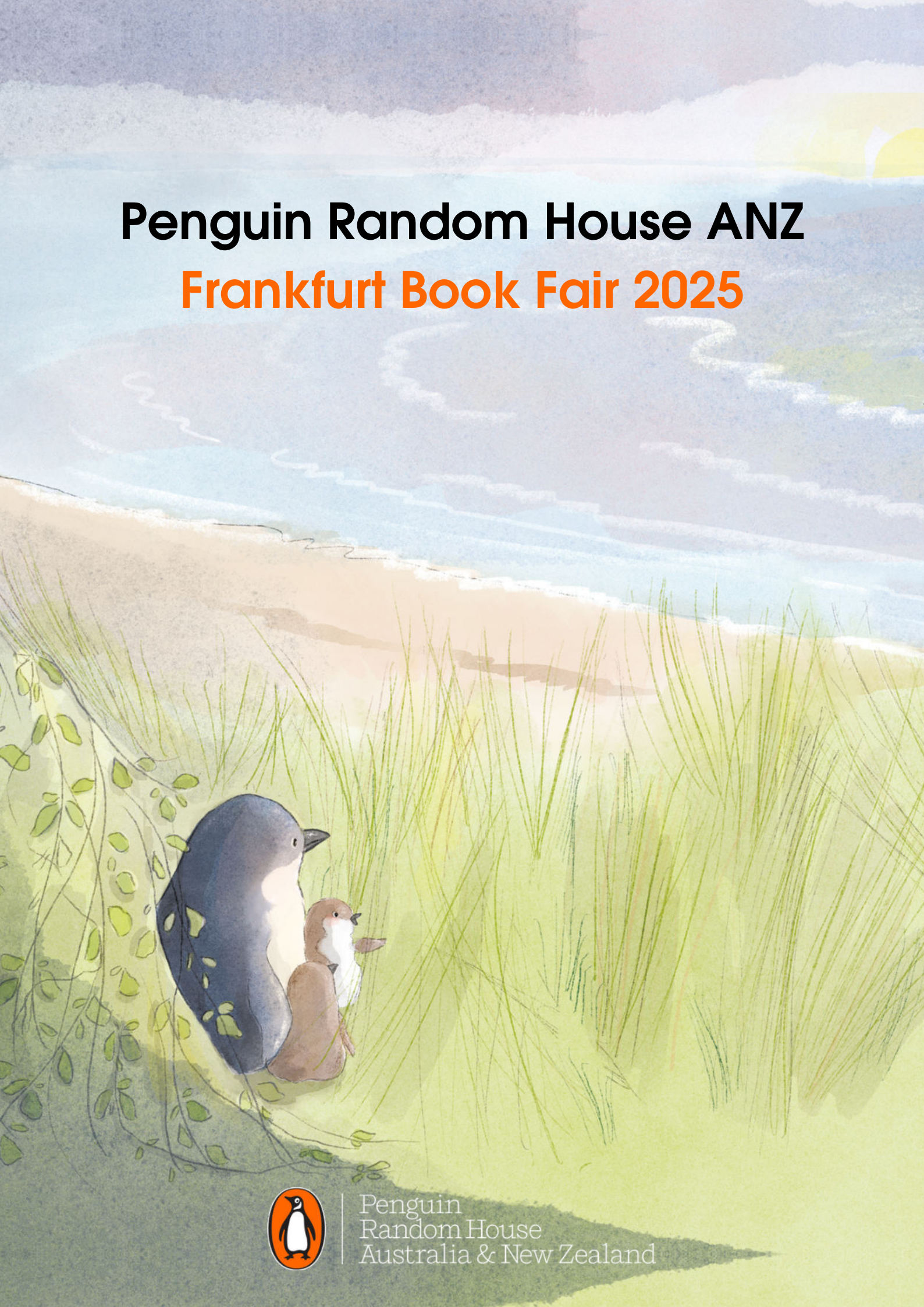




Penguin Random House ANZ

Frankfurt Book Fair 2025



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

For rights queries, contact:

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Contents

Young Adult.....	4
Graphic Novel.....	8
Middle Grade.....	10
Junior Fiction.....	21
Picture Book.....	29
Activity.....	38
Highlights.....	42
Meet the Team.....	51



Young Adult



Our Dark Unravelling

Margot McGovern



North
American rights
sold to Random
House US

A thrilling modern gothic horror tale of control and manipulation that will keep you thinking long after the last page.

When Milford Academy's blue-blooded prince, Jude Sinclair, dies unexpectedly, two students' lives implode.

Newcomer Lyssa was Jude's girlfriend and can't accept that their whirlwind transcendental romance has been cut short. Social outcast George is resentful and angry – she and Jude had unfinished business that left her alienated from everyone she loved.

But Jude relished in spells and blood magic – whether you believed in it with him or not – and left a “tether bottle” on the school grounds. Now his all-consuming presence survives his death, igniting a chilling slow-burn haunting that escalates until both girls are on the brink of madness. Are they fighting Jude, each other or their own ensnared hearts?

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*.



October 2026
Paperback
336pp
Available: UK & Commonwealth, English

Young Adult

Drawing Nudes While Making Other Plans

Zoe Gaetjens



A novel about finding yourself . . . where you least expect it . . . in a room with strangers, drawing naked people.

Change has always made 17-year-old Cleo anxious, or more anxious than usual. Thankfully, her older sister has been by her side, protecting and preparing her through the creation of numerous plans for how to face the world.

But now it's the summer before her final year of high school and Cleo doesn't have her sister to lean on anymore. Not only are her Summer Plans thwarted, but she is left alone and adrift in a sea of stormy thoughts. And so, Cleo finds herself at a summer-long Life Drawing Program, along with the mysterious and effortlessly cool Mattias, intelligent and warm Remi, and boisterous jock Lachlan.

Cleo is torn between wanting to make her sister proud by grabbing life by the horns and being scared to let her go. With a group of teens she doesn't know, Cleo will navigate new friendships, first love and wonky penises.

Zoe Gaetjens is a children's author and high school English teacher. Her debut, *Little Angler*, an interactive board book was released in March 2024 and is shortlisted for the 2024 Speech Pathology Awards.

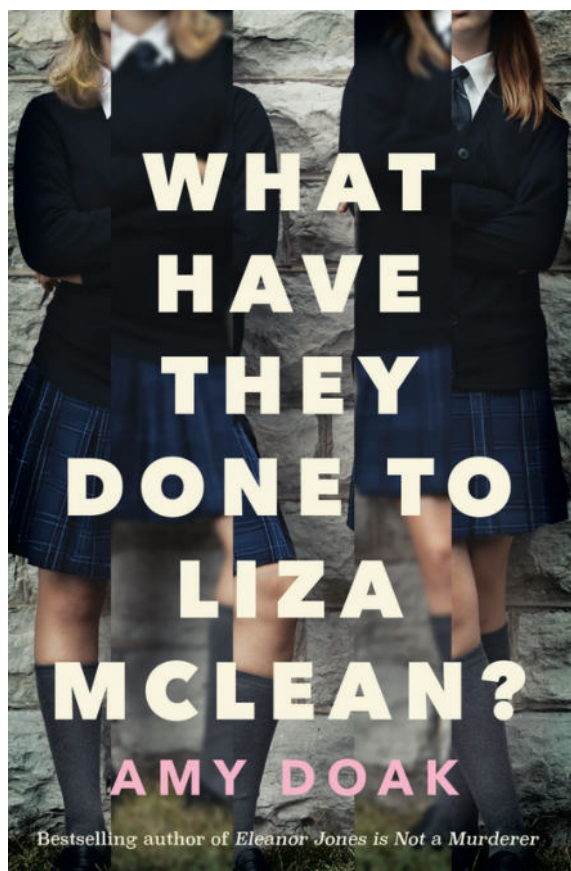


May 2026
Paperback
256pp
Available: World, all languages

Young Adult

What Have They Done to Liza McLean?

Amy Doak



Dark academia meets *The Stepford Wives* in this new YA mystery thriller.

Meg McLean is enrolled as a scholarship student at the ultra-elite boarding school, Douglas College, after tragedy rips her family apart. The school is lush and secluded with a cult-like commitment to horticulture, and straight-laced Meg is determined to make the most of this opportunity. Her wild-child younger sister, Liza, is along for the ride and couldn't care less.

When Liza comes back from a night out with blank eyes and a perfect manners, Meg knows something is very, very wrong. Benedict Hargreaves (the 4th), Douglas College's wealthiest student with a rebellious streak, is Meg's only hope at getting behind the locked files in the school's database and uncovering a conspiracy that might even involve both their families. And when more than one murder takes place, can Meg really trust anyone?



Sold in
Italy



Amy Doak writes mysteries filled with action, adventure, fun and heart. Her debut YA novel, *Eleanor Jones is not a Murderer*, won the 2024 Davitt Award for Best Crime Novel; was a CBCA 2024 notable; and was shortlisted for both the 2024 ABIA Awards Books of the Year for Older Readers, and for the 2024 Davitt Awards Best Debut Crime Novel.



October 2025
Paperback
336pp
Available: World, all languages

Young Adult

Graphic Novel



Frog, Log and Dave #1 & #2

Brent Wilson & Trent Jamieson



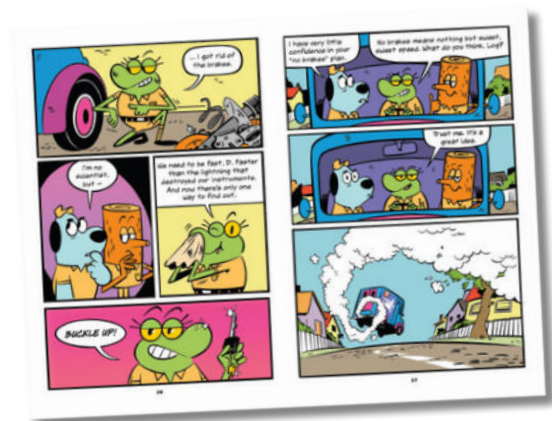
Dive into the hilarious, action-packed world of Frog, Log and Dave in this must-read graphic novel adventure series!

Frog, Log and Dave Almost Save the Day

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.

Frog, Log and Dave A Brush with Evil

When a hungry shark needs delivering to the Toothbrush Instruction Company – which just so happens to be under the new ownership of Count Evil von Evil – our favourite delivery drivers jump into action. But have they bitten off more than they can chew? One thing's for sure, toothbrushing has never been so dangerous.



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 2025 & September 2025
Hardback
168pp
Available: World, all languages

Graphic Novel

Middle Grade



Romeo v. Juliet

R.A. Spratt



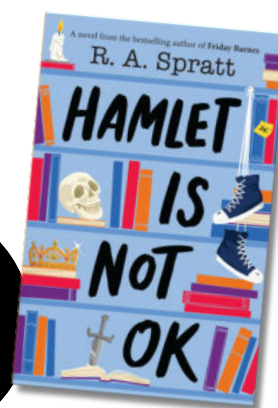
The OG enemies-to-lovers.

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 an audience, performing for disinterested 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.

With warmth, brilliant banter, deadpan humour and, well, dead people, R.A. Spratt brings her trademark wit to Shakespeare's famous play.

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.

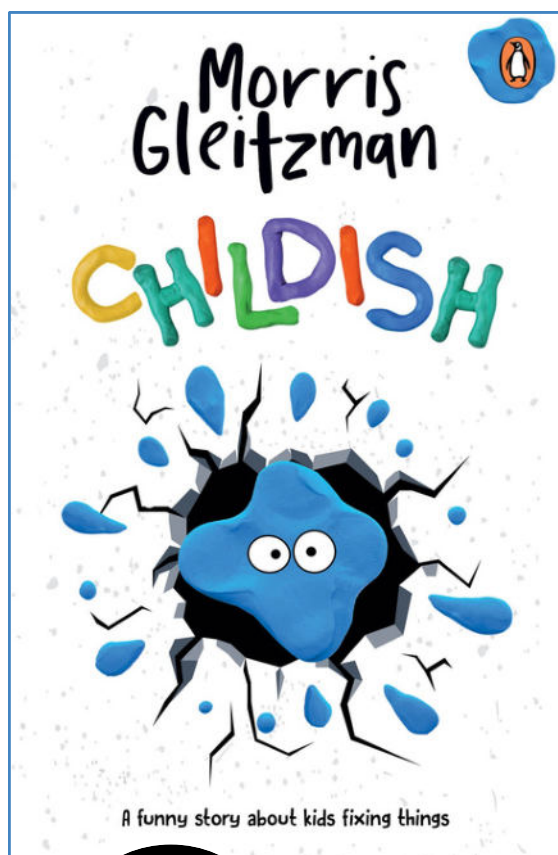


February 2026
Paperback
224pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Childish

Morris Gleitzman



Sold to
Penguin
UK

A funny story about kids fixing things.

CHILDISH

Me and Dot reckon it's just a word for being a child.

And having a crack at solving a big problem using only a really good friendship and the world's best dumplings and a thousand kilos of plasticine.

Like we're doing now.



Bestselling
author of *Once*
– sold into 10
territories

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was 16. After university he worked for 10 years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience: he wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 45 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He was appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018–2019.



September 2025
Paperback
176pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Stories for the Kid Next Door

Emma Holland



These stories and poems will have you in stitches from start to finish. Discover why Emma Holland is the new queen of comedy for kids!

You're probably wondering what could be SO FUNNY that you should read this book over all the OTHER BOOKS on the shelf.

Is it the unicorn, causing chaos in a suburban home?

I mean, the story about a backyard MUSEUM OF WEIRD THINGS is pretty good.

You could even flick to the back and find out what happens when TWINS take their competitiveness TO THE NEXT LEVEL!



Emma Holland is a comedian, collage artist and photographer. Her 2023 hour, *Save The Orangutans*, a show exploring her international upbringing, was a Moosehead Award recipient and achieved sold out shows and rave reviews at Edinburgh Fringe. Her 2024 show, *Here Comes Mr. Forehead*, boasted a sold-out season at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, sold-out shows across Australia and glowing reviews. Emma's strange PowerPoint presentations have garnered millions of views on TikTok.



September 2025
Paperback
272pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Don't Let Them Leave

Mike Lucas



13-year-old Londoner Charlotte has been orphaned along with her brooding younger brother, Jack, and her animated little sister, Emily. The trio is whisked away from the city by strange adults to stay with a grandmother they never knew existed.

They arrive at Black Island off the Cornish coast to find a dilapidated house and no grandmother. With nowhere else to turn, they must face all the island offers – dead things come back to life, wishes manifest reality, villagers issue veiled warnings, and then one day, there appears a mocking grandmother that dodges all Charlotte's questions.

Charlotte can't give up though, and the more she digs, the clearer it becomes that something terrible happened there – and she needs to get herself and her siblings off Black Island before their souls are trapped eternally.

Mike Lucas is the author of several picture books including CBCA Notable Book, *Olivia's Voice*. Mike is one of the main organisers of the Adelaide Festival of Children's Books and an Honorary Member of the CBCA (South Australia). In 2022, Mike's first YA novel, *What We All Saw*, was published and shortlisted for the Readings Book Prize 2022, CBCA Book of the Year Award 2023 and the Prime Minister's Literary Award 2023.



April 2026
Paperback
320pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

The What REALLY Happened Fairytale Collection

Tim Harris



Five fairytales retold with wicked and hilarious twists: *Jack and the Beanstalk*; *Hansel and Gretel*; *Little Red Riding Hood*; *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*; and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

You've all seen the sensational headlines . . .

Kid trades family cow for a handful of magic beans and ends up in the clouds at the top of a beanstalk, facing off against a terrifying giant.

Siblings discover a house made of gingerbread and narrowly escape the clutches of a horrible witch.

Girl in red cloak visits Grandma but ends up in the jowls of a wolf.

But what REALLY went down in each case? Find out in this collection of hilarious fairytale spoilers that will make you seriously question – who is the goodie, and who is the baddie?!



Tim Harris is the bestselling author of several laugh-out-loud series for kids, including Toffle Towers, Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables and Exploding Endings. Tim's 'humour with heart' writing style has seen his books receive multiple awards, including five KOALA Honour Books (2017, 2019, two in 2020, and 2021) and a CBCA Notable (2018). His books have been published in Australia and the USA, and have been translated into numerous languages.



May 2026
Paperback
240pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Dead Scary #1 & #2

TJ DOOM



Standalone
adventures

2 more
books
coming in
2026

TJ DOOM lives off the grid in a crumbling mansion at the edge of a dark and windswept forest. TJ DOOM doesn't do interviews. Doesn't sign autographs. Won't even pose for a photo. Naturally, this has fuelled rumours that the writer is an ancient, blood-sucking vampire whose image can never be caught on camera. Because DOOM is always uncontactable, this cannot be confirmed. Or denied.

Do you dare to be scared?

Ghost Guitar

Jake Jensen wants to become a rock 'n' roll legend. Instead, he's stuck in detention. His punishment? Cleaning out the creepy old school attic.

That's where he finds the instruments. And then . . . the three ghosts who used to play them. Now Jake is the ghost band's only shot at escaping a terrible demon who has trapped them in Limbo.

With his best mate Zoe, can he help them rock their way to the afterlife – or will his first gig be his last?

Zombie Road

Ace Walker has one rule: never stay out after sunset. Because when the sun goes down, the dead rise – fast, hungry and hunting for brains.

So when his best friend Callie collapses with appendicitis, Ace has one shot to save her: steal a truck and race across the desert to the nearest hospital before nightfall.

A flat tyre, an undead bike gang and an exploding petrol station? Just the beginning. Because on *Zombie Road*, one wrong turn means death – or worse.



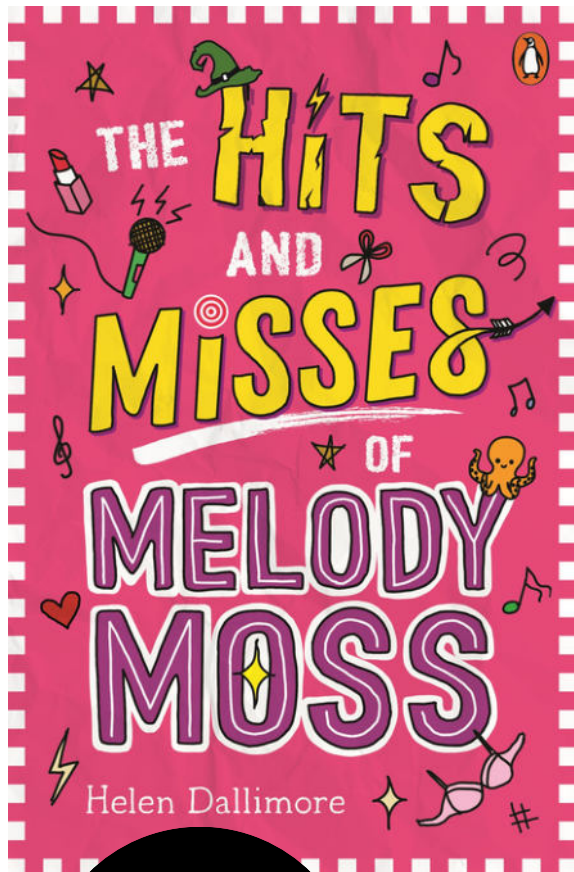
September 2025 & December 2025
Paperback
176pp & 208pp
Available: World, all languages

Junior Fiction

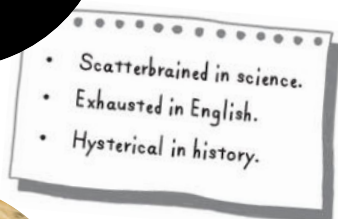
The Hits and Misses of Melody Moss

Melody Moss #1

Helen Dallimore



Book 2 coming
May 2026 and
Book 3 coming
November 2026



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.

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?



November 2025
Paperback
304pp
Available: World, all languages

Junior Fiction

The Girl and the Ghost #1& #2

Jaqueline Harvey



Book 3
coming
April 2026

From the author of
the Alice Miranda
series – sold into 8
territories and made
into two feature
films



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.

A French village, new friends, mysteries to be solved and . . . a ghost.

The Girl and the Ghost

When almost-13-year-old Josephine Eloise Thomas moves from Sydney to a chateau in the southwest of France, she doesn't expect is to find a beautiful gold locket with the ghost of Louis XVII trapped inside! With Louis' help, can Josephine and Gabriel, the cute grandson of a local baker, discover what her neighbours at the shadowy shadowy Chateau Du Lac are really up to and solve the mystery of Louis and the locket too?

The Girl and the Ghost: Family Secrets

Josephine is in Paris receiving a huge reward for solving one of the world's greatest art heists. Amid the celebrations the chilling news that Anastasia, the mastermind behind the crime, has escaped from custody sets everyone on edge. Then, when Josephine's best friend Harriet arrives from Singapore, the discovery of a prehistoric underground cave network takes the girls, Gabriel and Louis on an adventure like no other . . . but at a dangerous cost.



April 2025 & October 2025
Paperback
352pp & 368pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

The 113th Assistant Librarian #1 & #2

Stuart Wilson



A fantasy adventure series where books have power, cats are more than they seem, and the library is the most dangerous place in the city . . .

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

When Oliver 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 stop a war?

Sold into 6 territories

Book 3 coming October 2026 and Book 4 coming 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.



July 2025 & September 2025
Hardback
304pp & 288pp
Available: World, English

Middle Grade

Heist #1 & #2

Joel McKerrow



Book 3, *The Ultimate Alien Swindle*, coming April 2026

The hilarious brand new Heist trilogy that's out of this world.

The Great Chocolate Caper

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?

The Remarkable Robot Robbery

When Andy McGee and his crew make it to the finals of the National Robot Battle in Sydney, they find themselves exactly where they need to be to join the alien Resistance and do what they do best – orchestrate a daring, audacious, high-stakes heist that will go down in the history books. Magic tricks and misdirection, with a sideshow of clever robot trickery amidst secret tunnels in Sydney's iconic harbour, make this heist especially spectacular!



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 & August 2025
Paperback
304pp & 336pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Junior Fiction



Bitza #1 & #2

Andrew Daddo & Stephen Michael King



Award-winning
illustrator
translated into
over 20
territories

Book 3 and
Book 4 coming
September
2026



Andrew Daddo has 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 heartwarming and fabulously funny series for girls and boys, told from the point of view of a mutt dog in search of a new family.

Bitza

Bitza's ball has been stolen – and the thieving dog is leaving the park with his human, Jasper, so Bitza follows them home. Turns out Jas is only walking the thieving dog for her neighbour, but she really REALLY wants a dog of her own. Her dad does not! Can Bitza be the dog to change his mind, despite being chaos on four legs?

Rules? What Rules?

Jasper's dad has reluctantly agreed their new-found mutt dog can stay but there must be rules, rules, rules – all of which seem pretty weird to Bitza. Left in the backyard while his family head off to work and footy training, it's the perfect chance for Bitza to do a bit of remodelling – backyard blitz!!



February 2026
Paperback
112pp
Available: World, all languages

Junior Fiction

Toilet Time Machine

Toilet Time Machine #1

Mark Serrels & Ruby Innes



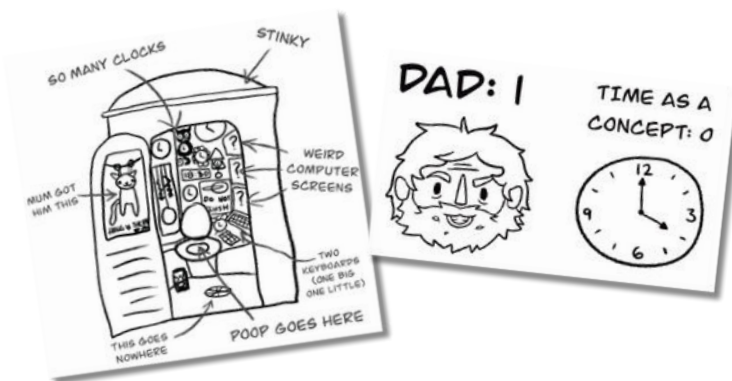
Family, poo and a toilet that lets you
TRAVEL THROUGH TIME!*

*Toilet currently out of service

Max has BIG problems. The toilet in the garage is busted, his dad is now a toddler (who won't stop *WEEING* everywhere) and his little brother has been transformed into a 100-year-old man!

Oh, not to mention that the broken toilet is actually A TIME MACHINE.

And if Max doesn't fix the time machine in under 12 hours, both his dad and his little brother will CEASE TO EXIST . . .



Book 2
coming
April 2026

Amazon
Top 10

Mark Serrels is based in Sydney and has spent more than 10 years as an award-winning games journalist, editing the cult website, Kotaku Australia. He was later an editor at CNET, the world's biggest tech website, before transitioning to CHOICE Australia, where he is currently Editorial Director.

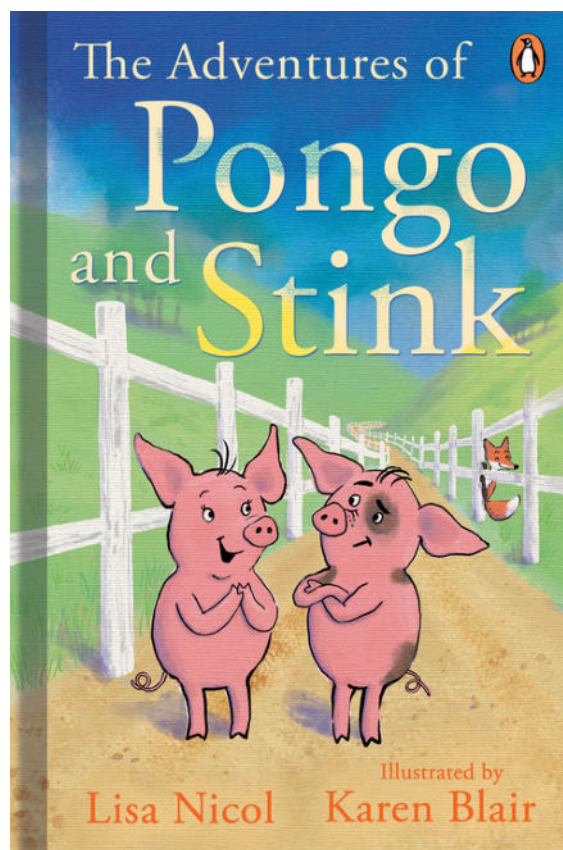


November 2025
Paperback
144pp
Available: World, all languages

Junior Fiction

The Adventures of Pongo and Stink

Lisa Nicol & Karen Blair



A roll-in-the-mud adventure story about two piggies who LOVE food, but bite off more than they can chew.

Pongo and Stink are FED UP with living in a pigsty. They want to live a life of luxury, all cosy in the farmhouse, getting loving pats from Farmer Nic while eating scones and jam on toast – just like their tormentor, Rollo the dog. When Pongo has the audacious idea of dressing up as pups, the two piggies set out to chase their dreams. But will the wily fox scupper their plans? Or will Pongo and Stink realise that they are perfect, just as they are . . . ?



Lisa Nicol is an internationally published children's author and documentary-maker. Her feature, *Wide Open Sky*, won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sydney Film Festival. Her first novel, *Dr Boogaloo and The Girl Who Lost Her Laughter*, was a CBCA Notable, Shenzhen Reading Month, Top Ten Children's Books of the Year 2021 and is currently being adapted for the screen. Her other works include the hugely popular *Vincent and The Grandest Hotel on Earth* and *The What on Earth Institute of Wonder*.



October 2025
Hardback
208pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Sunny and Storm

Tanya Hennessy & Rachael McLean



Book 2
coming
June 2026

A fun, funny illustrated adventure written by comedian, bestselling author and social media sensation, Tanya Hennessy.

Best friends Sunny and Storm are besties with a wondermonious talent for creating new words. But now they're also prime suspects in a crime they didn't commit. Armed with their diary, their secret language and some very tasty cupcakes, they'll have to become the best detectives in town to put things right.

Join them as they sidestep icktastic cowpats and dodge biggity trouble to investigate the crime . . . and maybe, just maybe, clear their names!

This book will make you laugh. It will make you cry. It will even make you wobblebobble!

Tanya Hennessy is a comedian, radio announcer, podcaster, TV presenter, multi-bestselling author and social media sensation. Her international audience includes a following in excess of 2.3M across Tik Tok, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. She has two TV shows in development and is the much-loved author of the non-fiction books, *Am I Doing This Right?* and *Help Self*, as well as the picture book, *Pink Santa*, illustrated by Ben Whitehouse, and two junior-fiction series, *It's Stevie Louise* and the *Sunny and Storm* books.



March 2026
Paperback
160pp
Available: World, all languages

Middle Grade

Mary Fowler #1 & #2

Mary Fowler



A new series from football star Mary Fowler for kids who love sport, friends and having fun.

Mary's Game

Today, Mary can't wait to get to school. She has an exciting surprise to share with her friends. But when something unexpected happens, Mary and the crew must work together to solve the problem and get back to what they love best – playing sport and having fun.

The Beach Party

Today, Mary and her friends are going to a birthday party at the beach. She has made a special card and can't wait to share her present. When a cute dog appears and causes mayhem, Mary and her friends need to be creative to save the party and enjoy some cake.

Mary Fowler is an Olympian and two-time FIFA Women's World Cup player. Her combination of creativity, power and versatility has seen her shine for both the Matildas and Manchester City. In 2023 she became the second most googled Australian and was named by The Daily Telegraph as 'the most influential woman in Australian sport'. With her Papua New Guinean and Irish heritage shaping both her game and her outlook on life, Fowler represents a new generation of athletes redefining the sport – authentic, gifted and an inspiration on and off the pitch.



March 2026
Paperback
80pp
Available: World, all languages

Junior Fiction

The Break Up

It's a Twin Thing #1

Kristin Darell



Book 2, *The Big Switch*,
coming
August 2026

Being a twin is forever, but for Abigail and Brooklyn, starting grade five is about to test their bond in ways they never expected.

Identical twins Abi and Brook are inseparable. They've always been in the same class; they dance together; they're in a rock band together; they even have the same best friend.

But this year, for the first time, they've been put in different classes at school and everything they think they know about each other is put to the test. Can Abi and Brook find a way to accept the changes in themselves and each other? And can they pull together in time to play in the school talent show?



Kristin Darell has worked as a broadcast news and sports journalist for major Australian news organisations for more than twenty years. As an author, she has contributed to children's writing anthologies and is the acclaimed author of the Football Fever series with Football Australia and the Taronga Zoo presents series.



February 2026
Paperback
192pp
Available: World, all languages

Junior Fiction

Millie and Stella Best Friends Forever #1 & #2

Josephine Moon & Jemma Robaard



An uplifting and inclusive series that celebrates friendship, family, neurodiversity, creativity and a love of animals and books.

The Lost Ponies

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?

The Puppy Project

Millie and Stella have wanted a puppy for the longest time. So when Fergus, an adorable assistance dog in training, needs their help, they're up for the challenge. But it's harder than they thought and the cheeky puppy has his own plans about what to learn.



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 & September 2025
Paperback
224pp
Available: World, all languages

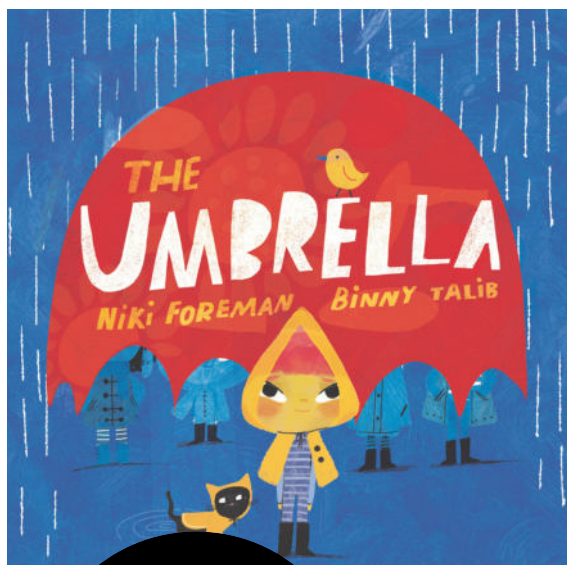
Junior Fiction

Picture Book



The Umbrella

Niki Foreman & Binny Talib



Award-winning
illustrator of
over 30 books



**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.

Niki Foreman is an accomplished editor, author and a lived-experience advocate for neurodivergent families. She is the author of three DK Readers, published in the UK and US: *Deadly Dinosaurs*, *Shark Reef* and *Snappy Crocodile Tales*. She is a contributing author of many non-fiction books, including the NYT bestseller, *Do Not Open*, and Planet Ark's *Now For The Good News*, which is a CBCA Notable 2025. Niki is also a presenter for the Australian Society of Authors on inclusive language specifically around ableism and disablism, and is a member of the Australian Publisher's Association D&I advisory board for neurodiversity and disability.

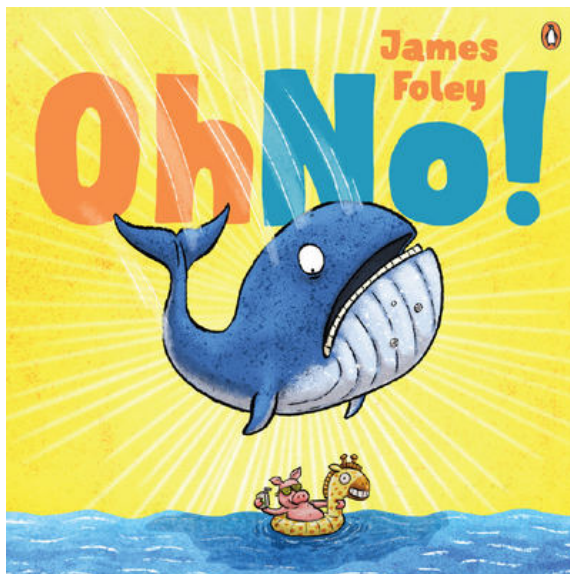


March 2026
Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

Oh No!

James Foley



Noisy words are the real heroes in this hilarious picture book of chaotic proportions. Expect the unexpected and enjoy the building chaos with each turn of the page.

What's that noise?

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP.

It's for elephant. He has a special cake.

What's that noise?

OINK! BUMP! YEURGH!

Oh no! That's the sound of a dizzy pig in speedos bumping into an elephant holding a cake . . .



James Foley is a children's author and illustrator. He makes picture books, comics and middle-grade novels. His books include the Toffle Towers series, *Total Quack Up*, *Brobot*, *Dungzilla*, *Gastronauts*, *My Dead Bunny* and *The Last Viking*. James is an ambassador for Books In Homes and Room to Read Australia.

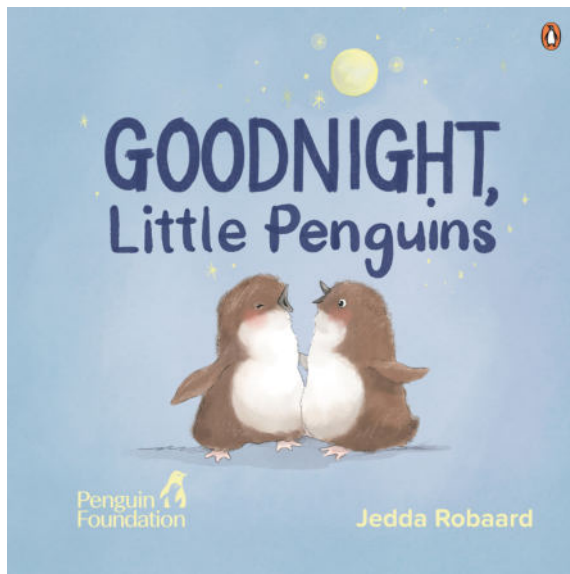


March 2026
Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

Goodnight, Little Penguins

The Penguin Foundation & Jedda Robaard



A perfect bedtime story.

When two fluffy little chicks hatch, with a CRICK and a CRACK . . . And a PEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, their daddy keeps them safe and warm, while Mama ventures into the wild waves to find their dinner. Will she be back before bedtime?

By the team who created the *The Littlest Penguin*, winner of the 2024 Environment Award for Children's Literature



Jedda Robaard is an Australian author, illustrator and designer, based in Southern Tasmania. Jedda studied as a commercial artist in 1992, and after an initial career in graphic design, moved her focus to illustration. She has been illustrating and writing children's books since 2011 and has over 50 books published, many of them award-winning. She is known internationally for her sweet and whimsical style of illustration has have been published in many languages.

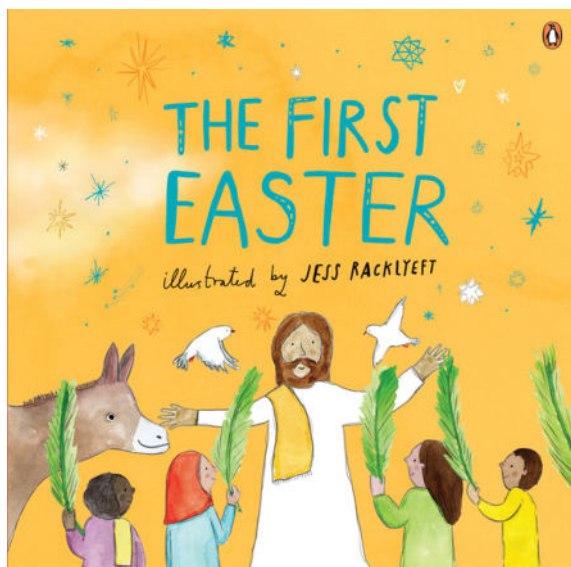


July 2025
Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

The First Easter

Jess Racklyeft



A long time ago, in a country far away a man called Jesus travelled to the big city to spread a message of peace and goodwill. A beautiful book for every family who celebrates the Easter holiday.

The First Easter brings the powerful story of the Easter period to even the youngest reader. And celebrates the ways we remember it with joy and happiness, surrounded by those we love.

A beautiful gift book with irresistible illustrations by the creator of *The First Christmas*.



Also
available

Jess Racklyeft is the acclaimed creator of cards, picture books, original paintings, prints and all types of different client projects. She worked in publishing sales for many years, but now works full time as an artist and illustrator. Recent awards include the CBCA Notable Picture Book of the Year two years running. She lives in Melbourne with her family.

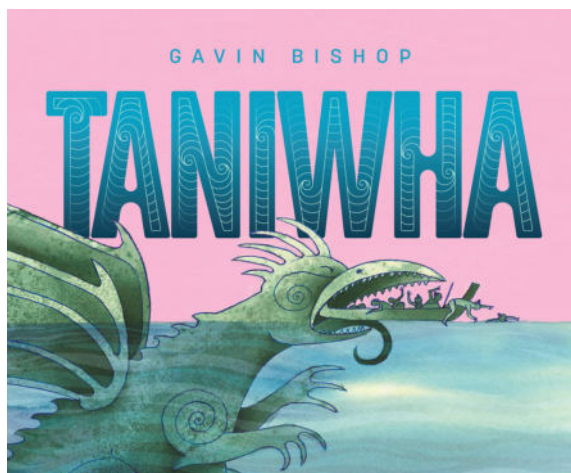


January 2026
Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

Taniwha

Gavin Bishop



The amazing Gavin Bishop brings us a monster-sized book about the mythical monsters of Aotearoa!

*Taniwha are all around us.
They are good at hiding or changing their shape.
They can be very tricky.
If you want to meet one,
you have to know what to look for
and where to look.*



Describing how the landscape was shaped, and exploring relations between Māori and the sometimes friendly, but more often terrifying, supernatural creatures, these traditional stories are taken to a new level of spooky visual splendour.

Gavin Bishop (Tainui, Ngāti Awa) is a highly acclaimed children's book author and illustrator of more than 70 books, whose work ranges from original stories to retellings of Māori myths, European fairy stories, and nursery rhymes. Among the numerous fellowships and national book prizes that have been awarded to Gavin throughout his career, highlights are his Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement Non-fiction in 2019; his Te Waka Toi Ngā Tohu ā Tā Kingi Ihaka/Sir Kingi Ihaka Award in 2018 recognising lifetime contribution to strengthening Māori art and culture through his children's books; The Arts Foundation's Mallinson Rendel Illustrators Award in 2013; and the 2000 Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal for lifetime achievement and his distinguished contribution to children's literature in New Zealand.

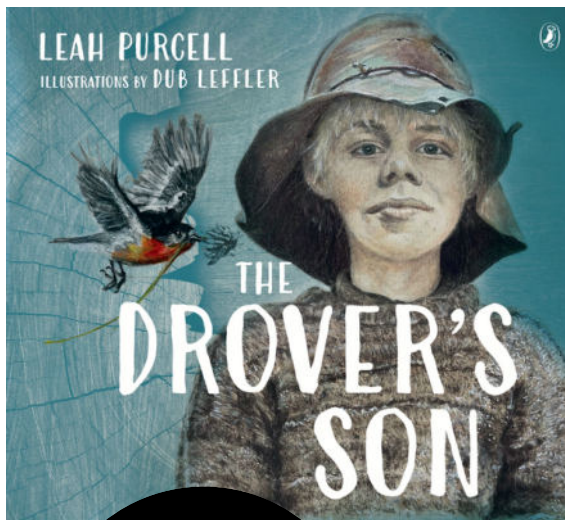


October 2025
Hardback
64pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

The Drover's Son

Leah Purcell & Dub Leffler



The Drover's Wife novel sold in China and France

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.



Leah Purcell is a multi-award-winning and self-made author, playwright, actor, director, filmmaker, producer, screenwriter and showrunner. At the heart of her work are female and First Nation themes, characters and issues. *The Drover's Wife* was first a play written by and starring Purcell, which premiered at Belvoir St Theatre in late 2016 and swept the board during the 2017 awards season.



March 2026
Hardback
40pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

The Man From Snowy River & Waltzing Matilda

Banjo Paterson



Australian classics for young readers!

The Man From Snowy River

“There was movement at the station,
for the word had got around,
That the cold from old Regret had got
away . . .”

Read along with one of the most-loved and best known Australian poems by Banjo Paterson. A perfect way to introduce kids to an Australian classic and learn to count at the same time.

Waltzing Matilda

“Once a jolly swagman camped by a
billabong
under the shade of a coolibah tree . . .
and he sang as he watched and waited till
his billy boiled,
‘Who'll come a-walzing matilda with me?’”

Sing along with one of the most-loved and best known Australian poems by Banjo Paterson, and learn all about colours at the same time.

Banjo Paterson is Australia's most famous poet. Known as a poet of the bush, his iconic verse captures the landscape, hardship, resilience and humour of Australian life at the turn of the 19th century. Ballads such as ‘The Man from Snowy River’, ‘Clancy of the Overflow’, ‘The Man from Ironbark’, ‘Mulga Bill's Bicycle’ and ‘Waltzing Matilda’ have become a legendary part of Australian heritage.



March 2026
Board Book
24pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

Sophia and Gracie to the Rescue

Kate Waterhouse & Sally Spratt



Picture book stars Sophia the Show Pony and Gracie the Princess Pony pair up to help save the day in this exciting adventure!

Sophia is the fastest horse in town, winning race after race! But amidst the glamour and thrills, something is missing for Sophia. A holiday break with her friend, Princess Gracie, could be just the what they both need . . . but when disaster strikes, the ponies learn to be true to themselves, joining in to help save the day!



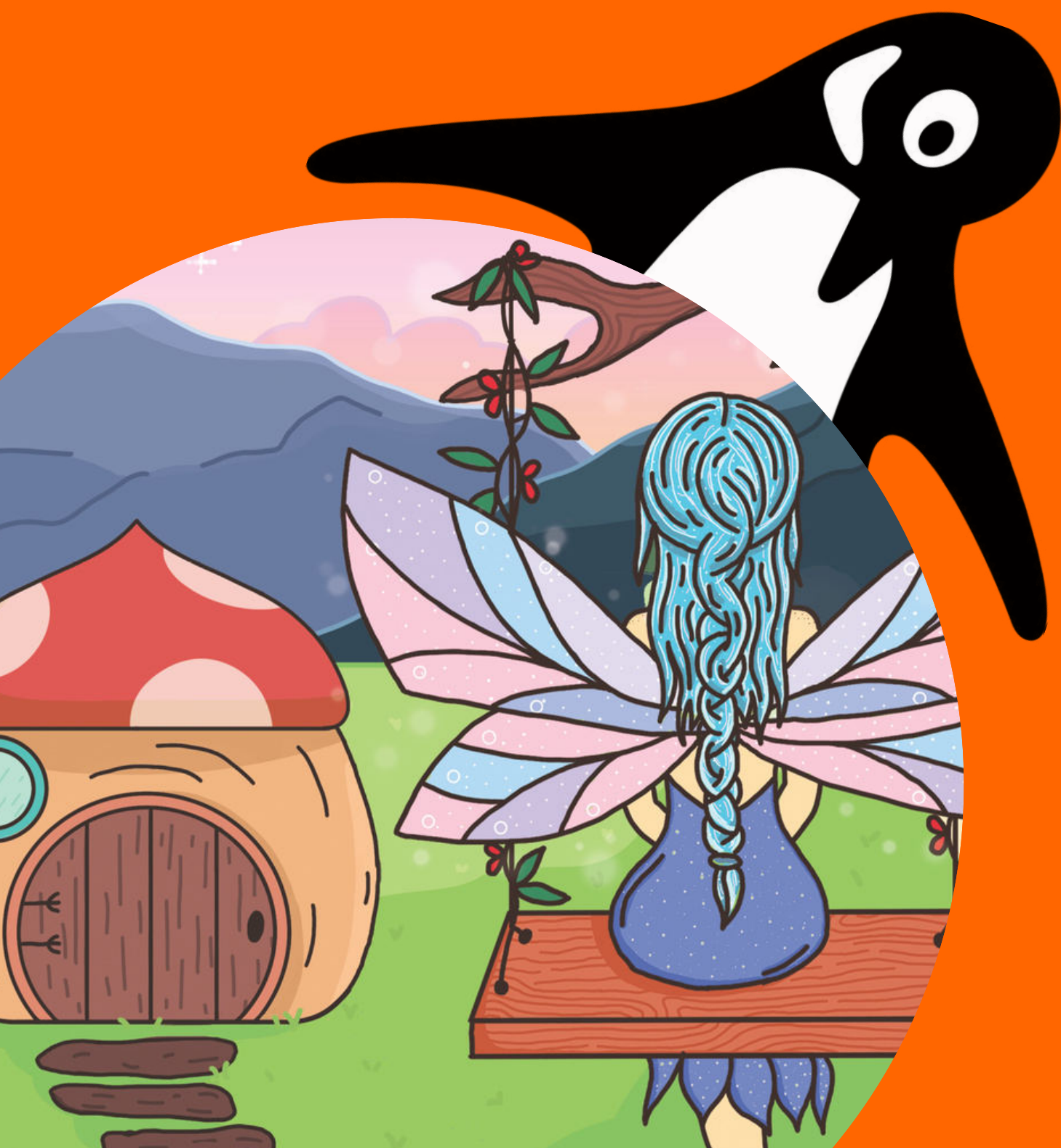
Kate Waterhouse hails from Australian racing royalty, and has been a fashion and colour reporter for Channel 7 Racing for both Sydney and Melbourne racing carnivals, where she reports on trackside fashion and interviews the biggest celebrities and sporting identities. She is also a journalist, media personality, television presenter, radio talent, children's author and dedicated mum of two girls.



October 2025
Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Picture Book

Activity



Stephanie Whorlow



Escape into a world of calm and comfort with 40 pages of tranquil reader settings and fantastical characters like dragons and mermaids.

Stephanie Whorlow



39

Cosy Easter

Amelia Green



Coming soon!



Amelia Green brings a unique touch to the world of adult and teen colouring books, inspired by all things cosy, creative and comforting. With bold lines, lovable characters and relaxing scenes, each book is designed to make colouring feel easy, fun and soothing. Whether you're winding down after a long day or just looking for a moment of calm, Amelia Green's books offer the perfect escape – one delightful page at a time.

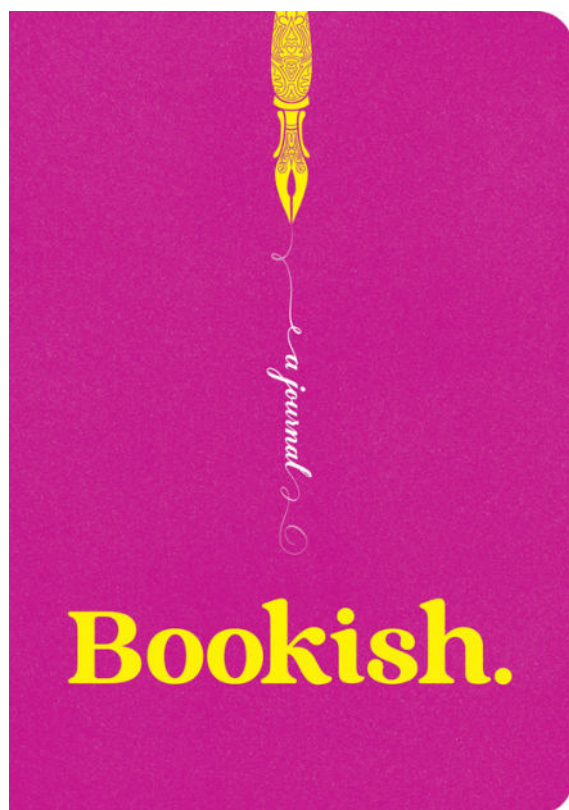


March 2026
Paperback
96pp
Available: World, all languages

Colouring

Bookish.

A Journal

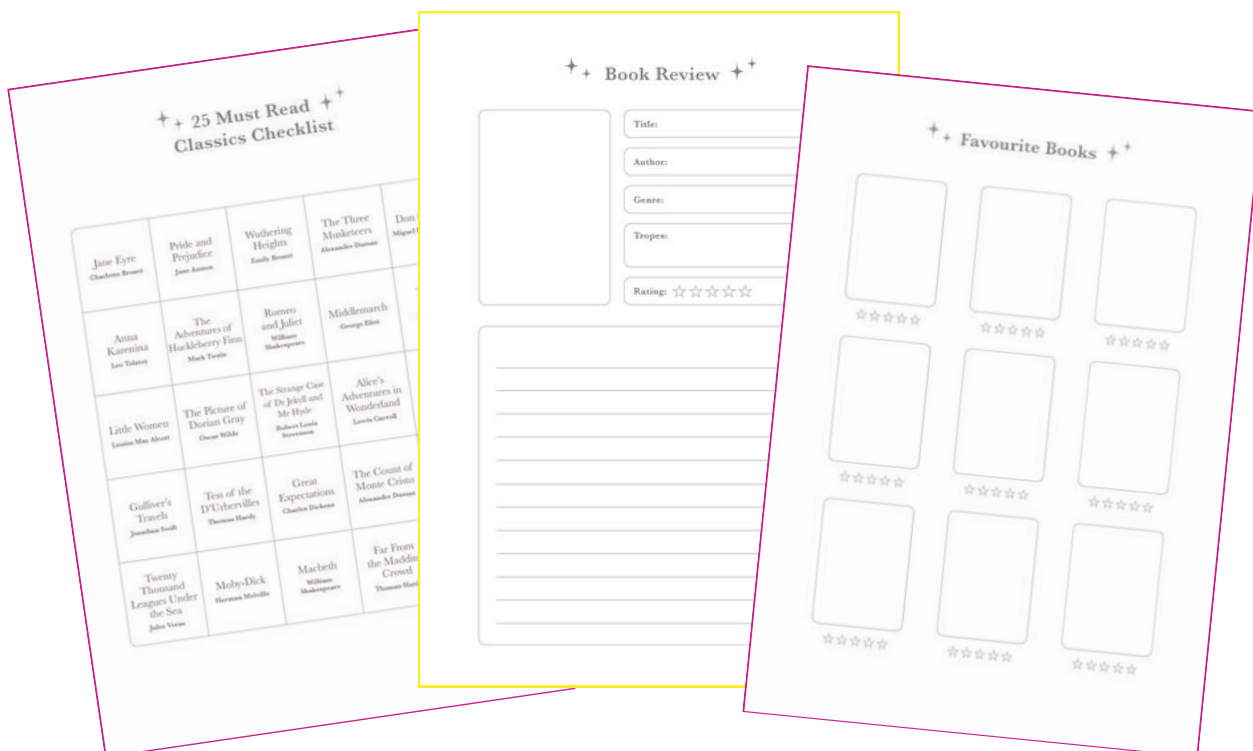


Escape to new worlds and find your next book bestie.

Here is your new book bible.

Record your favourites and your DNFs, review your reads and play a round of Book Bingo. And more.

This journal will hold everything you need to fuel your reading obsession.



December 2025
Paperback
176pp
Available: World, all languages

Journal

Highlights



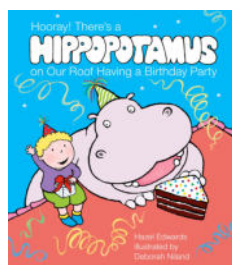
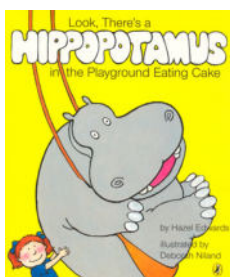
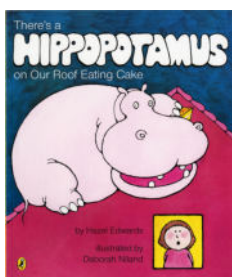


Hazel Edwards

Hazel Edwards O.A.M writes books and scripts for children, YA and adults. Awarded the Australian Society of Authors' Medal in 2009, Hazel has been nominated three times for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. She also received the Monash University Distinguished Alumni award for Education in 2022. She's Patron of the Society of Women Writers, Victoria.

2025 is her 50th year since first being published. Her books have been translated into 10 languages. She is best known for her *There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake* (1980) series, which is 45 this year.

Series: There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake



The imaginary Hippo can do what he likes on the roof. In fact, he does all the things a little girl wishes she could, but is not allowed.

Paperback

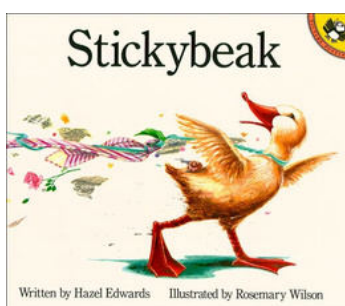
3 books

32pp

Available: World, all languages

Adapted
into a
musical

Stickybeak



Stickybeak is a duck. He is a school pet and visits students on weekends. This weekend, Stickybeak shows Mum that he is a duck with a mind of his own.

Paperback

32pp

Available: World, all languages

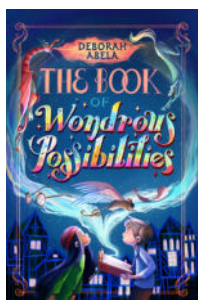




Deborah Abela

After training as a teacher, Deb travelled to Africa, where she was trapped in a desert sandstorm, harassed by monkeys and thrown in jail twice. She trained as a teacher before becoming writer/producer of a national children's TV show at Network TEN. She's since written 30 internationally published and awarded books.

The Book of Wondrous Possibilities



When Lisette bursts into the bookshop Arlo Goodman lives above and begs him to hide her from a murderer, Arlo is swept up into an adventure involving kidnappers, car chases and battling dragons.

Paperback
288pp
Available: World, all languages

CBCA
Notable

The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee & The Most Marvellous Spelling Bee Mystery



When India Wimple's family suggests she enter the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee, India says she's not good enough – but her family won't hear it and encourage her to sign up.

Paperback
240pp & 288pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into
Malta

Wolfie: An Unlikely Hero



Wolfie may want to be a hero, but he's about to discover that arguing with this book's narrator is not the best way to improve his image . . .

Paperback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 2
territories

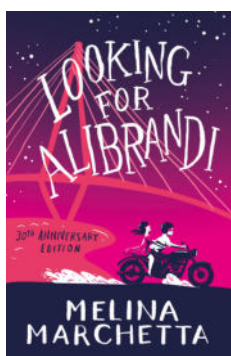




Melina Marchetta

Melina Marchetta is an internationally bestselling and award-winning author in more than 20 countries and 18 languages. Her 18 books range from beloved YA fiction and fantasy through to contemporary and crime fiction, and works for younger readers. Her much-loved Australian classic, *Looking for Alibrandi*, swept the pool of literary awards when it was published, and was also released as a film, adapted by Marchetta, winning an AFI Award and an Independent Film Award for best screenplay, as well as the New South Wales Premier's Literary Award and the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award. In 2009 Marchetta won the prestigious Michael L. Printz Award from the American Library Association.

Looking for Alibrandi



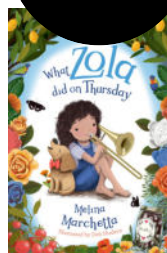
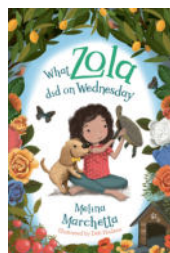
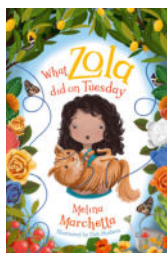
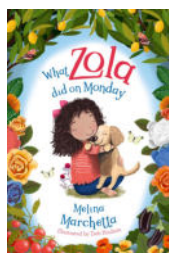
Josephine Alibrandi is 17 and in her final year at a wealthy girls' school. This is the year she meets her father, the year she falls in love, the year she finds the real truth about her family. The year she sets herself free.

Paperback
288pp
Available: World, English

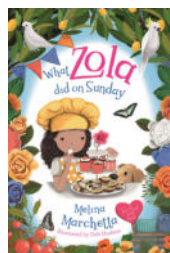
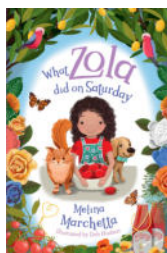
Multi-award-winning, a bestseller and made into an award-winning feature film and a play

Series: What Zola Did

Sold into Slovakia



Zola loves living with her mum and her nonna. Every day of the week is an adventure. But Zola has a problem. No matter how much she tries, she can't keep out of trouble!



Paperback
96pp
Available: World, all languages

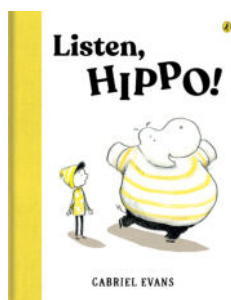




Gabriel Evans

Gabriel Evans is a Western Australian children's book author and illustrator. Working primarily in watercolour and pencil, he creates books from a small studio on a big hill. Gabriel's books are published internationally in more than 12 countries, have been reviewed in The New York Times, translated into 10 languages and read on ABC-TV's *Play School*. *Blue Flower* by Sonya Hartnett, his first picture book with Penguin Random House, was shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 2022. His second picture book with Penguin, *A Friend for George*, was published in 2023, followed by *Listen, Hippo!* released in 2024.

Listen, Hippo!

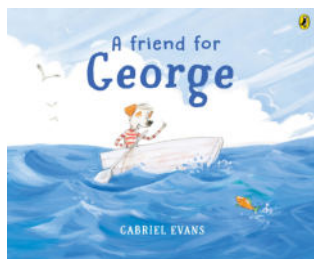


Hippo just wants to make Billy happy, but it's only when he finally listens to what Billy wants that he can help his friend.

Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 5 territories

A Friend For George



When George meets Claude the fish, he finally discovers the joys of having a special friend and being a good friend.

Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 5 territories

Blue Flower



Through a young child's love of art, a conversation with her mother and her observations about nature, she comes to see that being different might not be a bad thing after all.

Hardback
36pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 6 territories





Jess McGeachin

Jess McGeachin is a writer/illustrator/designer based in Melbourne. He loves telling stories about hidden worlds just outside our own, and hiding clues in them for small eyes to find. Drawing on a love of natural history (and a day job at Melbourne Museum), Jess hopes that his stories inspire the reader to explore both real and imaginary places and meet the characters that live in them.

Fly



Lucy had always been good at fixing things, so when she finds a bird with a broken wing, she's sure she can fix him too. But not everything that's broken can be fixed.

Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 2
territories

The Tree at Number 43



In a noisy, grey city, Sam and his Grandpa long for the deep, dark wonderful jungle. But when their dream comes true, can they find a way to protect it?

Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 2
territories

The Lost Library

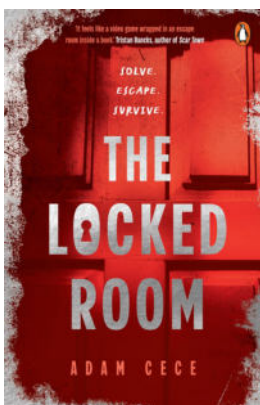


When Oliver finds a lost library book in his new bedroom, he decides to return it. But how do you find a mysterious hidden library? With the help of a new friend, of course . . .

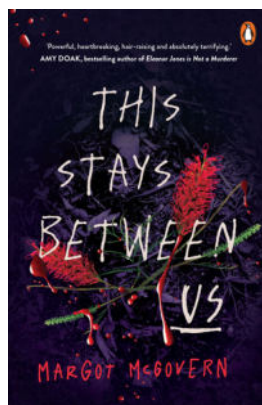
Hardback
32pp
Available: World, all languages

Sold into 2
territories

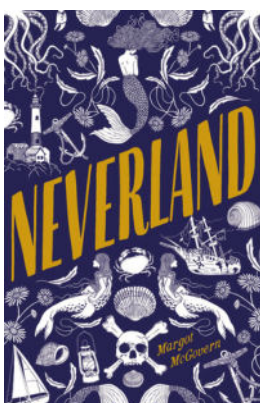




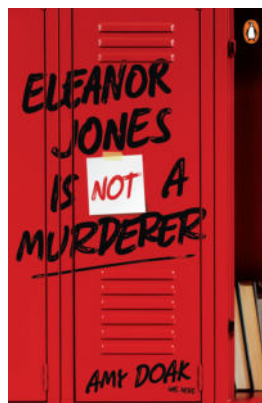
The Locked Room
Adam Cece



This Stays Between Us
Margot McGovern



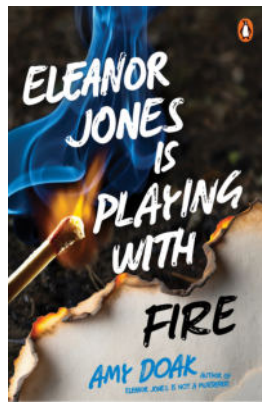
Neverland
Margot McGovern



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



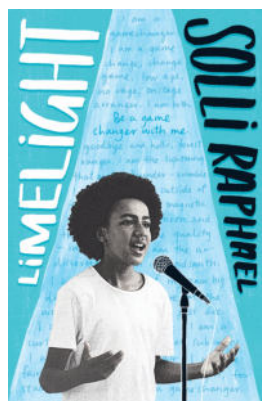
Eleanor Jones Can't Keep a Secret (Eleanor Jones #2)
Amy Doak



Eleanor Jones is Playing with Fire (Eleanor Jones #3)
Amy Doak

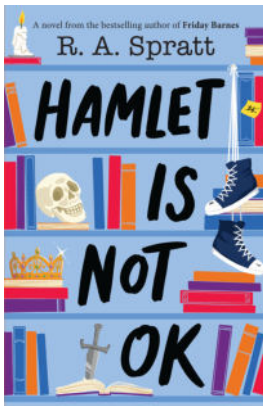


The Obernewtyn Chronicles Volume 1-7
Isobelle Carmody

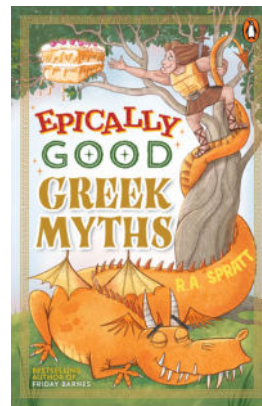


Limelight
Solli Raphael





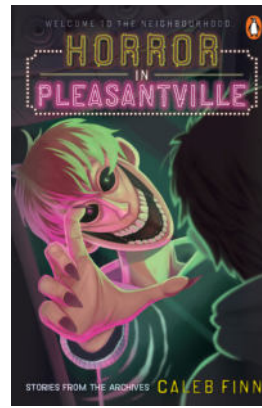
Hamlet is Not OK
R.A. Spratt



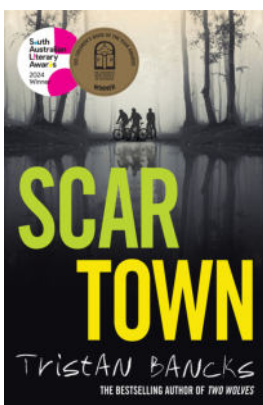
Epically Good Greek Myths
R.A. Spratt



You Choose Mega: Prehistoric Peril
George Ivanoff



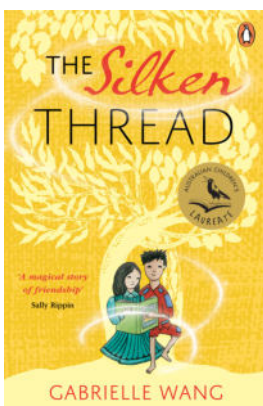
Horror in Pleasantville
Caleb Finn



Scar Town
Tristan Bancks



Girl Geeks #1: The Hackathon
Alex Miles

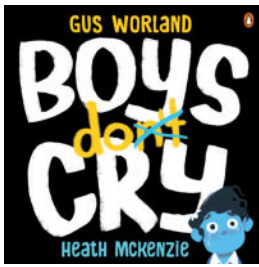


The Silken Thread
Gabrielle Wang

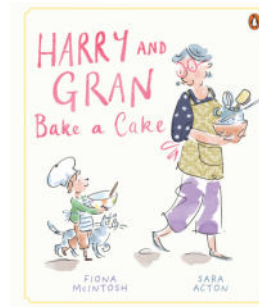


The Kindness Project
Deborah Abela





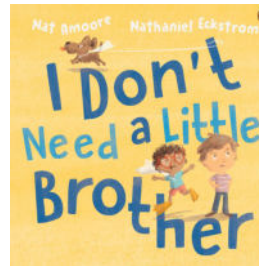
Boys Do Cry
Gus Worland &
Heath McKenzie



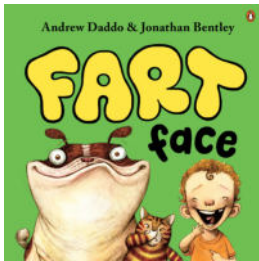
**Harry and Gran
Bake a Cake**
Fiona McIntosh &
Sara Acton



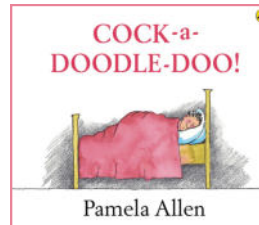
Meerkat Mayhem
Mem Fox & Judy
Horacek



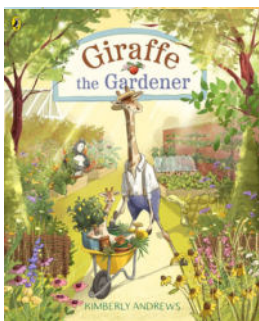
**I Don't Need a
Little Brother**
Nat Amoores &
Nathaniel Eckstrom



Fart Face
Andrew Daddo &
Jonathan Bentley



**Cock-a-Doodle-
Doooo!**
Pamela Allen



**Giraffe the
Gardener**
Kimberly Andrews



Lots
Marc Martin



**My Elephant Is
Blue**
Melinda Szymanik &
Vasanti Unka



**Lights Out,
Leonard**
Josh Pyke & Chris
Nixon



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



Talia Moodley, Children's Rights Manager

