



Penguin
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2021



Rights Catalogue:
Frontlist Young Readers



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PROMETHEUS HIGH

Stuart Wilson

February 2022

Puffin

Format – 288pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World



A hugely inventive, action-packed, fun and quirky – and occasionally dark – adventure for fans of *Skulduggery Pleasant*, *Nevermoor* or *Frankenstein*.

Athena Strange isn't like other children her age. She enjoys far more experimental projects in her free time, like resurrecting her neighbour's dead cat in the middle of a wild lightning storm.

After this experiment nearly burns down her house, Athena is invited to attend Prometheus High. A unique boarding school located on the ex-ocean liner the SS *Unbound*. Here, reanimation is a core subject, among other lessons like building robots and golems, learning the ins and outs of galvanism and catching frogs as they fall from the sky. And did we mention there's magic? Yes, there's magic, and it's just the thing for this clever disaffected twelve-year-old.

Once Athena sets foot aboard the rusty hulk, her adventures careen from one to another, the stakes are raised, danger is everywhere and mysteries are eventually revealed.

A Note from the Rights team

Stuart Wilson must have attended SS *Unbound* because he is the Creator of a world we love to get lost in!

Prometheus High is packed full of adventure, starting with a Frankenstein-esque scene and a murder on-board a ship that Athena can no longer escape – we, like Athena, are thrown headfirst into this quirky and utterly enthralling tale.

It's fun, entertaining and with a hint of mystery, it will keep readers coming back for more.

Sales Points

- The first book in an unputdownable new series by a debut author, for readers aged 10 and up who aren't afraid of things that creak, creep or beep in the dark.
- This hugely inventive tale shares a similar jaunty tone to Derek Landy's *Skulduggery Pleasant* series and Jessica Townsend's *Nevermoor*.
- At *Prometheus High* magic will not fix everything. On the SS *Unbound*, science rules!
- While championing science, the novel also shows that scientists themselves are still very much flawed humans and not gods.
- Athena learns other much-needed life lessons during her first semester such as how to work with others, how to accept difference, and how to manage her ambition.



STUART WILSON lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife and son. An omnivore when it comes to consuming stories, he reads too many books, watches too many films and plays too many videogames. Like Athena, he also chews on his lip when he's nervous. He hasn't, however, taken to his rooftop with alligator clips and a lightning rod in the middle of a thunderstorm to resurrect the neighbour's dead cat. Mainly because he rents, and the landlord wouldn't approve. *Prometheus High* is his first novel. Author Photo Credit: © Caithlin Ferrier



DEAR GRETA

Yvette Poshoglian

March 2022

Puffin

Format – 240pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

When everything seems to be going wrong, sometimes you just have to stand up for what you believe in, even if it's just in your own little corner of the world . . .

Alice Boghosian feels like the world is truly against her. Living in the shadow of her perfect older sister isn't easy, and her Armenian grandmother just kicked her out of her own bedroom. Plus, the world is on fire, the icecaps are melting and koalas are disappearing right before her very eyes.

To make things worse, Alice's best friend is too sick to come to school, and when Alice gets put in charge of the schools Harmony Day Food Fair, the only person who can help her is her arch-enemy Jayden Tutai. What else could go wrong?

When Alice is given Greta Thunberg as a fictional pen pal to write to, she can't believe it. Why didn't she get Beyonce, Rihanna or Ash Barty? Greta couldn't possibly understand Alice's mess . . . could she?

With the power of Greta, Alice might just be able to get through Year Six.

She might even shine. She might even save her world.

Sales Points

- A **contemporary middle grade story with heart** that touches on family, cultural traditions, sisters, Harmony Day, friendships, collaborating and finding solutions to problems.
- Yvette Poshoglian is a **mega-selling author** – as of 2020 she is the 17th-bestselling Australian children's fiction author of all time, and the 10th-bestselling Australian children's fiction author of the last three years!
- **Super topical**, touching on subjects such as bushfires, the pandemic, climate change and immigration, but in a gentle kid-focused way that young readers will relate to.
- Great for **ages 9 to 12**.
- Themes include: family; illness in a family member; cultural heritage; using technology at school; Harmony Day; being a good friend; sustainability and the environment; cooking; community; working together; empathy.



YVETTE POSHOGLIAN is the author of over forty books for children and young people, including the bestselling Ella and Olivia series. Born and raised in Sydney, Yvette taught secondary English in southwest Sydney and now manages major education projects for the NSW Department of Education. She currently works at the intersection of pedagogy, technology and innovation with the Technology 4 Learning team at the NSW Department of Education. Many of the STEM and technology developments occurring in schools around NSW are captured in *Dear Greta*. Yvette has loads in common with her character Alice Boghosian, apart from Alice's horrible nickname. Autor Photo Credit: © Yvette Poshoglian

**ALWAYS****Morris Gleitzman**

August 2021

Penguin

Format – 240pp – 210mm x 135mm

Rights Held: World



The much-anticipated final journey in the story of Felix, hero of Morris Gleitzman's multi-award-winning *Once, Then, Now, After, Soon and Maybe*.

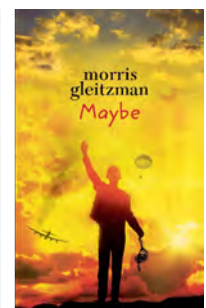
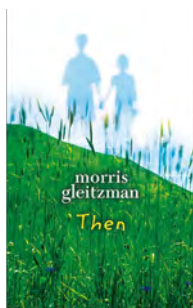
It's fifteen years since readers were first introduced to Felix in *Once* and, across six celebrated books, our brave young hero has survived many unforgettable and emotional journeys. This year sees the publication of the seventh and final part of Felix's story, bringing a powerful climax a series that countless young readers around the world will remember – *Always*.

Sales Points

- The highly anticipated final book in this ground-breaking and award-winning series.
- Books in the Felix series have won or been shortlisted for many awards, including winning a CBCA Award for *Soon* and, most recently winning the Fiction for Years 7–9 category in the KOALA, YABBA and KROC children's choice awards for *Maybe*.
- Morris is one of Australia's most beloved and popular children's authors, as his sales figures continually testify. Together, the six existing books in the Felix series – *Once, Then, Now, Always, Soon* and *Maybe* – have sold over 1.5 million copies worldwide.
- Morris has just completed two years as the Australian Children's Laureate, jam-packed with events for both adults and children to promote reading and literacy under the banner 'Stories Make Us', raising his popularity and profile even further.

Rights Sold Felix Series

North America (Macmillan – Henry Holt), United Kingdom (Penguin – Puffin), China (Shanghai Zui), France (Éditions des Grandes Personnes), Germany (Carlsen Verlag), Japan (Asunaro Shobo), Norway (Gyldendal Norsk Forlag), Brazil (Paz e Terra), Slovenia (MIŠ založba), Spain (Kailas Editorial), Hungary (Cicero), Italy (Arnoldo Mondadori Editoria), Czech Republic (Argo), Lithuania (Alma Littera), and Audio (Bolinda).



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 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He was appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018–2019. Author Photo Credit: © Penguin Random House Australia

**THE WOLF'S HOWL: A MAVEN & REEVE MYSTERY BOOK 2****A.L. Tait**

August 2021

Penguin Australia

Paperback – 336pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Bestselling author A. L. Tait is back with the next Maven and Reeve Mystery.

A secret mission.
A missing cook.
A hostile landscape.
A mystery to unravel.

Maven and Reeve find themselves at the far-flung and gloomy Glawn Castle while Sir Garrick secretly searches for supporters of the rebellion. But when a cook goes missing and the Airl's personal guard take more than a passing interest in the disappearance, danger looms and the potential for discovery grows.

Can Maven and Reeve solve the mystery . . . or will they be unmasked and sentenced with treason?

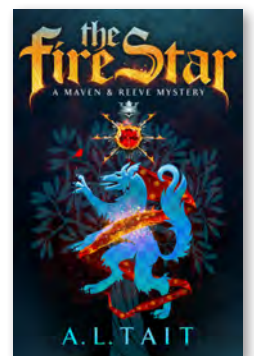
Sales Points

- The dual girl and boy protagonists are wonderfully crafted to be positive role models for tween readers, appealing to both girls and boys. Maven and Reeve defy the restricted lives set out for them to pursue their dreams and their freedom, and to fight for their voices to be heard. For all that this book is historical fantasy, its themes are sure to resonate strongly for young readers at a time when young people are fighting to make the world a better place, just like Maven and Reeve are doing in their medieval time.
- Allison writes beautifully nuanced characters who defy stereotypes. Maven is loyal, clever, resourceful and funny. Reeve's determination to be a knight and his loyalty to Garrick, and then Maven, is his strength. His weakness – and his thoughtfulness – shows that boys don't have to be strong and aggressive to be successful.
- In this new Maven and Reeve Mystery, we see their relationship grow and develop as they learn to trust each other. There are also themes of resilience, identity, secrets, adaptation and hostile environments. Plus, there's a mystery, not to mention a heap of intrigue and danger!

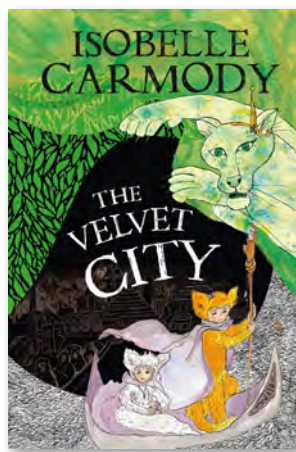
Praise for *The Fire Star*

'I was up past midnight finishing this book! The mystery kept me turning the pages, and I felt like I'd known Maven and Reeve forever.' – Amie Kaufman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ice Wolves*

'[T]his book didn't leave my hands. I'm looking forward to selling *The Fire Star* – this middle-grade novel is great for existing fans of A.L. Tait, as well as lovers of historical fiction and adventure aged nine and up.' – *Books+Publishing*



ALLISON TAIT (A. L. TAIT) is the internationally published bestselling author of middle-grade adventure series *The Mapmaker Chronicles* and *The Ateban Cipher*. A multi-genre writer, teacher and speaker with many years' experience in magazines, newspapers and online publishing, Allison is the co-host of the top-rating *So You Want To Be A Writer* podcast. *The Fire Star: A Maven & Reeve Mystery* taps into her passion for historical fiction and adventure. Allison lives on the south coast of New South Wales with her family. Find out more about Allison at allisontait.com
Author Photo Credit: © Jon Harris Photography



THE KINGDOM OF THE LOST BOOK 4: THE VELVET CITY

Isobelle Carmody

July 2021

Puffin

Format – 368pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Series: China (Beijing Children's Publishing House), Audio (Bolinda)

ALMOST
25,000
COPIES SOLD IN
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

The final book in the award-winning and beloved fantasy series, *The Kingdom of the Lost*, by the acclaimed author of *Little Fur* and the *Obernewtyn Chronicles*.

In this last part of their long journey, Bily and Zluty must each travel to the dangerous Velvet City, where they will learn the shocking truth about themselves . . . even as their beloved Monster faces the fate he fled.

A thrilling series for younger readers from the award-winning author of *Little Fur* and *The Obernewtyn Chronicles*.

Sales Points

- Combined sales of *The Obernewtyn Chronicles* exceed **430,000 copies** in Australia alone.
- This series won the CBCA Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers and is classic timeless middle-reader fantasy for middle to upper primary through to teen, crossing over to appeal to Isobelle Carmody's older fantasy readership who follow all of her work
- These books are beautifully designed and highly collectable hardbacks and have won design awards. They include gorgeous black and white illustrations by Isobelle Carmody throughout.
- The final book in the *Obernewtyn Chronicles*, *The Red Queen*, was a publishing phenomenon with a sustained publicity and marketing campaign to support it, and extended author tours, including Supanova and festival appearances by Isobelle Carmody, and there is a strong and loyal readership for her work out there that will be likewise keen to read this once they hear about it.

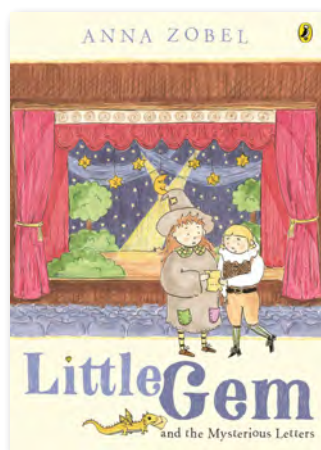
Praise for *The Kingdom of the Lost* series

'Bily and Zluty are such sweet, good-natured, caring characters that I was captivated from the start. On a bare, unyielding plain the two brothers have worked tirelessly to create a natural paradise around their stone home, but . . . their world is threatened by the brewing of an unnatural storm. Carmody relentlessly builds the sense of foreboding with her wonderful storytelling, and – as in the *Little Fur* series – also with her ethereal illustrations. I couldn't put it down . . . A perfect gift for children eight and up.' – *Readings*

'From the very beginning of the tale I was hooked. The world of these books is endlessly fascinating . . . something about it reminds me of the kinds of stories I read when I was a child, they have in them an innocence – a simple belief in the goodness of people and the world – and yet there are darker elements, represented by the characters and situations that place the protagonists in peril. A journey into the unknown, strange forces at work . . . all concepts that enthrall the younger reader . . . Carmody's writing is simple enough for young readers to follow on their own, but beautiful and poetic enough to paint a rich tapestry of colours, emotions and exciting adventures.' – *Reading Time*



ISOBELLE CARMODY is one of Australia's most highly acclaimed authors of fantasy. At fourteen, she began *Obernewtyn*, the first book in her much-loved *Obernewtyn Chronicles*, and has since written many works in this genre. Her novel *The Gathering* was joint winner of the 1993 Children's Literature Peace Prize and the 1994 CBCA Book of the Year Award, and *Greylands* was joint winner of the 1997 Aurealis Award for Excellence in Speculative Fiction (Young Adult category), and was named a White Raven at the 1998 Bologna Children's Book Fair. Isobelle's work for younger readers includes her two series, *The Legend of Little Fur*, and *The Kingdom of the Lost*, the first book of which, *The Red Wind*, won the CBCA Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers in 2011. Author Photo Credit: © Cat Sparks



LITTLE GEM AND THE MYSTERIOUS LETTERS

Anna Zobel

June 2021

Puffin

Format – 272pp – 182mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Audio (Ulverscroft)

An adorable and charming new children's series that is a sparkling gem of a read for anyone who loves *Polly and Buster* or *Mummy Fairy and Me*!

Little Gem is settling into her life at Ellsworth Pining with the help of Ghost Henry and her other friends. Everyone is preparing for the Midsummer Festival and Little Gem is in charge of the special effects for the Midsummer Play.

But when Little Gem's magic starts to go wrong and she receives several mysterious letters, Gem is worried that the festival is going to be a disaster!

Will Little Gem be able to work out who is sending the letters and regain her confidence before opening night?

Sale Points

- Little Gem's kindness and courage will bring a smile to your face as she tries to help others, even though sometimes her spells go a little bit wrong.
- With delightful illustrations by Anna Zobel on almost every page, the design of this gorgeous small-format paperback will be a real highlight, making it a lovely gift.
- Perfect for readers – especially girls – aged 7 to 10 who love stories of magical adventure, friendship and fun!
- All the elements young readers will love – good friends, adorable animal companions, mysteries to solve, baked treats to eat and adventures to go on!
- Classic, whimsical and quirky, the Little Gem series is sure to find an audience of fans looking for a new heroine to fall in love with.

Praise for *Little Gem*

'*Little Gem* is a magical story, perfect for seven to nine-year-olds. In a similar vein to Jill Murphy's *The Worst Witch* series, the book is filled with adventure, friendship, fun and lots of sweet treats . . . With *Little Gem* Zobel has created a colourful cast of characters that readers will love and a fresh new series that will appeal to fans of Sally Rippin's *Polly and Buster*.' – *Books + Publishing*

'*Little Gem* is the embodiment of persistence and kindness. If at first she doesn't succeed, she tries again until she gets it right. She does everything in her power to help the generous townspeople, and her self-confidence grows as she realises that perhaps she isn't such a bad witch after all. Gem shows that failing doesn't make you a failure, and that your determination and love will ensure you find success, even if it's in an unexpected place.' – Libby Boas, *Reading Time*



ANNA ZOBEL lives in Melbourne's west with her partner and their chatty cat Harriet. When she's not writing or illustrating, Anna enjoys a variety of stimulating hobbies including reading, gardening, and eating. She is inspired by the children she has encountered as a babysitter, after-school care assistant and teacher, and strives to represent them in her work. Author Photo Credit: © Anna Zobel



SUPER GEEKS 2: PLANET PANCAKE

James Hart

July 2021

Puffin

Format – 208pp – 190mm x 153mm

Rights Held: World

Zeek and Arnie are back in another hilarious action-packed adventure featuring pirates, pancakes and the edge of the world . . .

When Zeek and Arnie hear about a heap of TREASURE at the edge of the world, they decide to investigate. Zeek wants to use the treasure to fund his quest for WORLD DOMINATION!

But how will they get there? After using their inventing skills to build a mighty ship, the *Enchilada*, they sail off with Eleanor. But there's trouble brewing on the horizon . . .

What will Zeek and Arnie find at the edge of the world?

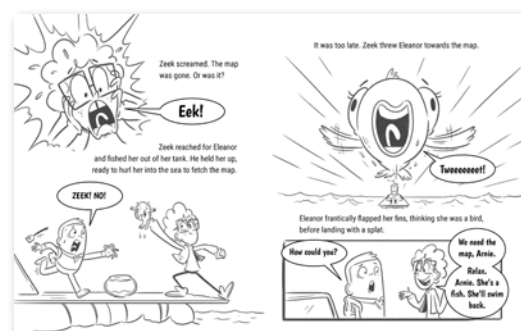
Will it be TREASURE or TROUBLE? And . . . are they really alone?

Sales Points

- Another fun and action-packed adventure in the Super Geeks series by James Hart.
- James is the illustrator of bestselling series such as Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables, Fart Boy, and Cowboy and Birdbrain. The first book in his graphic novel adventure series is *Super Geeks 1: Fish and Chips*.
- A graphic novel jam-packed with lols, action and adventure. Perfect for fans of Real Pigeons, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dog Man and The Bad Guys.
- Great for both confident and reluctant readers, with important underlying messages about friendship and identity.
- Perfect for Gen Z/Alpha kids who are digital natives – the book talks about coding, computer programming and more in such a fun way.

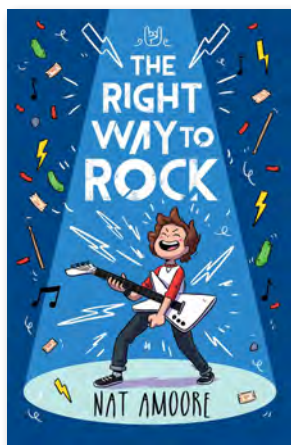


BOOK 1
PUBLISHED
FEB 2021



JAMES HART grew up loving comics, cartoons and drawing. After finishing his studies he turned that passion into a full-time career as an illustrator. Over the years he has worked on toy designs, animations and books for multiple clients and publishers across the world. Projects include: the popular animated series of *The Day My Butt Went Psycho*, the CBCA-notable Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables series, the thrilling Mysterious World of Cosentino series, the young adventure series: D-Bot Squad and MANY titles with his favourite author, Adam Wallace. In 2018, James illustrated the Premiers' Reading Challenge posters in Victoria. 2021 sees the release of his new books series, Super Geeks!

Author Photo Credit: © James Hart



THE RIGHT WAY TO ROCK

Nat Amore

June 2021

Puffin

Format – 352pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Bolinda)

NAT
AMORE
HAS SOLD OVER
15,000 COPIES IN
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW
ZEALAND!

The rockin' story of two new friends, one arts fiasco and a whole lot of music.

Without music, the world is just blah. That's my take on life, anyway. Mum says rock is the only music worth listening to, but I think everyone should find their own beat.

When I hear that Principal Keiren plans to cut all of the arts classes at Watterson Primary, there's no way me and my new friend Flynn are gonna let that happen. We're bringing our secret Broadway appreciation society into the spotlight.

It's time for *Watterson: The Musical*!

Praise for *Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire*

'Amore brings a delightful originality to her rendering of the kid's own adventure . . . [she] has carefully crafted Tess's narrative voice and sets up the denouement perfectly. This is a lively but thoughtful middle-grade fiction that kids aged 8-12 will race through with great pleasure.' – *Books + Publishing*

'*Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire* is a hilarious and addictive junior fiction read. This book had me from the first page, pulling me into Tess's world . . . This is a fresh, exciting and thrilling read for kids. It's that super cool book you want to keep hidden under your bed so parents don't know you have it (given all the juicy kid-tips inside!). Nat Amore is a talented new Australian author who really gets kids and what they are looking for in a book. *Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire* is an absolute winner.' – *Kids-BookReview.com*

'*Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire* is pure fun and will appeal to both reluctant and keen readers alike . . . Amore's take is contemporary, super quirky and a rollicking adventure.' – *Children's Book Daily*

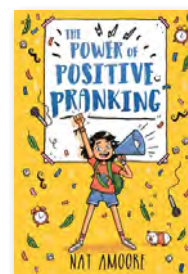
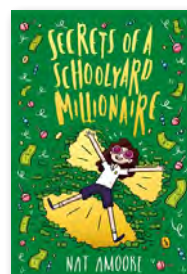
Rights Sold Previous Titles

Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire

United Kingdom (One World), Italy (DeA Planeta), Estonia (Eesti Raamat) Romania (SC Didactica Publishing House), China (Beijing White Horse Time Culture Development Co), Audio (Bolinda)

Power of Positive Pranking

United Kingdom (One World), Estonia (Eesti Raamat), Audio (Bolinda)



NAT AMORE is a writer who is passionate about encouraging kids to read, write and explore their imagination without boundaries. With a background in writing for screen, she wrote and directed international award-winning short film *Elemenopee* and has a feature film screenplay and a kids' TV series in development. Nat was a recipient of the CBCA Maurice Saxby Creative Development Program for 2018. In February 2018, Nat (along with fellow hosts Kate and Liz) launched kidlit podcast *One More Page* (onemorepagepodcast.com), which was a finalist in the 'Best Newcomer' category for the 2018 Australian Podcast Awards. The podcast has featured in publications such as *Books+Publishing*, *Buzz Words* and the *SCBWI AUS&NZ* newsletters. Author Photo Credit: © Penguin Random House Australia



REAL MAGIC: TIPS, TRICKS, TIKTOK AND TOTALLY GOOD VIBES

Ash Magic

August 2021

Penguin

Format – 176pp – 209mm x 142mm

Rights Held: World

Magic is making the impossible possible. And there are tons of tips and tricks in this book, but the REAL MAGIC is finding the good vibes every day in everything you do!

Magician and TikTok star Ash Magic is here to turn your frown upside down with his unique blend of magic, positivity and lifestyle content. Find out how he overcame challenges, including anxiety and ADHD, to become a world-class stage performer and online sensation with over 5.6 million followers on TikTok.

Pick up *Real Magic* for personal photos and anecdotes, never-before-shared insights into Ash's story and the philosophy behind his success. Read about how to recreate Ash's magic tricks and learn how to bring his good-vibes mindset into YOUR life. If you know where (and how) to look, real magic is out there and opportunities are just around the corner!

Real Magic is the kind of fun, positive lift we all need right now - for Ash Magic fans all around the world and anyone who needs a little bit of sunshine in their lives!

Sales Points

- Ash Magic has a massive international online reach. @ashmagic on TikTok has average total views of 3,268,761 and average engagement at 430,698. @ash.magic on insta has an average reach of 30,908. Top territories are USA, the UK and Australia.
- Ash's coverage for his shows in the traditional press has been impressive with reviews and features on morning tv, major news outlets and print media.
- A charming, clean cut and authentic young performer and lifestyle content creator who appeals to all age groups.
- For magic tricks, tips and blooper reels, watch Ash Magic on [TikTok!](https://www.tiktok.com/@ashmagic)



ASH MAGIC is a young magician, actor and entertainer who shares magic and lifestyle content. He is best known for his viral videos and his captivating personality. Ash is one of Australia's leading TikTok creators with over 5.6 million followers. Ash has built his career from busking on the streets at just eleven years old, to performing live at sell-out shows, headlining festivals, touring Australia and overseas and acting in a major TV series.

Author Photo Credit: © Letitia Hodgkinson



THE BLACK SPIRAL TRILOGY

Eileen Merriman

September 2021

Penguin New Zealand

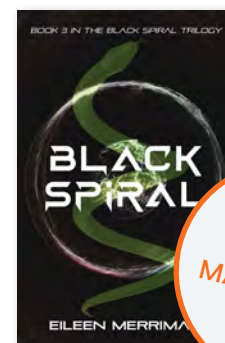
Format – 288pp – 198mm x 128mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Titles

A Trio of Sophies Germany (Oetinger)

Pieces of You Turkey (Indigo Kitap)



BOOK 3
COMING
MARCH 2022

The gripping sequel to *Violet Black*

Back from Germany and the assignment that went horribly wrong, Violet doesn't know who to trust:

'It's fortunate for me that the Foundation staff can't read my thoughts . . . If they could read my thoughts, they'd never let me go. I'd be a liability, and I know what happens to liabilities.'

Phoenix is equally adrift:

'For an hour I will forget who I am, what I have done . . . But . . . I will wake with the heavy knowledge that I am the Black Wolf, never to be trusted, never to be loved – because the only people I've ever loved are either dead or hate my guts.'

The only thing both of them know for sure is that they have to escape the Foundation's clutches . . .

Sales Points

- Following on from the gripping *Violet Black*, this book continues Violet's story after the death of Ethan, taking us into the minds and bodies of the teenage protagonists as well as their animal alter egos. This book offers the reader escapism, it will spark the fires of fighting for justice, trigger the adrenaline rush of being on the run, and touch even the hardest of hearts as Violet learns to love again.
- A fast-paced, futuristic, page-turning fantasy trilogy with action, romance, heartbreak, espionage, escape, mind-reading, wolves, eagles, the outback and plenty more . . . this is even stronger than the first volume in the series.
- Explores human experimentation, pandemics, telepathy, astral projection, shape shifting, vaccines, biological warfare, big money, and manipulation.
- For lovers of *The Hunger Games*, *The Maze Runner*, *Illuminae*

Praise for *A Trio of Sophies*

'A Trio of Sophies doesn't so much as start as launch the reader into the centre of a storm that will hold you until the very last secret is solved. . . . ' – *Weekend Herald*

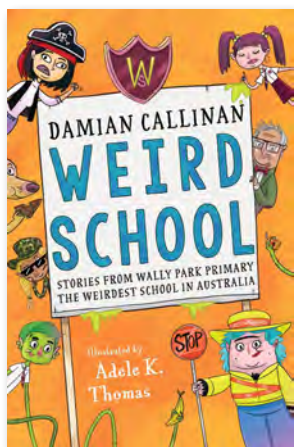
'The immersiveness of Merriman's writing makes *A Trio of Sophies* a good escapist read for lockdown . . . '

– *Sunday Star-Times*



EILEEN MERRIMAN'S three young adult novels, *Pieces of You*, *Catch Me When You Fall*, and *Invisibly Breathing*, were finalists in the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults in 2018 and 2019, and all three were Storylines Notable Books. Her fourth young adult novel *A Trio of Sophies* was published in 2020 to huge critical praise and was also published in Germany. Her first adult novel, *Moonlight Sonata*, was released in July 2019, with reviewers calling it 'skilfully crafted', and a 'carefully layered and thoughtful drama, with beautifully observed and believable Kiwi characters'. It was longlisted for the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction 2020. Her second adult novel, *The Silence of Snow*, was published in 2020.

Author Photo Credit: © Colleen Lenihan



WEIRD SCHOOL

Damian Callinan and Adele K. Thomas (Illustrator)

August 2021

Puffin

Format – 240pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

**Welcome to Wally Park Primary, the Weirdest School in the universe!
A weird and wonderfully funny story collection for readers from 8 to 11.**

Some people think that all schools are all the same. They might have different uniforms, slogans and emblems but in the end, there isn't much difference between them . . . THESE PEOPLE ARE WRONG! They have not been to Wally Park Primary School.

A normal day at Wally Park would be the weirdest day in any other school's history. With an annual Extreme-Walkathon few students survive, a talking NaughtyTree and an Out of Bounds area you might truly never return from and ruled by the meanest (and most vain) principal, you have to keep everything crossed that your family is not moving to Wally Park any time soon!

Sales Points

- Funny and wacky school-set story collection for readers 8+ who enjoy David Walliams and Morris Gleitzman.
- Kids love school-set stories, and this is great for reluctant readers too, with its short-story format and plenty of humour. Schools will love it, as will families. Lots of laughs and fun to enjoy.
- Damian is an award-winning comedian, actor and writer, and was previously a teacher himself.



Rough character illustrations

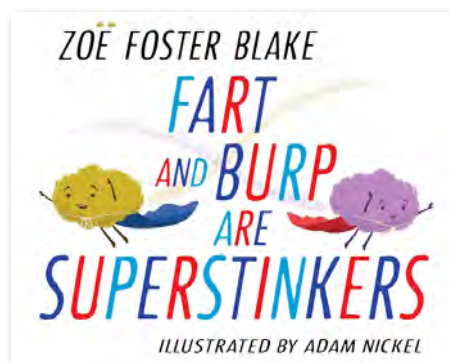


DAMIAN CALLINAN is a multi-award-winning comedian, actor and writer. He is best known to TV/film audiences for his roles on *Skithouse*, *Before the Game* and *Backyard Ashes* and regular guest appearances on *Spicks and Specks* and the Melbourne Comedy Festival Gala. Author Photo Credit: © Damian Callinan



ADELE K. THOMAS is a Melbourne based illustrator, director and art director, with over ten years of experience in animation film and TV design, children's books, advertising and game apps. Adele has illustrated two children's book series – *The Champion Charlies* and *Pearl The Magical Unicorn*. She has also written and illustrated a picture book called *Animals Eat Their Veggies Too!*

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Adele K. Thomas



FART AND BURP ARE SUPERSTINKERS

Zoë Foster Blake and Adam Nickel (Illustrator)

July 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 232mm x 290mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: North America (Penguin Random House US)

Rights Sold Previous Titles:

No One Likes A Fart - North America (Penguin Random House US), Italy (Salani Editore), Japan (Alphapolis)

Back To Sleep - North America (Penguin Random House US)

NO ONE
LIKES A FART
HAS SOLD OVER
100,000 COPIES IN
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

Zoë Foster Blake's beloved character Fart is back.

Together with his new friend Burp, they're off on a new adventure to use their bad pongs for good!

Move over Superman and Wonder Woman, here come the Superstinkers!

What could be better than a Fart with a heart? A Super Fart of course!

Wafting around with his stinky best friend Burp, Fart couldn't be happier. But sometimes Burp wishes people wouldn't say, YUCK and GROSS and PEE-YEW . . .

Could being smelly ever be a force for good?

A super stinker of a tale that proves anyone can be a hero.



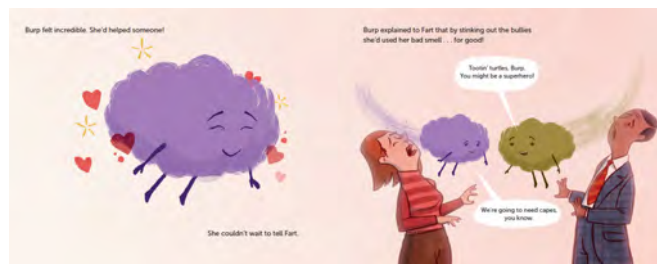
Rough internals

Readers who loved Zoë Foster Blake's ABIA award-winning and best-selling *No One Likes a Fart* will love this companion book as Fart and Burp decide to make difference in the world whether people love them or not.

They'll make some friends along the way and even get capes!



Rough internals



Rough internals



ZOË FOSTER BLAKE enjoys writing her biography because she can write things like, 'The literary world was shocked when Foster Blake was controversially awarded the Man Booker prize for the third time', despite the fact that this is patently untrue. Things that are true include a decade of journalism writing for titles such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Harper's BAZAAR* and *Sunday Style*, as well as being the founder of all-natural Australian skin care line, *Go-To*. Zoë has written three picture books for children, the award-winning *No One Likes A Fart*, *Back to Sleep* and *Fart and Burp are Superstinkers*. Zoë's adult novels include, *Air Kisses*, *Playing the Field*, *The Younger Man* and *The Wrong Girl*; a dating and relationship book, *Textbook Romance*, written in conjunction with Hamish Blake; and *Amazing Face*, a collection of her best beauty tips and tricks.

Author Photo Credit: © Sarah Adamson



ADAM NICKEL'S illustration style is very much influenced by mid-century-era design and illustration. He has a background in graphic design and animation. With a client list that includes *The Wall Street Journal*, *Penguin Random House*, *GQ* and *New Scientist*. He lives in Brisbane, Australia, and spends his spare time wishing he was in Japan and buying clothes he doesn't need on the internet.

Author Photo Credit: © Jessica Ebelt



August 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 270mm x 240mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Titles

Fly – North America (Penguin Random House – Philomel) and Turkey (Bilgi Yayınevi)

The Lost Library – North America (Penguin Random House - Philomel)

A sweet and funny picture book for anyone who loves dinosaur fossils, friends and cheese sandwiches, by the acclaimed creator of *Fly* and *The Lost Library*.

Frankie knows everything there is to know about dinosaurs.

But when she ignores a sign at the museum and is followed home by a friendly fossil, Frankie finds there's more to dinosaurs than she ever imagined.

Frankie and the Fossil is an irresistible story about being heard . . . and finding your herd.

Sales Points

- An exciting new talent in picture books, reminiscent of talents such as Oliver Jeffers and Gus Gordon and Anna Walker. Jess's first two picture books, *Fly* and *The Lost Library*, have been a critical success and sold into the US and Turkey.
- A funny, sweet story about friendship and finding the people you connect with. This is also an irresistible story about dinosaurs, a love song to museums and a wonderful fantasy adventure.
- Jess works at the Melbourne Museum as a designer and this is a very personal book for him.
- Stunning illustrations and a text that's perfect to read aloud. Find the dinosaurs hidden throughout the book and enjoy the prehistoric ABC chart at the end!

Praise for Jess McGeachin

'A ... charming story of ingenuity, caring and the acceptance of loss. What a glorious surprise!' – *Magpies* magazine

'A beautifully understated and moving story ... this book makes the heart soar.' – *The Canberra Times*

'There are wild storms, dark forests and a dozing dragon to conquer. A captivating story about the power of reading and the unbreakable bonds of friendship.' - *The Age*



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.

Author Photo Cedit: © Rod Start



THE LIGHTHOUSE PRINCESS

Susan Wardell and Rose Northey (illustrator)

April 2022

Picture Puffin New Zealand

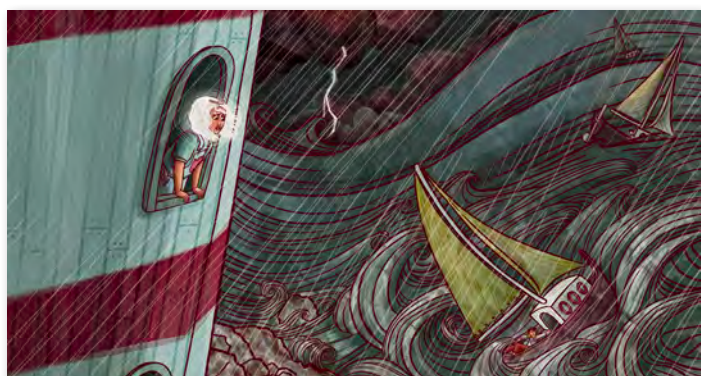
Format – 32pp – 285mm x 215mm

Rights Held: World

The 2021 Storylines Gavin Bishop Award-winning story - a contemporary fairy tale about an independent-minded princess who looks after the light.

The Lighthouse Princess is almost perfectly happy with her solitary life, taking care of the light that keeps ships at sea safe.

But one stormy day, a little fishing boat with green sails sets out to her lighthouse . . . who could it be?



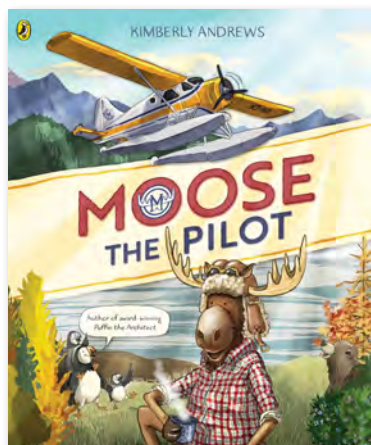
SUSAN WARDELL is from Dunedin, New Zealand. She lives by the harbour, and teaches at the University of Otago, while raising two small humans and a modest indoor jungle. Alongside academic writing Susan publishes in a variety of creative genres. Her poetry, micro-fiction, book reviews and literary essays have been published in a variety of journals throughout Australasia, and won several awards.

Author Photo Credit: © Susan Wardell



ROSE NORTHEY spent her childhood sketching animals with her grandfather and mother, doodled her way through an honours degree in mechanical engineering and worked for three years in product development engineering before trying her luck in a creative career. Now a performance poet and illustrator, she is current champion of the Going West Writers Festival Poetry Grand Slam and has produced her own comedy fringe show as well as a range of art commissions. Winning the Storylines Gavin Bishop Award for Illustration 2021 and working on a children's picture book is another dream come true for her.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Rose Northey



MOOSE THE PILOT

Kimberly Andrews

June 2021

Picture Puffin

Format – 32pp – 305mm x 254mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Title

Puffin the Architect: Russia (Komosomolskaya Pravda), Taiwan (The Eastern Publishing Co), China (Hsinex International Corporation), Romania (SC Didactica Publishing House) and Korea (Redbean)
Hound the Detective: Korea (Redbean)

OVER
10,000
COPIES SOLD
IN SERIES IN
AUSTRALIA
AND NEW
ZEALAND

Meet Moose, a bush pilot who lives in a treehouse.

He's had a VERY busy day when he gets a radio call for one more job – a RESCUE mission!

Pilot Moose lives up high in a treehouse and has a very important job delivering goods in his bush plane through sun, snow and rain, landing in all kinds of terrain.

But on this day, his adventures are even more exciting than usual – three fluffy youngsters need his help!

Sales Points

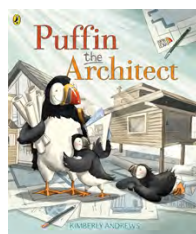
- Moose is a very popular character in *Puffin the Architect* – everyone wants to live in his treehouse! We find out all about this local hero's adventures, meet a number of the other beloved characters again, and even see a map of this amazing imaginary world.
- The character of Moose is based on Kimberly's brother Cam – a bush pilot who's worked in Canada and Fiji.
- A gorgeous new story coming soon – *Goose the Artist*!

Awards for *Puffin the Architect*

- Winner – New Zealand Booklovers Award
- Winner – Russell Clark Award for Illustration – New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults
- Winner – Storylines Notables

Praise for *Puffin the Architect*

'A picture book which can be read over many times and used as a creative discussion point for children's own choices about house designs, *Puffin the Architect* has a richness, depth and complexity of concepts that will appeal to kids over a wide range of ages.' – *Judges' Report, NZ Booklovers Awards*



KIMBERLY ANDREWS is a trained biologist and geologist who grew up in the Canadian Rockies, and she has also lived and worked in New Zealand, Borneo and the UK. In London, she worked for The House of Illustration, whose main ambassador is Quentin Blake, and at the Natural History Museum. Kimberly now lives with her husband and two little daughters in a small house near Wellington, where she illustrates and writes, and runs her business Tumbleweed Tees – designs which feature her illustrations of New Zealand birds and wildlife. Her first solo picture book, *Puffin the Architect* (Puffin, 2018) was awarded NZ Booklover's Best Children's Book, a Storylines Notable Book Award and the Russell Clark Award for Illustration at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. *Hound the Detective*, also set in the charming world of Puffin and her friends, was published in August 2020. Author Photo credit: © Simon Hoyle



THE LISTIES' TELEPORTALOO

The Listies

August 2021

Puffin

Format – 192pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

BOOK 2
COMING
IN JANUARY
2022

This fantastic new series from two of Australia's favourite comedy performers is 100% fun and gloriously silly. Filled with funny illustrations and featuring Matt and Rich as they appear in their shows and performances, this is an extravaganza of silly science fiction, toot-a-riffic toilet humour and slapstick.

Rich and Matt are BFFs who hang out with their Nan and their next-door neighbour, 10-year-old child genius, Abbey.

Unfortunately Nan has an evil NANASIS. And by the time Rich and Matt discover that their Nan ALSO has a TELEPORTING PORTALOO in the backyard it's too late. They're already hurtling through the interdimensional plumbing of time and space on a mission to stop the world from going down the toilet, literally!

THE NANASIS has gone crazy and WANTS HER STUFF BACK or the world is doomed. Can the Listies pay attention long enough to save it?

Sales Points

- A laugh-out-loud science-fiction comedy. Loads of fun and perfect for reluctant readers
- Featuring the same absurd humour that makes the Treehouse series so appealing *Teleportaloo*, with a wild story, two classic central characters and a funny know it all female friend. (As well as an anarchic superhero granny everyone will love.)

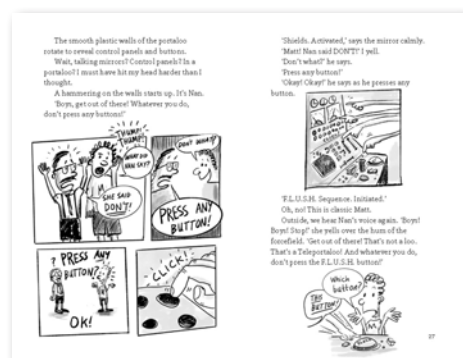
Praise for The Listies Comedy Shows

'Nobody else does comedy for kids this brilliantly, but what's more astounding is that adults have just as much fun. The Listies occupy a dimension all of their own.' — The Sydney Morning Herald

'This manic Australian double act know all the right buttons to push to make children shriek with laughter.'
— Guardian



Rough internals



Rough internals

RICHARD HIGGINS and MATT KELLY Richard Higgins and Matt Kelly are the Melbourne based comedic duo The Listies. Together they make and performs comedy for kids and adults. Their show *More Fun than a Wii* was the first show for kids nominated for the best show award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2010. It went on to tour nationally and internationally, receiving rave 5 star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Their first book, *Ickypedia*, is an encyclopedia of words that don't exist but should. Their second book, *Ickyfoodia*, is a gross and totally hilarious 'encyclopedia of food'. To date, they have written nine award-winning and critically acclaimed live shows, collaborated with most major theatre companies and festivals in Australia, toured 3 continents, recorded three albums, and published two books with four books on the way. You can see them on ABC with their shows 'The Listies Work For Peanuts' and 'Art Blast', and their music video 'Wash Your Hands' (with Zoe Coombs Marr and muso Ryan Ritchie).
Author Photo Credit: © The Listies





RANGER'S APPRENTICE THE ROYAL RANGER 5: ESCAPE FROM FALAISE

John Flanagan

September 2021

Random House Australia Children's

Format – 384pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: ANZ + Translation

OVER
15 MILLION
COPIES SOLD
WORLDWIDE

The stakes have never been higher for the Rangers of Araluen in the *New York Times* bestselling series.

Will and Maddie are imprisoned at Chateau des Falaises. Baron Lassigny is scheming to recruit them as spies for hire, but Maddie raises the stakes when she challenges Lassigny's garrison commander to a duel on horseback. Will is horrified – especially when he realises the treacherous baron won't fight fair. If Maddie can survive the duel, they still need to escape the heavily guarded chateau and rescue the kidnapped prince they were sent to retrieve. It will take all their ingenuity, courage and determination to triumph this time – and to solve the mystery of who betrayed them.

Sales Points

- The Ranger's Apprentice series has sold over **15 million copies worldwide!**
- John Flanagan's books have sold over 2 million copies in Australia and New Zealand alone.
- This book resolves the cliffhanger from Royal Ranger 4 and is full of duels, dramatic escapes and Ranger escapades – it's a fantastic read full of action!

Rights Sold Ranger's Apprentice series

The Ranger's Apprentice series have been sold in 30 languages and are available in over one hundred countries!



JOHN FLANAGAN'S Ranger's Apprentice and Brotherband adventure series have sold more than fifteen million copies worldwide. His books are available in more than one hundred countries, are regularly on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and have had multiple award shortlistings and wins in Australia and overseas. John, a former television and advertising writer, lives with his wife in a Sydney beachside suburb. Author Photo Credit: © Cameron Barrie



MALLORY, MALLORY: TRICK OR TREAT

James Norcliffe and Emily Walker (Illustrator)

September 2021

Puffin New Zealand

Paperback – 272pp – 192mm x 128mm

Right Held: World

Rights Sold: Russia (Eskmo)

It's Halloween and Mallory has a trick up her sleeve!

Scheming Mallory and her reluctant sidekick Arthur have a Halloween misadventure involving nasty tricks, time travel and a sneaky cat.

Mallory wants candy, as much as she can grab, and she's prepared to play some tricks (and kick a pesky black cat) to get it. But when she and her reluctant sidekick Arthur tangle with the owner of a spooky old house, the trick is on them. In the beat of a bat's wing, they're a century back in time with a mission to find that slippery cat, or Mallory will change shape forever . . .

From the magical pen of James Norcliffe, and with fantastical illustrations by Emily Walker, *Mallory, Mallory: Trick or Treat* is a spooky tale of time travel and intrigue, and people getting their (un)just desserts.

Read all about Mallory and Arthur's first misadventure in *Mallory, Mallory: The Revenge of the Tooth Fairy*!



Sales Points

- Mallory is back for Halloween, and she's obnoxious as ever!
- A very enjoyable magical adventure novel for children ages 6-10 years featuring villainous Mallory, who readers love to hate, the hapless Arthur, and a black cat that seems to have mysterious powers . . .
- A sequel to the award-winning James Norcliffe's ingenious *The Revenge of the Tooth Fairy* – and it seems Mallory hasn't become any wiser since her last misadventure!
- Full of deliciously spooky humour, time travel, and unjust desserts.

JAMES NORCLIFFE is an award-winning poet and writer, and the author of several children's fantasy books celebrated for their unexpected plot twists and magical wit. He has won awards and residencies – most recently the 2018 Creative New Zealand Randall Cottage Writer in Residence in Wellington. His children's novel *The Loblolly Boy* was published in New Zealand, the United States and Australia, and won the 2010 NZ Post Junior Fiction Award and a Storylines Notable Junior Fiction award. *The Loblolly Boy & the Sorcerer* was a finalist in the Junior Fiction category of the 2012 New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, as was *The Pirates and the Nightmaker* in 2015. *Twice Upon a Time* was published in 2017, and *The Revenge of the Tooth Fairy*, the first of his novels featuring wicked Mallory, in 2020.

Author Photo Credit: © Sharon Bennett and University of Otago



EMILY WALKER has always loved drawing and painting, and just about every form of artistic expression. When she had children, she fell in love all over again with picture books and turned her talents to illustration, inspired by the idea of being able to transport readers into a limitless imagined world with characters that could touch the heart. Since that time her misty, magical illustrations have been twice shortlisted for the Storylines Gavin Bishop Award for Illustration (2017 and 2019) and for the Margaret Mahy Illustration Award (2019). *Mallory, Mallory: The Revenge of the Tooth Fairy* by James Norcliffe was her first published book (Puffin, 2020), and she has since illustrated a picture book by Diana Neild, *Daddy Monster ABC* (One Tree Press, 2020).

Author Photo Credit: ©Emily Walker





ALICE-MIRANDA IN EGYPT (20)

Jacqueline Harvey

June 2021

Puffin

Format – 368pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World



Sun, sand and secrets in the ancient world!

The Queen's Colours leadership program is heading to Egypt and Alice-Miranda and her friends are thrilled. There are hidden tombs to explore, a new culture to experience and a lot to learn about the country's ancient past. But something is amiss among the pyramids and palm trees. Bizarre happenings back home, a new friend with something to hide and adults with stories that don't quite add up leave the friends very worried indeed.

One thing's for sure: when Alice-Miranda starts digging, she'll find more than just buried treasure!

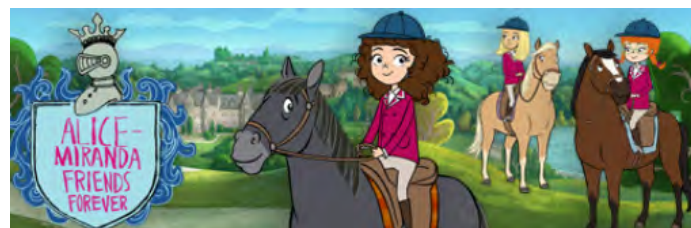
Rights Sold Alice-Miranda series

North America (Penguin Random House, Delacorte), United Kingdom (Penguin Random House). Germany (Panini), Turkey (Artemi), Indonesia (Hikmah), Hungary (Manó Könyvek), Audio (Audible), and Film (SLR Production)

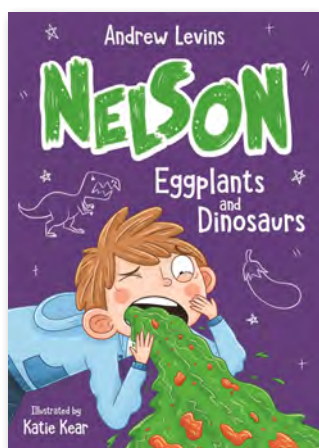
Alice-Miranda: Friends Forever Film Awards

Winner: Best Feature Animated Film Award (over 45 mins)
11th Golden Kuker International Animation Festival

Finalist: Best Children's Television Program – Atom Awards



JACQUELINE HARVEY worked in schools for many years but has had a passion for storytelling since she was a child. She is the author of the popular Alice-Miranda and Clementine Rose series, which have sold over one million copies in Australia alone. Her books have received numerous short-listings and awards while her picture book, *The Sound of the Sea*, was a CBCA Honour Book. 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. While she is not a twin, like Kensy and Max she does have excellent powers of observation and has always thought she'd make a great spy. Jacqueline lives in Sydney and is working on more Alice-Miranda and Kensy and Max adventures, and some exciting new projects too. Author Photo Credit: © Jenni Bradley



NELSON 3: EGGPLANTS AND DINOSAURS

Andrew Levins and Katie Kear (Illustrator)

August 2021

Puffin

Format – 176pp – 182mm x 130mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Turkey (Kultur)

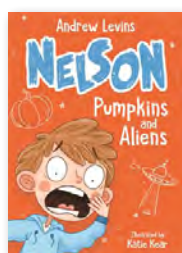
The third book in the totally outrageous adventures of Nelson Hunter – the boy who hates vegetables. Featuring a serious spy mystery and an epic dinosaur disaster!

After Nelson discovers his nemesis – vegetables – are actually the key to his superpowers, he's called on to track down some of the worst thieves in town.

But trialling the effects of eating an eggplant has disastrous consequences . . . Will Nelson be able to control his inner beast and use it to get out of danger?

Sales Points

- The final hilarious adventure from the begrudging hero – Nelson Hunter. Nelson and his best friend Olive must stop a mad scientist from robbing the museum by using the latest vegetable in Nelson's arsenal: eggplants, which turn him into an angry, mindless *Tyrannosaurus-rex*.
- Taps into the need for fun, engaging stories for beginner readers (both boys and girls).
- Highly designed with an easy-to-read layout, funny pictures as well as two-colour illustrations! Packaged in a cut-down C, a unique format for junior fiction.
- Andrew is a stay-at-home dad who works as a freelance writer and DJ. He's great with kids and used to running children's workshops through his charity, Heaps Decent. He used to be an Fbi radio host, has performed a TEDx talk and currently hosts three podcasts.



Praise for the Nelson series

'This series will be a winner for children who love an elaborate action adventure, especially if they aren't too keen on their vegetables.' – Kids' Book Review



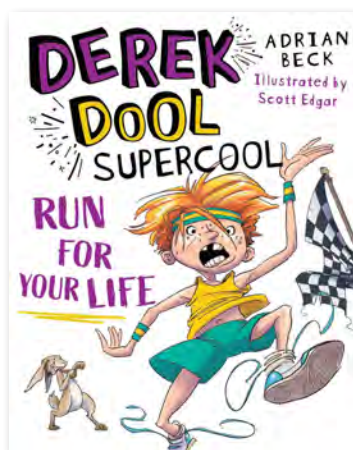
ANDREW LEVINS has been a DJ since he was a teenager, and a food writer for almost as long. He cut his teeth as one of the inaugural DJs on Fbi radio, plays most major Australian music festivals and hosts the longest-running hip-hop night in Sydney. His articles have been published by the *Sydney Morning Herald*, ABC Life, VICE, SBS, *The Good Food Guide* and *Time Out*. In 2007 he co-founded the youth music charity Heaps Decent (with Diplo and Nina Las Vegas), and in 2009 he was named one of Sydney's 100 Most Influential People by the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Since then he's had two kids, run a successful restaurant, released a cookbook and started no less than five podcasts. The Nelson series is his first books for children.

Author Photo Credit: © Daniel Boud



KATIE KEAR is a young British illustrator and has been creating artwork for as long as she can remember. She loves creating new worlds and characters, and hopes to spread joy and happiness with her illustrations! As a child, her favourite memories always involved reading. Whether it was reading her first picture books with her mother before bed, and imagining new stories for the characters, or as an older child reading chapter books into the night, she remembers always having a love for books! This is what made her pursue her career in illustration. In her spare time she loves drawing, adventures in nature, chocolate, stationery, the smell of cherries and finding new inspirational artists!

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Katie Kear



DEREK DOOL SUPERCOOL 3: RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

Adrian Beck and Scott Edgar (Illustrator)

January 2021

Puffin

Format – 256pp – 190mm x 150mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Book 1: Turkey (Kultur)

DEREK DILBERT DOOL is back and ready to make his MARK! Or should that be TAKE HIS MARK as he attempts to become SUPERCOOL by winning the school cross-country?

Derek's not a natural athlete – far from it! But when AWESOMENESS is on the line, he's willing to do whatever it takes. However all Derek's plans fall apart when the race begins. And are the rumours of a witch who lurks in the bush TRUE?

Sales Points

- A hilarious series in the vein of Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Middle School, Weirdo and Timmy Failure.
- Highly illustrated in a fun and energetic style similar to Tom Gates or Real Pigeons.
- The perfect series for any kid (or parent) that's ever tried to be cool!

Praise for Derek Dool Supercool 1: Bust a Move

'Just like the awesomeness Derek believes is pumping through his veins, this book is pumping with pure fun. It's a delight to read a book where the characters and action truly jump off the page, and that delivers the light-hearted relief that the cover promises.' – *Better Reading*

'Kids from around 8 years upwards will absolutely love this. It is exactly the kind of slapstick funny, gross-out humour, ridiculous situations and outrageous characters that they love. And with Edgar's comical illustrations and the interspersed Bad Dad Jokes they will get even more laughs out of it.' – *Just So Stories*



ADRIAN BECK writes funny, action-packed stories for kids. He is the author of the Derek Dool series, the Champion Charlies series, the Alien Zoo series and the co-author of the Little Legends series with Nicole Hayes, plus the Kick it to Nick series with AFL hall-of-famer Shane Crawford. Together with Sally Rippin, Adrian edited the Total Quack Up! and Total Quack Up Again! collections of short stories to raise money for Dymocks Children's Charities. As well as being an author, Adrian is a TV producer and a lover of very bad dad jokes. Adrian draws on his showbiz roots to create engaging, interactive school presentations and is passionate about fostering a love of reading among the next generation.

Author Photo Credit: © Adrian Beck



SCOTT EDGAR studied Design at Monash University before running off to join the circus (aka a Theatre Production degree at the Victorian College of the Arts). Scott works in the comics, games and children's book space. And he is also a writer for games and animation, for studios such as the Cartoon Network and Ubisoft games. After a childhood steeped in role playing games, comic books and getting in trouble for drawing lizard warriors in the margins of exam papers, Scott has gone on to a career in the creative arts which has taken him through theatre, music, comedy, games, radio and television. But he always finds his way back to his first love of drawing lizard warriors in the margins of exam papers.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Scott Edgar



SHOWTYM ADVENTURES 8: SYD, THE MUSTER PONY

Kelly Wilson

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 192pp – 198mm x 128mm

Rights Held: World

THE SERIES
HAS SOLD OVER
50,000 COPIES IN
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

The eighth and final book in a bestselling junior fiction series inspired by true stories from the Wilson Sisters' childhoods. It's their greatest adventure yet – a road trip in search of ponies!

In this exciting conclusion to the bestselling Showtym Adventures series, Amanda, Kelly and Vicki go on a road trip to find their dream ponies!

Nine-year-old Amanda is thrilled when her parents announce plans to travel the length of the country in search of a Grand Prix show jumper for Vicki, as well as a new pony each for Kelly and Amanda. From wild beaches and lake swims to high-country musters, each day on the road brings the three sisters new experiences – and new challenges.

Will Amanda and her new pony Syd survive the dangerous overnight cattle muster? And will Vicki find the Grand Prix pony of her dreams?

In this story inspired by the Wilson Sisters' early years, Vicki, Kelly and Amanda first taste the freedom of exploring the world on horseback.

Sales Points

- A bestselling series for children ages 7-10 years that has sold over 40,000 copies in ANZ.
- Each engaging story in the series is inspired by a beloved childhood pony of the Wilson Sisters.
- Each title contains new riding tips and information about caring for ponies.
- Readers love discovering each pony's personality and the challenges, problems and successes the girls encounter with training and riding them.



KELLY WILSON grew up riding horses and competed in show jumping to Pony Grand Prix level before focusing on her creative talents. She won a scholarship to Auckland University of Technology and graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Graphic Design, going on to become an award-winning photographer and designer. She is the bestselling author of six biographical non-fiction books, *For the Love of Horses*, *Stallion Challenges*, *Mustang Ride*, *Saving the Snowy Brumbies*, *Taming the Wild* and *Wild Horses of the World*; a children's picture book *Ranger the Kaimanawa Stallion*; and the popular junior chapter-book series *Showtym Adventures*. With her sisters Vicki and Amanda, Kelly has starred in the hit-rating TV series, *Keeping up with the Kaimanawas*, following their work taming New Zealand's wild Kaimanawa horses, and has travelled around the world researching, documenting and advocating for wild horses.

Author Photo Credit: © Amanda Wilson



FRIDAY BARNES 9: NO ESCAPE

R.A. Spratt

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 288pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: North America (Macmillan – Roaring Book Press)



Friday Barnes is back with a new mystery to be solved.

It's two years later . . .

Friday steps out of prison, a shell of her former self. She's still wearing the same brown cardigan, but she swears she's never solving mysteries again! Yeah right – who is she kidding? She can't suppress her brilliant deductive mind and is soon drawn back into the intrigues of Highcrest Academy.

Then Uncle Bernie rings, pleading with Friday to fly to Italy and help him protect the Uffizi Galleries from a team of art thieves – and she can't say 'no' to family. Even if it means travelling to the city where Ian, her ex-boyfriend/nemesis is living.

Will Friday be able to protect Italy's finest artworks? Will Melanie stay awake long enough to help her? And will Ian still be as gorgeous as a Greek god and twice as annoying?

Sales Points

- R.A. Spratt's books have sold over half a million copies!
- Friday Barnes is Rachel Spratt's most popular series and fans have been dying to find out what happened to Friday and Ian!
- Rachel Spratt's newly started podcast, *Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt*, is growing in popularity - in just three months it has over 10,000 downloads.

Praise for the Friday Barnes Series

'I like that Spratt has portrayed Friday as a strong, capable and smart young woman, who shows other young girls that they can be all of these things too. There is no damsel in distress, or girls reliant on boys, but the book is all about young women making choices that are smart (most of the time) and well thought out (sometimes), and boys that are messy and pretending not to like girls (sounds familiar right).' – *Little Big Reads*



R.A. SPRATT is the author of *The Peski Kids*, *Friday Barnes* and *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*. In her previous life she was a television writer. Unlike the *Peski kids*, R.A. Spratt never fights with her brother, but only because he moved to Tokyo to get away from her. R.A. lives in Bowral, NSW, where she has three chickens, five goldfish and a dog. She also has a husband and two daughters. For more information, visit raspratt.com
Author Photo Credit: © Jackie Spratt



KENSY AND MAX 7: TAKE DOWN

Jacqueline Harvey

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 384pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: North America (Kane Miller)

OVER 100,000
COPIES SOLD
IN AUSTRALIA
AND NEW
ZEALAND

**How do you pretend everything is fine when those that you love are in danger?
If people you once trusted are now deemed a threat?**

After winning the National STEM Championships, Kensy, Max and a team of students from Central London Free School are ready to compete for the international trophy in Singapore. But when Granny Cordelia is poisoned, the twins no longer feel like celebrating.

They still have a duty to their team though, and everyone seems to think they'll be safe in a country halfway around the world. It turns out that Singapore is rife with mysteries. Soon Kensy and Max have uncovered a much larger case than anyone counted on.

And this time, it's personal.

Sales Points

- Jacqueline Harvey's books have sold close to **1.25 million copies** in Australia and New Zealand.
- The Kensy and Max series has sold over 100,000 copies and Jacqueline Harvey is one of Australia's best known children's authors.
- Readers will be hooked by the fast-paced action and entertained by Jacqueline's humorous writing style.



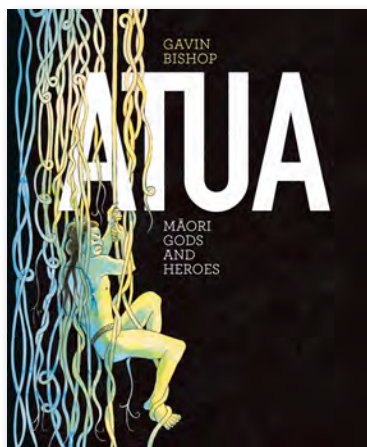
JACQUELINE HARVEY worked in schools for many years but has had a passion for storytelling since she was a child. She is the author of the popular Alice–Miranda and Clementine Rose series, which have sold over one million copies in Australia alone. Her books have received numerous short-listings and awards while her picture book, *The Sound of the Sea*, was a CBCA Honour Book.



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. While she is not a twin, like Kensy and Max she does have excellent powers of observation and has always thought she'd make a great spy.

Jacqueline lives in Sydney and is working on more Alice–Miranda and Kensy and Max adventures, and some exciting new projects too.

Author Photo Credit: © Jenni Bradley



ATUA : MAORI GODS AND HEROES

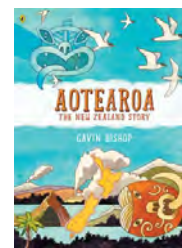
Gavin Bishop

September 2021

Picture Puffin New Zealand

Format – 64pp – 340mm x 280mm

Rights Held: World



Gavin Bishop's stunning, once-in-a-generation compendium introduces readers to the pantheon of Maori gods, demigods and heroes, and explores Aotearoa's most exciting legends from the Creation to the Migration.

Meet the gods, demigods and heroes of the Maori people of Aotearoa in this breathtaking, large-scale illustrated book for children.

Before the beginning there was nothing.

No sound, no air, no colour – nothing.

TE KORE, NOTHING.

No one knows how long this nothing lasted because there was no time.

However, in this great nothing there was a sense of waiting.

Something was about to happen.



Rough internals

Fascinating, beautiful and informative, this once-in-a-generation compendium deserves a place in every bookshelf.

Sales Points

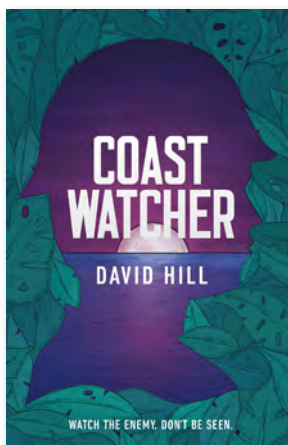
- Third title in a series of beautiful illustrated non-fiction books telling the rich and multi-layered story of Aotearoa New Zealand for children (and adults) in a way that is fresh and contemporary. It's a more narrative approach than Aotearoa and Wildlife, but includes breakouts and captioned details in the illustrations.
- A renewed interest in Maori mythology as evidenced by Witi Ihimaera's *Navigating the Stars* – this collection specifically caters to children aged 5–12.
- Throughout the narrative, Gavin deftly weaves in contemporary Maori tikanga (cultural practices), demonstrating both their spiritual origin and their close relationship to science and the natural environment, as well as historical detail about pre-colonial Maori life.
- Aotearoa has sold over 30,000 in Australia and New Zealand; *Wildlife of Aotearoa* has sold over 15,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand.



Rough internals

GAVIN BISHOP is an award-winning children's picture book writer and illustrator who lives and works in Christchurch, New Zealand. The author and illustrator of approximately 60 books to date, his work ranges from original stories to retellings of Maori myths, European fairy stories, and nursery rhymes. Gavin has had a long-held interest in depicting New Zealand's history through illustration, evidenced in his now classic picture book *The House that Jack Built* (1999) which won Book of the Year; and also through his junior novels *Piano Rock* (2012) and *Teddy One-Eye* (2014). His landmark illustrated non-fiction title *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story* was published in October 2017 and was awarded the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. A companion volume, *Wildlife of Aotearoa* was published in October 2019. It won a Storylines Notable Non-Fiction Award and the 2020 NZ Booklover Awards Best Children's Book, and was a finalist for the 2020 Russell Clark Award for Illustration. Author Photo Credit: © Penguin Random House New Zealand





COASTWATCHER

David Hill

August 2021

Puffin New Zealand

Format – 272pp – 198mm x 128mm

Rights Held: World

No training could have prepared Frank for a dangerous coastwatching mission in this tense, exciting war novel for middle graders.

Award-winning David Hill's exciting World War 2 novel for tweens and teens inspired by the coastwatchers of Operation Pacific.

It's 1943 and 19-year-old radio operator Frank Benson is shipped out to the enemy-occupied Solomon Islands to become a coastwatcher. Equipped with a wireless set and two companions, radio assistant Wally and Les, a gruff but experienced soldier, his mission is to keep tabs on the enemy and transmit coded information back to HQ.

In the dense jungle the men meet a young Solomon Islander. A'ata says he has something vital to show them. Frank's instincts are to trust him, but Les disagrees. What if it's a trap to deliver them to the enemy?

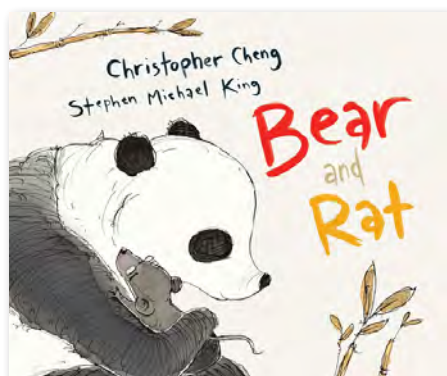
No training could have prepared Frank for this – and their survival depends on his next decision.

Sales Points

- A tense and exciting novel for readers 10–14 years about the coastwatchers of Operation Pacific during the Second World War, sure to please fans of military novels and the most reluctant reader.
- The coastwatchers were hidden on Pacific islands to observe and report on enemy movements. It was a highly dangerous job – if caught, they were tortured and executed. In 1942 New Zealand tragically lost 17 coastwatchers and five civilians, beheaded at Tarawa, Gilbert Is (now Kiribas).
- The award-winning and beloved David Hill never disappoints his audience – the novel has real depth and tension but never lets up the pace and there's plenty of lighter moments and funny banter between the men.
- Taking place close to and just following the battle of Guadalcanal, the characters and action are all fictitious and the text is suitable for younger readers. The novel includes extra contextual information including map, a Morse Code key, a glossary and the author's historical note.
- Fascinating insights into wartime in New Zealand. The codes and messaging used during the war, and intriguing true historical details such as the enemy soldier who joined a New Zealand supper queue.



DAVID HILL is one of the best-loved children's authors living and writing in New Zealand today. His novels for young people range widely and have that rare balance of fast pace, humour and character authenticity that reels in the most reluctant readers. His work has been published all around the world, translated into many languages and has won major awards here and overseas. In 2004 David was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit and in 2005 he was awarded the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal for his significant contribution to children's literature. He is a regular book reviewer and commentator for Radio NZ and The Listener. He was President of Honour of the NZSA 2019–2020. Author Photo Credit: © Robert Cross



BEAR AND RAT

Christopher Cheng and Stephen Michael King (Illustrator)

May 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 230mm x 280mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Germany (Penguin Random House), Israel (Tchelet Books), Brazil (Saber e Ler)

A powerful and uplifting story about true loving friendship, even through the hardest of times.

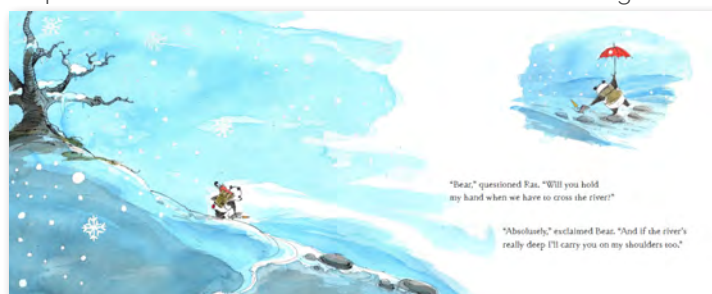
Bear and Rat are the best of friends who do everything together, but Rat wonders if Bear will always be there to hold his hand, no matter what happens.

A note from the Rights Team

At its heart, *Bear and Rat* is a love letter. Christopher Cheng's text speaks to children about the power of love and friendship, even throughout the hardest of times. It is a book to be savoured and treasured. You will read the pages more than once, (most likely, you will cry), and you will feel uplifted and hold your friends and all loved ones close. We love the friendship between bear and rat and how they pledge to stay by each-others side . . . no matter what may come.

Sales Points

- *One Tree* has received exceptional reviews since its release and is sure to have long ongoing backlist sales. Christopher brings a sensitivity to this story.
- Christopher Cheng has been the Federal Literacy Ambassador, Ambassador for the National Year of Reading, and Co-regional Advisor of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.
- Stephen Michael King is highly loved and respected as a picture book illustrator and author in his own right.



CHRISTOPHER CHENG is an award-winning children's author who writes fiction and non-fiction full time, conducts workshops and visits schools. He has a Masters of Arts in Children's Literature and is Co-Chair of the International Advisory Board for the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). His picture book, *One Tree*, illustrated by Bruce Whatley, was shortlisted for the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the 2020 Environment Award for Children's Literature. *Bear and Rat* is a loving tribute to Christopher's late wife, Bini.

Author Photo Credit: © Daniel Woo



STEPHEN MICHAEL KING is an internationally renowned, award-winning author and illustrator whose career has spanned over thirty years, producing more than one hundred titles. He has worked with a stable of Australia's best children's book authors including Glenda Millard, Margaret Wild, Nick Bland, Peter Carey and Tim Winton. Books that Stephen Michael King has written and illustrated include; *Three*; *Rainbow Bear*; *Mutt Dog!*; *Leaf*; and *Milli, Jack and the Dancing Cat*. His books have been translated into over twenty languages, and he is frequently honoured in children's book award categories –including winning the CBCA Book of the Year, and the Prime Ministers Literary Award.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Stephen Michael King



MY ELEPHANT IS BLUE

Melinda Szymanik and Vasanti Unka (Illustrator)

May 2021

Puffin New Zealand

Format – 32pp – 285mm x 240mm

Rights Held: World

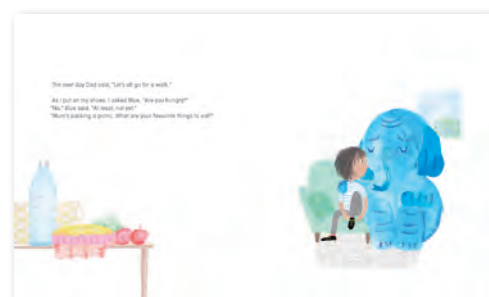
Rights Sold: Germany (Penguin Random House), Italy (Salani Editore), China (Ginko Beijing Book Co)

A sweet and quirky story about a child who is stuck carrying around an elephant, wondering if they will ever feel light and free again . . .

A story full of humour and heart about having the blues, in the form of a big heavy elephant.

*One day an elephant came and sat on my chest.
I found it hard to get up or move around, to breathe or talk.*

*"I'm Blue," the elephant said.
"Can you please move, Blue?" I asked.
"I don't want to move. This is a good spot for me to sit."
"You're crushing me," I said.
"Yet I find you very comfortable," said Blue.*



Mum read every book about elephants she could get her hands on, while Dad phoned an elephant specialist someone recommended. They all tried pushing, and pulling, and persuading. But would anyone – or anything – be able to shift Blue?

Warm, empathetic, hopeful and often funny, with the ability to be read on different levels, *My Elephant is Blue* is the perfect story to help children explore and understand the experience of living under the weight of a big sadness.



MELINDA SZYMANIK writes picture books, short stories and novels for children and young adults. She has been a finalist for a number of awards, and five of her titles are Storylines Notable Books. Her picture book, *The Were-Nana*, won the New Zealand Post Children's Choice Award in 2009, and was shortlisted for the 2010 Sakura Medal. Her novel, *A Winter's Day in 1939*, won Librarian's Choice at the 2014 LIANZA Awards and her picture book *Fuzzy Doodle*, was a 2017 White Raven Selection. She lives in Auckland with her family, and loves watching movies, eating out with her favourite people, and travelling abroad when the stars are aligned. She strongly believes that you can never have too many books, and you can never be too kind. Author Photo Credit: © Melinda Szymanik



VASANTI UNKA is an award-winning writer, designer and illustrator noted for the originality of her storytelling, her riotously colourful and inventive illustrations and the gorgeous design and production of her picture books. She illustrated *Hill & Hole* by Kyle Mewburn (Puffin 2010), and wrote and illustrated the *The Boring Book* (Puffin 2013), *Stripes! No, Spots!* (Puffin 2015), *Who Stole the Rainbow?* (Puffin 2018) and *I Am the Universe* (Puffin 2020). These books won or were shortlisted for major awards in New Zealand and overseas, and have been translated into several languages. Vasanti lives in Auckland, New Zealand, where she juggles creative work and numerous book projects. Illustrator Photo Credit: © Ahnand Unka



BLUE FLOWER

Sonya Hartnett and Gabriel Evans (Illustrator)

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 36pp – 230mm x 290mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Italy (Rizzoli), Japan (Dowaya), Korea (KLR), Sweden (Atrium Forlag)

A beautifully told picture book about self-esteem, resilience and the discovery that being different can be something wonderful.

From award-winning author Sonya Hartnett, with stunning illustrations by Gabriel Evans.

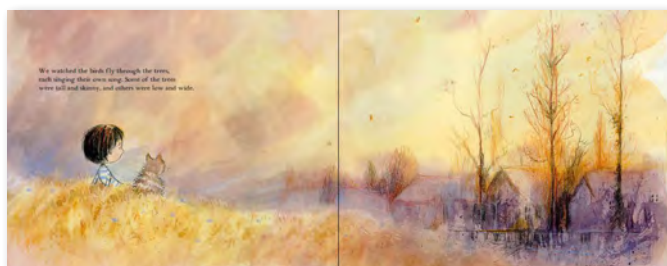
A young child describes her qualms about going to school and how hard she finds asking the teacher for help, how she feels shy about making friends, not being funny or a fast runner. But through her love of art, a conversation with her mother and her observations about nature she comes to see that being different might not be a bad thing after all.

A gentle exploration of a child's realisation that it is her individual differences and creativity that make her special, with stunning illustrations by the talented Gabriel Evans that delicately and sensitively convey the child's emotional journey.

Praise for *Blue Flower*

'Hartnett is a superbly lyrical writer and when she bends her considerable talent to picture books the effect is especially delightful. Gabriel Evans does a masterful job with his whimsical illustrations and soft muted palette. *Blue Flower* is a gift to those children who feel different: the quiet, thoughtful children who yearn to understand themselves and the world around them, and chafe against the established structures of a daily school routine. It is a magical accomplishment from one of our finest writers, and highly recommended for ages 4+.'

- Tye Cattanach, Bookseller, *Readings Kids*



SONYA HARTNETT'S work has won numerous Australian and international literary prizes and has been published around the world. Uniquely, she is acclaimed for her stories for adults, young adults and children. Her accolades include the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (*Of A Boy*), The Age Book of the Year (*Of A Boy*), the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize (*Thursday's Child*), the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year for both Older and Younger Readers (*Forest*, *The Silver Donkey*, *The Ghost's Child*, *The Midnight Zoo* and *The Children of the King*), the Victorian Premier's Literary Award (*Surrender*), shortlistings for the Miles Franklin Award (for both *Of a Boy* and *Butterfly*) and the CILP Carnegie Medal (*The Midnight Zoo*). Hartnett is also the first Australian recipient of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (2008). *Golden Boys*, Sonya's third novel for adults, was shortlisted for the 2015 Miles Franklin Literary Award. Author Photo Credit: © Greg Bayer

GABRIEL EVANS is a children's book author and illustrator. Working primarily in watercolour and pencil, he creates books from a small studio near a river, surrounded by oak trees. His books are published internationally and have been translated into three languages. Illustrator Photo Credit: © Gabriel Evans



DON'T FORGET

Jane Godwin and Anna Walker (Illustrator)

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 253mm x 245mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Germany (Carlsen Verlag), Portugal (Penguin Random House), Taiwan (China Times), Korea (Kidari), China (Ginkgo (Shanghai) Book Co)

A timely and uplifting picture book for 5+, reflecting on what's important for each of us to remember, from the creative team that brought us *All Through the Year* and *Today We Have No Plans*.

*Don't forget to make your bed,
and wear socks that fit your feet . . .
Don't forget to care, to play,
To run, to laugh . . .*

Sometimes, we need to remember all the things we can do to be part of the world. Small things, like offering a smile. And bigger things, like hoping, dreaming, imagining. . .

Awards for Jane Godwin and Anna Walker

Notable – Picture Book – CBCA Book of the Year Awards (2019)

Shortlisted – 5–8 Year Olds – Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards (2019)

Shortlisted – Picture Story Books – REAL Children's Choice Awards (2019)

Shortlisted – Picture Book – Panda Children's Choice Awards (China – 2019)

Shortlisted – Children's Book – Queensland Literary Awards (2018)

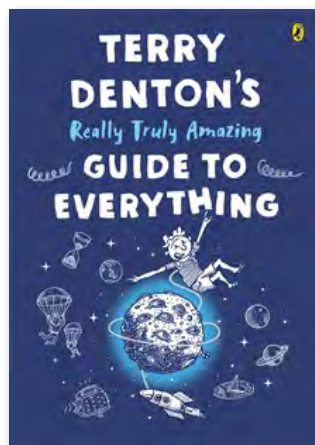
Longlisted – Children's Book of the Year Award – Australian Book Industry Awards (2019)



JANE GODWIN is the highly acclaimed author of over twenty-five books for children, across all styles and ages. Her work is published internationally and she has received many commendations, including the Queensland Premier's Award (Children's Books), the Aurealis Award and the Animal Welfare Award, and shortlistings in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, the Prime Minister's Literary Award, the New South Wales State Literary Award (Patricia Wrightson Prize) the YABBA Awards, the Speech Pathology Awards, The Family Award for Children's Books, and the Australian Book Industry Awards. For many years Jane was a publisher of children's books at Penguin Australia. Author Photo Credit: © Lillie Thompson



ANNA WALKER writes and illustrates children's books and is based in Melbourne, though has had to relocate from her beautiful shared studio to her new space in isolation at home. Working with pencil, ink and collage, Anna develops her characters and enjoys spending time with them before they venture out into the world. Her illustrations are inspired by the everyday details of life, now more than ever with the events we're all experiencing.. Anna's latest book with Penguin, *Hello Jimmy*, will be published in October 2020. Her last wonderful collaboration with Jane Godwin was *Go Go and the Silver Shoes* in 2018. Illustrator Photo Credit: © Olga Bennett



TERRY DENTON'S REALLY TRULY AMAZING GUIDE TO EVERYTHING

Terry Denton

November 2020

Puffin

Hardback – 192pp (219mm x 153mm)

Rights Held: World

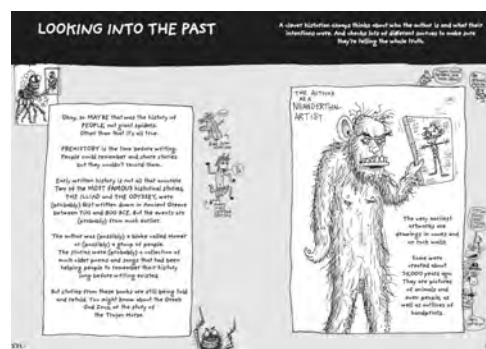
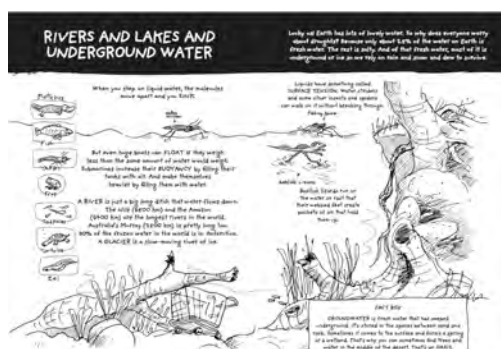
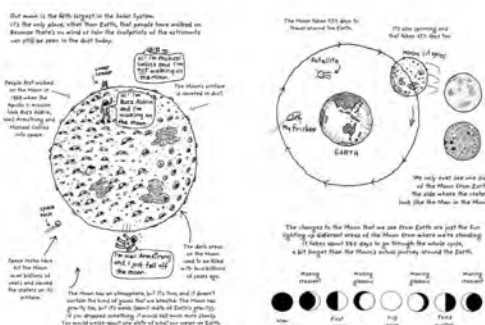
Rights Sold: United Kingdom (Pan Macmillan), The Netherlands (Lannoo), Norway (Fontini), Italy (DeA Planeta), Korea (Byesloop), Turkey (Epsilon), China (Beijing Tianlue), Poland (Zsyk I S-KA Wydawnictwo Tadeusz Zsyk), Sweden (Alfabet Publishers)

A mini book of facts packed with maximum humour!

Terry Denton talks you through all you need to know about Earth, Life, the Universe and EVERYTHING (almost).

Terry Denton loves EVERYTHING to do with science and the world around us, and kids EVERYWHERE love Terry Denton. Sure to engage anyone from the ages of 8 to 80 (and beyond), this is a funny, fascinating whistle-stop tour of the history of the universe, the planets and the moons, the history of life on Earth, the ins and outs of geography, geology and the weather, how life evolved and how it works, and how people use the forces of nature around us to create amazing things. There's even a chapter on time! Get ready to laugh and be amazed with Professor Terry.

A hugely engaging, highly illustrated mini-encyclopaedia from the best-selling co-creator of the Treehouse series.



TERRY DENTON has been creating children's books for over 30 years. He has worked with many of Australia's top authors, written much-loved picture books and junior fiction novels, won more than 40 children's choice awards and been shortlisted many times in the Children's Book Council of Australia awards. His *Felix and Alexander* won Picture Book of the Year in 1986. His books include *The Upside-down History of Downunder* with Alison Lloyd, *Moonwalkers* with Mark Greenwood and *The Worm Who Knew Karate* with Jill Lever, as well as the Gasp! books and the animated TV series, and the world-famous Just! books and Treehouse series with Andy Griffiths. His work is characterised by a devious sense of humour, an adventurous and inventive drawing style and an informed flair for what interests and amuses kids. Author Photo Credit: © James Penlidis Photography



THE ADVENTURES OF MITTENS: WELLINGTON'S FAMOUS PURR-SONALITY

Silvio Bruinsma and Phoebe Morris (Illustrator)

August 2021

Picture Puffin

Format – 32pp – 285mm x 240mm

Rights Held: World

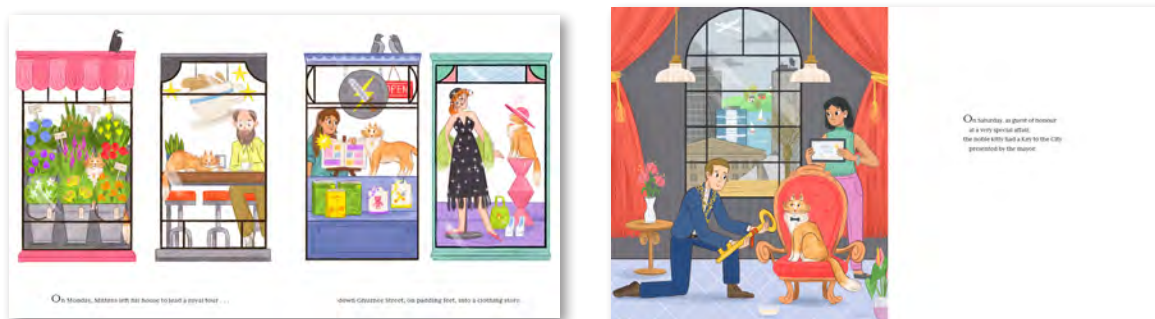
Meet Mittens, Wellington's world-famous cat-about-town. He has thousands of followers, an exhibition of fan art, and with his exploring paws he brings joy to everyone he meets!

Have you met Mittens? If not, it's only a matter of time.

Mittens is the most famous cat ever to parade the streets of Wellington with his noble nose and fabulously fluffy tail in the air. Mittens is on a mission to leave no corner of the CBD unexplored, no passerby unsmooched, no business, school or residence uninspected. He naps in shop windows, hails cars, crosses busy roads on the green light and, like any self-respecting cat, he lives for attention – but only when he's in the mood for it.

The Turkish Angora caught the the attention of the world when, just by being his inquisitive and charming self, his antics cheered up Wellingtonians during the 2020 lockdown. Wellington's mayor awarded Mittens a Key to the City and HRF (His Royal Floofiness) was even nominated for New Zealander of the Year!

Read all about Mittens' adventures around the capital city in this delightful rhyming story by Silvio Bruinsma, Mittens's guardian, with exuberant illustrations by the acclaimed illustrator Phoebe Morris.



SILVIO BRUINSMA could never have imagined the path he had stepped onto when he convinced his wife Sarah to adopt a cheeky and playful Turkish angora kitten. Mittens' penchant for exploring soon emerged, and Silvio realised that being his guardian meant calls at random times of day and night to go out and collect him. When the Bruinsmas moved to New Zealand's capital city, Mittens' habitual wanderings suddenly gained a high profile. A Facebook page set up by the local SPCA, 'The Wondrous Adventures of Mittens', has grown to more than 67,000 members, there's been an exhibition of fan art, a sellout line of Mittens merch.

PHOEBE MORRIS is most known for her bestselling biographies of famous New Zealanders, collaborations with author David Hill. She is also the illustrator of the Frankie Potts series by Juliet Jacka and the Charlie Tangaroa series by Tania Roxborough, and was invited to exhibit her work at Parliament in an exhibition for up-and-coming women artists. In 2018 Phoebe was a finalist for the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults' Russell Clark Award for Illustration. Illustration Photo Credit: © Phoebe Morris



ENDANGERED ANIMAL TALES 1: COCO, THE FISH WITH HANDS

Aleesah Darlison

Book 1 – June 2021 / Book 2 – September 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 240mm x 240mm

Rights Held: World



Meet some of Australia's cutest and most vulnerable wildlife in the Engdangered Animal Tales picture book series!

Book 1 – *Coco, the Fish with Hands*

Coco is a sweet, tiny fish . . . with hands!

Come on a journey with Coco the spotted handfish as she searches for a mate and looks for a safe place to hatch her eggs.

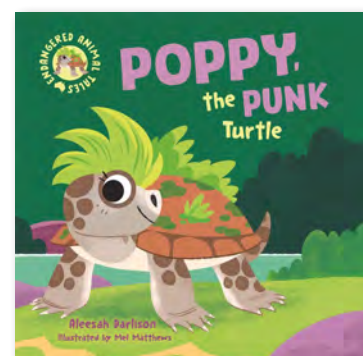
Go, Coco!

Book 2 – *Poppy, the Punk Turtle*

Poppy is one groovy turtle!

Join Poppy the Mary River turtle on an adventure to find a new waterhole to call home.

Plip! Plop! Parp!

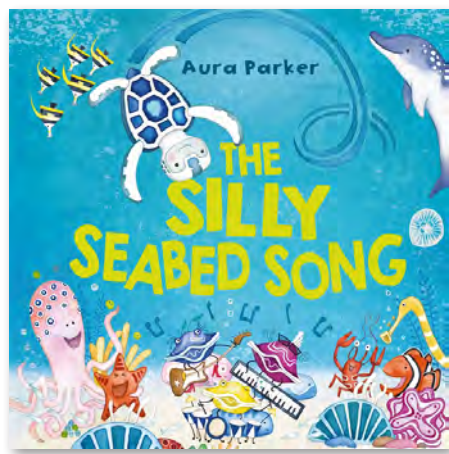


Sales Points

- A multi-book series highlighting endangered Australian animals.
- Great read aloud with a mix of narrative text, first person dialogue from the animal and accessible facts.
- Spotted handfish are super rare (in fact one species was recently declared extinct) and are only found in Tasmania. Mary River turtles are only found in south eastern Queensland.
- Strong education focus on the hot topic of conserving our environment coupled with highly commercial art and a quirky character for wide appeal.
- Recent insights reports have repeatedly mentioned interest in endangered and unique Australian animals.
- The animals in the four-book series are the spotted handfish, Mary River turtle, Gouldian finch and the brush-tailed bettong (woylie).
- Author Aleesah Darlison won the 2021 Sunshine Coast Australia Day Creative Award.



ALEESAH DARLISON is a multi-published, award-winning Australian children's author. She has written over fifty books for children including picture books, chapter books, novels, and series. In January 2021, Aleesah received an Australia Day Award from the Sunshine Coast Council. Aleesah has also won numerous awards for her writing including the 2015 Environment Award for Children's Literature (*Our Class Tiger* – Non-Fiction) and an Australian Society of Authors (ASA) Mentorship. Her picture book, *Warambi*, was a 2012 CBCA Notable Book and was shortlisted for the Eve Pownall Award and the Environment Award. Her picture book, *Emerald: The Green Turtle's Tale* was shortlisted for the 2018 Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. Author Photo Credit: © Aleesah Darlison



THE SILLY SEABED SONG

Aura Parker

June 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 254mm x 254mm

Rights Held: World

From the award-winning author-illustrator of the delightful *Meerkat Splash* and *Goodnight, Glow Worms*, comes another bedtime story for the very young, brimming with bouncing rhyme and the playful riddle of a backwards poem.

The Rock Oysters sing the Silly Seabed Song to help send the sea creatures to sleep, but the crazy words are too much fun and it just makes them all laugh instead! Little Turtle Hatchling Fred just wants to rest his head, but how will he ever get to sleep?

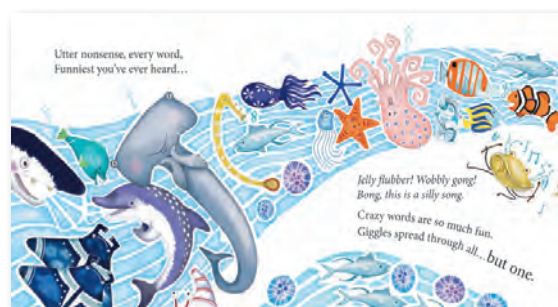
Way down deep, under the sea,
Can you hear it? Can it be?
Jelly flubber! Wobbly gong!
It's the Silly Seabed Song!

From the author

'I can remember being very small, cuddled up and entranced by a voice reading just for me. Story time is a special time to be captivated by the sweet sounds of the language and soaring joy that the suspense of a good story can bring. My books feature imaginary worlds based on relatable early childhood experiences such as bath time, bedtime and playtime, adding just the right amount of drama and pace for a little one, without talking down to them. I want the child to be drawn into the book, not out, because when text and image are of quality and cadence it enchants you, and leaves you wanting more!

I have always thought you could sing these books. *The Silly Seabed Song* is not only an ode to playing with language and the joy of the spoken word but a feast of colour inspired by the beauty of our fragile natural world drawn through the filter of my imagination and illustration style. *Goodnight Glow Worms* is a lullaby of rhythm and beat extended with sweet illustrations and gentle humour. *Meerkat Splash* is all about colours and fun with just enough alliteration, rhyme and repetition to make it catchy, but not drive you crazy to read over and over.

Designed to be read aloud, with words carefully chosen to charm and delight, these stories give kids an uplifting reading experience to help make future readers and learners by equipping them with language to explore the world when the time comes for it to open up.'



AURA PARKER is an illustrator, writer and designer who creates delightful picture books, prints and textiles. Her work is joyful, imaginative, and brimming with details to explore. Aura Parker's storytelling through words and pictures inspires imagination, courage and confidence in young readers. Aura works in traditional and digital techniques including watercolour, gouache, pen and coloured pencil. She works from a studio in Sydney. Author Photo Credit: ©



STOP THE DAD JOKES!

Adrian Beck and Simon Greiner (Illustrator)

July 2021

Puffin

Format – 24pp – 254mm x 254mm

Rights Held: World

A new picture book from funny guy Adrian Beck that will have the whole family laughing.

Warning: Do not show this book to dads!

This book is full of DAD JOKES that are embarrassing, goofy and NOT FUNNY! A trip to the zoo with Dad means seeing lots of animals . . . and hearing plenty of dad jokes too! A hilarious story by Adrian Beck (a dad) illustrated by Simon Greiner (another dad).

The perfect read-aloud story!

Sales Points

- The perfect gift for Father's Day, or for anyone who has ever told or heard a (bad) dad joke!
- Humorous illustrations by Simon Greiner who has illustrated titles such as *League of Llamas*, *The Short and Curly Guide to Life* and *Reagle Beagle*.
- For fans of picture books by Aaron Blabey, Matt Cosgrove, Andy Lee and Zoë Foster Blake.



Rough Internals



Rough Internals



ADRIAN BECK writes funny, action-packed stories for kids. He is the author of the Derek Dool series, the Champion Charlies series, the Alien Zoo series and the co-author of the Little Legends series with Nicole Hayes, plus the Kick it to Nick series with AFL hall-of-famer Shane Crawford. Together with Sally Rippin, Adrian edited the *Total Quack Up!* and *Total Quack Up Again!* collections of short stories to raise money for Dymocks Children's Charities. As well as being an author, Adrian is a TV producer and a lover of very bad dad jokes. Adrian draws on his showbiz roots to create engaging, interactive school presentations and is passionate about fostering a love of reading among the next generation.

Author Photo Credit: © Adrian Beck

SIMON GREINER is an illustrator who lives in Sydney, Australia, with his beautiful wife and two boys. His work has appeared all over the place, including the front cover of the New Yorker magazine, as well as the kids' books *Regal Beagle*, *The Short & Curly Guide to Life* and the *League of Llamas* series.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Bree Bain Photography



HELLO AND WELCOME

Gregg Dreise

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 285mm x 200mm

Rights Held: World

**Feel the welcome as we celebrate Indigenous culture, Elders and future generations.
Join the corroboree in the traditional Gamilaraay language of the Kamilaroi people
as we listen and learn together.**

A wonderful companion to Gregg Dreise's highly acclaimed *My Culture and Me*, this joyful picture book celebrates Australia's Indigenous heritage and the diversity we enjoy today.

*Hello and welcome to our corroboree.
Hello and welcome to our gathering.
Father Sky, Mother Earth, together here with me.
Different colours, different people, together in harmony.*

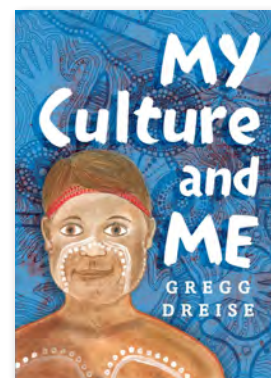
Sales Points

- Within a school setting, join a corroboree that celebrates Indigenous Elders, teaches respect and welcomes everyone to a joyful gathering.
- Gregg performs this piece as a song, with actions that are also featured in the book so everyone can join in the corroboree.
- Wonderful companion to Gregg Dreise's picture book *My Culture and Me*, winner of Speech Pathology Book of the Year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Authored Children's Book Award 2020.

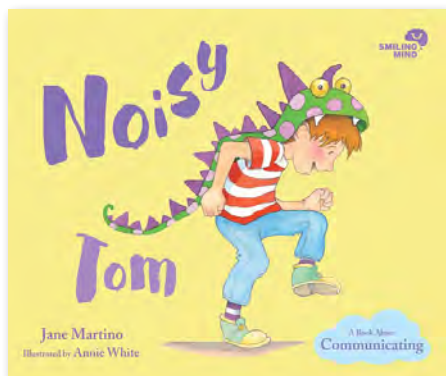
Praise for *My Culture and Me*

'This beautiful picture book presents the voice of an Indigenous child relating the importance of knowing and living your culture . . . This book is perfect for Indigenous children who are finding their place in the revitalisation of Indigenous culture around Australia, and will also appeal to primary school aged children learning about Indigenous culture – Indigenous dance, music, instruments, spirituality, and connection to Country are all featured.' – *Books + Publishing*

'Beautifully written and illustrated, *My Culture and Me* is a heartfelt and stirring story of cherishing and sustaining Indigenous cultures, although there is relevance and applicability to all cultures whatever they may be, especially if the message of his dedication is read in its broadest terms . . . An important addition to your indigenous literature collection and curriculum.' – *thebottomshelf*



GREGG DREISE grew up in south-west Queensland in a large family that loves music, art, sport, culture and family. He is very proud of his Kamilaroi and Euahlayi heritage. The Kamilaroi and Euahlayi peoples' lands extend from south-west Queensland into north-west New South Wales. Culture, music and storytelling have run through his family's blood since time began. Gregg is a talented storyteller who uses didgeridoos, guitars, laughter and high-energy performances to pass on culture, unity and wisdom through his educational talks. He is on a journey to get right around Australia to share his stories and learn more about the ancient and diverse histories and cultures of this beautiful country. He is fully aware that all of our cultural roots help strengthen the assortment of unique and proud Australians that we all become. Author Photo Credit: © Penguin Random House Australia



SMILING MIND SERIES

Jane Martino and Annie White (Illustrator)

Book 3 – March 2021 / Book 4 – July 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 220mm x 283mm

Rights Held: World

Book 3 – *Noisy Tom: A Book About Communicating*

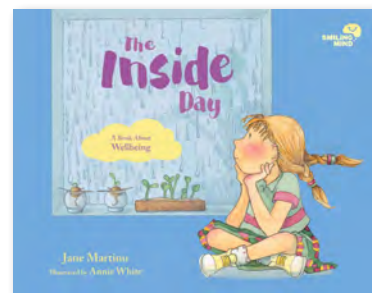
Tom is loud. Everything he does makes noise. At the park, Tom discovers different people have different ways of playing – loud and quiet, fast and slow. Tom tries out all the different ways, but realises there's only one way to show his feelings . . . his way.

This fun story celebrates all the different ways that people communicate their feelings.

Book 4 – *The Inside Day: A Book About Wellbeing*

Milly and her friends love being outside – it helps them to be at their best and to feel sunny on the inside – but a rainy day ruins their outdoor play. Will they be able to find ways to be at their best inside their classroom and to feel at their best inside themselves?

This gorgeous picture book shows how being present in the moment encourages and strengthens healthy bodies and minds.



BOOK 5
COMING
SEPTEMBER
2021



JANE MARTINO is a published author with her series of six Thank You books, a book entitled *Mindfulness Made Easy* and a five-book picture book series in partnership with Smiling Mind. Martino is also chair and co-founder of the globally recognised tech-based not-for-profit Smiling Mind, that delivers freely accessible preventative mental health tools. Smiling Mind has over 5.9 million people using its free mindfulness app. Their award winning education tools are also utilised by over a third of teachers across Australia each day. Jane Martino has built multiple organisations to successful exit across the marketing, media and digital sectors. As well as delivering strong outcomes for shareholders, she focuses on building high performing teams, knowing that the key to growing successful businesses is growing their people. Author Photo Credit: © Jane Martino



ANNIE WHITE illustrates for children from her studio in Melbourne, Australia. Back in the day, she worked in Advertising, but for many years she has been involved in the children's book industry. Annie has illustrated over 60 books for children with some on the CBCA Notable list, a couple on the Speech Pathology Awards short list and one on the Prime Minister's Literary Awards short list. Watercolour, pencil and oils are some of the materials she uses in her illustration and recently she has ventured into the digital realm. Illustrator Photo Credit: © Graham White



I'M READY SERIES

Illustrated by Jedda Robaard

March 2020 / December 2020

Puffin Australia

Board Book – 14pp (189mm x 189mm)

Rights Held: World

About the I'm Ready Series

The I'm Ready series is a collection of fun, bright board books about exciting milestones and events in many children's lives. These gorgeous board books are designed as handy explainers for children that parents can trust, with a look the whole family will love.

The I'm Ready series serves as a stepping stone between first concept books (numbers, alphabet, colours, animals, etc) and longer narrative picture books. They are ideal for children ages 3 to 4.

The series is illustrated by Jedda Robaard, a beloved author and illustrator. These gorgeous books will win over parents and children alike with Jedda's adorable illustrations. The books are about key experiences in a child's life, whether it's feeling anxious about starting preschool or getting ready to celebrate with family.

I'm Ready for the New Baby

I'm getting ready to meet someone new . . .

This charming story explores the jittery anticipation of a new baby in the family.

I'm Ready for Easter

I'm getting ready for a special holiday . . .

This gorgeous story explores the exciting lead-up to Easter.

I'm Ready for My Birthday

I'm getting ready for a very special day . . .

This stunning story shows the exhilaration and anticipation of celebrating a birthday.

I'm Ready for Swimming

I'm getting ready to learn how to swim . . .

This adorable story describes the heartening apprehension and elation of beginning swimming lessons.



JEDDA ROBAARD grew up in a small town on the island of Tasmania and now lives on the coast of Victoria with her husband, children and a variety of pets. Jedda trained as a graphic designer, the manual cut and paste way, and ran children's art and craft workshops for many years. The interaction with her young students, a passion for her craft as well as family life and a discerning eye for the innocuous but evocative little moments in life all contribute to her page-turning, whimsical and imaginative illustrations and stories for children. Jedda's books have been published in many languages including English, French, Dutch, Greek, Italian, Korean and Chinese.

Author Photo Credit: © Xavier Castagne



TRAIN PARTY

Karen Blair

July 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 248mm x 248mm

Rights Held: World English Language

All aboard the train party!

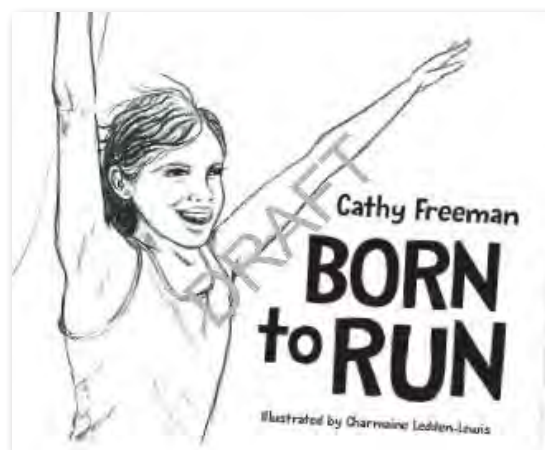
This delightful rhyming picture book captures all the fun of a preschooler's train-themed birthday party at a miniature railway park.

*Red, blue and green,
yellow and black.
Here come the trains!
Clickety-clack.*

Sales Points

- This is such a gorgeous picture book for preschoolers! It has fun, rhyming text that mirrors the rhythm of a train beautifully, as well as an appealing and timeless subject (trains!) with huge appeal to train-loving toddlers. It is a delight from start to finish with bright vivid illustrations that tell a story in their own right of diverse families and all of the train birthday picnic fun captured beautifully. Karen's artwork is a pure joy to behold!
- Miniature railways as a fun and much-loved outing has enduring appeal and they are located all round the country. Karen Blair beautifully depicts the everyday diversity of families at these parks.

KAREN BLAIR grew up in Perth, Western Australia. She loves to illustrate the joys and adventures of childhood. She lives in Fremantle with her husband and two children and works part-time as a primary-school art teacher. Her characters are often inspired by her students and her own children. Her award-winning books include *Something Wonderful* and *Hello From Nowhere*, by Raewyn Caisley; *With Nan*, by Tania Cox; *Granny Grommet and Me* by Dianne Wolfer; *Me and You* by Deborah Kelly; *Baby Beats*, *Baby Animal Farm* and the *Lemonade Jones* series with Davina Bell, creator of the internationally best-selling *All the Ways to Be Smart* and *Under My Love Umbrella*.



BORN TO RUN (PICTURE BOOK EDITION)

Cathy Freeman and
Charmaine Ledden-Lewis (Illustrator)

August 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

A gorgeous picture book that will inspire girls and boys everywhere to chase their dreams.

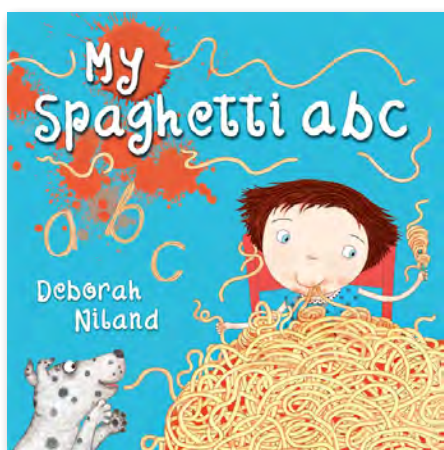
As a little girl, Cathy Freeman had only had one dream – to win a gold medal at the Olympics. At twenty-seven years old, that dream came true. At the Sydney 2000 Games, she crossed the finish line, won a gold medal for Australia and became a national hero.

How did she go from being a little girl who loved to run to an inspiration to people around the world?

Accompanied by beautiful illustrations by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, Cathy tells her story about where self belief, hard work and the power of a loving family can take you.

CATHY FREEMAN won her first race in primary school – the 80m dash at St Joseph's Primary, Mackay, Queensland. She went on to become Australia's leading athlete of the modern era. Her unforgettable win at the 2000 Sydney Olympics was the highlight of a brilliant career that has included a host of Commonwealth Games medals, two world titles and an Olympic silver medal. Cathy announced her retirement from athletics in July 2003. She founded the Cathy Freeman Foundation in 2007. The Foundation supports Indigenous students to fulfil their potential and reach their goals. Cathy lives in Melbourne, Victoria, with her family.

CHARMAINE LEDDEN-LEWIS is a Blue Mountains artist, and descendant of the Bundjalung people on the Clarence River in Northern NSW. She was the recipient of the Kestin Indigenous Illustrator award in 2019. The beautiful and moving illustrations for her first picture book *Found* (with author Bruce Pascoe) reflect her own family's experience of the Stolen Generation. She lives in the Blue Mountains in NSW with her family.



MY SPAGHETTI ABC

Deborah Niland

February 2021

Picture Puffin

Format – 36pp – 248mm x 248mm

Rights Held: World

A delicious rhyming picture book that celebrates the delight of eating messy spaghetti, from award-winning author and illustrator Deborah Niland.

*I love spaghetti with heaps of sauce
and always make a mess, of course!*

*I use my fork, my spoon, my hands.
It's so much fun to twirl the strands!*

Discover the squishy world of spaghetti, where learning the alphabet has never been more fun . . . or more tasty!

My Spaghetti ABC is the perfect book for spaghetti lovers of all ages.



DEBORAH NILAND has been drawing and painting all her life. She has painted for art exhibitions and galleries, and illustrated for newspapers and magazines. Most of all, she has built a successful career illustrating children's books. Some well-known and popular titles include *Mulga Bill's Bicycle*, *When The Wind Changed*, *There's a Hippopotamus On Our Roof Eating Cake* and *Chatterbox*.



MOONLIGHT MUMS

Laura Stitzel

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 24pp – 241mm x 241mm

Rights Held: World

Mums can be busy . . . but they'll always be home to kiss you goodnight!

*Mums, with many things to do
All miss their little ones like you.
But every night, the moon shines bright
And guides them home to say goodnight.*

A heartwarming hug of a bedtime story for every family with a busy mum.

Sales Points

- Bedtime stories are good for developing brains! Parents or caregivers reading stories at bedtime helps children to improve their language and logic skills and improve their vocabulary.
- Studies have shown that a bedtime ritual for young children reduces anxiety and improves sleep.
- A beautiful and gentle bedtime story with soothing text that is the perfect prelude to sleep, and helps explain to little ones that, while Mum might not be there at bedtime, her presence and love is very real and right there.

LAURA STITZEL is an independent artist in Melbourne, Australia. She has been working as an illustrator, animator and author in Australia and Canada since 2008. Laura is an illustrator of children's books including Elliot Perlman's *The Adventures of Catvinkle* (Penguin Random House), and her own picture books, *Mr Mo Starts to Grow* (Hachette Australia) and *Moonlight Mums* (Penguin Random House). Her art has also appeared in many children's television series over the past decade. She has contributed background art and character animation to programs such as the Emmy Award winning *Peg + Cat*, *Disney's Space Chickens in Space*, Warner Bros' *Ginger Snaps* and the world's longest running children's series, *Arthur*. Laura has also illustrated and animated for a wide range of media including commercials, short films, print media and television series for all ages.



GINGER MEGGS

Tristan Bancks and Jason Chatfield
(Illustrator)

May 2021

Puffin

Format – 192pp – 220mm x 160mm

Rights Held: World

**Four fresh stories to celebrate the one and only
Ginger Meggs!**

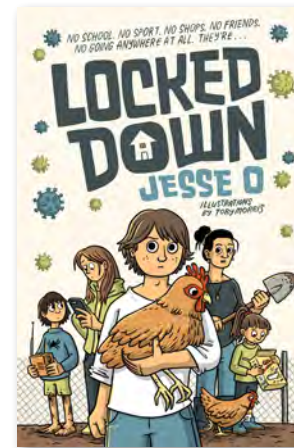
Celebrating 100 years of the iconic character Ginger Meggs.

These four brand new and original stories are written by Tristan Bancks, the great-great nephew of creator Jimmy Bancks.

Illustrated in full colour by the current *Ginger Meggs* comic-strip cartoonist, Jason Chatfield.

TRISTAN BANCKS tells stories for the page and screen. His books for kids and teens include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention*, the Tom Weekly series and *Nit Boy*. His books have won and been shortlisted for many awards, including a Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Book, the Prime Minister's Literary Awards, ABIA, YABBA, KOALA, NSW Premier's Literary Awards and Queensland Literary Awards. His new release for 2021 is *Ginger Meggs*, a 100th anniversary book of brand new short stories based on characters created by his great-great uncle, Jimmy Bancks, in 1921.

JASON CHATFIELD is a cartoonist and illustrator based in New York. His work has been published in magazines and online, and in books published by Penguin Random House and Harper Collins. He is a past President of the Australian Cartoonists Association (Est. 1924) and the current President of the National Cartoonists' Society (Est. 1946) and an internationally syndicated cartoonist, writing and drawing the iconic comic strip *Ginger Meggs* which is published daily in 34 countries.



LOCKED DOWN

Jesse O and Toby Morris (Illustrator)

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 256pp – 198mm x 128mm

Rights Held: World

**Jesse O's award-winning novel about a deadly
pandemic and a family in lockdown, rereleased with
all new illustrations by Toby Morris.**

The deadly influenza pandemic XB276 is sweeping the country. Twelve-year-old Zac wakes up one morning to the news that everyone must stay home.

He can't leave the house for weeks, or even months. Pretty soon he's facing running out of food, with no electricity, no telephone and no internet. The only people he can count on are his family and closest neighbours.

As Zac faces each new challenge living under lockdown, he discovers resources he never knew he had – and mysteries begging to be solved.

JESSE O is the pseudonym for award-winning poet and author Jessica le Bas. Her first novel for children, *Staying Home* (Puffin 2010) won a Storylines Notable Junior Fiction Award in 2011. In 2019, she won the prestigious Sarah Broome Poetry Prize for a sequence of poems described by the judge, Toronto Poet Laureate Anne Michaels, as 'alive with detail acutely observed'.

TOBY MORRIS is an award-winning illustrator, comic artist and author of the successful non-fiction comic series *The Side Eye on the Spinoff* and *The Pencilsword* on RNZ. He has written several children's books including *Capsicum*, *Capsi Go*, *The Day The Costumes Stuck*, *Don't Puke On Your Dad* and the graphic novel *Te Tiriti O Waitangi*. In 2020, his animated illustration collaborations with scientist Siouxsie Wiles explaining the Covid-19 pandemic were viewed and shared all over the world, leading to an ongoing gig with the WHO.



A GLASSHOUSE OF STARS

Shirley Marr

May 2021

Puffin

Format – 288pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: ANZ + Translation

Rights Sold: North America (Simon & Schuster),
United Kingdom (Usborne Publishing), China (Beijing
White Horse Time Culture Development Co)

An exquisite, heartbreakingly beautiful gem of a novel for anyone who loved *Wonder*, *Lenny's Book of Everything*, *A Monster Calls* or *When You Reach Me*.

Meixing Lim and her family have arrived at the New House in the New Land, inherited from First Uncle who died tragically and unexpectedly while picking oranges in the backyard. Everything is vast and unknown to Meixing and not in a good way. She is embarrassed by the second-hand shoes given to her by the kind neighbours, has trouble understanding the language at school and with fitting in and making new friends. Her solace is a glasshouse in the garden.

Her fragile universe is rocked when tragedy strikes and Ma Ma refuses to face the world outside. Her parents said this would be a better life for them all, but it feels like the worst and most heart-breaking experience of Meixing's entire existence.

It will take all the resilience and inner belief of this brave girl to turn their world around.

SHIRLEY MARR is a first-generation Chinese-Australian author whose previous young adult novels were published by Waker Books and middle grade by Fremantle Press. She describes herself as having a Western mind and an Eastern heart. She likes to write in the space in the middle where they both collide, basing her stories on her own personal experiences of migration and growing up in Australia, along with the folk and fairy tales from her mother. Arriving in mainland Australia from Christmas Island as a seven-year-old in the 1980s and experiencing the good, the bad and the wonder that comes with culture shock, Shirley has been in love with reading and writing from that early age.



THE GOLDEN TOWER

Belinda Murrell

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 288pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: ANZ + Translation

Rights Sold Previous Series
Lulu Bell: Brazil (Editora Fundamento), Turkey
(Teen Yayincilik Kitapcılık),
South Africa (Penguin Random House)
Pippa's Island: Czech Republic (Albatros Media)

In her wildest dreams, Sophie never thought she might be kidnapped by a cat and taken to a world of flying horses and wonder – but also magic, mystery and danger!

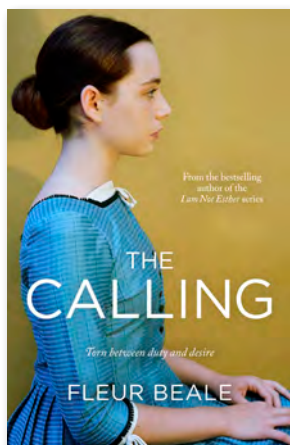
Transported to the land of Tuscia, Sophie accidentally saves the daughter of a wealthy family and is swept along on their journey to the Golden Tower.

Now she is the only one standing between sisters Isabella and Bia and the terrible fate their stepmother has planned.

Sophie doesn't think she is brave enough, but with the help of a talking cat, a stableboy and some very tiny mischief-makers, she might be able to save the day.

BELINDA MURRELL has worked as a travel writer, journalist and public relations consultant. Belinda is an award-winning, internationally published children's author with a history of writing in her family that spans over 200 years. She has written more than 35 books including The Sun Sword trilogy and her time-slip adventures, *The Locket of Dreams*, *The Ruby Talisman*, *The Ivory Rose*, *The Forgotten Pearl*, *The River Charm*, *The Sequin Star*, and *The Lost Sapphire*. For younger readers Belinda has her popular Lulu Bell and Pippa's Island series. Her latest book is *The Golden Tower*, a timeslip/fantasy set in a magical Italian Renaissance inspired world. Belinda is an Author Ambassador for Room to Read and Books in Homes.

ALMOST
500,000
COPIES SOLD
ACROSS ALL
SERIES IN
ANZ



THE CALLING

Fleur Beale

March 2021

Penguin

Format – 384pp (198mm x 128mm)

Rights Held: World

Exploring themes of religion and free will, and set amidst the backdrop of the anti-Catholic sentiment of the late 1890s, *The Calling* is an original and beautiful coming-of-age novel.

In 1891, and with her Catholic mother gravely ill, 12-year-old Molly Conway writes to Mother Mary Joseph Aubert expressing her desire to become a nun.

Her father has reservations, not least that he worries becoming a nun was her mother's dream for her, rather than Molly's own. Nevertheless, he promises to support Molly no matter what she chooses.

Finding her way to Mother Mary, Molly is able to experience what life might be like if she joined the order. Molly quickly adapts as a healer, learning from Mother Mary's knowledge of Maori language and medicines, as well as her friendships with the novices in the order.

Called home to look after her step-mother who has fallen ill, Molly returns to her family and friends still no closer to a decision about where her true calling might lie.

FLEUR BEALE is the author of many award-winning books for children and young adults — she has now had more than 40 books published in New Zealand. She is best known for the award-winning *I Am Not Esther*, published in 1999 and which has never gone out of print. Published internationally, *I Am Not Esther* is featured in the latest edition of *1001 Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up* edited by Julia Eccleshare. In 2012, Beale won the Margaret Mahy Medal for her outstanding contribution to children's writing and in 2015 she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.



LISTEN, LAYLA

Yassmin Abdel-Magied

February 2021

Penguin

Format – 304pp – 198mm x 129mm

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: United Kingdom
(Penguin Random House)

A powerful, funny and timely novel for young readers by writer, broadcaster and award-winning social advocate, Yassmin Abdel-Magied.

Exploring the diaspora experience, race, politics and identity, *Listen, Layla* by Yassmin Abdel-Magied is an own voices novel for young readers, which bursts with passion, humour and truth.

Layla's grandmother in Sudan falls ill and the family rush to be with her. The last time Layla went to Sudan she was only a young child. Now she feels torn between her Sudanese and Australian identities.

As political tensions in Sudan erupt, so too do tensions between Layla and her family.

YASSMIN ABDEL-MAGIED is a Sudanese-Australian writer, broadcaster and award-winning social advocate. Yassmin trained as a mechanical engineer and worked on oil and gas rigs around Australia for years before becoming a writer and broadcaster in 2016. She published her debut memoir, *Yassmin's Story*, with Penguin Random House at age 24, and followed up with her first fiction book for younger readers, *You Must Be Layla*, in 2019. Yassmin's critically acclaimed essays have been published in numerous anthologies, including the *Griffith Review*, the best-selling *It's Not About The Burqa* and *The New Daughters of Africa*. Yassmin founded her first organisation, Youth Without Borders, at the age of 16, leading it for nine years. Since, Yassmin has co-founded two other organisations and now shares her learnings through keynotes and workshops. Yassmin has spoken in over 20 countries on unconscious bias and inclusive leadership.



MEET THE CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING TEAM

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Laura Harris

Publishing Director – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Laura oversees the wonderful children's lists at Penguin Random House Australia. Penguin Random House Young Readers publish every book a child could ever want – at all stages of childhood from very young picture books, to the most sophisticated of Young Adult novels, and everything in between. Critically acclaimed and best-selling authors pepper the lists, including Jeff Kinney, John Flanagan, Jacqueline Harvey, Morris Gleitzman and Mem Fox.

Laura has edited and shaped many of the books on the list over her 21 years with the company including works by Mem Fox, Melina Marchetta, Sonya Hartnett, Morris Gleitzman, Aaron Blabey and Felice Arena, to name but a few. Laura has been a literary judge on many awards, both in Adult and Children's areas, has lectured in Editing and Publishing and has had numerous reviews and articles published. And while often asked, she has checked with her doctor, who assures her she doesn't have a novel in her.



Holly Toohey

Head of Brands, Partnerships and Audio – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Holly Toohey heads up the Brands and Partnerships team in the Penguin Random House Young Readers division. She creates and acquires books and series for young readers of all ages, with a particular focus on licensed brands and in-house creation. Holly is the publisher of the *Bluey* books, which have now sold over 1.5 million copies in Australia. She has the pleasure of working with wonderfully talented fiction authors such as Jacqueline Harvey and R.A. Spratt, and is proud to have worked on bestselling non-fiction titles such as *Shout Out to the Girls*. Holly loves taking a kernel of an idea and working closely with an author, personality or organisation to develop it into an unputdownable book.



Lisa Riley

Publisher – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Lisa enjoys publishing books for young readers across the age range from picture books, commercial junior fiction series through to standalone novels for middle and YA readers. She has worked with many established and debut children's authors and illustrators. Upcoming highlights include working on a range of exciting new picture books, including new works from Astrid Lindgren Award-winner Sonya Hartnett and from Zoë Foster Blake (author of the bestselling *No One Likes a Fart* with sales of more than 100,000 copies).



Zoe Walton

Publisher – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Zoe Walton is the publisher and editor of John Flanagan's *Ranger's Apprentice* and *Brotherband* series, which have now sold more than fifteen million copies worldwide and been on the *New York Times* bestseller charts for 80 weeks. Recent books she's published include the hilarious junior fiction graphic novel series *Super Sidekicks* by Gavin Aung Than, medieval mystery-adventure *The Fire Star* by A.L. Tait, and Nat Amooore's *Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire*, which was Australia's #1 best-selling debut middle grade novel of 2019. Zoe is super excited to have some fabulous books coming up in 2021, including the charming junior fiction series *Little Gem* by Anna Zobel, middle grade fantasy adventure *The Golden Tower* by Belinda Murrell, a breathtaking new YA fantasy novel from #1 YA bestseller Lynette Noni, and *A Glasshouse of Stars*, a gorgeous own-voices story imbued with magical realism from first generation Chinese-Australian author Shirley Marr.



Heather Curdie

Commissioning Editor – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Heather Curdie is a Commissioning Editor for Penguin Random House Young Readers. She works on a wide range of children's books with an emphasis on picture books and middle fiction. While with Penguin, she has been fortunate to work with such great writers and illustrators as Morris Gleitzman, Oliver Phommavanh, Andrew Daddo, Stephen Michael King, Jane Godwin, Anna Walker, Phillip Gywnne and Aaron Blabey. She has nurtured successful new talent such as Lucy Estela, author of the CBCA shortlisted picture book *Suri's Wall*, and Aura Parker, award-winning author of the preschool picture books *Meerkat Splash* and *Goodnight Glow Worms*.



Michelle Madden
Commissioning Editor – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Michelle Madden is a Commissioning Editor for Penguin Random House Young Readers. She works across all genres on books for early childhood through to novels for young adults. As an editor she has worked with some of Australia's finest authors and illustrators, including Felice Arena, Graeme Base, Nick Earls, Mem Fox, Jane Tanner and Alison Lester, as well as on collaborations between book creators and sporting and media stars. She is very proud of her work with up-and-coming authors and illustrators, working on picture books that speak directly to children, illustrated books for young readers that create excitement about stories, as well as entertaining left-of-centre YA and middle fiction.



Amy Thomas
Commissioning Editor – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Amy Thomas is a Commissioning Editor for Penguin Random House Young Readers, and has worked with some of the company's best-loved authors and illustrators. She looks for beautiful writing with warmth and emotional depth: picture books that perfectly explore a child's point of view and sense of wonder; junior and middle fiction with vivid, endearing characters and a welcoming and inclusive world; and powerful novels with emotional impact and writing that soars.



Jessica Owen
Commissioning Editor – Penguin Random House Young Readers

Jess Owen is a Commissioning Editor for Penguin Random House Young Readers. Working across board books, picture books, illustrated and junior fiction as well as young adult fiction, she is particularly interested in engaging new and diverse voices for children. She is always searching for a different kind of book, be it slam poetry, non-fiction or classic picture book storytelling. Jess also manages licence brands such as Diary of a Wimpy Kid in the ANZ territory and is part of the creative team producing best-selling books for the hit Australian TV show *Bluey*. She has worked with comedians, musicians and media stars to create beautiful books that move and entertain kids.



Radhiah Chowdhury
Senior Audio Producer and Commissioning Editor – Penguin Random House Adult and Young Readers

Radhiah Chowdhury has worked as a children's editor with Scholastic Australia, Allen & Unwin and Giramondo, before joining the PRH Australia audio program in 2019. She is currently a commissioning editor in the Young Readers and Adult teams, with a focus on inclusive publishing. Radhiah is also the recipient of the 2019-2020 Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship, awarded for her ongoing research project: 'It's hard to be what you can't see: Diversity Within Australian Publishing'.



Zoe Bechara
Publishing Lead – Brands and Partnerships Young Readers

Zoe is part of the Brands and Partnerships team in the Penguin Random House Young Readers division. She creates and acquires books and series for young readers of all ages, with a focus on new partnerships and trends. With years of publicity experience under her very stylish belt, Zoe has a coalface knowledge of what makes a good story and how to pitch it. Joining the Young Readers team in 2019 she quickly put her understanding of the book market and media landscape to work, initiating the timely project *Hope: 50 Ways to Help Save our Planet Every Day*. Zoe's childhood favourite book is *Hating Alison Ashley*, she loves big newspapers and small coffees, and thinks that small humans are usually the best kind of humans.



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**Claire Murdoch**
Head of Publishing – Penguin Random House New Zealand

As Head of Publishing, Claire Murdoch directs the Penguin Random House New Zealand list across non-fiction, fiction and children's books. With broad experience in the Australian and New Zealand book trade, including roles at Allen & Unwin, Te Papa Press and PRH, her books have won dozens of awards. She has served as a member of the Council of the Publishing Association of NZ, the Victoria University Press advisory board, Whitireia Publishing School and various literary and arts grants panels. Claire has particular expertise in illustrated non-fiction and art books, popular culture, biography and memoir.

**Harriet Allen**
Fiction Publisher – Penguin Random House New Zealand

Harriet Allen has been working for Penguin Random House and its earlier incarnations for over thirty years. She publishes many of New Zealand's pre-eminent writers of adult and young-adult fiction, including Witi Ihimaera, Maurice Gee, Mandy Hager and Eileen Merriman, among numerous others who regularly feature on the New Zealand bestseller list. She lost count, after reaching twenty, of the number of award-winning books she has published, but over the years the awards her authors have won include the New Zealand Book Awards, the Montana Book Awards, the New Zealand Post Awards, the Best First Book in the Commonwealth Writers Prize and several have been shortlisted for the prestigious Frank O'Connor Award.

**Catherine O'Loughlin**
Children's Publisher – Penguin Random House New Zealand

Catherine O'Loughlin commissions a range of award-winning children's titles for Penguin Random House New Zealand – these include picture books, junior novels and books for babies, as well as an acclaimed range of creative non-fiction illustrated titles. She is proud to work with New Zealand's best-loved authors and illustrators, including the award-winning Gavin Bishop, Ruth Paul, Barbara Else, David Hill, Phoebe Morris and Vasanti Unka, and is always on the lookout for emerging talent. She also works with Dame Lynley Dodd creating new titles in the beloved Hairy Maclary and Friends series, which has sold more than 10 million copies around the world.