

# B bold type agency

## children's rights guide 2023



# Contents

**PICTURE BOOKS**

**MIDDLE GRADE AND STAND ALONE**

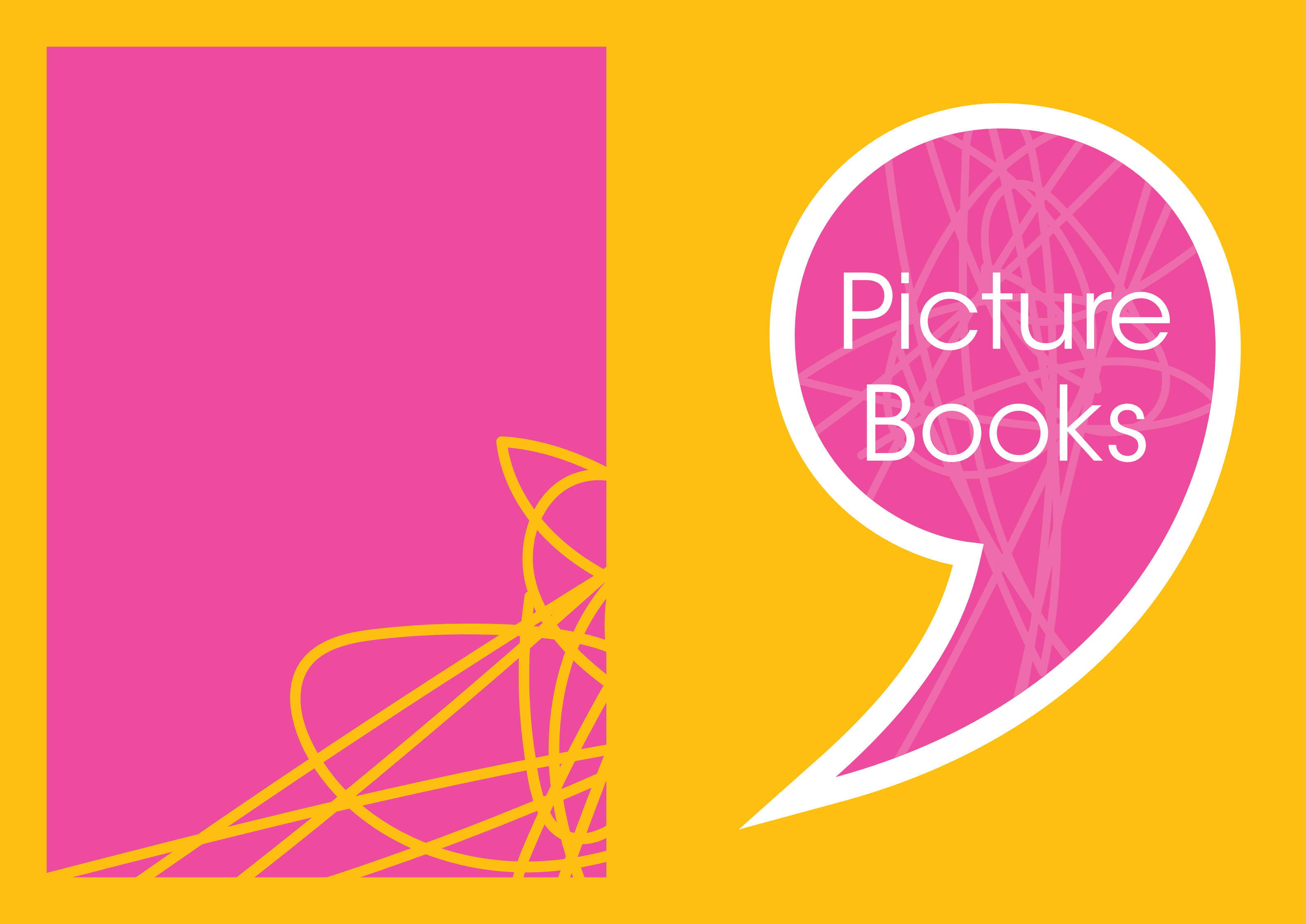
**MIDDLE GRADE SERIES**

**YOUNG ADULT**

**BACKLIST PICTURE BOOKS**

Cover image © Carolina Parada 2023

From The Story of Girl and Fish by Carolina Parada (Published by Red Paper Kite)



Picture  
Books

# Bertie and the Ginger Cat

BEX PARKIN

When your biggest fear becomes your bravest, most exciting adventure.

Bertie is perfectly safe, in her perfectly ordered room, with perfectly behaved pets - Bluebird and Billy.

Everything sits in perfect order: her hair, her socks, her toys, her books.

Until one day, when the window swings wide open and adventure awaits.

BRAVERY, FEARS,  
ANXIETY, ADVENTURE,  
ANIMALS, FRIENDSHIP



**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Red Paper Kite

**FORMAT:** Hardback;  
300mm x 220mm x 100mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

BEX PARKIN is an artist and illustrator based in the UK. Bex has worked on many exciting projects including greeting card ranges, packaging, stationery, fabrics and jigsaws. Her client list includes Anthropologie, Design House Greetings, Paperie and French toy company Djeco. She is known for her love of colourful wildlife and botanicals with a vibrant colour palette and playful details



# The Paper Flower Girl

MARGRETE LAMOND &  
MATEJA JAGER

Sometimes art means  
staying true to yourself.

The Paper-flower Girl creates intricate and elaborate flowers out of paper but has hardly any customers.

The Giant from the Hill brings her to work for him, but she discovers they want very different things.

Before long, the Paper-flower Girl is forced to create things she no longer recognises as flowers, and starts to lose her sense of self in the process. But when the exasperated Giant throws her from the Hill, the Paper-flower Girl takes with her something belonging to the Giant.



**PUB DATE:** October 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Dirt Lane Press

**FORMAT:** Hardback; 310mm x 235mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

**MARGRETE LAMOND** is an author of 20 previous titles as well as an editor and publisher at Dirt Lane Press. **MATEJA JAGER** is a Slovenian-born Australian illustrator. She studied fashion and textile design at the University of Ljubljana and is known for her quirky greeting cards and prints. Mateja's work has been featured in the prestigious international *Brightness Magazine*.



# Poppy, The Queen and The Seat

VIKKI MARMARAS &  
CATERINA METTI

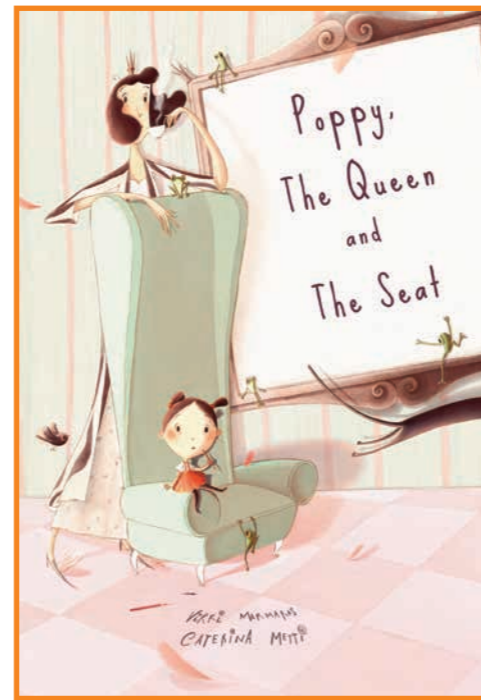
An utterly delightful story of a spoiled little princess trying to find the best seat in the house.

Poppy is a Princess, and she deserves the best. Nothing but the best.

In this sweet story, the Queen is like any mother: she goes to extraordinary lengths to soothe her daughter's tantrum. Even giving up her throne!

But, alas that is not the best seat in the palace.

THEMES INCLUDE  
MOTHER-DAUGHTER,  
LOVE, MOTHER'S DAY,  
TANTRUMS



**PUB DATE:** May 2023

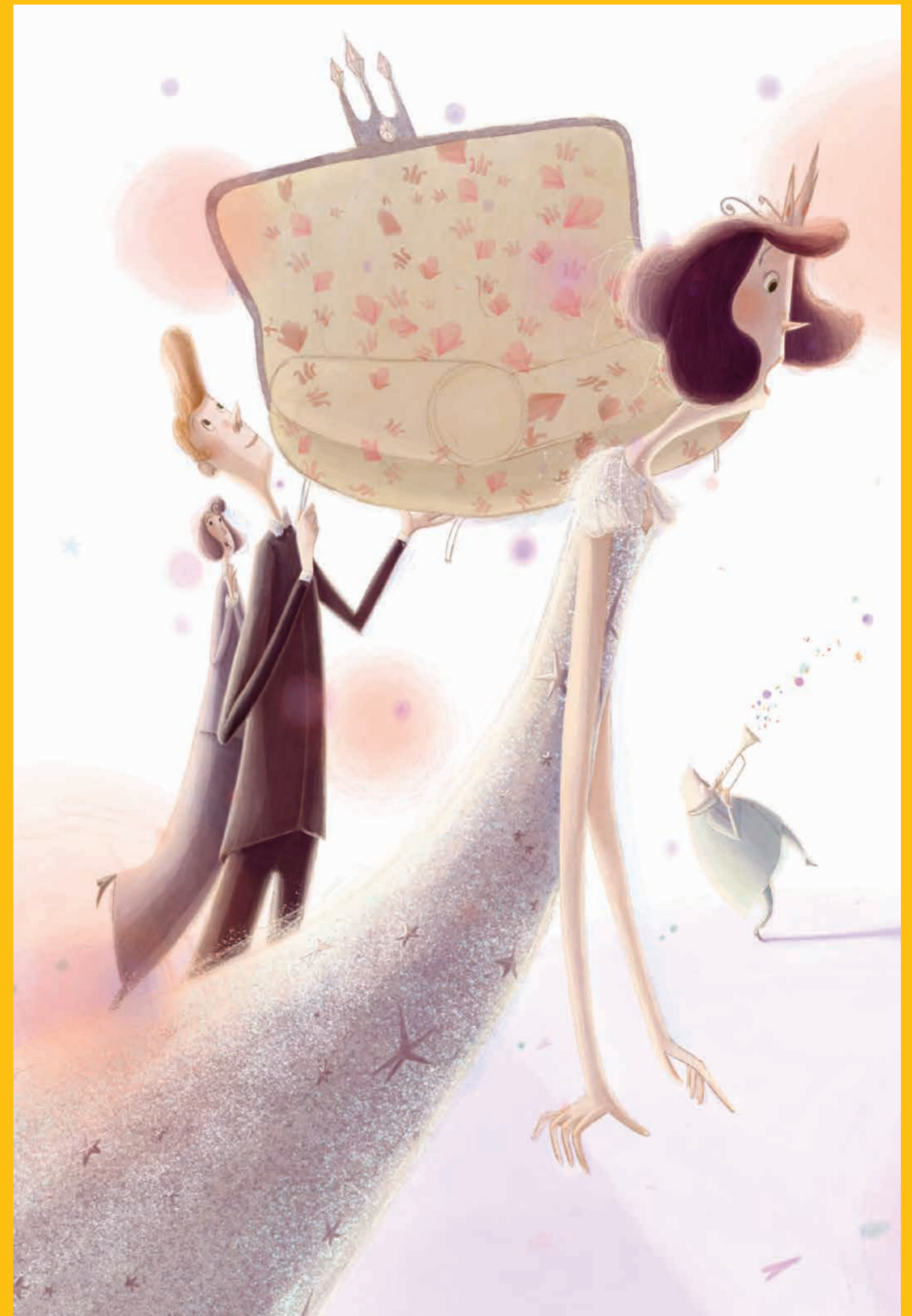
**PUBLISHER:** Red Paper Kite

**FORMAT:** Hardback;  
300mm x 220mm x 100mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

Characters VIKKI MARMARAS has written about include a hiccup, a bookworm, a princess, a pirate, a curious dog and a grumpy old oak tree. Vikki currently splits her time between Milton Keynes in the UK and Melbourne in Australia. CATERINA METTI is a self-taught artist who studied science before deciding to pursue a career in illustration. Her illustration style 'is a work in progress', and her work is inspired by street photographers and French artists. Caterina lives near Florence, Italy.



# The Story of Girl and Fish

CAROLINA PARADA

Set against the rich landscape of Colombia, this brave adventure is about animal rescue, friendship, joyful tears. And wearing yellow socks.

When a special fish is bumped out of a speeding truck, a girl must figure out a way to rescue him. Fish needs salty water to live but there are no solutions to be found in Girl's kitchen or in her mountain town.

Girl and Fish must adventure somewhere new ...

An exquisite adventure with a strong multicultural vibe, while also encouraging ecological awareness. And if that sounds a little too worthy and serious, Carolina Parada brings a fresh and contemporary style to both the story and the illustrations.

ENVIRONMENT, FRIENDSHIP, EMPATHY, EGO-CONSCIOUS,  
ADVENTURE, NATURE, COURAGE



**PUB DATE:** February 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Red Paper Kite

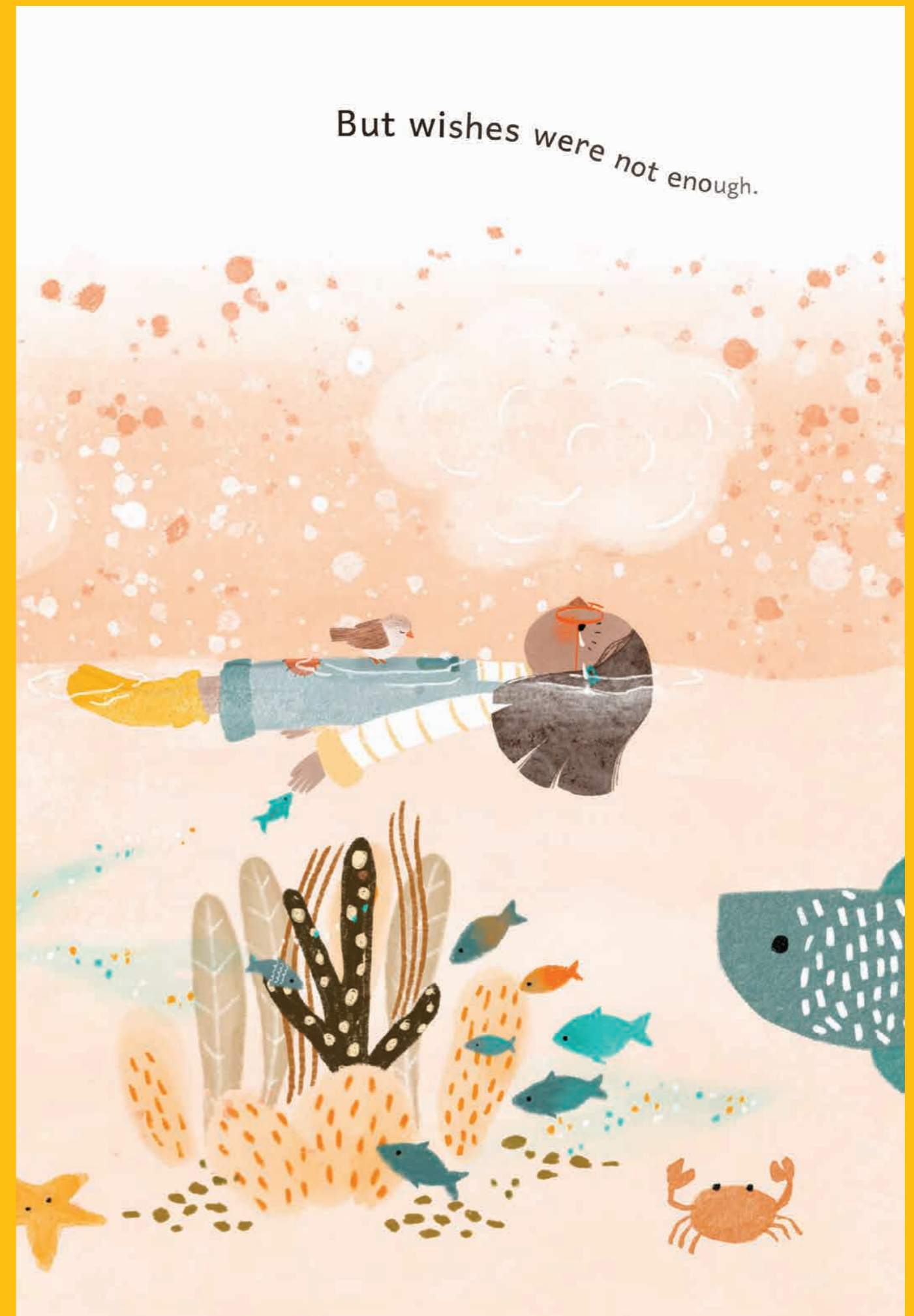
**FORMAT:** Hardback;  
300mm x 220mm x 100mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

**RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany (Carl Auer  
Verlag)

Dr. CAROLINA PARADA was born in Bogotá, a city perched in the mountains of Colombia. Carolina has a PhD in developmental biology and works as a researcher in Paris and combines her scientific activities with her illustration/writing career. Her inspiration for both science and art is drawn largely from the perfection and imperfections of nature.



# Chill Out: A Wellness Book for Toddlers ANNA PIGNATARO

A board book series for toddlers from the internationally-renowned Anna Pignataro! This series encourages calm thinking and delights in life's small pleasures.

Smell the flowers  
Look at the clouds  
Wriggle your toes  
Float gently  
Follow the rainbow  
Think wonderful  
Dream big  
Chill out

The first two titles, *Chill Out* and *Love Green* will be published in June 2023, with another two titles, *Be Kind* and *Go Wild* to follow in June 2024.

Anna's books have been published internationally and translated into more than fourteen languages. Anna's book *The Heart Of A Whale* was the Winner in the Children's Picture Book Category of the International Book Awards 2020.

## COVER ART TO COME

**PUB DATE:** June 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

**FORMAT:** Board Book

**PAGE EXTENT:** 16pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

ANNA PIGNATARO is an artist and author/illustrator of over 80 books for children. Her first picture book won the Crichton Award for Book Illustration and many of her books have been shortlisted in Australia and overseas and have received Notable Book Commendations from the CBCA.





# A Chicken Called Hope

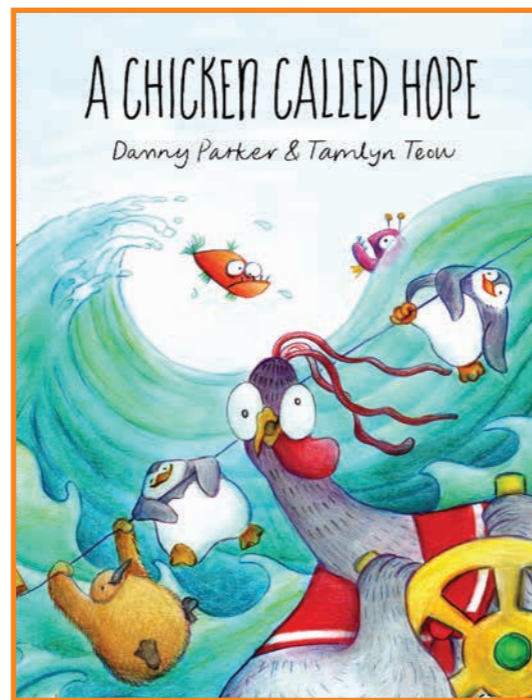
DANNY PARKER &  
TAMLYN TEOW

This is a story about being prepared for the worst and hoping for the best.

Hope is a chicken who relies on hope to survive. When faced with a challenge, she crosses her feathers, hums a tune, looks the other way and hopes for the best.

The trouble is, as captain of the good ship *Courage*, this chicken needs more than hope to get her through the peaks and troughs of life on the high seas. Will Hope learn this lesson after *Courage* fails her and all hope seems lost?

Inspired by a real-life event, *A Chicken Called Hope* is a universal wake-up call for all ages, as well as a delightful story for the young at heart.



**PUB DATE:** May 2023

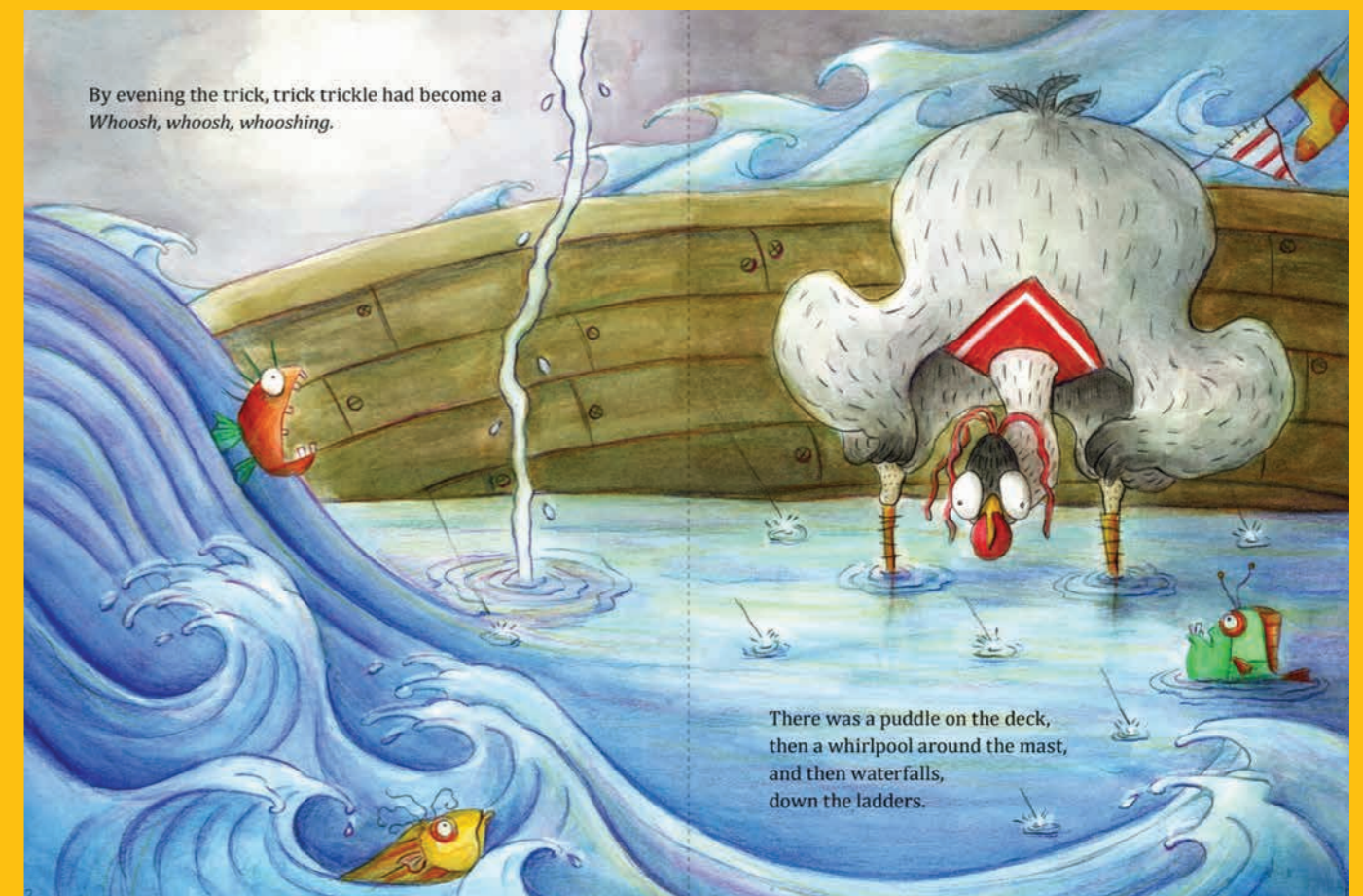
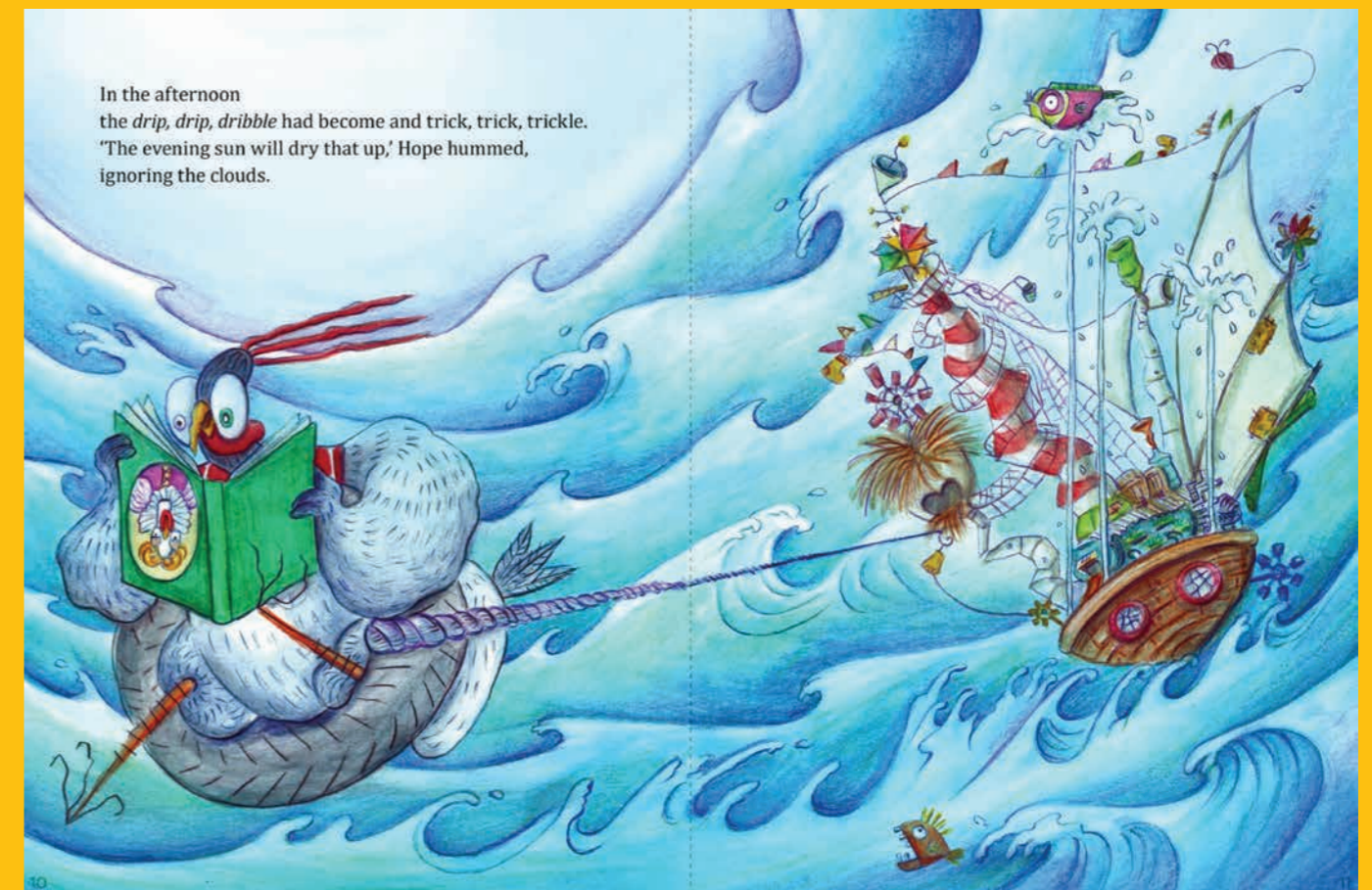
**PUBLISHER:** Dirt Lane Press

**FORMAT:** Hardback; 244mm x 244mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

For **DANNY PARKER** the combination of family and a deeply personal process of writing are intertwined. Each of his stories is either based on, or refers back to family life. **TAMLYN TEOW** has worked in a wide variety of contexts, including as a scenic artist at Opera Australia and Fox Studios, and as character concept artist for Phantom Comics.



# Satin

SOPHIE MASSON &  
LORENA  
CARRINGTON

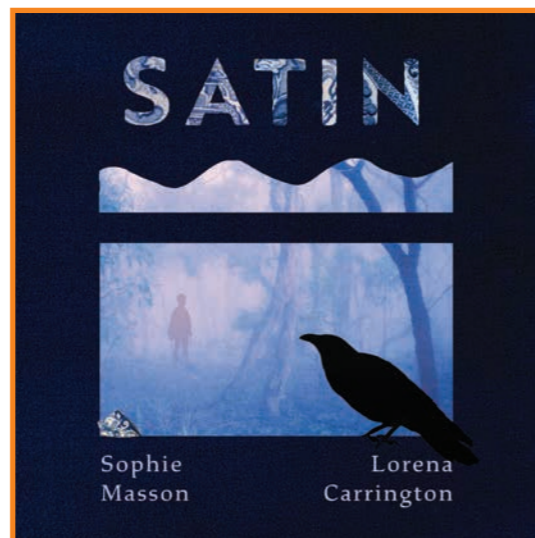
A beautiful, haunting fable by award-winning writer Sophie Masson and acclaimed illustrator Lorena Carrington.

*Every morning early, when no-one's about, Satin slips out of the forest and walks along the sleepy sunrise streets, looking for blue...*

He's collected all kinds of blues, from all kinds of places. He's making something beautiful, with all those blues. But something's missing, and he doesn't know what it is.

One day, he comes to a street he's never been in before.

And what he finds there will change his lonely life forever.



**PUB DATE:** March 2023

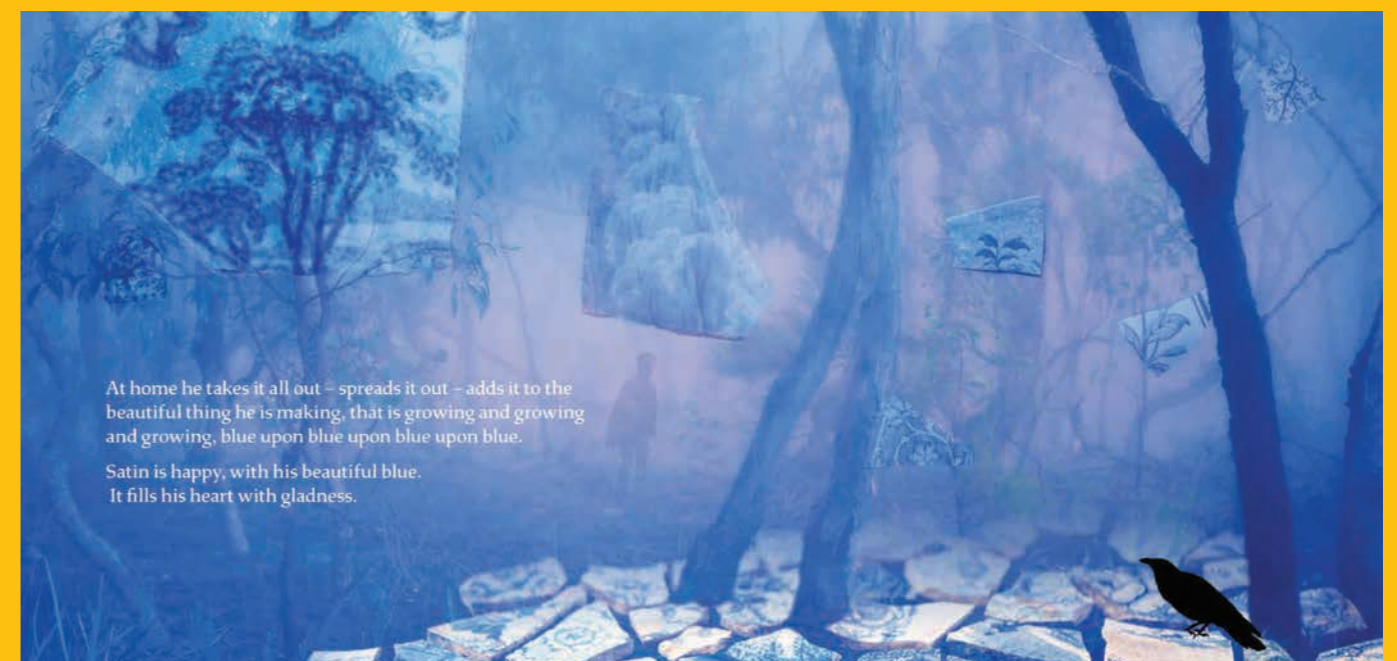
**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 240mm x 240mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

SOPHIE MASSON is the award-winning author of over 90 books for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. In 2019, Sophie received an AM (Member, General Division) award in the Order of Australia honours list. LORENA CARRINGTON has also been published internationally. Her works are created using photography and digital montage techniques to form richly layered images.



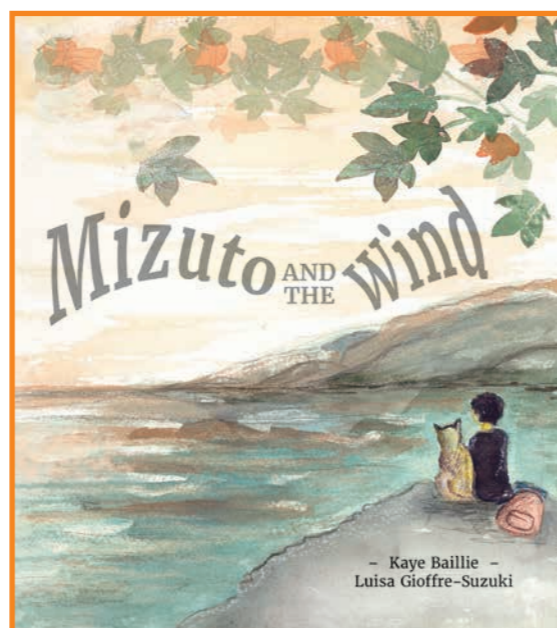
# Mizuto and the Wind

KAYE BAILLIE & LUISA  
GIOFFRE-SUZUKI

Based on real events, *Mizuto and the Wind* is a story about the forces of nature, grief, family, and the importance of hope.

Mizuto is a young boy living an ordinary life in Japan until one day, something extraordinary happens.

Following a deadly tsunami, Mizuto's father is missing. Could a mysterious telephone connected only to the wind help him find his father?



**PUB DATE:** June 2023

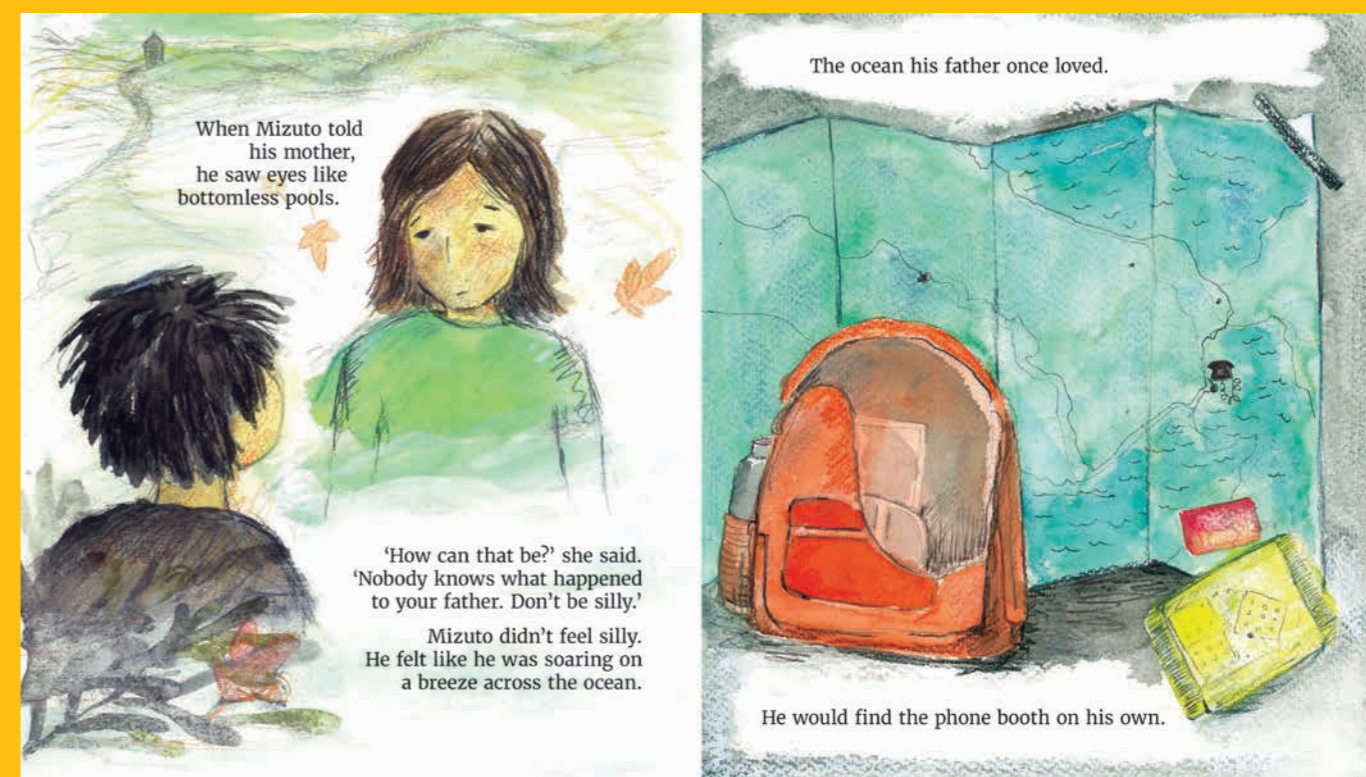
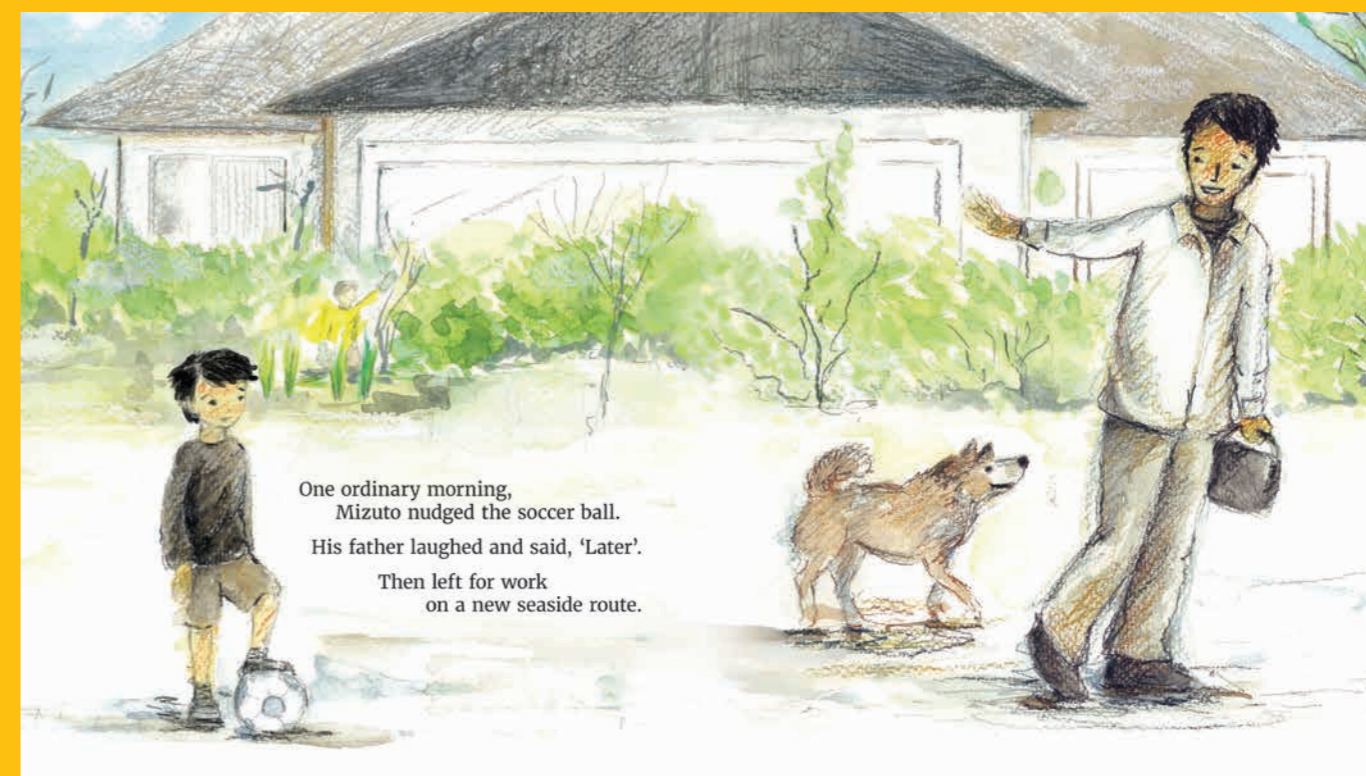
**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 230mm x 260mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp

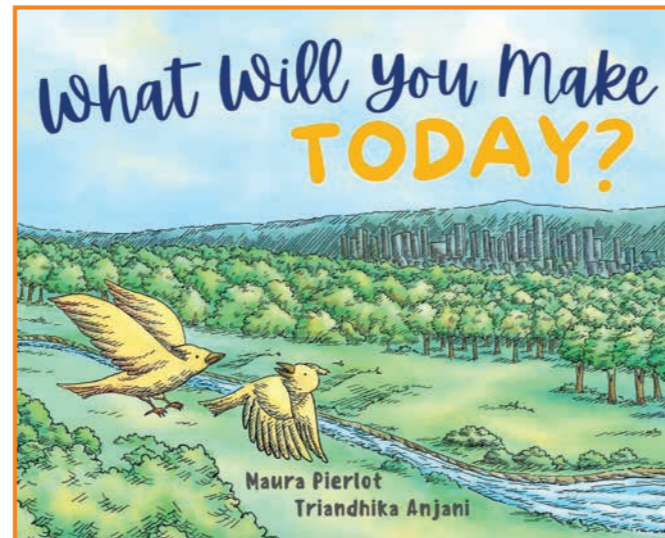
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

**KAYE BAILLIE** is the author of *When The Waterhole Dries Up* (2022) which received a Notable award from the Children's Book Council of Australia. Her work has been published internationally. **LUISA GIOFFRE-SUZUKI** is an illustrator and artist. Her personal style has developed with influences from vibrant Japanese culture and is underpinned by her Fine Art training and love of colour.



# What Will You Make Today

MAURA PIERLOT & TRIANDHIKA ANJANI



*What Will You Make Today?* invites children to explore the many ways they can make a difference in the world.

In a world bursting with possibilities, what will you make today? Will you make believe? Will you make noise? Will you make a wish? Will you make an excuse? Will you make things right? Will you make a difference?

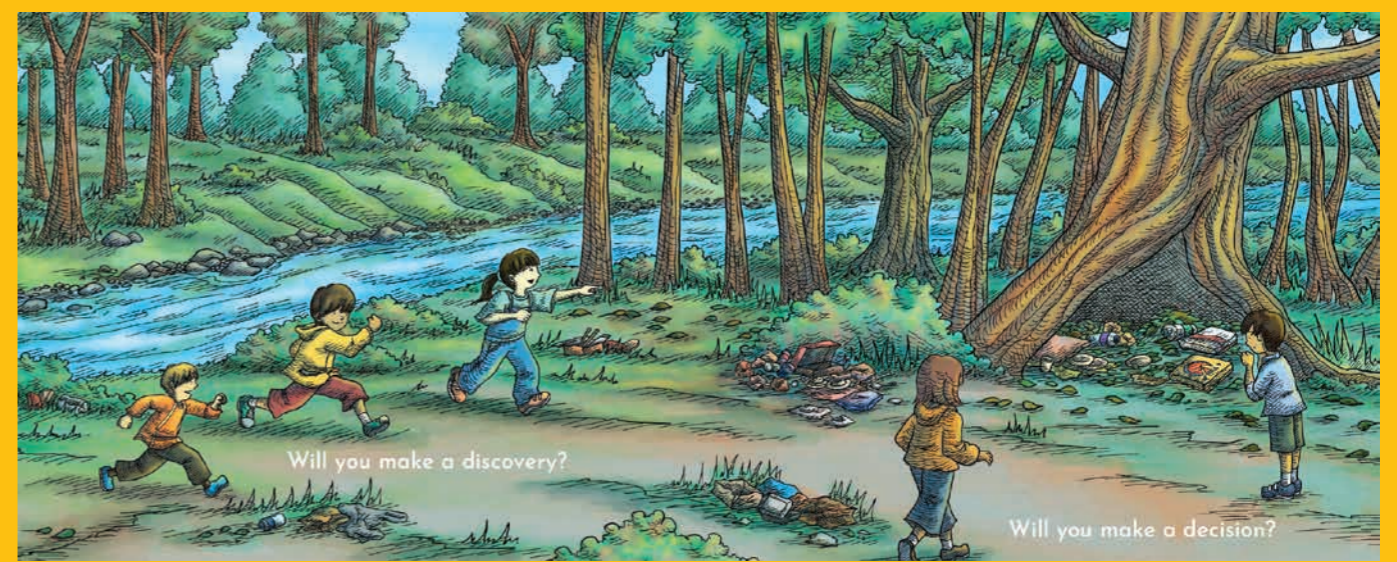
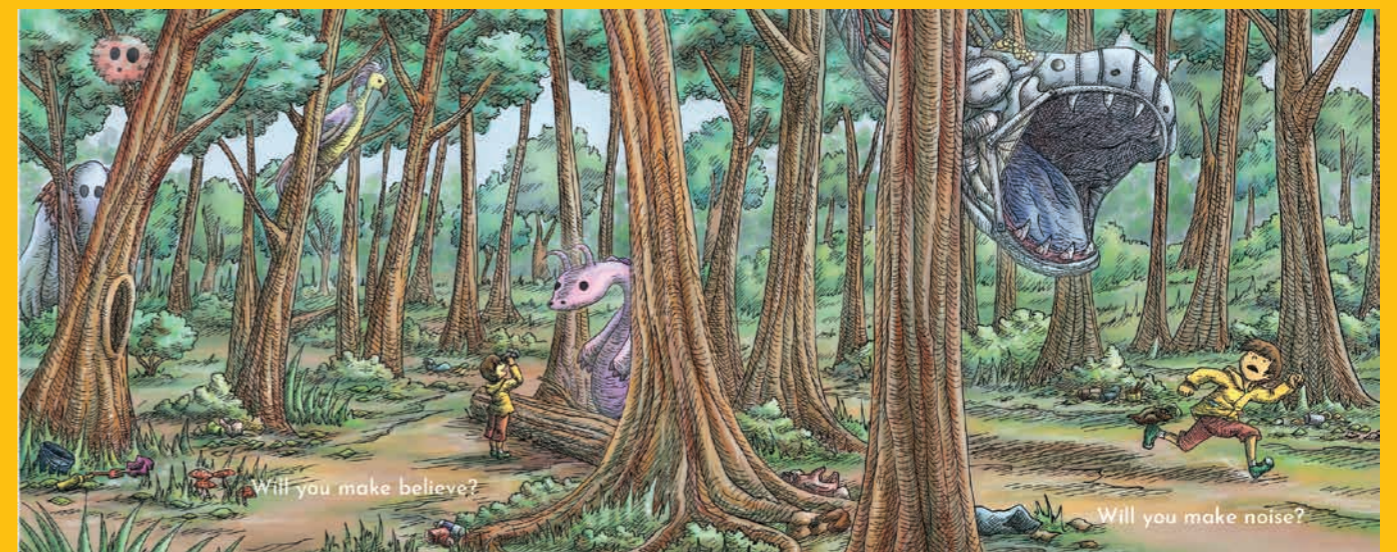
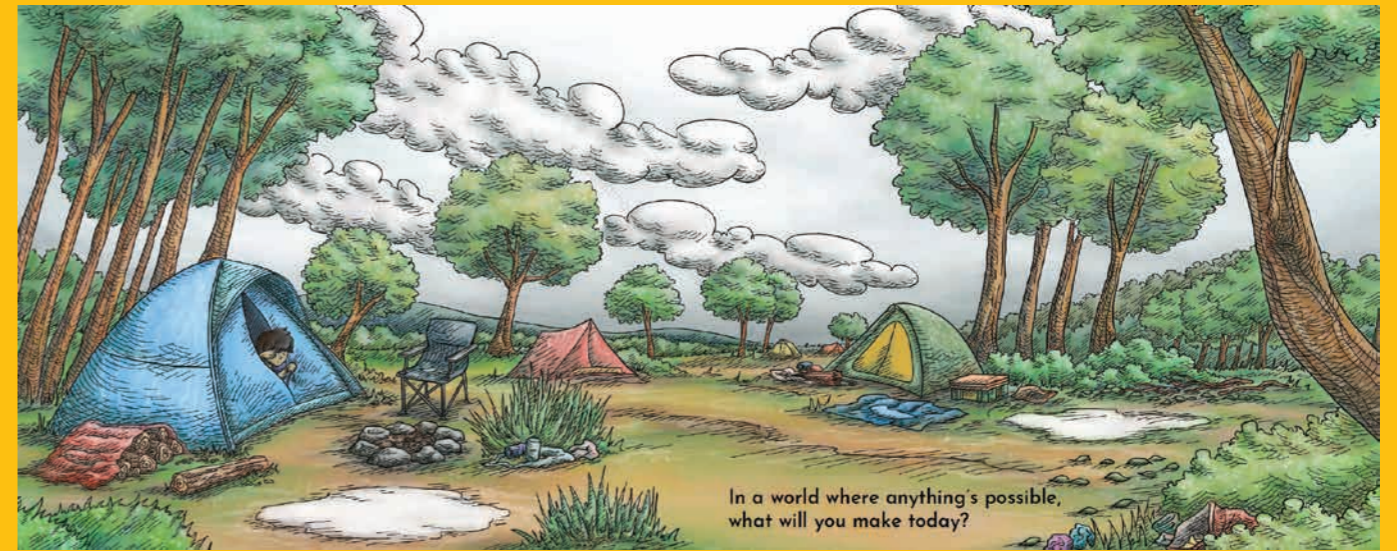
A series of questions subtly builds perspective from a personal standpoint, culminating in a wholistic view of the world. *What Will You Make Today?* reveals how our choices can effect change and make an impact in our lives, the lives of others and in the world.

EMPOWERMENT,  
PROBLEM-SOLVING



**PUB DATE:** August 2023  
**PUBLISHER:** Storytorch Press  
**FORMAT:** Hardback; 283mm x 230mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

MAURA PIERLOT is an award-winning author and playwright based in Canberra. Maura's widely acclaimed play *Fragments* will be released as a web series in 2023. TRIANDHIKA ANJANI is originally from Indonesia and studied illustration in Japan. The sky, light, and nature landscapes are sources of inspiration for her and the subjects of many of her artworks.





**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Riveted Press

**FORMAT:** 280mm x 210mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

A journey into the impressive micro-world of an ant colony – narrated by words that end in ‘ant’.

Ants are anything but ordinary. Throughout this book you’ll follow the journey of one specific ant, from before her birth through to her successful career as a soldier ant.

Ants really are BRILLI-ANT! Their primary focus is taking care of their community.

They put others before themselves. They can lift weights many times heavier than their own bodies ...and if they were humans, we’d probably consider them to be superheroes!

**EXPECTANT:** The Queen is ready to give birth.

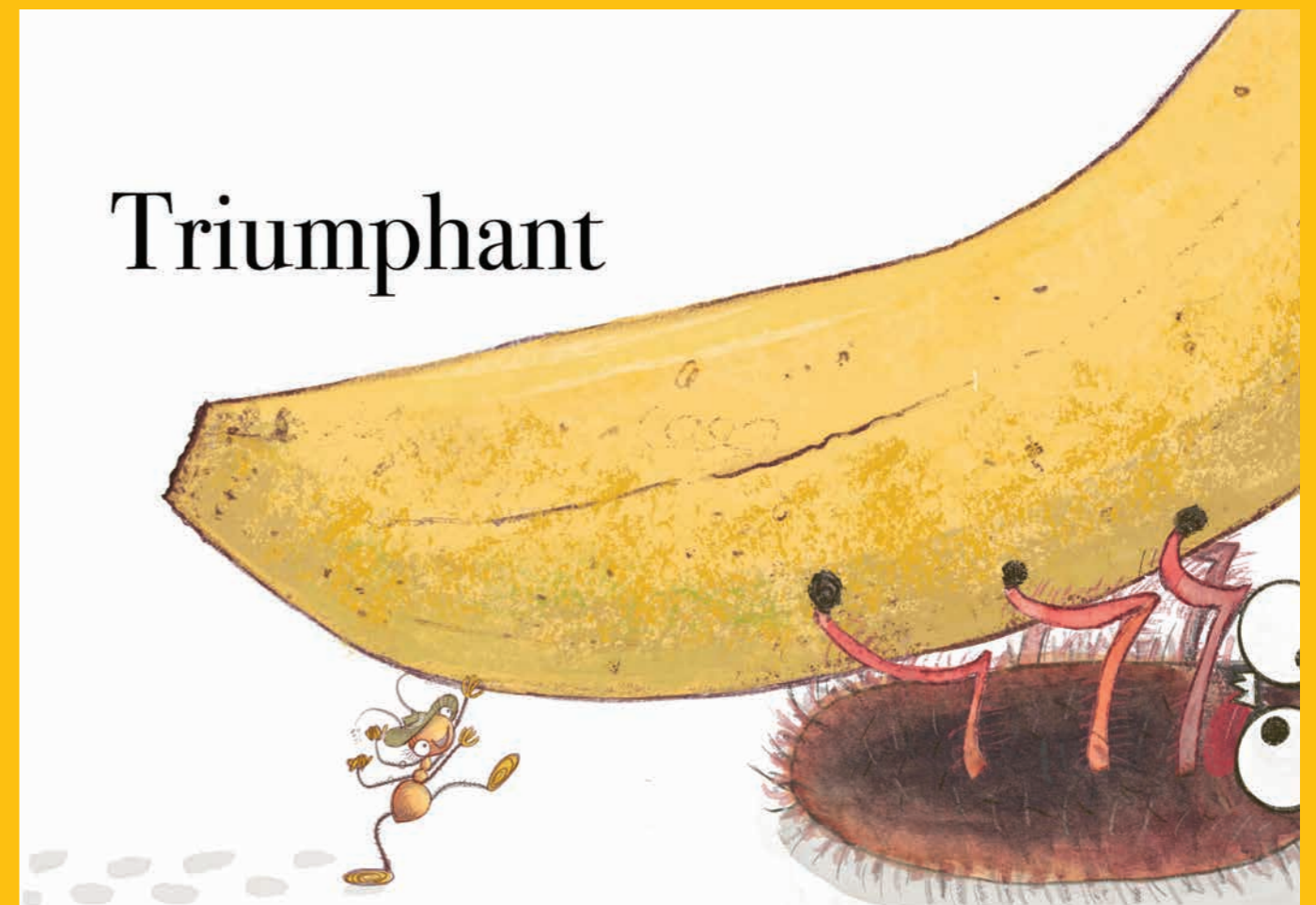
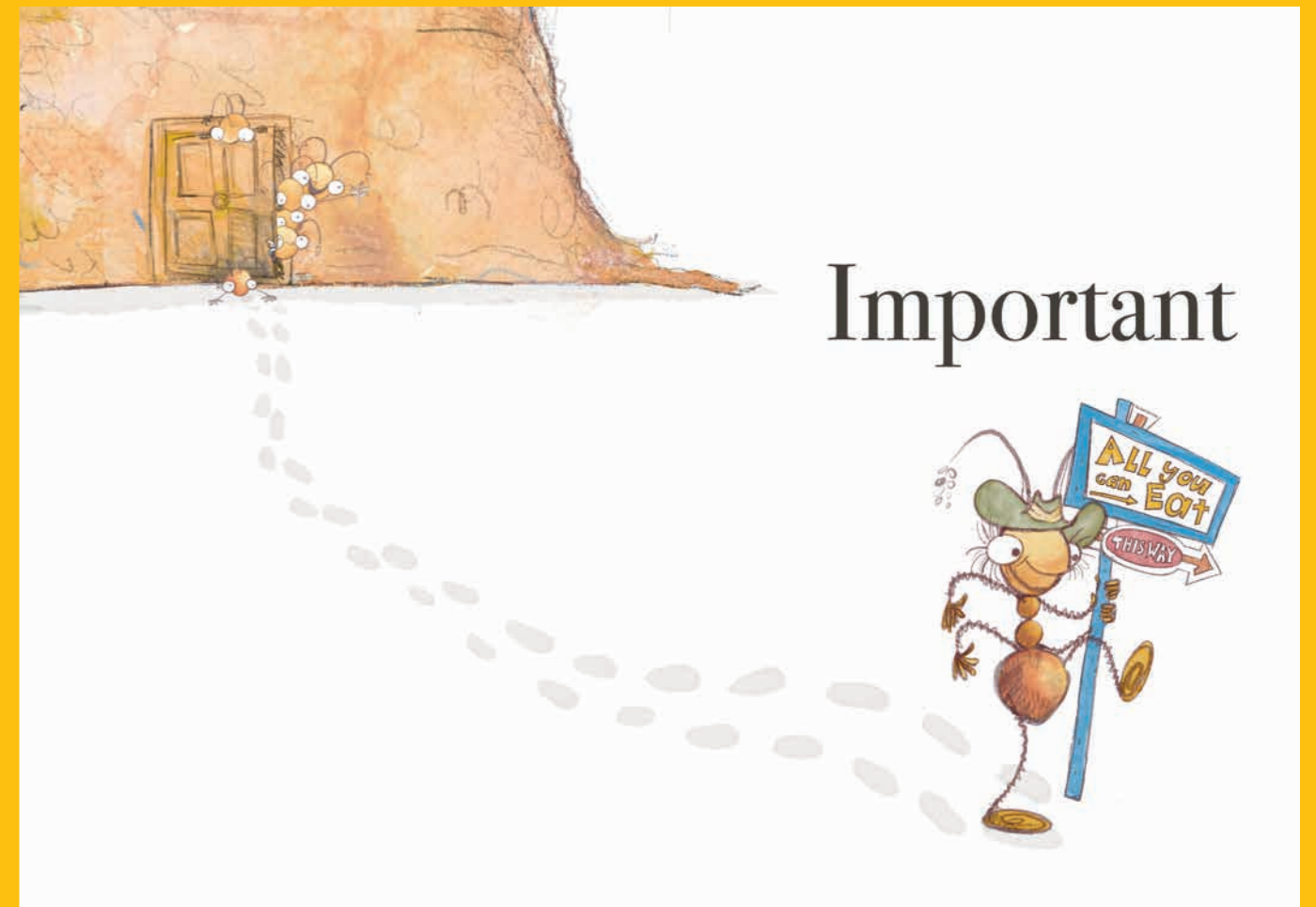
**INFANT:** Ants’ roles are predetermined at birth.

Possible jobs include: winged princess ants, winged male drone ants, female soldier ants, female builder ants, and female nursery ants

**MILITANT:** This ant in this story has been pre-selected as a soldier ant and, with her colleagues, will fight on behalf of the colony.

ROSI NGWENYA writes quirky and engaging children’s stories. When she’s not doing that, she can be found working as an Oral Health Therapist for children, looking into the mouths of small people and helping them to stop sucking their fingers and thumbs.

SANDY FLETT is the creator and presenter of the internationally successful YouTube channel, Kids Art School.



Knock  
Knock  
CATHERINE  
MEATHERINGHAM &  
DEB HUDSON

A wonderful exploration of language and culture

Knock on doors all over the world and see how people live.

From Germany to Tonga to Japan, *Knock Knock* offers a glimpse into other countries and ways of life.



**PUB DATE:** July 2023  
**PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books  
**FORMAT:** TBC  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

CATHERINE MEATHERINGHAM loves writing stories with sounds that encourage children' to join in. *Knock Knock* is her second picture book. Her previous titles have been shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. DEB HUDSON finds joy in creating illustrations that celebrate life, growth and wonder, highlight all the beauty around, especially the tiny unnoticed details.



# Tatya's Secret Ingredient

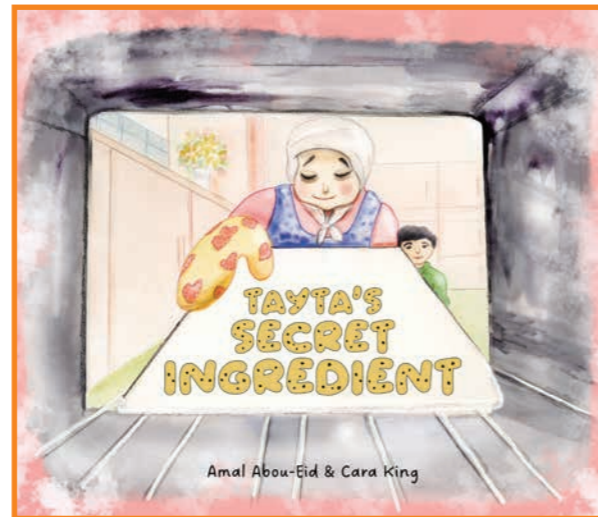
AMAL ABOU-EID & CARA KING

*Tatya's Secret Ingredient* is a heart-warming intergenerational story about everyday life in, where a young boy takes centre stage alongside his beloved grandmother.

Billy loves Harmony Day.

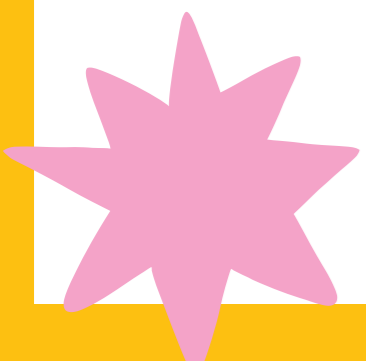
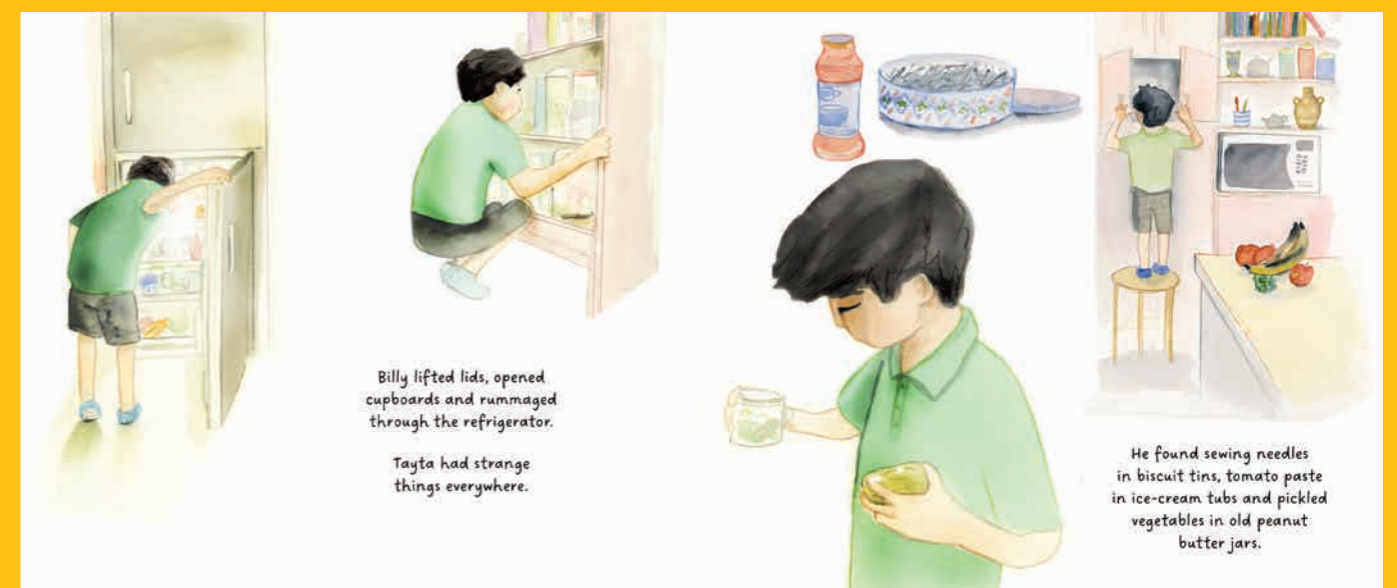
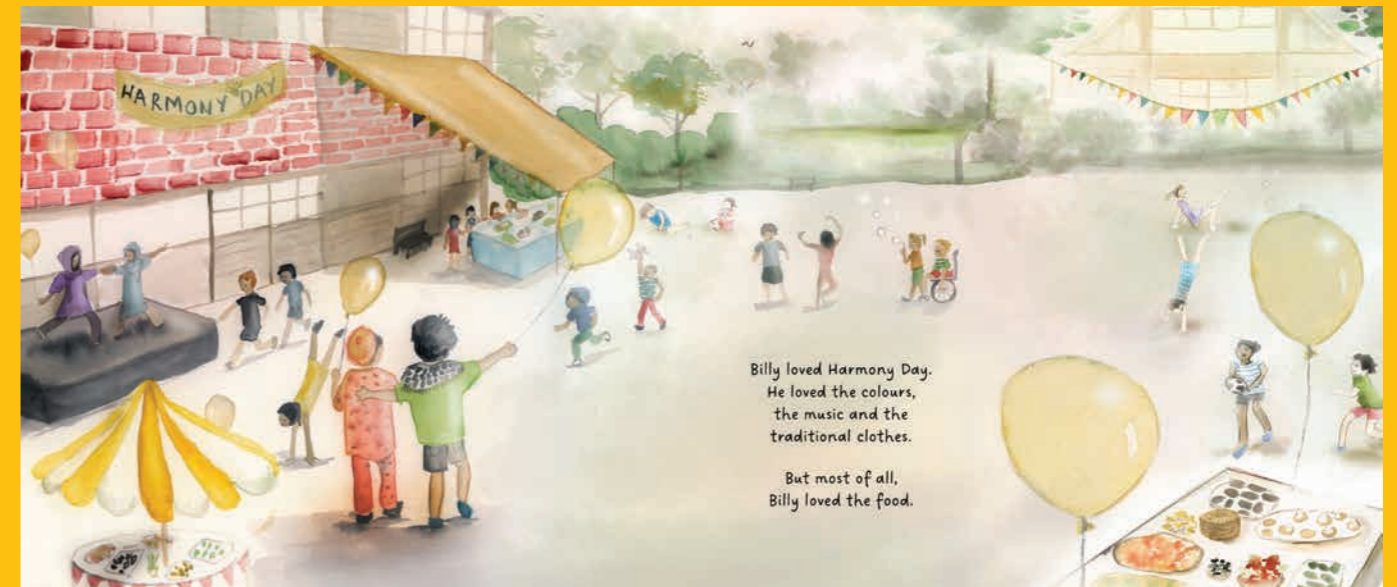
He loves the colours, the dresses and especially the food. This year Tayta is making kaak, a Lebanese treat, for Billy to share with his class but he can't share the recipe because Tayta bakes with a secret ingredient.

What could it be?



**PUB DATE:** March 2024  
**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing  
**FORMAT:** TBC  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Inspired by her faith, and her wish for people to live harmoniously, AMAL ABOU-EID turned her hand to writing. Amal's writing is honest and kind, and she hopes to spread acceptance and tolerance through her work. CARA KING is a children's book illustrator who loves to work in all kinds of mediums. She enjoys creating quirky and interesting characters.



# Raised by Moths

CHARLIE ARCHBOLD & MICHELLE GONN

Wonderfully fantastical and thought-provoking with stunning illustrations, *Raised by Moths* is quite unlike anything you've read before.

Willow jumps on the Ferris Wheel and is intrigued to see a boy surrounded by moths. As they travel high above the fairground he tells her the reason why the moths love him so much: he was raised by moths.

## COVER ART TO COME

**PUB DATE:** October 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 240mm x 240mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

CHARLIE ARCHBOLD is an award-winning author of middle grade and YA. *Raised by Moths* is her first picture book. MICHELLE GONN is a children's book illustrator and author who combines watercolour and pencil with digital illustration to create worlds filled with wonder and emotion.



'Mostly kids who are alone,



Animals know we need looking after for a while,



or whose parents don't love them,



or kids whose parents have died.



but most children never remember.'





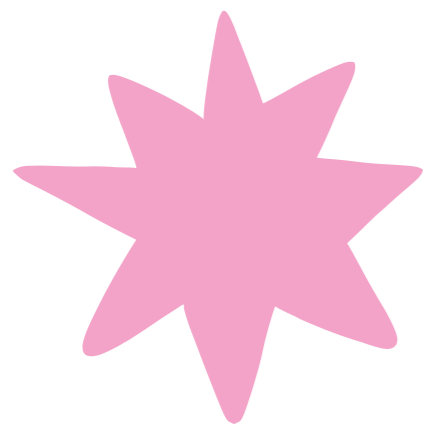
# Run Pups Run

KERRI DAY &  
NICKY JOHNSON

*Run Pups Run* celebrates the simple joys of childhood and the bond between children and their dogs.

When a family heads to the beach with their dogs, an adventurous summer day unfolds.

A rollicking, rhyming adventure story to read aloud and share with the whole family.



**PUB DATE:** June 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

**FORMAT:** TBC

**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

KERRI DAY enjoys writing stories which encourage young readers to discover the natural world and explore language sound and creative thinking. NICKY JOHNSON is an educator, speaker and author/illustrator of children's books. Nicky's illustration style is often described as whimsical, emotive, soft and expressive.



# Bower Bob

NICOLE GODWIN & CONNAH BRECON

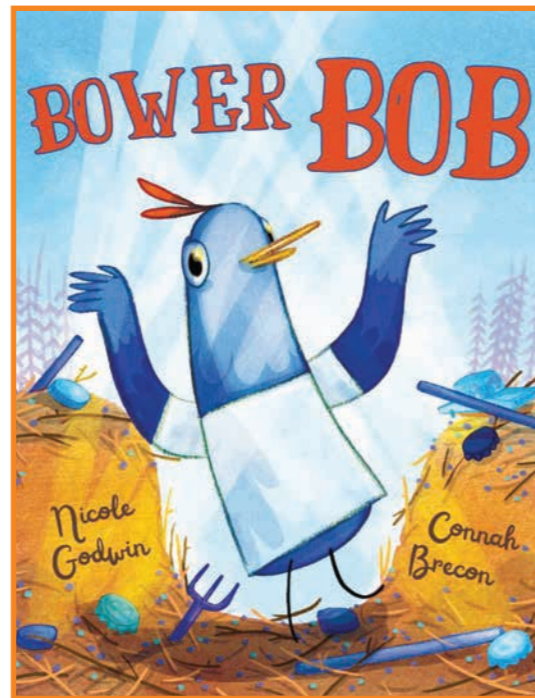
A book of our time, *Bower Bob* uses humour to highlight how nature has been intimately affected by our love of plastic.

Bob is a bird with a plan.

He is ready to build his first ever bower and find a beloved bower-babe. He builds the finest nest and surrounds it with magnificent blue love tokens.

There is just one problem – his straws, pegs, bottle tops, bottle rings and pens may not be treasures at all. Will they help him win over a strong, smart and sassy bower babe, or will they be his undoing?

ENVIRONMENT,  
ANIMALS



**PUB DATE:** June 2023  
**PUBLISHER:** Storytorch Press  
**FORMAT:** 283mm x 230mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

NICOLE GODWIN is an award-winning author who shines a light on environmental, animal rights and social justice issues. *Jelly-Boy* (Walker Books) was a Notable book in the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Awards 2021 and won the Conservation Awareness for Children category of the Whitley Awards. CONNAH BRECON is a British author-illustrator currently living in Melbourne, Australia.



Bob is a bird with a plan.

He’s determined to find a beloved bower-babe.  
 But first, he has to make the finest bower in the forest.



But, deep in his little bower heart, he knows he can make a perfect bower and surround it with stunning blue treasures.

Bower-Bob gathers the finest twigs.

Over. Under. Twist.

Repeat.

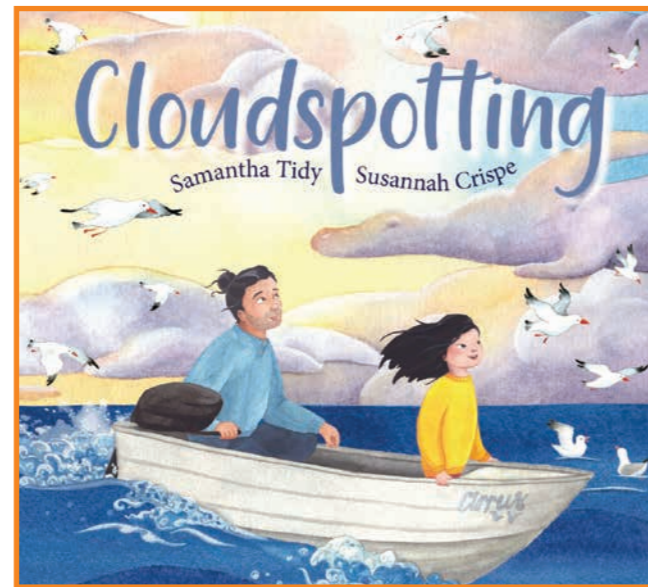
Two perfect mounds start to form.

# Cloudspotting

SAMANTHA TIDY &  
SUSANNAH CRISPE

When the sun rises over the sea, the sky is a canvas of possibilities for a father and daughter. *Cloudspotting* is a joyful celebration of love, lunch and the imagination. Join a father and daughter as they share a special time catching crabs but also treasuring being on the water and appreciating what is around them.

FATHER / DAUGHTER  
SPENDING TIME IN NATURE  
FOR THOSE WHO LOVE  
THE OCEAN



**PUB DATE:** October 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

**FORMAT:** Hardback; 310mm x 235mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

SAMANTHA TIDY is an award-winning author of both adult and children's books. She writes fiction and non-fiction that seeks to cultivate community and connection. SUSANNAH CRISPE is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. If she's not in her studio, you might find her playing with wildlife in exotic locations, paddling down the Amazon River or climbing glaciers in the Arctic.



And then we begin.

Dad slows the motor and I lean over to grab the buoy.



I pull hard and fast! As the net rises closer to the surface,  
I wonder...

Maybe it's just the bait?

It's a crab!

# The Secret Boat

MARK MCLEOD & HÉLÈNE MAGISSON



**PUB DATE:** February 2023

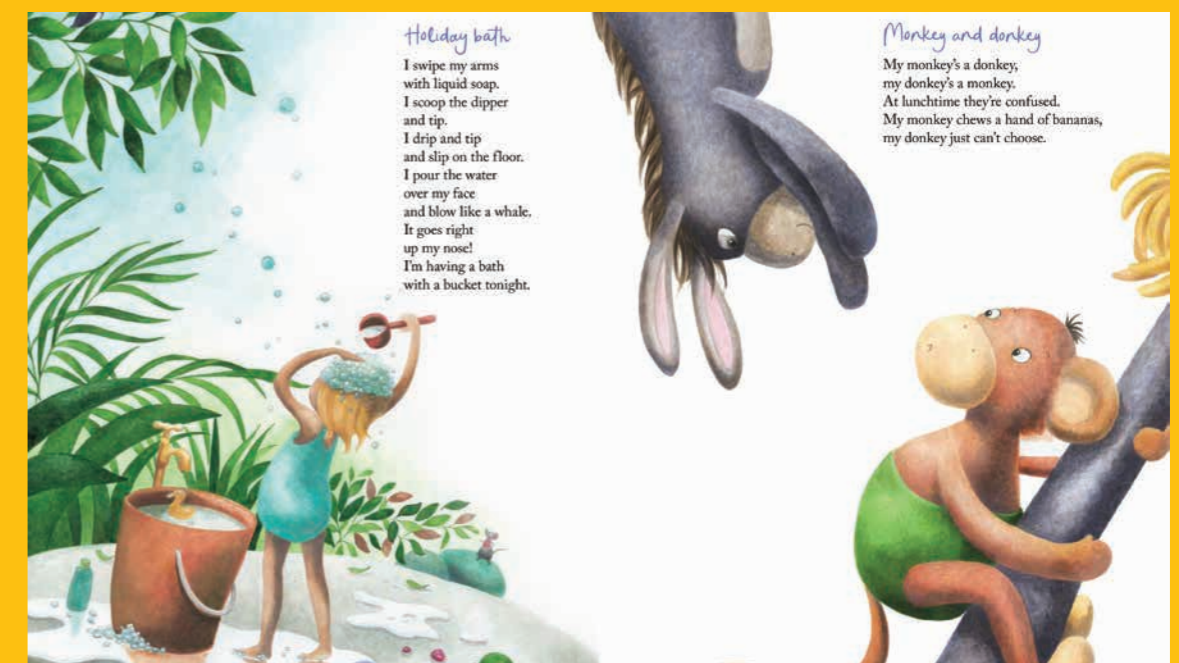
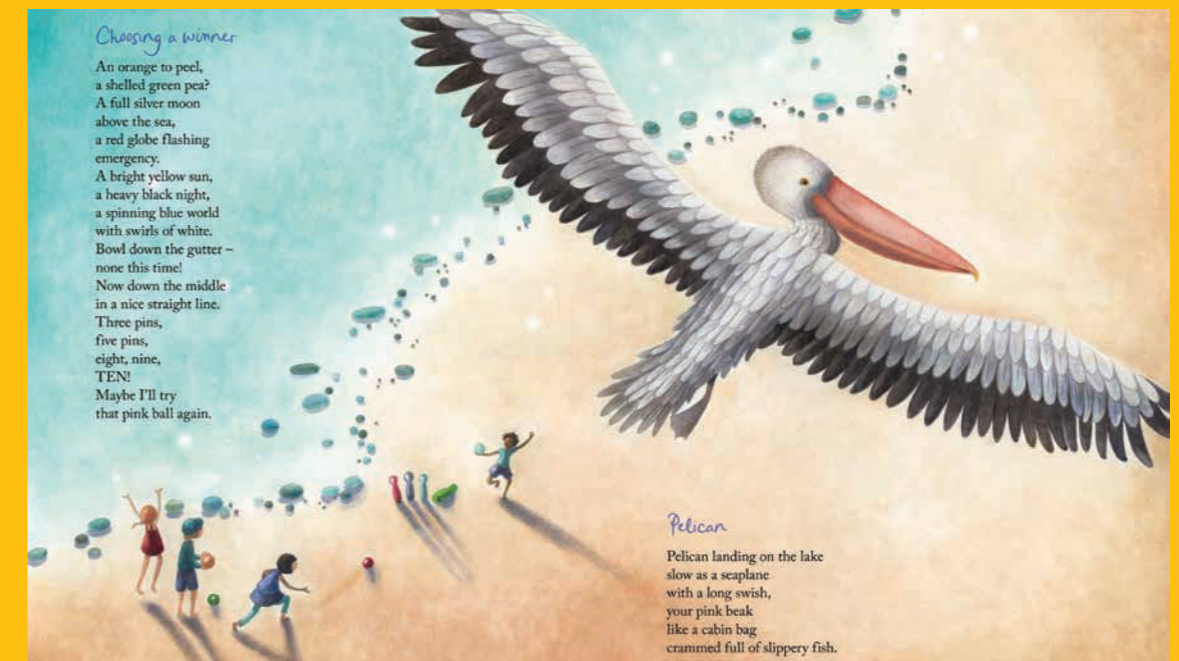
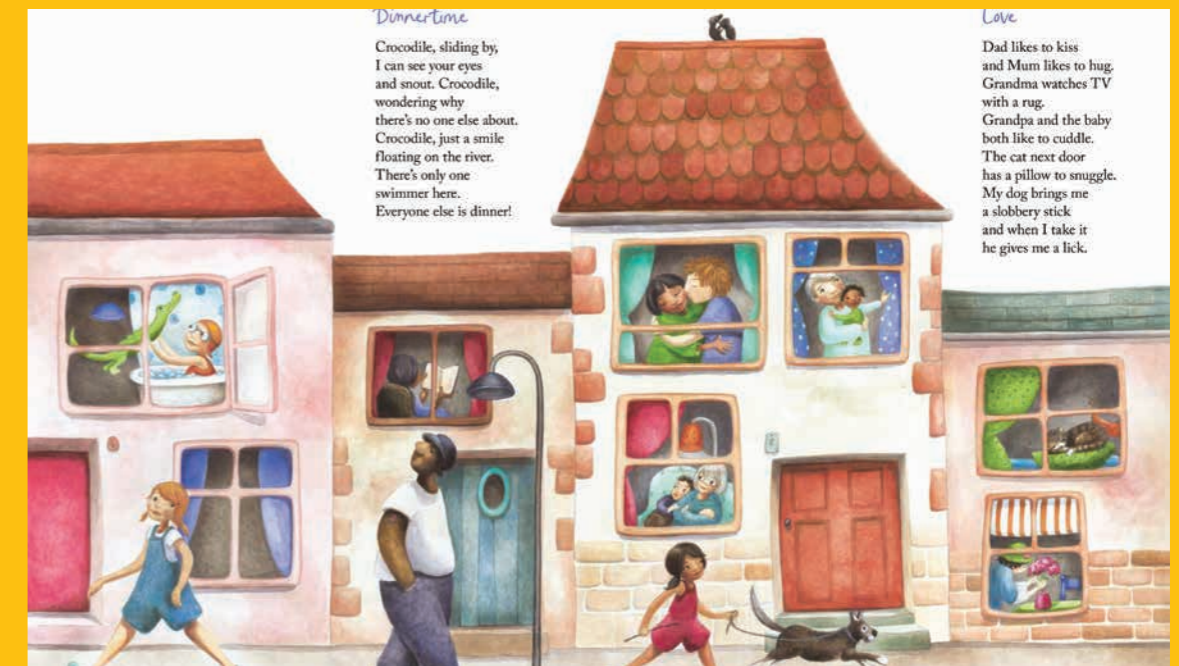
**PUBLISHER:** Dirt Lane Press

**FORMAT:** 280mm x 210mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

Dr MARK MACLEOD has worked in almost every possible area of books for children. Mark has won awards for distinguished service to Children's Literature. HÉLÈNE MAGISSON is a French-Australian artist who originally trained in medieval illumination and art restoration. Since turning her skills to children's illustration she has illustrated dozens of books, several of which have been awarded recognition.



# Alice's Shoe

JULIE THORNDIKE &  
JENNIFER HARRISON



The childhood story of Alice Betteridge, who became known as 'Australia's Helen Keller'.

Alice ran barefoot. On smooth waxed floorboards, dusty clay in the yard, icy water in the creek ... she refused to wear shoes.

After losing her sight and hearing, Alice slowly made her way back to life and became the first deafblind person in Australia to be educated.

Her hated shoe was Alice's first connection with the world of language as she learnt to sign.

## Historical note

Born in 1901, Alice Betteridge became deafblind at the age of two from suspected meningitis. In a story that echoes that of Helen Keller, Betteridge's teacher fingerspelled words into her pupil's hand, until Betteridge made the connection between the words spelled and the objects she was touching. The breakthrough came when Reid spelled the word 'shoe' while placing a shoe in Alice's hand.

**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** TBC

**PAGE EXTENT:** TBC

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

JULIE THORNDYKE's two collections of tanka poetry were published by Ginninderra Press. Editor of *Eucalypt*, a tanka journal since 2017, Julie also writes fiction and other poetry forms. JENNIFER HARRISON is a graphic designer, commercial artist and art director. Her illustrations have been commissioned for book covers, magazines and packaging for overseas and local markets and she has exhibited in galleries.



**B**ABY Alice had an embroidered gown and white satin shoes for her christening day. Baby Alice wiggled her toes and pulled ... those ... shoes ... off!



**M**OTHER'S face was smudged out. Her voice was far away. Alice's ears felt as if they were plugged with wool and her eyes couldn't focus.

The window was just a dull gleam of light in a bad dream. It was as if she was muffled by a large grey blanket.

Alice closed her eyes and stuck her fingers in her ears.

Mother hoped each morning that Alice would wake up and the grey blanket would be gone.

She called Alice's name, but Alice couldn't hear.

Mother shook Alice's baby rattle in front of her face, but Alice couldn't see.

The grey blanket was Alice's new world.



**M**ISS Reid, the teacher, smelled of lavender but her hands were firm as she laced Alice's shoes tightly. Alice hated her shoes. She pulled them off whenever she could.

Miss Reid held Alice's hand in hers. She made four finger signs on Alice's palm.

Over and over, every day, the same finger signs. She placed Alice's shoe in her hand.

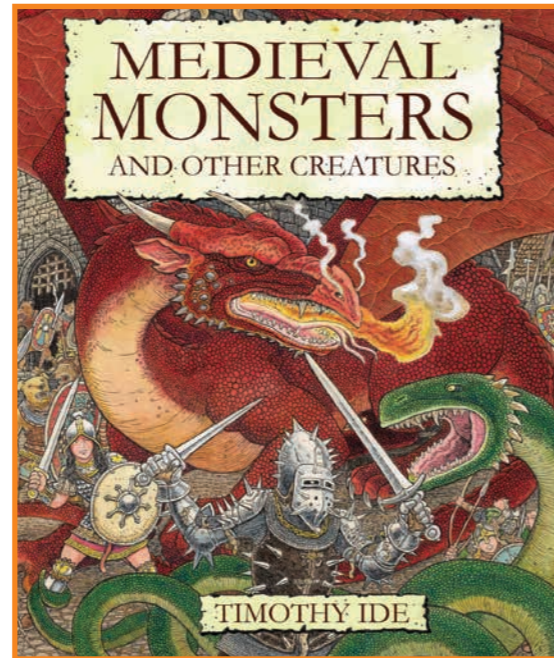
She made the signs. Over, and over, and over.

The shoe, the signs.

# Medieval Monsters and Other Creatures

TIMOTHY IDE

Take a monstrous journey through the Middle Ages to discover creatures both familiar and unfamiliar. Discover the hazards of medieval life at the paws, claws and fangs of dragons, wyverns, cockatrices, Lamiae, manticores, ghouls and many more!



**PUB DATE:** November 2023

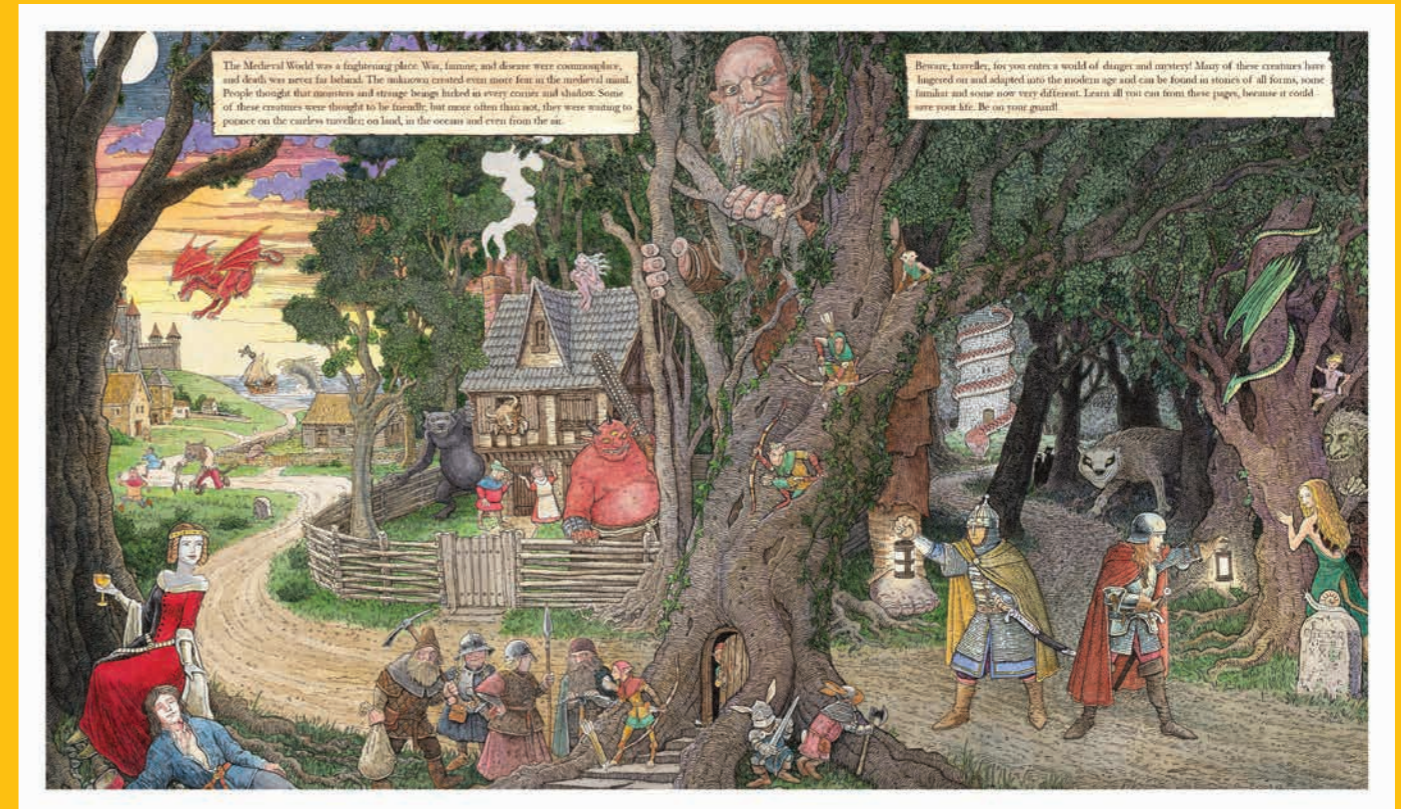
**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

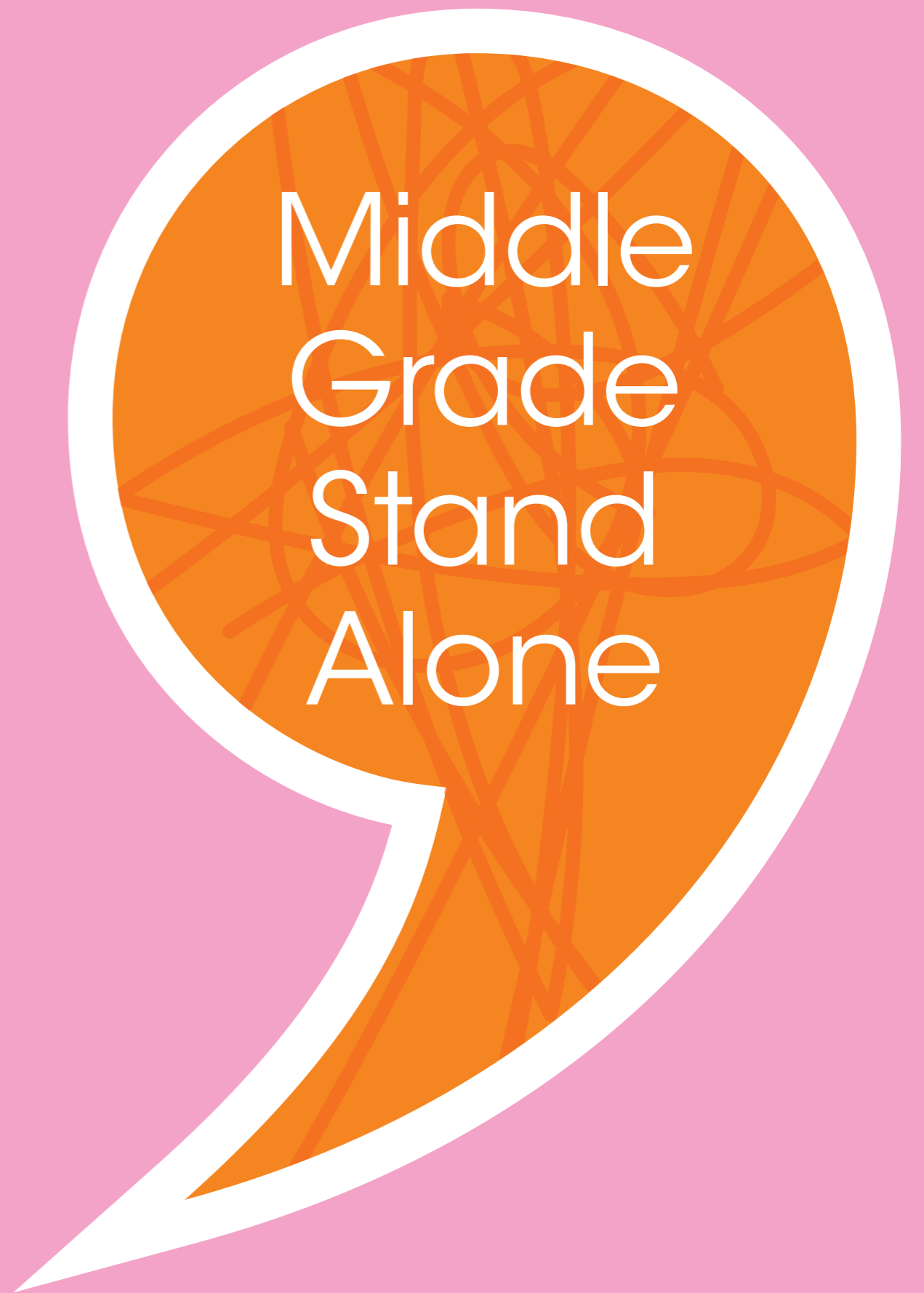
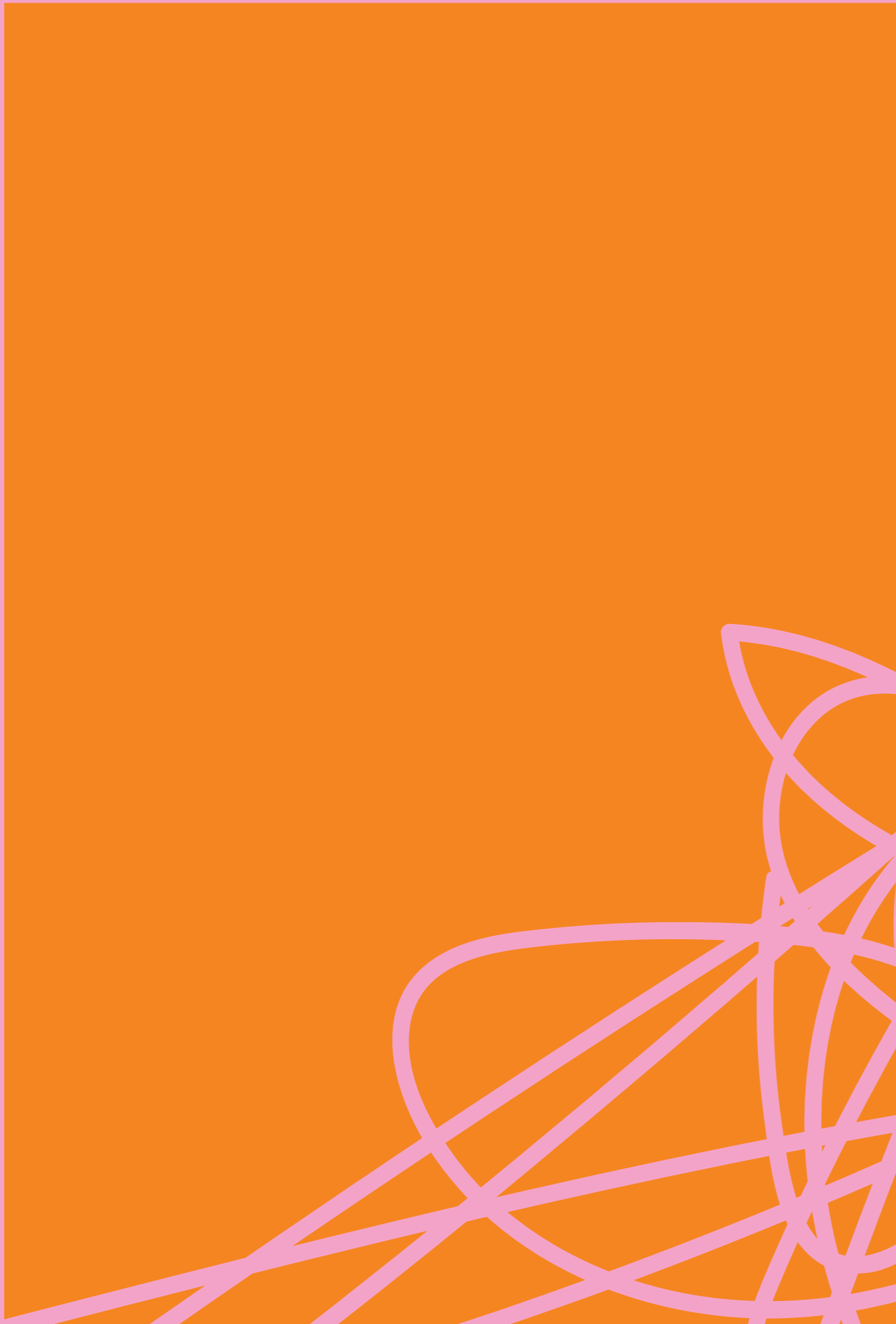
**FORMAT:** 280mm x 245mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 64pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

TIMOTHY IDE is an Adelaide based illustrator who has illustrated a number of award-winning children's books. *Medieval Monsters and Other Creatures* is his first book as both author and illustrator. When he is not illustrating, Timothy enjoys wargaming and role-playing games. He practises armoured medieval fighting with the Society for Creative Anachronism.





Middle  
Grade  
Stand  
Alone

## Sunshine on Vinegar Street

KAREN COMER



A novel-in-verse evocatively capturing the challenges of a new school, new conflicts and hopefully... new friends. For fans of Pip Harry and Jacqueline Woodson.

When Freya changes school, the move seems insurmountable, particularly after an early encounter with the school bully, Val.

Freya's determined not to like her new school, even as she starts making new 'friends' like the iconic Skipping Girl sign she can see from her new apartment's balcony. There's also Eva, who is a year ahead of her in school.

But when Val and Eva become friends and concoct an awful plan to deface and ruin her beloved Skipping Girl sign, Freya must take a stand for everything she's coming to hold dear.

### Praise for *Grace Notes*:

'Like the grace note of the title, this beautiful story strikes the perfect tone, mixing colour, light and music at a time when we needed it most.' Nicole Hayes

'Poetry, music and art, woven together in an uplifting story about endless lockdowns and first love.' Nova Weetman

**PUB DATE:** June 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 296pp

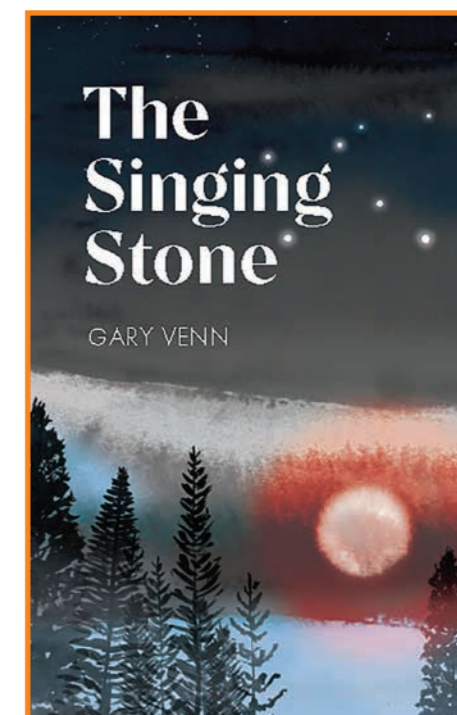
**PRIMARY AGENT:** Jacinta di Mase Management

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

KAREN COMER is a freelance editor and presents writing workshops to children and adults. Karen's debut YA novel, *Grace Notes*, will be published by Hachette Australia in February 2023, with *Summer on Vinegar Street* (MG) to be published by Allen & Unwin in June 2023.

## The Singing Stone

GARY VENN



For fans of dark supernatural books in the vein of Neil Gaiman and Patrick Ness.

It looks ordinary enough – just a small red stone that 14-year-old Miles picks up on the path near the camping ground his parents have just started managing on the Coromandel Peninsula.

Ordinary enough, that is, until the singing starts. And then the stone begins to glow.

Miles is impatient to explore his new surroundings, but the discovery of the stone threatens to change everything. He tells his new friend Oliver, who naturally doubts him. Even when he sees the strange glow for himself, Oliver struggles to accept it. Miles confides in Melinda, the mysterious girl staying at the motor camp with her mother who appears to believe him. But can he really trust her?

At school, his new teacher tries to help, but neither he nor anyone else knows what the stone really is: how it changes everything it touches.

And how someone is looking for it, singing to it, longing for it.

**PUB DATE:** March 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Bateman Books

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 192pp

**PRIMARY AGENT:** High Spot Literary (Nadine Rubin Nathan)

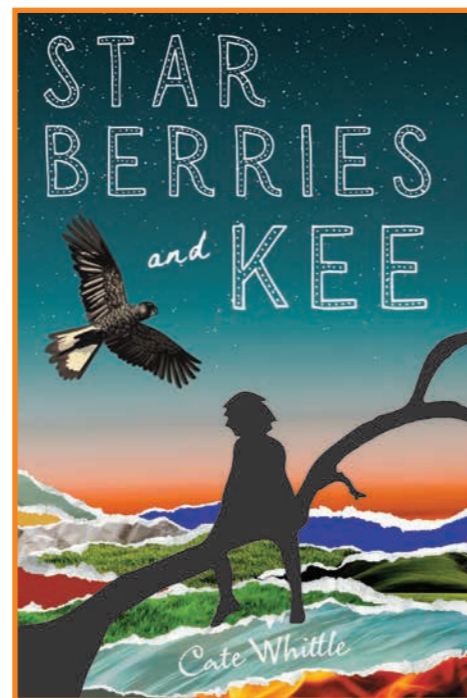
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

GARY VENN is a freelance illustrator who has worked for magazines, publishing and advertising both locally and internationally. He's the illustrator of several picture books, including *Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick* (authored by Sally Sutton; Walker Books 2023).



# Starberries and Kee

KATE WHITTLE



Standalone solarpunk climate-fiction told with positivity and hope for middle grade readers.

Wren is a Wild Child who has been brought up on the mountain by Old Man, learning everything he knows from nature, while Hannah has always lived in the city.

When their paths collide, a secret friendship brings a family full circle, linking the past to the present and the old with the new.



**PUB DATE:** April 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Storytorch Press

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

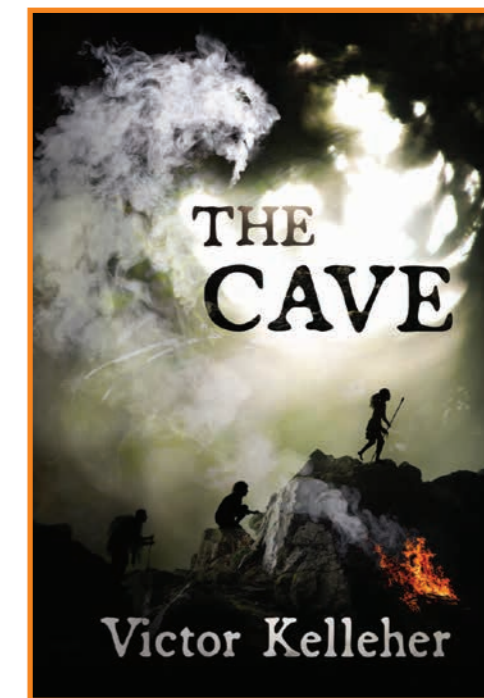
**PAGE EXTENT:** 296pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

CATE WHITTLE is the author of the Trouble junior fiction series, *Wyrd* and *Emergency Rescue Angel* (Omnibus Scholastic). *Trouble and the New Kid* (2017) was shortlisted in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards for that year.

# The Cave

VICTOR KELLEHER



Set in a richly recreated Paleolithic past, *The Cave* is an exploration of loss, survival and courage from multi-award-winning author Victor Kelleher.

Irian, Ulana and their Clan have made the cave their home ever since they used fire to drive off the Beast – a sabre-toothed tiger that had been preying on them. Protected by an ongoing fire at the cave mouth, they continue to keep the Beast at bay... until one fateful night when the fire goes out.

What happens next shatters the Clan.

Alone and adrift in their dangerous prehistoric world, they have little hope of survival. They're saved by a chance meeting with an old woman called Trug. Grudgingly, she takes them on a strange, unexpected journey of discovery, flinging them into the many wonders and hard realities of ancient times.

That hazardous journey will eventually lead them full circle: back to the challenge of the cave, and the enduring reality of the Beast.

**PUB DATE:** April 2024

**PUBLISHER:** Christmas Press  
(Eagle Books)

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

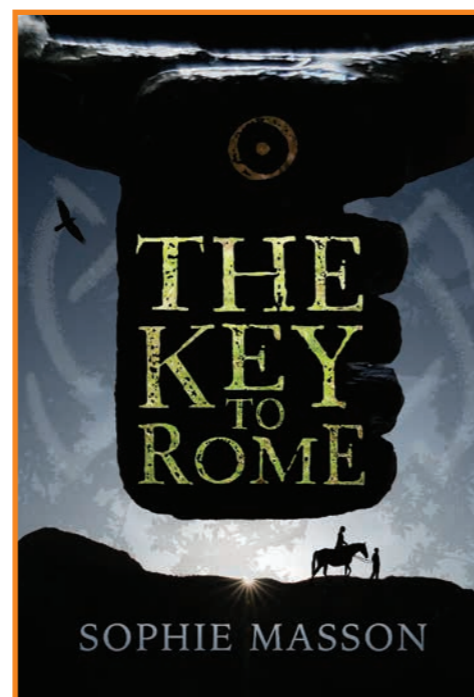
**PAGE EXTENT:** 280pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

An author of more titles that can be counted, VICTOR KELLEHER has been shortlisted for many awards including the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award and the Australian Science Fiction Achievement Award. Victor's first title in 15 years, *The Wanderer*, was published by Eagle Books in August 2022. He continues to be one of Australia's most celebrated authors.

# The Key to Rome

SOPHIE MASSON



Historical mystery by multi-award-winning author Sophie Masson.

Twelve-year-old Livia intends to keep a promise she made to her late father: to take a mysterious key to her estranged uncle Marcus.

Setting out with only the key, her old horse Pegasus and her father's doctoring kit, she discovers that her uncle has disappeared. Nobody can tell Livia where her uncle might be, except for a young boy, Mato. Refusing to tell her unless she takes him with her, the two young people begin their journey.

As they do, they realise that the key holds a very dangerous secret.

In a deadly game of cat and mouse, Livia and Mato must keep their wits about them. But figuring out who is friend, and who is foe, is the greatest challenge of all.

*'Reading one of Sophie Masson's books is like standing on top of a lonely mountain at midnight, under a star filled sky ... Her work has that same sense of clarity, magic and mystery.'*

GARTH NIX

**PUB DATE:** May 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Christmas Press  
(Eagle Books)

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 256PP

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

SOPHIE MASSON is the award-winning author of over 90 books for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. In 2019, Sophie received an AM (Member, General Division) award in the Order of Australia honours list.

# Timefire

NEAN MCKENZIE



*'Timefire is a thrilling page-turner full of intrigue and heart.'*  
– Maggie Jankuloska, author of *The Rat-Catcher's Apprentice*

In the scorching summer of 2033, Gilbert Black is accused of being a firebug, just like his mother was thirteen years previously. That night a fire starts on his family's farm. A fire with a tunnel in the centre of it. And that's when things start to get really weird.

Pulled repeatedly back and forth through time, Gil finds himself at all the big Australian bushfires from the last two centuries. He searches across the years, determined to unlock the secret to his family's legacy.

Gil can't change the past, but can he learn from it in time to return home and save his family from the biggest inferno ever known?

**PUB DATE:** April 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

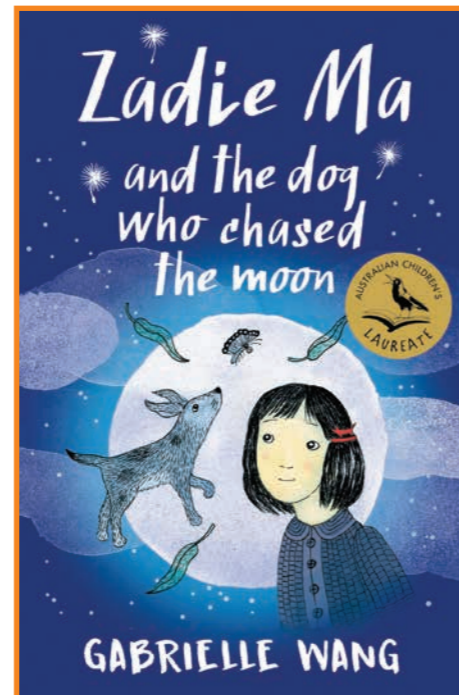
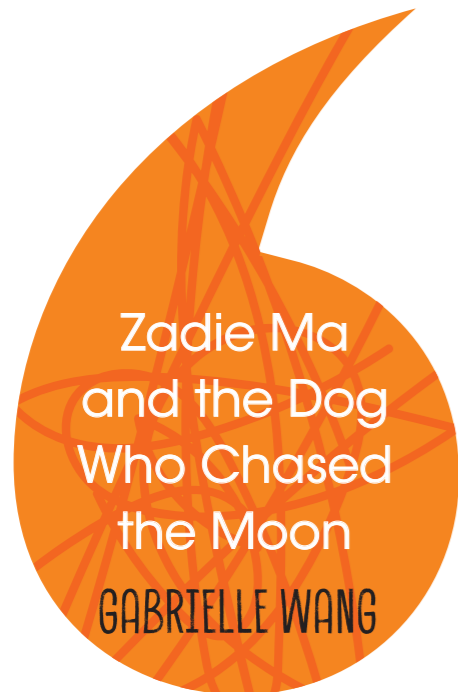
**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 280pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

NEAN MCKENZIE was awarded a Maurice Saxby mentorship in 2016, a fellowship for the KSP Writers Centre for 2023 and has a diploma in Professional Writing and Editing from RMIT.

# INTRODUCING GABRIELLE WANG, AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN'S LAUREATE 2022-2023



Meet **Zadie Ma**, a girl who writes magical stories that sometimes come true. Can **Zadie** bring to life her most important story of all . . . the one where she finds **Jupiter**, the dog of her dreams?

Zadie's dearest wish is to have a dog of her own and so she starts to write the story of a poor unwanted dog called **Jupiter**, who's just waiting to be rescued by a loving girl like **Zadie**.

Zadie sets off to look for **Jupiter**. The scene that unfolds isn't quite the same as in her story but she does find a real dog, and his name is **Jupiter**. Once **Zadie** has rescued him, she realises she can't just take **Jupiter** home because her mother won't let her keep a dog. Luckily her bold new friend **Sparrow** lets **Zadie** keep **Jupiter** at her house till **Zadie** can work things out.

But a series of unlucky events means that **Zadie** can't write the happy ending she dreams of for her story, and now she may lose her beloved **Jupiter** forever.

Can **Zadie's** most important story of all finally come true?

**PUB DATE:** June 2022

**PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 272pp

**PRIMARY AGENT:**  
Jacinta di Mase Management

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

Born in Melbourne of Chinese heritage, **GABRIELLE WANG's** maternal great-grandfather came to Victoria during the Gold Rush and her father was from Shanghai. **Gabrielle's** stories are a blend of Chinese and Western culture with a touch of fantasy.



Praise for *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon*:

'Reads . . . like an instant classic and includes Gabi's iconic illustrations and graphic novel elements! And it weaves together all of my favourite things: dogs, stories and friendship. I can't recommend it highly enough!' **Leesa Lambert**, *The Little Bookworm*

' . . . the book delicately explores complex themes including friendship, war, Chinese culture, racism, hope, courage and connectedness. But above all, *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* is a story about empathy and belonging. The book's structure and style are both unique and refreshing, weaving narrative, allegory (in the form of **Zadie's** own stories interspersed throughout) and graphic novel elements . . . There is something magical about a book that transports readers to another time, another world, inside another person's head and culture. *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* is one of these books.' **Maura Pierlot**, *Reading Time*

'*Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* has a distinctive and appealing presentation. It engages young readers with the main story, interspersed with other short symbolic and connected stories, as well as the use of graphic novel features. A truly wonderful read that would be a welcome addition to a home, school or public library and would make an excellent class novel.' **Kathryn Beilby**, *Read Plus*

'Younger Middle Grade readers will fall in love with **Zadie Ma**, who navigates her way through a sometimes-hostile world but finds true friendship and joy in the people closest to her.' *One More Page*

'The magic in this book comes from the stories-within-the-story that **Zadie** and **Jupiter** tell, and it is a special love letter to dogs, loyalty and friendship and the power of words – both good and bad – and how they affect us and what they mean to us. How words make us and break us. It is the magic of language that shapes us and shapes our world and allow us to communicate and share what is in our hearts. . . . It is exquisitely well done and captures so many emotions and feelings that I think and hope it will appeal widely and connect to many readers. . . .' **Ashleigh Meikle**, *The Book Muse*

'A touching story that will make you laugh, cry and tug on your heartstrings at every turn of the page.'  
*Better Reading*

'**Gabrielle Wang** proves why she was named the Australian Children's Laureate with her gorgeous ode to storytelling and her childhood dog in *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon*.'

*Sydney Morning Herald*



September 2018



April 2017



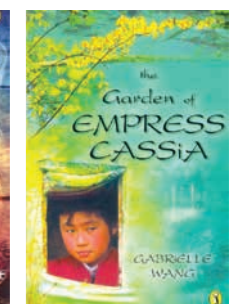
July 2013



February 2009



April 2004



September 2002



Middle  
Grade  
Series

## The 113th Assistant Librarian

STUART WILSON

A hugely inventive – and occasionally dark – adventure for fans of *Skulduggery Pleasant* and *Nevermoor*.

On the day of his Calling, Oliver Wormwood is desperate to follow in the footsteps of his five older sisters by being apprenticed to one of the heroic Trades. But instead, he gets picked by Hieronymus Finch-Thackeray to become the new Assistant Librarian.

Disappointed, Oliver resigns himself to an uneventful, studious life. But on his first day, Hieronymus tells Oliver that books hold great power, and many assistant librarians have met an untimely end working in the library. Hieronymus then dies of a heart attack before he can explain the processes of the library to Oliver.

Oliver, now in charge of the library, realises that both the library, and the books it contains, holds darker secrets than he could have imagined.



**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 288pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** Translation (excl Germany and France)

STUART WILSON lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife and son. He's the author of the Prometheus High series published by Penguin Random House Australia (2022).

## The Quest for the Galleon of Time

TANYA HUNTER

Adventure and danger on the high seas and a trading ship that is a time-travelling galleon!

The year is 1738 and eleven-year-old Tobias Crane is forced to leave his home to work on a trading galleon.

Once onboard, Tobias learns two things that will change his life forever: the story of the mysterious Captain Lisbon, who wants revenge against the sailors who left him to die; and that the ship itself is a time-travelling galleon! A galleon that can inexplicably appear in different dimensions in the past, present and future.

With the help of his new friends, Albert, Quinn and Abalone, Tobias faces deadly obstacles, including the lethal family dynamics of three brothers (one good, one evil, and one dead!) and must figure out how to return home to warn his father that he's in grave danger.

COVER ART  
TO COME

**PUB DATE:** August 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** TBC

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

*The Quest for the Galleon of Time* is TANYA HUNTER's debut novel. A dual Australian-Polish citizen, Tanya's love of adventure stories began as a child living in Nottingham, England, when she regularly explored the same countryside as the fabled Robin Hood.

# Secret Green

SONYA WILSON



## The sequel to the critically acclaimed *Spark Hunter*

Nissa Marshall may have escaped from Fiordland's vast and dangerous wonderland, but her adventures with the mysterious and ancient forest creatures known as sparks have only just begun.

Almost a year after her journey into the Fiordland wilderness, Nissa finds herself stuck and frustrated back in the city. She despairs at ever being able to return — after she nearly lost her life on her last trip, no sensible adult will let her anywhere near the forest.

But then Agnes, the fantail-kinned spark, shows up half-dead, collapsed on the woodpile outside Nissa's family home. Nissa knows that Agnes would not have flown all that way unless something was terribly wrong; she also knows that if she doesn't get Agnes back to Fiordland soon, her spark-friend will die.

Nissa is forced to act. And this time she has her mates, Tama and Ricky, to help.

### AWARDS –*Spark Hunter*:

**WINNER** New Zealand Children's and YA Book Award for Best First Novel

**FINALIST** Sir Julius Vogel Award – Best Youth Novel (2022)  
Storylines Notable Junior Fiction Book 2022

**PUB DATE:** TBC  
**PUBLISHER:** The Cuba Press  
**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 282pp  
**PRIMARY AGENT** High Spot Literary (Nadine Rubin Nathan)  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation  
**RIGHTS OPTIONED:** Film/TV (Fathom Pictures New Zealand)

SONYA WILSON has been a broadcast journalist for many years. She runs the charity children's book scheme, Kiwi Christmas Books, and works as a freelance writer and journalist. Her debut novel *Spark Hunter* has been optioned for television and made several bestsellers and best-of lists since its release in October 2021.



## Praise for *Spark Hunter*

'The writing is exceptional, the story's a ripper, there's a wise, green soul to it – honestly, we're reminded of Jack Lasenby.'

*The Spin Off*

'Bestselling children's book of the year (2021)'  
Time Out

'An original fresh fantasy novel ... that will captivate middle grade readers as well as their parents.'

Renee Liang — Kete Books

'An amazing story with a fascinating plot line, and really relatable and believable characters...'

Nell Mace-David – Hooked on NZ Books

'*Spark Hunter* is a riveting story of an imaginative world of ancient creatures woven into the real world of the impenetrable, beautiful and extremely dangerous Fiordland bush.

Adele Broadbent —  
Whatbooknext.com

(Sonya) writes the forest so well you can smell it. Throughout, she maintains a winning mix of richness and sincerity, warmth and low-key easy humour.

Catherine Woulfe — *The Spin Off*

# Indigo in the Storm

KATE GORDON

Companion novel to CBCA Book of the Year (2021) *Aster's Good, Right Things* and *Xavier in the Meantime*.

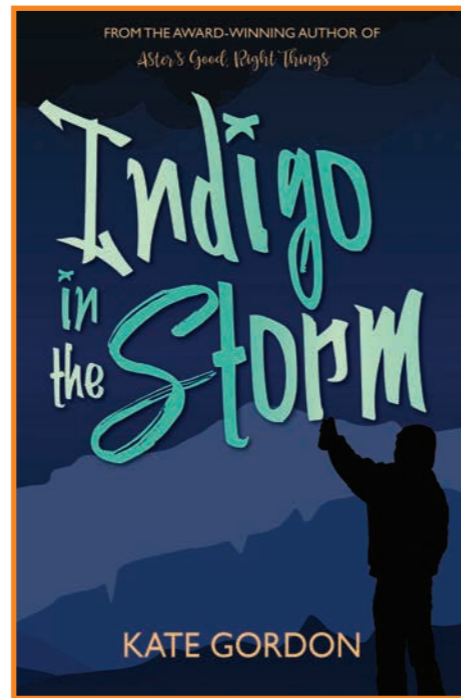
Indigo Michael isn't like other kids. And her mum isn't like other mums.

Life for people like them isn't meant to have meaning – it's just something to be survived in whatever way you can.

When her mum abandons her, Aster's Aunt Noni becomes her foster parent. Suddenly Indigo has a new 'family' – one she didn't ask for and isn't even sure she wants. Then she meets Liam. He graffiti's revolutionary words across the world, words that make Indigo want to run towards something, build something, be something.

For the first time in a long time, Indigo feels she has made a genuine friend, which makes it even harder when that friendship is betrayed ...

GENTLY INCORPORATES THEMES AND DISCUSSION POINTS SUCH AS PARENTAL ABANDONMENT, FOSTER FAMILIES, TRUST, FRIENDSHIP, MENTAL HEALTH, ANGER, BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES, LONELINESS AND BELONGING.



**PUB DATE:** March 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Riveted Press

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 192pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. Kate's books include *Writing Clementine* (A&U); *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling* (Rhiza Press); *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn* (UQP); and the junior fiction series *Juno Jones*. In 2021 she won the prestigious CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for her novel *Aster's Good, Right Things*.

## Aster's Good, Right Things

Pub date: November 2020      Rights sold: China

Aster attends a school for gifted kids, but she doesn't think she's special at all. If she was, her mother wouldn't have left. And if she isn't careful, everyone else will leave her too. Each day Aster must do a good, right thing. And if she doesn't do them, she knows everything will go wrong.

WINNER CBCA AWARD 2021 YOUNGER READERS CATEGORY

## Xavier in the Meantime

Pub date: February 2022

Sometimes Xavier wakes up feeling hopeless. His daily affirmations seem to be helping, yet the black dog never really goes away. But Xavier has a plan.

Can Xavier learn to cherish the moments in between the struggles – the moments in the meantime?

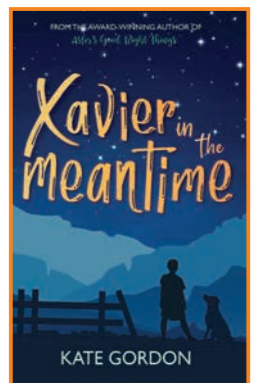
*Praise for this series*

'Gordon has created authentic, complex characters that make you feel. Aster is charming and loveable, while Xavier smashes gender stereotypes and is the perfect example of a good friend ... While this is marketed for younger readers, the world will be a kinder, more gentle place if every adult reads it too. *Aster's Good Right Things* is an incredible story that will touch the heart of everyone who reads it.' *NZ Booklovers*

'Written with great insight and delight, Aster's voice is pitch perfect and the reader is treated to a view of the world seen through her eyes ... As the story progresses, Aster's sense of self-worth grows, and her need to make sacrifices diminishes – a very sophisticated plot and characterisation device.' *CBCA judges Report*

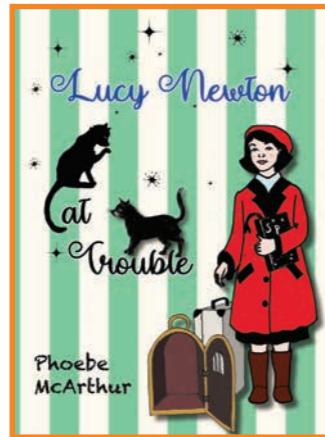
'... a beautifully-written story that is heartfelt, sad, happy, and warm ... The novel's text is simple and easy to read, but its themes are deep and complex. It deals with things like anxiety, depression, bullying, foster care, and maternal abandonment. Though it is aimed at young people, adults can still take something away from *Aster's Good, Right Things*.' *Tasmanian Times*

'This emotive and person-centred novel has many layers. It addresses family breakups and its effect on children, the magic influence of friendship, that being different shouldn't be a stigma, and the life-saving value of books.' *Kids Book Review*



## Lucy Newton and the Goblin Princess

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
PHOEBE MCARTHUR



Written with a light touch and illustrated with lively black and white drawings, this is an appealing and accessible fantasy series for early readers.

Lucy is an endearing little witch who tries hard to do what her mother tells her but whose curiosity and sense of adventure seem to frequently land her in sticky situations. With the help of friends (including Thomas, a grumpy cat, and a rather pompous talking spellbook), Lucy always manages to find a way out of it!

You wouldn't think that cleaning your room would get you into so much trouble.

Lucy tried hard to tidy her bedroom without using magic. The problem was the room didn't seem to know that. Every time Lucy returned from a well-earned break from cleaning up, she found her room tidier than ever.

Lucy, unfairly grounded, soon begins to think her house might be haunted ... by a ghost who loves cleaning.

**PUB DATE:** October 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Christmas Press

**FORMAT:** 190mm x 140mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 72pp

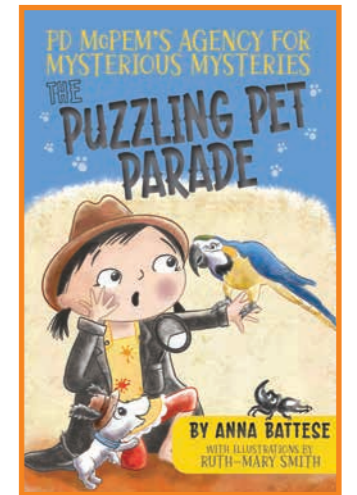
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation, Film/TV

PHOEBE MCARTHUR is the pen name for the mother-daughter team of Fiona McDonald and Beattie Alvarez. ('Phoebe' is based on Fee/Bee, the short form of their first names!) Together, they come up with the concept for each book, then Beattie writes most of the story with input from Fiona; and Fiona then creates the illustrations. A true joint effort!

*Lucy Newton, Little Witch*, was published in 2018 and was shortlisted for the 2019 Speech Pathology Awards, and the sequel, *Lucy Newton: Cat Trouble*, was published in 2021

## PD McPem series

ANNA BATTESE & RUTH-MARY SMITH



Featuring a beautiful grandparent-grandchild relationship, this sweet series illustrates the fun that can be had with a few props and a wonderful imagination.

### *The Recorder Racket (Book 1)*

PD McPem loves her new yellow recorder but it mysteriously disappears while she helps Grandpa tidy the garage. Clues itch behind PD's ears, and Granny seems to be a suspect. With the help of Grandpa, some new detective's tools and her dog Scooter, PD must solve the case of the missing recorder.

### *The Puzzling Pet Parade (Book 2)*

It's the annual Pet Parade and the class is excited to showcase their lovable companions. PD McPem is keen to show off her clever canine assistant, Scooter. But the arrival of her new deskmate and her Rhinoceros Beetle creates havoc when both Scooter and the beetle are nowhere to be found! Can PD's Agency for Mysterious Mysteries solve the puzzle of the missing pets?

**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Riveted Press

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 64pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

ANNA BATTESE spends her days writing stories that appeal to the kind of kid she was - eternally up to mischief. RUTH-MARY SMITH is an illustrator specialising in sweet and whimsical illustrations. From her home studio, she works in digital media and occasionally dabbles in watercolours.

FAMILY, MYSTERIES, HOLIDAYS,  
PETS, MEMORIES, TRAVEL,  
GARDENING, BAKING



## Juno Jones Series

KATE GORDON &  
SANDY FLETT

'A quirky comedy about one young reader/writer who doesn't actually like reading at all!'  
*Children's Books Daily*

### *Word Ninja* (Book 1)

Juno Jones loves her school, but the Men in Suits want to close it down! And there's only one thing Juno and her classmates can do to stop it: READ! Which is perfectly fine for people like Perfect Paloma, Smelly Bella and Genius George, but Juno Jones is a kid who doesn't like reading. It might take the unthinkable to make her!

### *Mystery Writer* (Book 2)

Juno is sure there must be something nefarious going on at school. Why is Miss Tippett behaving so strangely? When her best friend Shy Vi also disappears, Juno Jones commits to solving all of the mysteries!

READING, WRITING, SCHOOL, ACTIVISM,  
BULLYING, STEREOTYPES, FRIENDSHIP,  
HUMOUR, ALIENS (NOT REALLY!) AND NINJAS!



**PUB DATE:** 2019-2023

**PUBLISHER:** Riveted Press

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 108pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. SANDY FLETT is the creator and presenter of the internationally successful YouTube channel, Kids Art School.

BOOKS 5  
AND 6 COMING IN  
LATE 2023 AND  
2024

# Young Adult

## Borderlands

GRAHAM AKHURST

*Borderlands* is an eco-horror thriller. A blending of mythic, gothic horror, with a strong message of conservation and connection to land.

Young Indigenous Jonathan has little sense of who he is and no sense of his connection to land or community. During a dance routine at the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts, he has a vision of Dugai – a malevolent spirit from the Dreaming.

His world is further thrown into chaos when he joins a film crew as the narrator of a documentary publicising a mining venture. An encounter with a 'Clever Man' and an even nastier Dugai leads to Jonathan discovering that the land intended for the new mine is in fact his ancestral place. Jonathan and the film crew realise that they need to have a very different role in curatorship of the country, if they hope to survive ...

COVER ART  
TO COME

**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** UWA Press

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 282pp

**PRIMARY AGENT:** Jacinta di Mase Management

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

GRAHAM AKHURST is a First Nations writer and academic hailing from the Kokomini of Northern Queensland. He was the recipient of the 2019 Fulbright WG Walker scholarship, the first Indigenous recipient of the award. Akhurst travelled to New York City in August 2019 to fulfil the program and completed an MFA at Hunter College in 2021.

## The Burning Days trilogy

RACHEL HENNESSY

'...a gripping Young Adult dystopia with a unique flavour, filling the genre's bones with its vibrant characters, relentless storytelling and a phenomenal world.' *ReadingsKids*

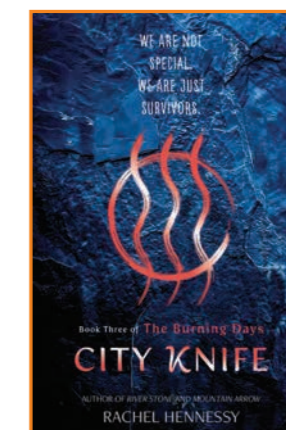
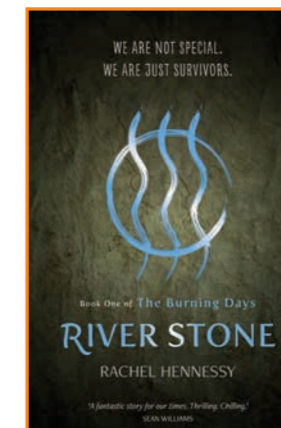
### *River Stone* (Book 1)

Pandora wants so much more than what her village can provide. When disaster comes to the River People, Pan leaves the village to find help beyond their boundaries, even if it means seeking out the feared Mountain People.

### *Mountain Arrow* (Book 2)

The River People and the Mountain People have survived for another season. But at what cost?

Pandora has returned to her village. She is haunted both by her failure to bring her friend home and the vision she has seen of the last days, The Burning, when creatures swarmed the city. How did these monsters come into being in the first place? And are the last remnants of humanity really safe from them? .



**PUB DATE:** September 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 368

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

RACHEL HENNESSY's first novel, *The Quakers*, won the Adelaide Festival Award for an Unpublished Manuscript (Wakefield Press, 2008). Her non-fiction works have been published in *Saltbush Review*, *Overland*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *The Lifted Brow* and *Daily Life*. The Burning Days trilogy is her first work for young adults.

# The Weaver

MELANIE KANICKY

In a remote village, bordered by woods and an endless winter, Saatcha lives in the attic of her ailing father's blacksmithery. As her father's health fades and he is no longer able to work, Saatcha takes it upon herself to keep the forge running.

But when a pair of thieves appear in the dead of night, Saatcha's duty to her father is torn from her. Forced to leave her home behind, the bounds of magic that once held Saatcha begin to slip away.

Papa is gone.

Magic is real.

And her kidnappers are much more than simple thieves.

As Saatcha's world is irrevocably altered, she must rely on her new friends to find the truth of her past – and what it might mean for the future of the kingdom.

COVER ART  
TO COME

**PUB DATE:** November 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** TBCpp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

MELANIE KANICKY has a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Film & Television) and is currently completing her Master's Degree in Writing & Literature.

Her short fiction has appeared in the Wyndham Writing Awards Anthology and the Forty South Short Story Anthology, as well as being shortlisted for the 2022 Tasmanian Writers' Prize.

*The Weaver* is her first novel.

# When Dark Roots Hunt

ZENA SHAPTER

New from a multi-award-winning author of science fiction, fantasy, speculative and contemporary fiction, conjuring journeys into the beyond and unusual.

Don't go out onto the lake.

Sala's village survives hidden behind a wall of poisonous ivy because everyone knows that you don't go out onto the lake.

But when a strange comet crosses the night sky, Sala is thrown into a race through tree-infested swampland to unearth long-hidden truths. Sala must do whatever it takes to face the truth of who she is: to save her village, to save her family, and to save herself.

If only they had listened.



**PUB DATE:** May 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** TBC

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

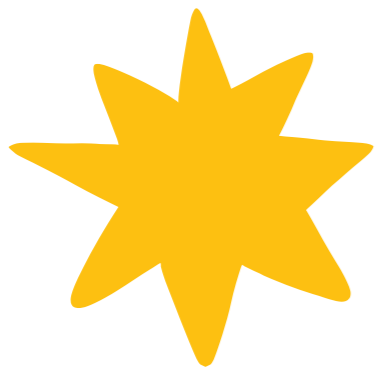
ZENA SHAPTER is 'a specialist in the weird, wacky, wonderful' (Writing NSW), writing 'dark fantasy at its blood-soaked finest' (Australasian Horror Writers' Association) and 'beautifully crafted and well told stories that deserve to be read many times' (Glen Miles Short Story Prize).

# This

LAZAROS ZIGOMANIS

*This is the story of a 15-year-old dealing with burgeoning neurosis as he navigates social pressures, high school obligations, and his overbearing Greek parents.*

Set in the 1990s, an unnamed 15-year-old Greek boy is completely confused about what is going on. Previously happy and confident, he tries to fend off what we now know as anxiety, panic attacks and depression. Being surrounded by his Greek family, friends and girls he may or may not have a crush on is both help and hindrance as he tries to navigate his own emotions.



## COVER ART TO COME

**PUB DATE:** May 2023

**PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

**FORMAT:** 198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** TBC

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

**LAZAROS ZIGOMANIS** is an author, screenwriter and filmmaker. He's had three novels published, and his short stories and articles have appeared in various print and digital journals. He has also had screenplays optioned, and a raft of screenplays placed in numerous competitions and awards.

# One Thousand Hills

JAMES ROY &  
NOËL ZIHABAMWE

Based on Noël Yandamutso Zihabamwe's real life experiences as a child in Rwanda, this multi-award winning title is being republished in 2023

Life is simple but good. Pascal and his brother go to school with their friends, their parents work hard, their little sister is growing up, and on Sunday almost everyone they know goes to church. Then in one awful night, Pascal's ordinary life in the land of one thousand hills is turned upside down.

This multi-award winning book from one of Australia's best writers for young people and a survivor of the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi, will grip you, leaving you breathless up to and beyond the last devastating page.

Originally published in 2016 by Lamont books, this award-winning title is being republished by Westwords in February 2023.

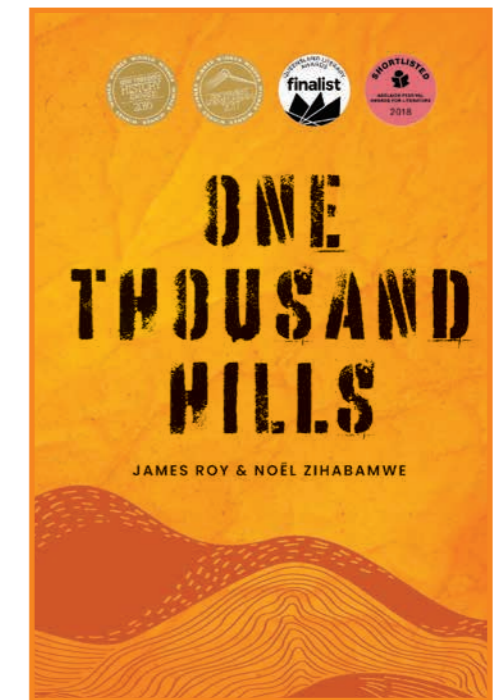
### AWARDS

**Winner: NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2017**

**Winner: NSW Premier's History Awards  
(Young People's History) 2016**

**Finalist: Queensland Literary Awards (2016)**

**Shortlisted: Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature 2018**



**PUB DATE:** February 2023

**PUBLISHER:** Westwords

**FORMAT:** Paperback;  
198mm x 128mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 240

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ and  
Canada), Translation, Film/TV

**NOËL YANDAMUTSO ZIHABAMWE** was born in Rwanda and spent much of his youth living as a refugee. Since moving to Australia, he has gained degrees in the fields of social welfare, policy and development, and now works assisting migrants and refugees in their resettlement. **JAMES ROY** is the multi-award-winning author of over thirty books for children and young adults.

## Get Your Story Straight

BRIAR ROLFE

*Get Your Story Straight* is a graphic novel following Henry, a 19-year-old trans man who is out to everyone except his conservative Christian parents.

When Henry realises his best shot at accessing top surgery is by faking an engagement to his friend Cooper, he learns it isn't easy to plan a wedding, even a fake one. His mother wants to control everything, and his father is convinced that nonbinary Cooper is a closeted gay man, and Henry might be developing feelings for his fake fiancé.

Is the cost of staying closeted worth the pain of coming out? What does a fake wedding mean if you're not allowed to have a real one?

COVER ART  
TO COME

**PUB DATE:** September 2024

**PUBLISHER:** Hachette Australia

**FORMAT:** Graphic Novel

**PAGE EXTENT:** TBC pp

**PRIMARY AGENT:** Jacinta di Mase Management

**RIGHTS HELD:** North America, Translation, Film/TV

BRIAR ROLFE is a non-binary illustrator, comic artist and graphic designer who was shortlisted for a Ledger Award in 2017, and highly commended by the Kat Muscat Fellowship in 2020. Briar has spent the last five years of their practice involved in the Melbourne indie comics scene, where they have built a large body of work focusing on genrebending and format-pushing comedy stories.

# Backlist Picture Books

Beside  
the Sea  
KERRI DAY AND  
JESS RACKLYEFT

The wonder of welcoming nesting turtles ashore comes beautifully to life in this gentle story of family, community and caring for the environment.

A grandmother and child eagerly await some special visitors.

However, it soon becomes rescue time when some lost baby turtles are in danger. Everyone is needed to save the day. Will they save the babies in time?

The wonder of welcoming nesting turtles ashore comes beautifully to life in this gentle story of family, community and caring for the environment.



**PUB DATE:** October 2022  
**PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books  
**FORMAT:** Hardback; 235mm x 215mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

KERRI DAY enjoys writing stories which encourage young readers to discover the natural world and explore language sound and creative thinking. JESS RACKLYEFT is an award-winning illustrator and author based in Melbourne. While she lives in the city now, she grew up with a mermaid life - spending most of her time in or by the sea.



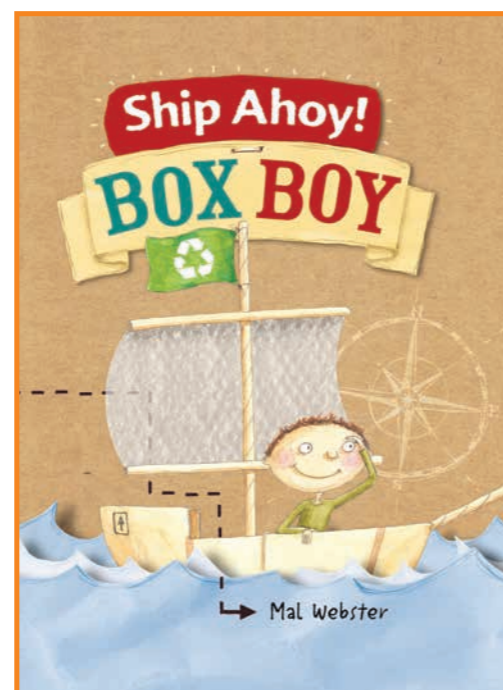
# Ship Ahoy! Box Boy

MAL WEBSTER

Limited by the space in his backyard, *Ship Ahoy! Box Boy* shows what's possible with imagination, ingenuity and a few cardboard boxes

*Ship Ahoy! Box Boy* is a story about a boy who loves to collect boxes and make amazing things with them.

Influenced by recent lockdowns and home-schooling, Mal was inspired to celebrate imagination and creative play within a home environment, showing that with a little inventiveness a world of adventure awaits.



**PUB DATE:** October 2022

**PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

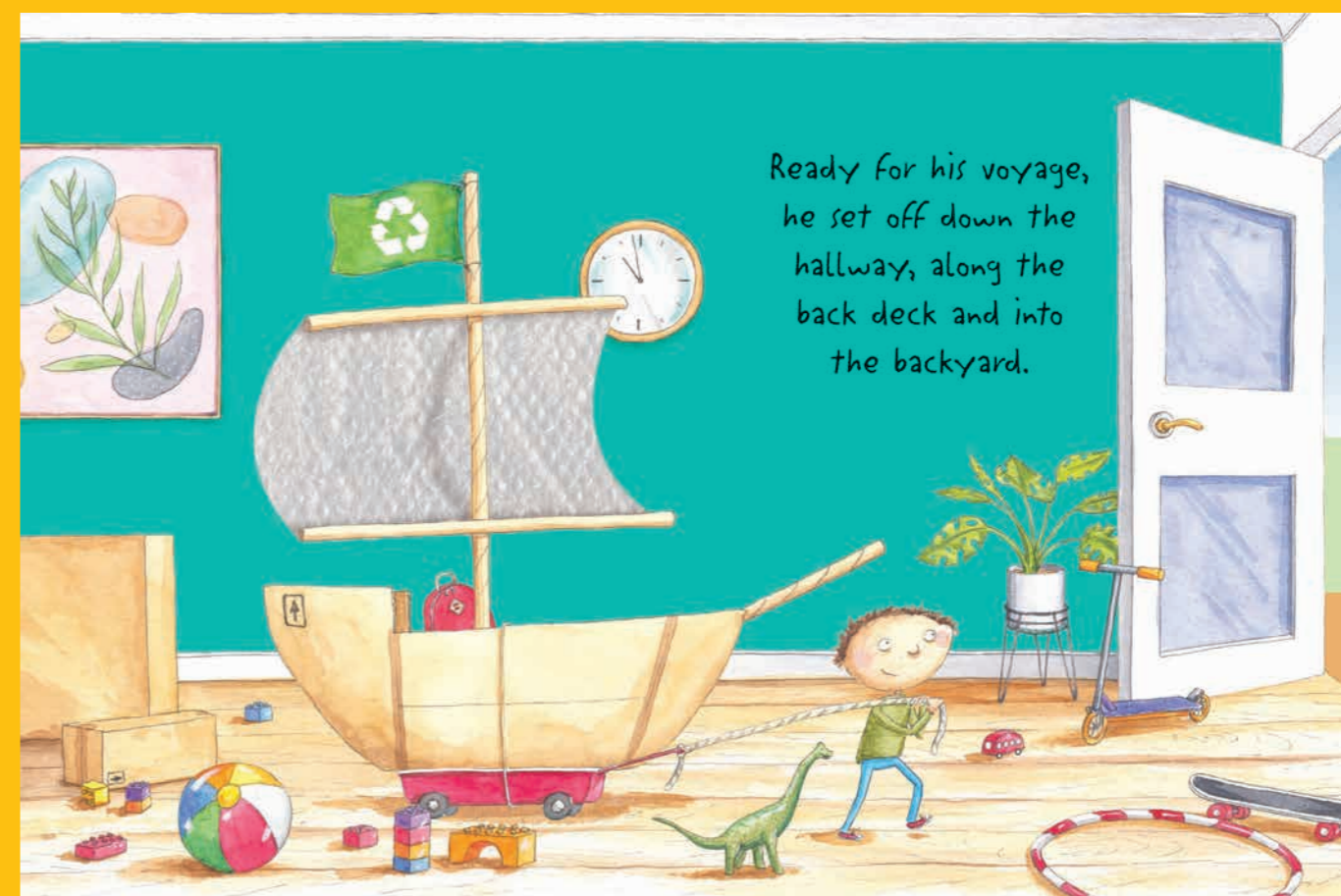
**FORMAT:** Hardback; 285mm x 210mm

**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp

**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ),  
Translation

MAL WEBSTER loved drawing from a young age. In school, he preferred to gaze out the window and let his imagination drift, instead of concentrating in class. His schoolbooks were often filled with plans for creative inventions like the 'Homework Machine'. As a boy, Mal loved collecting boxes... He is yet to grow out of this habit.

THROUGHOUT THE BOOK,  
SCANNED TEXTURES AND  
GRAPHICS FROM BOXES ARE  
COMBINED WITH WATERCOLOUR  
ILLUSTRATIONS.



# Great and Small

ALISON MCLENNAN AND CONNAH BRECON

A celebration of universal design and our unique abilities, *Great and Small* celebrates what unifies us – our glorious diversity.

For a tiny unicorn, Eunice has big dreams.

She really wants to compete in the Great Unicorn Games, but even with all the effort and practice she can muster, she's just no competition for all these able-bodied athletes.

That's when the most wonderful idea turns into a truly great reality.

CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND PROMOTES DETERMINATION, PARTICIPATION, APPRECIATION FOR UNIQUENESS.



**PUB DATE:** July 2022  
**PUBLISHER:** Storytorch Press  
**FORMAT:** Hardback; 280mm x 230mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Kane Miller)  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

ALISON MCLENNAN is an Australian children's author, professional voiceover artist, singer, actor and mother of two. Her children's picture book *Great and Small* is a celebration of ability, diversity and the power of inclusion. CONNAH BRECON, originally from the UK, is an author-illustrator based in Victoria.

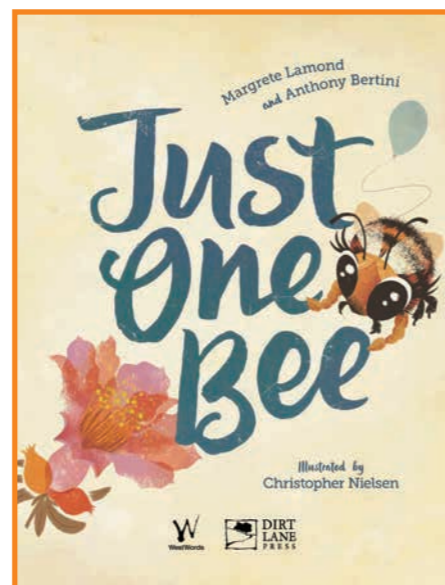






All it takes is the will to make dreams come true.

*Just One Bee* is a story of hope, determination and never giving up: the story of One-bee and her dream to revert desolate wastes back to fields of flowers. But to change a desert to meadowland she needs to go it alone because when she comes across another bee, she discovers not only is he hoarding a single precious flower and a queen bee, but he refuses to believe positive change is possible. Other-bee does all he can to quash One-bee's dream. But One-bee's persistence, patience and optimism eventually prove Other-bee wrong, and she shows him how dreams can come true.



**PUB DATE:** September 2022  
**PUBLISHER:** Dirt Lane Press  
**FORMAT:** Hardback; 280mm x 210mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 32pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

ANTHONY BERTINI's first book, *Things My Pa Told Me* (Little Hare) has been translated into several languages. MARGRETE LAMOND is an author of 20 previous titles as well as an editor and publisher at Dirt Lane Press. Award-winning CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN has become a fixture in children's book illustration, illustrating for major Australian and international publishing houses and small boutique presses.

*Just One Bee* was awarded Honour Book for the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year 2022.



'No friends here!' says Other-bee.  
 'I just need help,' says One-bee.

'No help here,' says Other-bee.  
 'Help to make it cool, stop, end,' says One-bee.  
 'Help to make it change.'



'I'll bring back pollen, and then we can see. I'll find that other flower,' says One-bee.

'Nothing to see!' shouts Other-bee.  
 'Your dreams aren't welcome here!'

# Shadow and the Girl

JEANETTE STAMPONE &  
DEMELSA HAUGHTON

Young readers will be enthralled by this fast-paced story that leads to a heartwarming ending.

*A giant girl towers over Shadow.*

*Driven by fear, Shadow runs.*

*And so does the girl.*

*But can they really run from each other?*

With exquisite illustrations, *Shadow and The Girl* is an imaginative tale full of movement. Young readers will be enthralled by this fast-paced story that leads to a heartwarming ending.

With themes of bravery and self-acceptance, this book will encourage children to embrace their own shadows and gain self-confidence.

Includes three colouring-in pages.



**PUB DATE:** April 2022  
**PUBLISHER:** Red Paper Kite  
**FORMAT:** Hardback; 255mm x 250mm  
**PAGE EXTENT:** 40pp  
**RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

JEANETTE STAMPONE was born and raised in a spooky three-hundred-year-old English house. Her mother read wonderful books every night, instilling Jeanette's love of stories. DEMELSA HAUGHTON is a painter of whimsical and magical imagery. Her work creates a sense of wonder and gives a snapshot of imaginary worlds and characters, often with an injection of quirky, subtle humour.

SELF-CONFIDENCE,  
OVERCOMING FEAR, BRAVERY,  
SELF-ACCEPTANCE, EMOTIONS



She peered towards the sky.  
 A giant GIRL towered above her.  
 The girl's body stretched up, up and up.  
 She was staring at SHADOW with wide, bulging eyes.



She turned and raced across the park.  
 Faster and faster.  
 But when she looked up, the girl was still there.  
 'Go away!' the GIRL shouted again.



She waved in desperation.  
 Then she noticed something.  
 The GIRL was waving too.

SHADOW  
 tried to pull her own feet away.  
 She was stuck!



**Nerrilee Weir**

**DIRECTOR**

[nerrileeweir@boldtypeagency.com.au](mailto:nerrileeweir@boldtypeagency.com.au)

+61 401 169 996

**Fiona Henderson**

**DIRECTOR**

[fionahenderson@boldtypeagency.com.au](mailto:fionahenderson@boldtypeagency.com.au)

+61 408 605 110