



Penguin
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2020



Rights Catalogue:
Frontlist Young Readers



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VIOLET BLACK

Eileen Merriman

March 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)



The first book in the Black Spiral Trilogy

Set in the near future, the Black Spiral trilogy is a dystopian thriller in a disturbing world scarily similar to our current one.

A new pandemic has taken hold, infecting children and teenagers and leaving few survivors.

Those that do recover find that they have startling new abilities.

Violet Black and Ethan Wright first 'meet' when they awaken from comas. Connecting through telepathy before meeting in person, they quickly realise that they are not who they were before.

Secreted away to a training facility by the Foundation, they encounter others just like them – Phoenix, Ebony, Audrey and Callum. While the scientists at the Foundation continue to test their new abilities, their training sessions are designed to turn them into soldiers – an elite group of teenage telepaths who can move throughout the world without attracting attention.

Surviving the virus was only the beginning.

Awards won by Eileen Merriman

Pieces of You

- 2018 Storylines Notable –Young Adult

Catch Me When You Fall

- Shortlisted, New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults

Invisibly Breathing

- Shortlisted, New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults

For Eileen's Writing

- Runner-up, 2018 Sunday Star-Times Short Story Award
- Third place, 2014-2016 Sunday Star-Times Short Story Award
- Second place, 2015 Bath Flash Fiction Award
- Commended, 2015 Bath Short Story Competition
- First Place, 2015 Graeme Lay Short Story Competition

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 both *Pieces of You* and *Catch Me When You Fall* are Storylines Notable Books. 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'.

Author Photo Credit: © Colleen Lenihan



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.

Dear Mother Mary Joseph Aubert,

Yesterday was my 12th birthday. My mother is very ill. I want to serve God. Please will you let me be a nun. I know I am too young to be a nun now but Ma will die happy if she knows you will take me when I am older. Please can I be one of your nuns?

Yours very respectfully

Molly Conway

Molly dear child,

Now I cannot promise you lollies in Jerusalem. How will potatoes do instead? No lollies, no pudding, no tea. Will not that be dreadful? How can a vocation stand it? I leave you to ponder over such a question, and when you write to me again you will tell me what you think.

Your affectionate mother in Christ,

M. Mary Joseph Aubert

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. After her mother passes away, Molly lovingly (if frustratingly) adapts to running the household of her Methodist father and brothers, fulfilling the role that is needed of her while never losing sight of her dream to join Mother Mary Joseph Aubert.

Her father has reservations, not least that he worries becoming a nun was her mother's dream for her, rather than Molly's own. While encouraging Molly to consider marriage to the hard-working Eddie, her father nevertheless promises to support Molly no matter what she chooses.

But when he brings home a new wife, the situation rapidly deteriorates. Molly's new step-mother brings with her an anti-Catholic prejudice that sees Molly evicted from the house that she ran so diligently.

Finding her way to Mother Mary, Molly is able to experience what life might be like if she joined the order. At first bewildered by and then inspired by Mother Mary's unconventional ways, 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. Author Photo Credit: © Penguin Random House New Zealand



Cover Art and Design courtesy of Simon & Schuster US

A GLASSHOUSE OF STARS

Shirley Marr

May 2021

Puffin

Format – 288pp (198mm x 129mm)

Rights Held: Translation

Rights Sold via Agent:

North America (Simon & Schuster), United Kingdom (Usborne Publishing)

A Glasshouse of Stars is an exquisite, heartbreakingly beautiful gem of a novel for anyone who loved Lenny's Book of Everything, A Monster Calls or When You Reach Me.

*You have arrived for a better life at the New House in the New Land.
You didn't know what big meant until you saw the city and the suburbs.
You tell yourself everything is going to be fine. The hardest part is over.
You made it.*

Meixing Lim and her family have travelled far to reach their new home. 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. Surviving will take all the resilience and inner belief of this brave girl to turn their world around.

A Glasshouse of Stars is based on the real childhood experiences of the author, brushed with a light touch of magic realism and written in second person.

Sales Points

- North American and United Kingdom rights sold to Simon & Schuster and Usborne Publishing, respectively.
- This contemporary own voices middle grade novel is *Front Desk* meets Newbery Medal Winner *When You Reach Me* or Carnegie and Greenaway Medal Winner *A Monster Calls*.
- An own voices immigrant story from first generation Chinese–Australian author Shirley Marr.
- There is so much in this book to love – from the stunning imagery and symbolism of the magical realism in Meixing's world, to its immersive representation of what it feels like to learn a new language and be thrown into a completely different culture, to the unusual second–person point of view that will make it perfect for study of voice and perspective.
- Beautiful messages about developing emotional intelligence, resilience, connections with others, and the importance of community in combating loneliness.

In–House Praise

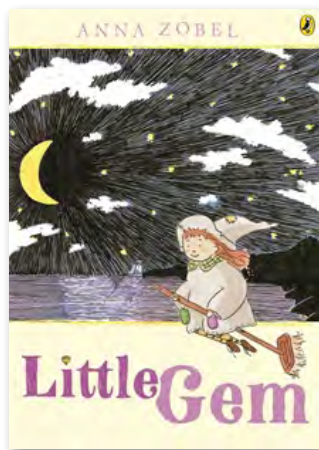
'Beautiful; heart-breaking; heart-warming; wonderful; devastating. I was completely blown away by Meixing's story. The writing is stunning, and the way Shirley writes about emotion and loss and trying to fit in to a new culture is incredibly moving. This is a book that stays with you long after you finish reading and everyone needs to read it.'
– Zoe Walton, Publisher



SHIRLEY MARR is a first-generation Chinese–Australian whose previous young adult titles were published by Walker Books, and her upcoming middle grade by Fremantle Press.

Shirley is a Bespectacled Accountant by day and a Masked Writer at night. Her passion is to distil her cultural heritage in dark and unusual ways through the lens of resilient young women.

Author Photo Credit: © Jessica Wyld



LITTLE GEM

Anna Zobel

January 2021

Puffin

Paperback – 240pp (182mm x 129mm)

Right Held: World



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

Sometimes getting a little lost can help you discover who you really are . . .

When her spell at Witchcraft School goes wrong, Gem lands in an unfamiliar, empty cottage, outside a strange, colourful town.

Everyone in Ellsworth Pining thinks Gem is their new village witch, even when Gem tries to correct them. And Gem's new friends do need her help. The Weather Worker is missing, and there are tales of a terrifying beast in the woods.

Gem might know a spell that could work – if she can get it right.

Sales Points

- Little Gem will bring a smile to your face as she tries to help others but her spells go awry. No one seems to mind the mountain of cream buns Gem accidentally wishes into being, and the spell to return lost things that Gem thinks is a disaster turns out to be a winner, making everyone happy.
- Delightful illustrations by Anna Zobel on almost every page make this a gorgeous small-format paperback.
- Perfect for readers – especially girls – aged 7 to 10 who love stories of magical adventure, friendship and fun!
- All the elements young readers, especially girls, 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.



"Oh," the witch cried. She used her sleeves to pat the book until the smoking stopped. Then she stood up and looked around the room.

A moment earlier, Gem the witch had been at school, practising her travelling spells. But she did not seem to be at school any more. She was standing in a strange, empty house. Gem wiped at her knees, which were covered in dust and grime.

"Where am I?" she said.

Her voice echoed off the walls. The kitchen was small and cosy. There was a wood stove in the corner, just as dusty as the floor. The stone sink was green with mildew. Old pots and pans hung from hooks on the walls. Spiders hurried along

"Yes," Mrs Silva looked at Gem directly. "Yes, that's certainly possible . . . my silly brother."

"Please, will you help us find him, Little Gem?" said Amira.

Gem felt her fingers tingle with nerves. She had never solved a mystery before, but she couldn't let these people down. "Of course," she said. "I shall do my best."

Back at the cottage, Gem sat by the fire reading all the spell books she could find on the shelves. She was still reading many hours later.

"What next, Witch Gem?" asked Henry, handing her a cup of tea.



"We need to find the Weather Worker, and this beast, before anything bad happens," said Gem, yawning. "I think we need to solve this with a dash of magic. But first I need a good night's sleep!"



ANNA ZOBEL is an illustrator, writer and teacher from Melbourne, Australia. As a child Anna wrote and illustrated her own books, and she hasn't stopped since. Anna is frequently inspired by the amazing children she works with, and hopes to represent them in her work. Author Photo Credit: © Anna Zobel



THE GOLDEN TOWER

Belinda Murrell

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 336pp (198mm x 129mm)

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Series

Lulu Bell: Brazil (Editora Fundamento), Turkey (Teen Yayincilik Kitapcilik), 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.

Sales Points

- Belinda Murrell writing what she does best – a timeslip adventure filled with magic, mystery, feasts, friendships, and danger at every turn!
- An unputdownable fantasy adventure for girls and boys 8–11.
- Based on Belinda's research and her travels, *The Golden Tower* is set in an alternate Tuscany, and features the mazzamurrelli – strange little household goblins from Italian fairytales and myths, which of course intrigued Belinda because of the similarity to her name!
- Belinda's titles have sold almost **half a million** books with Penguin Random House, from her exciting Sun Sword trilogy to intriguing timeslip historical novels to Lulu Bell and Pippa's Island series!

Praise for previous titles

'Belinda's books appeal to all ages and her historical fiction novels are some of the best around. *The Lost Sapphire* is a fascinating time-slip novel, and, as usual, Murrell handles the time-slip beautifully.' – Megan Daley *ABC Radio*

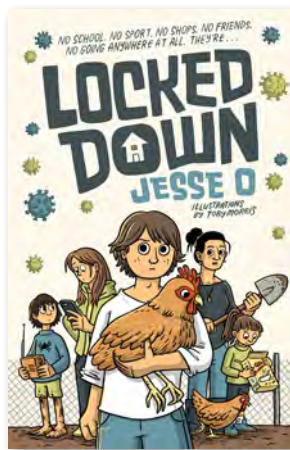
'*The River Charm* . . . is a story of hope, strength and courage and the determination to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.' – *Magpies*

'*The Ruby Talisman* is . . . a classic adventure novel. The action is fast-paced, the characters gutsy . . . and the danger ever present.' – *The Sun Herald*

'*The Sequin Star* is such an awesome book! . . . Compelling and full of magic, this read will really stay with you long after you've devoured every page.' – *Girlpower*

BELINDA MURRELL has worked as a travel journalist, technical writer, editor and public relations consultant. Her overseas adventures inspired her work as a travel writer for the *West Australian* newspaper and *Out & About With Kids* travel magazine. Her work has also appeared in the *Sun Herald*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. While Belinda studied Children's Literature at Macquarie University, her passion for children's books was reignited when she had her own three children and began telling and writing stories for Nick, Emily and Lachlan. Belinda's books include the Sun Sword fantasy trilogy, Scottish timeslip tale *The Locket of Dreams*, French Revolution timeslip tale *The Ruby Talisman*, Australian timeslip tales *The Ivory Rose* and *The Sequin Star*, and Australian historical tales *The Forgotten Pearl*, *The River Charm* and *The Lost Sapphire*. Belinda's Lulu Bell series for younger readers, about friends, family, animals, and growing up in a vet hospital has sold over 200,000 copies. Belinda is an author ambassador for Room to Read and Books in Homes. Author Photo Credit: © Jen Bradley





LOCKED DOWN

Jesse O and Toby Morris (Illustrator)

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 256pp (198mm x 128mm)

Rights Held: World

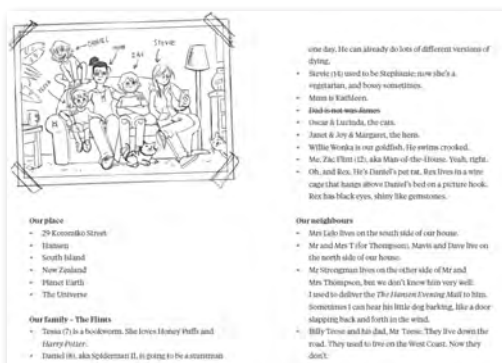
Jesse O's award-winning novel about a deadly pandemic and a family in lockdown, rereleased with all new illustrations by Toby Morris.

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.

This prescient and gripping novel about a nation in lockdown was written following the H1N1 global pandemic. It won a Storylines Junior Fiction Award in 2011, under the title *Staying Home*.



JESSE O is the pseudonym for award-winning poet and author Jessica le Bas. Her first poetry collection, *Incognito* (AUP 2007), won the Best First Book of Poetry Award at the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. A second collection, *Walking to Africa* (AUP 2009), which explored adolescent mental illness, was a finalist in the 2010 Ashton Wylie Book Awards. 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'.

Author Photo Credit: © Jessica le Bas



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* and developed artwork for musicians including The Beths, Beastwars, Neil and Liam Finn, Ladyhawke and Phoenix Foundation, and diverse brands including the Edmonds Baking Powder box! 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.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Toby Morris





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 and legend Ginger Meggs, these four brand new and original stories are written by Tristan Bancks, the great–great nephew of original creator Jimmy Bancks, and illustrated in full colour by the current Ginger Meggs comic–strip creator, Jason Chatfield.

Kids and grown–ups alike will revel in the rambunctious adventures and comical capers of the ginger kid who never gets old.

Sales Points

- This hardback gift edition containing four completely new stories illustrated in full colour celebrates a beloved icon and introduces a new generation of kids to *Ginger Meggs*.
- *Ginger Meggs* was created by Jimmy Bancks in 1921. Since then, it has become Australia's longest–running cartoon, and is still published in 120 newspapers in 34 countries.
- *Ginger Meggs* spawned two feature films, four plays, over fifty annuals, a silver proof coin, a stamp and a museum exhibition.
- Ginger is a loveable and cheeky schoolkid with a dog called Mike, a monkey named Tony, best mates Benny and a girl he's forever trying to impress, Minnie Peters. His arch–enemy is Eddie Coogan and he's constantly in the cross–hairs of bully, Jugears Jonson. . . and his own mum.



TRISTAN BANCKS tells stories for the page and screen. His books for kids and teens include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention* and the Tom Weekly series. *Two Wolves* won Honour Book in the 2015 CBCA Book of the Year Awards and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. *The Fall* was a CBCA Notable Book and shortlisted for the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. Tristan's books have also been recognised in multiple children's choice awards. Tristan is a writer–ambassador for literacy charity Room to Read. He is currently working with producers to develop several of his books for the screen. He's excited by the future of storytelling and inspiring others to create. You can find out more about Tristan's books, play games, watch videos, chat to the author and help him try to change the world at www.tristanbancks.com.

Author Photo Credit: © Amber Melody



JASON CHATFIELD is an Australian 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.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Mindy Tucker



SUPER GEEKS 1: FISH AND CHIPS

James Hart

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 208pp (190mm x 153mm)

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Series, Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Series: North America (Sourcebooks), Turkey (Final Kültür Sanat Yayınları), Poland (Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal), Audio (Bolinda)

BOOK 2
COMING IN
JULY 2021

The story of two best friends' quest for WORLD DOMINATION!

Illustrator James Hart makes his authorial debut in this hilarious, action-packed graphic novel series that every kid will relate to!

Zeek and Arnie are best friends. They do everything together. They love solving problems, inventing machines, playing video games, coding, reading comics, cooking (mostly Arnie) and planning WORLD DOMINATION (mostly Zeek).

When Zeek decides to put a microchip in Arnie's pet fish, Eleanor, things go horribly wrong . . . A super-intelligent Eleanor decides she's going to become the Supreme Ruler of the world. How will Zeek and Arnie stop Eleanor's fish-bot army and prevent this power-hungry fish from achieving WORLD DOMINATION?

Sales Points

- James is the illustrator of bestselling series such as Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables, Fart Boy, and Cowboy and Birdbrain. This is his first book as author and illustrator!
- A graphic novel jam-packed with lols, action and adventure. Perfect for fans of Real Pigeons by Andrew McDonald, Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney, Dog Man by Dav Pilkey and The Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey.
- 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.



Rough interiors

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



LISTEN, LAYLA

Yassmin Abdel-Magied

February 2021

Penguin

Format – 288pp (198mm x 129mm)

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Title: *You Must Be Layla*

United Kingdom (Penguin Random House)

What's a queen to do when her summer plans go horribly wrong? 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 has ended the school year on a high and can't wait to spend the holidays hanging out with her friends and designing a prize-winning Grand Designs Turismo invention. But Layla's plans are interrupted when her 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. Layla is determined not to lose her place in the invention team, but will she go against her parents' wishes? What would a Kandaka do?

Praise for *You Must Be Layla*

'Activist Yassmin Abdel-Magied's first foray into children's writing is brimming with social justice passion, punctuated on every page with millennial slang that will delight internet-savvy kids. Layla's family speaks in their native tongue throughout and it's fantastic to see this representation within a middle-grade novel.'

– Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, *Books + Publishing*

'[*You Must Be Layla*] shines bright as an "own voices" story with author and main character both Sudanese-born Australians. There's no doubting the significance of readers being able to see themselves in the stories they read and – with Layla's family life and Sudanese culture, in an Aussie context, a focal point – many readers who don't often see themselves reflected, will here.' – *Sydney Morning Herald*

'There are some really lovely positive messages in this book: the value of an encouraging teacher, warm and loving parents who provide sound moral and spiritual guidance, the importance of standing strong with true friends, sharing laughter and fun' – *Read Plus*

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. Her TED Talk, *What does my headscarf mean to you*, has been viewed over two million times and was one of TED's top 10 ideas of 2015. Author Photo Credit: © Mark Lobo





BLUE FLOWER

Sonya Hartnett and Gabriel Evans (Illustrator)

March 2021

Puffin

Format – 36pp (230mm x 280mm)

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Titles: North America, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Canada, Russia, Sweden, Latin America, Denmark, Germany, Korea, China, Lithuania, Japan, Spain and Norway

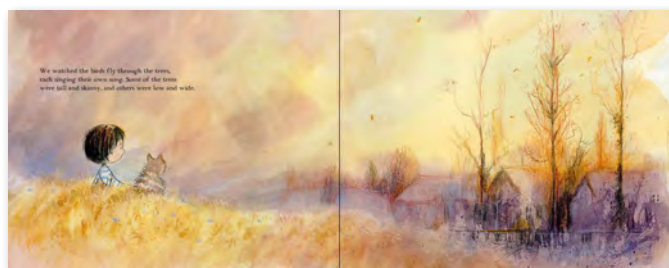
A gentle picture book that explores a child's realisation that it is her individual differences and creativity that make her special. From the winner of the CILP Carnegie Medal, Guardian Children's Fiction Award and Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, Sonya Hartnett, with absolutely stunning illustrations by Gabriel Evans.

A beautifully told story about being happy in yourself for who you are.

A young child describes her doubts about going to school and how hard she finds asking the teacher for help, feeling 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.

Sales Points

- Moving and poignant story, simply told, about an important topic for many children and families – from one of our foremost award-winning writers.
- Hartnett realistically captures common experience in many families and explores the theme of difference and self-esteem with a perfectly light touch.
- This is a simple and evocative story about a young child finding comfort and resilience in the simple things around them to realise they can be who they are and be happy.



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)

April 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp (252mm x 240mm)

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold Previous Titles:

North America, Italy, Turkey, France, Korea, China

In a time of major uncertainty for children, this book is a simple and heartwarming reminder about all the comforting things that are important to remember – from the winning team of Jane Godwin and Anna Walker!

The story begins with reminders to not forget the practical daily things like making your bed, brushing your teeth, remembering your coat and watching out in the street, but then the focus moves to things like remembering to smile and to lend a hand when you can, to smell the flowers and listen to the music of the trees.

As with every Jane Godwin manuscript, the text is deceptively simple and yet incredibly effective and poignant. In the midst of all we're having to deal with, I challenge you to not be reaching for a tissue by the time you get to the end of this powerful story.

Sales Points

- Families who are experiencing the craziness and stress of the COVID-19 pandemic will be looking for books for their young children (5+) that focus on the simple things we have, and the positive experiences that can come out of this terrible situation.
- From the winning team who have brought us such bestselling favourites as *All Through the Year*, *Today We Have No Plans*, *Starting School*, *What Do You Wish For* and *Go Go* and *the Silver Shoes*.

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



LITTLE LION: A LONG WAY HOME

Saroo Brierley and Bruce Whatley

(Illustrator)

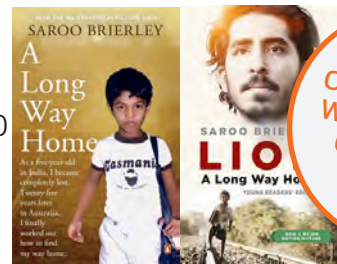
November 2020

Puffin Australia

Hardback – 40pp (288mm x 235mm)

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Romania (Bookzone)



OVER
1 MILLION
COPIES SOLD
WORLDWIDE
OF ADULT
EDITION

A beautiful picture book edition of Saroo Brierley's extraordinary true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds, which was made into the Academy Award-winning film, *Lion*, starring Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman and David Wenham. Illustrated by award-winning children's picture book illustrator, Bruce Whatley.

Can you imagine being lost and not finding your way home again?

Saroo Brierley became lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a family in Australia.

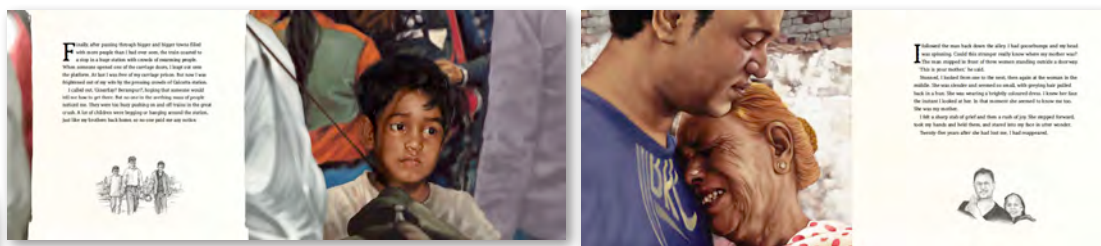
Despite being happy in his new home, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. He pored over satellite images on Google Earth seeking out landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for.

Then he set off on a journey back to India to see if he could find his mother.

Little Lion celebrates the importance of never letting go of what drives the human spirit – hope.

Rights Sold Previous Title *A Long Way Home*

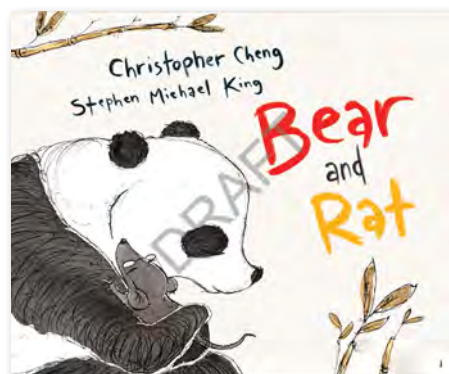
North America, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Italy, Russia, Poland, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Hungary, Brazil, China, Taiwan, Korea, Turkey, Estonia, Bosnia, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan and Vietnam.



SAROO BRIERLEY was born in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, India. Saroo's virtual odyssey of his search for his home town and his mother made headlines across the world. The film *Lion*, based on his autobiography, was released in November 2016 and nominated for four Golden Globe and six Academy Awards, and won many other international awards. Since publication his books continue to be bestsellers and have been published in multiple overseas territories. Author Photo Credit: © *The Mercury*, Hobart



Since 1992 BRUCE WHATLEY has worked on more than 90 children's picture books. His internationally award-winning titles include *The Diary of a Wombat* series, created with Jackie French, and *One Tree* by Christopher Cheng. Bruce uses a variety of illustration mediums including gouache, pen and ink, pencil, oils, watercolour and Photoshop. *Tin Toys*, *The Watchmaker Who Saved Christmas* and *Ruben* are classic examples of his search for new ways to create images. Illustrator Photo Credit: © Rosie Smith



BEAR AND RAT

Christopher Cheng and Stephen Michael King (Illustrator)

May 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp (275mm x 240mm)

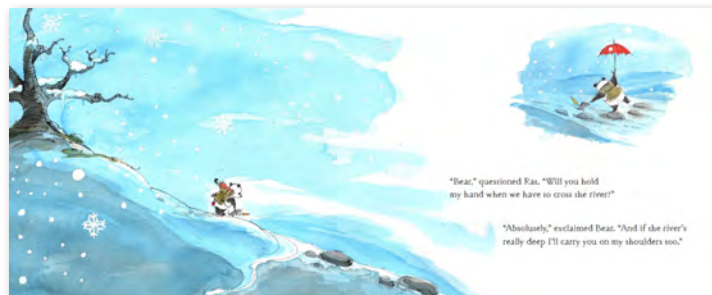
Rights Held: World

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.

Sales Points

- *One Tree* has received exceptional reviews since its release and is sure to have long ongoing backlist sales. Christopher brings that 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 accomplished children's author who writes fiction and non-fiction full time, conducts workshops and visits schools. He has a Master of Arts in Children's Literature and has been a Literacy Ambassador for the Federal Government's Literacy and Numeracy Week initiative and the 2012 National Year of Reading. His picture book, *One Child*, illustrated by Steven Woolman, won the Wilderness Society Environment Award for Picture Books (Australia) and the Skipping Stones Honour Book (USA). Christopher also worked with Sarah Davis on the critically acclaimed picture book *Sounds Spooky* which won an Aurealis Award in the picture book category and is a CBCA Notable Book.

Author Photo Credit: © Daniel Woo



STEPHEN MICHAEL KING is renowned worldwide for picture books including *The Pocket Dogs* and *The Man Who Loved Boxes*. An author in his own right and who has been published throughout the world, he has both written and illustrated *A Bear and a Tree*, *Leaf*, *Rainbow Bear*, *Mutt Dog*, *Snail and Turtle are Friends*, and *Three*. Many of his books have been shortlisted by the CBCA, and have won or appeared frequently on children's own voting lists such as YABBA. Stephen has illustrated many stories for the Penguin Random House Aussie Nibbles series and has most recently embarked on some crazy pirating adventures with Andrew Daddo for the Atticus Van Tasticus junior fiction series.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Stephen Michael King



MY ELEPHANT IS BLUE

Melinda Szymanik and Vasanti Unka (Illustrator)

May 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp (285mm x 240mm)

Rights Held: World

This story of a child carrying around a big, blue, uninvited elephant is written with a generous dose of heart and the lightest touch.

A sensitive and humorous picture book exploring a child's episode of depression with the unannounced arrival of an elephant called Blue.

*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 reads every book about elephants she can get her hands on, while Dad phones an elephant specialist someone recommended. They all try pushing, and pulling, and persuading. But nothing or nobody is able to shift Blue off the child's chest . . .

Helping readers to develop understanding, empathy and respect for those living with grief and sadness, *My Elephant is Blue* will resonate with both children and adults.



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 other languages. Vasanti lives in Auckland, New Zealand, where she juggles creative work and numerous book projects.

Illustrator Photo Credit: © Ahnand Unka



SMILING MIND SERIES

Jane Martino and Anne White (Illustrator)

Book 1 – September 2020 / Book 2 – January 2021

Puffin

Format – 32pp (220mm x 283mm)

Rights Held: World

BOOKS
3-5
COMING
IN 2021

Book 1 - The Thank-You Present: A Book About Gratitude

Evie and Lola can't wait for their birthdays, because birthdays mean presents! Evie and Lola LOVE getting presents, and they want presents now. Will they be able to find a way to be thankful for what they already have and enjoy the here and now?

This delightful picture book explores the different ways and reasons to say thank you, and captures all the warm feelings that we get from showing gratitude and giving rather than receiving.

Book 2 - Super-Me: A Book About Identity

Sonny's tutu is his most special thing. It makes him SUPER! On his first day of school, Sonny has butterflies. He wants to wear his tutu so he feels super again, but nothing goes quite to plan. Will Sonny face his feelings and discover what really makes him super? This heartwarming picture book celebrates individuality and community, and shows the importance of acknowledging all our feelings.



About the series

Each story in this five-book series teaches and celebrates mindfulness through one of the early-learning principles of gratitude, identity, wellbeing, learning and communicating. Authored by Smiling Mind co-founder and Chair Jane Martino, and illustrated by highly regarded children's book illustrator, Annie White, the stories take a classic picture book approach and are backed by significant research in mindfulness and child psychology.

These picture books are perfect as both bedtime stories and educational resources within the classroom. The stories are great for both reading aloud and as discussion starters for important early-learning concepts, such as feelings, sense of self, sense of belonging, and healthy bodies and minds, with the added bonus of mindfulness activities and resources from Smiling Mind at the back of each book.



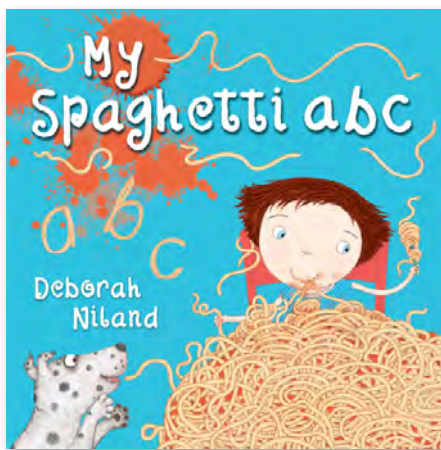
JANE MARTINO is a published author with her series of six Thank You books, a book entitled *Mindfulness Made Easy* and a five-book picture book series in partnership with Smiling Mind. Martino is also chair and co-founder of the globally recognised tech-based not-for-profit Smiling Mind, that delivers freely accessible preventative mental health tools. Smiling Mind has over 5.4 million people using its free mindfulness app. Their award winning education tools are also utilised by over 194,000 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 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



MY SPAGHETTI ABC

Deborah Niland

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 36pp (248mm x 248mm)

Rights Held: World

A delicious rhyming picture book that celebrates all the fun and delight for small children who LOVE eating spaghetti, from award-winning author and illustrator Deborah Niland. Includes special fold-out spaghetti alphabet pages.

A fun rhyming picture book from award-winning picture-book creator and illustrator, Deborah Niland, celebrating our love of eating spaghetti and all the messy fun small children can have as they eat it . . . and maybe even learn their alphabet with it along the way!

*I love spaghetti with lots 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!*



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*.
Illustrator Photo Credit: © Penguin Random House Australia



MOONLIGHT MUMS

Laura Stitzel

February 2021

Puffin

Format – 24pp

Rights Held: World

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

*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.*

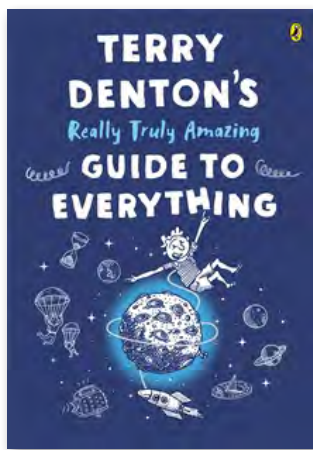
In-House Praise

'This book is completely adorable, thoroughly modern and essential bedtime reading for any working mum and their bub.' – Heidi Camilleri, Marketing Manager (Local)

'The illustrations speak louder than words in this book. They are so beautiful and cuddly! A unique way to show Mommy's love!' – Diptee Deshpande, Applications Support Analyst

'I love this! One of the conversations I have with Ruby if I know I'm coming home after she's asleep is I always tell her I'm going to give her a kiss and cuddle even if she's asleep. She loves knowing that. I also overheard this conversation on a recent Bluey episode (can't escape Bluey!) where Mum was going to come home after they were asleep and she was telling them she would give them a hug and kiss, they were saying "but we won't feel it" and she was assuring them that they would feel it and know that she loved them.' – Sarah Tilsley, Head of Business Development

LAURA STITZEL is an illustrator of children's books including Elliot Perlman's *The Adventures of Catvinkle* (Penguin Random House), and her own picture book, *Mr Mo Starts to Grow* (Hachette Australia). 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.
Author Photo Credit: © Laura Stitzel



TERRY DENTON'S REALLY TRULY AMAZING GUIDE TO EVERYTHING

Terry Denton

November 2020

Puffin

Hardback – 192pp (219mm x 153mm)

Rights Held: World

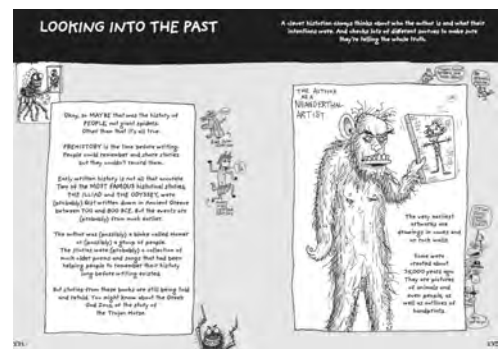
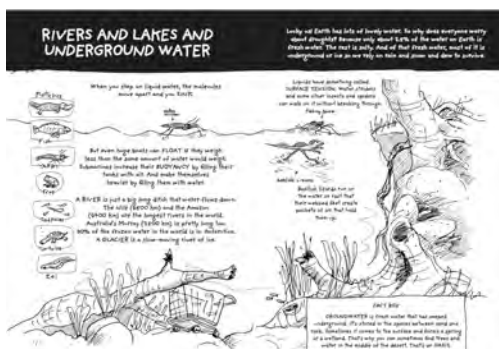
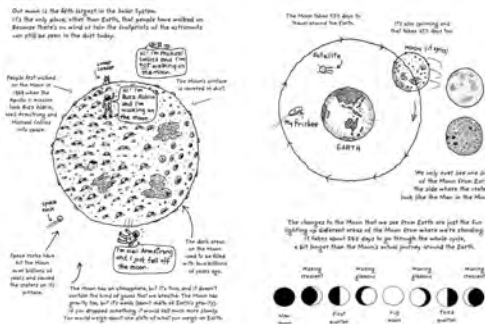
Rights Sold: United Kingdom (Pan Macmillan), The Netherlands (Lannoo), Norway (Fontini), Italy (DeA Planeta), Korea (Byesloop), Turkey (Epsilon), China (Beijing Tianlue)

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



MEET THE CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING TEAM



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 a range of exciting new picture books. There's *Back to Sleep* the gorgeous twist on family bedtime by Zoë Foster Blake (author of the bestselling *No One Likes a Fart*); a picture-book version (*Little Lion*) of Saroo Brierley's incredible story that was made into the film *Lion*. There's a stunning and moving new picture book *Blue Flower* by Astrid Lindgren Award-winner Sonya Hartnett about self-esteem. And on a lighter note there is *My Spaghetti ABC* the gorgeous ode to spaghetti by picture book doyenne Deborah Niland, as well as *Spotlight* a new collection of poems and a call to action from talented fifteen-year-old slam poet Solli Raphael.



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'.

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NEW ZEALAND



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.