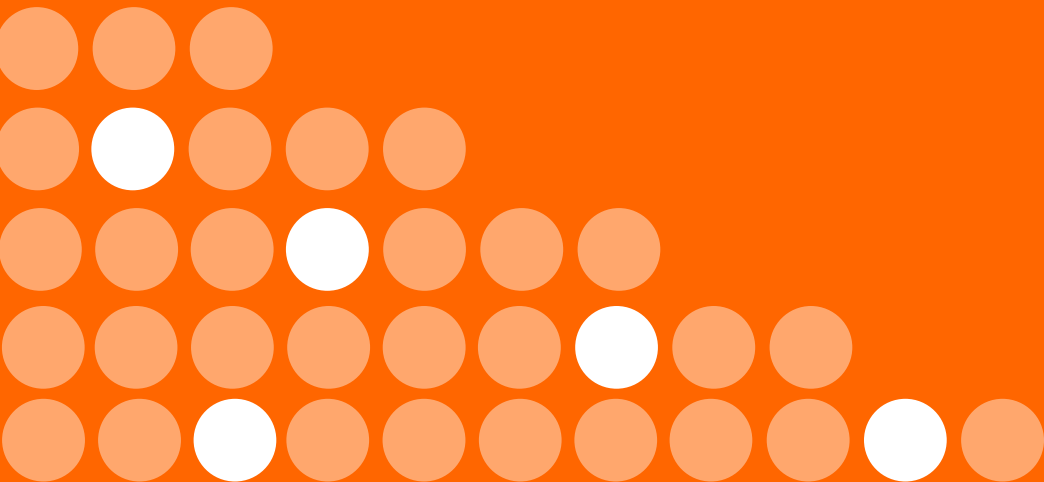
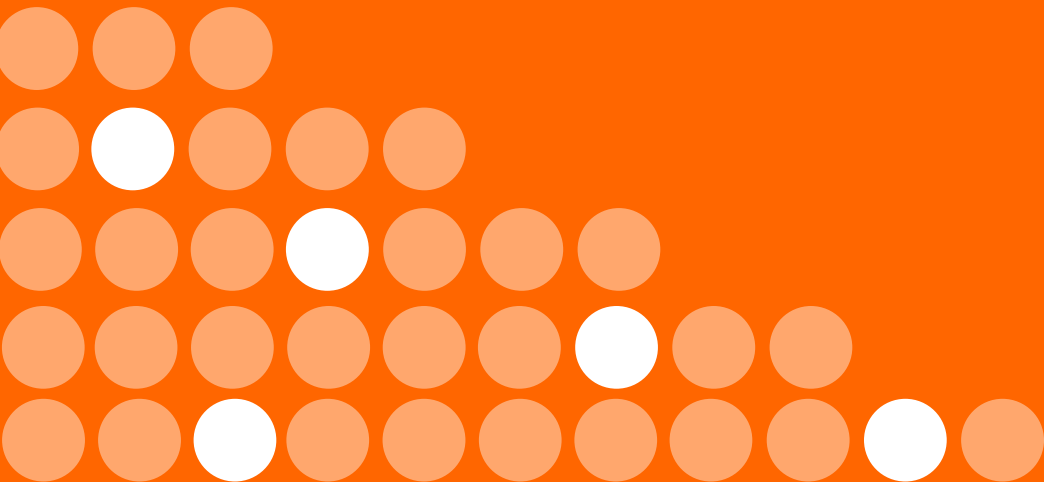


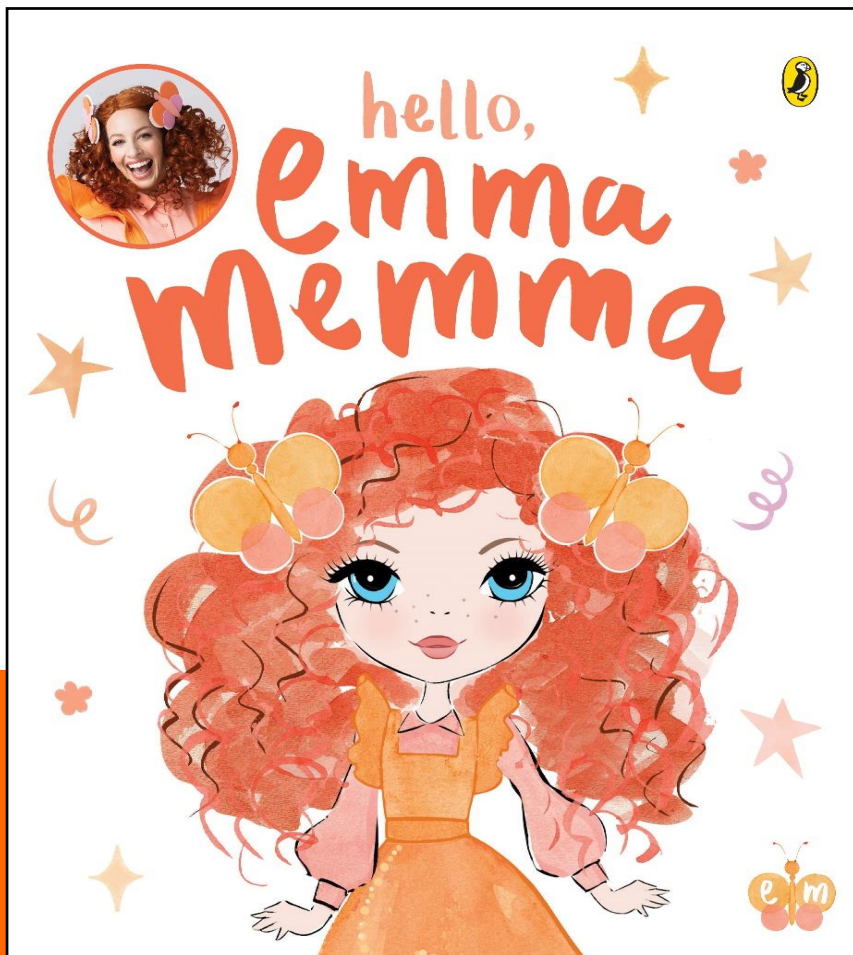
# Penguin Random House AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Young Readers  
London Book Fair 2023



# PICTURE BOOKS





## Hello, Emma Memma by Emma Memma

- After 11 years of performing with The Wiggles, and nine of those as the beloved Yellow Wiggle, Emma Watkins has launched a new children's character, Emma Memma.
- A beautiful introduction to Emma Memma and an opportunity for readers to share in the adventure as she emerges into the world.
- Featuring illustrations by talented Australian artist Kerrie Hess.
- The playful text is perfect for reading aloud with loved ones.

Join Emma Memma for a magical story time as she says hello to the world.

Here she is! The wait is finally over, beloved children's entertainer Emma Watkins' next chapter has been unveiled as she makes a joyful transformation into Emma Memma.



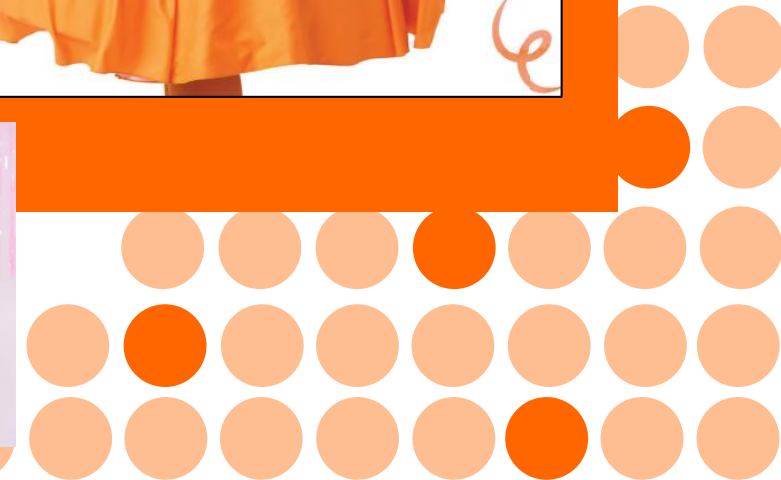
Beloved children's entertainer **Emma Memma**, with her love of dance, sign language and music, brings visual communication to the forefront of the children's media space. She is empowering the next generation through movement, creativity, inclusiveness and friendship.



# The Emma Memma Series by Emma Memma

- An exciting new kids brand from Emma Watkins (formerly Emma Wiggle) launching with an expansive two-year publishing program that will encompass story, novelty and activity formats.
- Future books will explore Emma Memma's wider world, songs and key characters.
- The Emma Memma album debuted at #1 on iTunes, a TV series is in development and there are many more songs and videos to come.
- Featuring illustrations by talented artist Kerrie Hess.

- **384k views on YouTube in the first 4 weeks after launch**
- **#1 album on iTunes**
- **TV series in development**
- **327k social media followers**
- **Ideal for fans of Emma Wiggle!**





Join Emma Memma for a magical story time.

Emma Memma, with her love of dance, sign language and music, is focused on empowering the next generation through movement, creativity, inclusiveness and friendship.

SING, DANCE, SIGN



2023



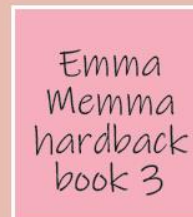
Hardback picture book  
270mm (h) x 240mm (w)  
32 pages, \$19.99  
Pub date: 28/2/2023



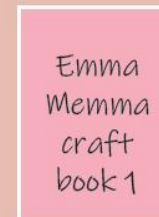
Hardback picture book  
270mm (h) x 240mm (w)  
32 pages, \$19.99  
Pub date: 27/6/2023  
COVER NOT FINAL



Paperback  
297mm (h) x 210mm (w)  
16 pages, \$5.99  
Pub date: 13/6/2023  
COVER NOT FINAL



Hardback picture book  
270mm (h) x 240mm (w)  
32 pages, \$19.99  
Pub date: 10/10/2023 (TBC)



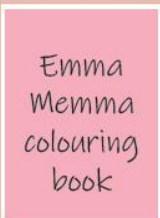
Paperback  
297mm (h) x 210mm (w)  
24 pages, \$9.99  
Pub date: 10/10/2023 (TBC)



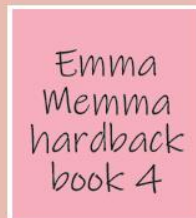
2024



Cased board book  
180mm (h) x 180mm (w)  
24 pages, \$14.99  
Pub date: Feb 2024 (TBC)



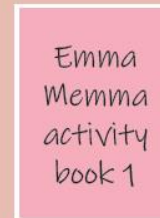
Paperback  
297mm (h) x 210mm (w)  
64 pages, \$6.99  
Pub date: April 2024 (TBC)



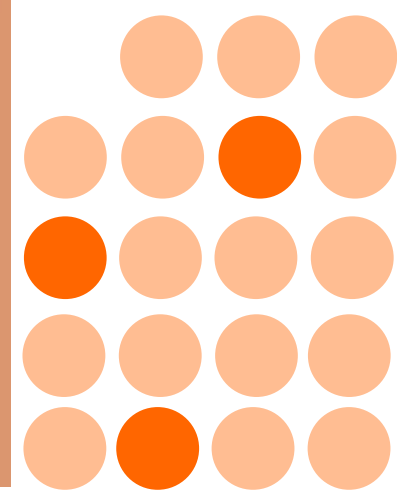
Hardback picture book  
270mm (h) x 240mm (w)  
32 pages, \$19.99  
Pub date: June 2024 (TBC)



Cased board book  
180mm (h) x 180mm (w)  
24 pages, \$14.99  
Pub date: Aug 2024 (TBC)

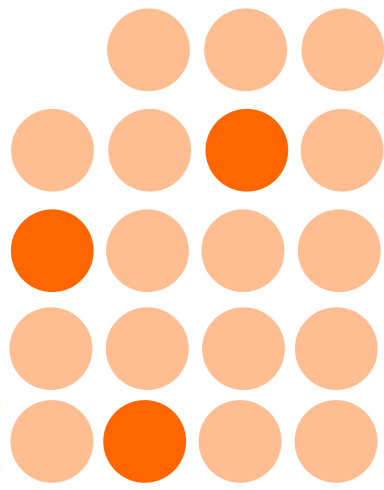


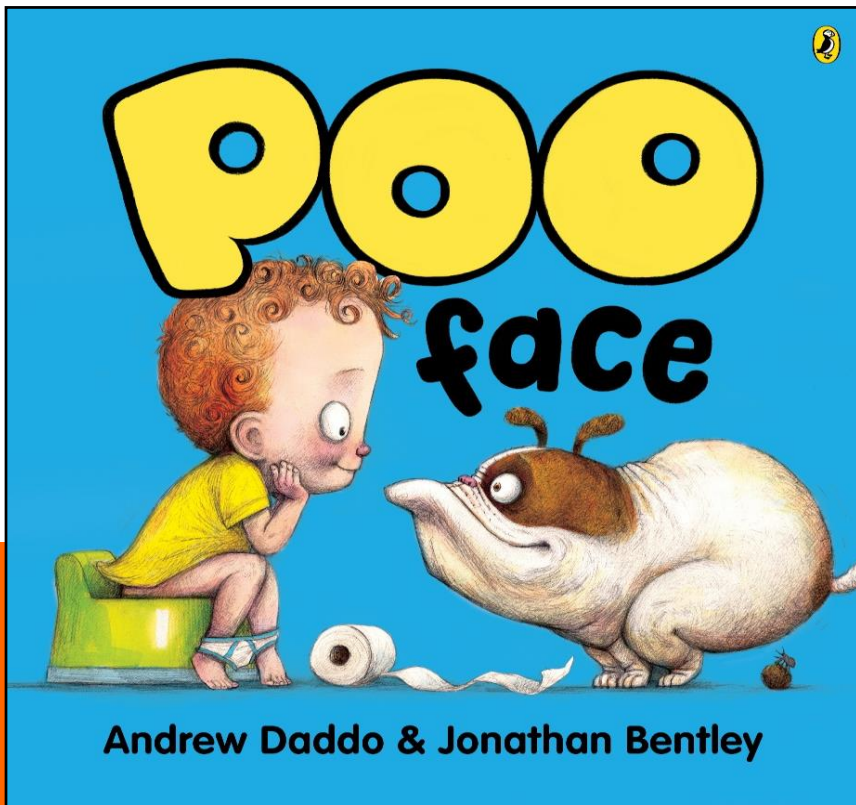
Paperback  
297mm (h) x 210mm (w)  
24 pages, \$9.99  
Pub date: Oct 2024 (TBC)





# Love for Emma Memma





## Poo Face

by Andrew Daddo, Jonathan Bentley

- A hilarious and irreverent toilet training book from a popular Aussie author that will have pre-schoolers giggling all the way to the poo – and the zoo!
- A cheeky hilarious and commercial picture book for birth to preschool with bright, imaginative illustrations and silliness on every page – just what parents need to encourage kids onto the potty to try out their poo faces!
- For 0-5 year olds, and for parents and grandparents looking for a delightful toilet training helper.

We've all got one because we all do one. Every day.

Somedays twice a day. Somedays more.

Everyone has a poo face!

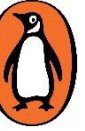
Whether it's a dog or cat, a lion, an elephant, wombat, fish, giraffe or frog, they've all got a poo face – even you!

From this best-selling creative team comes a hilarious book to entertain and encourage your toddler on the potty.



**Andrew Daddo** has managed to have a crack at just about every aspect of the entertainment industry. He's appeared on TV and stage, presented radio programs and podcasts, and even made movies. Best of all, Andrew is an accomplished author. He has written 25 books including picture books, chapter books, short story collections, novels and a vague biography – he's hard to pin down. He also talks up literacy in schools.

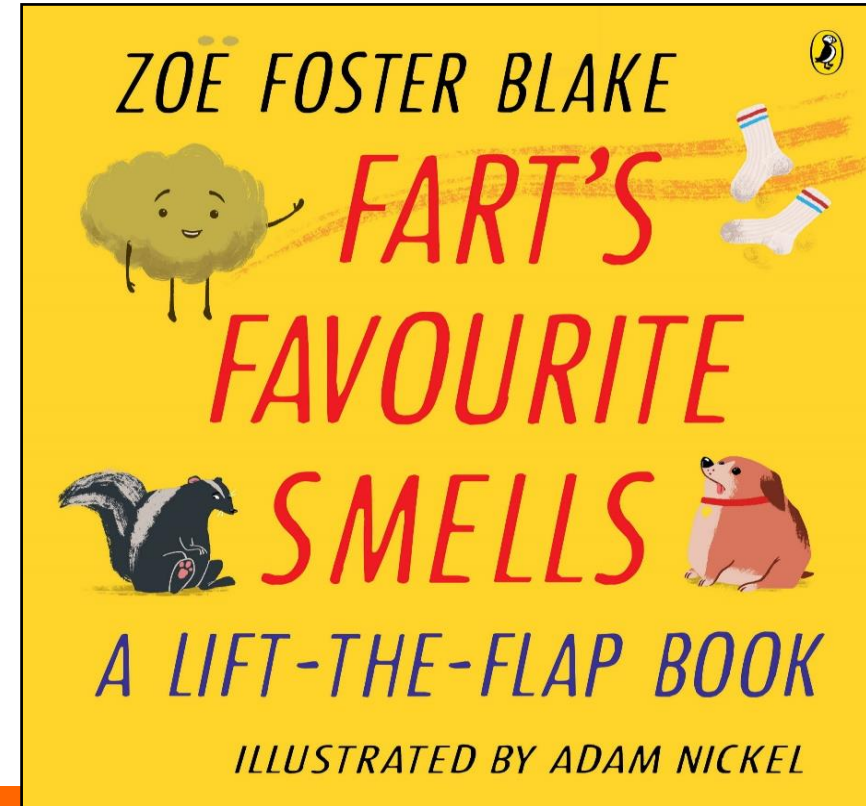
Photo Credit: © Anouk Daddo



# Fart's Favourite Smells

## by Zoe Foster Blake, Adam Nickel

- Zoë Foster Blake's beloved Fart character from the bestselling *No one Likes a Fart* is ready to make some new toddler and baby friends with this fun lift-the-flap board book. Fart is looking for his favourite smells – so lift the flaps to discover what your favourite smell will be!
- Perfect for ages 0-3.
- Lift-the-flap format and a funny reversal of expectations about what makes a good or bad smell provides lots of interactive fun for toddlers and babies and brings Fart to a younger audience.
- Zoë's first picture book, *No One Likes a Fart*, was released in 2017 and was the fastest-selling Australian picture book since Bookscan records began. It's a sales record-breaker and bookseller favourite, with over 120,000 copies sold. It won the Australian Book Industry Award for Picture Book of the Year in 2018, and
- *No One Likes a Fart* has been published in North America, Italy and Japan.



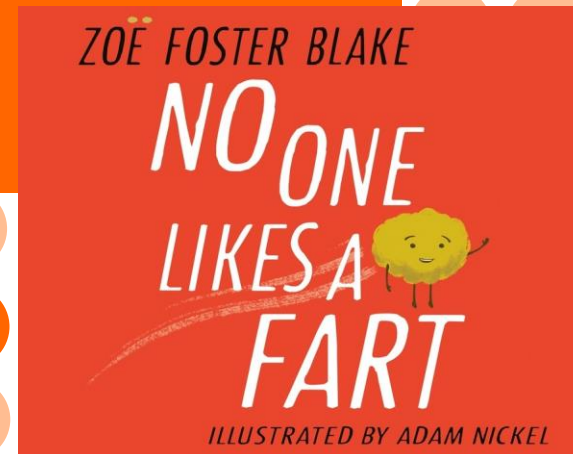
Fart is excited to see the big, big world and find some very best smells.

What one will be his favourite?

Pizza? Gross! Dirty socks? Mmmm!



**Zoë Foster Blake** writes fiction, non-fiction and children's picture books because she enjoys hijacking shelf space across multiple genres in bookshops. Zoë has written four novels, *Air Kisses*, *Playing the Field*, *The Younger Man* and *The Wrong Girl*; three self-help/relationship books, *Textbook Romance*, *Break-Up Boss* and *LOVE!*, and *Amazing Face*, a collection of her best beauty tips and tricks after spending years as a beauty director.  
Photo Credit: © Dave Wheeler







## Business Chickens by Jess McGeachin

- A funny and fabulous picture book as wild and wonderful as Fran herself – for anyone who’s not your average chook and has the courage to follow their dreams!
- An exciting new talent in Australian picture books, reminiscent of talents such as Oliver Jeffers and Gus Gordon and Anna Walker. Jess's picture books, *Fly*, *The Lost Library*, *Frankie and the Fossil* and *The Tree at Number 43*, have been a critical success and sold into the US and other overseas markets.
- Stunning illustrations and a text that's perfect to read aloud, especially for kids and parents who are neuro-diverse or just the creative kids who don't quite fit the mould.

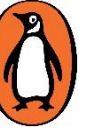
**Most chickens make good business chickens. They're neat, arrive on time and they take everything very seriously. Fran is not a good business chicken . . .**

**But maybe, just maybe, that's okay.**



**Jess McGeachin** is a writer/illustrator/designer based in Melbourne. He loves telling stories about hidden worlds just outside our own, and hiding clues in them for small eyes to find. Drawing on a love of natural history (and a day job at Melbourne Museum), Jess hopes that his stories inspire the reader to explore both real and imaginary places and meet the characters that live in them.

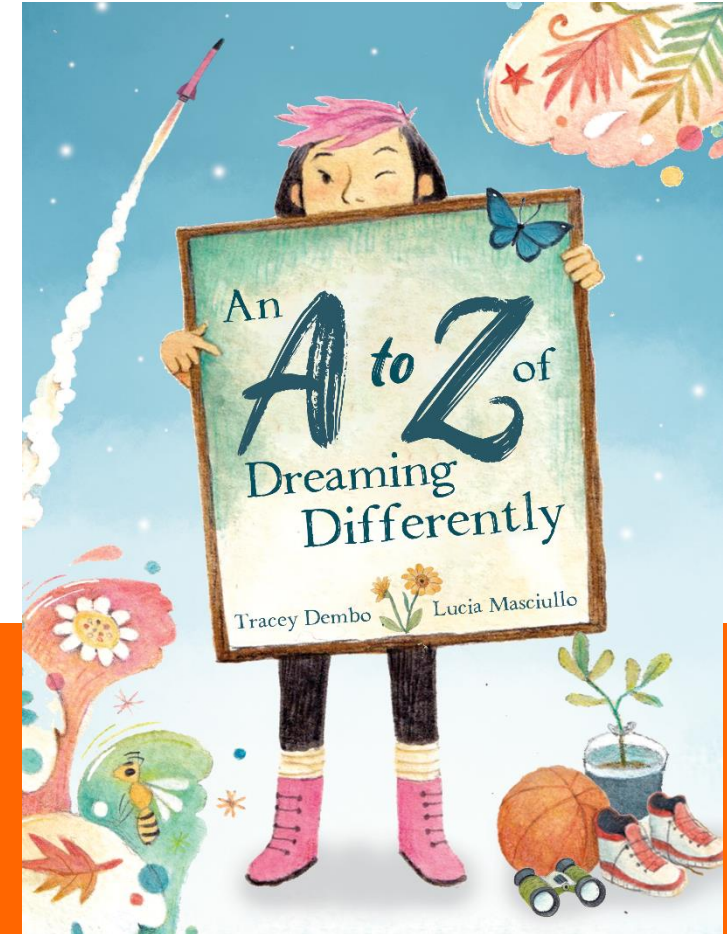
Photo Credit: © Lakshal Perera



# An A to Z of Dreaming Differently

## by Tracey Dembo, Lucia Masciullo

- A picture book every child should have on their bookshelf, *An A to Z of Dreaming Differently* is filled with beautiful, positive messages about being brave and bold, daring to dream, exploring and experimenting, being feisty and fierce!
- The key messaging in this book is affirming for kids that it's ok to think differently, to be curious and to not have to conform or shrink themselves to fit in. It is okay to stand up for themselves, to take up space and to sometimes even break the rules.
- A perfect gift book, sitting alongside books like *Oh, the Places You'll Go* by Dr Seuss, *The Wonderful Things You Will Be* by Emily Winfield Martin or *All the Ways to be Smart* by Davina Bell.
- From debut author Tracy Dembo and illustrated by award-winning Lucia Masciullo.



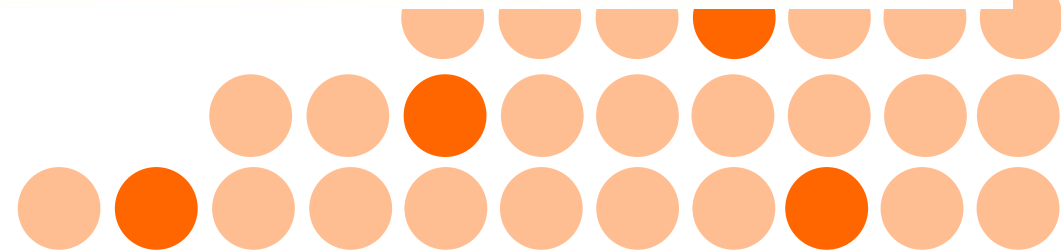
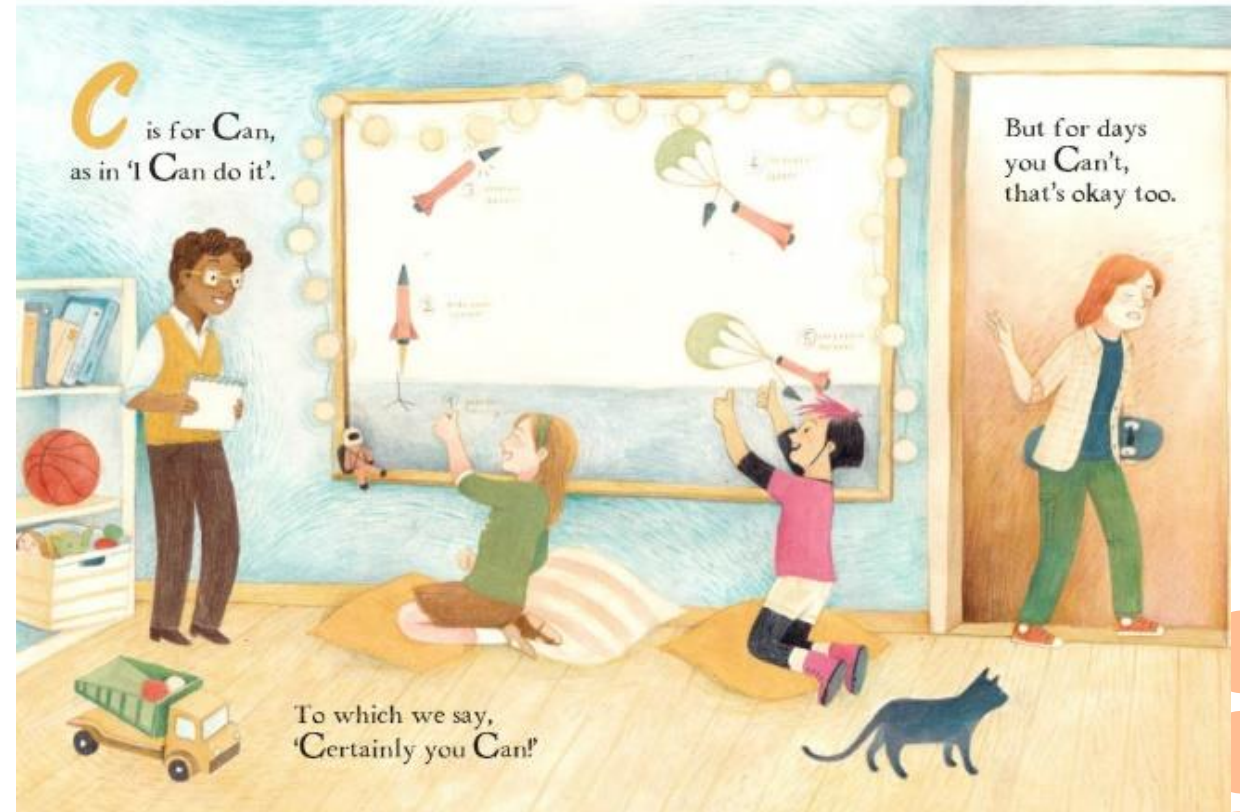
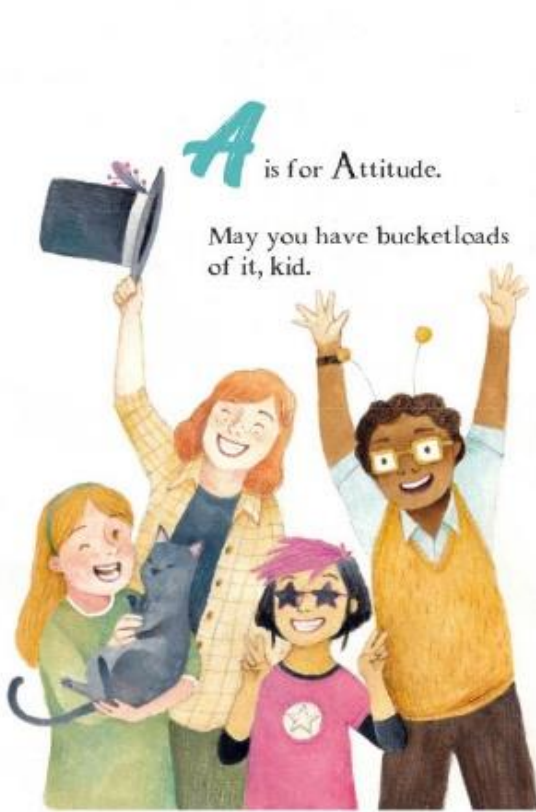
DRAFT COVER

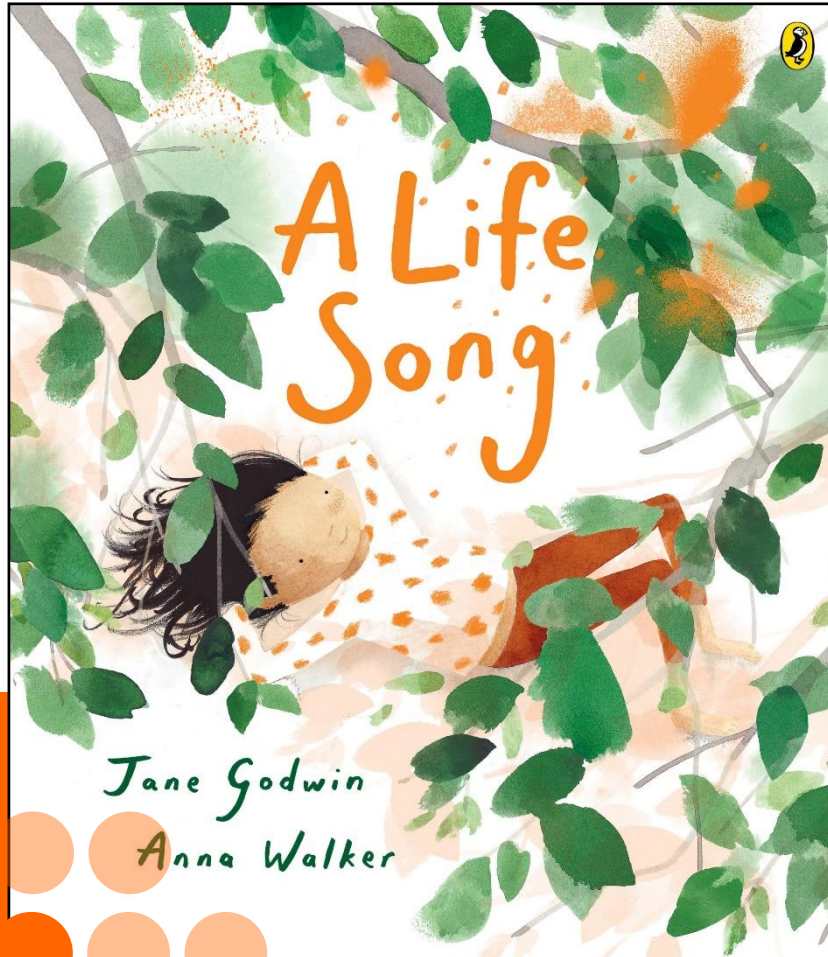
*D is for Dreaming  
of something dazzling  
or downright different.  
Do you dare?*

**A stunning story that advocates for every single kid. A reminder to be yourself, without apology. And no matter the zig-zag journey, don't ever give up on dreams.**



**Tracey Dembo** is a Perth-based writer who is passionate about igniting children's imaginations and helping our future leaders to find their own voice. She believes in the importance of play and has a strong interest in children's early learning and development (she was the director of Playgroup WA and so has a keen interest in this). This perfectly aligns with her love of picture books and the important role they have in that process. Tracey was a recipient of the Maurice Saxby Creative Development Program for 2020 (deferred to 2022) and is an active member of the KidLit community.  
Photo Credit: © Tracey Dembo





# A Life Song

by Jane Godwin, Anna Walker

- An exquisite, universal and captivating picture book, reminiscent of Dr Suess's *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, describing a child's life journey using the magical metaphor of a song.
- From the winning author-illustrator team who have brought us such bestselling favourites as *All Through the Year*, *Today We Have No Plans*, *Starting School*, *What Do You Wish For*, *Go Go and the Silver Shoes* and *Don't Forget*.
- A book to be treasured by a slightly older audience of 6+.
- This will be a very special gift book for any age: to give a parent on the birth of a child that they can read together over and over through the years; as a special gift on leaving primary school; or even on leaving high school.

*When you are born, you make up a song  
It doesn't rhyme, and it isn't long  
A song of everything you hold dear  
It's your own tune, it's loud and clear  
And your whole world is in it*



**Jane Godwin** is a highly acclaimed author of over thirty books for children, across all styles and ages. Her work is published internationally and she has received many commendations, including the Queensland Premier's Award (Children's Books), the Aurealis Award and the Animal Welfare Award, and shortlistings in the CBC Book of the Year Awards, the Prime Minister's Literary Award, the New South Wales State Literary Award (Patricia Wrightson Prize) the YABBA Awards, the Speech Pathology Awards, The Family Award for Children's Books, and the Australian Book Industry Awards. For many years, Jane worked as the Children's Publisher at Penguin Books Australia. She often works in schools and the community, running various literature and writing programs, making books and encouraging students in their own creative ventures.  
Photo Credit: © Lillie Thompson





# Flying The Nest picture book 2

## by Jess and Stephen Parry-Valentine

- The Flying the Nest brand is huge, with 2.1 million followers across YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and their blog. Their YouTube audience is their largest with 1.1 million followers.
- Based on the Parry-Valentine family's vanlife trip around Australia – a journey they've been sharing across their social media channels to great response.
- Road tripping is a quintessential Australian experience, and the vanlife trend has exploded during the pandemic, particularly as people's attention has focused on local travel.



Jessica and Stephen Parry-Valentine are an Australian couple with a love for travel and adventure. In 2014, the desire to drop everything to explore the world overwhelmed them, and before they knew it they were flying the nest and jumping on a one-way flight across the globe . . . and they have never looked back.

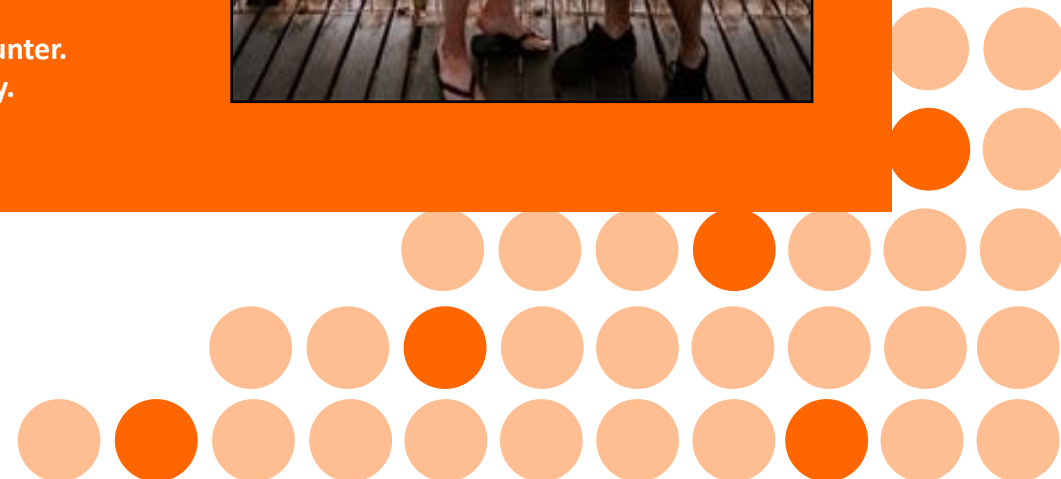
Since then, they have travelled to over 80 countries, bringing 2.1 million fellow travel addicts along for the ride. With a passion for filmmaking and photography, they are well-known for their YouTube travel series: Flying the Nest is Australia's most popular travel channel on the platform.

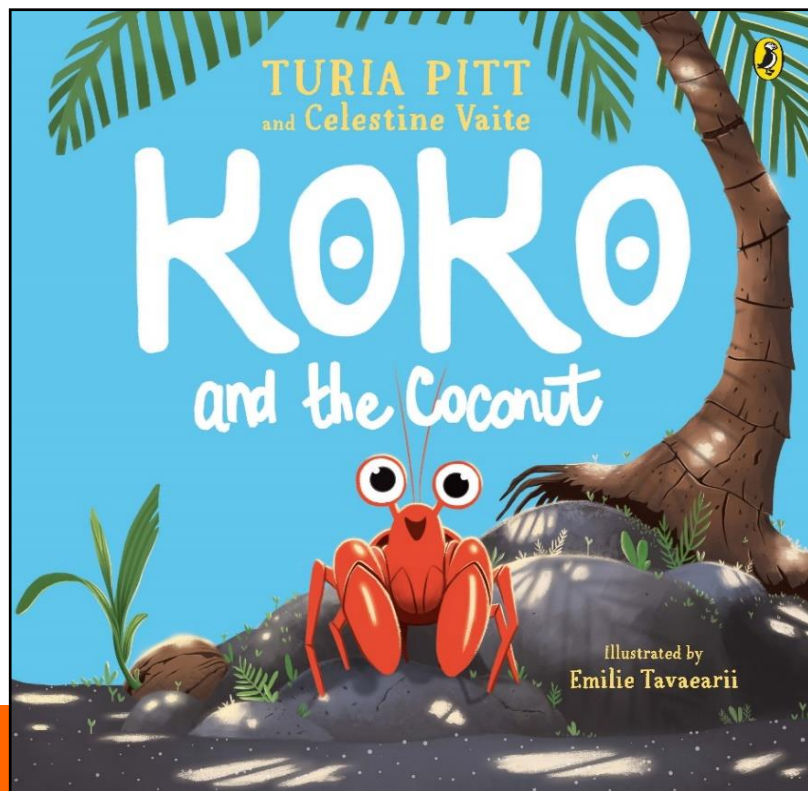
In 2020 Jessica and Stephen embarked on their biggest adventure yet, becoming parents to little Hunter. *Our Home on Wheels* is their first picture book, inspired by their travels around Australia as a family.



### Our Home On Wheels

The quintessential Australian road trip meets vanlife in this family adventure, celebrating our diverse landscape through the gleeful gaze of a child. Ride along with Hunter as she discovers beaches and billabongs, paddocks and plains, forests and dugouts, and even underwater worlds. A big adventure awaits! A delightfully illustrated recount of a family road trip that celebrates Australia's natural beauty.





## Koko and the Coconut

by Turia Pitt and Celestine Vaite, Emilie Tavaearii

- From bestselling author, inspirational ironman, humanitarian and mother Turia Pitt comes her first picture book, a fun tale about a determined little crab who faces a big challenge. Written with Turia's mother, Celestine Vaite, the book celebrates their Tahitian heritage.
- Turia's own story is the epitome of never giving up, and so it's only natural that this key theme is championed and sings in *Koko and the Coconut*. *Koko and the Coconut* is a very simple but delightful story about independent problem-solving, sheer determination and never giving up.
- Little humans and their adults will delight in joining in with the repeated text on each page, 'Go, Koko!' to cheer on the little crab in his big challenge. This repetition will draw in preschoolers again and again as they cheer for the cute crab and pre-empt the text on each page.
- Both Turia's and Emilie's (the illustrator) heritage is Tahitian, and the super-cute and stunning illustrations from Emilie bring an authentic and gorgeously colourful representation of the Island environment as the perfect backdrop to Koko's story.

*Hello. My name is Koko. Today is a big day...*

*"Go, Koko!"*

Cheer on Koko as he reaches for the sky – well, a very tall tree – and the ultimate prize ... a hefty, juicy, scrumptious coconut. But when the going gets tough, will he be able to finish what he starts?



**Turia Pitt** is living proof that, with the right mindset, anything is possible. Caught in a grassfire while competing in a 100 km ultramarathon in 2011, Turia suffered full thickness burns to 65 per cent of her body. But surviving is the least of her achievements. One of Australia's most admired and widely recognised people, Turia has gone on to become a bestselling author, a two-time Ironman and a humanitarian – raising well over a million dollars for not-for-profit Interplast. Through her online presence, books and online programs, Turia has inspired millions to live with more confidence, conquer their fears and chase down their wildest dreams.

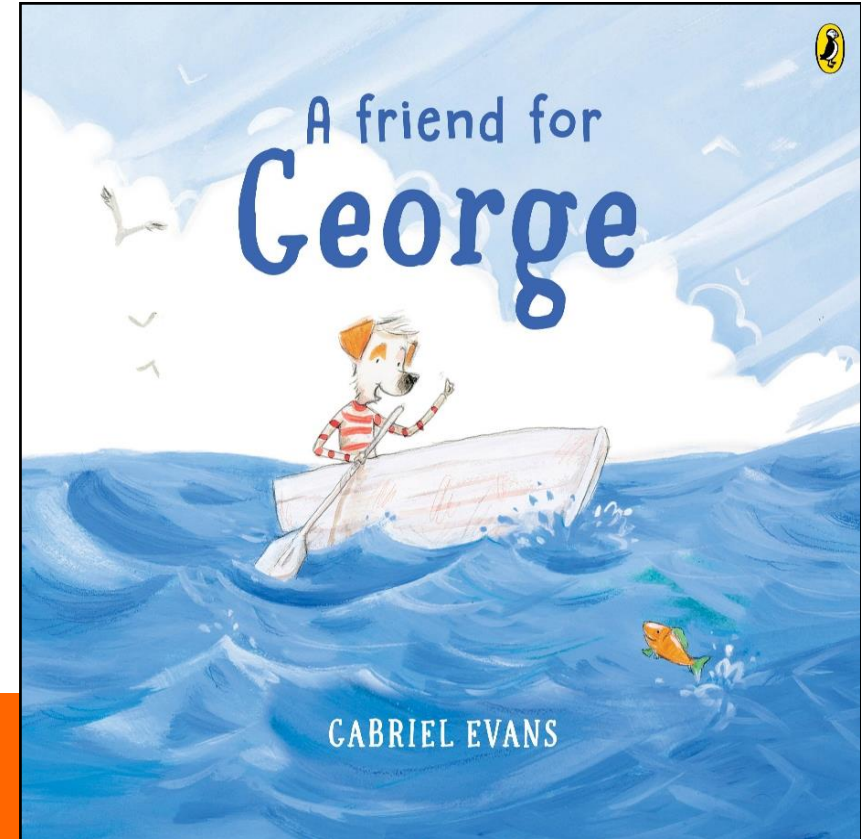
Photo Credit: © Elizabeth Allnutt



# A Friend For George

## by Gabriel Evans

- A charming and heartwarming picture book for 3-5 year olds, who are right at the age of making their first friends. George and Claude's story is the perfect springboard for talking about friendship, what friends do for each other and what qualities and actions make a good friend.
- A delightfully fresh take on a classic and timeless picture book topic. Simply told with gentle humour and inspired by Gabriel's own observations of his young niece.
- A picture book with wide appeal to both families and schools, making the perfect gift for one friend to give to another.
- From multiple CBCA-award-shortlisted children's book creator Gabriel Evans.

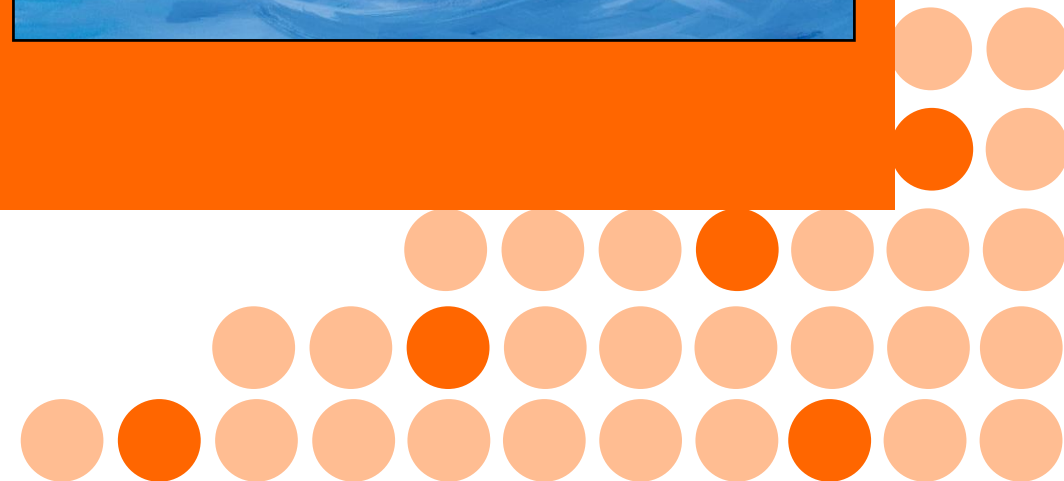


George likes living by the sea, but he often feels lonely. He'd like to have a friend – someone to talk to, someone to share stories with and someone to laugh with. As that's what friends do!

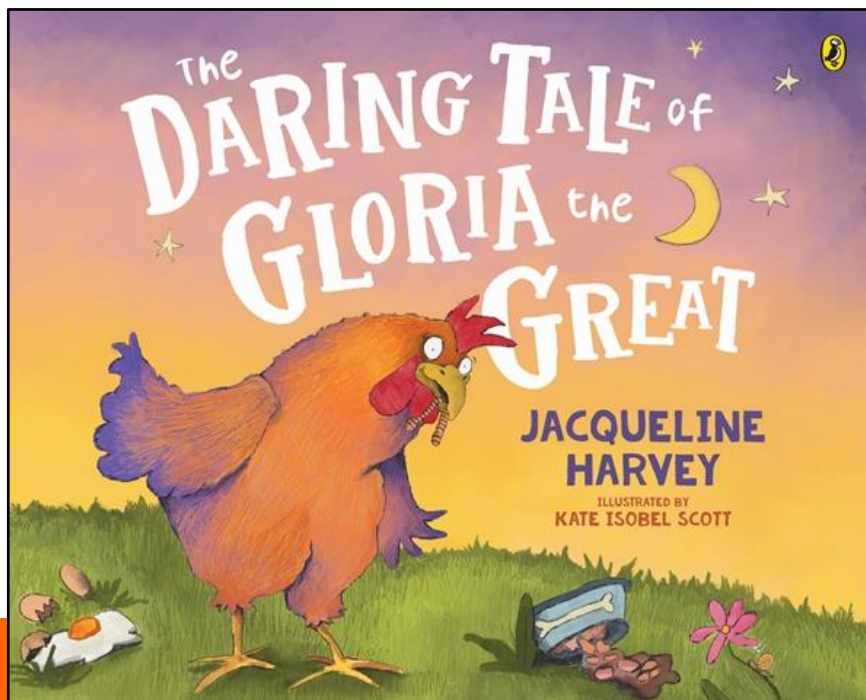
When he meets Claude the fish, George finally discovers the joys of having a special friend, as well as learning what it means to be a good friend to someone . . . for if you are, the rewards are bountiful!



**Gabriel Evans** is a Western Australian children's book author and illustrator. Working primarily in watercolour and pencil, he creates books from a small studio near a river, surrounded by oak trees. His books are published internationally and translated in three languages. *Blue Flower* by Sonya Hartnett, his first picture book with Penguin Random House, was shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 2022. *A Friend for George* is his latest picture book, publishing in 2023. Gabriel is an avid tea drinker and sketchbook scribbler.







## The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great by Jacqueline Harvey & Kate Isobel Scott

- Laugh along at Gloria's antics in this quirky tale that celebrates individuality
- A rollicking picture book from bestselling author Jacqueline Harvey
- Gloria the chicken doesn't fit in, but it's not until she goes missing that her flock realises being quirky might not be such a bad thing after all.

Gloria the chicken is not like the rest of her brood. She gets in your face, she runs her own race, until one day . . . she disappears without a trace!

Inspired by the real adventure of a one-of-a-kind chicken, early readers will love seeing Gloria's individuality celebrated, with bold illustrations by Kate Isobel Scott.



**Jacqueline Harvey** worked in schools for many years but has had a passion for storytelling since she was a child. She is the author of the popular Alice-Miranda, Clementine Rose and Kensy and Max series, which have sold over one and a half million copies in Australia alone. Her books have received numerous shortlistings and awards while her picture book, *The Sound of the Sea*, was a CBCA Honour Book. Jacqueline speaks to thousands of young people at schools and festivals around the world, and says the characters in her books are often made up of the best bits of children she's met over the years.

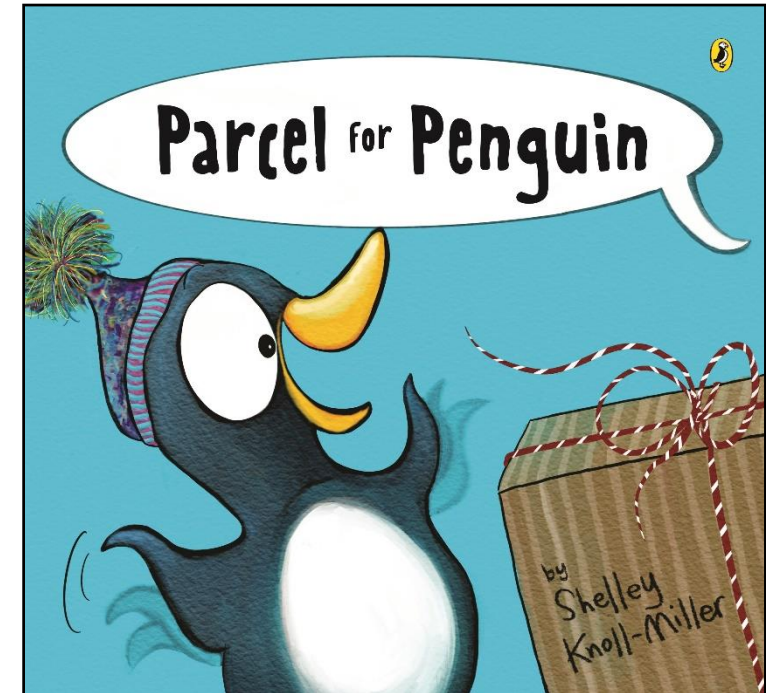
Photo Credit: © Jenni Bradley



# Parcel For... series

## by Shelley Knoll-Miller

- What is in the parcel? Guess along with Penguin, Gorilla, Koala, Turtle and friends!
- A highly commercial series of 24-page picture books for preschoolers that teases and frolics with the anticipatory magic of opening a present and thinking outside the box to solve a problem. The formula works across the series to create a sense of familiarity, in the same way the 'That's Not My . . .' books do but for older readers.
- Captivating characters and quizzical questions will tease and please preschoolers in the fun guess-a-thon that seeks to solve the mystery of what is in the parcel. Brimming with the joy and anticipation of opening a gift, the punchy and playful 'Parcel for...' series tickles and engages with each turn of the page.

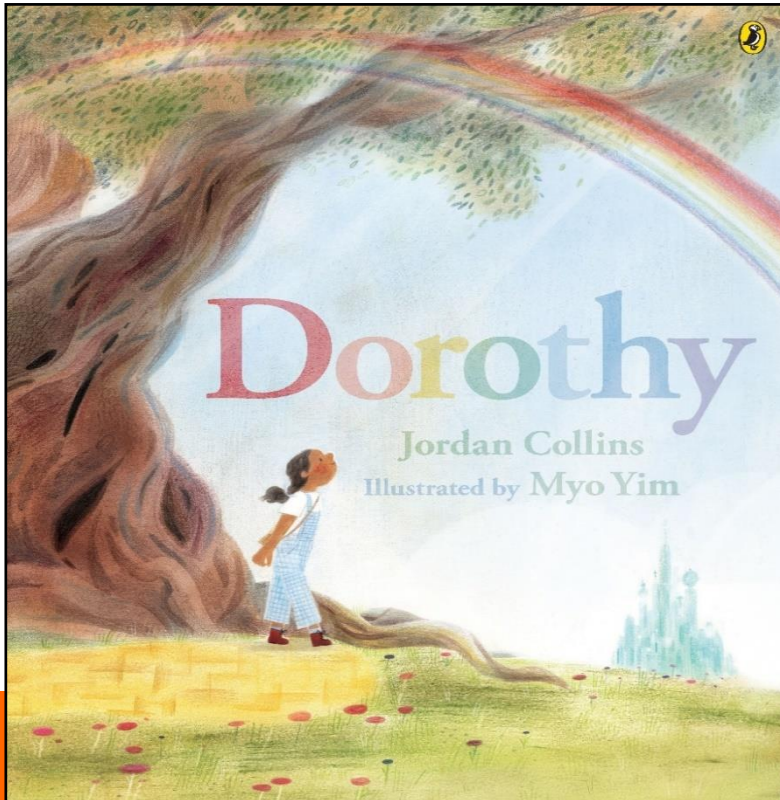


Penguin and pals are cold! Icy! FREEZING! So when Penguin receives a surprise parcel, they are excited. What could be inside? Will it be something to help them stay warm?

A punchy and playful guessing game about what could be in the parcel for Penguin.



**Shelley Knoll-Miller** is an Australian illustrator with a love of storytelling – the sillier the better. She has worked as a cartoonist for over 20 years, including editorial cartooning for *The Age*, before she illustrated her first picture book and fell in love with the process. Now, she writes and illustrates her own books, and her creative talent has been recognised both locally and nationally through awards, including the 2020 Australian Society of Author's Style File Illustrator Award as well as the 2020 Maurice Saxby Creative Development Program.  
Photo Credit: © Shelley Knoll-Miller



# Dorothy

by Jordan Collins, Myo Yim

- A captivating and lyrical own-voices picture book exploring homecoming, belonging and identity, with exquisite illustrations capturing the essence of a journey of self-acceptance.
- Exploring our connection with nature, people and our internal selves as part of the journey of self awareness.
- Perfect for the schools and library market. Parents and carers who want to share inclusive and diverse picture books with their kids will also gravitate towards this story.
- Uses Dorothy's journey in *The Wizard of Oz* as a comparison to a modern tale of finding your home.

Dorothy wears Doc Martens. Clicking her toes together once, twice, three times, she whispers, 'Where is my home?'

A modern comparison to Dorothy's journey of finding home in *The Wizard of Oz*.



**Jordan Collins** was born in Chicago, Illinois, and moved to Australia when they were eight years old. Their heritage is African-American Greek-Australian, meaning that their skin is dark, their hair is curly and they have spent a large part of their life feeling torn between cultures and expectations. Growing up, no matter where they found themselves or how they were doing, Jordan could always find home and belonging in the pages of a book. Now they write to give other people like Jordan a little taste of the home they have made for themselves. *Dorothy* is Jordan's second picture book, with *Where?* (illustrated by Phil Lesnie) published in 2022 with Allen & Unwin.



# Abigail and the Making of the Moon

## by Matthew Cunningham, Sarah Wilkins

- Abigail always thinks of big questions! Join her on a discovery mission to find out where the Moon came from, and how it stays in the sky.
- The third book following *Abigail and the Birth of the Sun* (winner of Best Picture Book award) and *Abigail and the Restless Raindrop* in a series of picture books designed for 2- to 7-year-olds who enjoy evocative bedtime stories about the universe and how it works!
- Using the analogy of a parent with their child, this stunning picture book describes and demonstrates the birth of the Moon in a collision with Earth and how gravity is the force holding everything together in orbit.
- Speaks to that phase of childhood that all parents can relate to, wherein kids continually pop taxing questions that require incredibly complex answers! Parents will be inspired by the way Abigail's dad answers her smart questions.



One clear day, Abigail thinks of a question and knows that she won't be able to do anything else if she doesn't have an answer to it.

"Daddy," she asked, "where did the Moon come from?"

"From the Earth, Abigail," replied Daddy. "The Moon was once a part of the Earth."

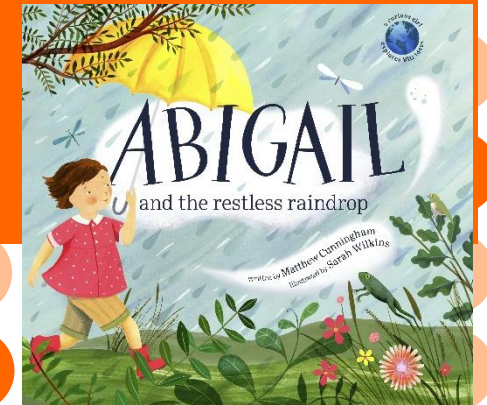
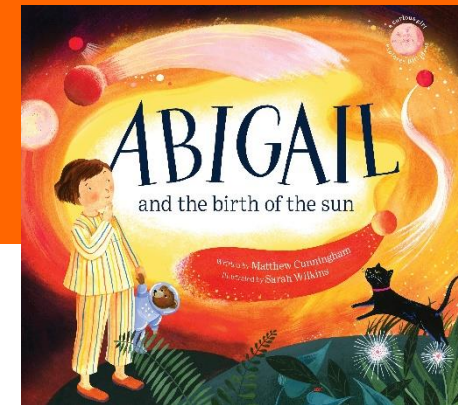
"It was?" Abigail asked. "But how did it get in the sky? And how does it stay in the sky? And why do we only ever see one side of the Moon?"

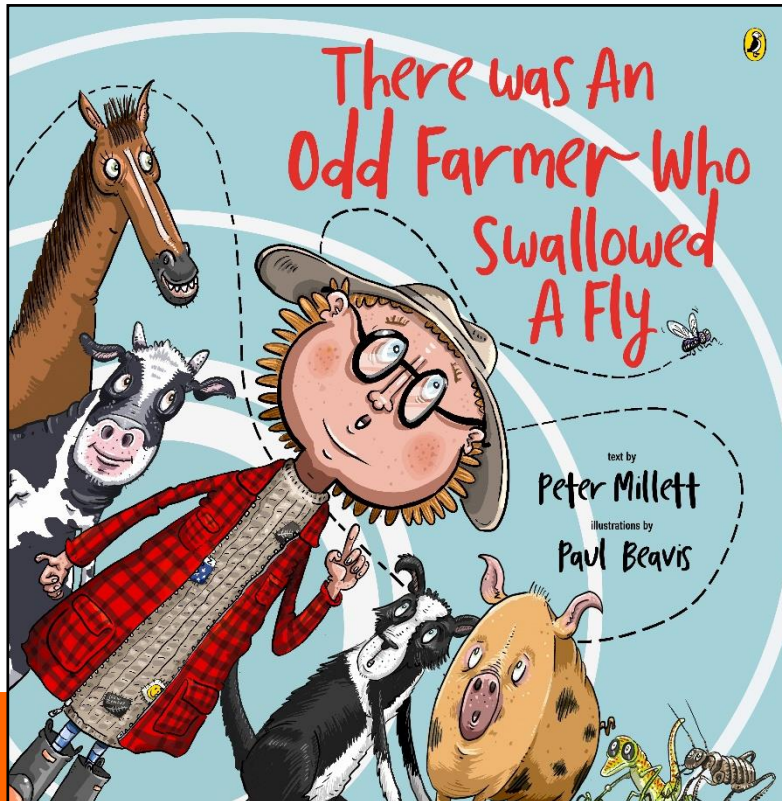
What follows is an evocatively simple story within a story explaining how the newborn Earth collided with another planet, and how gravity acts like invisible hands reaching out and keeping the Moon spinning around the Earth, the Earth spinning around the Sun, and the Sun spinning around the galaxy. And of course by dinner time, Abigail has thought of a new big question...



**Matthew Cunningham** is a passionate and dedicated historian with a Doctor of Philosophy (History) from Victoria University of Wellington. He has published oral histories, peer-reviewed articles, journalistic and encyclopedic pieces, and Waitangi Tribunal research commissions. He lives in Porirua, New Zealand, and works as a researcher. He is active on Facebook and is a member of a number of parent groups, including several for gifted children. He is the author of the 2020 Best Picture Book-winning *Abigail and the Birth of the Sun* (Puffin 2019), *Abigail and the Restless Raindrop* (Puffin 2020) and *Rosie and the Worry Whisperer* (IP Kidz, 2021).

Photo Credit: © Helen Cunningham





## There Was an Odd Farmer Who Swallowed a Fly by Peter Millett, Paul Beavis

- Peek through the holes in the pages to see what the odd farmer swallows in this favourite nursery rhyme with a pitch-perfect Kiwi twist!
- A humorous NZ adaptation of the well-known rhyme *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* (now in the public domain), with the Odd Farmer dressed in gumboots and a swann dri, and the tale narrated by a cheeky sheep.
- Large, eye-catching square format with extra thick paper, diecut holes in the pages and illustrations that are full of imagination and personality by the award-winning Paul Beavis.
- Animals in the story include a fly, a wētā, a gecko, a kunekune pig, a collie, a cow and a horse.
- A surprise circular ending, which will make readers laugh - this is one story you will be requested to read over and over, but won't mind as it's so fun!

Kiwi kids will love this favourite nursery rhyme with witty words by Peter Millett and hilarious illustrations by Paul Beavis — and a surprise twist at the end!

There was an odd farmer who swallowed a fly.

I dunno why she swallowed a fly —

it's such weird kai.

Expect a lot of belly laughs as you read this brilliant rhyming story aloud!



**Peter Millett** is one of those rare New Zealand authors who has found success at home and abroad. He has written across a number of children's genres and all of his work is stamped with his trademark energy and zany humour. He is the author of the Johnny Danger DIY Spy series (Penguin), Boy Zero series (Faber & Faber), The Invincibles series (Scholastic) and a range of picture books including *My Old Man, He Played Rugby* (Scholastic), *The Dinos on the Bus* (Ladybird) and *Classic Rhymes for Kiwi Kids* (Bateman). He lives in Auckland, New Zealand.  
Photo Credit: © Peter Black



# Lucy and the Dark

## by Melinda Szymanik, Vasanti Unka

- When Lucy makes friends with the Dark she discovers a new and exciting world - but the world is about to discover what it's like without the Dark!
- A cuddly and non-scary story that's perfect for children who are scared of the dark - Dark is a very relatable and fun character and introduces Lucy to the beautiful nocturnal world.
- From the award-winning creative team who brought us My Elephant Is Blue, which has sold to Germany, Italy, Spain, China and the US.
- A perfect bedtime story - this adventure brings Lucy back home to her mum and extremely ready to go to bed and sleep!

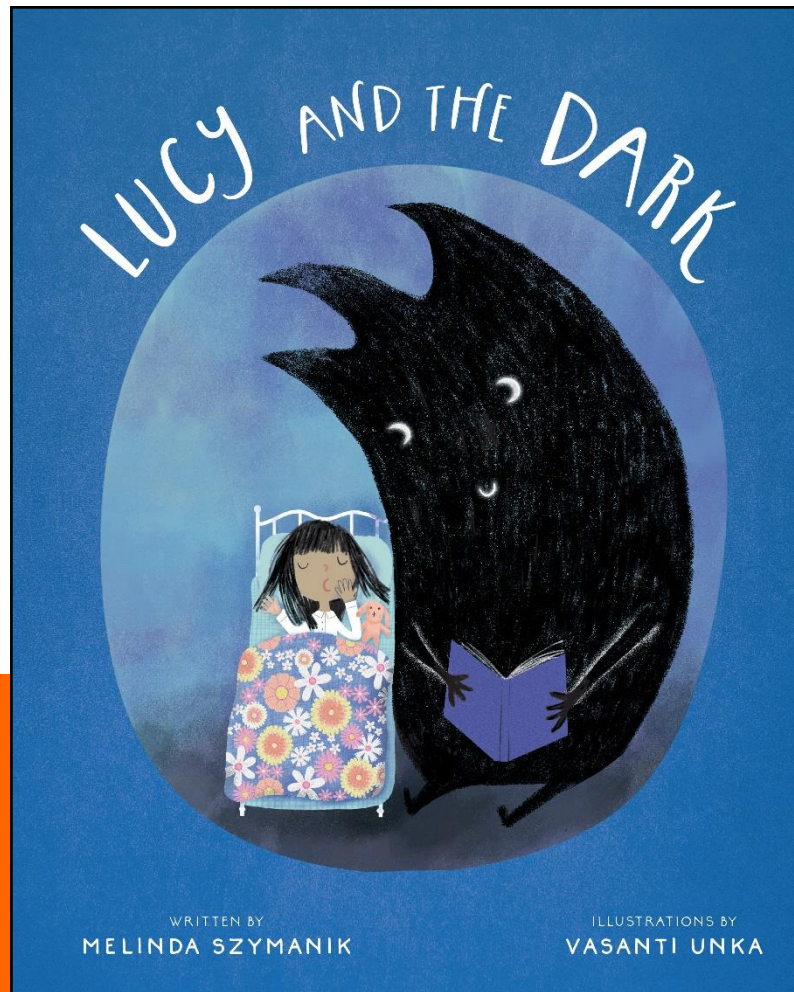
From an award-winning author and illustrator comes this delightful story about a child who faces her fears and makes friends with the Dark. They go on a wild nocturnal adventure together - but what happens to everyone else when the Dark has run away?

'I'm Dark,' said the voice. 'It's all right if you don't like me. Nobody does. Everyone is too afraid. Just close your eyes and by morning I'll be gone.'

Dark heaved a sigh.

One night, Lucy befriends the Dark and zooms away with it on an adventure to explore all the wonderful things that happen when the Dark is around. But back home, everyone else is discovering that they really do miss the Dark after all. Can Lucy and Dark be convinced to return?

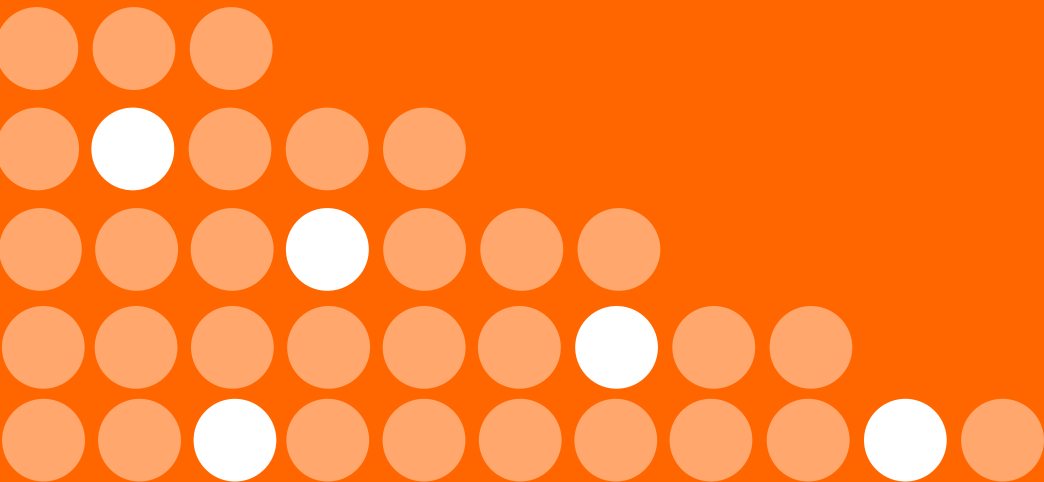
From the creators of My Elephant is Blue comes this gorgeous, funny story about why we should ALL make friends with the Dark.

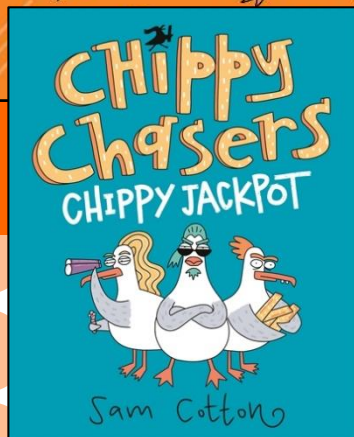
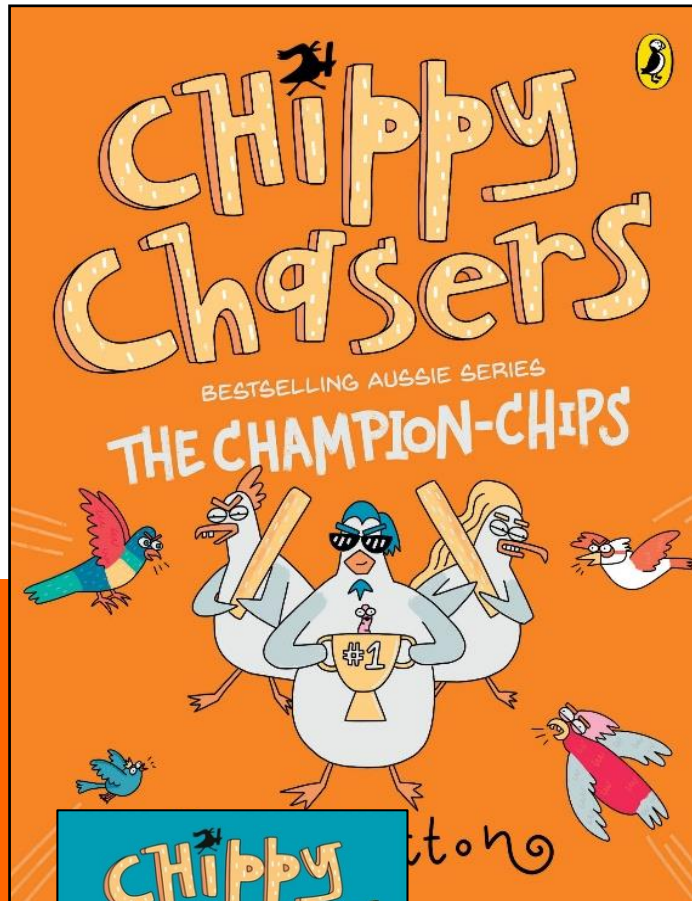


**Melinda Szymanik** writes picture books, short stories and novels for children and young adults. She has been a finalist for a number of awards, and five of her titles are Storylines Notable Books. Her picture book, *The Were-Nana*, won the New Zealand Post Children's Choice Award in 2009, and was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

Photo Credit: © Niki Hill © Melinda Szymanik

# JUNIOR FICTION





## Chippy Chasers: The Champion-Chips by Sam Cotton

- Will Stacey, Stanley and Steve-o overcome all odds and win The Champion-Chips? A hilarious graphic novel for readers aged 6+ from actor, animator and Tiktok sensation Sam Cotton.
- Funny illustrated graphic novels for young readers – fans of Real Pigeons and The Bad Guys will love the Chippy Chasers series.
- Inspired by Sam Cotton's chippy thief seagull from his AniMates posts on TikTok, which has enjoyed over 44 million likes (and counting) on that platform alone. He has 2.7 million followers on TikTok, and has launched a popular range of merchandise featuring his seagull and miner bird characters.

Every four years a gruelling tournament is held to find the best chippy chasers. The competition runs over several days, with a variety of events challenging every aspect of the contestant's chippy chasing skills.

Stacey, Stanley, Steve-o and Wormy will have to train hard to be any match for the kookaburras, the cockatoos or their rivals the rainbow lorikeets, the pretty popular ones that everyone likes! Thankfully they have a coach – Sharon the seagull. Can she whip them into shape and teach her daughter that being a seagull is cool? And for how long can Wormy get away with his seagull disguise?

\*World English Language Rights Only



**Sam Cotton** is an actor, writer, illustrator and animator. He was born in Nambour and grew up in Queensland. His acting credits include the lead character, Ben, in *Diary Of An Uber Driver*, Bruce in *Rosehaven*, Adam in *Mr Inbetween* and Chippy in *Bluey* season 3. Sam's animations are hugely popular and combine hand-drawn illustration with real-life footage. He has over 3 million followers on social media and his videos have accumulated over 44 million likes on TikTok alone. Sam loves birds and chips.  
Photo Credit: © Maddie Levins





# Ratbags: Naughty for Good

## by Tim Harris, Shiloh Gordon

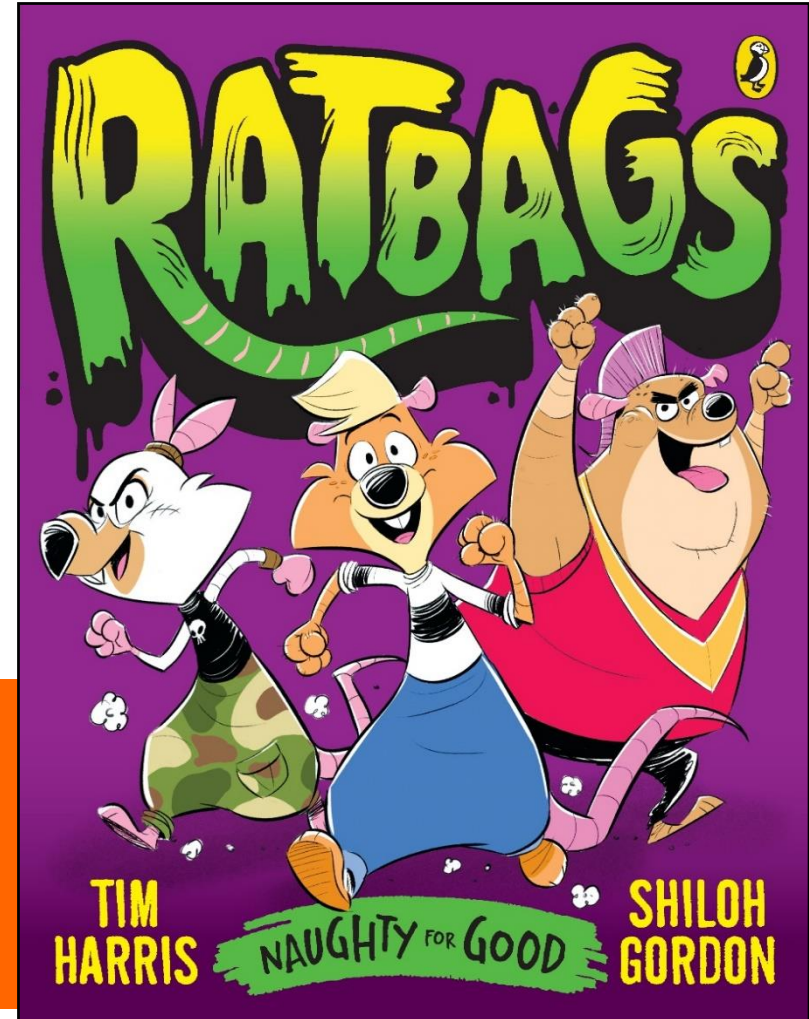
- From award-winning bestselling author and funnyman Tim Harris comes this stupendously rat-tastic new series. These are the Ratbags. They have pizza, and they are NOT afraid to use it.
- The Bad Guys meets Treehouse in this hilarious series about three rats and their misadventures.
- The illustrations and text work seamlessly together, so that the dialogue is typeset as it would be in a graphic novel, read 'with' each character. The narrative text is concise, allowing the illustrations to tell part of the story alongside and with the text.

Rats make MAYHEM. They cause CHAOS. They're RATBAGS.

Except Jigsaw.

Jigsaw never causes trouble . . . until a new pizza restaurant opens.

Will Jigsaw and his new friends become the biggest Ratbags of them all? Or will Jigsaw find a way to be naughty for good?



**Tim Harris** is the bestselling author of several laugh-out-loud series for kids, including Toffle Towers, Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables and Exploding Endings. A former primary school teacher of 15 years, Tim fills his stories with quirky scenarios, loveable characters and plenty of imagination. Tim's 'humour with heart' writing style has seen his books receive multiple awards. He has been published in Australia and the USA, and have been translated into numerous languages.  
Photo Credit: © Ryan Pernofski





Watch the Ratbags trailer at <https://youtu.be/y8Fgs2cMOAw>

ARTICLE



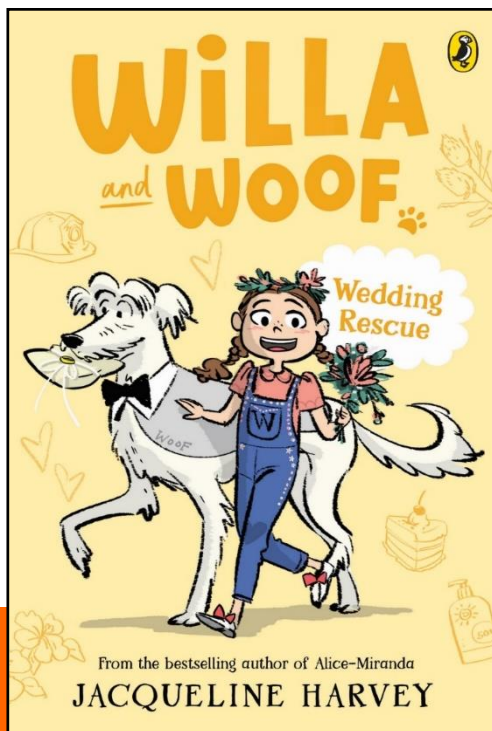
Ratbags is the fun new children's series you don't want to miss

ARTICLE



Quiz: Which Ratbags character are you?

Our huge marketing campaign includes TV advertising, trailer, and a quiz to find out which Ratbags character you are!



## Willa and Woof 4: Wedding Rescue by Jacqueline Harvey

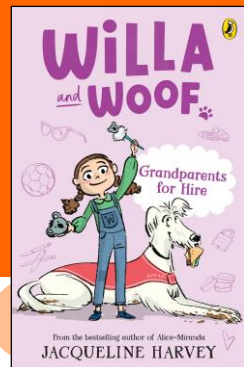
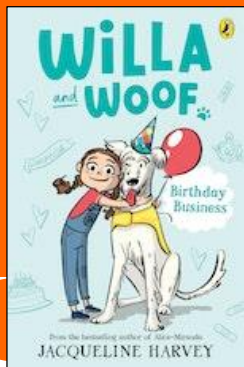
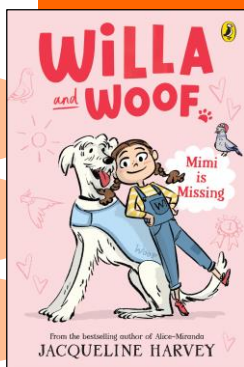
- The fourth book in Jacqueline Harvey's latest junior fiction series for young readers. Book 1 (*Mimi is Missing*) and 2 (*Birthday Business*) published in 2022, with book 5 and book 6 to follow later in 2023.
- The perfect step up from series such as Billie B. Brown and Lulu Bell.
- Jacqueline Harvey's books have sold well over 1.5 million copies in Australia and rights to her books have been sold to North America, United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, Hungary, Russia and Indonesia.

Summer has arrived and Willa's excited – it's time for Aunty Jane's wedding!

But December means it's bushfire season too and Willa's town is in danger. When a spot fire burns down the wedding venue, she has to jump into action to save the day.

She'll need to enlist the help of some of Sunset Views retirement village's most talented residents (along with Tae, her best same-age friend; her trusty sidekick Woof; and Frank, her best old-age friend) to pull everything together.

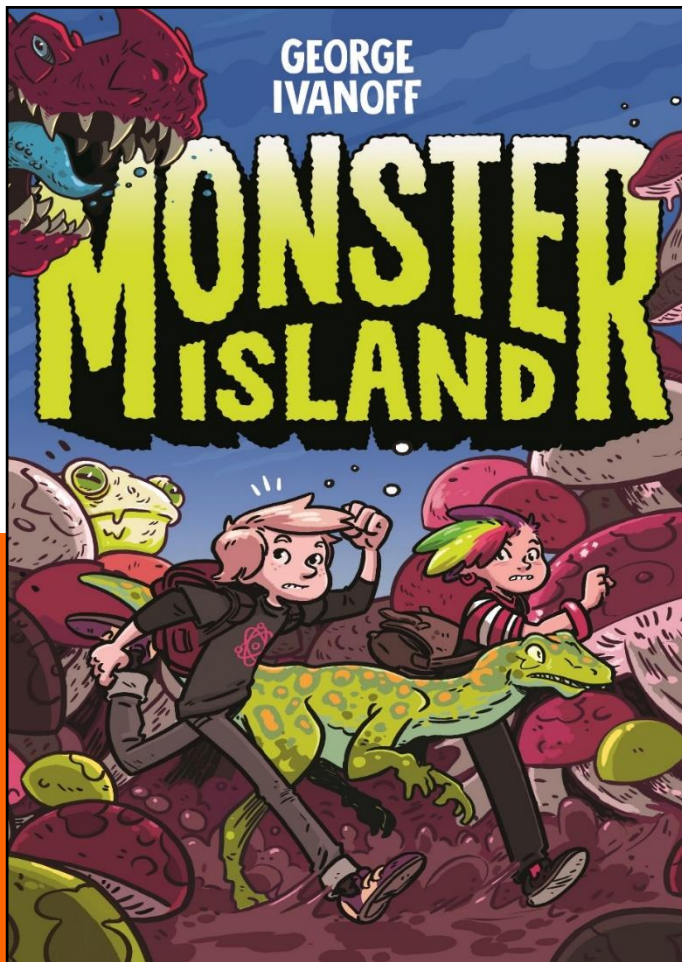
Can Willa find a way to rescue the wedding?



**Jacqueline Harvey** worked in schools for many years but has had a passion for storytelling since she was a child.

She is the author of the popular Alice-Miranda, Clementine Rose and Kensy and Max series, which have sold over one and a half million copies in Australia alone. Her books have received numerous shortlistings and awards while her picture book, *The Sound of the Sea*, was a CBCA Honour Book. Jacqueline speaks to thousands of young people at schools and festivals around the world, and says the characters in her books are often made up of the best bits of children she's met over the years.

Photo Credit: © Jenni Bradley



## Monster Island by George Ivanoff

- *Jurassic Park* meets *Stranger Things* in a story where the creatures are out of this world!
- The perfect adventure for readers aged 8 to 12 who love dinosaurs, monsters, mystery and action. Perfect for fans of the *Jurassic Park* and *Jumanji* franchises.
- Find out what happens when the worlds of dinosaurs and mythical creatures and modern science and poachers collide.

After following his mum to her top-secret new job, Bernie finds himself on a mysterious remote island inside the Bass Strait Triangle. The scientists working there call it Monster Island, and Bernie soon discovers why . . .

Here, extinct and mythical creatures are alive! But that's not the only mystery. Why are there so many mushrooms? Where have the hostile drones come from? Who controls them? And why are they spying on the island's creatures?

Bernie and his new friend Ivy are determined to find out.

An action-packed adventure where dinosaurs roam, secrets are dangerous and drop bears really do exist!



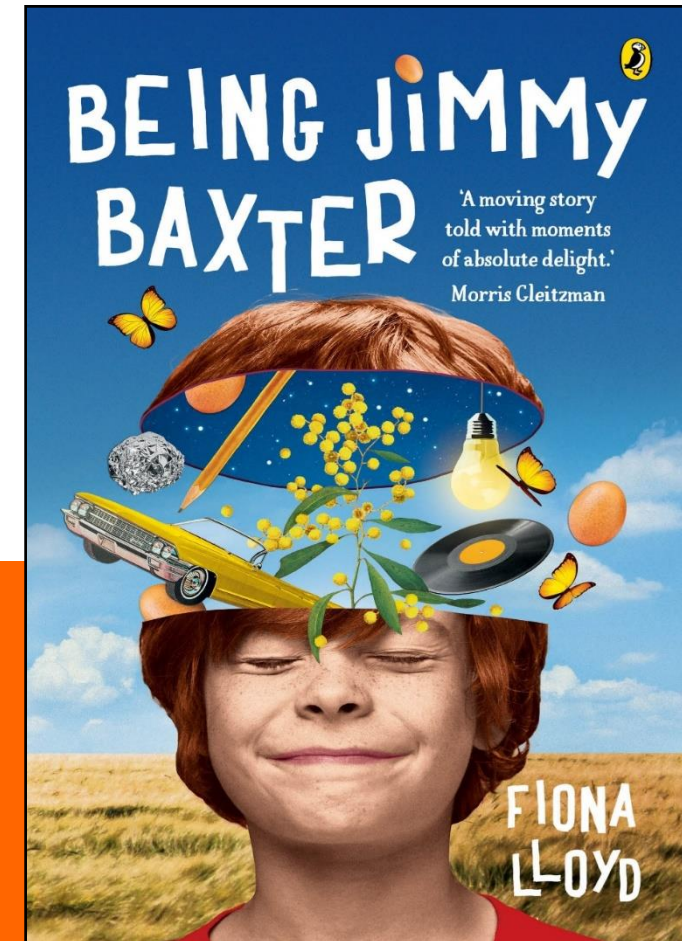
**George Ivanoff** is a Melbourne author who's written more than 100 books for kids and teens, including the interactive You Choose series, the non-fiction Survival Guides, the RFDS Adventures and the Other Worlds series. As a child, George loved reading interactive books, where he got to make decisions about the direction of the story. He has had more fun plotting and writing the You Choose books than pretty much anything else. Writing the Survival Guides has indulged his curiosity, interest in research and desire to learn new things. And writing the RFDS Adventures has opened his eyes to the amazing work done by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With Other Worlds George has ventured into the realms of science fiction and fantasy, two of his favourite genres, in order to tell stories about ordinary kids facing extraordinary circumstances.  
Photo Credit: © George Ivanoff



# Being Jimmy Baxter

## by Fiona Lloyd

- A gently funny yet powerful coming-of-age middle grade novel about surviving the odds, unlikely friendships and the magical music of Elvis.
- Jimmy is a character reminiscent in his warm naivety of Morris Gleitzman's Felix or Robert Newton at his heartwrenching best.
- An engagingly real first-person narrator for ages 10-14. *Being Jimmy Baxter* is highly relatable, addressing difficult themes such as grief, depression, domestic violence and loneliness using a subtle, humorous yet powerful approach.
- For readers who enjoy tales of the underdog, diverse friendships and movies like *Billy Elliott*.



It's not eggsactly easy being Jimmy Baxter 'cause:

- The real Jimmy's hiding inside
- Ned Kelly's giving him the evil eye
- Mum's stopped going to work and stays in bed
- There's no eggs in the fridge — or anything else.

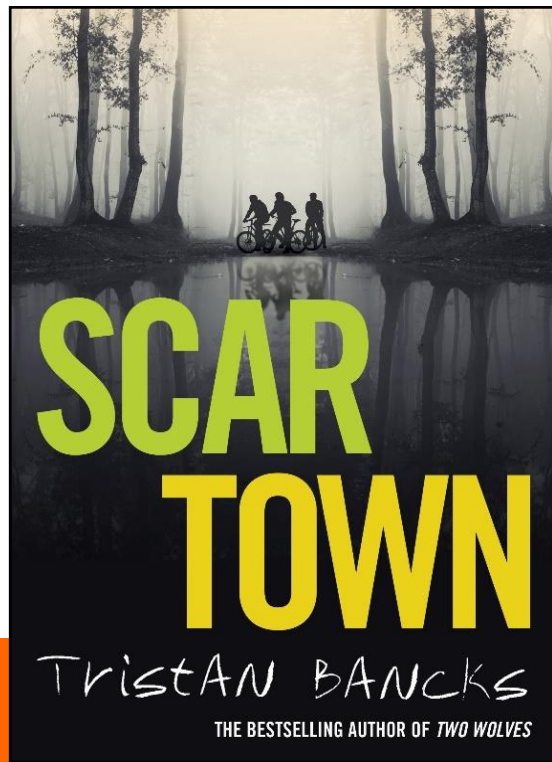
AND there's new jobs, bad-at-school brains and a whole lot of trouble called Duke.

But then . . . there's Mac.



**Fiona Lloyd** was born in the beautiful North-East of England near picturesque countryside, windswept beaches and the vibrant cultural city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. She dreamed of writing in a cosy country cottage and of life as a theatre actress but, as it often does, life got in the way. Working and travelling instead, Fiona floated in the Dead Sea, climbed the Sydney Harbour bridge, gave guided tours in Holland and fell in love with all things Greek during her two years in Athens and Skiathos. Her most special travel experience was in Myanmar where she visited the place where her Granny was born. Amongst her myriad of interesting jobs, Fiona worked as a television colourist on *Home & Away*, *This is Greece* and *Secrets of Britain's Great Cathedrals*.

Photo Credit: © Syl Marie Photography

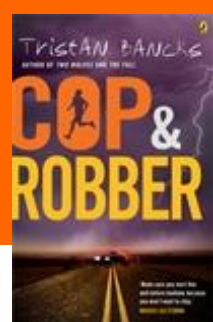
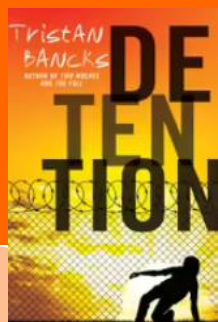


## Scar Town by Tristan Bancks

- A new fast-paced, action-packed nail-biter from the bestselling author of *Two Wolves* and *Cop & Robber*, for upper middle grade readers aged 11-14.
- Told with Tristan's hallmark spare, sharp writing that also deals with some deeper issues.
- Filmic and spectacular, this story is set in a small town simmering with secrets and generations-old feuds and betrayals.
- Tristan's upper middle grade books are bestsellers in Australia, with *Two Wolves* about to hit 100,000 copies sold, and 2022's *Cop & Robber* well over 10,000 sales!

Twelve-year-old Nate and his twin friends, Dar and Juno, find a safe full of money and human bones in an old house that's emerging from a rapidly receding man-made lake amid the worst drought in history. Their mission to identify the body reveals secrets that will rewrite the history of their town and the story of their lives.

Nate, Dar and Juno are forced on a dangerous journey to discover the truth in a town that wants the past to stay buried.



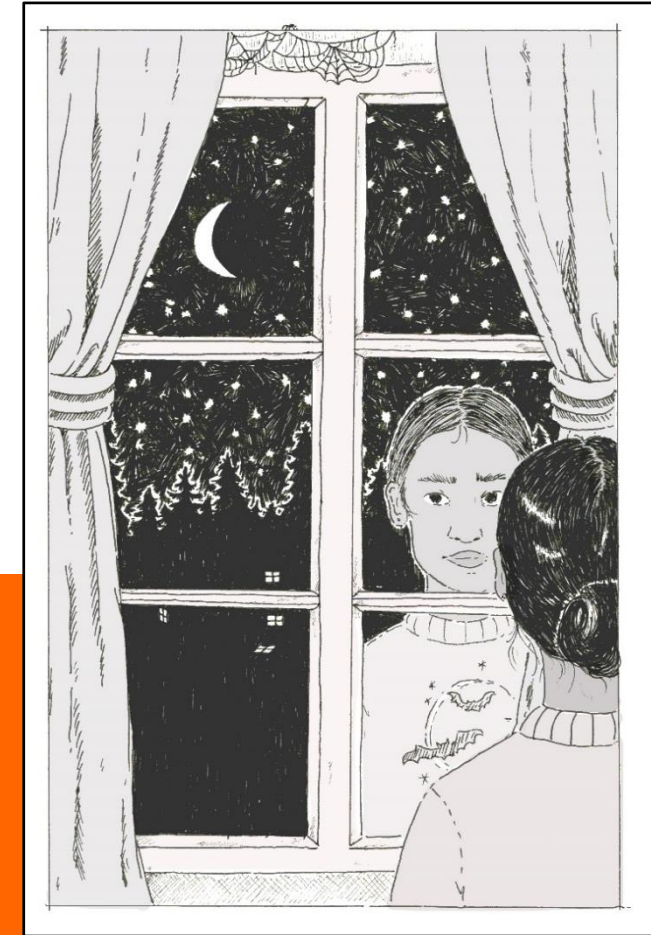
**Tristan Bancks** tells stories for the page and screen. His books for kids and teens include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention*, the Tom Weekly series, and *Nit Boy*. *Ginger Meggs*, Tristan's 100th anniversary book of short stories, is based on characters created by his great-great uncle, Jimmy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



# This Camp is Doomed: A Dennith Grange Misadventure

## by Anna Zobel

- The wry humour and mystery-solving of Friday Barnes meets the heartwarming friendships and magic of TikTok sensation *The House in the Cerulean Sea* in this spooky, madcap, hilarious school camp adventure!
- A fabulously funny story for readers aged 9 to 12 that crosses mystery, adventure, fantasy and graphic novel (illustrated by the author) and will have wide appeal.
- Like Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, this book is a celebration of good teachers and their bond with their students (and some very fun insights for kids into what their teachers are really thinking!).



SAMPLE INTERNAL ILLUSTRATION

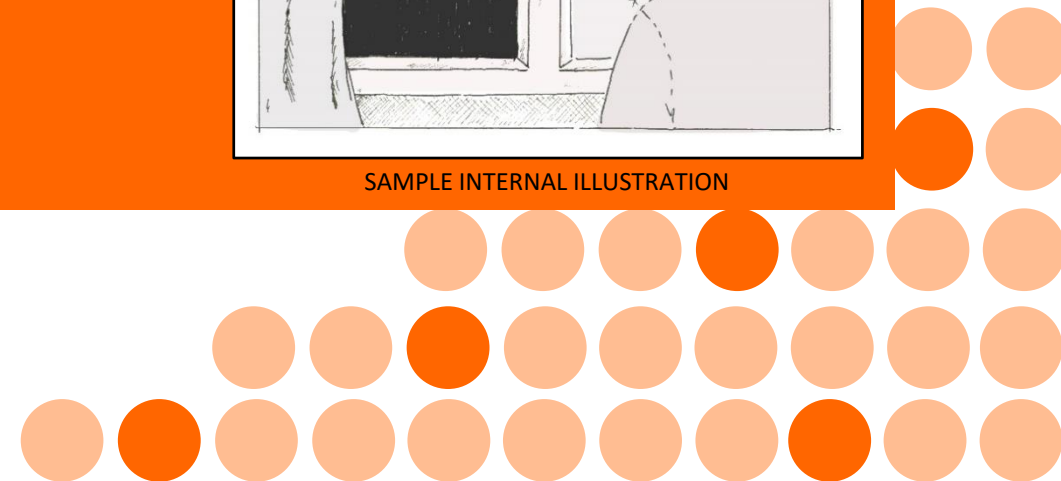
Each year the sixth graders at Dennith Grange go on a camp to mark the time when they are just beginning to come into their powers. Teacher Michael Berg has been reluctantly tasked with taking ten misfit students to the run-down and unpopular Camp Buttress.

As the week of weird activities and power mishaps progresses, relationships bloom and fracture, and a mystery reveals itself. Why have the camp leaders left their inexperienced teenage daughter Aleesia in charge? Why doesn't decrepit Grandma Daizie ever speak, and how come she keeps appearing in unexpected places? Who is the mysterious eleventh child in Michael's photo?

The students decide to take matters into their own hands to solve the mystery, and they embark on an adventure that leads them into the forest, where they discover the deep, dark secrets of Camp Buttress and the family who run it. Now they just need to survive to tell the tale . . .



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





# The 113th Assistant Librarian

## by Stuart Wilson

- If you liked *The Grandest Bookshop in the World* or *The Book of Wondrous Possibilities*, you'll love this fantasy adventure story where books have power, cats are more than they seem, and the library is the most dangerous place in the city . . .
- 'Cosy fantasy' is having a moment, and this fantasy adventure fits perfectly with the trend – found family, books, libraries, cats and mystery!
- A fun, action-packed and intriguing stand-alone adventure for ages 9+.
- Like Ranger's Apprentice, *The 113th Assistant Librarian* is an adventure story with deeper coming-of-age themes that all kids will relate to – how to live up to the high expectations you set for yourself, even when things don't go to plan; learning to stand up for yourself, and that you don't need to have big muscles to be a hero; and finding friendship where you didn't expect it.

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. Instead, he is selected to become the Assistant Librarian. Oliver resigns himself to an uneventful, studious life. But on his first day, Oliver learns that books hold great power, and many assistant librarians have met an untimely end. His mentor then promptly dies of a heart attack – just as he's about to tell Oliver more about the library's dangers.

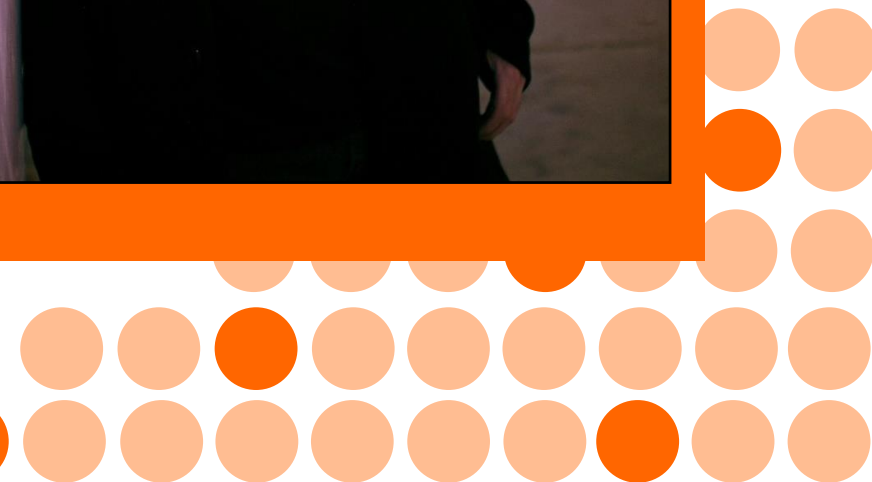
Oliver is left to navigate the library's hazards including razor-toothed bookworms, labyrinthine aisles and the sometimes-scary library patrons – and then there are the books, and the nine library cats, who hinder as often as they help.

When a woman is killed in the street outside, Oliver wonders if it's connected to the library and decides to investigate. Why do people keep dying around the library? Is it just a hazard of the job, or does someone have a motive for murder? And what do the library cats have to do with the mystery?

\*World English Language Rights Only



**Stuart Wilson** lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife and son. An omnivore when it comes to consuming stories, he reads too many books, watches too many films and plays too many videogames. Stuart is the author of the Prometheus High series.  
Photo Credit: © Caithlin Ferrier







## Ranger's Apprentice The Royal Ranger 7: The Valley of Sorato by John Flanagan

- The next book in the bestselling fantasy adventure series!
- Available in more than one hundred countries.
- Ranger's Apprentice and Brotherband adventure series have sold more than fifteen million copies worldwide.



Will, an orphan who becomes an apprentice to the mysterious protectors known as Rangers, strives to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe from invaders, traitors and other threats in this *New York Times* bestselling series for action and adventure lovers.



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



# Once Upon a Wickedness

## by Fleur Beale

- An exciting adventure novel for contemporary kids with a fairytale setting, a daring hero and message that you're never too young and powerless to stand up to tyrants!
- From the bestselling YA author Fleur Beale, this is an exciting fairytale for readers aged 7-12, especially fans of fantasy and magical realism.
- Features a superb young female hero who won't be told what to think, who has a strong sense of herself and her own strength, and who won't give up on putting things right.
- Set in a dystopian winterland where anyone who asks questions is Disappeared, the children have to survive on their own, and the only adults left in the village are cruel.
- Featuring black and white illustrations throughout, this novel is a beautiful and eye-catching package.

What happens when a group of school children, led by the resourceful ten-year-old Dance Violet, dare to ask those in power some hard questions? Find out in this magical novel by the bestselling Fleur Beale, stunningly illustrated by Lily Uivel.

Ten-year-old orphan Dance Violet might have had a short and troubled history, but it hasn't dampened her warrior spirit – not in the slightest. And that's a good thing, because something is rotten in her village, and no one else has the courage to try put things right.

People who ask questions disappear overnight and the village children are left to fend for themselves under the tyrannical schoolteachers Murk and Misselthwaite. There are whispers that a beautiful but wicked woman, 'the golden-haired hellion', appeared at a wedding ten years ago and was the start of all the trouble.

Dance has some gifts that she's only just beginning to discover, and while she knows it's dangerous to ask questions, she is determined to find this golden-haired hellion – even if it means getting Disappeared.

And when Dance finds her, the golden-haired hellion had better look out.



DRAFT COVER



**Fleur Beale** is the author of many award-winning books for children and young adults — more than 40 books published in New Zealand, the United States and England. She is the only writer to have twice won the Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Much-Loved Book: with *Slide the Corner* in 2007 and *I Am Not Esther* in 2009. She won the Esther Glen Award for distinguished contribution to children's literature for *Juno of Tavis* in the 2009 LIANZA Children's Book Awards. *Fierce September* won the YA category in the 2011 NZ Post Children's Book Awards and the LIANZA Young Adult Award in 2011. In 2012 she won the Margaret Mahy Medal for her outstanding contribution to children's writing and in 2015 she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. A former high-school teacher, she lives in Wellington.

Photo Credit: © RHNZ



# Hamlet is Not OK

## by R.A. Spratt

- *Hamlet* reimagined through the eyes of a no-nonsense sixteen-year-old.
- R.A. Spratt's podcast, *Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt*, has over 1.25 million downloads and often peaks at 2nd place on the Apple Podcast 'Stories for Kids' chart.
- The classic tragedy reimagined for a contemporary audience. With biting satire and sharp dialogue, *Hamlet is Not OK* reflects on complex problems with wit, irreverence and sensitivity.
- From the bestselling author of *Friday Barnes*, *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins* and *The Peski Kids* series!



Selby hates homework. She would rather watch daytime television – anything to escape the tedium of school, her parents' bookshop and small-town busybodies.

So Selby didn't plan to read *Hamlet*. She certainly never planned to meet him.

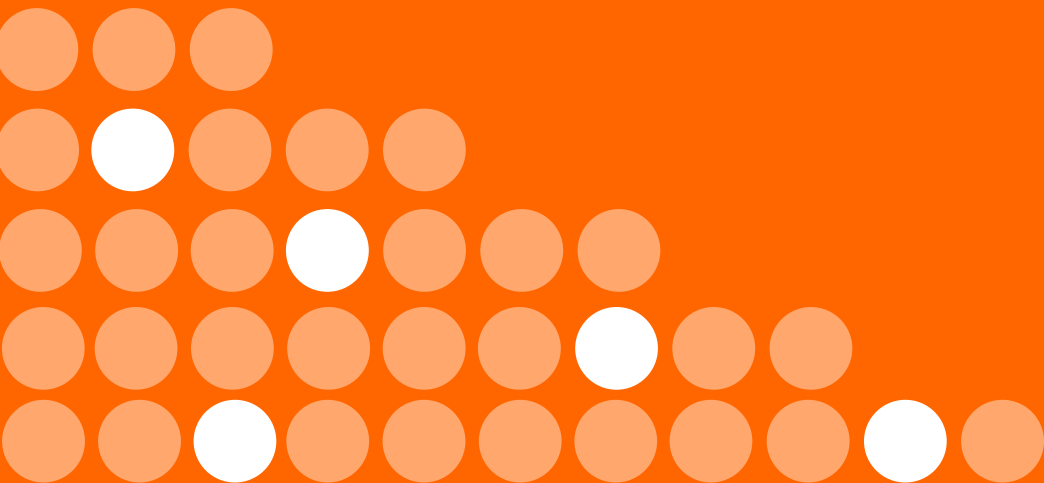
This novel transports Selby, and the reader, into the cold and crime-ridden play itself. Here she meets Hamlet: heavy with grief, the young prince is overthinking and over everything. Selby can relate. But unlike Hamlet, Selby isn't afraid of making decisions. In her world, Selby is used to feeling overlooked. But in the bloody, backstabbing world of Shakespeare, Selby's good conscience and quiet courage might just save some lives . . . hopefully before Hamlet stabs one of her classmates.



**R.A. Spratt** was born in the UK. Her family comes from Dursley, Gloucestershire. A town immortalised by J.K. Rowling when she gave the surname 'Dursley' to Harry Potter's deeply unpleasant relatives. Like many ambitious English people cursed with regional accents so strong no other British person can take them seriously, R.A. Spratt's parents emigrated to Australia when she was just two years old. The tedium of growing up in the western suburbs of Sydney was fertilizer to the growth of R.A.'s imagination. There was no internet, no colour TV (at least not in their house), no computer games and six months of the year it was too hot to play outside. The only thing for a kid to do was get on a bicycle and go to the library. R.A. Spratt did just that. At the library she read everything. She devoured books and audiotapes like the Kracken devours hapless sailors. And so, her young mind was formed, and set on the path of becoming the very strange author she is today.  
Photo Credit: © Ashley Mackevicius



# YOUNG ADULT





## Archives of Despair by Caleb Finn

- From TikTok sensation Caleb Finn comes this creepy, unputdownable collection of short stories for ages 13+ that will make even the bravest horror fans squirm.
- Caleb Finn is one of Australia's most influential social media superstars, with 15M TikTok fans. With slick production and a dark sense of humour, his mini horror series and sketches on young family life (his partner is another TikTok star, Lil Soup) have catapulted him to icon status for Gen Z.
- It's got mystery, action, twists and turns and that shock factor. And while they're short stories, there is an overarching meta-arc that weaves the narrative together.
- This ground-breaking collection of short stories is perfect for fans of creepypastas, ARGs and Slenderman.
- Reader discretion is advised: this is not for the faint-hearted!

Disturbing things are happening. There is a string of deaths, seemingly unrelated. Mannequins are coming alive, technology is being manipulated and people behaving oddly. Are these separate events or is it all connected . . . ?

Featuring nightmarish tales about sinister otherworlds, paranormal creatures, alternate realities and body horror, Caleb Finn takes readers on an unsettling journey into a world of distortion and terror.



Melbourne-based school teacher to online influencer **Caleb Finn** is one of Australia's biggest TikTokers, with over 15.6M followers and an equally impressive following of 808K on IG. Caleb loves flexing his creative muscle through his high-quality cinematic content, sharing his interest in film with a hint of dark comedy. *Archives of Despair* is his first novel.

Photo Credit: © Caleb Finn



# The Spider and Her Demons

## by sydney khoo

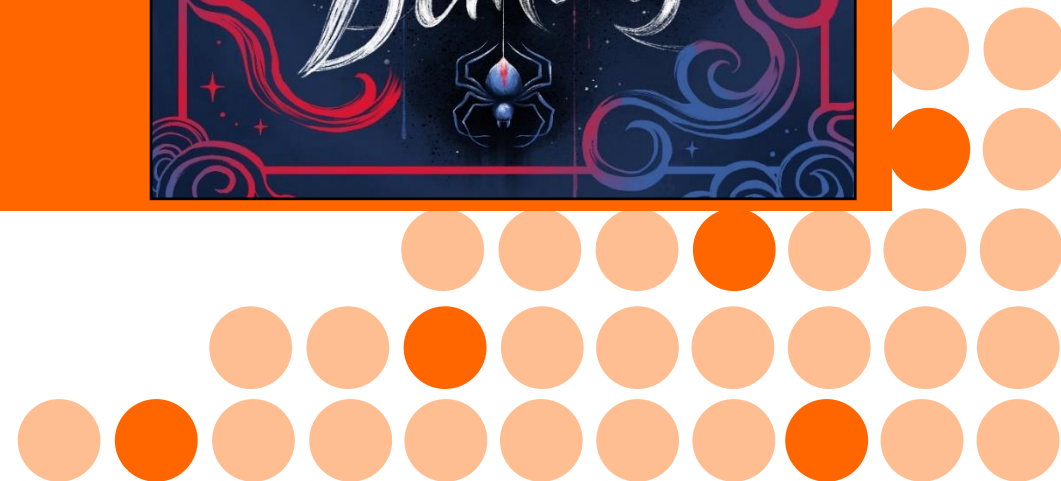
- Between Chinatown and the glittering lights of the harbour prowl demons and witches – hiding in plain sight, wielding powers beyond imagining.
- Moving and funny by turns, this is a story about what it take to make peace with your demons – literal or otherwise. An urban fantasy take on growing up feeling pressure to make others proud, even if means betraying your true self, feeling like your authentic self is trapped inside your body, and being a second-generation immigrant, struggling to find a sense of belonging.
- Articulate young debut author sydney knoo brings horror and dark fantasy to the subjects of school and teen friendships and concerns, a family story that explores intergenerational trauma, and the experience of your authentic self and your place in the world not being a match.

After waiting tables at the dumpling shop and dealing with her aunt's big expectations, Zhi just wants to find time for her friends, get through high school . . . and make sure no one finds out she's half spider demon. But then she accidentally kills and eats a man in front of Dior Panne-Nix, the most popular girl in school . . .

And she's about to find out she's not the scariest thing hiding in the shadows.



**sydney khoo** (they/them) is a nonbinary and aromantic asexual writer, born on Dharawal Country (South Western Sydney), to Malaysian Chinese parents. They have a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Masters in Creative Writing. Having worked at an eclectic mix of places, including a suicide prevention centre, tattoo parlour, publishing house, and medical clinic, sydney has found working in made-up worlds to be most fulfilling. Though typically drinking bubble tea in Cabramatta, or reading fanfiction in a McDonald's carpark, they can occasionally be found writing poetry and stories at cafés with their dog Gizmo. Photo Credit: © Kin-Mun Khoo





## Time's Raven by Eileen Merriman

- Book 2 of the gritty, fast-paced, thought-provoking Eternity Loop series.
- The first book in this series, *Indigo Moon*, received rave reviews.
- Rights Sold Previous Titles: Black Spiral Trilogy – Film Option (South Pacific Pictures), Audio (W F Howes), *A Trio of Sophies* – Germany (Oetinger), *Pieces of You* – Turkey (Indigo Kitap).

Can you escape an eternal loop?

What's done cannot be undone. Don't forget.

Having broken the rules against time travel, Indigo is in trouble with everyone, but at least the problem of Billy Raven has been solved – hasn't it? Indigo isn't totally sure. She's not sure about a lot of things: whether Rigel will choose her over Brie, where Andromeda comes from and what the mysterious Eternity Loop is.

She will find out soon enough. It is only a matter of time.



Eileen Merriman's first young adult novel, *Pieces of You*, was published in 2017, and was a finalist in the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults and a Storylines Notable Book. Since then, she has published another nine novels for adults and young adults and received huge critical praise, with one reviewer saying: 'Merriman is an instinctive storyteller with an innate sense of timing.' Editions of some of her young adult novels have been released in Germany, Turkey and the UK and three have been optioned for film or TV, including the Black Spiral Trilogy. Her other awards include runner-up in the 2018 *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Award and third in the same award for three consecutive years previously.  
Photo Credit: © Colleen Lenihan



# Catch a Falling Star

## by Eileen Merriman

- The compelling prequel to *Catch Me When You Fall*.
- A compelling love story (with an unhappy ending), but a positive coming to terms with relationship woes.
- A brave, sensitive tackling of bipolar and suicidal thoughts, giving young readers a deeper understanding of mental health issues.
- The text has been vetted by two different psychiatrists who work with young people – both of them approved of the novel and thought it ‘very good indeed’.

A fifteen-year-old reaches for stardom as he slides into psychosis.

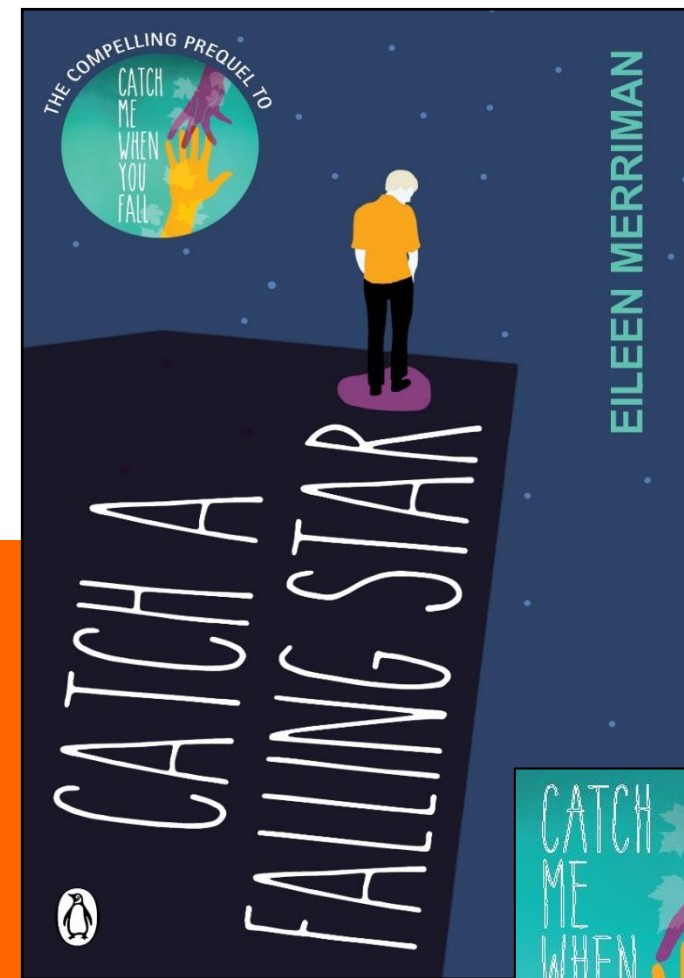
Francesca – known to everyone as Frankie – has scored the part of Princess Fiona in the forthcoming musical production. Even though Jamie Orange has missed out on the part of Shrek, he’s happy:

*The day I found out I was a donkey was one of the best days of my life.*

He may not be Frankie’s leading man on stage, but he can still try to win her heart. However, all is not well with Jamie. He can’t sleep, he can’t stop his thoughts:

*My brain was still wired, racing around in circles or spirals or – gah, it was driving me crazy. If only there was a magic switch so I could turn it off.*

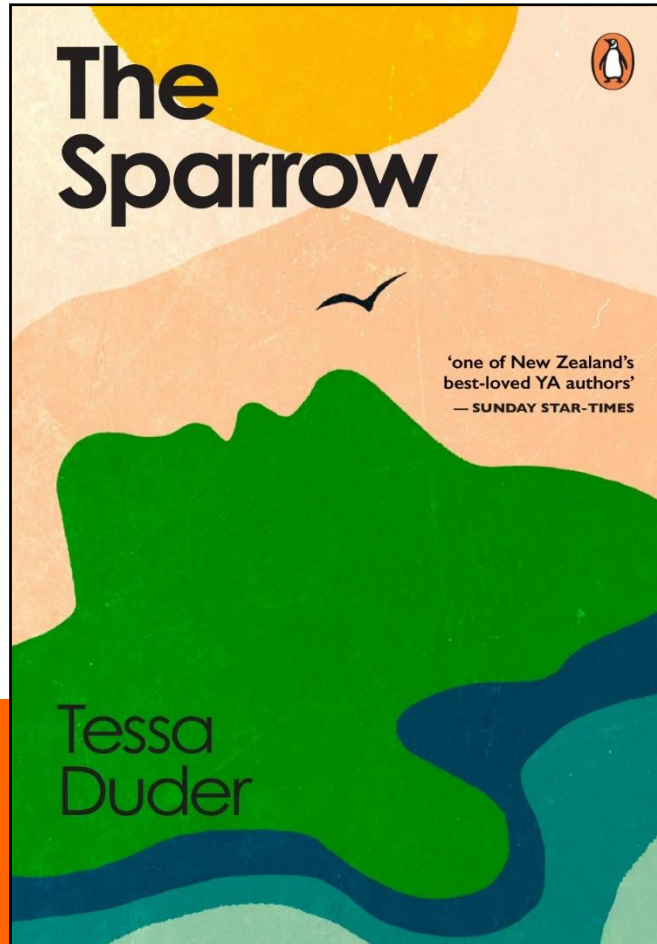
Bouncing between exultant highs and terrible lows, what will happen when this rising star starts to fall?



Eileen Merriman's first young adult novel, *Pieces of You*, was published in 2017, and was a finalist in the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults and a Storylines Notable Book. Since then, she has published another nine novels for adults and young adults and received huge critical praise, with one reviewer saying: 'Merriman is an instinctive storyteller with an innate sense of timing.' Editions of some of her young adult novels have been released in Germany, Turkey and the UK and three have been optioned for film or TV, including the Black Spiral Trilogy. Her other awards include runner-up in the 2018 *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Award and third in the same award for three consecutive years previously.

Photo Credit: © Colleen Lenihan





## The Sparrow by Tessa Duder

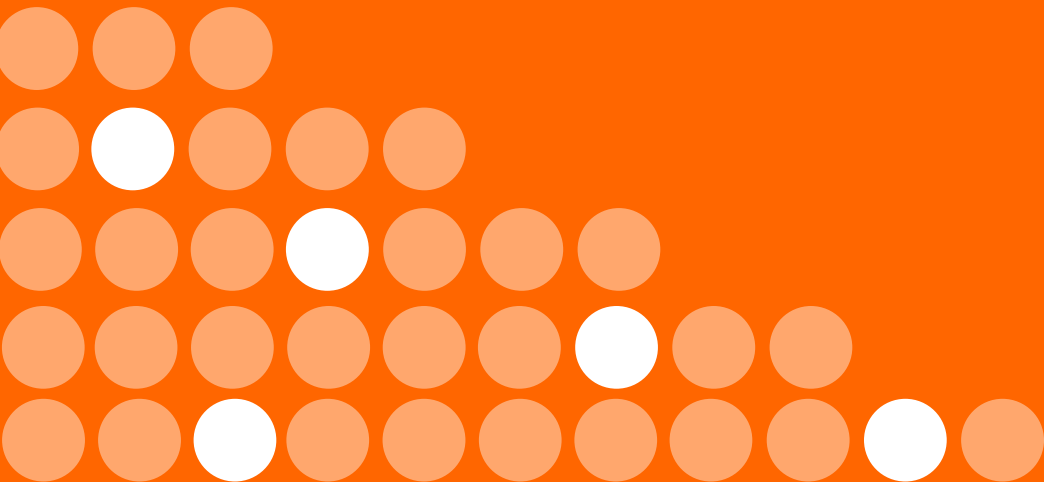
- A powerful new historical novel from one of New Zealand's best-loved YA authors.
- An exciting new novel from the author of *Alex*.
- Seen through the eyes of a 13-year-old English girl (an escaped convict) and set in the first eight months of Auckland's establishment as the capital of the new colony of New Zealand, from September 1840 to April 1841.
- A strong female protagonist, convicts, a prison escape, disguise as a boy, working on a ship, living among new settlers in tents on the beach, help from local Māori, fires, shortages and deaths, the early days of founding a capital, selling off land, class and discord.

**In September 1840, two ships arrive on the shores of the Waitemata harbour to establish Auckland, the new capital of New Zealand. Among the settlers on board the Platina is young Harry, travelling alone and determined to return to family in England. But finding food and shelter is a more immediate challenge. As is hiding the truth about Harry's real identity and what has been left behind in Van Diemen's Land.**



**Tessa Duder** trained as a journalist and has published more than forty works of fiction, non-fiction and anthologies for both children and adults. Her debut novel *Night Race to Kawau* (1982), recently re-issued in a 40th anniversary edition, was followed by the classic young adult novel *Alex* (1987) published in five languages and adapted for a 1993 movie. Her awards include a number of children's fiction prizes, the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal, the Katherine Mansfield Fellowship to Menton, an Artists to Antarctica award, the OBE and in 2021 the CNZM. She holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Waikato and won the 2020 Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement (Fiction) She serves on the board of the Storylines Children's Literature Trust of New Zealand Te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa and was for twenty years a Trustee of the Spirit of Adventure Trust.  
Photo Credit: © Tessa Duder

# COMING IN 2024: SNEAK PEEK





**The Kindness Project**  
**PUB DATE: 01/03/2024**  
**Deborah Abela**

A heartwarming verse novel from a beloved Australian children's author, for ages 8 to 12. Accessible and easy to read, full of empathy and emotion, primary-age readers will be immersed in the world of Nicolette and her friends.

*He smiles,  
but not like he's laughing at me,  
more like we've known each other  
for a long time  
much more than  
two strangers  
forced to sit next to each other.  
And it's nice.*



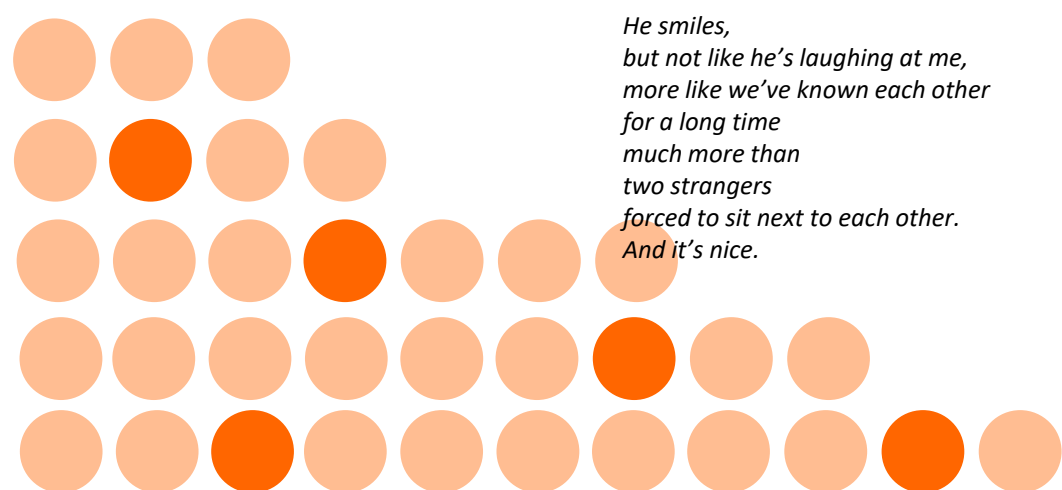
**Kevin the Sheep**  
**PUB DATE: 02/02/2024**  
**Jacqueline Harvey, Kate Isobel Scott**

A hilarious new picture book series featuring Kevin the Sheep and his escapades, from bestselling author Jacqueline Harvey and up-and-coming illustrator Kate Isobel Scott.

*The rest of the flock seem happy enough,  
Running around, doing lots of sheep stuff.*

*Like munching on green grass and fields full of clover,  
Just doing the same things over and over.*

*But Kev is allergic, he breaks out in hives  
He'd rather eat soup with a sprinkle of chives*





**Ada Nicodemou junior series**  
**PUB DATE: 01/04/2024 (book 1)**  
**Ada Nicodemou**

A contemporary junior fiction series about family, friendship and fun from one of Australia's best-known actors.



**Listen, Hippo!**  
**PUB DATE: 5/01/2024**  
**Gabriel Evans**

Another beautiful picture book from rising star author-illustrator Gabriel Evans.

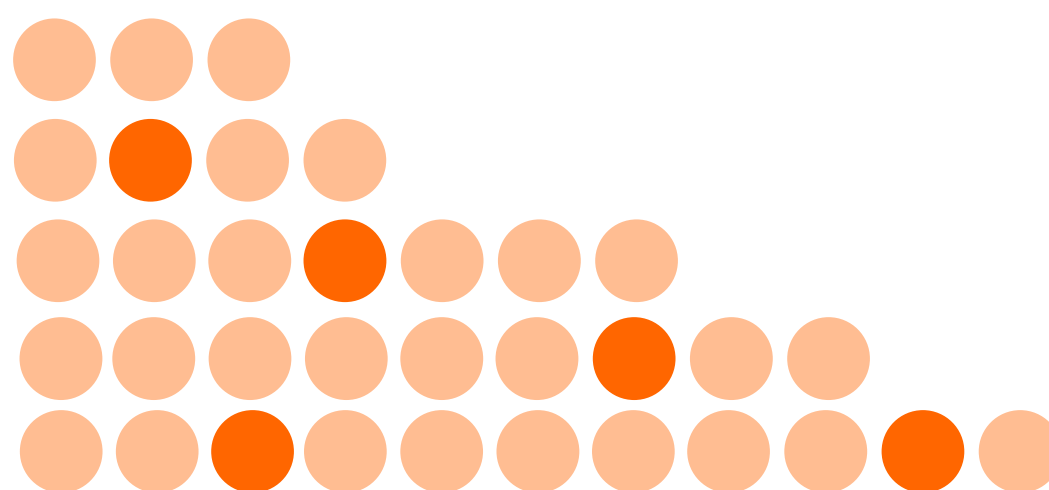


**The Daredevil Princess series**  
**PUB DATE: 01/03/2024 (book 1)**  
**Belinda Murrell**

A royally fun junior fiction series filled with magic, adventure and daring . . . and a very grumpy unicorn.

Princess Tillie is brave and bold, clever and curious, daring and very determined. Which is just as well because there is trouble in the Queendom of Blumenfeld. A sneaky thief has been stealing the royal roses. The Summer Harvest Festival will be a disaster! Queen Cordelia is determined the thief must be punished. Princess Tillie sets out to trap the thief and solve the mystery, with the help of King Edwin's latest crazy invention. But a sassy, golden unicorn called Honey Blossom turns everything upside down. Can Princess Tillie and Honey Blossom save the day?

Four books publishing in 2024, with blackline illustrations throughout!



Thank You

