

# Penguin Random House ANZ

## Bologna 2025



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand

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# Young Adult



*SOLVE.*

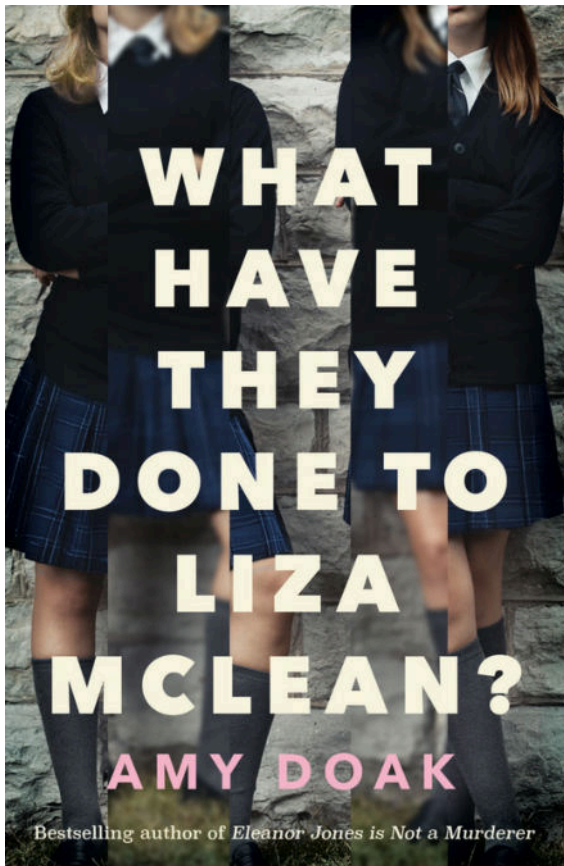
*ESCAPE.*

*SURVIVE.*



# What Have They Done to Liza McLean?

Amy Doak



Meg McLean is a scholarship student at the ultra-elite Douglas College. Meg's younger sister, Liza, is along for the ride, and everything Liza has done since they arrived at the school seems to be putting their chances of success at risk. Until one day, when Liza's behaviour is so at odds with her usual temperament that Meg knows something is very, very wrong.

Benedict Hargreaves (the 4th) is Douglas College's wealthiest student and perhaps the only one who isn't influenced by the school and its strict code of conduct. Is he brave enough to help Meg uncover what has happened to her sister? Or is he part of the elusive 'they' who seem to be controlling everything – and everyone? And, when more than one murder takes place, can Meg really trust anyone?

Bestselling  
author

**Amy Doak** is a lifelong lover of books, reading and writing. Following a career in media: advertising, radio, television and magazines, she continues to work as a freelance writer and is excited to see her non-fiction writing career evolve into a fiction one. Amy lives in regional Victoria with her husband, teen, tween, dog, and a very grumpy cat.



November 2025  
Paperback  
320pp  
Available: world rights

Young Adult

# Eleanor Jones is Playing with Fire

Eleanor Jones #3

Amy Doak



Eleanor Jones stirs up more mystery and danger in this fast-paced YA mystery.

Eleanor Jones isn't looking for trouble.

But someone is starting fires in Cooinda – and the first one looks like a murder. Eleanor is determined not to get involved, but when she receives a note warning her to 'keep quiet' she can't help but work out who sent it.

Who had motive to murder Eleanor's neighbour? Could it really be one of her classmates? And are the fires connected to the car thefts in town? The more Eleanor tries to do the right thing, the more danger she finds herself in...

*Eleanor Jones is Not a Murderer* was the second bestselling YA debut of 2023 and was shortlisted in the Australian Book Industry Awards



Book 4  
(finale)  
coming July  
2026

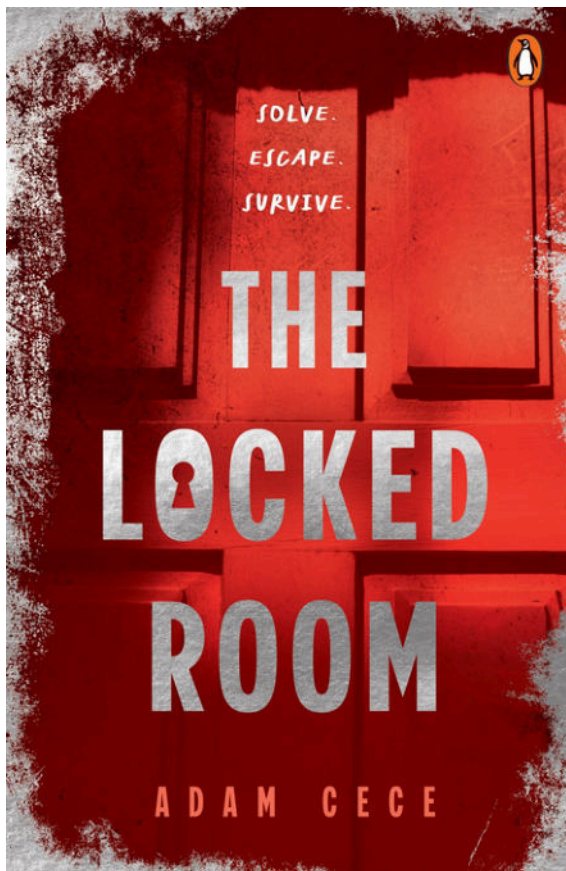


July 2025  
Paperback  
320pp  
Available: world rights

Young Adult

# The Locked Room

Adam Cece



The clock is ticking...

Andy and three other kids wake up in a locked room.

The room has no windows, but it has a locked green door, with a countdown clock above it.

They have less than an hour to figure out how to get out of this room. But when they do...?

There's another locked room, and more locked doors. And they can't go back.

**High concept, high stakes, high emotions – this story packs a punch and you won't be able to put it down.**

**Adam Cece** is an award-winning author of children's books, including *Wesley Booth Super Sleuth*, *Twin Spin* and the hilarious Huggabie Falls series, which has been published worldwide. He is passionate about inspiring people, young and old, to read and write. He is an SA Premier's Reading Challenge Ambassador, mentor, workshop facilitator and manuscript assessor, and visits schools and libraries around Australia delivering fun, interactive talks focused on being an author, the craft of writing, getting published, solving mysteries, and how to write a cracking shopping list.



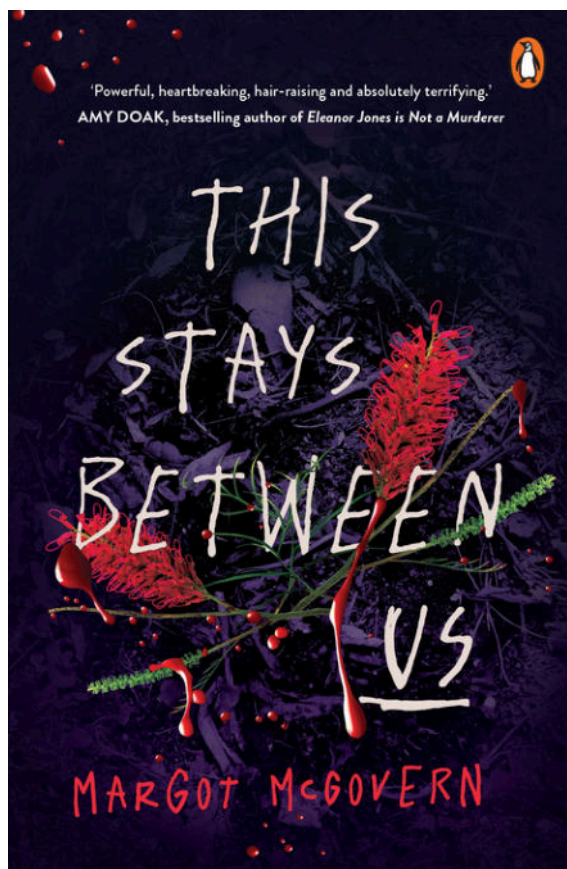
August 2025  
Paperback  
320pp  
Available: world rights; film

Young Adult



# This Stays Between Us

Margot McGovern



**Margot McGovern's love letter to 90s horror films will keep you on the edge of your seat.**

Four girls share a cabin on their school retreat – in an abandoned town where the ghost of Smiling Jack is known to haunt the isolated campers.

Shelley is the new girl with her own haunted past.

Mack made things awkward by kissing her best friend.

Priya thinks she's ready to take the next step with her boyfriend.

Raffi has a flair for drama, and convinces them all to hold a seance.

But when you call on the darkness, sometimes the darkness replies...

**Margot McGovern** lives in Adelaide and has a creative writing PhD from Flinders University. Her debut novel, *Neverland*, was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature, and her short horror fiction has appeared in issues of *The Dark* and the Aurealis-Award-shortlisted anthology *Hometown Haunts: #LoveOzYA Horror Tales*.

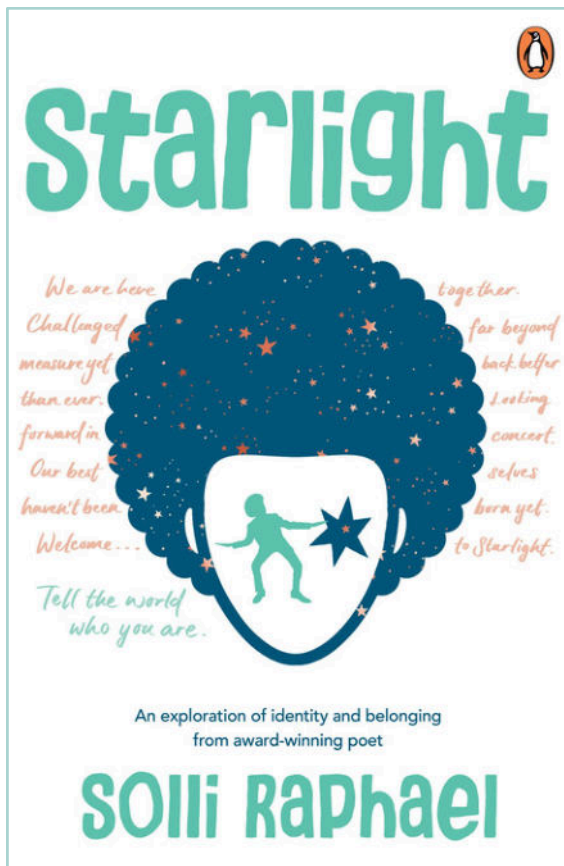


March 2025  
Paperback  
336pp  
Available: world English language

Young Adult

# Starlight

Solli Raphael



An exploration of identity and belonging from award-winning poet Solli Raphael.

Following on from the success of *Limelight* and *Spotlight*, this new book hopes to ignite a conversation around identity and belonging for young people. It covers topics from Australia's identity to the influence of social media, as well as Solli's experience of self-discovery and gaining a handle on the idea of belonging.

Packed with ideas, tips and plenty of activities for kids and teens, Solli encourages readers to find their voice and reflect on their own individuality. The book also contains 35 new poems from Solli exploring these topics. Words have the power to empower others and Solli hopes *Starlight* will spark something in every reader.



**Solli Raphael** was titled the youngest ever winner of the Australian Poetry Slam held at the Sydney Opera House at just 12 years of age. He then rose to fame after his winning performance was viewed online over four million times in 24 hours. Now a young adult, Solli is a globally renowned poet, environmental activist and humanitarian who works closely as an ambassador for four charities and organisations.



2019  
Nautilus  
Book Award  
winner



February 2025  
Paperback  
192pp  
Available: world rights; film

Young Adult

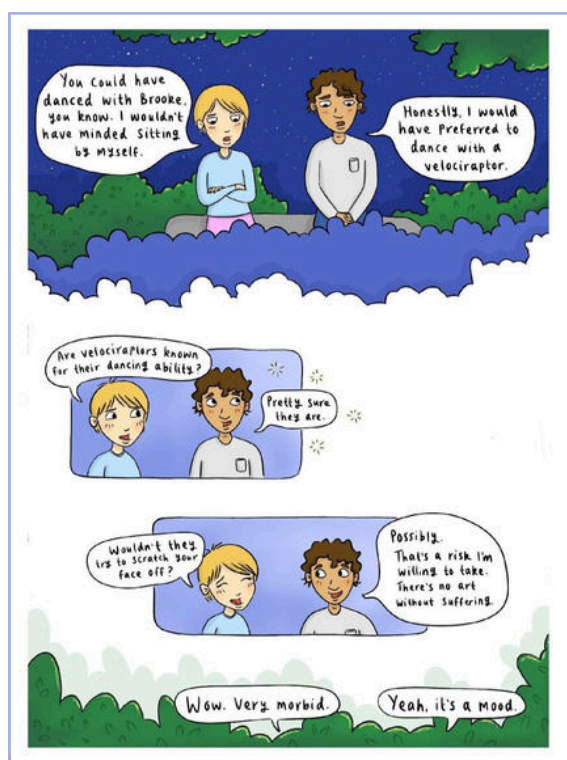
# Graphic Novels





# NeuroWild

Em Mainey



Cover Coming Soon



**Em Mainey** is known in the social media world as NeuroWild.

Em is a late-diagnosed Autistic speech pathologist with ADHD. She is also mum to three neurodivergent kids, cat-lover, coffee-drinker, illustrator, and the face behind the NeuroWild social media accounts. Em is passionate about bringing neurodiversity-affirming practice into all therapy centres and schools and changing the world for our neurodivergent kids.

This beautifully crafted and funny story sings with schoolfriend dramas and will-they won't-they tingles, capturing all the thrilling and awkward feels of first love alongside early-teen friendship turmoil and the neurodivergent experience.

Eve, Sasha and Zack all try so hard to both fit in at school and be themselves. But is that even possible?

ADHDer Eve can't help but create a whirlwind wherever she goes, but it always seems to wreak a tornado-like havoc whenever she tries to befriend her peers, without her knowing why or how. And with her BFF Sasha finding out she's autistic and Zack becoming something 'more' than a friend, even her anchor points are turning chaotic. Can Eve find a way to calm her chaos? Or will she find a way use it...?

211K followers  
on Facebook  
and 88K on  
Instagram

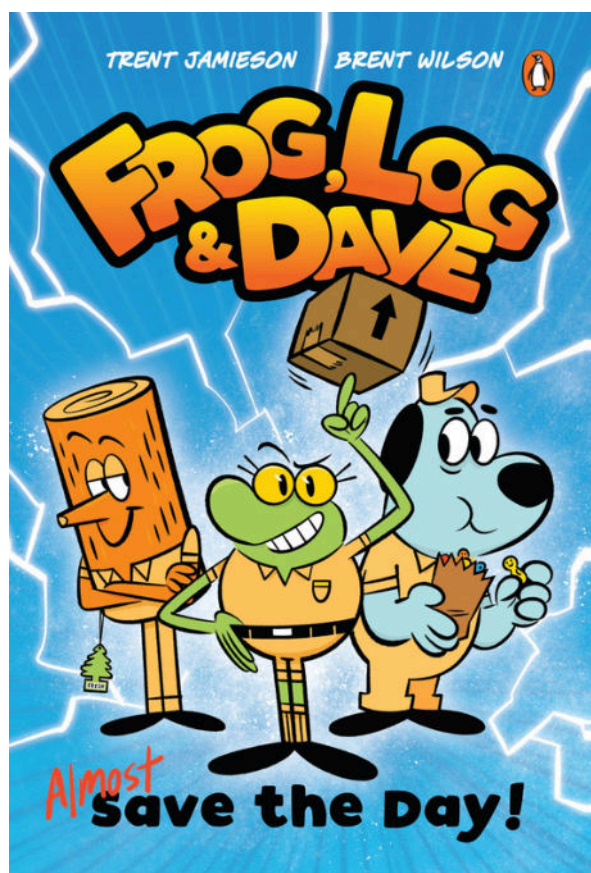


May 2026  
Paperback  
288pp  
Available: world rights; film

Graphic Novel

# Frog, Log and Dave Almost Save the Day

Brent Wilson & Trent Jamieson



**Dive into the hilarious, action-packed world of Frog, Log, and Dave in this must-read graphic novel adventure!**

Join Frog, Log and Dave as they bumble and hustle their way through Count Evil von Evil's dastardly plot to wreak havoc on Town City. With quick wit and a generous supply of jelly babies, can they convince the evil Count's pollutobomb creation to NOT explode and save the day? Find out in this uproarious tale that will have kids rallying behind Frog, Log, and Dave every step of the way.



**Trent Jamieson** is a multi-award-winning novelist, short-story writer and author of children's picture book *The Giant and the Sea*, illustrated by Rovina Cai, which won the 2021 Environment Award for Children's Literature Picture Fiction, as well as many adult books.



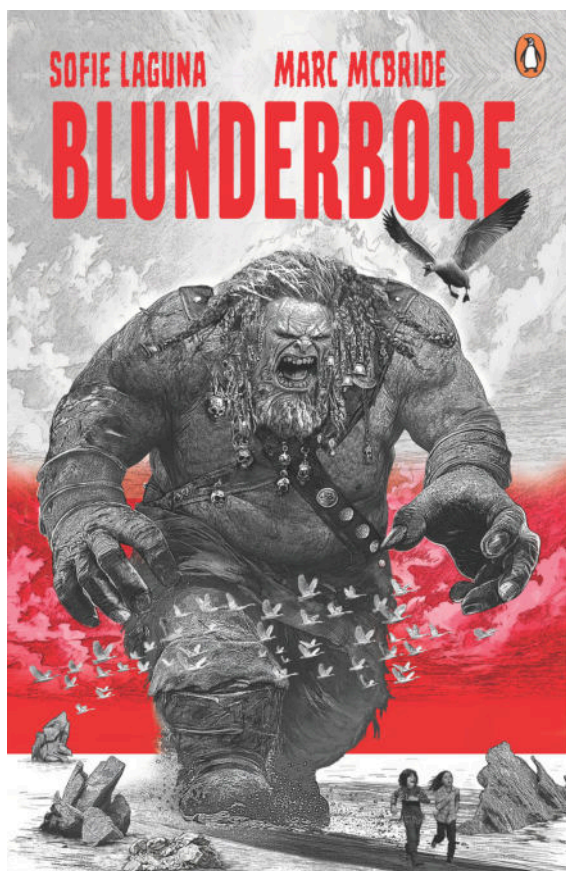
March 2024  
Hardback  
168pp  
Available: world rights

Graphic Novel



# Blunderbore

Sofie Laguna & Marc McBride



Draft Cover

There was once a terrible giant called Blunderbore, whose home was a castle above the clouds. Sometimes he would visit the village below...

Twelve-year old Gemma loves to draw. Her latest passion is illustrating the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, rendering in heart-stopping detail the terrifying giant, Blunderbore. Then, on a trip to stay with her Aunt Lucy, Gemma's drawing is ripped in a lightning strike. When she hears strange calls for help coming from the beach, Gemma sets off to investigate and discovers that somehow her art has become reality. Jack and Blunderbore are in her world.

It's up to Gemma to help Jack. Can she survive the terrors of Blunderbore's castle, rescue those imprisoned there and work out how to restore the natural order between the two worlds?



From multi-award-winning author Sofie Laguna and monster-illustrator extraordinaire, Marc McBride



September 2026  
Hardback  
384pp  
Available: world rights

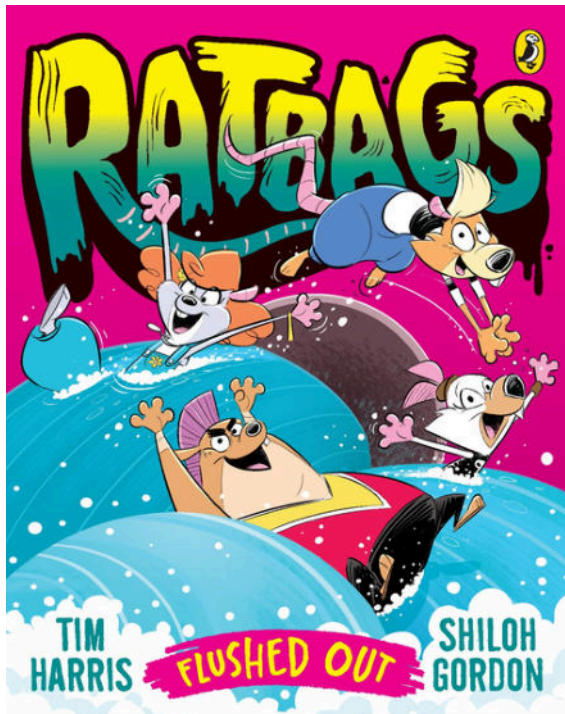
Graphic Novel



# Flushed Out

Ratbags #6

Tim Harris & Shiloh Gordon



The sixth book in the rat-tastically brilliant Ratbags series by award-winning and bestselling author Tim Harris and the brilliant creator of laugh-out-loud illustrations Shiloh Gordon.

Swept down the drain, the ratbags are trapped in the city sewers – the deep, dark realm of Crusher the Crocodile. How will they get out? Will infamous sewer-rat Sludge help them escape Crusher's hungry jaws? Or will Jigsaw find a way to get them all flushed out?

German and  
Chinese rights  
sold



October 2024  
Paperback  
192pp  
Available: world rights; film

Graphic Novel

# Middle Grade





# The Girl and the Ghost

Jaqueline Harvey



**A French village, new friends, fabulous food, a local mystery to be solved and...a ghost.**

When almost-thirteen-year-old Josephine Eloise Thomas moves from Sydney to a chateau in the southwest of France, she expects many things – adventures, inspiration for the stories she loves to write and maybe finding out more about her French mother, who tragically died when she was a toddler. What she doesn't expect is to find a beautiful gold locket with the ghost of Louis XVII trapped inside!

After being accidentally released into the twenty-first century, the young prince proves to be annoying, strange and obviously from another time. He also believes that Josephine is not who she says she is.

Then, there's Gabriel. The grandson of the local baker – French, beautiful, an artist and definitely not a ghost.

When Josephine and Gabriel venture to the shadowy Chateau Du Lac next door to her home, the secrets become more sinister. With Louis's help, can Josephine and Gabriel discover what her neighbours are really up to and solve the mystery of Louis and the locket too?

New  
trilogy

From the author of the  
Alice Miranda series –  
sold into the US, UK,  
Brazil, Türkiye,  
Hungary, Sri Lanka,  
Latvia and Portugal

Read  
more  
on page  
47–48



April 2025  
Paperback  
288pp  
Available: world rights; film

Middle Grade



# Romeo v Juliet

Hamlet is Not OK #2

R.A. Spratt

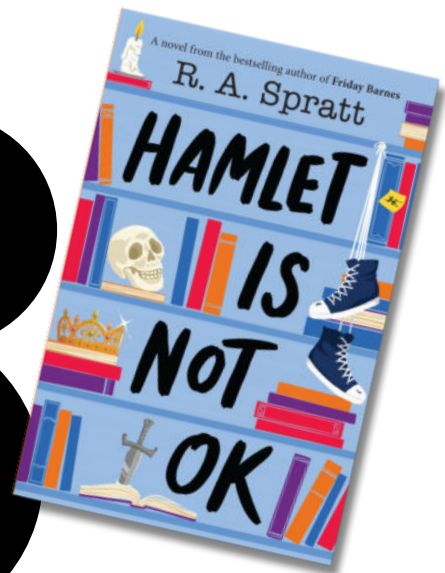


**The OG enemies-to-lovers, RA Spratt-style.**

Twelve-year-old Selby does not want to be in the school play. She is much happier behind the scenes painting sets; anything to avoid standing on stage in front of her classmates and overenthusiastic parents. So Selby did not plan on landing the lead role of Juliet...and she certainly never planned to land in Verona and meet Juliet in person.

Read  
more  
on page  
53-55

Classic stories  
retold with a  
twist for  
young readers



Bestselling  
author



**R.A. Spratt** is the bestselling writer of dozens of absurd and witty books including Friday Barnes, The Adventures of Nanny Piggins, The Peski Kids and the *Shockingly* and *Astonishingly Good Stories* collections. Her books have sold over 700,000 copies in Australia alone. Her podcast, *Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt*, has had over 5 million downloads and connects R.A. with story-lovers across the globe.

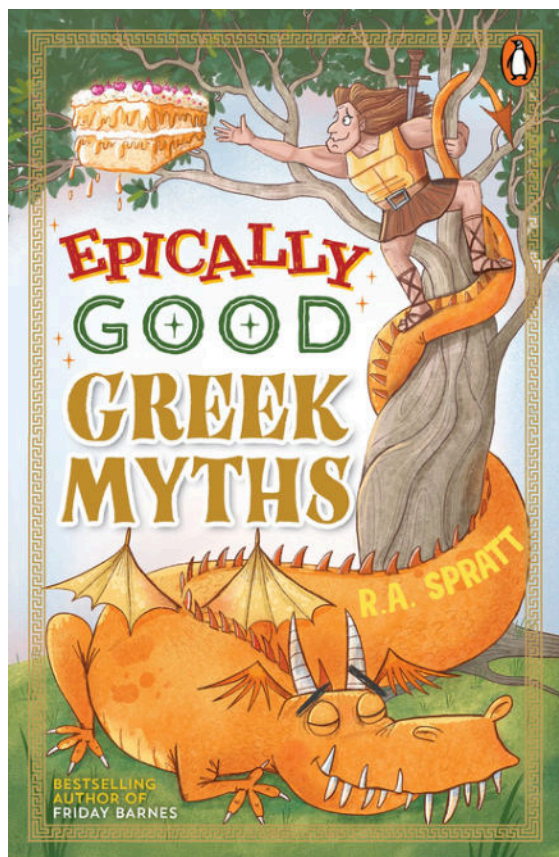


October 2025  
Paperback  
224pp  
Available: world rights

Middle Grade

# Epically Good Greek Myths

R.A. Spratt



From bestselling author R.A. Spratt comes this savagely silly collection of Greek myths told for the next generation.

Featuring sword-happy heroes, badly behaved Gods, a monstrous minotaur, a narcoleptic dragon and more nymphs than you can poke a stick at!

Master storyteller R.A. Spratt weaves her comedic magic through this captivating collection of epic tales, perfect for fans of Roald Dahl, David Walliams and Paul Jennings.

The indomitable Nanny Piggins casts aside classical accounts to reveal what really happened all those years ago on Mount Olympus, and it involves way more cake than you would imagine. This book is perfect for bedtime, long bus rides or when you're stranded on the international space station and the internet goes down.

Bestselling  
author



**R.A. Spratt** is the bestselling writer of dozens of absurd and witty books including Friday Barnes, The Adventures of Nanny Piggins, The Peski Kids and the *Shockingly* and *Astonishingly Good Stories* collections. Her books have sold over 700,000 copies in Australia alone. Her podcast, *Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt*, has had over 5 million downloads and connects R.A. with story-lovers across the globe.



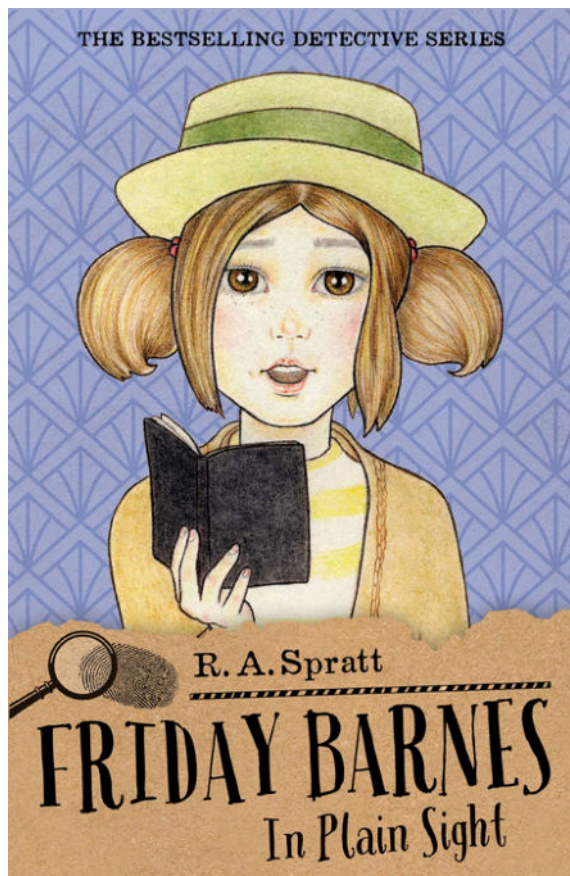
March 2025  
Paperback  
256pp  
Available: world rights

Middle Grade

# In Plain Sight

Friday Barnes #13

R.A. Spratt



**Friday Barnes hits New York City in this latest instalment of the bestselling detective series.**

When Princess Ingrid is kidnapped, along with her fiancé, Binky Pelly, it's all over the international news.

The King of Norway is distraught. The people of Norway are bewildered. And Ingrid's bodyguard is fired. So he calls on his least favourite Interpol agent for help – Friday Barnes. Can she unravel the mystery of the disappearing lovebirds? In this day of CCTV and modern security, where could you hide a royal princess with nobody knowing? The trail soon leads them to New York City, where finding a princess is harder than finding a tiara in a haystack.

450,000+  
copies sold  
in Australia  
across the  
series



February 2025

Paperback

240pp

Available: world rights (ex. North America, Books 1-2)

Middle Grade



# Stories from the Archive: Horror in Pleasantville

Caleb Finn



Cover Coming Soon

**The most terrifying horror book written for the bravest of kids. Are you game?**

Each of these stories takes the familiar and twists it into something that will intrigue, unnerve, and haunt you.

A strange humming noise that doesn't just annoy you, but drives you mad.

A funhouse where the hall of mirrors reflects a terrifying other version of you – one that wants to take your place.

A supermarket where the customers are the product.

Old family videos that show a sinister future instead of a comforting past.

You'll never look at the world the same way again.

**Caleb Finn** is Australia's most-followed male content creator, with over 17 million fans worldwide. Known for his cinematic short horror films, Caleb is inspired by film, digital culture, body horror and liminal spaces. His fascination with creepypastas, urban legends found in the corners of the online world, motivated him to write his own collection of scary short stories, which became *Archives of Despair*, his debut novel. He documents his parenthood journey on his TikTok channel to millions of followers.

15.6 million  
followers  
on TikTok

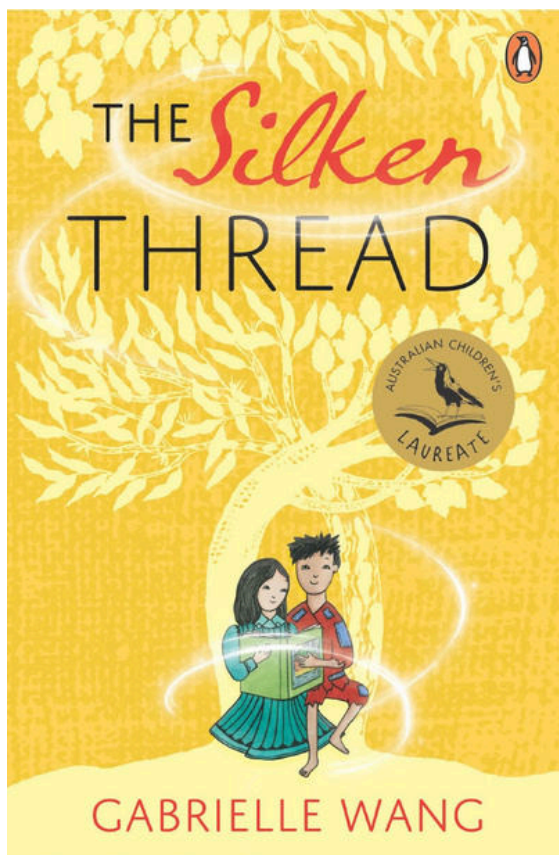


August 2025  
Paperback  
256pp  
Available: world rights

Middle Grade

# The Silken Thread

Gabrielle Wang



From one of Australia's most esteemed children's authors and Australian Children's Laureate for 2022–23 comes a magical story of kindness, courage and friendship's power to make dreams come true.

Moonie lives in Melbourne and dreams of designing dresses for movie stars. Eight thousand kilometres away, on Chongming Island in China, peasant boy Little Dipper cares for the silkworms on his family's farm and hopes to learn English.

On the day Moonie's beloved Ma Mi goes away, Little Dipper appears in her house. Before they can speak, he is whisked back home. Aided by a magical silk cocoon, Little Dipper's visits become a regular event and although neither knows how or why they are connected their bond grows each time.

Will the silken threads of friendship be enough to help Moonie bring Ma Mi home, or to save Little Dipper from the troublesome ghosts who stand between him and his dream of learning English?



Award-winning author

**Gabrielle Wang** is an author and illustrator, and the Australian Children's Laureate for 2022 to 2023. Her stories are a blend of Chinese and Western culture with a touch of fantasy. Gabrielle's first children's novel, *The Garden of Empress Cassia*, won the 2002 Aurealis Award. She has since had many CBCA Notable books and has been shortlisted for a plethora of awards including the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.



July 2025  
Paperback  
272pp  
Available: world rights

Middle Grade

# The Great Chocolate Caper

Heist #1

Joel McKerrow



New  
series

The hilarious first instalment in the brand new Heist trilogy that's out of this world.

Meet the Heist squad. AKA a motley crew of hot-headed misfits who HATE each other but LOVE chocolate. But then they discover a sinister chocolatey plot, right in the bowels of their high school, that will threaten the entire human race with utter annihilation. Can they put aside their differences to achieve the most audacious chocolate heist EVER and save the world?



Heist #2  
out August  
2025



**Joel McKerrow** is an award-winning writer, keynote speaker, creativity specialist, children's author, educator and, having performed for hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world, is one of Australia's most successful performance poets.



April 2025  
Paperback  
288pp  
Available: world rights; film

Middle Grade



# Raised by Wolves

Two Wolves #2

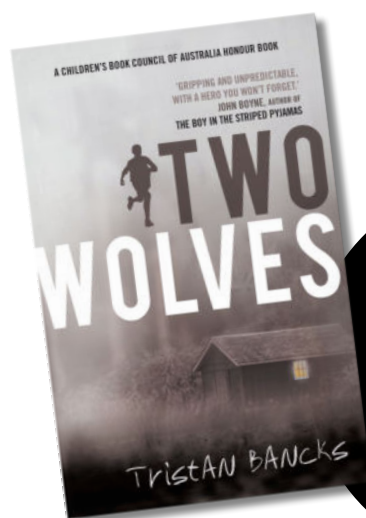
Tristan Bancks



What would you do if your dad had been on the run for five years and, one cold winter night, you were home alone and he arrived at your door, sick, begging to come in? Would you let him? And, if you did, what if he stole from you?

Olive and Ben Silver's dad has been on the run from the law, and from his family, for five years. But, tonight, when Olive (now twelve) is all alone, Dad comes home. He steals money that they need to survive and disappears into the night. Olive can't reach Mum or Ben, so she follows Dad on foot and by train into the city where she meets Ben (now eighteen). Ben is two days away from graduating from the police academy and tells her to let Dad go.

But Olive knows what's right, and they need the money. She's been wronged so many times by this man, she craves justice. And if Ben, of all people, won't help, she'll do it alone...



The nail-biting sequel to the award-winning and 100,000-copy bestselling *Two Wolves*

From the biggest-selling Australian author of action-packed stories for upper middle grade readers



May 2026  
Paperback  
256pp

Available: world rights (ex. UK and North America)

Middle Grade

# Lost in a Book

The 113th Assistant Librarian #2

Stuart Wilson



Draft Cover

**The exciting sequel to *The 113th Assistant Librarian* is here!**

Oliver has settled into his life as the 113th assistant librarian. He loves his job – even though it sometimes includes battling giant crabs or fending off firedrakes – and his new friend, the mostly-human Agatha, is always on hand to help.

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 – with the help of an unpredictable transporting book – 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?



French and  
Japanese  
rights sold

Rights also  
available for  
Book 3 (October  
2026) and Book  
4 (October  
2027)



**Stuart Wilson** lives in Naarm/Melbourne with his wife and son. He is the author of *The 113th Assistant Librarian* and the Prometheus High books. Quite the oxymoron, he can frequently be found lost in a book.

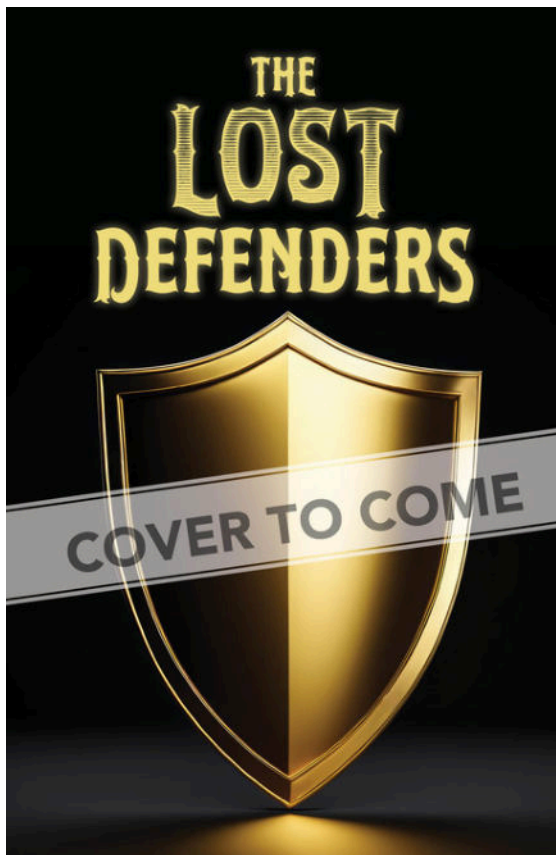


October 2025  
Hardback  
304pp  
Available: world English language

Middle Grade

# The Lost Defenders

Sam Summers



Cover Coming Soon



**Sam Summers** has had a lifelong dream to share her passion for creating magical worlds and relatable characters that captivate young readers and inspire them to embrace their own unique abilities. *The Lost Defenders* is her first children's book and does just that.

*Have you ever noticed how bad things happen sometimes, and there seems to be no explanation? Well, usually, there IS an explanation. Usually, it's down to a monster...*

Jace Tanner has always been different – he can see monsters that no one else can. As if fitting in at school wasn't hard enough, Jace's ability makes him an outcast in the small town of Clover Meadows. His only goal is to make it through his final year of primary school without getting expelled. But when a mischievous imp causes chaos, Jace finds himself unfairly blamed and facing expulsion. But that's the least of his worries when more monsters begin to appear and reign havoc, preluding the opening of a portal between Earth and the Dimension of Monsters due to the actions of a power-hungry vampire.

The enigmatic museum curator, Mr. Madz, helps Jace realise he is a Seer – one of just three on the planet who are descendants of a nearly extinct line of monster hunters. With super strength, incredible speed, and expert archery skills, the trio must overcome past differences to work together in their perilous quest for the ancient amulet – the only thing powerful enough to prevent the vampire's plan before the night of the eclipse.



March 2025  
Paperback  
240pp  
Available: world rights

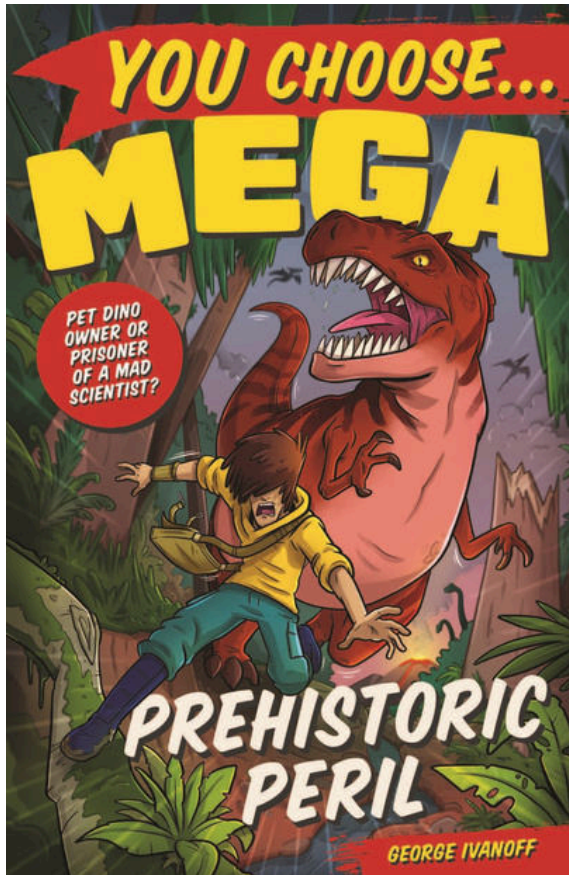
Middle Grade



# Prehistoric Peril

You Choose Mega #1

George Ivanoff



A MEGA interactive novel for the highly adventurous. Read if you dare! Mistakes will cost you dearly...

ROAR!

You go on a school excursion to a new dinosaur-themed educational centre. Do you go to the animatronics exhibition, and discover dangerous robot dinosaurs? Or the research institute, where a rogue scientist has been experimenting with dinosaur DNA? Or perhaps you uncover the secret time travel project, where pressing the wrong button accidentally transports you back in time!?



**George Ivanoff** has written more than 100 books for kids and teens, including the middle-grade novel *Monster Island*, the interactive You Choose series, the non-fiction Survival Guides, the RFDS Adventures and the Other Worlds series. George's books and stories have been shortlisted for numerous awards and he's won two YABBA Awards for his You Choose books.



July 2025  
Paperback  
240pp  
Available: world rights

Middle Grade

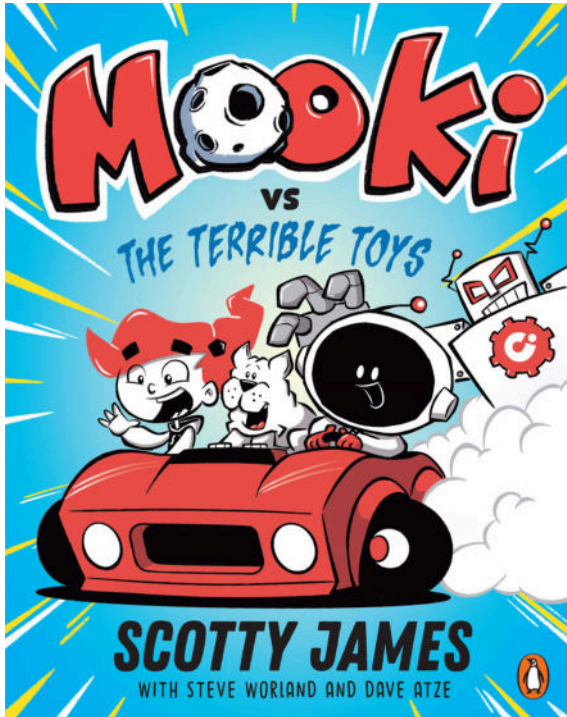
# Junior Fiction



# MOOKi vs The Terrible Toys

MOOKi #2

Scotty James with Steve Worland & Dave Atze



Created by Aussie Olympian Scotty James, MOOKi is a loveable character that encourages children to learn resilience through fun stories.

Join MOOKi and his best friends Cindy and Ralph as they discover an AMAZING toy store, meet COOL new friends, face TERRIBLE new foes and go on a DARING rescue mission!

With bold illustrations on every page and packed with adventure, MOOKi is perfect for beginner readers or reluctant readers. They'll learn about the importance of friendship, of showing resilience and finding the courage to face fears and overcome challenges and how to embrace the joy of imagination and creativity.



December 2024  
Paperback  
176pp  
Available: world rights

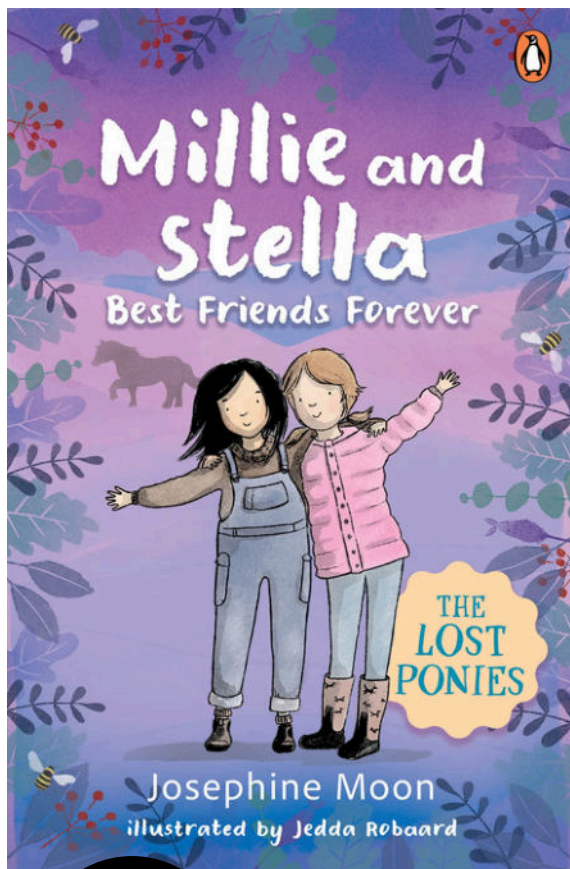
Junior Fiction



# The Lost Ponies

Millie and Stella Best Friends Forever #1

Josephine Moon & Jedda Robaard



New  
series

The first book in an uplifting and inclusive series that celebrates friendship, family, neurodiversity, creativity and a love of animals and books. By the bestselling author of *The Tea Chest* and *The Wonderful Thing about Phoenix Rose*.

Join best friends Millie and Stella for a week of friendship, adventure and a little bit of mystery...

Millie and Stella's very favourite thing is riding their ponies together. But gates are being left open in their paddock, and Millie and Stella are being blamed! Can the girls figure out who is behind the mischief before their beloved ponies are put in danger?

Book 2  
rights  
available



**Josephine Moon's** first novel, *The Tea Chest*, was shortlisted for an ABIA award. Her bestselling contemporary fiction is published internationally. Her books include *The Chocolate Promise*, *The Beekeeper's Secret*, *Three Gold Coins*, *The Gift of Life*, *The Cake Maker's Wish*, *The Jam Queens* and *The Wonderful Thing About Phoenix Rose*.



April 2025  
Paperback  
224pp  
Available: world rights

Junior Fiction

# The Hits and Misses of Melody Moss

Melody Moss #1

Helen Dallimore



Cover Coming Soon

Meet your new bestie Melody Moss in a hilarious new series about friendship, school and what it takes to survive turning twelve!

Melody Moss is starting high school and everything is going wrong!

Her BFF has forgotten the Forever bit and has found New Friends (aka The Clones). Her Mum is taking food experimentation to a disgusting level.

Her big sister pretends she doesn't even exist.

Her dog farts ALL THE TIME.

And, her new crush has pushed her firmly into the Friend Zone. She's holding it together, but only just.

When a competition is announced to see who can write and direct the school musical, Melody jumps at the chance. Will dancing octopuses (octopi?), a possibly life-threatening babysitting gig and a new friendship with a fellow musical-theatre tragic be just what Melody needs to get out of this mess?

New series

Book 2 (May 2026) and 3 (November 2026) rights available



**Helen Dallimore** is an Australian stage, television and film actress, known for originating the role of Glinda in the West End production of *Wicked*. This is her first children's book.



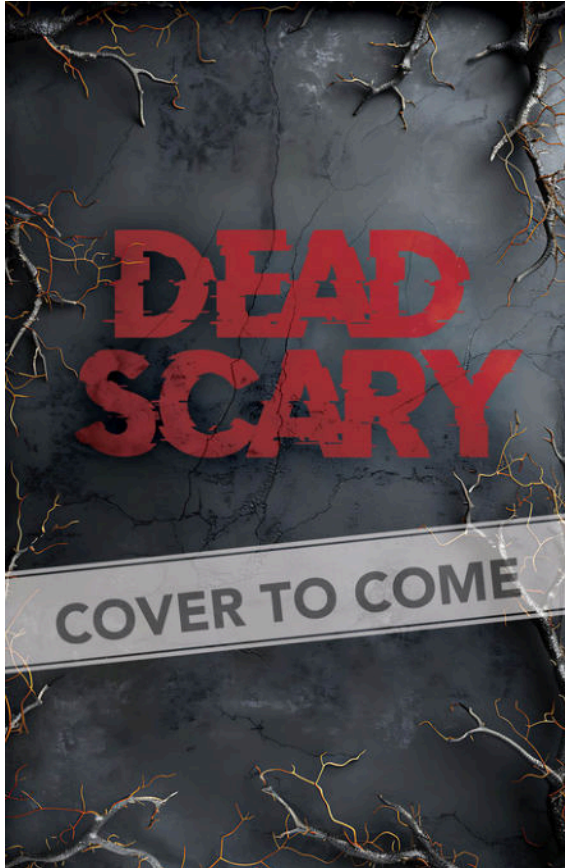
November 2025  
Paperback  
352pp  
Available: world rights

Junior Fiction

# Ghost Rock & Swearwolves

Dead Scary #1 & #2

Steve Worland



Cover Coming Soon



**Steve Worland** has worked extensively in film and TV in Australia and the USA. He wrote the screenplay for the smash hit Australian family film *Paper Planes* with director Robert Connolly.

Discover the fun in fright!

## Ghost Rock

Jake Jensen only wants one thing: to rock out with an electric guitar in the coolest band ever.

But when he earns himself a week's detention clearing out the creepy attic at school, he unlocks a spine-chilling secret. With three teen ghosts on the run from a sinister phantom demon hell bent on keeping them locked in Limbo, Jake must choose: walk away, or help solve the mystery of their untimely demise and risk joining them on the Other Side. Forever.

## Swearwolves

Luna Wilkinson is a triple threat and she's going to smash it in the school musical. It'll make the popular girls notice her and she'll fit right into her sleepy new hometown.

But something's not right in the forest behind her house. Something is watching. Something with teeth. One bite changes Luna from the inside out and takes her on a dark ride she never could have imagined. Will she ever perform again?

New  
series



September 2025  
Paperback  
208pp  
Available: world rights

Junior Fiction

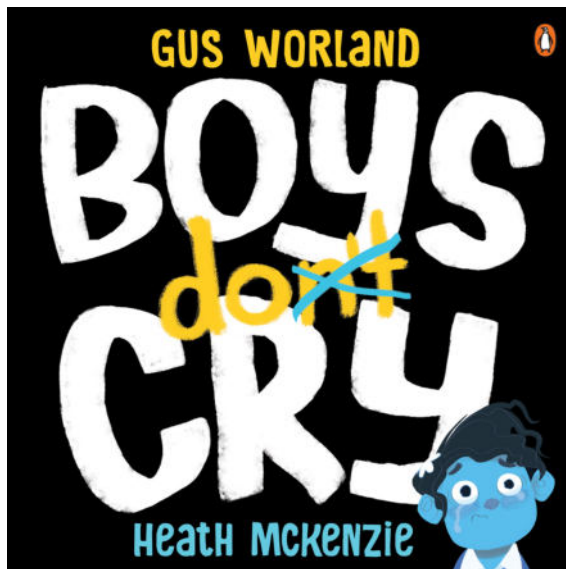


# Picture Books



# Boys Do Cry

Gus Worland & Heath McKenzie



A warm and humorous picture book from TV and radio personality Gus Worland about being okay to share your feelings.

This boy is having a REALLY bad day.

But no matter what happens, he will not, should not, CAN NOT cry!

Or can he?

A picture book inspired by the outdated common phrase 'boys don't cry', filled with important current messaging for young and growing minds about building mental fitness.



**Gus Worland** is a Gotcha4Life Founder, Speaker, and Mental Fitness advocate based in Sydney, Australia.

Gus gets a room (or a global audience!) laughing, crying thinking and talking afterwards about a topic others feel uncomfortable speaking about. Gus breaks down barriers with an authentic, honest, interactive conversation delivered in his relaxed, informal, style. What you see is what you get. And what you get is incredible.

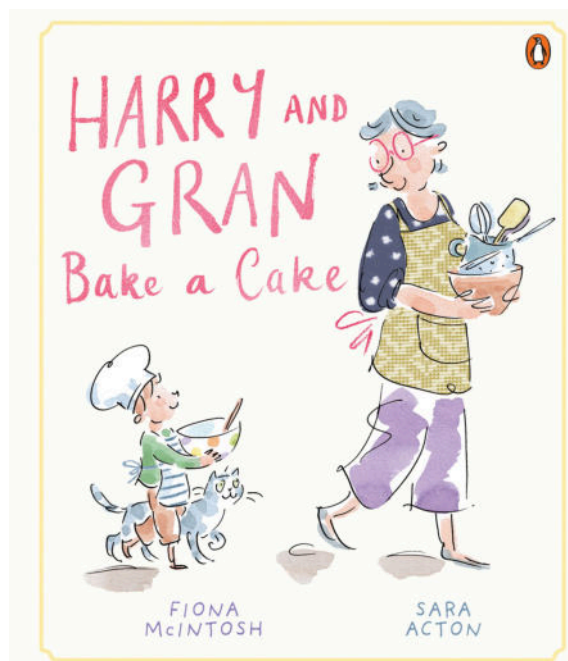


February 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book

# Harry and Gran Bake a Cake

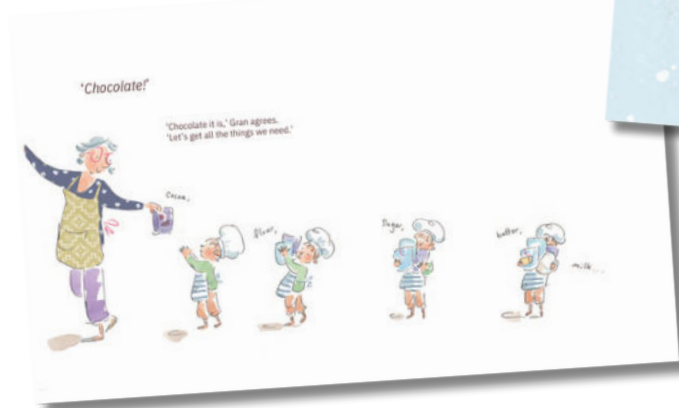
Fiona McIntosh & Sara Acton



From the adored bestselling author, Fiona McIntosh, comes this picture book celebration of family, food and fun!

Harry and Gran are going to bake a cake. What could possibly go wrong?

A funny and charming story of a gran and her grandchild sharing the joy of baking together...and embracing the hilarious mishaps that occur along the way.



Internationally  
bestselling  
author

**Fiona McIntosh** is an internationally and million-copy bestselling author of novels for adults and children across several genres. Alongside her highly successful historical fiction titles, for which she has been nominated at the Australian Book Industry Awards for commercial fiction book of the year, her popular Detective Jack Hawksworth series will soon be released across the UK. Several of her historical titles as well as the 'world of Hawksworth' crime novels have been optioned for the screen.



March 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book



# My Big Secret

Felice Arena



**A fun, funny story about love and acceptance, no matter what team your heart belongs to!**

Everyone in my family goes for the RED team. My dad goes for the RED team. My mum goes for the RED team...EVERYONE goes for the RED team. But...

I go for the BLUE team!

Will this little pig ever have the courage to tell everyone his big secret?  
And will that be okay?

Award-winning  
author



**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, including the acclaimed historical adventures *The Boy and the Spy*, *Fearless Frederic*, *The Great Escape* and *The Unstoppable Flying Flanagan*, which was longlisted for the ARA Historical Novel Prize. His series include the bestselling *Specky Magee* books and the popular *Besties* and *Sporty Kids* series with Tom Jellett.

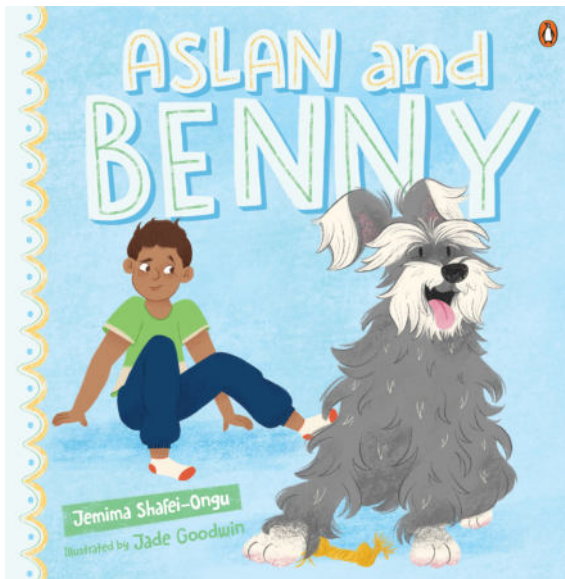


February 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: translation rights

Picture Book

# Aslan and Benny

Jemima Shafei-Ongu & Jade Goodwin



A warm and relatable picture book for anyone who's ever felt stuck by their worries and needed help to do what matters most to them. With vivid and bright illustrations by First Nations artist Jade Goodwin, the acclaimed illustrator of Ash Barty's Little Ash series and picture book, *My Dream for You*.

Aslan has the heart and the name of a lion. He is fearless!

His favourite days are Sundays when the whole family gathers at his yenge's house for a barbecue and he can play with his cousins all day. But when they get a scary dog called Benny, it spoils everything. Will Aslan be able to manage his fears and play with his cousins again?



Acclaimed  
Illustrator

**Jemima Shafei-Ongu** is a Sydney-based writer committed to promoting inclusion and representation in children's literature. Combining a professional background in psychology and teaching, Jemima explores themes of belonging, connection and wellbeing. Jemima is the author of two picture books, *Aslan and Benny* and *A Lemon for Safiya*, and she resides on unceded Dharug land with her husband, their mini schnauzer and their three daughters.

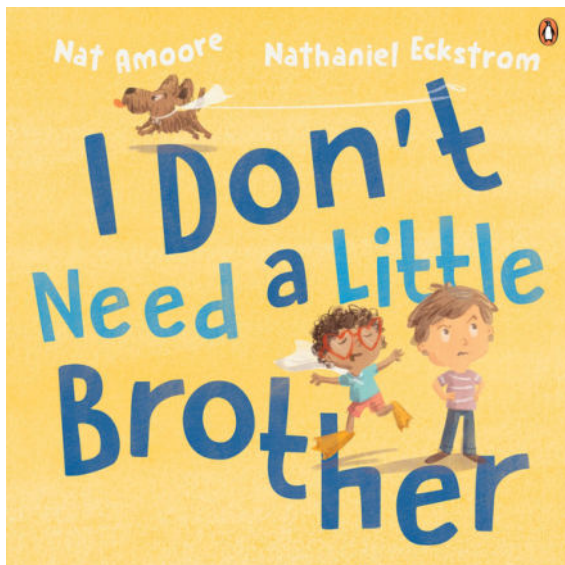


February 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights; film

Picture Book

# I Don't Need a Little Brother

Nat Amore & Nathaniel Eckstrom



Dive into this hilarious story from two award-winning Australian talents that perfectly captures the essence of sibling relationships – the squabbles, the pranks and, ultimately, the love.

No one understands. I DON'T NEED A LITTLE BROTHER!

I have Mum and Dad, and Grandpa who smells like biscuits.

I have Wilson and Chirpy and...Oh no! Where is Beryl Bear?

Nat Amore's *Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire* has now sold into the UK, US, Italy, China, Estonia and Romania



After trying all the usual ways to dispose of a sibling, one bewildered big brother discovers his little brother might actually be the one person he can't live without.



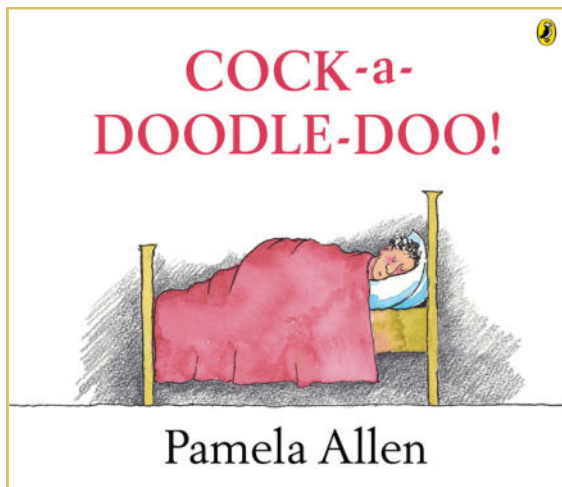
July 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book



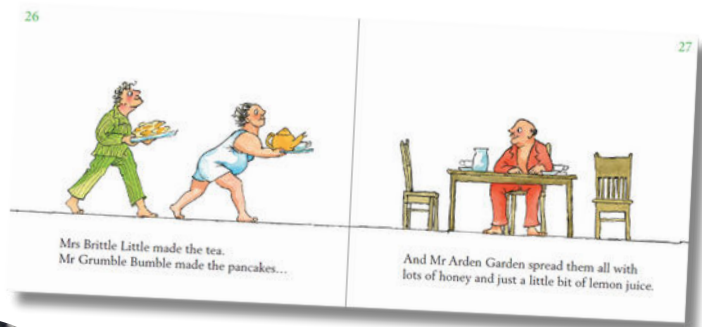
# Cock-a-Doodle-Do!!!!

Pamela Allen



Filled with drama, mischief and fun comes another classic adventure for the very young from icon of children's literature, Pamela Allen AM, created in her 90th year.

This is a little mystery story. It begins in the middle of the night, when everyone is asleep in their beds. Can you tell how it's going to end?



From the celebrated and award-winning author of the Mr McGee series



Pamela Allen's work has been published in China and Korea

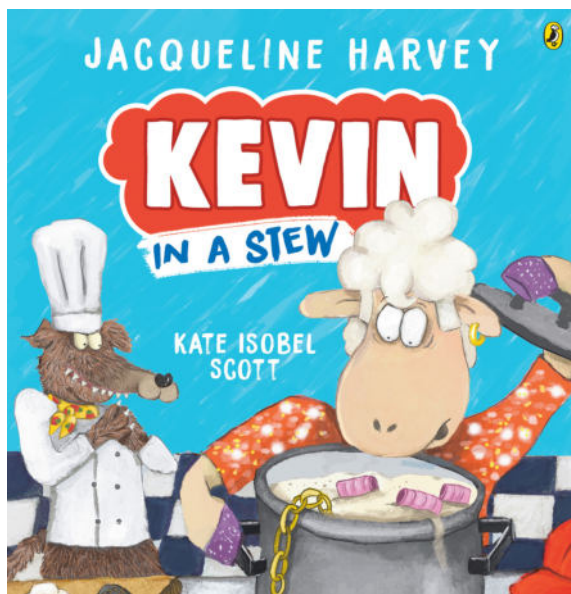


August 2024  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book

# Kevin in a Stew

Jacqueline Harvey & Kate Scott

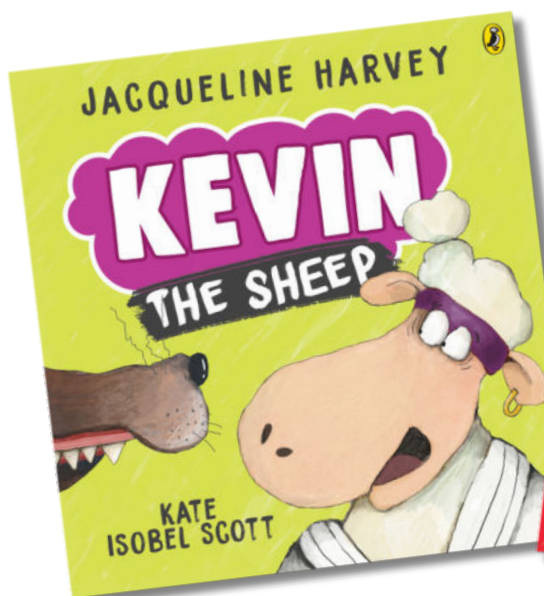


Another hilarious picture book from best-selling author, Jacqueline Harvey.

Kevin the Sheep is living his dream  
To run his own restaurant with a  
vegetable theme.  
Choosing Wolfie to cook is a bit of a  
twist...  
What will Kevin find on the wolf's  
shopping list?

Read  
more  
on page  
47-48

Bestselling  
author

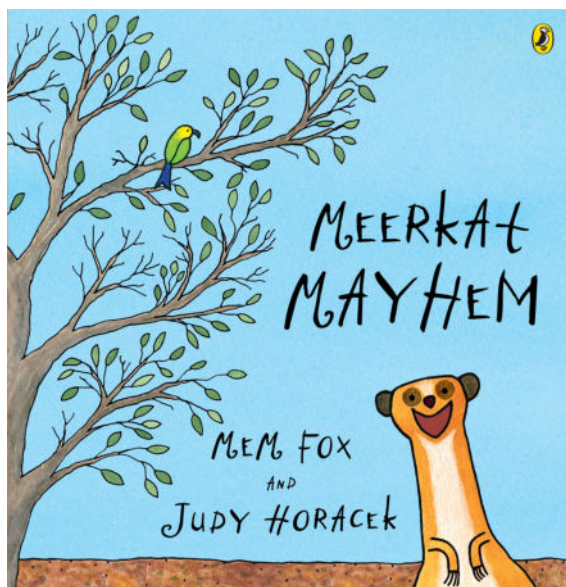


July 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book

# Meerkat Mayhem

Mem Fox & Judy Horacek



Another hilarious picture book gem from the legendary team who brought us the highly acclaimed and bestselling *Where is the Green Sheep?*

One day, after another hearty meal, Meerkat decided to leave his burrow and take a walk.

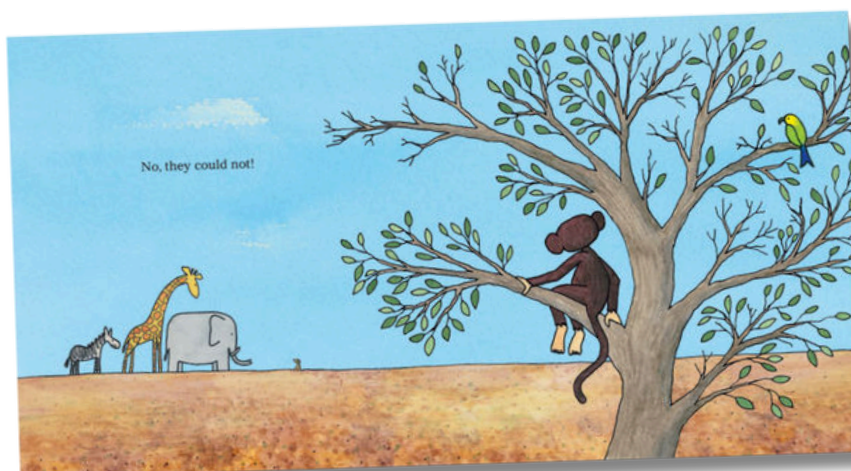
But he found himself, all at once...stuck fast!

'Mother of all meerkats!' he said.

And that is where the mayhem began...

From the team that produced *Where is the Green Sheep?* – over a million copies sold in Australia alone

Read more on page 51–52



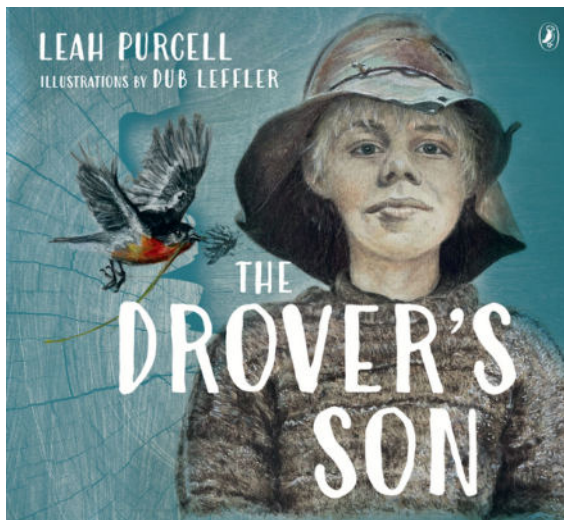
November 2024  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book



# The Drover's Son

Leah Purcell & Dub Leffler



Based on the Henry Lawson short story, this piece of literature has been part of Leah Purcell's life since she was five years old. Her adaptation of *The Drover's Wife* started off as a play, was turned into a film, then a novel, and now this picture book.

With his father away for much of the year, Danny has had to grow up fast. He thinks that soon he will have no choice but to leave his mother and his brothers and sisters and go droving with his father.

But then he meets Yadaka, and Danny finds another path – one in which a man can be wise and gentle, and a warrior too.

A story of healing, care and connection that also shares challenging truths about the history of Australia and life on the land in the late 19th century.

*The Drover's Wife* novel sold in China and France

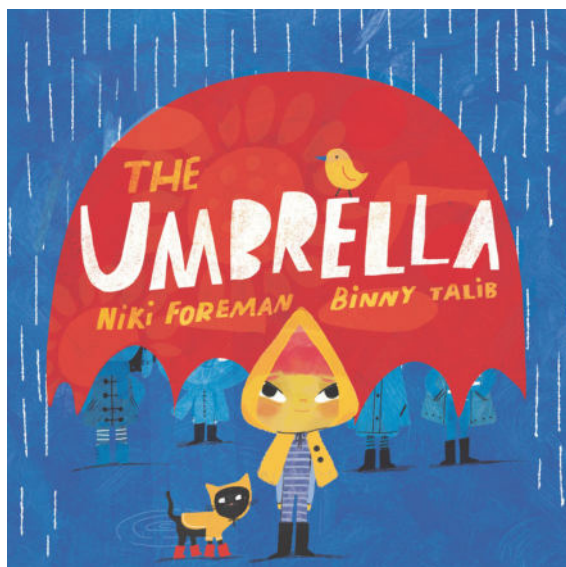


March 2026  
Hardback  
40pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book

# The Umbrella

Niki Foreman & Binny Talib



**For everyone who's ever felt, 'I don't fit.'  
We see you.**

I don't fit...  
Do I need to fit?  
I'd like to fit.

Not everyone finds their place under the same umbrella. So what happens when you want to fit, but can't?

Follow one child's journey to find their place in the world.

From an author and mother with intimate experience of neurodivergence comes a story, perfect in its simplicity, that portrays our universal need to feel, within our own hearts, that we have a place where we fit, where we are just right.

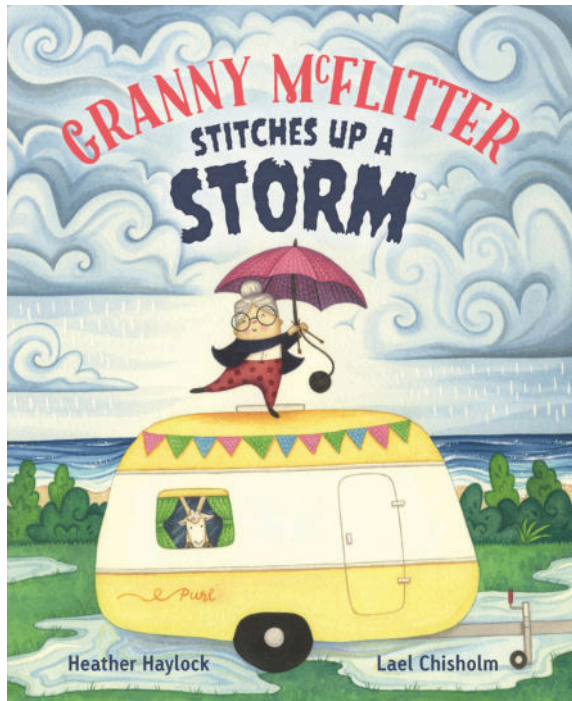


March 2026  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book

# Granny McFlitter Stitches Up a Storm

Heather Haylock & Lael Chisholm



Kids will love this wild-weather adventure from the award-winning creators of Granny McFlitter!

Granny McFlitter is ready for some sun and surf! She flings her knitting bag into the trunk, hitches the caravan to her car with its licence plate KN1TTR, and heads off on a summer camping holiday.

Camping soon proves anything but relaxing when she is kept busy dealing with a troublesome goat attracted to her tasty knitting.

But far worse things are in store...

A purler of a storm blows up and wrecks the campground, and Granny needs an assistant to help her stitch everyone's holiday back together. This is where Guzzle the goat proves he's more than an angora jumper!

Storylines  
Notable Book  
Award winning  
titles



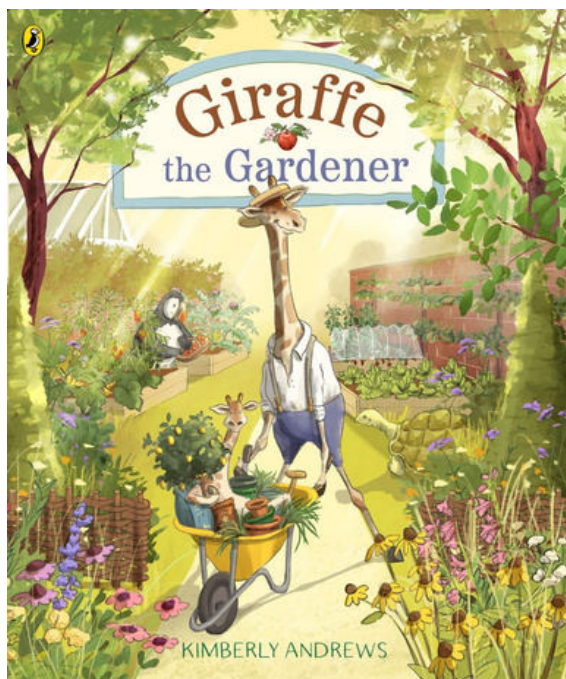
March 2025  
Hardback  
32pp  
Available: world rights; film

Picture Book



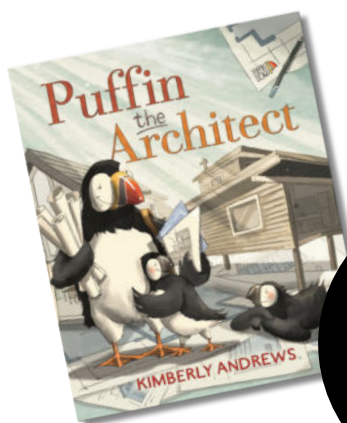
# Giraffe the Gardener

Kimberly Andrews



Explore the plantings and smell the roses in this delightful picture book from the world of *Puffin the Architect* that will inspire the next generation of gardeners!

When workaholic, green-hoofed Giraffe has a pruning disaster and injures his neck, he is very worried about what will happen to his life's work. But Giraffe Junior comes up with a plan to save the beautiful garden – and to save Giraffe's neck.



Sold into the UK, China, Taiwan, Korea, Romania and Russia



**Kimberly Andrews** is a trained biologist and geologist who grew up in the Canadian Rockies. She has lived and worked in New Zealand, Borneo and the UK. In 2019, the first story Kimberly wrote and illustrated, *Puffin the Architect*, won the Russell Clark Award for Illustration and was a finalist for Best Picture Book in the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. It also won a Storylines Notable Picture Book Award as well as the NZ Booklovers Award for Best Children's Book.

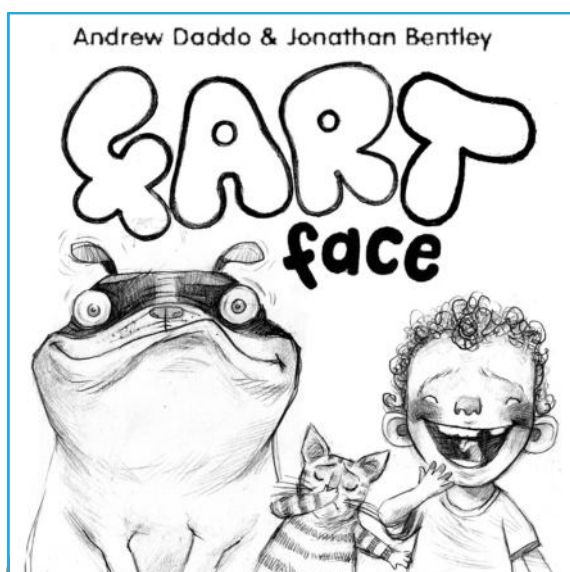


April 2025  
Paperback  
32pp  
Available: world rights; film

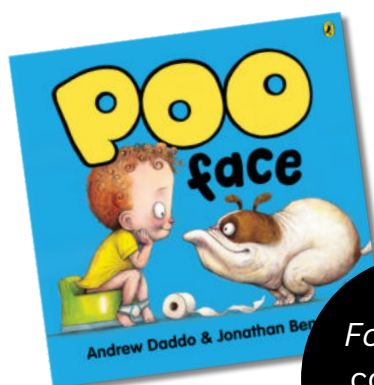
Picture Book

# Fart Face

Andrew Daddo & Jonathan Bentley



Cover Coming Soon



Food Face  
coming in  
2026



**Andrew Daddo** has managed to have a crack at just about every aspect of the entertainment industry. He's appeared on TV and stage, presented radio programs and podcasts, and even made movies. Best of all, Andrew is an accomplished author. He has written 25 books including picture books, chapter books, short story collections, novels and a vague biography – he's hard to pin down. He also talks up literacy in schools.

**A toot-out-loud romp about the sometimes embarrassing oh-so-natural back-end process – from the best-selling creative team who brought hilarity and fun to toilet training fun in *Poo Face*!**

How can a puff of wind from the back end be so funny...or surprising...or stinky...or embarrassing?

But we all do them (yes, I know you do!) And different farts come with different faces.

So many farts. So many faces.

There's Dad's 'I'm so funny' fart face, Grandma's step-fart face, and my dog's silent but oh-so-deadly farts that mean a PHWAOR! face from the rest of us! As for the rest of the animal kingdom? Well, read on...

But whatever kind of fart you do, the best fart face of all is the 'right time to fart face'!



November 2025  
Hardback  
24pp  
Available: world rights

Picture Book



# Highlights







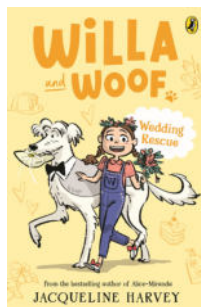
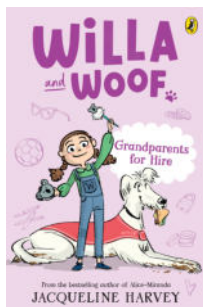
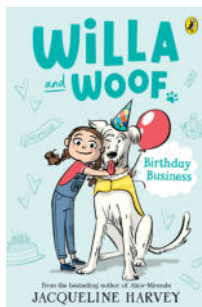
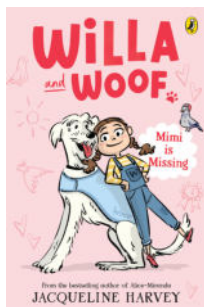
# Jacqueline Harvey

Jacqueline Harvey is the author of the popular Alice-Miranda, Clementine Rose, Kensy and Max and Willa and Woof series, which have sold almost two million copies in Australia alone. In 2022, she released a picture book, *That Cat*, illustrated by one of her former students, Kate Isobel Scott. The pair has since gone on to publish *The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great* and the Kevin the Sheep series. Jacqueline's books have received numerous shortlistings and awards.

Jacqueline speaks to thousands of young people at schools and festivals around the world and says the characters in her books are often made up of the best bits of children she's met over the years. She has also narrated over thirty audio books.

The first book in her new middle grade series, *The Girl and the Ghost*, launches in 2025.

## Series: Willa and Woof



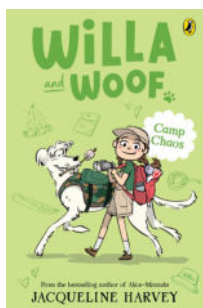
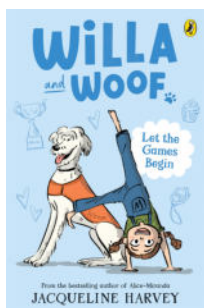
A humorous and heartfelt series about eight-year-old Willa and her best four-legged friend, Woof!

Paperback

8 books

128pp

Available: world rights  
(ex. Brazil, Books 1–6)



## That Cat



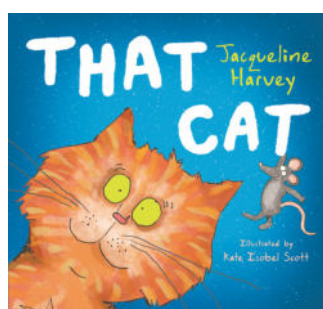
Laugh along at Gloria's antics in this quirky tale that celebrates individuality.

Hardback

32pp

Available: world rights

## The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great



An utterly delightful rhyming book, *purrfect* for the whole family.

Hardback

24pp

Available: world rights

## More series by Jacqueline Harvey



Over 2 million copies sold

Alice-Miranda



Clementine Rose

Bestselling Middle Grade spy series



Kensy and Max

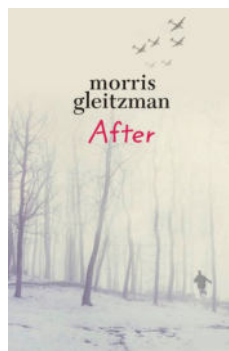
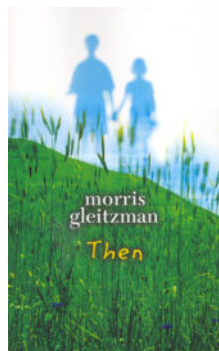
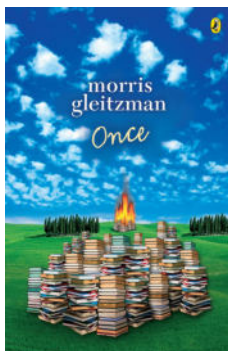




# Morris Gleitzman

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 44 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He was appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018–2019.

## Series: Felix



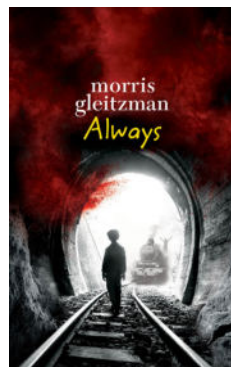
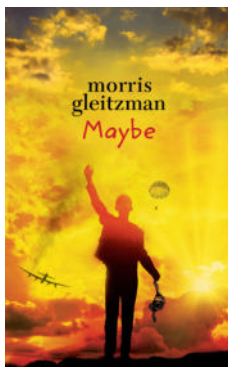
The powerful and moving story of a young boy named Felix who, during the Holocaust, tries to survive and make sense of the world around him.

Paperback

8 books

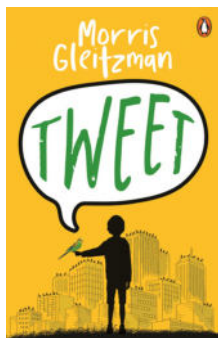
320pp

Available: world rights (Book 1 sold into the UK, North America, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Lithuania)





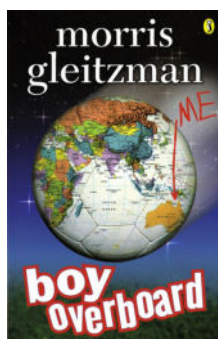
## Tweet



A boy and his beloved budgie are thrust into an epic adventure that could change everything. Absolutely everything.

Paperback  
224pp  
Available: world rights

## Boy Overboard



Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup. But first they must face landmines, pirates, storms and assassins.

Paperback  
208pp  
Available: world rights

## Loyal Creatures



A heart-rending journey of friendship and bravery, as a boy and his horse forge an unbreakable bond while navigating a world at war.

Paperback  
224pp  
Available: world rights

Sequel  
coming in  
2027





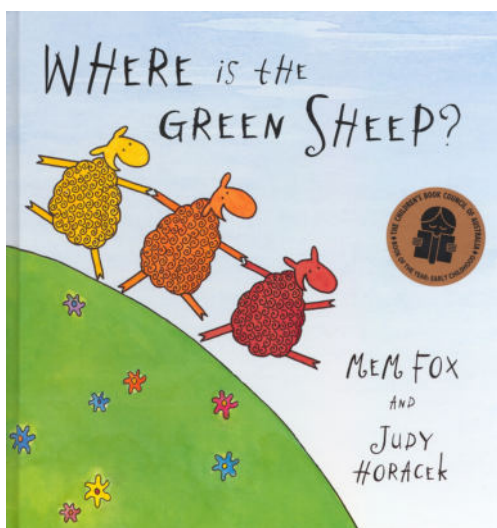
## Mem Fox

Mem Fox has written more than 40 books for children, including the bestselling and much-loved picture books *Possum Magic* and *Where is the Green Sheep?*. Other books by Mem include *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*, *Hunwick's Egg*, *Hello Baby!*, *A Giraffe in the Bath*, *Koala Lou*, *Baby Bedtime* and *Roly Poly*. In 2019, *The Tiny Star* was released to great critical acclaim from the Australian Book Industry, and 2021 saw the release of two new picture books, *Early One Morning* and *Cat Dog*, followed by *Our Dragon* in 2023. Mem's newest picture book, *Meerkat Mayhem*, is another exciting collaboration from the talented and bestselling *Where is the Green Sheep?* team.

Mem has been presented with an array of book awards and was awarded an AM for services to the cultural life of Australia in 1993.

Mem lives in Adelaide and is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies from Flinders University, South Australia.

### Where is The Green Sheep?



Mem Fox and Judy Horacek take you on a wildly wonderful adventure in their rollicking search for the green sheep in this million-copy bestselling Australian classic.

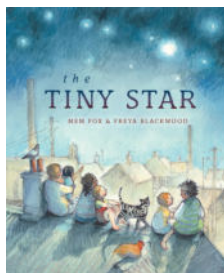
Hardback

32pp

Available: translation rights (ex. China & Italy)



## The Tiny Star



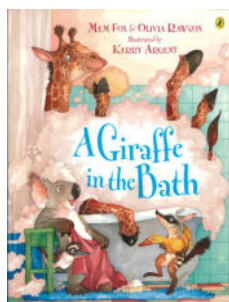
A beautiful and charming story about the journey of life.

Hardback

32pp

Available: world rights (ex. North America)

## A Giraffe in the Bath



Bold and zany characters. Rollicking rhythms. Dive into the whimsical world of an adventure in rhyme and laughter.

Hardback

32pp

Available: world rights (ex. China)







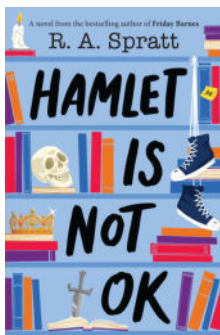
## R.A. Spratt

R.A. Spratt was born in the UK and lived in Dursley, Gloucestershire – a town immortalised by Harry Potter’s deeply unpleasant relatives – until she was two years old. Then, like many ambitious English people cursed with regional accents so strong no other British person can take them seriously, her family moved to Australia.

The tedium of growing up in the western suburbs of Sydney was fertiliser to the growth of R.A.’s imagination. The only thing for a kid to do was get on a bicycle and go to the library, so R.A. Spratt did just that. Once there, she read everything, devouring the books of Arthur Ransome, Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl, Robin Klein and Judy Blume, and audiotapes of Shakespeare productions and Sherlock Holmes dramatisations. And so, her young mind was formed, and set on the path of becoming the extraordinary author she is today.

Now based in Bowral NSW, she's the bestselling writer of dozens of absurd and witty books including *Friday Barnes*, *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*, *The Peski Kids* and the *Shockingly* and *Astonishingly Good Stories* collections. Her podcast, *Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt*, has had over 5 million downloads and connects R.A. with story-lovers across the globe.

### Hamlet is Not OK



Funny, shocking and brilliant: a whip-smart take on Shakespearean moral dilemmas.

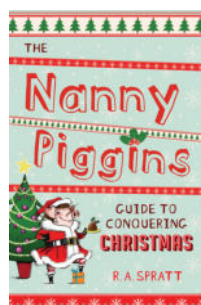
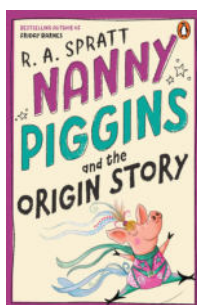
Paperback

224pp

Available: world rights



## Series: Nanny Piggins



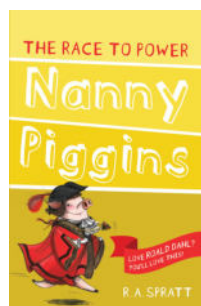
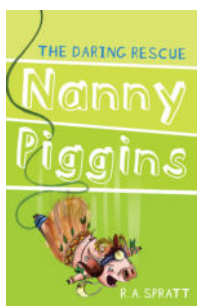
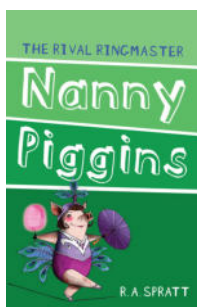
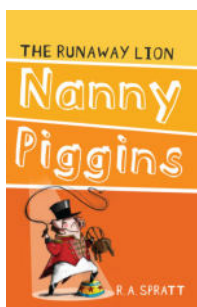
Charming, funny and absurdly good – Nanny Piggins is the world's most glamorous flying pig.

Paperback

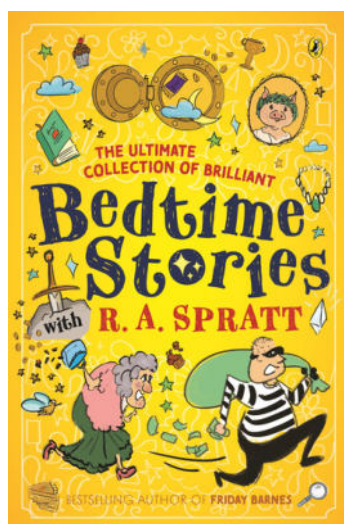
10 books

242pp

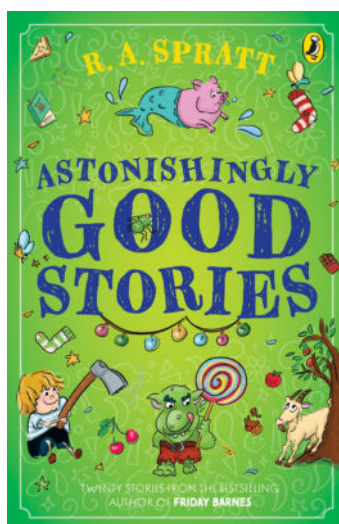
Available: world rights  
(ex. USA, Books 1–2)



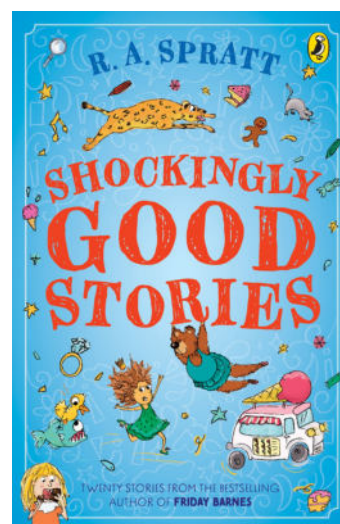
## Story Collections by R.A. Spratt



**Bedtime Stories with  
R.A. Spratt**



**Astonishingly Good  
Stories**

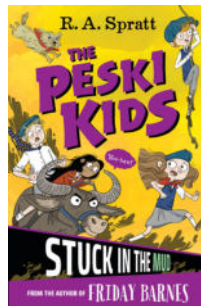


**Shockingly Good  
Stories**





## Series: The Peski Kids



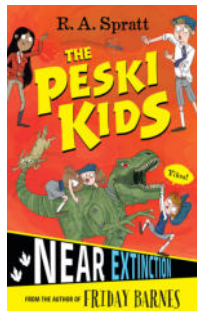
Three squabbling siblings, their stunningly beautiful yet sociopathic next-door neighbour, and Pumpkin, the world's worst trained dog. Together they are The Peski Kids.

Paperback

5 books

272pp

Available: world rights (ex. Ukraine, Book 1)



## Series: Friday Barnes



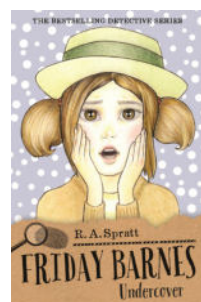
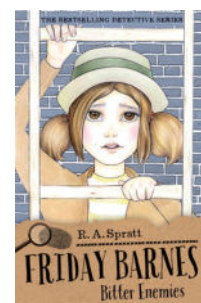
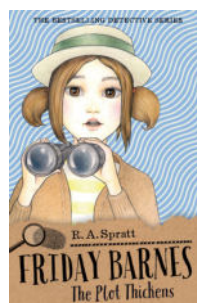
Imagine if Sherlock Holmes was an eleven-year-old girl!

Paperback

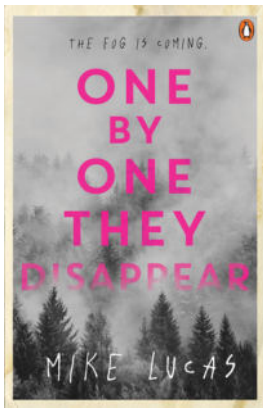
13 books

244pp

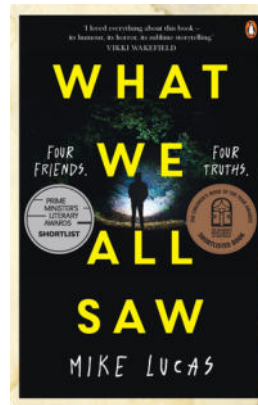
Available: world rights (ex. North America, Books 1-2)



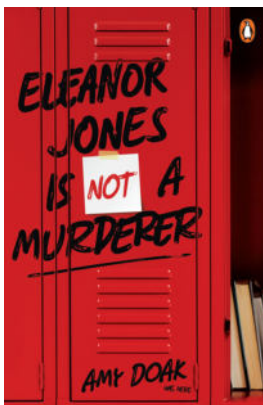




**One By One They Disappear**  
Mike Lucas



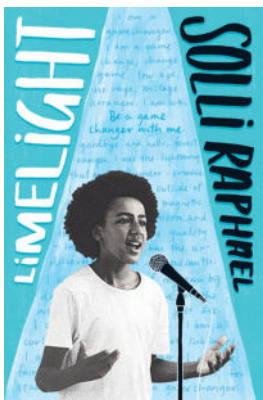
**What We All Saw**  
Mike Lucas



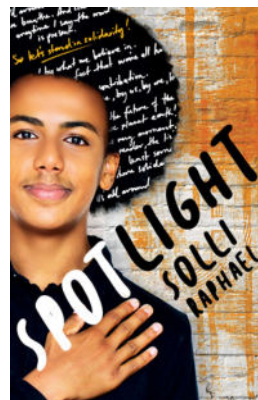
**Eleanor Jones is Not a Murderer (Eleanor Jones #1)**  
Amy Doak



**Eleanor Jones Can't Keep a Secret (Eleanor Jones #2)**  
Amy Doak



**Limelight**  
Solli Raphael



**Spotlight**  
Solli Raphael



**The Spider and Her Demons**  
sydney khoo





**Scar Town**  
Tristan Banks



**Ambush at Sorato**  
(Ranger's  
Apprentice The  
Royal Ranger #7)  
John Flanagan





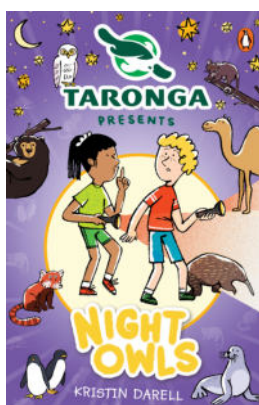
**The Daredevil Princess and the Grumpy Giant (The Daredevil Princess #4)**  
Belinda Murrell



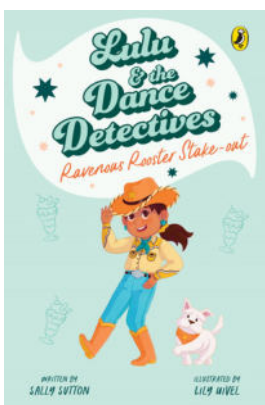
**Walk the Plank (Shower Land #3)**  
Nat Amooore & James Hart



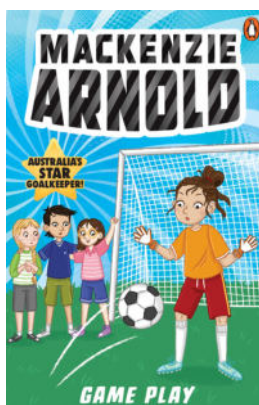
**The Power of the Heart (Yarn Quest #3)**  
Brooke Scobie & Jade Goodwin



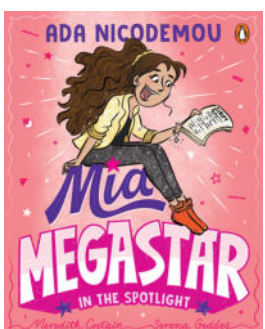
**Night Owls (Taronga presents #4)**  
Kristin Darell & Laura Wood



**Ravenous Rooster Stake-out (Lulu and the Dance Detectives #4)**  
Sally Sutton & Lily Uivel



**Game Play (Mackenzie Arnold #4)**  
Mackenzie Arnold



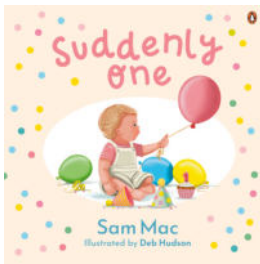
**Mia Megastar #3**  
Ada Nicodemou



**Once Upon a Wickedness**  
Fleur Beale



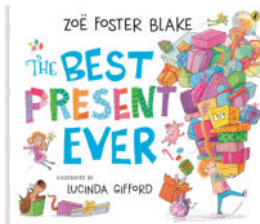




**Suddenly One**  
Sam Mac & Deb Hudson



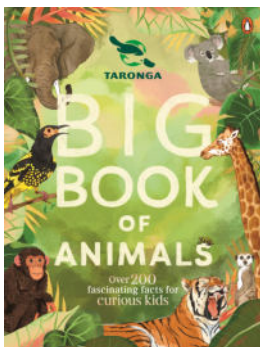
**The Space Between**  
Jess McGeachin



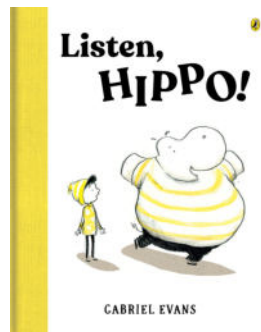
**The Best Present Ever**  
Zoë Foster Blake & Lucinda Gifford



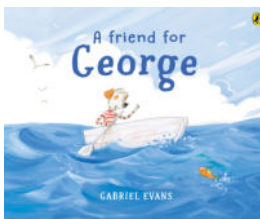
**Dragon Folding**  
Christopher Cheng & Lucia Masciullo



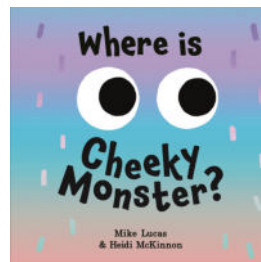
**Taronga Big Book of Animals**  
Taronga Conservation Society Australia



**Listen, Hippo!**  
Gabriel Evans

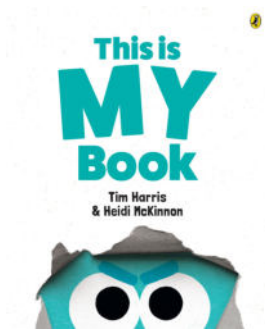


**A Friend For George**  
Gabriel Evans



**Where is Cheeky Monster?**  
Mike Lucas & Heidi McKinnon

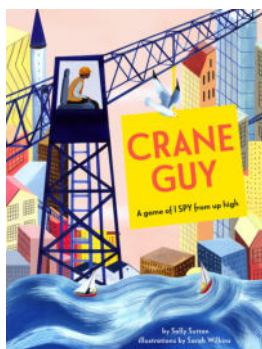




**This is My Book**  
Tim Harris & Heidi McKinnon



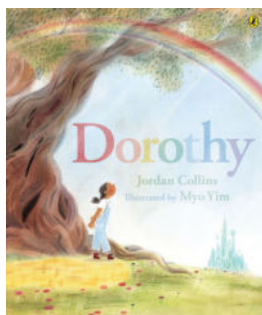
**Chugga Tugga Tugboat**  
Sally Sutton & Sarah Wilkins



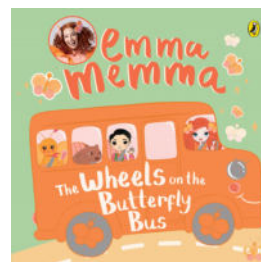
**Crane Guy**  
Sally Sutton & Sarah Wilkins



**The Fantabulous Animal Orchestra**  
Donovan Bixley



**Dorothy**  
Jordan Collins & Myo Yim



**The Wheels on the Butterfly Bus**  
Emma Memma



# Meet the Children's Publishing Team



Belinda Conners, Children's Publishing and Campaigns Director



Lisa Riley, Publisher



Jessica Owen, Publisher



Zoe Bechara, Publisher



Rebecca McRitchie, Publisher



Catherine O'Loughlin, Publisher

