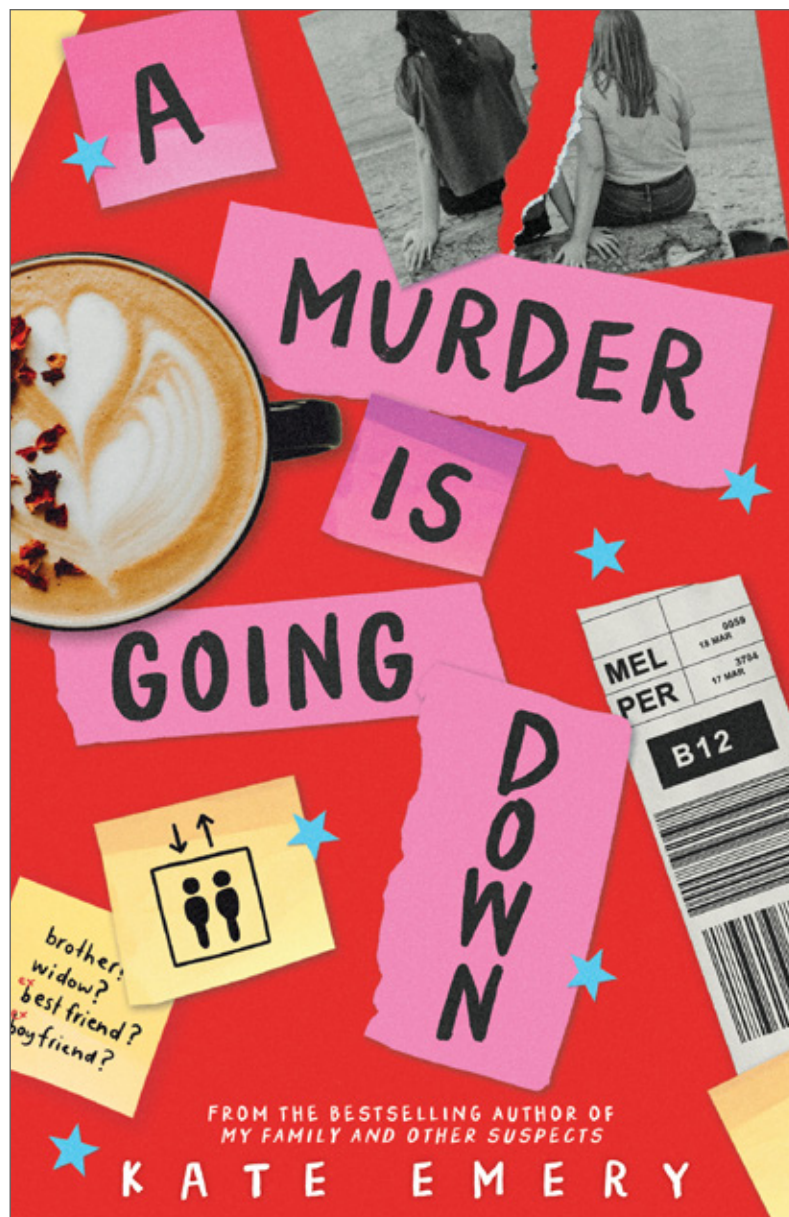




2025 FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR  
**BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS**  
RIGHTS GUIDE



View at [www.allenandunwin.com/about/rights-and-international-sales](http://www.allenandunwin.com/about/rights-and-international-sales)

For further information please contact Carey Schroeter at  
[careys@allenandunwin.com](mailto:careys@allenandunwin.com)

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Creative Australia offers translation grants to international publishers of up to AUD\$5,000. Next translation grant opens **30 September and closes 11 November 2025**. Check their website for availability, eligibility and application deadlines: <https://creative.gov.au/investment-and-development/translation-fund-for-literature/>



## COSY AUSSIE COLOURING SERIES

R J Timmis

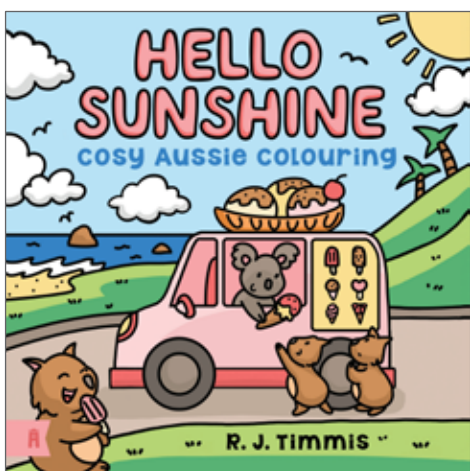


Take a deep breath and relax while colouring gorgeous Aussie animals living their best and cosiest lives, drawn by Australian illustrator R.J. Timmis. The perfect brain break for all ages.

### HELLO HOLIDAYS and HELLO SUNSHINE

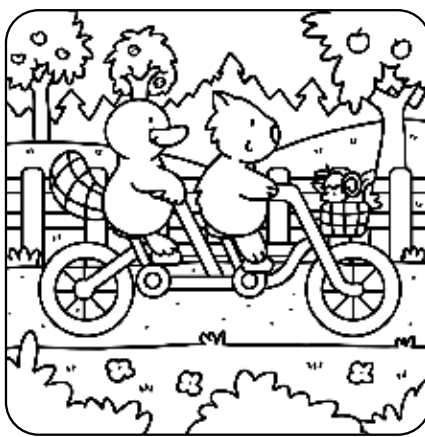
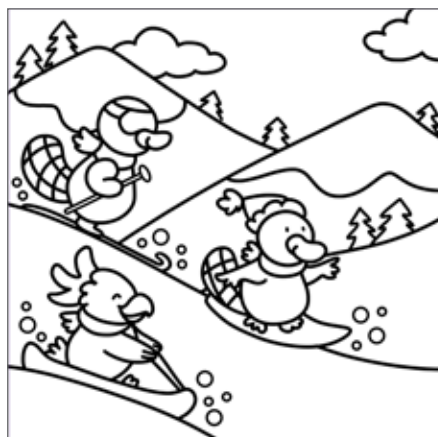
December 2025 and August 2025

Whether you're soaking up the sun, curled up on a winter getaway, or simply taking a moment for yourself, these cosy colouring collections invite you to slow down, unwind and let your creativity flow.



Each book features 40 original artworks, bold lines and simple, friendly designs, printed on nice stock and single-sided pages to avoid show-through. Perfect for colouring!

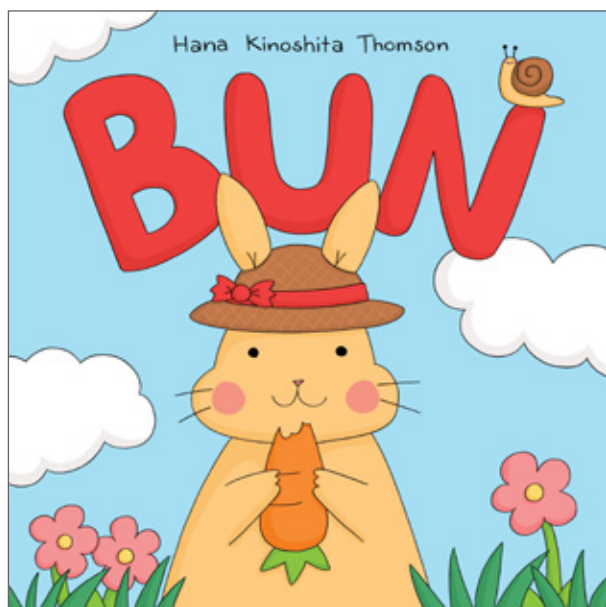
**R.J. Timmis** is an artist and illustrator from the sunny Gold Coast. She loves to write and draw magical and adventurous stories. Rebecca has had lots of real-life adventures, like almost falling off the Great Wall of China, hiding from grizzly bears in Canada and being chased by wild pigs in outback Queensland. Her other jobs include coding websites, writing for the video game industry, and raising three (mostly) lovely boys.





# BUN

Hana Kinoshita Thomson



Children will delight in this heartwarming tale about a very sweet bunny who loves gardening, baking and visiting her friends. Perfect for fans of Noni the Pony and Spot.

Bun and her friends Daisy, Buttercup and Walnut are getting ready for a big event ... a carrot cake party!

This outrageously cute picture book features detailed illustrations that readers will love revisiting again and again. Spot vegetables in the garden, find baking ingredients in the kitchen, and don't forget to check out the carrot details in Bun's bedroom – plus keep an eye out for Bun's snail friend, Gary!

A classic in the making, with bright, colourful illustrations that bring to mind nostalgic children's characters like Miffy, Hello Kitty and Pusheen.

**Hana Kinoshita Thomson** is a Japanese-American-Australian illustrator, designer and author. She has a background in psychology and graphic design, and is passionate about mental health, the Japanese language and culture, diverse storytelling, and rabbits.



# WRAPPING THINGS

Linda Burgess, illustrated by Hilary Jean Tapper



A warm, happy story of family life, with stunning illustrations and a lovely surprise ending, reminiscent of Shirley Hughes beloved Alfie and Annie Rose classics.

The imaginative world of a little child is enchantingly presented in this story of cosy and busy family life.

Rosie likes to wrap things up: her crayons, her toys, her kitten, a parcel for Granny, some baking, flowers.

Rosie herself is wrapped in a towel after her bath; her mother wraps up warmly when she goes into the cold dark night; and Granny lovingly wraps Rosie tight in her arms when she's feeling uneasy.

The next day a brand new baby arrives, all wrapped up in a cuddly blanket!

**Linda Burgess** is the author of three novels, three non-fiction titles and one collection of short stories. Her 2019 collection of essays, *Someone's Wife*, was highly acclaimed, she has won several literary awards and has been a judge for a number of national awards. Linda lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

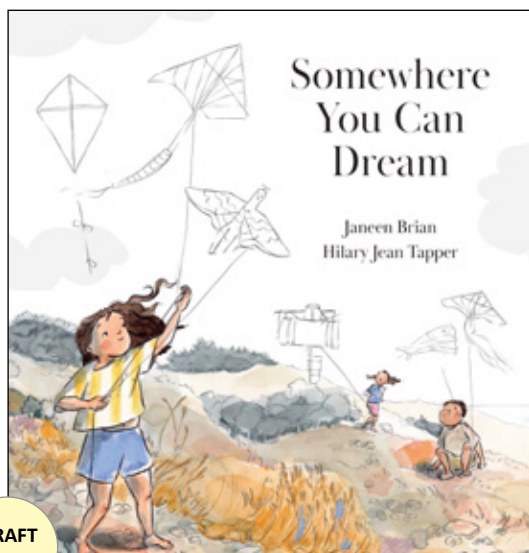


**Hilary Jean Tapper** is an award-winning illustrator based in New Zealand. She creates picture books, and works as a lecturer and researcher. Her awards include the ABIA Children's Picture Book of the Year, Storylines Noteable Award, and Forevability Book Award.



# SOMEWHERE YOU CAN DREAM

Janeen Brian, illustrated by Hilary Jean Tapper



DRAFT  
COVER

From the smallest cubby to the highest hilltop, this heart-warming, read-aloud picture book is all about finding your own special place in the world.

*Do you love shadowy hidey-holes, or cosy hideaways,  
leafy, shady trees, or sheltered, rocky bays?*

*Do you love comfy little cubbies and tree-forts  
way up tall,  
or spaces behind places where you can curl up small?*

A beautiful, lyrical story that asks readers to consider where in the world they feel most at home, exploring safe spaces and cosy feelings, self-awareness and belonging. Perfect for reading at bedtime, with glorious illustrations by award-winning illustrator Hilary Jean Tapper.

**Janeen Brian** is an award-winning children's author and poet, with over one hundred published books. She enjoys writing picture books, junior fiction, poetry, novels and non-fiction.

**Hilary Jean Tapper** is an award-winning illustrator based in New Zealand. She creates picture books, and works as a lecturer and researcher. Her awards include the ABIA Children's Picture Book of the Year, Storylines Noteable Award, and Forevability Book Award.



DRAFT  
SPREAD

# THE SHEEP THAT STOLE THE FARMER'S HAT

Tim Saunders, illustrated by Carla Martell



All the farmer's clothes have gone off the line! Who has taken them?

From the brilliant team that created family favourite and bestseller *The Tractor has a Wobbly Wheel*.

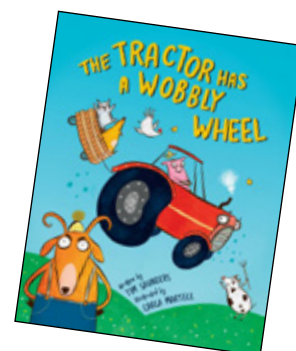
The farm animals are having a field day with all the farmer's clothes, using them in all sorts of inventive ways.

With perfect bouncy rhyme, this is a silly delight to read out loud while the illustrations capture the animals' strange and wonderful inner lives.

**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.



DRAFT  
SPREAD



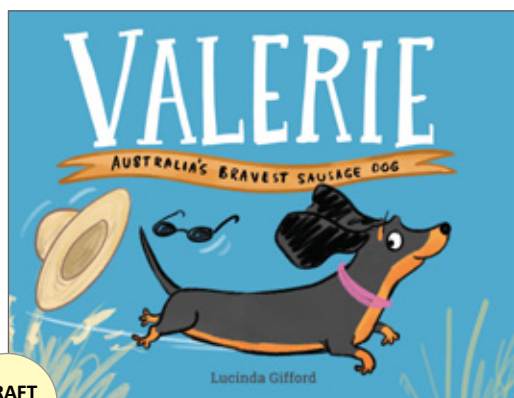
March 2026 • 300x235mm • HB • Full Colour • 32pp • **WORLD RIGHTS**





## VALERIE

Lucinda Gifford



DRAFT  
COVER

**The bold and true(ish) adventures of Australia's Bravest Sausage Dog!**

*Living the beach life and riding the swells,  
practising backstroke and digging up shells,  
Dining on oysters and fancy icecream,  
Valerie knew she was living the dream.  
Suddenly, Valerie heard urgent cries.  
Hastily, Valerie grabbed a disguise.*

*'What missing doggie? I don't think that's me ...  
I'm on an adventure with lots more to see!'*

All around the world, people fell in love with Valerie – the bold-hearted dachshund who escaped a campground on Kangaroo Island and roamed the wilderness for over 500 days before being reunited with her loving owners.

In this gloriously warm-hearted romp of a picture book, Valerie's adventures are brought to vivid and hilarious life, as she befriends dolphins, eats her fill, and explores the wilds ... before finding her way safely home again.

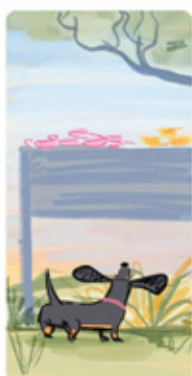
**Lucinda Gifford** is the author and illustrator of many well-loved books for kids. In the 90s, Lucinda studied architecture in Scotland, where she learned to draw fancy buildings and moody scenery. Many years later, she put some of her best drawings in a folio and started looking for work illustrating children's books. Lucinda has since illustrated over 40 books, ten of which she has also written. She works from her studio in Melbourne's north and especially enjoys making books about chickens, wolves, dogs, cats and magical creatures.



Cleverly, Valerie let  
herself out.



Daintily, Valerie  
followed her snout.



She sniffed out the barbie...



crept up to the grill...



Then snaffled a sausage  
and dashed down the hill.

DRAFT  
SPREAD

# PINK EASTER

Tanya Hennessy, illustrated by Sophie Kent



This year Easter is going to have a major glow-up! A joyous celebration of the season, and the power of community and cooperation, from bestselling children's author Tanya Hennessy!

*'Twas the night before Easter,  
the workshop was busy,  
Baskets to fill,  
eggs to make pretty!*

When one plucky duckling steps up to help out the Easter Bunny, no one expects the outcome to be quite so eggsplusive! Now Easter has gone from pastel to pink in a split second! Oh no! But sometimes a mistake is just what you need to see the world in a whole new rosy light. Easter has never been so fabulous!

**Tanya Hennessy** is a multi award winning comedian and radio announcer, TV presenter, multi-bestselling author and social media sensation. Tanya has four best-selling books, *Am I Doing This Right?*, *Help Self*, *Spotlight Please*, *It's Stevie Louise* and *Pink Santa*. **Sophie Kent** is a British illustrator based in Australia, known for her playful characters, vibrant colour palettes and design-led compositions. Sophie can often be found travelling, experimenting in the kitchen, or tending to her growing collection of plants.



DRAFT  
SPREAD

**Pink Santa** rights sold:

North American English  
(Macmillan/Henry Holt BFYR)



Over  
11,000  
copies  
sold!

# WHATEVER THE WEATHER WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Jessica Braithwaite, Rebecca Ralfe, illustrated by Laura Bee



Like a warm hug on a cold morning, this beautiful book reassures children that they are loved ... always.

*I love your smile when the sun shines bright,  
when magpies sing in the morning light.  
I love your hug when thunder rumbles,  
clouds roll in and raindrops tumble.*

*No matter what the seasons do, if skies turn  
grey or sparkle blue,*

*I love you now, I'll love you forever...*

*Whatever the weather, we're in this together.*

A beautiful celebration of the seasons, and a gorgeous affirmation of unconditional love, *Whatever the Weather We're in This Together* is a wonderful addition to the classic tradition of *Guess How Much I Love You* and *Under the Love Umbrella*.

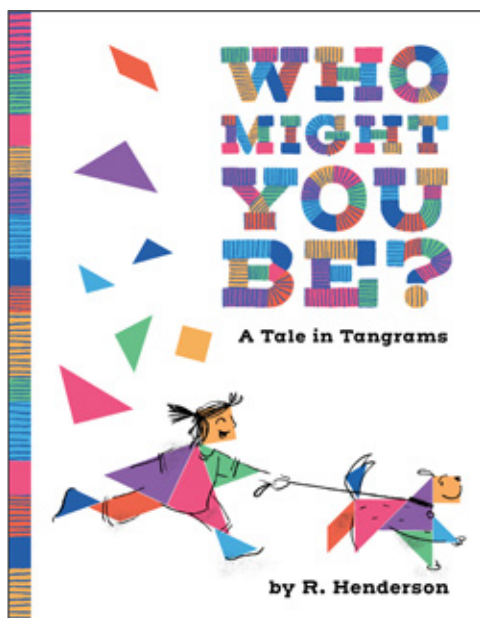
**Jessica Braithwaite** is a Channel Nine weather presenter, songwriter and parent. Whether tracking a cold front, spotting rainbows, or explaining why that weird cloud looks like your aunt's poodle, Jessica is all about embracing every season. **Rebecca Ralfe** is a Cairns-based children's book author and anthropologist. She loves using rhythm and rhyme to write stories that entertain and engage children of all ages and abilities. **Laura Bee** is an illustrator and graphic designer from Aotearoa/New Zealand. When she's not working you can find her spending time with loved ones, cats, sewing, baking and making things with her hands!





# 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.*

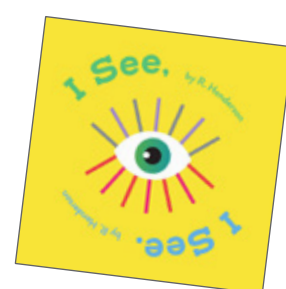
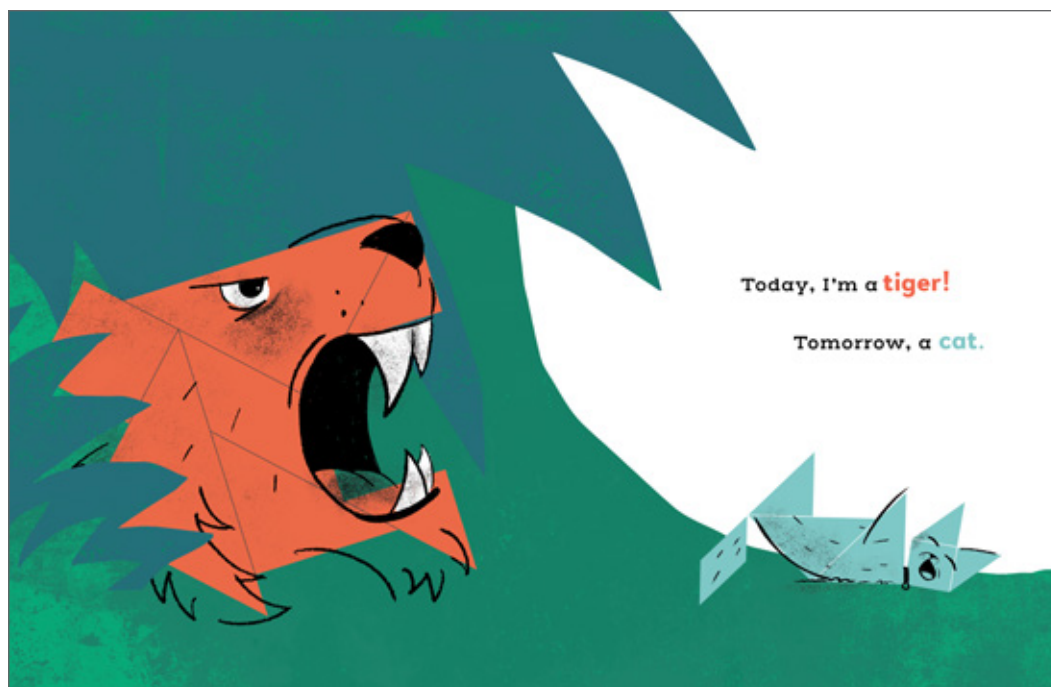
*Today, I'm a tiger! Tomorrow, a cat.*

*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.

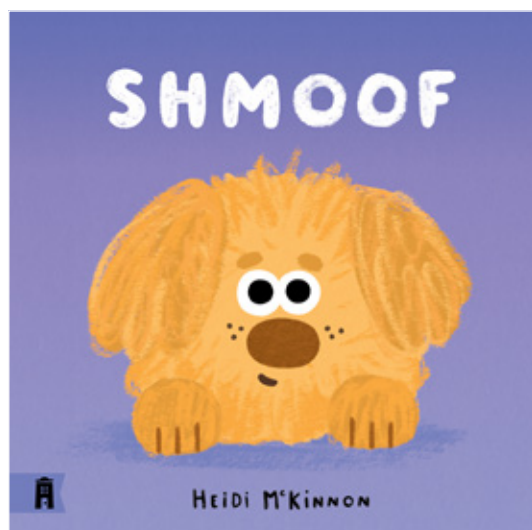
**Robert Henderson** is a prolific non-graduate from a range of prestigious Australian universities and an actual graduate of Griffith University's Queensland College of Art. Robert lives in Brisbane with his wife and four children who help him with his work and make sure he never has to eat a sandwich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

'Children will giggle at the playful feud between cat and dog, then melt at their sweet reconciliation and final cuddles ... **Shmoof** is an ideal choice for toddler and preschool storytimes, especially when exploring themes of friendship and getting along.' **BOOKLIST, USA**



**Floof** rights sold:

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

Over  
18,000  
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](http://www.heidimckinnon.com)



## DOG STAYED

**Tammy Forster, illustrated by Margeaux Davis**



A tale of love, loyalty and the changing seasons of life. Mr Hindbottom does not want Dog, but Dog isn't going anywhere... A heartwarming story about two grumpy but loveable characters and their journey of hope and renewal.

*One morning, a man knocked on the door to sell something Mr Hindbottom did not need. Mr Hindbottom waved his cane, blew his nose, and slammed the door.*

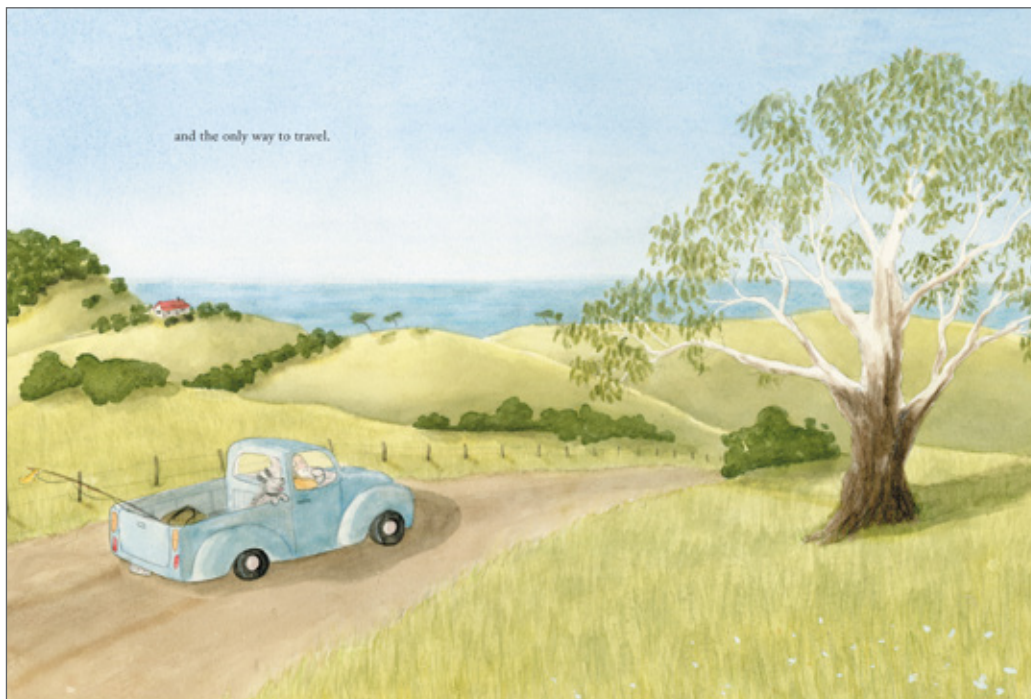
*'And take your dirty, scruffy dog with you!' he yelled.*

*But the dog did not belong to the salesman, and the dog stayed.*

When Dog turns up one day and stays – despite Mr Hindbottom's protests – they gradually find a comfortable way to get along. Life is good, but of course life doesn't stand still...

When Mr Hindbottom is gone, can Dog ever love again?

**Tammy Forster** has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a Bachelor of Business, and she's had fun executing launches, presenting at conferences, and delivering training workshops. Her four young children



inspire her storytelling. She lives in the US. **Margeaux Davis** illustrates books and makes cloth toys using discarded fabric scraps. Her background is in environmental education, working as a National Parks ranger. She now spends her days drawing, painting and sewing from her tiny garden studio surrounded by farms.



## THE LAST EGG

**Sofie Laguna, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft**



**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](http://www.jessesmess.com)

**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.'*

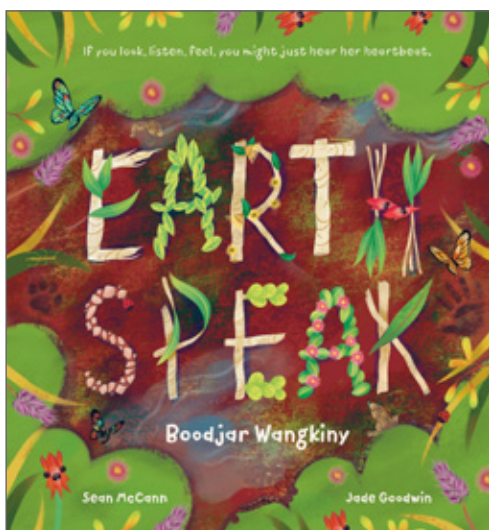
When an extra egg appears in their nest and takes too long to hatch, Mother Bird and Father Bird must risk their lives to keep it warm.

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



# 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.

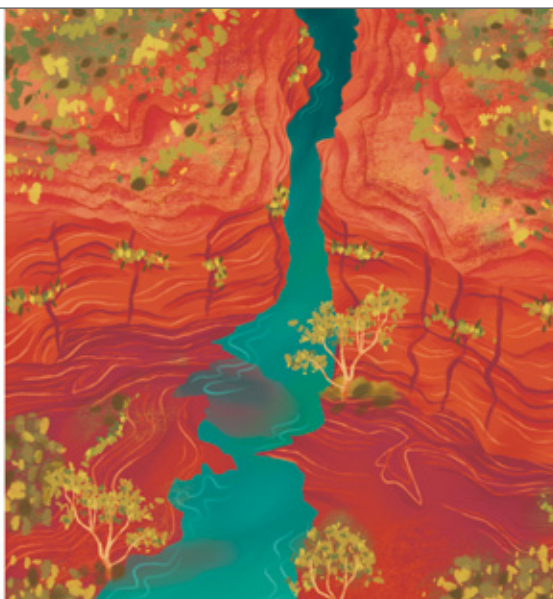
*Papa says we're going to a special place today.*

*'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.

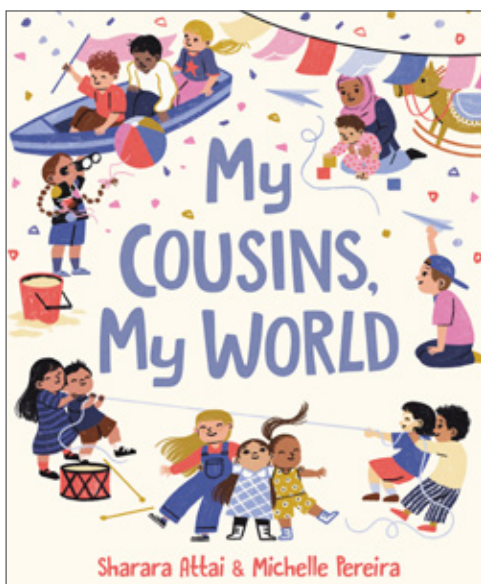
**Sean McCann** is from Gadigal Country, NSW, but grew up on Dharawal land in southwest Sydney. In the early 1900s, his grandmother was placed into a mission on Gadigal land. Where she was taken from, and information about her parents, remains unknown. Sean currently lives on Noongar land in Perth with 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. *Earth Speak* 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*.





# 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 Parappukkaran. She won the CBCA New Illustrator award in 2022.





# THE NIGHT TIGER

Sherryl Clark, illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

DRAFT  
COVER



A beautiful, evocative picture book about a little girl gathering her courage and activating her imagination to explore the night as a tiger might, prowling through the back garden with the family cat. Perfect bedtime reading for little children with big imaginations.

*I arch my back high, feel my night tiger paws  
and night tiger claws stalk across the grass,  
flick my tiger tail, twitch my tiger ears  
growl my night tiger groooooowwwwwl.*

After the sun sets, the night creeps in and it's time for bed. But darkness shrinks as the full moon springs up above the trees, lighting the garden and inviting a child to take on an intrepid night-time adventure. A glorious celebration of imagination, courage and daring.

**Sherryl Clark** has published more than 40 books, from picture books to novels. Her novel *Farm Kid* won the 2005 NSW Premier's Literary Award, her verse novel, *Sixth Grade Style Queen (Not!)*, was a CBCA Honour Book in 2008, and many of her titles are Notable Book. and *Mina and the Whole Wide World* won the 2022 Prime Minister's Award for Children's Literature. She writes both fiction and poetry, and works as a freelance editor.

DRAFT  
SPREAD



**Hannah Sommerville** creates enchanting picture books using watercolour, gouache and digital illustrations. She has won multiple awards including CBCA 2022 Book of the Year – Early Childhood for *Jetty Jumping*, written by Andrea Rowe. She is currently illustrating her 19th picture book.

# 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.

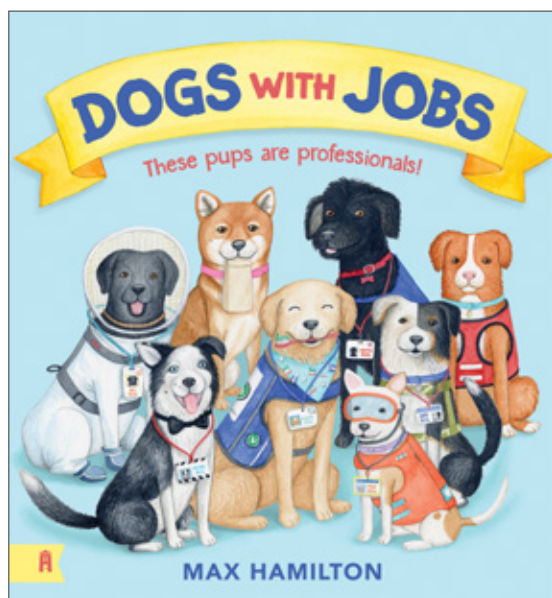
illustrator who is frequently honoured in children's book award categories – including winning the CBCA Book of the year and the Prime Minister's Literary Award. Stephen has produced more than 100 titles and worked with a stable of Australia's best authors, including Glenda Millard, Margaret Wild, Nick 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*.





## DOGS WITH JOBS

Max Hamilton



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

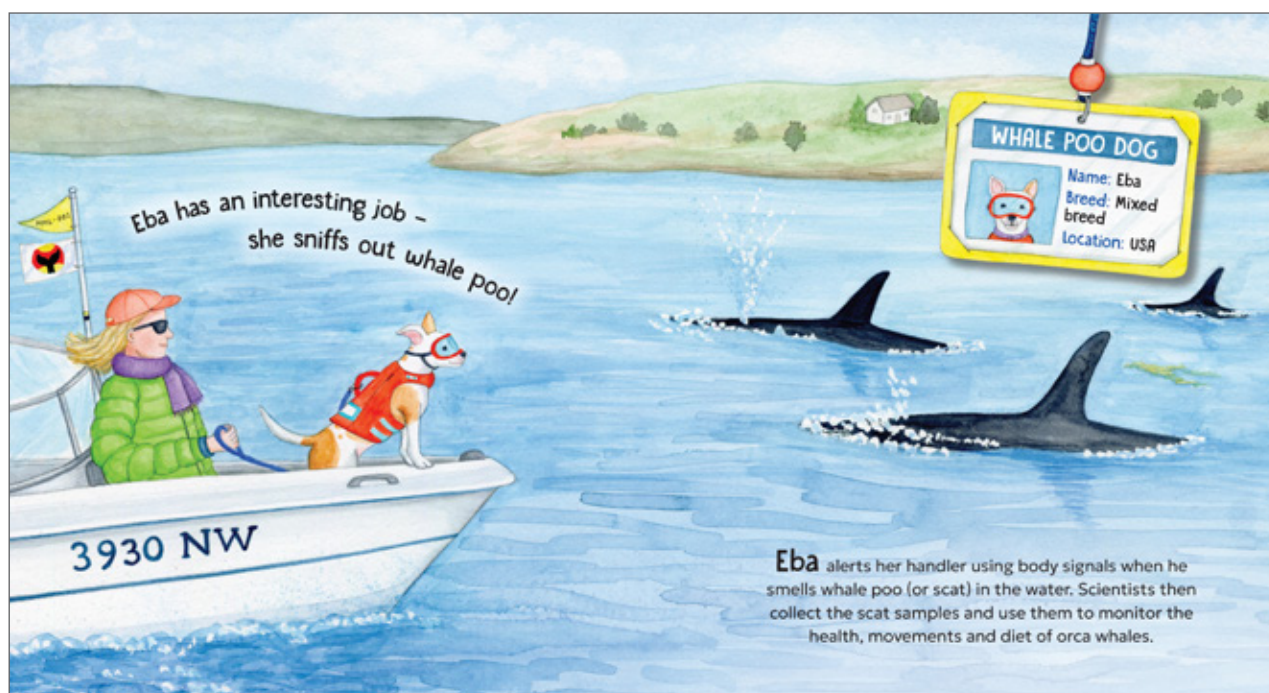
Dogs may be our best friends, but sometimes that's just their side hustle!

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 our 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.

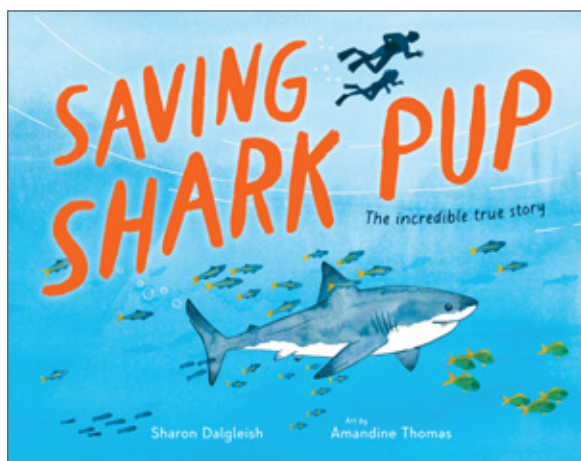
[www.maxhamiltonillustration.com.au](http://www.maxhamiltonillustration.com.au)





# SAVING SHARK PUP

Sharon Dalglish, illustrated by Amandine Thomas



The true story of a great white shark pup who washed up on the beach and was rescued by the local community.

When a great white shark pup washed up on Sydney's Manly Beach, the local community rushed to the shark's rescue, eventually releasing him back into the ocean.

Great white sharks are vital for the ocean ecosystem, and yet despite this, their beauty and mystery are rarely celebrated. This glorious picture book is a lyrical and emotive account

of the shark pup's journey back to the ocean, interspersed by fascinating facts about great white sharks. The two narratives work together to inspire compassion and hope for one of the ocean's most feared and misunderstood creatures.

A fascinating true story perfect for shark-obsessed young readers and all animal lovers.

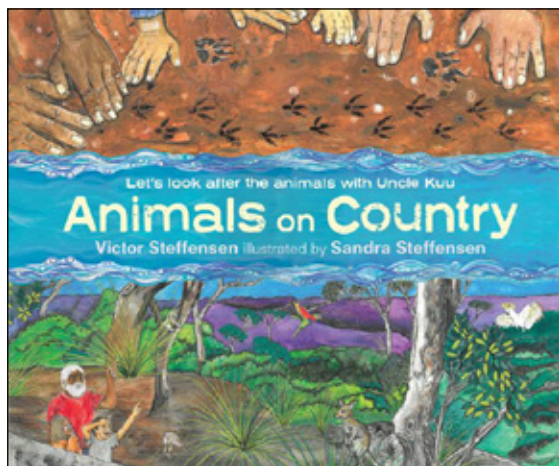
**Sharon Dalglish** worked for many years as a librarian, and then a teacher. She now spends her days writing stories, nonfiction and poetry for children. She has published over fifty books for the education market, as well as numerous textbooks and resource books for primary school teachers. Sharon lives in Sydney with Maisie, her rescue dog/office assistant. **Amandine Thomas** is an award-winning author and illustrator based in the leafy Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne, Australia. Her vibrant watercolour illustrations have featured in children's books and magazines, and she has worked with a variety of clients from across the globe, sharing stories of positive change for people, for communities, and for the planet. [www.amandine-thomas.com](http://www.amandine-thomas.com)



DRAFT  
SPREAD

## ANIMALS ON COUNTRY

Victor Steffensen, illustrated by Sandra Steffensen



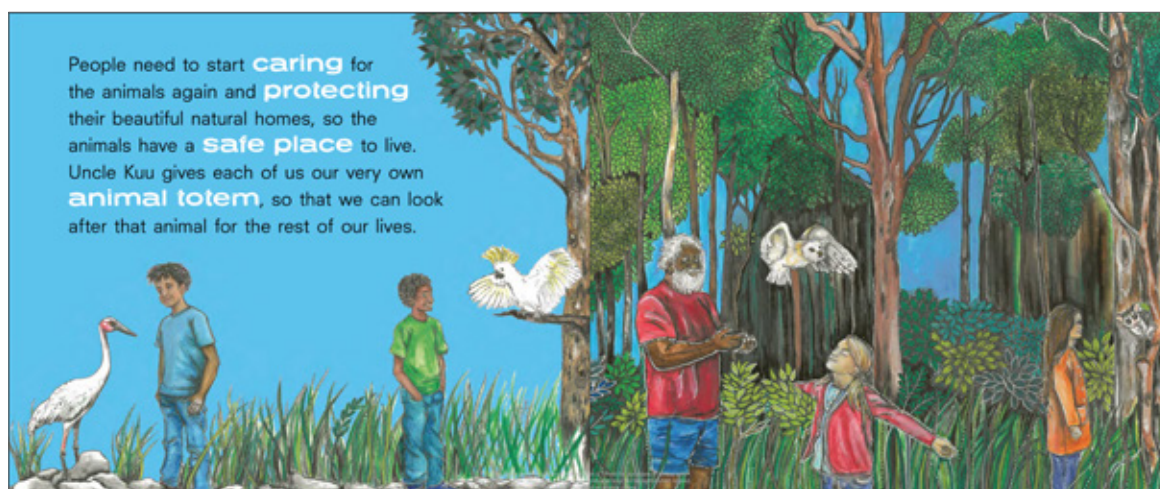
This engaging picture book from award-winning brother-and-sister team Victor and Sandra Steffensen inspires children and adults alike to look after animals through Indigenous cultural practices.

*For thousands of years, Aboriginal people looked after the land to keep it healthy, so there was plenty of food for the animals to eat.*

But today, the animals are wondering what has happened to the people. Trees have been cut down, land has been cleared and rivers have been polluted.

Join Uncle Kuu as he takes children out on Country to learn about the First Peoples' traditions of caring for animals, and in turn, caring for Country. We can all be part of the animal world and help to look after the animals.

**Victor Steffensen** is an Indigenous writer, filmmaker, musician and consultant, applying traditional knowledge values in a contemporary context through workshops and artistic projects. He is a descendant of the Tagalaka people through his mother's connections from the Gulf Country of north Queensland. He is the co-founder of Firesticks, and has connected with First Nations communities in California, Canada, and the Sámi people of Scandinavia, sharing cultural knowledge practices related to caring for Country. This is Victor's third children's book with his sister Sandra. **Sandra Steffensen** teaches Visual Arts specialising in the practice of ceramics. Sandra uses the sgraffito technique to adorn her functional pieces with intricate illustrations of local landscapes and wildlife to remind us of the beauty and the role they play in this world.





# THE KIDS' GUIDE TO SPEAKING YOUR MIND WITHOUT LOSING YOUR COOL **Dr Matt Agnew**



Sharpen up your and your child's thinking and debating skills with this fun and engaging book that also includes imaginative activities to encourage critical thinking from one of Australia's most popular scientists.

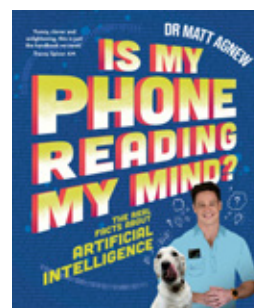
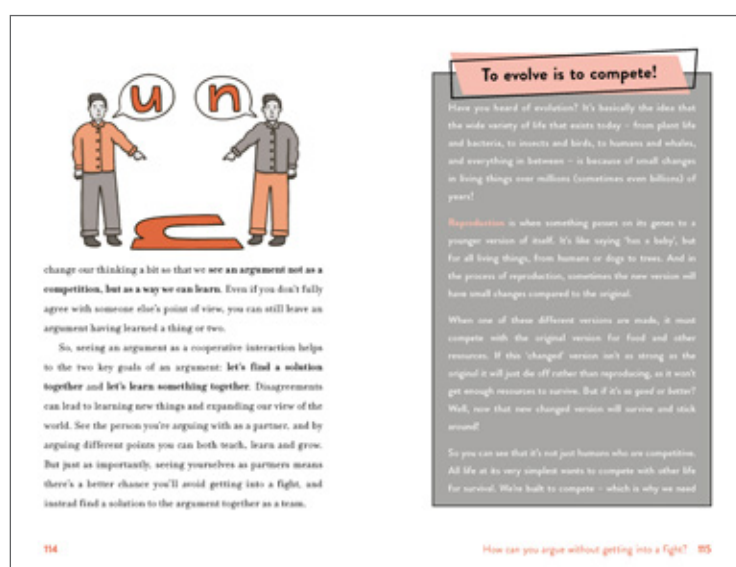
How do we end up with different ideas and opinions? How can we talk about these ideas and opinions to each other even when we disagree?

Join Dr Matt as he explains how our lives and experiences shape our view of the world and answers these popular questions: When I read, see or hear something, how do I know if it's true or false? What if I'm right and my friend's wrong? How do we stay friends? Is it okay to change my mind?

Dr Matt explains how to avoid confirmation bias and 'us' vs 'them' thinking, and how to stay calm and show respect to others in the heat of an argument, along with tips on how to debate like a pro! Included are some thought experiments to do at home or in the classroom that will help kids speak their mind without losing their cool.

**Dr Matt Agnew** is more than a scientist; he's an edutainer who helps make science, maths and technology fun and accessible for everyone. With academic credentials spanning the STEM portfolio, myriad appearances across a variety of media channels, including TV and radio and a social media profile for reaching a wide and varied audience, Matt is a qualified, passionate and engaging scientist. Matt has worked as an engineer, an

artificial intelligence expert, data scientist, and astrophysicist and his breadth of technical knowledge, combined with an approachable manner and a palatable way of explaining ideas, positions him as a go-to expert for engaging with the public about the latest happenings in the world of science.



## IS MY PHONE READING MY MIND?

**Rights sold:**  
Chinese Simplified (Hunan); Korean (Prunsoop/Lime); Vietnamese (Kim Dong)



## THUNDERSTORM

Claire Saxby, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft

COVER  
COMING  
SOON



**A thunderstorm is brewing. From the first puff of wind to a howling gale, this beautiful non-fiction picture book offers a deeply researched exploration of the effects of wind and weather.**

*A storm is rising.*

*It begins with a puff. Then another.*

*A flutter, a ripple, a shiver show where the breeze blows.*

An evocative exploration of the birth of a thunderstorm and the effects of wind and weather on the natural environment, from the creative team behind CBCA Picture Book of the Year *Iceberg*.

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](http://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 over 40 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](http://www.jessesmess.com)



DRAFT  
SPREAD

April 2026 • 300x250mm • HB • Full Colour • 24pp + gatefold • **WORLD RIGHTS**



## VOLCANO

April 2025



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.

## TREE

April 2024



Marrying deep scientific research, lyrical language and captivating illustrations *Tree* is a journey of wonder and discovery that explores life in and around a mighty tree from the bottom of its roots up to the tips of its upper branches.

Can you see the forest on this misty-morning mountain? Can you see where the tree stands? It is the tallest in this forest of tall trees. Listen to the leaves bustle. Smell the forest air. This is the world of the tree.

## ICEBERG

February 2021



In the final freeze of an Antarctic winter, green tails wave across a star-full sky, as if to farewell endless nights. If this world looks empty, look closer... Penguins trek across the ice to their winter homes. As the temperature warms, birds fly above on their long migrations. And with the advent of summer, beneath an iceberg, the sea is teeming with life. Ocean, sky, snow and ice – minute greens and giant blues – dance a delicate dance in this evocative portrayal of the life cycle of an iceberg.

### 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**

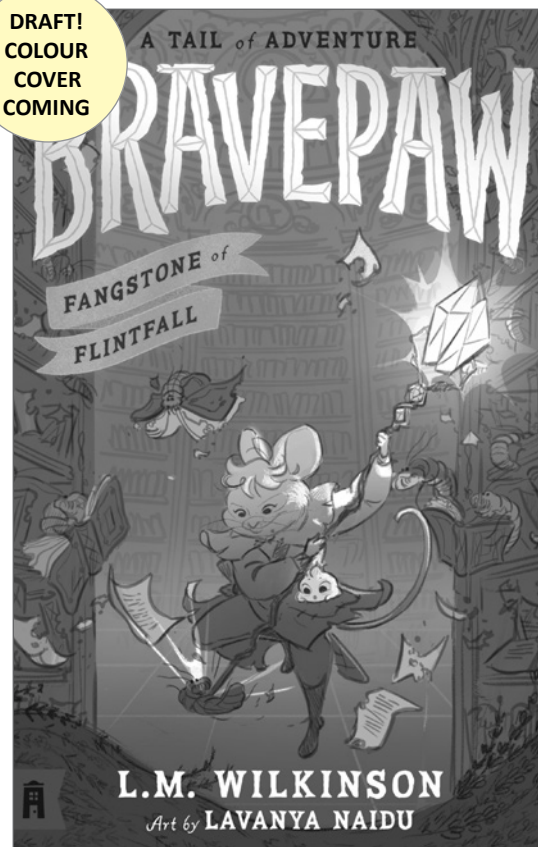
300x250mm • HB • Full Colour • 24pp + gatefold • **WORLD RIGHTS**





## BRAVEPAW SERIES

L.M. Wilkinson, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu

DRAFT!  
COLOUR  
COVER  
COMING

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 of this four book series.

## BRAVEPAW AND THE FANGSTONE OF FLINTFALL: BRAVEPAW 3

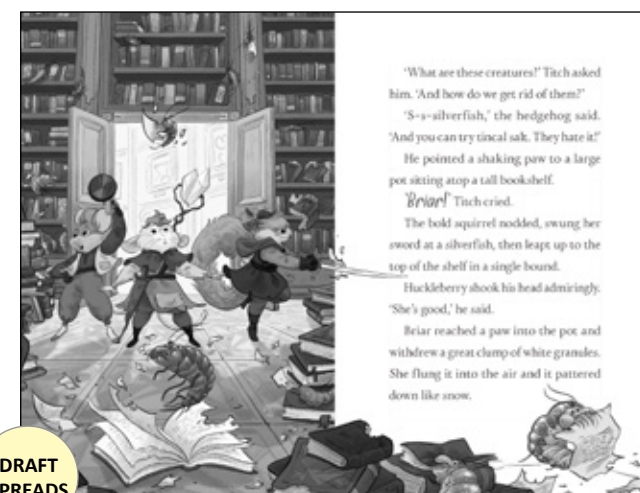
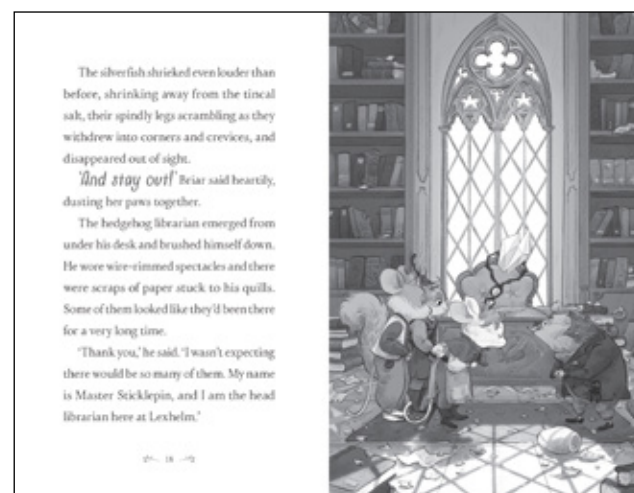
Can one gallant mouse find the Gems of Harmony and save her homeland from destruction?

One small mouse, one epic quest.

Titch is on the hunt for the gemstones missing from Bravepaw's staff but the world is wide, and full of danger.

Can Titch tell friend from foe in time to unite the gems and save Alluria?

BOOK 4 coming SEPTEMBER 2026

DRAFT  
SPREADS

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



## 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?

Over  
10,500  
copies sold  
already!Nearly  
15,000  
copies sold  
so far!

## 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?

SHORTLISTED: 2025 ABIA, BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN  
SHORTLISTED: 2024 BEST CHILDREN'S FICTION, AUREALIS AWARDS  
SELECTED: 2024 ONE OF THE BEST MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS –  
READINGS BOOKS

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.

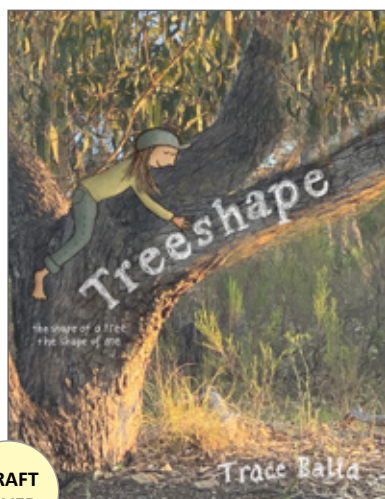
WORLD RIGHTS • RIGHTS SOLD: North American English (S&S BFYR);  
French (Eilean); Czech/Slovak (Bookmedia); Norwegian (Fontini); Russian (Goodwin)





## TREESHAPE

Trace Balla



DRAFT COVER

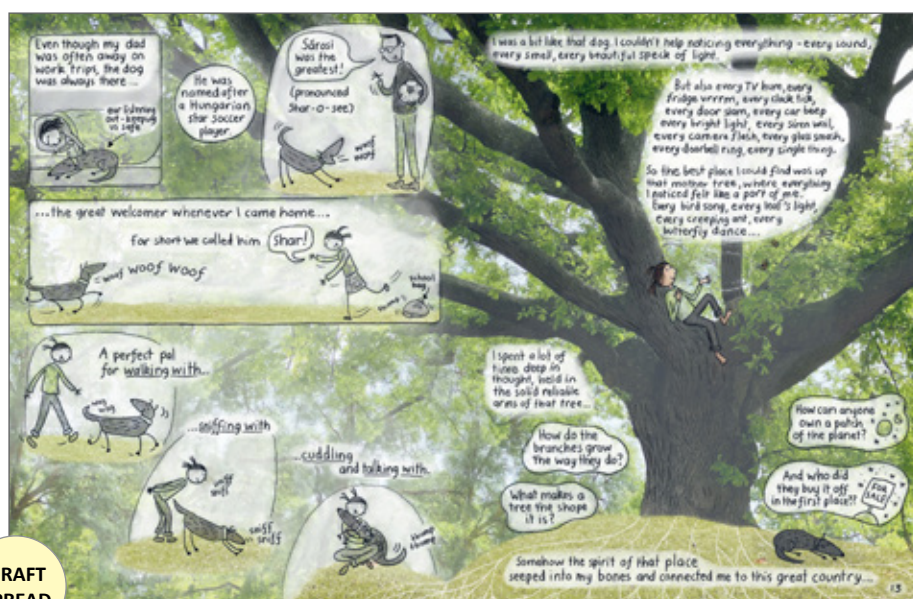
Trace Balla's stunning graphic novel memoir reveals her personal and life-changing experiences of place, her understanding of the natural world and her relationship to Country. An extraordinary, inspiring and hope-filled graphic novel from the multi-award-winning creator of *Rivertime*, *Rockhopping*, *Landing with Wings* and *Leaf-light*.

This beautiful book tells the story of young Trace's awakening to the preciousness of the environment, including her participation in the protests against uranium mining at Jabiluka in the 1980s. Channeling her gift for visual storytelling, Trace reveals emotional truths, shares her commitment to environmental activism, highlights trees that have been meaningful in her life, and explores her deep appreciation of place and connection with First Nations peoples.



Almost 20,000 copies sold!

Trace's delicately detailed artwork, distinctive approach to storytelling, passion for the protection of the planet and heartfelt messages of kindness will resonate and inspire graphic novel readers of all ages.



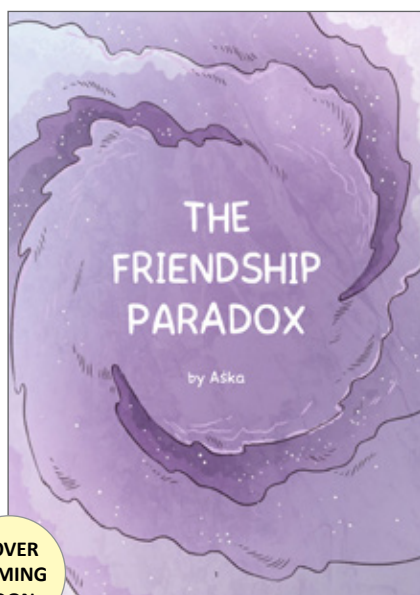
DRAFT SPREAD

Trace Balla is a well-loved Australian children's book author and illustrator who lives on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Trace's stories explore themes of connection to Country and community, nature, friendship, gratitude, grief and human rights. She has won the CBCA Book of the Year Award, the Readings Children's Book Prize, the Wilderness Society's Environment Award for Children's Literature, a Comic Arts Awards of Australia Bronze Ledger, and an Honour Award for the inaugural SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Awards. [www.traceballa.com](http://www.traceballa.com)



# THE FRIENDSHIP PARADOX

Aśka



COVER  
COMING  
SOON

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 leaver navigating a work placement circuit during their gap year—a square peg in a round hole who tries to comprehend human relationships through the laws of physics.

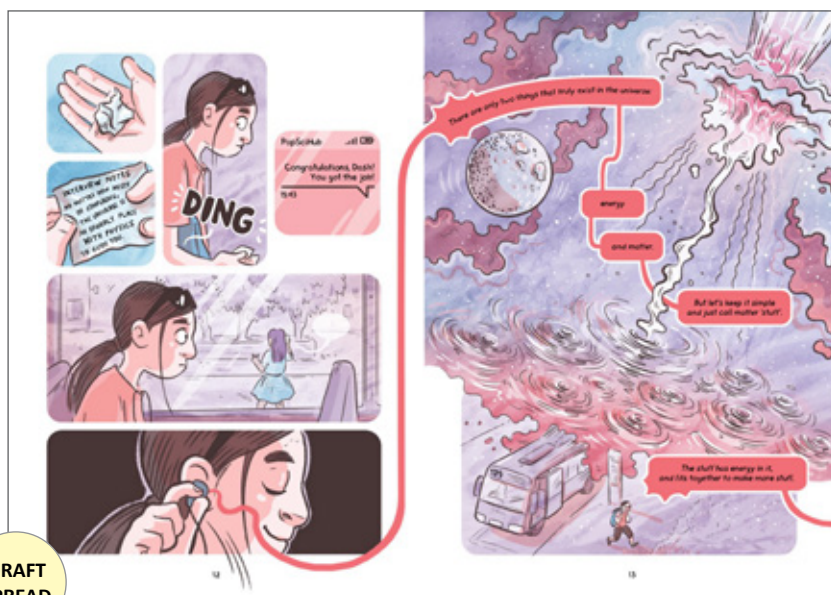
Dash finds friendship exhausting; an enigma beyond comprehension. When they start a dream placement at a science education hub, teaching kids early science concepts, Dash thinks everything will change, and they will meet people just like themselves. But the workplace is as challenging as high school – 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

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](http://www.askastorytelling.com)



DRAFT  
SPREAD

## NERDS VS ALIENS!

Barry Jonsberg



Aliens are on their way to Earth on a mission to eradicate humans, and the future of our world rests on three ten-year-olds. What could possibly go wrong? A brilliant alien invasion, climate crisis, storytelling mash-up. A funny and fun, unexpected and inventive young middle fiction novel from the award-winning internationally acclaimed, bestselling Australian author of *My Life as an Alphabet*.

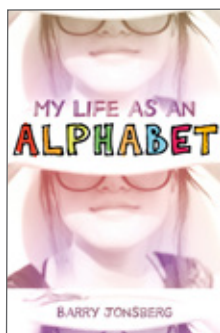
*'The world will end at ten thirty-six in the morning, on the fourteenth of March this year.'*

Ten-year-old friends Harrison (Aitch), Ally and Casey are proud nerds, and Casey is communicating with aliens using the magnetic poetry on his fridge. Of course he is. Aitch and Ally are skeptical, but soon they are in an alien spaceship travelling at lightspeed to Jupiter's icy moon Europa. Casey is worried his mum will be furious with him for getting in an alien craft with strangers, but his fears are unfounded and when they return, not even an hour has passed in Earth time. The next day the aliens reveal their plan to fix the planet that humans seem intent on destroying – at the expense of the humans. Uh oh.

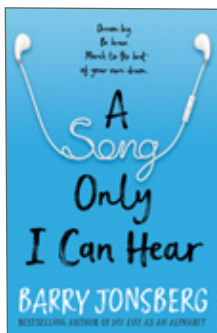
Could the world be saved from an alien invasion by three ten-year-old unlikely nerd heroes? Or will the alien invasion save the world?

*Nerds vs Aliens!* is a high interest, low word count, engaging, smart speculative middle fiction with plenty of useful content for the education market including fun narrative commentary on storytelling techniques from one of Australia's best storytellers.

Barry Jonsberg is the internationally popular author of over 22 novels which have attracted numerous awards including CBCAs, Prime Minister and Premiers' awards, German Readers' Choice Leserpreis and Children's Peace Literature Awards. His most recent on the awards circuit, *Smoke & Mirrors*, was shortlisted for the 2025 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Writing for Young Adults and the 2024 Queensland Literary Awards, Young Adult Book Award.



2013



2018



2020



2022



2024



2025

## SPARK HUNTER SERIES

Sonya Wilson

*Spark Hunter* first published in 2021 in New Zealand only 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, has worked across a variety of platforms and programmes including TVNZ's *Breakfast*, *1News*, *20/20*, *Sunday* and *Q+A*, and has a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Auckland.

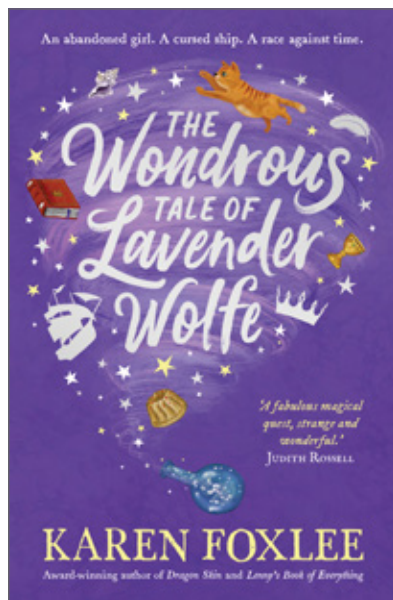
Book 1: June 2025, 304pp, 64,100 words.

Book 2: July 2025, 326pp, 70,300 words • 198x128mm • PB • **WORLD RIGHTS**



# THE WONDROUS TALE OF LAVENDER WOLFE

Karen Foxlee



An inventive and playful fantasy-adventure 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 clapperdudgeon and pickpurse, with a magical secret. She is 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 kitchen rats. However, The Good Marchioness is no ordinary ship. Captained by Odyessia Pleasant, a fierce pirate with long blonde hair, violet eyes and a bird's wing in place of an arm, the crew are on a desperate voyage – to find and return stolen treasure 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, her true identity lost to the sands of time?

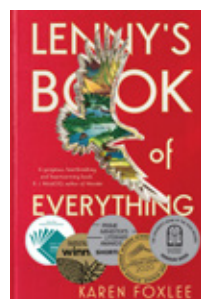
An adventure as big as the ocean and as warm as your heart. All aboard!

'Karen Foxlee is one of my favourite writers, and this is exquisitely written: a marvel of imagination and adventure.' **Jaclyn Moriarty, award-winning author of the Kingdoms and Empires series**

'A fabulous magical quest, strange and wonderful.' **Judith Rossell, bestselling author of The Midwatch**

'Bold, original and gloriously fantastical. A stunning book. I loved Lavender Wolfe and her adventures to bits.' **Lian Tanner, award-winning author of Spellhound**

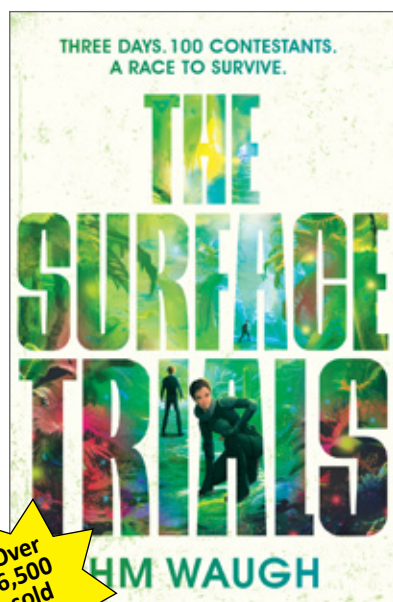
'Proves again why Karen Foxlee is one of Australia's finest writers for children. Made with a teaspoon of skullduggery, a hearty dollop of swashbuckling and a barrelful of heart.' **Reece Carter, bestselling author of A Girl Called Corpse**



**Karen Foxlee** is an Australian author who writes for both children and young adults. Her multi-award-winning books include *Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy*, *A Most Magical Girl*, the Miss Mary-Kate Martin's Guide to Monsters series, *Lenny's Book of Everything* and *Dragon Skin*.

# 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.

# THE RAVEN'S EYE REBELLION

Claire Mabey



A gripping adventure perfect for young readers who love being transported into a realm of fantasy and magic. Rich with wonder and a thirst for justice *The Raven's Eye Rebellion* is the unmissable sequel to the award-winning *The Raven's Eye Runaways*.

When Getwin, Lea and Buckle – with the help Sharp the raven – unearth the trickster Book of Blacke they embark on a quest to undo the controls on their world and seek justice for the Scribes who are forced to work; and for those who have never been allowed to read or write.

The city of Wyle comes alive with danger and intrigue as our heroes contend with the secrets of the Scholars Library, a magical boat, curious creatures, a secret reading and writing society, sleeping trees and the twists and turns of the ancient city.

Can the friends stay safe? Will they be able to free the Scribes? Will Getwin's family ever be reunited?

## THE RAVEN'S EYE RUNAWAYS Awards:

**WINNER:** 2025 NZSA BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD, NZ BOOK AWARDS

**WINNER:** 2025 NZ BOOKLOVERS AWARD FOR BEST JUNIOR FICTION

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 ESTHER GLEN JUNIOR FICTION PRIZE, NZ BOOK AWARDS

**NOTABLE:** 2024 STORYLINES BOOK AWARDS

## On *THE RAVEN'S EYE RUNAWAYS*:

'The work of a writer who wields her words with exquisite care and understands the power of great storytelling.'  
**NZCYA judges**

'You'll be transported to a heady, haunting world where words are a currency reserved for the few, and paid with the price of spilled blood.' **Graci Kim**

'A bewitching story that will captivate readers. There's twists and turns a plenty, and magic too, with Mabey setting a cracking pace. The characters are full of vigour and personality, and flaws too.' **Rebekah Lyell, NZ Booklovers**

'With a gorgeous turn of phrase, unique characters and an exciting plot...is worth a read no matter your age.'  
**Kristin Stefanoff, Glam Adelaide**

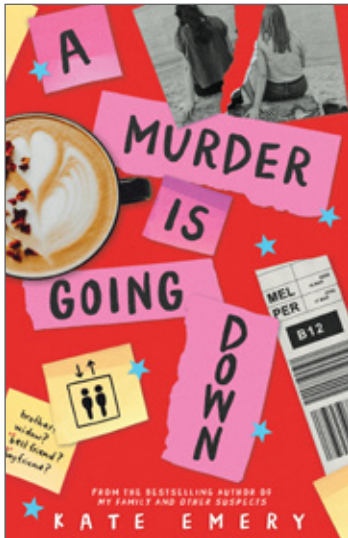
'The world she has created, and the characters that reside there, feel authentic and inevitable as if they have lived with her for a long time. The story is translated onto the page with wit, restraint and confidence. It's a talented rendering of a beautiful world and I instantly capitulated to the reality of it.' **Hera Lindsay Bird**

**Claire Mabey** is the founder of Verb Wellington, LitCrawl Wellington and Lōemis. She is also books editor at *The Spinoff*, book critic at RNZ and co-curator of the writers' programme at the Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts.



# A MURDER IS GOING DOWN

Kate Emery



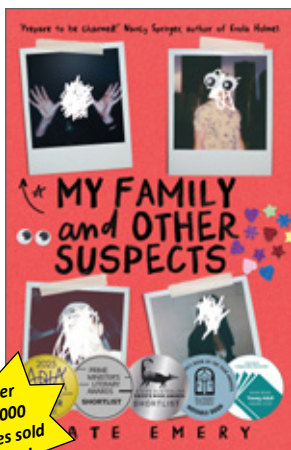
A brilliant and hilarious cosy YA crime from the author of *My Family and Other Suspects*, with a mystery that will keep readers guessing to the very last page. For fans of Karen McManus and Holly Jackson.

*This is what happens when you put a pair of unemployed teenagers in charge of a sudden death investigation. What we lack in investigative skills we make up for in free time.*

Heidi's meant to be having the time of her life on exchange in Switzerland, but instead she's cold, all alone and on an involuntary dairy-free diet. So when she hears the news of her brother Felix's death, she readily jumps on the first plane home to Perth.

To be completely honest, Felix wasn't that much of a brother, so Heidi's not crying buckets – but she's not exactly happy either. Thanks to an epic betrayal by her (ex) best friend and (ex) boyfriend, Heidi has absolutely nothing to do and no one to talk to. That's until Patrick, the wisecracking younger brother of Felix's widow, convinces her that they need to investigate her brother's mysterious death.

Will Heidi and Patrick get to the bottom of Felix's death – and do they really want to?



On *MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS*:

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

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

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

**MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS Awards:**

**WINNER:** 2025 YA BOOK OF THE YEAR, WA PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS

**WINNER:** 2025 ABIA, BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR OLDER CHILDREN

**WINNER:** INDIE YA BOOK AWARDS 2025

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 PRIME MINISTER'S LITERARY AWARDS, YA CATEGORY

**NOTABLE:** 2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, OLDER READERS

**SELECTED:** 2024 ONE OF THE BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOKS – READINGS BOOKS

**Kate Emery** lives in Perth and works as a senior reporter for the *West Australian*. She is the author of *The Not So Chosen One*, which was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Aurealis Awards, and *My Family and Other Suspects*, which won the 2025: Indie Book Award for YA; the ABIA's John Marsden Book of the Year for Older Children; the WA Premier's YA Book of the Year; and is currently shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards YA category.

November 2025 • 198x128mm • PB • 336pp • 70,000 words • **WORLD RIGHTS RIGHTS SOLD: North American English (PRH/Knopf)**

## THE SET-UP GIRL

Sasha Vey



The only thing worse than having a secret crush on the hottest boy in class? Setting him up with your best friend! A fresh and contemporary romantic comedy for fans of Alice Oseman, Tobias Madden and Sophie Gonzales.

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 her strict parents – Amalia's world is thrown into chaos. Forever the dutiful friend, she agrees to help set Mae up with the hottest boy in class: Kasun. The only problem? He's Amalia's secret crush.

Adopting the role of wingwoman, Amalia does her best to navigate an unfamiliar world of parties and romantic drama. Meanwhile, she grows closer to Kasun's best mates, Jake and Laeli, who frustrate and intrigue her in equal measure.

When misunderstandings (and secret kisses) threaten to derail relationships, Amalia is left more confused than ever. Who does she really want to be with? Can the set-up girl ever become the main character of the story?

A feel-good romantic comedy of errors, where the road to love rarely runs straight!

'Funny, romantic and relatable – a queer delight.' **Erin Gough**, award-winning author of *Amelia Westlake* and *Into the Mouth of the Wolf*

'Utterly charming.' **Jodi McAlister**, bestselling author of *Valentine* and *Here For The Right Reasons*

**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.

# 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.

*'Catch is a graceful exploration of what it means to hold others up while trying to find your own balance, and learning to trust yourself, even when the ground is shifting beneath your feet.'*

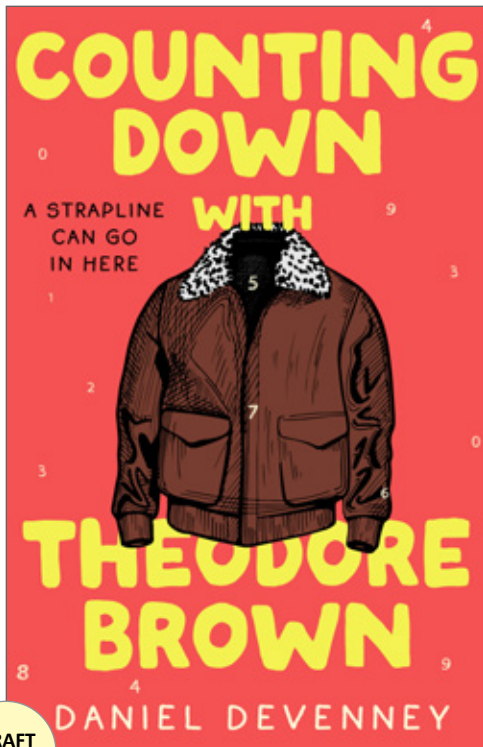
**Karys McEwen, *Books+Publishing***

**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.



# COUNTING DOWN WITH THEODORE BROWN

Daniel Devenney



**A fantastic coming-of-age story and a compelling love story with a twist.**

Theo has crippling social anxiety – understandable, given that when he looks into people’s eyes he sees a number which is the number of days until they die or disappear from his life.

He’s kept everyone at a safe distance since his dad died. But now that he’s in college, he fears he’s missing out. Even his stuffy English professor thinks he needs to get a life. So, to improve his mental health and sharpen his writing skills, he decides to do just that.

Enter the tidal wave that is Lil Sanchez. She may only be around for the summer, but Theodore can’t help but wonder if the pleasure of knowing her, might be worth the pain of losing her. Only time will tell, and the clock is ticking ...

*Counting Down with Theodore Brown* explores our basic need for connection. Theo’s journey highlights the joy connection brings to our lives and the dangers we face without it. It’s a story about mental health, identity, friendship, sexuality, love, loss, and the impermanent nature of the human condition. It’s a story about life.

**Daniel Devenney** is a bookseller and writer based in Auckland, New Zealand, by way of Ireland and the United States. A vocal advocate for mental health and Queer representation, Daniel currently works at Unity Books, reviews YA fiction for *The Spinoff*, and contributes author interviews, poetry, and reviews to *Express Magazine*. *Counting Down with Theodore Brown* is his debut novel.

## GOOD YOUNG MEN

Gary Lonesborough



**Gary Lonesborough** is a Yuin writer, who grew up on the Far South Coast of NSW as part of a large and proud Aboriginal family. Gary was always writing as a child, and continued his creative journey when he moved to Sydney to study at film school. Gary has experience working in youth work, Aboriginal health, child protection, the disability sector (including experience working in the youth justice system) and the film industry, including working on the feature film adaptation of *Jasper Jones*. His young adult novels, *The Boy from the Mish*, *We Didn't Think It Through*, and *I'm Not Really Here* have been shortlisted for numerous awards.

**A brilliant contemporary YA coming-of-age novel about three small-town Indigenous friends, united by tragedy and finding their way towards adulthood.**

*As we step into the shopping centre car park, white spray-paint on the orange brick wall catches my eye. Two council workers in high-vis shirts are on ladders, scrubbing away the faded words: WHITE POWER.*

In the idyllic coastal town of Carraway's Point, the four Aboriginal boys of Chopin Drive grew up together, carefree and close. But they drifted apart in high school, and everything changed forever the night Brandon was killed by a white cop.

Now racial tension is brewing, and each boy must wrestle with grief and their own complicated lives.

A searing and unputdownable YA novel about race, friendship, love, family and contemporary society from an acclaimed and award-winning author writing from the heart.



### *The Boy From the Mish* AWARDS:

**WINNER:** 2022 IBBY Australia Ena Noël Award; 2021 Favourite Australian Debut Book, Booktopia FAB Awards

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:** 2022 Book of the Year for Older Children, ABIAs

**SHORTLISTED:** 2022 NSW Premier's Literary Awards; 2022 Book of the Year: Older Readers, CBCA Awards; 2022 Young Adult Book of the Year, Indie Book Awards; 2022 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards; 2021 Readings YA Book Prize



### *We Didn't Think it Through* AWARDS:

**WINNER:** 2024 MARION ACT Book of the Year, Books for Older Readers

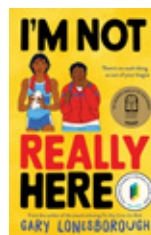
**WINNER:** 2024 Readings Young Adult Prize

**SHORTLISTED:** 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

**SHORTLISTED:** 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Indigenous Writers' Prize

**NOTABLE BOOK:** 2024 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

**SHORTLISTED:** 2024 Prime Minister's Literary Awards, Young Adult Literature



### *I'm Not Really Here* AWARDS:

**WINNER:** 2025 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Writing for Young Adults

# IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT

Hannah Marshall



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

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 alcohol use that threatens to spiral out of control, and she's deeply annoyed at having to leave the city.

Callum's future is thrown into jeopardy after both a disastrous uni interview and his budding romance turning sour.

But they can't keep running from the past forever, and circumstances force them to examine their grief and guilt 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.

'Prickly, messy and deeply human characters.' **Rachael Crow**, author of *The Lost Saint*

'A brilliant new YA novel from a huge new talent.' **The Spinoff**

'An emotionally charged and beautifully written debut novel.' **NZ Booklover**

'Witty and readable. Hannah Marshall is a skillful writer and her double narrative keeps readers aware of things that the main characters don't know yet, which creates some really amusing situations. The suspense is skillfully maintained.' **Magpies**

'All the hallmarks of a winner. Good stuff for young folk, and adults too.' **Linda Thompson, NZ Herald**

**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.



# RECENT BACKLIST AWARD & REVIEW WINNERS



## GRAPHIC NOVEL

November 2023, 80pp,  
330x276cm, HB, Ages: 9+

**Rights held:** World

**Rights sold:** German (Rowohlt/Rotfuchs); North American English (Lerner); Chinese Simplified (United Sky); French (Sarbacane)

## ULTRAWILD by Steve Mushin

Over 100 outrageously funny, scientifically plausible inventions for rewilding cities and saving the planet.

**WINNER:** 2024 Australian Book Design Awards, Best Designed Children's Non-Fiction book

**WINNER:** 2024 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, Elsie Locke Non-Fiction Award

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Spark! School Book Awards, Non-Fiction (UK)

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 NSW Literary Awards, Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature

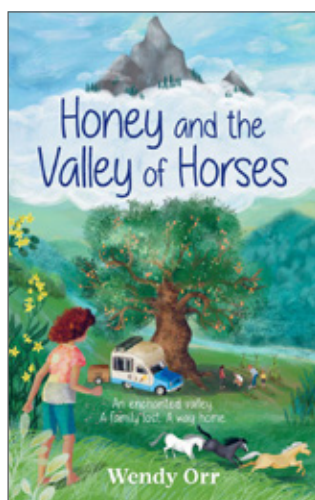
'An essential addition to middle and high school libraries, this graphic novel is a green how-to manual for 2025.' **starred, SLJ, US**

'A brilliantly designed comic that will have wide appeal beyond its target audience, even for adults.' **starred, Booklist, US**

'A humorous, thought-provoking blueprint for a better future...' **IGN, US**

'The ideas, conversations and inventions in *Ultrawild* belong in every school, home, waiting room, library, community house, bedroom, car and loo. The perfect gift for curious kids. Don't walk – RUN to grab your copy!' **Kids' Book Review, Aust**

'A visually impressive, large-format work of genius.' **The Sapling (NZ)**



## MIDDLE FICTION

August 2023, 224pp,  
198x128cm

Ages: 9 to 13

**Rights held:** World

**Rights sold:** North Am English (Pajama Press)

## HONEY AND THE VALLEY OF HORSES by Wendy Orr

A rich and enchanting adventure with a touch of fantasy, full of wonder, resilience and hope from a master storyteller.

**Junior Library Guild selection, US**

**Kirkus Reviews Best Middle Grade Books of 2024 Selection, US**

**CCBC Best Books for Kids and Teens 2024, starred selection, CA**

'Reminiscent of fairy tales and fish-out-of-water tales...this speculative story has a just-right mix of fantasy and reality, excellent descriptions of the settings (both enchanted and realistic), and a strong main character with an important quest....A beautifully executed, fantastical what-if tale for right now.'

**starred, Kirkus Reviews, US**

'This is a wonderful, unique family survival story....Orr's latest will delight middle grade readers searching for escape and home simultaneously. Highly recommended for middle grade fiction collections.' **starred, SLJ, US**

'The pace of the story is frantic, non-put-downable....an absolutely compelling and original and fast-moving fantasy.' **starred, Youth Services Book Review**

'...as magical as that of Orr's popular book *Nim's Island*, with a sprinkling of ancient fairy tale dust and plenty of magical horses, make this a must-read.'

**The International Educator**

'I was on the edge of my seat...' **Kids Book Buzz**

'A great portal fantasy.' **YA Books Central**

# RECENT BACKLIST AWARD & REVIEW WINNERS



## MIDDLE FICTION

April 2024, 256pp,  
198x128cm

Ages: 9 to 13

Rights held: World

## APPRENTICE WITNESS by Bren MacDibble

A unique and heartfelt adventure from the multi award-winning, bestselling author of *How to Bee*, *The Dog Runner* and *The Raven's Song*.

**WINNER:** 2024 Best Children's Fiction, Aurealis Awards

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction, New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Fiction Prize, Environment Award for Children's Literature

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Children's Book of the Year, WA Premier's Book Awards

'A classic MacDibble: young Basti is a delight as she searches for her strength and a family in a post-apocalyptic world, leaving us with a glimmer of hope for her future and our own.' **Wendy Orr**

'Bren MacDibble has become well-known for her unique and heartfelt adventure novels ... She is particularly astute at writing timely and inventive stories exploring the impacts of climate change. [There are] plenty of twists for younger readers who enjoy a good dash of marvel and intrigue with their adventure stories. MacDibble's use of language is unparalleled, and she illustrates hope and resilience through her characters.' **Books & Publishing**



## MIDDLE FICTION

Nov 2024, 384pp,  
198x128cm

Ages: 10 to 14

Rights held: Translation

## THUNDERHEAD by Sophie Beer

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*.

**NOTABLE BOOK:** 2025 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Prime Minister's Literary Awards, Young Adult category

**SHORTLISTED:** Children's Book of the Year, BookPeople Awards

**SHORTLIST:** 2025 Queensland Literary Awards, Children's Book Awards Selected as one of the Best Middle Grade Books for 2024 – Readings Books

'Thunderhead is my new hero: so smart, funny and true. An absolute cracker of a story.' **Karen Foxlee, author of Lenny's Book of Everything**

'I loved it! Australia's answer to Wonder by RJ Palacio.' Danielle Binks,

'Thunderous applause for this book!' **Remy Lai**

'takes the reader's heart out and wrings it dry, but is ultimately full of hope and joy, friendships and family.' **Bren MacDibble**

'A poignant and personal story that sings with originality, humour and heart. I adored this book.' **Pip Harry**

'Thunderhead is a triumph' **Peter Carnavas, author of Leo and Ralph**

'A spectacular book with an irresistible voice, packed with originality and glorious quirks.' **Kate Foster author of The Bravest Word**

'Thunderhead is a skilfully crafted character, brought to life by Sophie's flamboyant, energetic prose.' **Anna Zobel, creator of This Camp Is Doomed**



# RECENT BACKLIST AWARD & REVIEW WINNERS



## YA FICTION

October 2024,  
336pp, 198x128cm,

Ages: 12 to 16

**Rights held: World**

**Rights sold:** North Am  
English (Knopf);  
French (Editions de  
Seuil)

## MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS by Kate Emery

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

**WINNER:** 2025 Indie Book Awards, Young Adult

**WINNER:** 2025 John Marsden Book of the Year for Older Children,  
Australian Book Industry Awards

**NOTABLE BOOK:** 2025 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Prime Minister's Literary Awards, Young Adult category

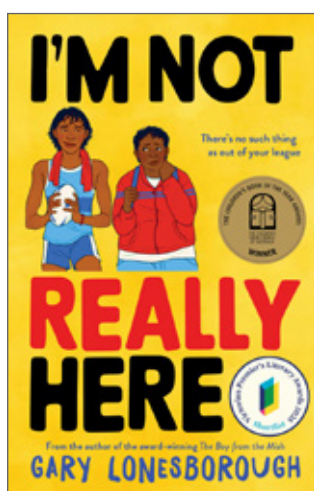
**WINNER:** 2025 Young Adult Book of the Year, WA Premier's Book Awards

Selected as one of the Best Young Adult Books for 2024 – Readings Books

'Prepare to be charmed!' **Nancy Springer, The Enola Holmes Mysteries**

'I enjoyed every single moment of this laugh-out-loud mystery.' **Amy Doak, bestselling author of *Eleanor Jones is Not a Murderer***

'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**



## YA FICTION

September 2024,  
384pp, 198x128cm

Ages: 15 to 18

**Rights held: World**

## I'M NOT REALLY HERE by Gary Lonesborough

A wonderful coming-of-age queer romance, also about navigating family and friendships, and finding a way through grief towards love, from an internationally acclaimed bestselling Indigenous author.

**WINNER:** 2025 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

**SHORTLISTED:** 2025 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Writing for Young Adults

**SHORTLIST:** 2025 MARION ACT Literary Awards, Children's Literature, Older Readers

'A moving coming-of-age story with so much heart. For readers who enjoyed Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz and Heartstopper by Alice Oseman.' **Books & Publishing**

'Bursting with warmth, humour, and those moments that make your heart ache in the best way. It's real, it's raw, and it's the kind of book that makes you laugh on one page and ugly cry on the next. An absolute must-read for anyone who loves stories about love, self-acceptance, and finding your people – even in the most unexpected places.' **CBCA Judge's comments**

# ENQUIRIES

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