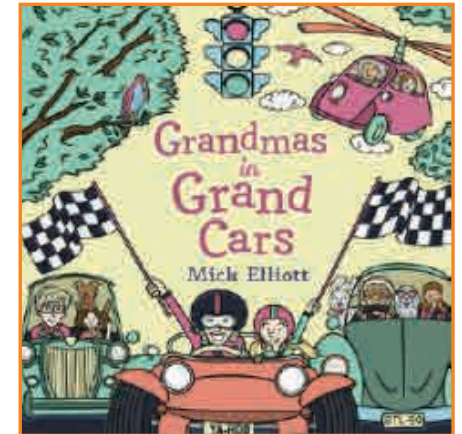
KRISTIN MARTIN is the author of a picture book, *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular*, and the children's poetry collection *To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme?*. NICKY JOHNSTON is an educator, speaker, and author/illustrator of children's books. Nicky's illustration style is often described as whimsical, emotive,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

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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

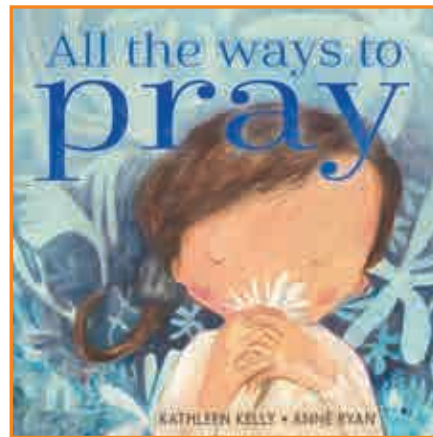
All The Ways to Pray

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



You Can't Pat a Fish

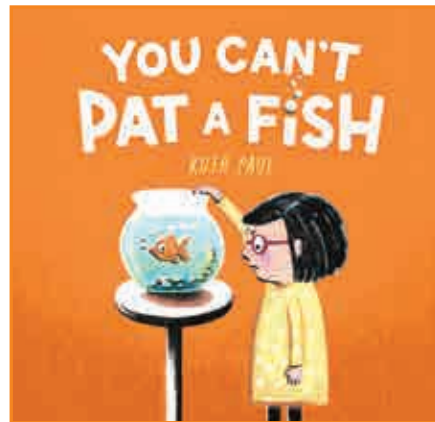
RUTH PAUL

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



A Rabbit's Tale

JACKIE HOSKING &
LUCINDA GIFFORD

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

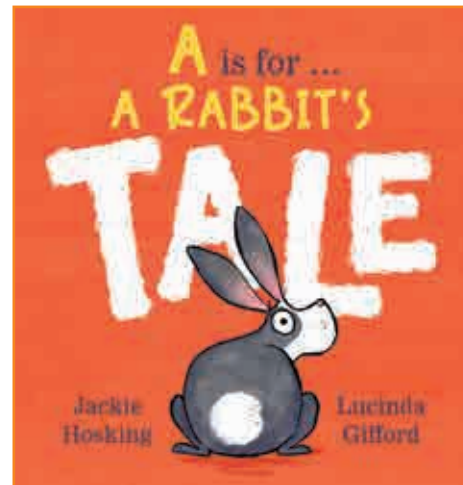
A quirky, funny and clever alphabet book with a twist - with bright and colourful illustrations by much loved illustrator Lucinda Gifford

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

Jo and the No

KYLE MEWBURN & JUDY WATSON

A gentle fable about overcoming our inner fears and resistance.

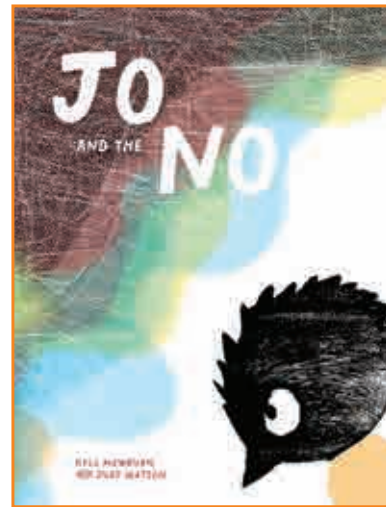
Jo has come across a No.

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.



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



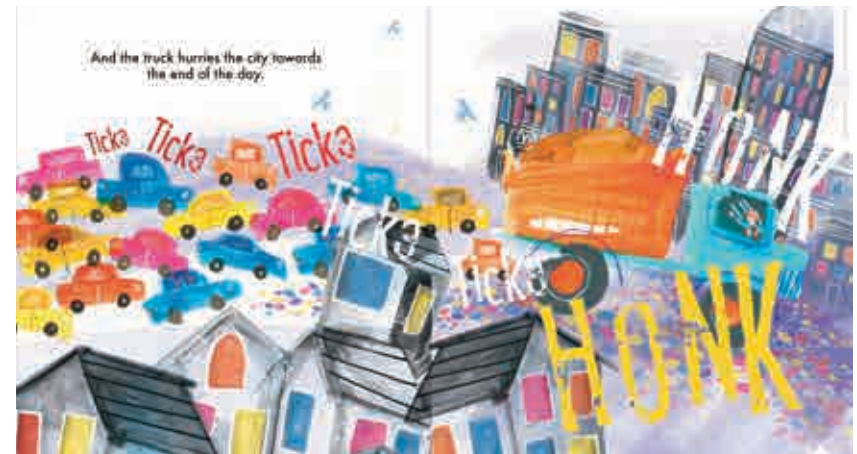
Why this book?

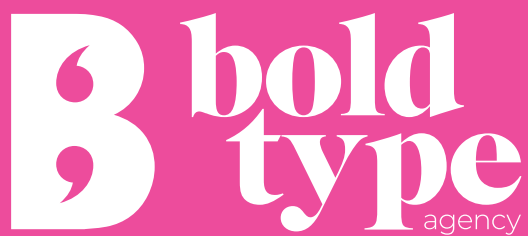
- Fun noisy read aloud for young children
- A celebration of the activity in the city.
- A look at the way people live with the sound of machinery in their lives.
- Kelly Canby won the CBCA Book of the Year award for her book *Timeless*

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





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