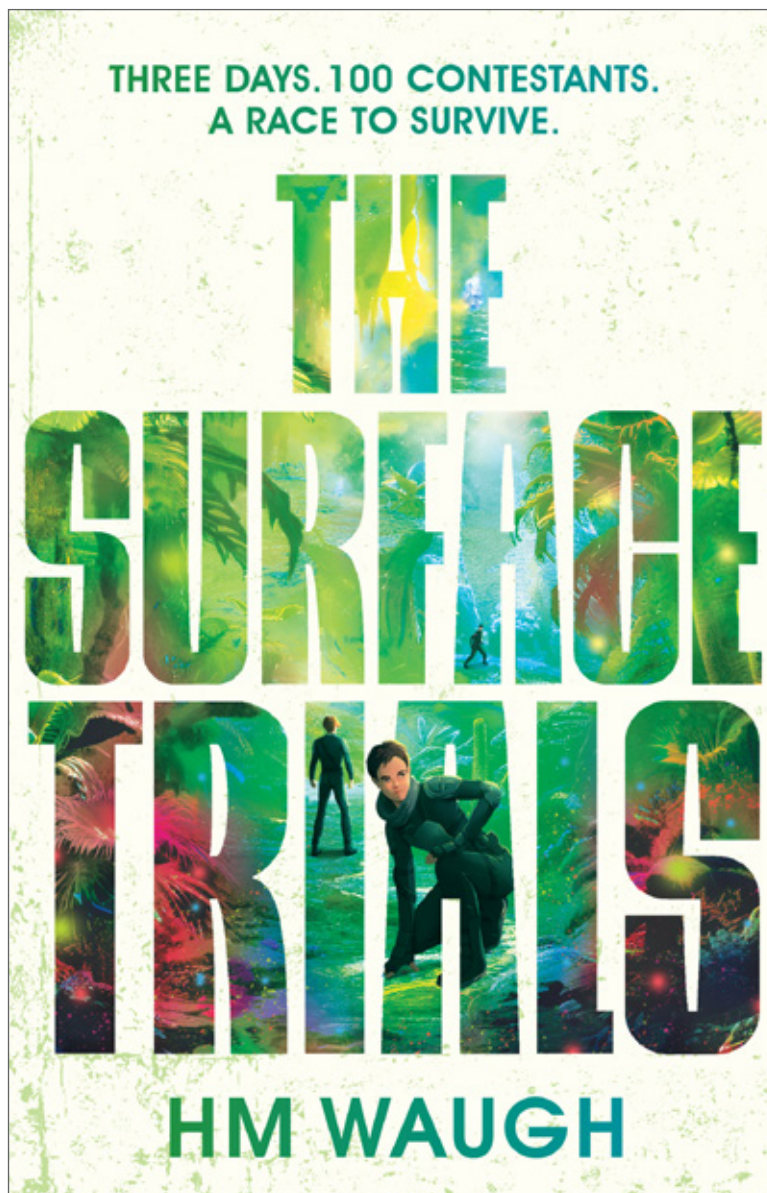




2025 BOLOGNA BOOK FAIR
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
RIGHTS GUIDE



View at www.allenandunwin.com/about/rights-and-international-sales

For further information please contact Carey Schroeter at
careys@allenandunwin.com

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TRANSLATION GRANT AVAILABLE

At times, Creative Australia offers translation grants to international publishers of up to AUD\$5,000. Check their website for availability, eligibility and application deadlines:

<https://creative.gov.au/investment-and-development/translation-fund-for-literature/>



SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLOSH!

Renae Hayward, illustrated by Briony Stewart



A delightful picture book about the joy of splashing about in the water, with a rollicking rhyming text by Renae Hayward and charming illustrations by CBCA award-winning illustrator Briony Stewart.

What's the best on a summer day?

Grandpa knows – it's water play!

From sprinklers to mud pies to paddling pools, there's nothing kids love better than messing around with water. Three delightful children splish, splash, splosh through the day in this charming picture book.

Renae Hayward grew up by the beaches of Perth's northern suburbs. She has authored several books for children including *Say Hooray*, which was shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards. She has also contributed as a poet to *The School Magazine* and the children's anthology *Right Way Down and Other Poems*. Renae lives near Fremantle with her husband James, their two children and Frankie the labrador in a house overflowing with books. www.renaehayward.com.

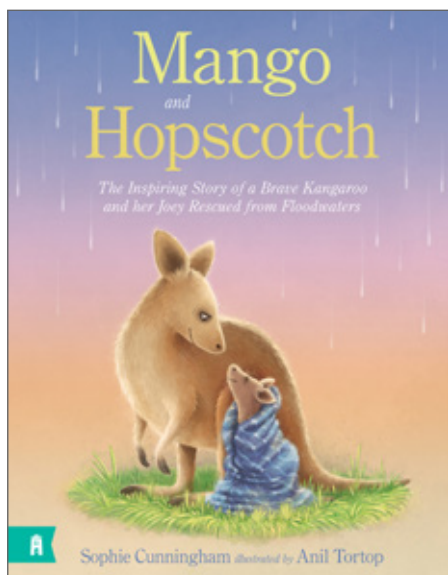
Briony Stewart is an illustrator and writer from WA, whose bestselling and award-winning books include *Bedtime Sorted!* by Jimmy Rees, *Mina and the Whole Wide World* by Sherryl Clark (Winner of the 2022 Prime Minister's Literary Award), *Accidentally Kelly Street* and *We Love You, Magoo*. www.brionystewart.com



DRAFT
SPREAD

MANGO & HOPSCOTCH

Sophie Cunningham, illustrated by Anil Tortop



A heartwarming tale of a brave kangaroo and her joey, inspired by true stories of courageous animal rescues, from the bestselling creators of *Tippy & Jellybean*.

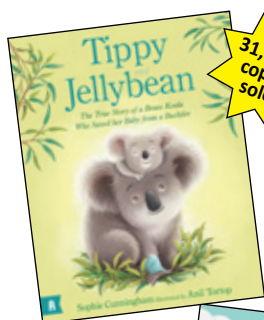
Mango and Hopscotch live in a beautiful tropical forest on the banks of a big river. Together, they munch on grass and lounge in the shade.

One day, while the mob graze quietly, drops of rain start to fall.

Lightning flashes, thunder rumbles. Soon it is pouring. And then the river bursts its banks ...

Inspired by amazing true stories, this is the tale of a brave kangaroo and her joey rescued from floodwaters.

Sophie Cunningham is the author of two picture books: *Tippy and Jellybean* and *Flipper and Finnegan*, as well as of many books for adults. She is a former publisher and editor and teaches at Allen & Unwin’s Faber Academy. In 2019 Sophie Cunningham was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her contributions to literature. **Anil Tortop** was born and raised in Türkiye. She moved to Australia in 2011, and has been trying to get used to the local eight-legged house intruders and slithering visitors to her garden ever since. Originally an animator, she shifted her focus to children’s books and works primarily digitally. Her previous books include *Tippy and Jellybean* and *Flipper and Finnegan* by Sophie Cunningham, *Bat vs Pass* by Alexa Moses, and *Pigasus* by Zanni Louise. Anil lives in Queensland with her husband and daughters.



31,000+ copies sold!



15,000+ copies sold!



The river keeps rising.
The python climbs the verandah post and the birds flap away.
Any moment the verandah will be underwater.
One by one the kangaroos leap into the river.

Hopscotch doesn't want to leave the verandah.
She calls for her mum. Tchik! Tchik!
Mango gives Hopscotch a nudge with her nose and they jump in together.

THE ENCHANTMENT OF GOLDEN EAGLE

Margaret Wild, illustrated by Stephen Michael King



A powerful tale about a child, a golden eagle and a forgotten promise from the author of the children's classic *Fox*, illustrated by the beloved creator of *Mutt Dog*.

One day, Ella and her little brother Leif found a fledgling with a broken wing. They took him home, wrapped and fed him, and watched over him for seven days and seven nights.

In time Golden Eagle was well enough to fly away, but he loved the children, so he promised to stay with them at the edge of the dark forest.

Until one day, the wind whispered and the breeze caressed his feathers, and Golden Eagle forgot his promise ...

Margaret Wild's award-winning, internationally successful children's books include *Old Pig* (shortlisted, CBCA Picture Book of the Year), *Fox*

(winner, CBCA Picture Book of the Year), *The Dream of the Thylacine* (honour book, CBCA Picture Book of the Year), and *On the Day You Were Born*, all illustrated by Ron Brooks, plus many more. Margaret has been the recipient of the Nan Chauncy Award and the Lady Cutler Award for her contributions to Australian literature.

Stephen Michael King has been described as an artist who 'draws from the inside out', and it is this gentle, intuitive truth that gives heart and playfulness to his work. He is an internationally renowned, award-winning author and

An unforgettable tale about love, nature and forgiveness from two of Australia's most-celebrated picture book creators.

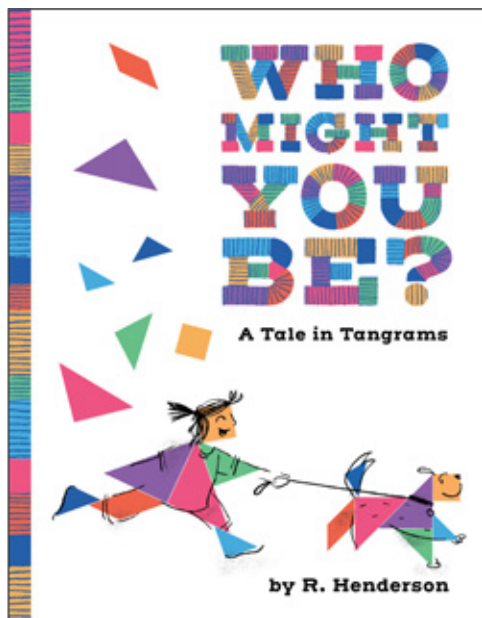
illustrator who is frequently honoured in children's book award categories – including winning the CBCA Book of the year and the Prime Minister's Literary Award. Stephen has produced more than 100 titles and worked with a stable of Australia's best authors, including Glenda Millard, Margaret Wild, Nick Bland, Peter Carey and Tim Winton. Books that Stephen has written and illustrated include: *Three*, *Rainbow Bear*, *Mutt Dog*, *Leaf*, and *Milly, Jack and the Dancing Cat*.



'Can you save him?' Ella asked her father, Magnus.
'Will he die?' asked Leif.
'Golden Eagles are strong,' said Magnus. 'If he lives through the night, we'll nurse him back to health.'
Ella wrapped the bird in a blanket, and Leif put him in a box. The room was warm and dark and quiet.
Ella fed Golden Eagle strips of raw meat, and watched over him for seven days and seven nights.
When at last he opened his eyes, she knew he'd be all right.
In time ...

WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

Robert Henderson



Inspired by the popular puzzle tangram, this playful exploration of shapes and identity comes from the highly acclaimed creator of *I See, I See*.

Today, I am this and tomorrow I'm that.

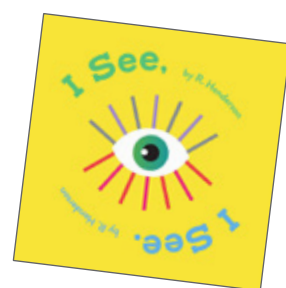
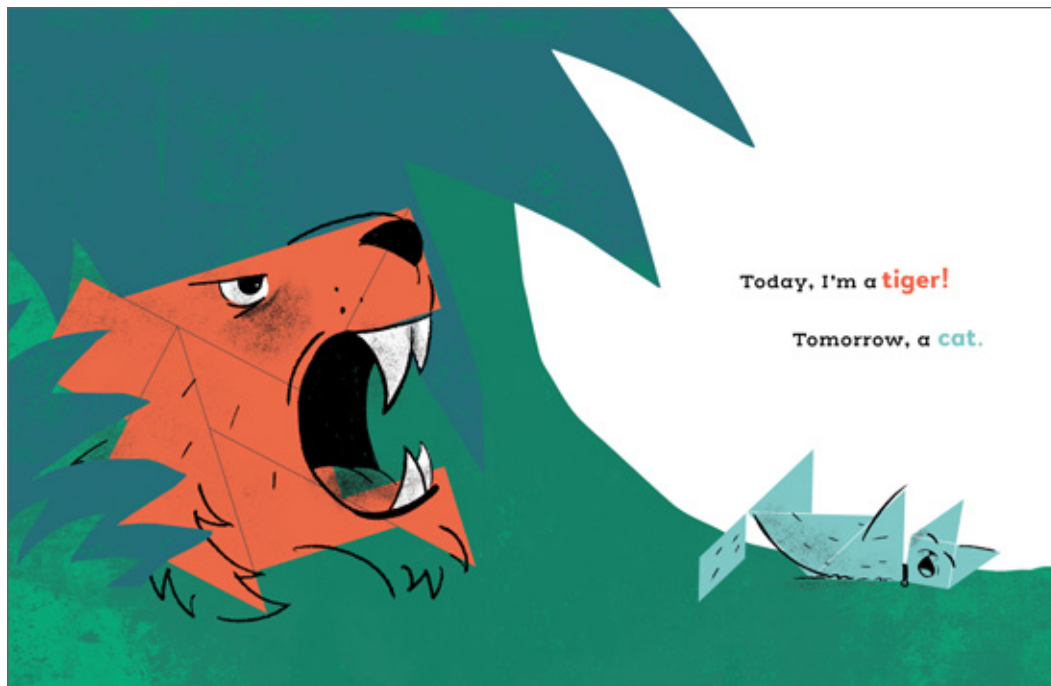
Today, I'm a tiger! Tomorrow, a cat.

By Saturday, I will have been all of that.

So ... who might you be?

Who Might You Be is a lively story in which all the illustrations are tangrams; the well-known geometrical puzzle that is a square cut into seven pieces arranged to make various other shapes. It is also a delightful story about the imagination where the words and pictures combine to tell a deeper story about the idea of self.

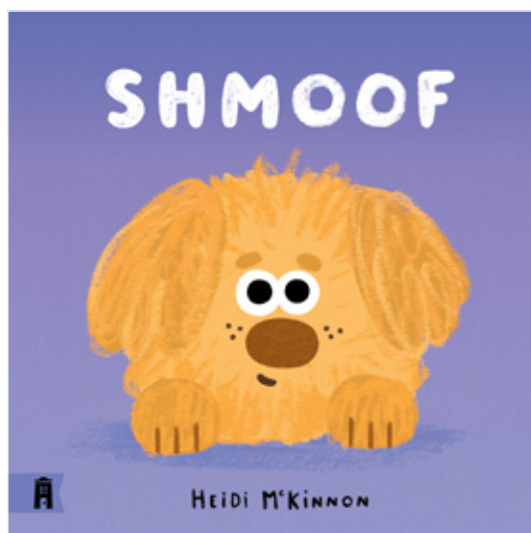
Robert Henderson is a prolific non-graduate from a range of prestigious Australian universities and an actual graduate of Griffith University's Queensland College of Art. Robert lives in Brisbane with his wife and four children who help him with his work and make sure he never has to eat a sandwich by himself.



I See, I See rights sold:
 Nth Am Eng
 (Chronicle through agent);
 German
 (Thienemann);
 Chinese Simp
 (Shanghai Juvenile)

SHMOOF

Heidi McKinnon



A dog makes a great best friend ... unless you are a cat! An adorable picture book from the author of the bestselling and much-loved *Floof*.

Shmoof is Shmoofy.
 Shmoof is *super* shmoofy.
 Shmoof is ready to be best friends.
 But Floof? Floof is not so sure ...

A story to warm the heart of anyone who has ever loved a playful furball. From the creator of the beloved bestsellers *Floof* and *I Just Ate My Friend*.



Floof rights sold:

Nth Am English (Little, Brown YR);
 French (L'Élan Vert);
 Korean (Global Content);
 Chinese Complex (sBooker)

17,000 copies sold!

Heidi McKinnon is a children's book author and illustrator who lives in sunny Melbourne, Australia. With a background in art and design, Heidi creates books that are colourful, fun and filled with humour. Her books have been published around the world and have received numerous award nominations.
www.heidimckinnon.com



July 2025 • 260x260mm • HB • Full Colour • 32pp • **WORLD RIGHTS** •
RIGHTS SOLD: Nth Am English (Little, Brown YR); Chinese Complex (sBooker)



EARTHSPEAK

Sean McCann, illustrated by Jade Goodwin



A joyful story celebrating the natural world, the sharing of culture through Noongar language and the awe that comes from seeing, hearing and feeling how elemental forces shape the earth.

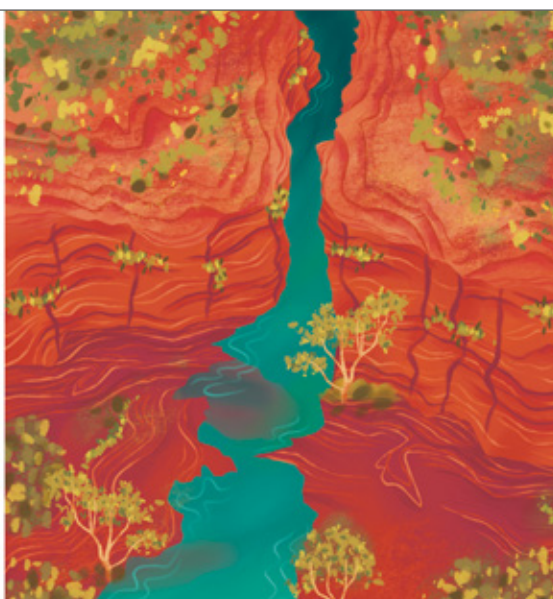
Papa says we're going to a special place today. 'If we djinang (look), ni (listen), goordoo (feel), we might hear boodjar wangkiny (earth speak). We might even feel her heartbeat.'

I wonder what that will sound like? Will the earth's heart beat just like ours?

A bush walk in a stunning landscape becomes a heartfelt invitation for children to engage with their senses, care for the environment, and learn some Noongar language words along the way.

Sean McCann is from Gadigal Country, NSW, but grew up on Dharawal land in southwest Sydney. In the early 1900s, his grandmother was placed into a mission on Gadigal land. Where she was taken from, and information about her parents, remains unknown. Sean currently lives on Noongar land in Perth with his wife and two young daughters. He is a small business owner, a rope access technician and a rigger working in remote areas of WA.

Earthspeak is his first book. **Jade Goodwin** is an illustrator and Gamilaroi woman. She is committed to showcasing



a range of perspectives through her illustrations, with the aim of inspiring children and adults alike. She has illustrated numerous books including Ash Barty's Little Ash series and *My Dream for You*.

THE LAST EGG

Sofie Laguna, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft



When Mother Bird and Father Bird discover a large blue egg in their nest, they treat it as their own. A beautiful story about love and kindness and loyalty in the face of adversity, from the award-winning creators of many much-loved picture books including *Iceberg* and *When You're Older*.

*Mother Bird sat over her eggs.
‘Not long now,’ she said to Father Bird.
Father Bird brought her worms and seeds.
‘Not long at all.’*

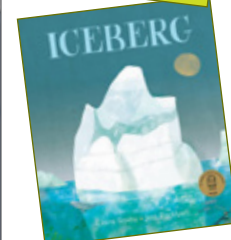
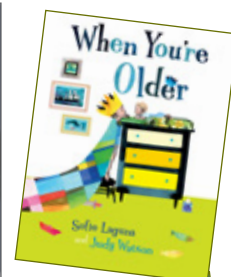
When an extra egg appears in their nest and takes too long to hatch, Mother Bird and Father Bird must risk their lives to keep it warm.

And as the freezing winter takes hold and it seems all hope is lost, only something miraculous will save them.

Sofie Laguna’s many books for young people have been published widely internationally. She has been shortlisted for the Queensland Premier’s Awards, and twice awarded Honour Book by the Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA).

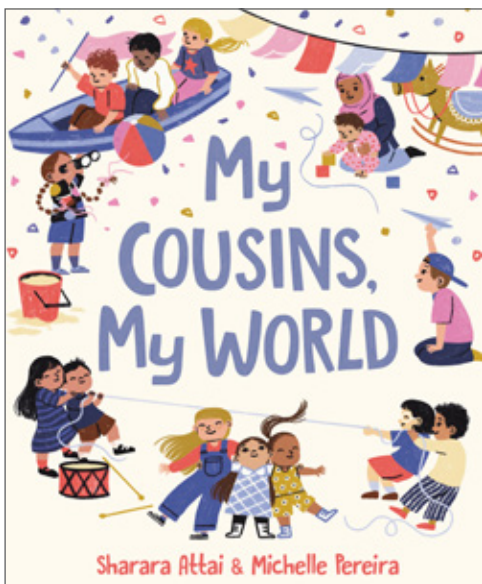
She is also a highly acclaimed author for adults. Sofie lives in Melbourne with her husband and two sons.

Jess Racklyeft creates a variety of illustrated things – picture books, paintings, prints, pins and cards – mainly in watercolours. Her art often combines collage experimentation and lots of watercolour. Sometimes she writes the books as well. Jess has won several illustration accolades including CBCA Picture Book of the Year for *Iceberg* (written by Claire Saxby). Her days are happily spent in a messy studio creating books or visiting schools. www.jessesmess.com



MY COUSINS, MY WORLD

Sharara Attai and Michelle Pereira



A lyrical, vibrant picture book celebrating the rich and unbreakable bonds we share with our cousins.

I have more cousins than I can count on my fingers and toes.

Quiet cousins and loud cousins.

Dark cousins and fair cousins.

Young cousins and old cousins.

I have cousins who are near.

And some who are far.

But even those who are far feel near.

*Because memories of them surround me,
wrapping me up like a warm blanket.*

From wild campouts to boisterous family gatherings, the adventures and experiences that bind cousins together are rich and lifelong. A joyful celebration of family.

Sharara Attai worked as a human rights lawyer for refugees for ten years and is now Director of the Islamophobia Register Australia, a diversity and inclusion not-for-profit organisation. In May 2023, she was a finalist for the UNHCR Les Murray Award for Refugee Recognition. **Michelle Pereira** is a freelance illustrator and artist. Colourful palettes, graphic shapes and cheery characters are features of her work, and she illustrates them all from her home studio in Melbourne. Her picture books include *Stay for Dinner*, *Ammi's Sari* and *The Boy Who Tried to Shrink his Name*, all written by Sandhya Parappukaran. She won the CBCA New Illustrator award in 2022.



MY MUM IS THE BEST

Nic McPickle, illustrated by Tommy Doyle



A companion title to *My Dad is the Best*, this warm and funny book is a big affectionate “thank you” to all the mums out there, for everything they do for us.

*My mum is a Super Mum, the best I’ve ever known.
She loves her trackies and her Uggs, her coffee,
and her phone.*

*She comes to my concerts, and pins up my art,
She helps me be brave and follow my heart.*

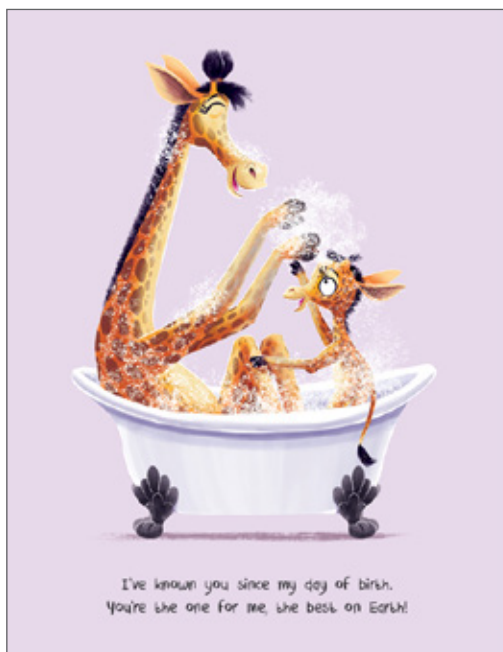
*She teaches me to cook, and look after a pet.
And how to put the ball in the back of the net.*

My mum is the best!

A hilarious, warm-hearted and richly deserved celebration of mothers everywhere.

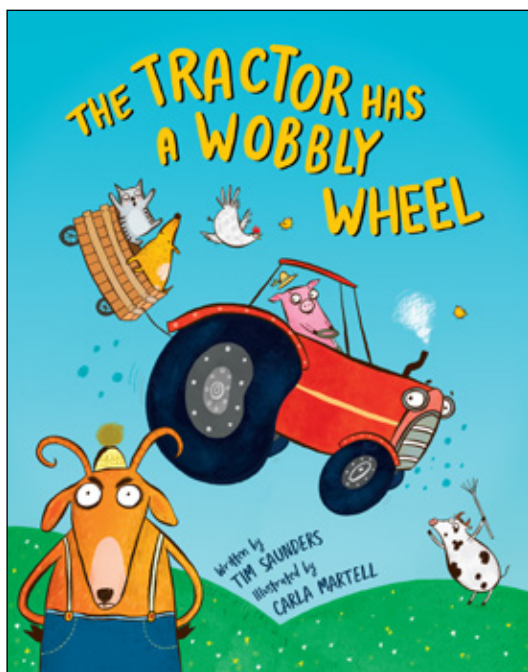
Nic McPickle is the fun-loving children’s author of *Fire Truck Santa* and *My Dad is the Best*. Nic is based in Melbourne, and is hometown-famous on the relish and preserves circuit. **Tommy Doyle**, a Melbourne-based illustrator, ceramist and graphic designer, is known for his unique ability to blend bold simplicity with a nuanced understanding of storytelling through art. Originally from Montreal, his move to Australia in 2007 marked the

beginning of a journey that enriched his artistic perspective. Tommy is the illustrator for *My Dad is the Best* and *A Beginner’s Guide to Choosing the Perfect Pet*.



THE TRACTOR HAS A WOBBLY WHEEL

Tim Saunders, illustrated by Carla Martell



What to do with a tractor that keeps breaking down? Call in the farm animals: they will sort it!

How do you fix a wobbly tractor wheel?

Goat and pig and horse and friends have some ideas!

Which one will work?

The colours pop, the words bounce and you're pulled into the ride! Perfect for reading aloud, bouncing and bobbing along, repeat reading, and page poring. It's A LOT of fun!

Carla Martell's illustrations take the humour to another level – adding unexpected extra treats to keep young minds busy and delighted.

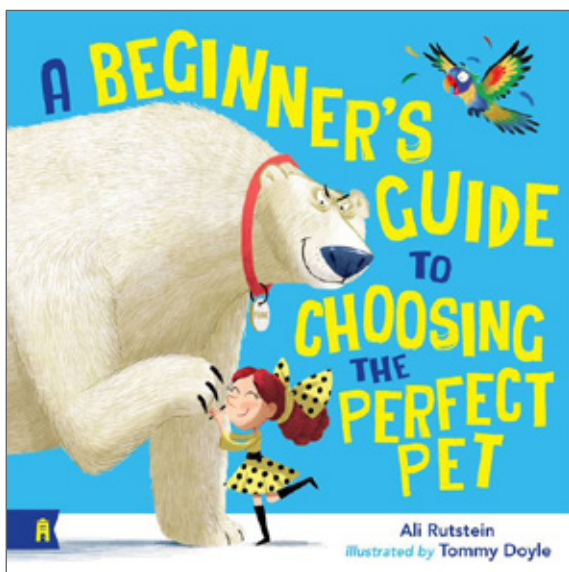
Tim Saunders farms and is the author of adult non-fiction titles *This Farming Life* and *Under a Big Sky*. He was shortlisted for the prestigious Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2021 for his story 'Carved'; the only New Zealander that year. He won the 2018 *MindFood* Magazine Short Story Competition and was joint winner of the Caselberg Trust International Poetry Prize in 2023. He performs poetry around the Manawatu and beyond.



Carla Martell worked in the animation industry until illustrating her first children's book in 2020, *Tulip & Doug* by Emma Wood, and is currently working on her eleventh book. Her recent collaboration with author Juliette MacIver, *Duck Goes Meow*, won Best Picture Book in the 2023 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and YA.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE PERFECT PET

Ali Rutstein, illustrated by Tommy Doyle



Choosing the perfect family pet is easy with this simple guide ... OR IS IT?

Every family should have a pet.

A faithful friend to welcome into your hearts and home.

This guide is a MUST HAVE to help you decide which pet is the perfect fit for your family.

Crocodiles, for instance, make excellent pets. They are peaceful creatures, with cheerful, happy-go-lucky personalities. Puppies, on the other hand, are a terrible choice.

This hilarious picture book will have readers in stitches ... (especially if you take it too literally!)

Ali Rutstein is a children's book author, living in Brisbane with her partner, three sons and their friendly chickens. She writes picture books, junior fiction and short stories. Her debut picture book, *Ladybirds Do Not Go to Daycare*, published in 2023, was a CBCA notable. Her books are inspired by funny events and people (usually her sons) and often have a strong animal focus. **Tommy Doyle**, a Melbourne-based illustrator, ceramist and graphic designer, is known for his unique ability to blend bold simplicity with a nuanced understanding of storytelling through art. Originally from Montreal, his move to Australia in 2007 marked the beginning of a journey that enriched his artistic perspective. When not at his desk, Tommy can be found exploring the world with his husband and chihuahua.

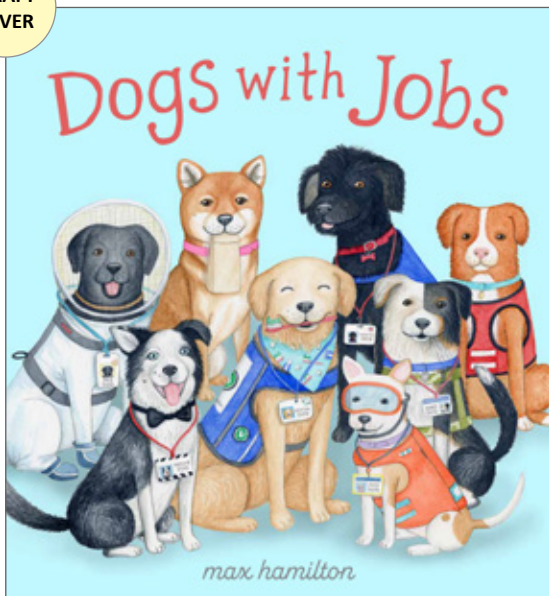


November 2024 • 250x250mm • HB • Full Colour • 32pp • **WORLD RIGHTS RIGHTS SOLD: Dutch (De Fontein)**

DOGS WITH JOBS

Maxine Hamilton

DRAFT COVER



Dogs with jobs? What more could you want! A delightful exploration of the many careers of our canine companions.

Dogs may be man’s best friend, but sometimes that’s just their side hustle!

Meet the bee-keepers, the whale poop sniffers, the dental assistants, and the penguin protectors from around the world who prove that dogs have more jobs than you can throw a stick at.

Packed with adorable illustrations and quirky jobs, this heartwarming book about man’s best (and busiest) friend is perfect for young readers and dog lovers everywhere.

Max Hamilton is a CBCA and Whitley award-winning illustrator, a graphic designer and most enthusiastically a maker of children’s books. She enjoys noticing the little details in things and loves to get lost in the world of illustration and stories. Max lives with her family and their cuddly dog in Sydney, Australia.

www.maxhamiltonillustration.com.au



DRAFT SPREAD

Eba alerts her handler using body signals when he smells whale poo (or scat) in the water. Scientists then collect the scat samples and use them to monitor the health, movements and diet of orca whales.

VOLCANO

Claire Saxby, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft



Explore the fascinating world of an underwater volcano with award-winning picture book creators Claire Saxby and Jess Racklyeft.

Deep in the ocean, far beyond the reach of even the brightest sun, the earth quakes. Hagfish scatter and snailfish flutter. Lava pillows flash and fade, rumpling the seabed as a new volcano births a mountain. Where hot meets cold, a chimney forms. Here begins a colony of unexpected creatures. Other chimneys grow and cool, grow and cool, while the mountain stretches ever upwards. A rumble becomes a roar and the sea boils. Lava fireworks the sky. A new island is born.

More volcanoes erupt under water than exist on land. Combining deep scientific research, lyrical language and stunning illustrations, *Volcano* is the next exploration of the natural world from this award-winning team. The fourth and last in the series will be *Thunderstorm*, coming April 2026.

Claire Saxby’s work has won several awards including CBCA Honour Book, a NSW Premier’s Literary Award, a SCBWI Crystal Kite Award, an Environment Award for Children’s Literature, an Educational Publishing Award and the Whitley Award multiple times. She is widely curious about just about everything and passionate about encouraging curiosity and wonder. www.claresaxby.com. Jess Racklyeft works mainly in watercolours and ink and her illustrations often combine collage – either on paper or digitally assembled. Jess has written and/or illustrated nearly 30 titles and won several illustration accolades including CBCA Picture Book of the Year for *Iceberg* and a CBCA Honour Book for *Australia: Country of Colour*. www.jessesmess.com



Phytoplankton feed and bloom. Feathery corals sprout.
Mussels and limpets take hold. Sponges swell.
Red-legged crabs nibble and scabble. Young redfish circle.
Tuna arrive, feed and swim on.
Sea turtles pause.
Sharks and whales pass by on their ocean journeys.



On ICEBERG:

Rights sold:

North American English and French (Groundwood); French ex NA (Editions Circonflexe)

WINNER: 2022 CBCA Picture Book of the Year

SHORTLISTED: 2022 Children’s Literature Award – Adelaide Festival Awards

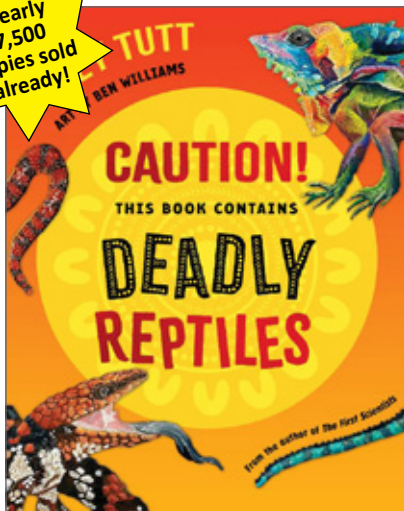
‘A visual and literary masterpiece.’

Children’s Books Daily

CAUTION! THIS BOOK CONTAINS DEADLY REPTILES

Corey Tutt, illustrated by Ben Williams

Nearly 7,500 copies sold already!



This is the ultimate reptile book for kids by DeadlyScience founder Corey Tutt, bestselling author of *The First Scientists*. Bursting with vibrant illustrations and cool facts about more than 60 reptiles, Corey Tutt celebrates First Nations knowledge about animals found on Country, from lizards and snakes to turtles and crocodiles.

Sharing knowledge from 20 different First Nations, this is a reptile book unlike any you've seen before. For each reptile featured, you'll discover its name in a First Language, plus learn about favourite feeds, where it likes to live, breeding and babies, conservation, predators and prey, and most importantly, what makes that reptile deadly (in a good way)!

The amazing facts in this book will astound you! Did you know that a central bearded dragon's beard can change colour to protect it from predators? Or that the temperature of a turtle egg nest determines if the baby turtles will be boys or girls? Or that some First Nations names for reptiles can be more scientifically accurate than the European names, such as the common death adder that is more closely related to a brown snake than an adder?

Corey Tutt is a Kamilaroi man who was born on Yin Country. As a kid, he dreamed of becoming a zookeeper and in high school he developed a love of STEM subjects. But unlike the arts and sport, he found there was little encouragement for Aboriginal people to pursue careers in STEM. In 2018 Corey founded DeadlyScience, a not-for-profit organisation that aims to provide science resources to remote schools in Australia. In 2020, Corey was named the NSW Young Australian of the Year, and a Human Rights Hero by the Australian Human

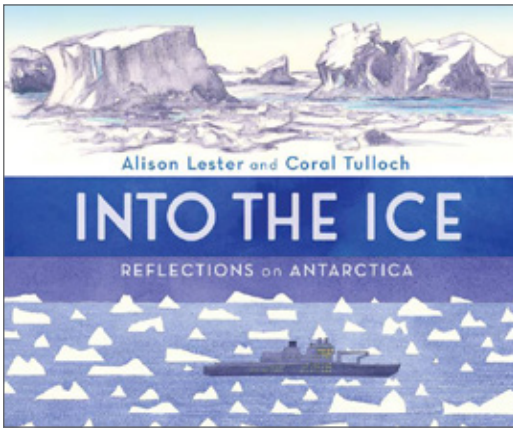
Rights Commission. In 2022, Corey received an OAM for service to Indigenous STEM education. He is an Associate Professor at Western Sydney University.

Ben Williams (Jangala/Jaburrula) is a young Aboriginal artist from the Kanturrpa clan, totem Milway, of Warlmanpa Country. Ben creates contemporary art that is inspired by his family (who are also artists!), his spiritual connection to the land and animals, and his life journey as a queer Blak person.



INTO THE ICE: REFLECTIONS ON ANTARCTICA

Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch



Go on an extraordinary journey with two of Australia’s most celebrated creators, as they take you on a journey to Antarctica and share their fascination with this incredible continent that changes everyone who travels there.

Featuring journal entries, poetry, quotations, drawings, paintings and photographs, Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch have selected an inspiring mix of their own and others’ work, from the early age of exploration through to the present day.

NOTABLE BOOK: 2025 CBCA EVE POWNALL AWARD (shortlists announced 25 March).

Alison Lester’s books are favourites around the world. In 2012, Alison became Australia’s first Children’s Book Laureate, a position she shared with Boori Monty Pryor. In 2016, she was awarded the Dromkeen Medal for her outstanding achievement in Australian children’s literature, and in 2018 she became the first children’s book creator to win the Melbourne Prize for Literature for her contribution to Australian literature and cultural and intellectual life. In 2019, Alison was awarded an Australia Post Legends Award and featured on a stamp, and received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours List. www.alisonlester.com.

Coral Tulloch has illustrated over sixty fiction and non-fiction books for children. Her book *Antarctica: The Heart of the World*, which she wrote and illustrated, won the 2004 Environment Award for Children’s Literature. *One Small Island*, Coral’s highly-acclaimed book about Macquarie Island which she created with Alison Lester, won the 2012 CBCA Book of the Year Award, as well as the Environment Award for Children’s Literature in the same year.



ILLUSTRATED JUNIOR FICTION

BRAVEPAW SERIES

L.M. Wilkinson, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu



Nearly
15,000
copies sold
so far!

An epic Tail of Adventure! Can one gallant mouse find the Heartstone and save her homeland from destruction? A fully illustrated and brilliantly readable series full of magic and prophecy, quests, heroism and loyal friendship – the world of Bravepaw will hook young readers until the very last page.

BRAVEPAW AND THE HEARTSTONE OF ALLURIA: BRAVEPAW 1

Titch has always longed for adventure – just like the gallant mouse hero Bravepaw in all her favourite stories. But she is the smallest mouse in her family, living in a peaceful little village where nothing exciting ever happens ... until DIRE TROUBLE comes to the Plateau!

Titch and her best friend Huckleberry must set out on a DANGEROUS QUEST to take the Heartstone to repair the crack in the heart of Alluria before the whole world breaks apart.

Can Titch ever hope to live up to the legend of Bravepaw?

SELECTED: 2024 One of the Best Middle Grade Books – Readings Books



Sept 2024 (Book 1); March 2025 (Book 2); March 2026 (Book 3); Sept 2026 (Book 4)
198x128mm • PB • B&W Illustrations Throughout • 192pp





Nearly 7,500 copies sold already!

BRAVEPAW AND THE CLAWSTONE OF ROTWOOD MIRE: BRAVEPAW 2

Titch and Huckleberry are on an epic quest. They have followed their hearts ... right into the path of a terrifying swamp monster, and a village full of brainwashed squirrels!

Maybe their hearts aren't to be trusted? Maybe Titch is just an ordinary little mouse and not Bravepaw after all ...?

But Bravepaw or not, Titch is not about to give up. Can she defeat the greedy turtle controlling the squirrels, and discover what his glowing green gem has to do with the legend of Bravepaw and her quest to save Alluria?

BRAVEPAW AND THE FANGSTONE OF FLINTFALL: BRAVEPAW 3 coming MARCH 2026

BOOK 4 coming SEPTEMBER 2026



L.M. Wilkinson is the award-winning author of more than twenty books for children and teenagers, including *A Hunger of Thorns*, which won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award and was a CBCA Honour Book. Lili has a PhD in Creative Writing and is a passionate advocate for YA and the young people who read it.

Lavanya Naidu is a storyteller with a passion for building worlds and developing characters with heart. The twilight zone where they meet is where the magic happens! She is a graduate in animation film design and has illustrated several children's books and worked on games and animation production (television and film). Lavanya grew up in Kolkata, India, and now lives in Melbourne.

WORLD RIGHTS • RIGHTS SOLD: North American English (S&S BFYR); French (Eilean); Czech/Slovak (Bookmedia); Russian (Goodwin)

THE FIRST LAW OF UNCERTAIN FRIENDSHIPS

Aśka



DRAFT COVER

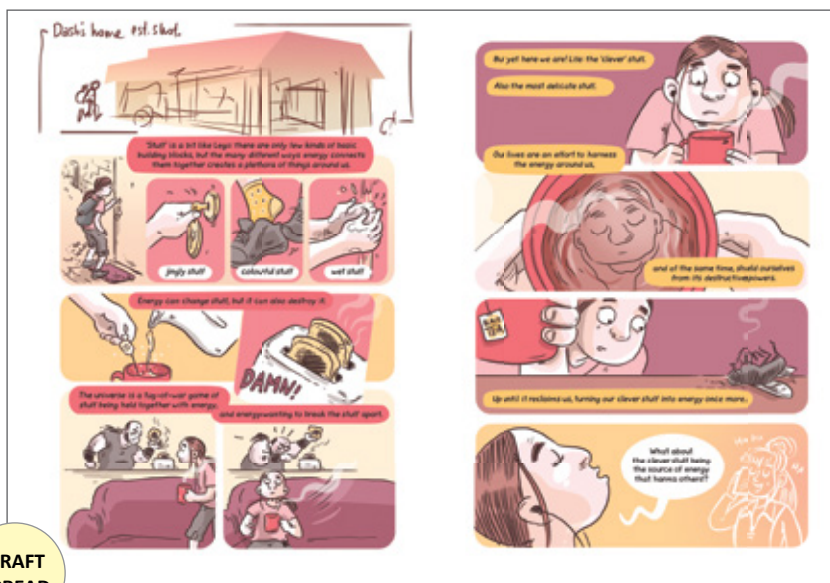
Part road trip novel, part physics text, part friendship story, this gorgeous graphic novel defies convention and radiates empathy – and talks directly to readers finding their place in a perplexing world.

Dash is a recent school graduate navigating the first year uni work placement circuit – a square peg in a round hole who tries to comprehend human relationships through the laws of physics.

Dash finds friendship exhausting; an enigma beyond comprehension. When they start a dream placement at a science education hub, teaching kids early science concepts, Dash thinks everything will change, and they will meet people just like themselves. But the workplace is as challenging as high school – relationships are fraught and confusing, the students don't follow the rules, and co-workers are not what they expect.

When Dash meets Kay, fellow intern, who is haphazard and disorganised and hence completely different to them, Dash cannot see a way to develop any rapport. But when Dash tries to apply the principles of physics in an attempt to control their new world, they discover that the true essence of friendship is something that defies even the most brilliant equation.

Aśka (pronounced 'Ash-ka') is an award-winning graphic novelist and an ex-quantum physicist. A hugely engaging and popular presenter, Aśka is passionate about visual literacy. She has published more than ten

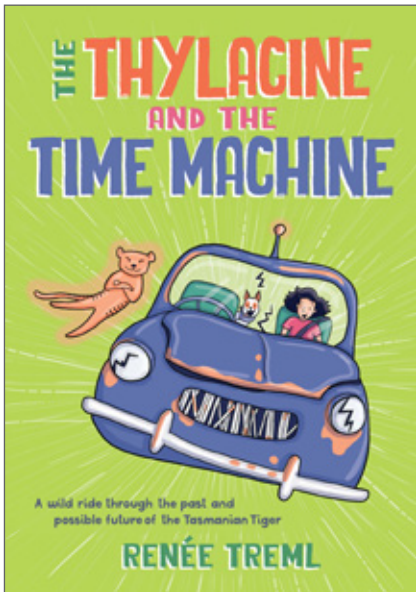


DRAFT SPREAD

books and graphic novels. Her recent titles include the Stonewall Award Notable YA graphic novel *Stars in Their Eyes* which was also nominated for the 2022 Comic Arts Awards of Australia and the CBCA Council of Australia Notable Books. Aśka is an organising committee member for the Perth Comic Arts Festival, contributes regularly to *The School Magazine* and when she's not creating children's books she travels across Western Australia as a science communicator. www.askastorytelling.com

THE THYLACINE AND THE TIME MACHINE

Renée Trembl



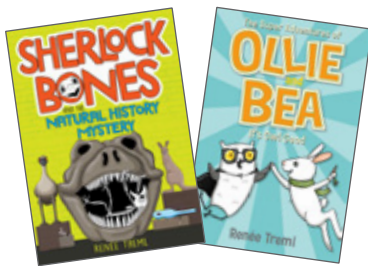
Violet is researching the Tasmanian Tiger for a school project when she is visited by the ghost of the last Thylacine, who takes her on an amazing trip in a time machine. A fascinating and funny graphic novel exploring the past and future of the most enigmatic extinct Australian native animal.

Buckle up! The time-machine awaits!

Join twelve-year-old Violet, her dog Tassie and her new friend Thyla – the ghost of the last Tasmanian Tiger – on a wild ride to learn all about the legendary, elusive and extinct Thylacine.

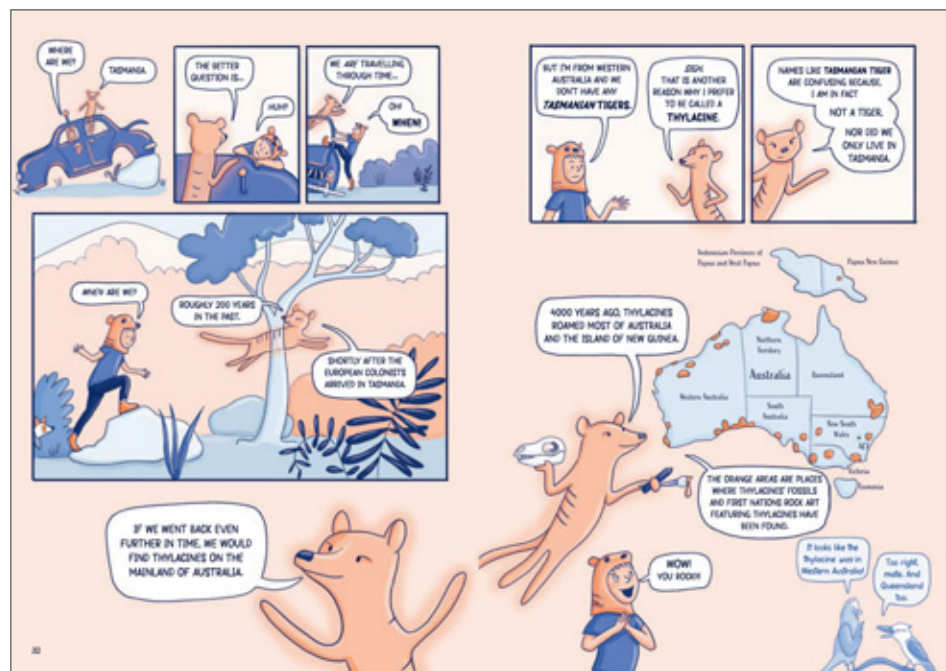
Could there be hope for one of Australia’s most missed (and misunderstood) native animals and other extinct species?

Packed full of fascinating facts about the terrible past and (potentially) exciting future of the Tasmanian Tiger.



‘Perfect for readers who love animals and animal facts.’ Remy Lai

Renée Trembl is the author and illustrator of several successful picture books including *Once I Heard a Little Wombat*, *Sleep Tight*, *Platypup* and *Wombat Big, Puggle Small*. She is also the creator of the highly engaging and funny junior fiction graphic novel series *Sherlock Bones* as well as the *Super Adventures of Ollie and Bea*. Renee has a degree in environmental science and a passionate love of natural history.
www.reneesartwork.com



REVENGE OF THE TOXIC SPACE POTATO

First Dog on the Moon



A hilarious full-colour illustrated cosmic adventure featuring teen superheroes, a wobbegong and a sourdough starter with a real punch intent on saving the world from climate disaster, from Australia’s best-loved marsupial cartoonist.

Letitia, Binky and Worried Norman are no ordinary teens. They are the superheroes better known as the Indefatigable EnviroTeens! Unluckily they have been space snorkelled – sucked up by giant tubes, teleported through the galaxy, stripped of their powers and squeezed out on ... Mars?! Forced to join the Great Snorkel Manufactory, the three teenagers overhear the evil Baron Kartuffelpoffen’s plan to snorkel up all of Earth’s water. It really sucks! Can their trusty sidekicks, Stuart the wobbegong and Beverly the sourdough starter, come to the rescue?

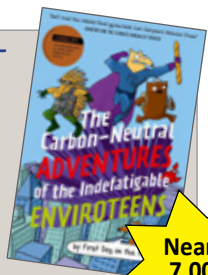
A wacky adventure for fans of Dog Man and the Treehouse books from the award-winning *Guardian Australia* cartoonist, bandicoot enthusiast and national treasure.

First Dog on the Moon is Australia’s only Walkley award-winning marsupial-based cartoonist and has done all sorts of things including books, radio, stage shows and a lot of lying down. www.firstdogonthemoon.com.au

‘Skillfully juggles superhero action, teen team drama, interesting and disgusting nature facts, and loads of funny gags.’
Books+Publishing



On **THE CARBON-NEUTRAL ADVENTURES OF THE INDEFATIGABLE ENVIROTEENS**: ‘This whimsical, fun book will be fully enjoyed by children who are fans of Dav Pilkey’s Dog Man books or Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton’s Treehouse series. It is also a great way for parents to inspire conversations with their children about the complexities of contemporary environmental politics.’ **Books+Publishing**



Nearly 7,000 sold!



LAVENDER WOLFE

Karen Foxlee



An inventive and playful fantasy-adventure set in an alternative Dickensian world about an abandoned girl, a friendly ogress and a terrible curse from the multi-award-winning and bestselling author of *Dragon Skin* and *Lenny's Book of Everything*.

Lavender Wolfe is a clapperdageon, pickpurse and all alone on a wharf when she is snatched by Big Agatha and thrown into the galley of a pirate ship, *The Good Marchioness*.

Disguised as a boy (for only boys may live in the galley) and renamed Hans Whitby, Lavender has to make her home among the Rats. However, *The Good Marchioness* is no ordinary pirate ship. Captained by Odyessia Pleasant, a fierce pirate with long

blonde hair, violet eyes and a bird's wing in the place of an arm, the crew are on a desperate voyage – to find and return the lost treasure of *The Marigold* before all those who sail within the cursed pirate ship are turned to sand. Lavender included.

Lavender is quick-witted and sharp as a tack, and as her magic starts to be revealed she finds herself coming under the arresting gaze of Captain Pleasant. Will Lavender help break the curse? Or will she be just another victim of this story within a story within a story, her true identity lost to the sands of time?

An adventure as big as the ocean and as full of love as your heart. All aboard!



LENNY'S BOOK OF EVERYTHING Awards:

WINNER: 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature

WINNER: 2019 QLD Literary Awards, Griffith University Young Adult Book Award
HONOUR BOOK: 2019 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

SHORTLISTED: 2019 Prime Minister's Literary Award, Young Adult Fiction
NOMINATED: 2020 CILIP Carnegie Medals

DRAGON SKIN Awards:

WINNER: 2021 Best Children's Fiction, Aurealis Awards

HONOUR BOOK: 2022 CBCA Book of the Year, Younger Readers

SHORTLISTED: 2022 Prime Minister's Literary Awards, Children's Literature

SHORTLISTED: 2022 Children's Book of the Year, Indie Book Awards

SHORTLISTED: 2022 Book of Year for Younger Children, ABIA Awards

SHORTLISTED: 2022 Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature, NSW Premier's Literary Awards

SHORTLISTED: 2024 Best Fiction for Yrs 7-9, Young Australians' Best Book Awards

Karen Foxlee grew up in the Australian outback mining town Mount Isa and has written many acclaimed children's books including *Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy*, *A Most Magical Girl*, and the internationally successful and multi-award-winning *Lenny's Book of Everything* and *Dragon Skin*. www.karenfoxlee.com

OTIS OTTLEY AND THE SCHOOL IN THE SKY

Will Kostakis



Otis Ottley is an ordinary boy who is yearning to go to the magic school, and be like Harry Potter. But to his great despair, his attendance letter never arrives. A funny and warm middle-grade novel about finding the magic in everyday life, from a much-loved award-winning author.

Otis Ottley lives with his dad in the small town of Poet's Point. He's the only kid in his class at school. All his other classmates have been offered a place at the Manor School for Children with Magical Proclivities – which is on an island that hovers tantalisingly out of reach in the sky. Otis desperately wants to go to the school – to learn magic and to re-connect with his best friend. But apparently he has no magical proclivities, because no letter ever arrives.

One day, when the Manor School is passing over Poet's Point, something is catapulted off it and lands with great force in the main street. The next day, the teenager-who-fell-from-the-sky turns up at Otis's school. And Otis sees his chance to make a new friend AND find out everything he can about the mysterious magic school. There are rules about who can learn magic and Otis is determined to find a way to break them. But what if he discovers there is something more important than magic?

A wonderful middle-grade novel, funny and heartfelt and full of all kinds of magic.

Will Kostakis is an award-winning author for young adults. His first novel, *Loathing Lola*, was published when he was just nineteen. After a brief break to dabble in celebrity journalism he returned with *The First Third*. It won the 2014 Gold Inky Award and was shortlisted for the CBCA and the Prime Minister's Literary Awards, among others. *The Sidekicks* was his third novel for young adults, and his US debut. It won the IBBY Australia Ena Noel Award. Will has also contributed to numerous anthologies, including the ABIA Award-winning *Begin, End, Begin: A #LoveOzYA Anthology*. His YA novel *We Could Be Something* won the Prime Minister's Literary Award, was shortlisted for the NSW, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and the Queensland Literary Awards, and was a CBCA Notable Book.



Over
7,500
copies
sold!

WE COULD BE SOMETHING Awards:

WINNER:

2024 Prime Minister's
Literary Awards, YA
Literature

NOTABLE BOOK:

2024 CBCA Book of the Year,
Older Readers

SHORTLISTED:

2024 Victorian Premier's
Literary Awards
2024 NSW Premier's Literary
Awards
2024 Queensland Literary
Awards, YA Book Award

SPARK HUNTER SERIES

Sonya Wilson



Spark Hunter was first published in 2021 in New Zealand by Cuba Press. It made several bestseller lists and won the awards below.

WINNER:
2022 NZSA BEST FIRST
BOOK AWARD,
NZ BOOK AWARDS FOR
CHILDREN AND YA

SHORTLISTED:
2022 ESTHER GLEN
JUNIOR FICTION PRIZE,
NZ BOOK AWARDS FOR
CHILDREN AND YA

NOTABLE:
2022 STORYLINES BOOK
AWARDS

SPARK HUNTER

An epic adventure-fantasy – ancient secrets and a treacherous journey in a vast wilderness.

Something is hiding deep in the forest – Nissa has seen mysterious, supernatural lights in the trees.

What are they, why do they seem to be trying to attract her attention and why does no one else seem to notice them?

When Nissa sneaks away from her school camp to track down the lights, she finds herself lost in a dangerous wonderland.

She's not the only one at risk – the Fiordland forest and the creatures in it are under threat too.

What can she do where adults have failed? And can Nissa find her way back home? In Fiordland, the lost usually stay lost ...

THE SECRET GREEN

It's a year since 12-year-old Nissa Marshall was found alive after miraculously surviving a month lost in the vast, dense, isolated bush of Fiordland.

Strange, magical things happened when Nissa was lost in the wilds but she must keep those secrets to herself.

Were the sparks actually real? Or had she made it all up in the forest inside her head? Because nothing had happened since. Life has just gone on. But when one of the sparks mysteriously calls her back she discovers something very wrong. Developers are planning to put a road and a tunnel through the pristine wilderness, threatening the sparks that saved Nissa and who have lived there for thousands of years.

She must return and do what she can to save them.

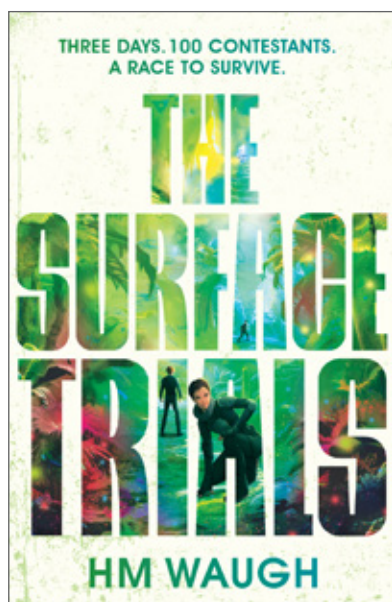
Sonya Wilson is an award-winning novelist, journalist, television reporter, presenter and producer. She has a degree in Broadcasting Communications and has worked across a variety of platforms and programmes including TVNZ's *Breakfast*, *1News*, *20/20*, *Sunday* and *Q+A* programmes. She also has a Masters in Creative Writing with First Class Honours from the University of Auckland.

Book 1: June 2025, 288pp, 64,100 words;

Book 2: July 2025, Extent TBA, 70,300 words • 198x128mm • PB • **WORLD RIGHTS**

THE SURFACE TRIALS

HM Waugh



An epic page-turner full of twists you won't see coming, set on an alien planet where, under the watch of a galaxy-wide TV audience, Ammy Antares and her fellow competitors must complete a challenging quest to gain entry into an elite interplanetary academy.

Three days, three clues, one hungry planet.

Constant surveillance.

The entire universe watching every move.

Some will shatter. Most will fail.

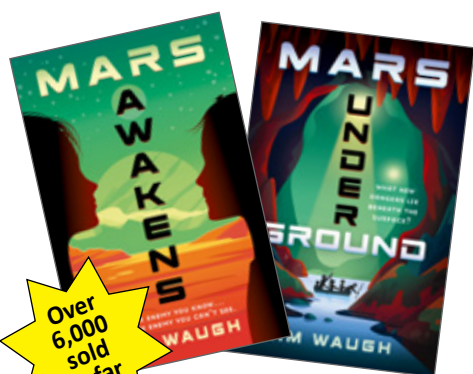
A select few will make it through, instant celebrities.

Welcome to the Surface Trials. The only way into Starquest Academy.

For Amethyst Antares, Starquest Academy offers an escape from the prison of her home planet. For Rian – the uber-famous and expertly-disguised heir to the universe's two greatest dynasties – failure to get into his own academy is not an option. And Deneb? Well, he's an outlier ...

But this year not everything goes to plan, and Amethyst and her squad find themselves playing for more than Starquest admission. To survive, they'll have to outsmart carnivorous creatures, share dangerous secrets, maintain trust and embrace the most shocking truth in the galaxy.

Set on a fascinating yet hostile alien planet, this high-stakes, elimination-quest novel will have readers captivated!



'HM Waugh writes completely unputdownable stories that will keep you up late – if she's writing it, I'm reading it.' **Amie Kaufman, NYT bestselling author**

'Brilliant! Original, riveting and hugely fun.' **Jaclyn Moriarty, author of the KINGDOMS AND EMPIRES series**

'A contest, a journey, a mysterious artefact, this novel never lets up the pace or thrills. I loved it! It's the kind of book I longed for as a child. Full of thrills, mysteries and kids out there kicking it!'

Bren MacDibble, bestselling author of HOW TO BEE

'It has everything I love in a story: high stakes, dangerous secrets, and smart kids facing overwhelming odds. Plus space!' **Lian Tanner, bestselling author of MUSEUM OF THIEVES**

HM Waugh is a children's author, educator and environmental scientist with a long-term love of wild places and outdoor adventures. She has been kidnapped twice, handled dragons for a job, and dreams of one day blasting into space. Her books mix humour, danger and friendship with a dash of science and imagination.

KIMI THE KEKENO'S BIG ADVENTURE

Shelley Burne-Field



A funny and exciting ocean adventure with heaps of heart, from emerging talent Shelley Burne-Field.

Kimi the kekeno is going on the biggest adventure of his life – the long and scary journey to the magical Stone Circle.

Along the way Kimi and his friends meet a giant squid who needs their help, a wise old stingray and a very hungry hammerhead shark.

Does shy and gentle Kimi have what it takes to make the journey? Can the friends still make it to the Stone Circle moon ceremony on time?

From the author of *Brave Kāhu and the Pōrangī Magpie*, this is a story about friendship, learning to be brave and loving ourselves as we are.



On *BRAVE KĀHU AND THE PŌRANGI MAGPIE*:

‘Takes a fresh, hawk-like dive into the fictional lives of our native manu. Beautiful writing for young readers.’ *Aotearoa New Zealand Review of Books*

‘A stunning story of family, te taiao, and rising to an occasion’ *The Spinoff*

Shelley Burne-Field (Sāmoa, Ngati Mutunga, Ngati Rārua, Pākehā) is a kaituhituhi from Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke’s Bay. She writes articles and creative non-fiction as well as fiction of all sorts, including short stories. This is her second children’s story. It follows the epic middle-grade adventure story, *Brave Kāhu and the Pōrangī Magpie*, published in 2024. She is an alumni of the Master of Creative Writing from Auckland University 2020 and also Te Papa Tupu mentoring programme. Her story ‘Speaking in Tongues’ was the only New Zealand Finalist in the 2022 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Her work is now in print in anthologies around the world, and has appeared in Newsroom and on RNZ. Her story ‘Pinching out Dahlias’ is the most read short story published in Reading Room. Shelley is a proud member of the NZSA.

SPIRIT OF THE CROCODILE

Aaron Fa’Aoso and Michelle Scott Tucker with Lyn White



An inspiring story of courage, resilience and hope, set in the Torres Strait Islander community as climate change threatens culture, tradition and connection to place.

The crocodile’s eyes were yellow, slit by a vertical pupil. The creature remained perfectly still, but it throbbed with life.

Ezra felt goosebumps in spite of the afternoon heat, and took a few steps back.

‘Is that thing looking at you?’ asked Mason.

‘Nah. How could it be?’

Twelve-year-old Ezra is an ordinary boy who lives on Saibai, an extraordinary Australian island. He loves a laugh, he loves his family and – almost more than anything – he loves a dare.

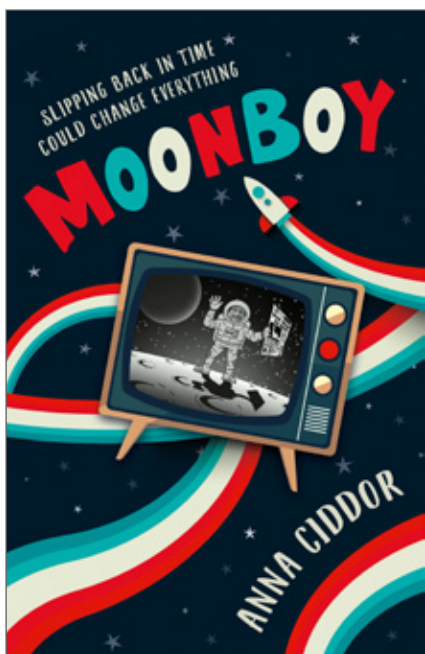
But when one of his dares goes wrong, Ezra realises he needs to make some decisions about helping out and measuring up. He learns that there’s more than one way to look at, well, nearly everything.

And as ever-increasing climate disasters threaten Saibai, Ezra and his best mate Mason must draw on their resilience and courage to help the community survive a massive out-of-season storm.

Aaron Fa’Aoso is a Torres Strait Islander film producer, director, screenwriter and actor. In 2022 he published his memoir, *So Far, So Good*. Aaron is the founder and Managing Director of Lone Star, a film and television production company whose many outputs include the documentary series *Blue Water Empire*, about the history of the Torres Strait Islands, and *Strait to the Plate*, a food and travel series also set in the Torres Strait. Aaron is a board member of SBS and of Screen Queensland, and was the co-chair of the Queensland Government’s Interim Truth and Treaty Body. **Michelle Scott Tucker** is the author of *Elizabeth Macarthur: A Life at the Edge of the World* – a biography of the woman who established the Australian wool industry (although her husband received all the credit). *Elizabeth Macarthur* was shortlisted for the 2019 NSW State Library Ashurst Business Literature Prize. Michelle is the co-writer of Aaron Fa’Aoso’s memoir, *So Far, So Good*. Consultant editor **Lyn White** has extensive experience as a primary school teacher-librarian and EAL teacher. She has great expertise in engaging students and teachers with quality texts and her work with refugee children motivated her to create the acclaimed Through My Eyes series of books set in contemporary war zones and disaster zones. The novels pay tribute to the courage and resilience of children who are often the most vulnerable in post-disaster situations. Lyn is a conference presenter, runs workshops based on the Through My Eyes texts and has written several articles for teacher-association journals and children’s literature magazines.

MOONBOY

Anna Ciddor



An exciting timeslip novel from the bestselling author of *The Boy Who Stepped Through Time*, featuring a present-day girl hurtling back to the time of the 1969 moon landing.

When a boy called Keith pops up from nowhere in Letty's bedroom and accuses her of invading his room, Letty is astonished – but things get even stranger when she realises she is caught up in an incredible adventure, able to slip back and forth in time!

Keith lives in the world of 1969, and Letty joins in the thrill and excitement of the first astronauts about to land on the moon.

But when she discovers her trips to the past are changing history, she starts to worry. What if something she says or does causes a disaster – or even messes up the moon landing?

Moonboy is an exciting character-driven story based on the real Apollo 11 mission. It contains fascinating facts about early space travel and vibrantly brings to life the differences between the late 1960s and now.

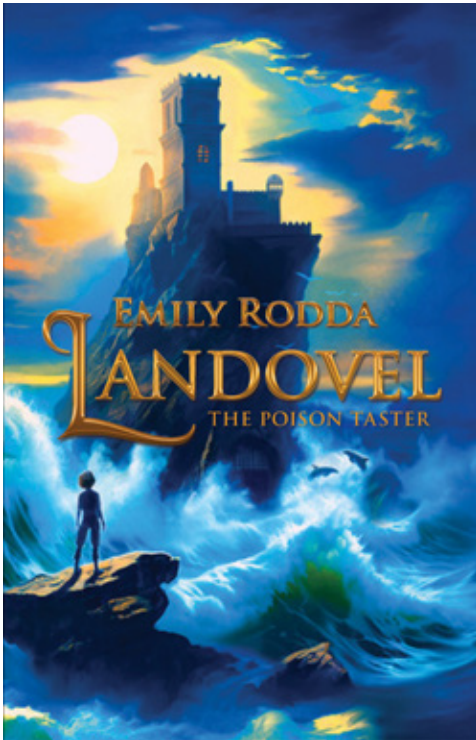


Anna Ciddor has been fascinated by the past for as long as she can remember. It would be her dream come true to step through time! Instead, she immerses herself in research and digs out the tiniest details so she can bring the past to life in her imagination – and in her books. Anna is based in Melbourne, Australia, but her research quests have led her across the world. She has hunted for druids in Ireland, Vikings in Norway, and her grandmother's childhood in Poland. Anna's work has won her many accolades, including the Nance Donkin Award for Children's Literature, a grant from the Australia Council, Notable Book awards from the Children's Book Council of Australia, and shortlistings for numerous other awards. Some of her best-loved books include *Runestone*, *The Family with Two Front Doors* and *The Boy Who Stepped Through Time*. www.annaciddor.com

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

LANDOVEL SERIES

Emily Rodda



An epic three-book fantasy quest! Compulsive reading from the author of one of the most successful children's fantasy series ever published, Deltora Quest.

*A hero fights against the tide,
Companions battle by his side.
Danger, magic, secrets, lies,
A tyrant King who never dies,
A Prophecy that must be cheated,
Evil that must be defeated,
The menace of the fabled El ...
This is the tale of Landoval.*

**15,000
COPIES
SOLD SO
FAR!**

From the legendary Emily Rodda comes an epic adventure unlike any you've read before.

Derry, poison taster for the tyrannical Cram, remembers nothing before becoming a captive on Cram's Rock. From his ocean-bound prison, to the technologically

advanced Free Landoval and the pastoral and oppressed True Landoval, Derry embarks on a quest whose twists and turns are beyond imagining. The secrets of Landoval and his own past will gradually unravel as, with his companions Straw, Num and Cat, Derry must try to prevent an apocalyptic war.

THE POISON TASTER: LANDOVEL 1

*Till the Tower falls,
Till the Great Bell calls ...*

Derry remembers nothing before his capture by the vicious sea raider, Cram. Life as Cram's poison taster is all he knows, and books are his only friends. The one clue to his past is that he was taken along with others fleeing the kingdom of True Landoval.

Then a mysterious traveller comes to Cram's Rock, pursued by sinister El – strange beings Derry had thought were myths. The coded journal she leaves behind is vitally important – and the secrets it holds will change everything.

Derry doesn't know it yet, but plots are hatching beyond the horizon – plots that will draw him into a dangerous journey.

All 3 titles: October 2024 • 198x128mm • PB
Boxset or publish individually • 336, 304 and 304pp (approx. 60,000 words each)





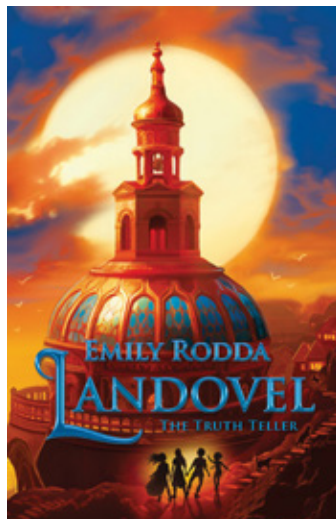
THE SECRET KEEPER: LANDOVEL 2

*Till the Star Stone flies
Till the dead arise ...*

Derry and his companions, Straw, Cat and Num, begin their perilous journey in True Landoval, very aware they are in enemy territory. Secret allies will help them on their way, but the spies and soldiers of King Greville, who holds the land in thrall, are far from being the only dangers they will face.

Somehow, the companions must reach the fear-filled Scarlet City, and make contact with the elusive hero, Hant. Only Hant can stand against the looming threat of war and destruction.

But where in the teeming city is Hant hiding? Is he even still alive?



THE TRUTH TELLER: LANDOVEL 3

*While El forgive,
The King will live.*

Fate has led Derry into King Greville’s palace, the evil heart of the Scarlet City. Against all odds, he has gained the king’s trust. Fully aware he is in terrible danger, Derry resolves to follow in the footsteps of the mysterious rebel leader, Hant, and use his position as Greville’s truth teller to penetrate the dark secrets locked within the palace.

Nothing, he discovers, is as it seems. Menaced by corrupt nobles, sinister Wordsmiths, and the threat of an avenging El, Derry and his companions must come together in a final, desperate race against time to save the land and the people they love.

Compulsive, engaging and brilliantly plotted, with unforgettable characters – this series is designed for binge reading and it doesn’t disappoint! Each book follows directly from the one before.

NOTABLE BOOK: 2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, YOUNGER READERS (shortlists announced 25 March).

Emily Rodda is one of Australia’s best-known children’s authors. She has written or co-authored over 100 books including the award-winning Rowan of Rin series and the outstandingly successful Deltora Quest series, which has been translated into 28 languages. Her books have received many Children’s Choice awards, and she has won the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Book of the Year (Younger Readers) Award six times. In 2019 she was awarded the highest honour in the Australia Day Honours list, Companion of the Order of Australia (AC).

‘If there were ever a new Australian fantasy classic, *Landoval* is it ... the incomparable Emily Rodda at her very best.’
Magpies

THUNDERHEAD

Sophie Beer



Nearly 8,000 copies sold so far!

‘Thunderhead is my new hero: so smart, funny and true.’

Karen Foxlee

‘A triumph: an intelligent, funny and heart-twisting story.’ **Peter Carnavas**

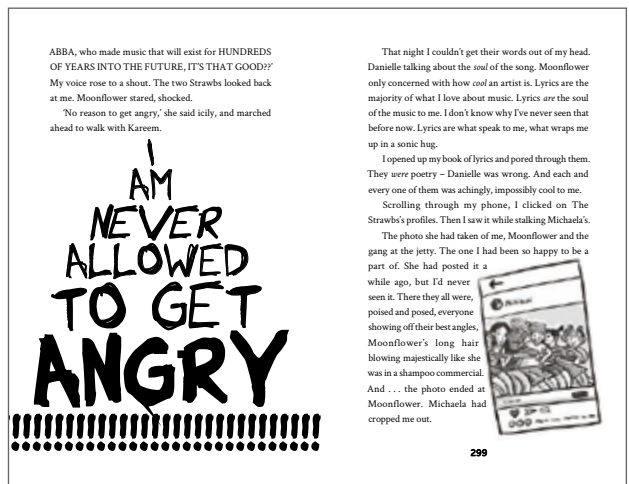
Captivating, memorable and deeply funny, *Thunderhead* is a heart-squeezing and hopeful illustrated novel about music, disability, friendship and fandom – beautifully told with humour, art and joy. Perfect for fans of *Wonder* and *Lenny’s Book of Everything*.

Meet Thunderhead: awkward, music-obsessed and a magnet for bad luck. Their favourite things in life are listening to records and hanging out with their best (and only) friend Moonflower. But Thunderhead has a big secret. And when Moonflower moves schools, they’re faced with the reality of surviving the wilderness of high school alone. Make new friends? NOTHANKYOUVERYMUCH. As two big life events approach, Thunderhead posts playlists and heartfelt diary entries as an outlet to try to make sense of their changing world, to try to calm the storm brewing in their brain and to try to find the courage to unfurl their heart.

Drawing on Sophie Beer’s own experience of having a brain tumour and hearing loss, this indelible illustrated novel is immediately engaging, utterly authentic and entirely unputdownable.

NOTABLE BOOK: 2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, OLDER READERS (shortlists announced 25 March).
SELECTED: 2024 One of the Best Middle Grade Books – Readings Books

Sophie Beer is an award-winning author/illustrator living in Brisbane. She rejoices in creating bright, funny books that centre equality, inclusion and kindness. Her internationally popular books include *Love Makes a Family* and have sold close to one million copies. As an illustrator, she has worked with the likes of Disney, Google, *The Guardian* and *The Boston Globe*. In 2016, Sophie was diagnosed with and underwent surgery for an acoustic neuroma, a brain tumour that affects balance, the facial nerve and hearing, and she is subsequently hard of hearing. *Thunderhead*, her first novel, was inspired by this transformative event. www.sophie-beer.com



CATCH

Sarah Brill



A unique and irresistible contemporary YA coming-of-age story about sixteen-year-old Beth, who discovers she has a life-saving gift. A superb novel about finding out what it takes to be an unlikely hero.

Sometimes people fall. It happens. Sometimes people are pushed. Sometimes people jump. And sometimes there's someone there to catch them.

The summer Beth turns sixteen, she grows. She grows so fast her bones hurt and she feels like throwing up. Everyone – including Etienne, the boy over the road – looks at her differently. Then she starts catching people. People who are falling out of trees or from high buildings.

Soon Beth discovers that helping strangers sometimes hurts – hurts her and the people she loves. And it isn't great for her school grades, either. Will she find a way to balance family and friendship and basketball and romance and ... catching?

An extraordinary story about finding out who you are, and discovering who you want to be.

Sarah Brill grew up in Perth, Western Australia and began writing at the age of 15. She initially focused on playwrighting but also wrote for film and radio. Her first novel, *Glory*, was published by Spinifex Press in 2002. Her second novel *Symphony for the Man* was also published by Spinifex Press in 2020. Sarah lives in Sydney with her three sons and two cats.

THE SET-UP GIRL

Sasha Vey



A fresh and contemporary queer romantic comedy from an exciting new voice.

Amalia's life runs like clockwork: school, family book club, hanging out with her best (and only) friend Mae. It's comfortable in its predictability.

So when Mae announces she's ready to start dating – against the wishes of their strict Slovenian community – Amalia's life is thrown into chaos. Forever the dutiful friend, Amalia agrees to help set-up Mae with the hottest boy in class: Kasun. The only problem? He's Amalia's secret crush.

Pushing her feelings aside and adopting the role of wingwoman, Amalia does her best to navigate an unfamiliar world of parties and romantic drama. As her matchmaking efforts intensify, Amalia grows closer to Kasun's best mates, Jake and Laeli, who frustrate and intrigue her in equal measure.

When a series of misunderstandings (and secret kisses) threaten to derail relationships, Amalia is left more confused than ever. Who does she really want to be with? And will she get her happily ever after?

A funny, feel-good queer romantic comedy of errors, where the course of true love rarely runs smooth!

Sasha Vey is a queer Australian author who enjoys writing young adult fiction that explores the queer teen experience as well as providing a fun romance for readers of any sexuality. When not writing or working, Sasha can be found on the piano or resisting the urge to start another crafting project.

IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT

Hannah Marshall



WINNER:
2024 Best Unpublished Author
Manuscript, Storylines Tessa
Duder YA Prize

‘Prickly, messy and deeply
 human characters.’

Rachael Crow, bestselling
author of *THE LOST SAINT*

Zelle and Callum used to be best friends, but they haven’t spoken in three years: not since the tragedy that wrenched them apart, and Zelle moved away.

But now Zelle is back, and their lives are about to get a whole lot more complicated ...

Zelle is in denial about her parent’s separation. Her alcohol use threatens to spiral out of control and she’s deeply annoyed at having to leave her city life and friends – especially since she no longer has friends back home.

When Callum first learns Zelle’s returned, he throws up, and his future is thrown into jeopardy. He blows two chances at his dream journalistic career – and a budding romance with new boy Finn.

Both Callum and Zelle realise they can’t keep running from the past forever, and circumstances force them to examine their grief, their guilt, their friendship, and find a way through.

Told through Zelle and Callum’s alternating points of view, *It’s a Bit More Complicated Than That* deftly explores relatable, emotionally intense themes told through beautifully assured story-telling.

Hannah Marshall has an MA in Creative Writing from the International Institute of Modern Letters at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. She’s been a winner of the Maurice Gee Prize in Children’s Writing, an NZSA CompleteMS Manuscript Assessment recipient and won the Best Unpublished Author category in the Storylines Tessa Duder YA Award 2024. *It’s a Bit More Complicated Than That* is her first novel.

BLOOD MOON BRIDE

Demet Divaroren



Forced into marriage for her valley's survival, Rehya must decide: submit or rebel against a ruthless system? A brilliant, fierce and compelling YA fantasy perfect for fans of *The Prison Healer* and *Children of Blood and Bone*, from the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Living on Hope Street*.

Ma's tears wet my neck as I backed into our hut. I slumped into Pa's chair. His smell curled around me. I breathed him in as my tears fell and anger bubbled under my skin. I was to be a Blood Moon Bride.

Rehya is a hunter with uncanny magical abilities – and magic has long been outlawed in Mennama Valley.

Every winter, on the night of the Blood Moon, young women enter forced marriages for the valley's advancement and prosperity. But this year Governor Kyra has decreed that girls of just fifteen must become Blood Moon Brides, making Rehya eligible.

When her Pa dies, Rehya's plans of escape evaporate and she is paraded in front of suitors on Show Day. And when she is chosen to be a bride, she lashes out.

As punishment, she is sent to the Nest. There Rehya must decide: should she submit to the life of a Blood Moon Bride, or rebel – and risk everything to fight for justice?

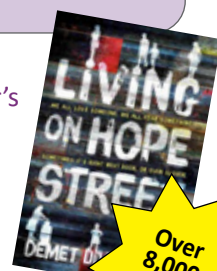
'Richly folkloric and tragically timely, *Blood Moon Bride* is a visceral tale of fierce women and bright, raging hope, drenched with blood and the light of stars.'

Lili Wilkinson, author of *A HUNGER OF THORNS* and *DEEP IS THE FEN*

'A richly realised and provocative fantasy, *Blood Moon Bride* shows that even in the midst of great hardship, magic can find a way.'

C.S. Pacat, *NY Times* bestselling author of *DARK RISE*

Demet Divaroren is the author of *Living on Hope Street*, which won the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards Prize for Writing for Young Adults and was shortlisted for the 2018 Prime Minister's Literary Awards. She is the co-editor of the *Growing Up Muslim in Australia* anthology which was shortlisted for the Children's Book Council's Book of the Year awards. Her writing has appeared in *Griffith Review*, *New Australian Stories*, *Island* magazine, *The Age Epicure*, *The Big Issue*, *From the Outer* and *Best Summer Stories*. Demet appears as a speaker and workshop leader at literary festivals and universities/schools and teaches creative writing at Victoria Polytechnic.



Over
8,000
sold

BEAR

Kiri Lightfoot



The powerful, humorous yet sensitive story of Jasper, a talented young artist, who learns to face his anger.

Thirteen-year-old Jasper Robinson-Woods is not okay – his name is too long, his mum has an annoying boyfriend, he never sees his dad and he can't sleep because of a terrifying nightmare. Oh, and to top it off, his goldfish is dying.

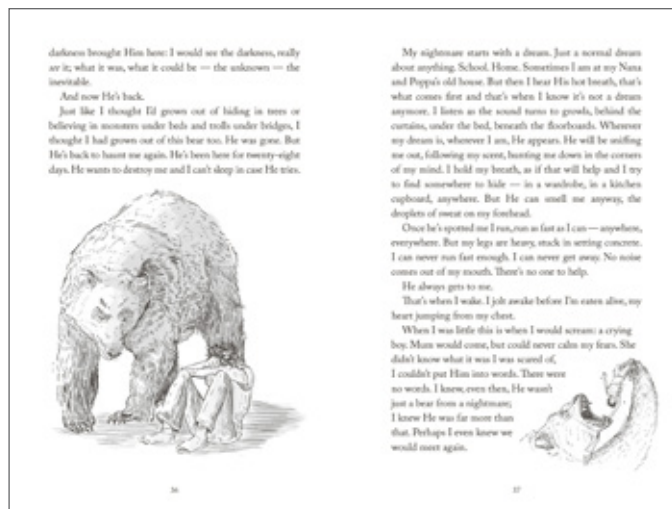
Jasper is overwhelmed with bad thoughts. Are they a sign of disaster to come? The only place he feels safe is in the tree in his front yard.

But then the unimaginable happens: his nightmare comes to life and everything spirals out of control. Jasper decides it's finally time to face his nightmare.

Bear is a moving, often laugh-out-loud funny story showing that even when you hit rock bottom, you never know what, or who, is around the corner.

**WINNER: 2024 Storylines
Tessa Duder YA Award**
'Wonderfully fresh and
engaging.'

'Tender and wickedly humorous – such an important story.' **Karen Foxlee, bestselling author of
*LENNY'S BOOK OF EVERYTHING***



Kiri Lightfoot is an NZ-based author and actor. She has worked as a scriptwriter in children's television and as an actor both for theatre and screen. She continues to work part-time in television and also runs poetry reading sessions in aged-care homes and hospitals with charity 'Active Arts'. *Bear* is her first novel for young adults and was inspired by working with young people at this time. Kiri is now a mother of three school-aged children and lives in central Auckland. Her previous books are picture books: *Ming's Iceberg*, illustrated by Kimberly Andrews (Scholastic 2021) and *Every Second Friday*, illustrated by Ben Galbraith (Hodder Children's Books 2008), a shortlist in the New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards 2009.

March 2025 • 234x153mm • PB • B&W Illustrations Throughout • 368pp
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DARKEST NIGHT, BRIGHTEST STAR

Barry Jonsberg



What makes a good man? Morgan Pickford isn't sure yet, but he's doing his best to find out, even though it's complicated. A life-affirming YA novel about fractured families, tough talk, masculinity, finding friendship and overturning expectations from an internationally acclaimed, bestselling Australian author.

Two things that are true and one that is a lie:

I think my mother is dead and alive.

I think if I work hard I will be very good at something.

I've tried to please my dad but I don't think I ever will.

Thirteen-year-old Morgan lives with his dad and his older brother, Mitch. He hasn't heard from his mum since she left when he was two. He works hard on his football skills, striving to meet his father's high expectations and 'be a man'.

But what that means isn't always clear-cut. When Morgan makes a friend at school, gets injured in a game, and his long-lost mum turns up, everything changes. Then, when he meets an old woman in need of help, Morgan must decide what kind of man he wants to be.

Shining a timely and much-needed light on different kinds of masculinity, *Darkest Night, Brightest Star* is a unique and compelling novel from a masterful storyteller.

Barry Jonsberg is the internationally popular author of 22 novels, for which he's won many awards, including: WINNER Victorian Premier's, Queensland Premier's, Gold Inky, Territory Reads, Adelaide Festival, German Readers' Choice Leserpreis, Children's Peace Literature Awards; SHORTLISTED CBCA (four times), Prime Minister's (twice), NSW Premier's, WA Premier's, Indie Awards. Barry's titles have been published in 20 countries, translated into 12 languages and *My Life as an Alphabet* was adapted into the award-winning feature film *H is for Happiness*.

www.barryjonsberg.com



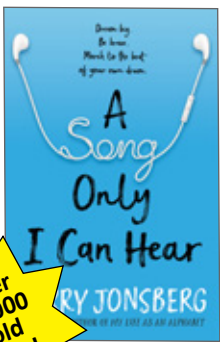
Nearly
7,000
sold
so far!

2022



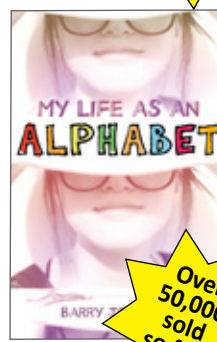
Nearly
11,000
sold
so far!

2020



Over
15,000
sold
so far!

2018



Over
50,000
sold
so far!

2013

COMES THE NIGHT

Isabelle Carmody



Approx
10,000
copies sold
so far!

'The queen of YA fantasy has done it again. Delicious twists and deceptions fill this high-stakes tale where dreams will entice you. You won't be able to sleep until you hit the last page.'

C.S. Pacat, *NY Times* bestselling author of *DARK RISE*

A superb YA fantasy set in the near future, full of secrets, high stakes, peril, deceptions and dreamwalkers.

Will lives with his father in a future domed Canberra where citizens are safe from extreme weather events, dangerous solar radiation and civil unrest. He does not question his carefully controlled existence until the recurrence of an old nightmare propels him on a dangerous quest.

Gradually Will discovers his dreams hold cryptic clues that lead him into a shadowy alternate dimension. Here he must grapple with dark forces that operate in both worlds, with the help of his best friend Ender, her brilliant but difficult twin sister Magda, and a mysterious gift from his uncle.

Featuring a reluctant hero on an epic quest into an alternative dream world, *Comes the Night* is the long-awaited latest novel from the internationally acclaimed and bestselling author of the Obernewtyn Chronicles.

**SHORTLISTED: 2025 INDIE YA BOOK AWARDS
(winners announced 24 March).**

**NOTABLE BOOK: 2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR,
OLDER READERS
(shortlists announced 25 March).**

Isabelle 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. Isabelle'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. She has also written several picture books as well as collections of short stories for children, young adults and adults.

MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS

Kate Emery



Holly Jackson meets Agatha Christie in this cosy modern-day YA murder mystery where your closest family are your prime suspects.

Fourteen-year-old Ruth is not thrilled to be spending the weekend at the family farm visiting the ancient GG, her coolly distant step-grandmother. With no internet or phone coverage, Ruth occupies herself by re-reading old Agatha Christie novels, eavesdropping on the adults, and definitely not daydreaming about her sort-of-cousin Dylan.

But when GG dies under suspicious circumstances, Ruth's dull weekend turns into an enforced-family-holiday-slash-possible-murder-investigation – and she's not about to let the police get in the way of her chance to solve a real-life murder mystery. With Dylan as the Watson to her Holmes, Ruth soon discovers that plenty of people had reasons to be rid of GG, and her list of suspects grows to comprise everyone in the house. Including, in the interests of fairness, herself.

SHORTLISTED: INDIE YA BOOK AWARDS 2025
(winners announced 24 March).

NOTABLE BOOK: 2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, OLDER READERS
(shortlists announced 25 March).

SELECTED: 2024 One of the Best Young Adult Books – Readings Books

'Prepare to be charmed!' **Nancy Springer, author of THE ENOLA HOLMES MYSTERIES**

'The magic of this novel is the feisty character and smart humour of Ruth; she is self-deprecating, witty, incisively observant of others, tactfully deferential to the adults but quietly tenacious and resourceful in her private quest for the truth. There is a timeless appeal of the old-fashioned, wood-panelled whodunnit; Kate Emery knows it, her young adult readers will surely concur.' **Magpies**

'I enjoyed every single moment of this laugh-out-loud mystery.'

Amy Doak, bestselling author of ELEANOR JONES IS NOT A MURDERER

Kate Emery lives in Perth and works as a senior reporter for the *West Australian*. Her first novel, *The Not So Chosen One* was shortlisted for the 2020 Text Prize, the Aurealis Awards (Best Fantasy Novel) and longlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, Older Readers.

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