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agency

children's
rights guide
2024

CBCA 2024 Notables

Book of the year: Older readers

Borderland (Graham Akhurst, UWAP)

Inkflower (Suzy Zail, Walker Books)

Stuck Up & Stupid (Angourie Rice & Kate Rice, Walker Books)

Book of the year: Younger readers

Harriet Hound (Kate Foster, illus by Sophie Beer, Walker Books)

The Mud Puddlers (Pamela Rushby, Walker Books)

Pearly and Pig and the Lost City of Mu Savan (Sue Whiting, illus by Rebecca Crane, Walker Books)

Scout and the Rescue Dogs (Dianne Wolfer, illus by Tony Flowers, Walker Books)

So That Happened... But Maybe You Already Knew That (Tami Sussman, Walker Books)

Sunshine on Vinegar Street (Karen Comer, A&U)

The Unlikely Heroes Club (Kate Foster, Walker Books)

Book of the year: Early childhood

Gymnastica Fantastica! (Briony Stewart, Lothian)

The Concrete Garden (Bob Graham, Walker Books)

Run Pups Run (Kerri Day, illus by Nicky Johnston, Windy Hollow)

The Wheelbarrow Express (Sue Whiting, illus by Cate James, Walker Books)

Picture book of the year

The Concrete Garden (Bob Graham, Walker Books)

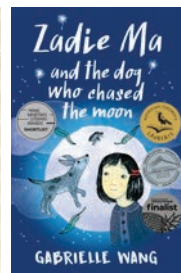
Desert Jungle (Jeannie Baker, Walker Books)

Mizuto and the Wind (Luisa Gioffre-Suzuki, written by Kaye Baillie, MidnightSun)

Paper-flower Girl (Mateja Jager, written by Margrete Lamond, WestWords)

Raised by Moths (Michelle Conn, written by Charlie Archbold, MidnightSun)

Satin (Lorena Carrington, written by Sophie Masson, MidnightSun)



Eve Pownall Award

Eat My Dust! (Neridah McMullin, illus by Lucia Masciullo, Walker Books)

Our Country: Where history happened (Mark Greenwood, illus by Frané Lessac, Walker Books)

The Indie Book Awards 2024 shortlist Young adult

Saltwater Boy (Bradley Christmas, Walker Books)

Stuck Up & Stupid (Angourie Rice & Kate Rice, Walker Books).

DANZ (Diversity in Australia and New Zealand) Children's Book Awards, 2024 – Longlist Middle grade

Xavier in the Meantime (Kate Gordon, Riveted Press)

So That Happened . . . But Maybe You Already Knew That (Tami Sussman, Walker Books)

Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon (Gabrielle Wang, Puffin)

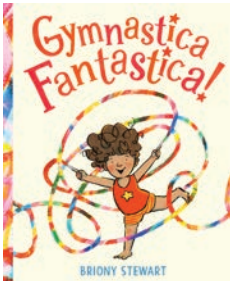
Indigo in the Storm (Kate Gordon, Riveted Press)

Prime Minister's Literary Awards 2023 – Shortlist Children's

Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon (Gabrielle Wang, Puffin)

State Library of Queensland's, Children's Book Award 2023 – Shortlist

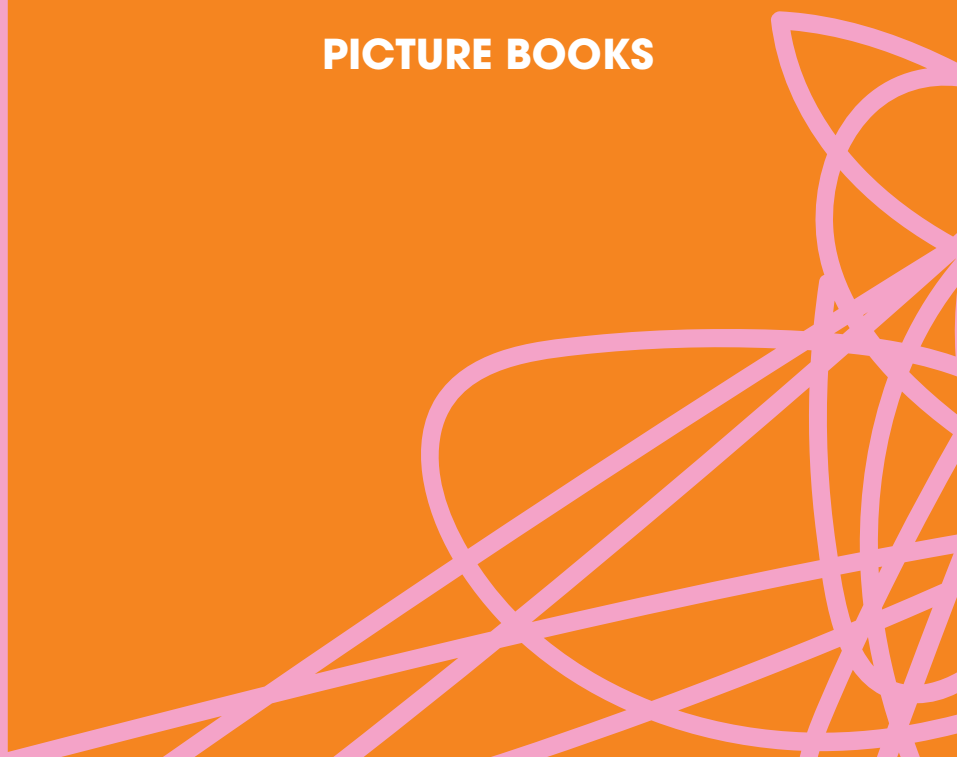
Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon (Gabrielle Wang, Puffin)





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Teen and
Young
Adult

Stuck Up and Stupid

ANGOURIE RICE &
KATE RICE



A modern reimagining of *Pride and Prejudice* full of swoon-worthy romance, sharp and witty humour and Hollywood glamour.

The quiet coastal community of Pippi Beach, Australia, is rocked when a party of young Hollywood movie stars and influencers arrives for the summer.

While most of the locals are thrilled, Lily finds the Hollywood types superficial and arrogant – especially Dorian Khan, the most famous of them all. Lily's opinion is confirmed by handsome backpacker Alex, who has quite the story about Dorian's past.

On a holiday to Los Angeles, Lily stays with family friend Wilson, an ambitious player who introduces her to powerful movie producer Stacy Black. Lily is in turns amused and appalled by the excesses of the movie business, and more than a little surprised when Dorian Khan seeks her out.

Could they actually become friends? And what's more, has she been what she hopes never to be ... stupid?

PUB DATE: November 2023

PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: North America
(Candlewick); United Kingdom
(Walker Books)

ANGOURIE RICE is an actor with international feature film and television credits, including *The Last He Thing He Told Me*, *Mean Girls* and *Mare of Easttown*. Angourie also writes, produces and hosts a literary podcast, *The Community Library*. KATE RICE is an AWGIE award-winning playwright. Her work has been commissioned by Melbourne City of Literature, Deckchair Theatre and Barking Gecko Theatre.

SUN-SOAKED AUSTRALIA MEETS LA ROMANCE FROM A MOTHER-AND-DAUGHTER WRITING DUO AND A RISING STAR OF HOLLYWOOD

Between Us Girls

MARGOT MCGOVERN

COVER ART
TO COME

Edgy and subversive, this dark YA novel combines late 90's slasher vibes with the elevated themes of prestige horror

Shelley dreads the upcoming school camp. Always the outsider, being the new girl amplifies her unease. But when séances and ghostly tales unfold at the camp, her buried past resurfaces, haunting her.

Mack anticipates awkward days ahead.

After an unexpected kiss with her best friend, Raffi, the two girls aren't speaking.

Priya, on the other hand, eagerly awaits camp's first night when she plans to take the next step with her boyfriend.

Yet, when Raffi orchestrates a séance, invoking the spirit of Smiling Jack with theatrical flair, events take a chilling twist. Mysterious noises, shadowy figures, and flowers left on pillowcases unravel the girls' reality. Is a ghost truly haunting them, or is something more sinister at play? Or is one of their own entangled in the web of secrets?

PUB DATE: September 2024

PUBLISHER: Penguin Random House Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

MARGOT MCGOVERN

is a YA and horror author based in Adelaide, South Australia. Margot's debut YA novel, *Neverland*, was short-listed for the Text Prize and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. *Between Us Girls* is her second novel.

FOR FANS OF ELLIE MARNEY, VIKKI WAKEFIELD, LILI WILKINSON, AND SARAH EPSTEIN, AS WELL AS ENTHUSIASTS OF *YELLOWJACKETS*, *GARRIE*, AND META-HORROR LIKE THE *SCREAM* FRANCHISE AND STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES' CHAINSAW TRILOGY.

How to be Normal

ANGE CRAWFORD

COVER ART
TO COME

Winner of the inaugural Walker Books
Manuscript Prize, a moving story
about breaking free and finding
your place in the world

Astrid is about to start her last year at school.
And her first.

Astrid's dad has lost his job and her mum now
has to work, which means Astrid will no longer
be home schooled. She's been used to walking on
eggshells in a tightly controlled, contracted world
where there's been no room for anything except
following rules and keeping her head down.

Now she has to find her place,
and find out who she really is.

PUB DATE: March 2025

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

ANGE CRAWFORD is a queer
writer and editor with a Bachelor of
Social Science and a Master of Arts
in Writing. She has published digital
poetry, reviews, fiction and feature
articles, and contributed volunteer
editorial work for *Asymptote* and the
Lifted Brow. This is her debut novel.

BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN, ENGAGING, ACCESSIBLE AND TIMELY.
EXPLORES COERCIVE CONTROL, CHALLENGING FAMILY DYNAMICS,
LGBTIQA+ ISSUES

A Way Home

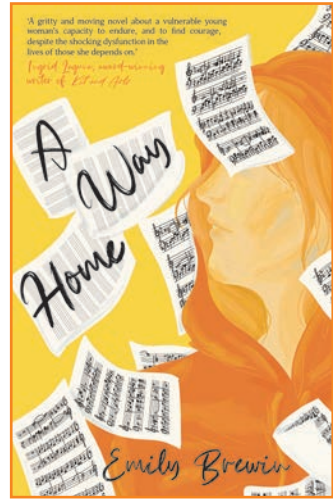
EMILY BREWIN

'A riveting story of resilience and hope against the odds, both insightful and heartbreakingly real' Mark Smith, award-winning author of the *Winter Trilogy*

Seventeen-year-old Grace is living under a bridge. It's cold and wet but safe. Safe, at least, until she can go home. When bad weather drives her to the city library one morning, Grace discovers a community piano. The piano reminds Grace of her mother, who was once a celebrated pianist.

When Grace comes up with a plan to find the help she and her mother need to get home, things don't work out quite as she imagined.

'A Way Home is about loneliness, despair and what it is like not knowing where your next meal will come from. But it is also a profoundly hopeful book, about the joys of unexpected kindness and unusual friendships.' **Publisher Anna Solding**



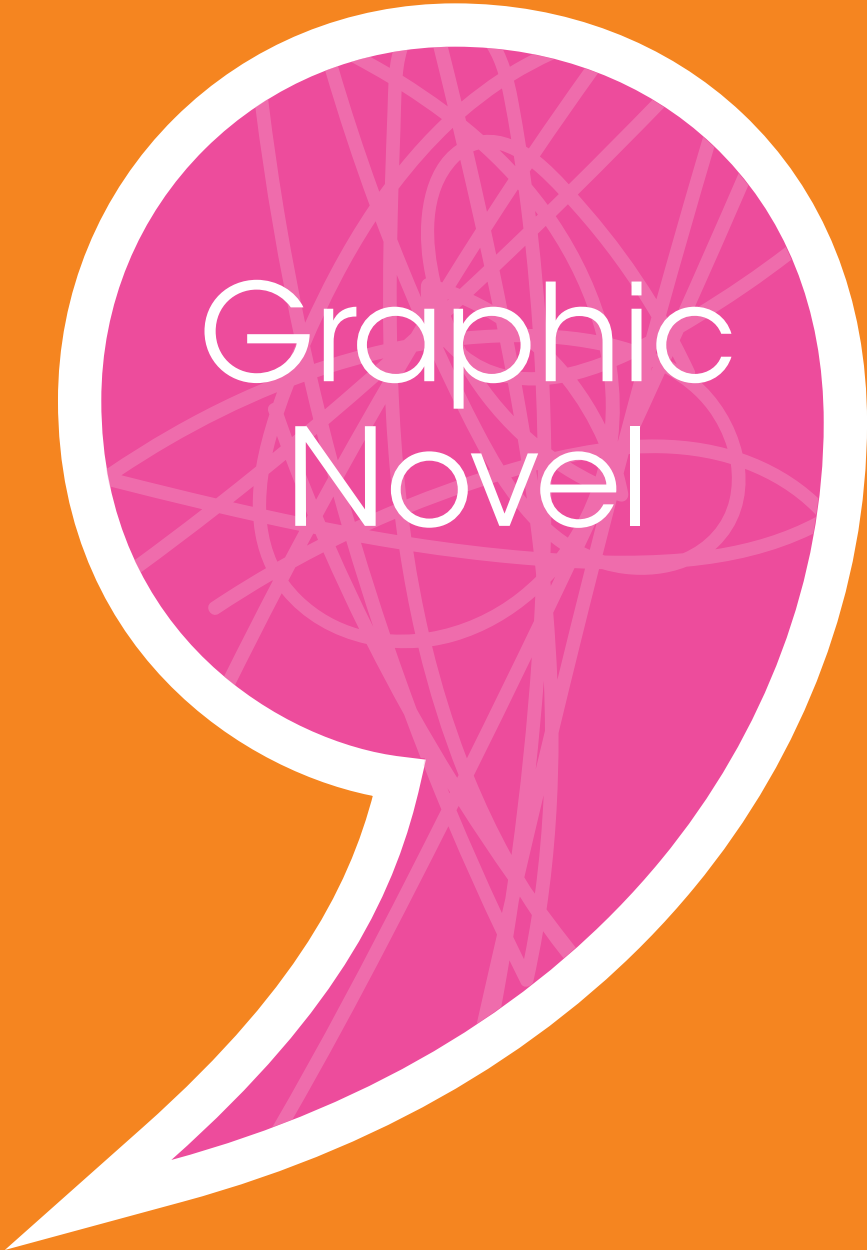
PUB DATE: April 2024

PUBLISHER: MidnightSun Publishing

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

EMILY BREWIN is the author of two adult novels, *Hello, Goodbye* and *Small Blessings*. She was awarded an Australian Society of Authors Emerging Writers' and Illustrators' Mentorship and was shortlisted for Hachette Australia's Manuscript Development Program and Varuna's Publisher Introduction Program. This is her first book for young adult readers.

'A GRITTY AND MOVING NOVEL ABOUT A VULNERABLE YOUNG WOMAN'S CAPACITY TO ENDURE, AND TO FIND COURAGE, DESPITE THE SHOCKING DYSFUNCTION IN THE LIVES OF THOSE SHE DEPENDS ON.' INGRID LAGUNA, AWARD-WINNING WRITER OF *KIT AND ARLO*



Graphic Novel

Hover Car Racer

MATTHEW REILLY &
JOHN HANNA

COVER ART
TO COME

Matthew Reilly's page-turning, speed-defying, bestselling YA novel brilliantly realised as a graphic novel – the perfect form for this adrenaline-fuelled, action-packed story!

Meet Jason Chaser, hover car racer. He's won himself a place at the International Race School, where racers either make it on to the Pro Circuit – or they crash and burn. He's younger than the other racers. His car, the Argonaut, is older. And on top of that, someone doesn't want him to succeed at the school and will do anything to stop him.

Now Jason Chaser isn't just fighting for his place on the starting line, he's racing for his life.

Originally released as a free fortnightly online serial, the print edition of *Hover Car Racer* was first published by Pan Macmillan Australia in 2004.

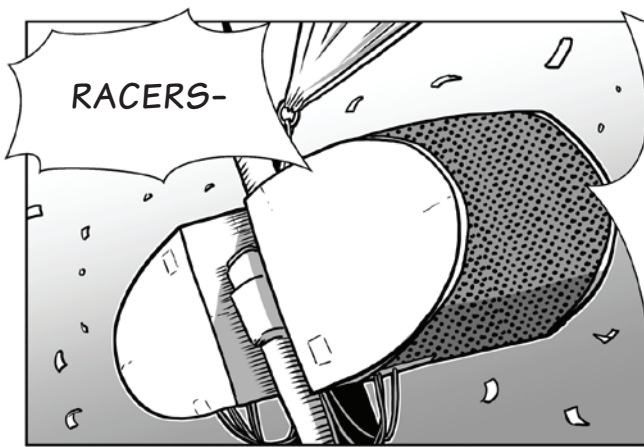
This new edition, published 20 years later, brings all the adrenaline, energy and impact of the original thriller into an exciting new graphic novel format.

PUB DATE: November 2024

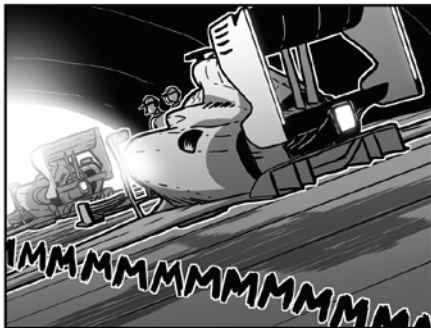
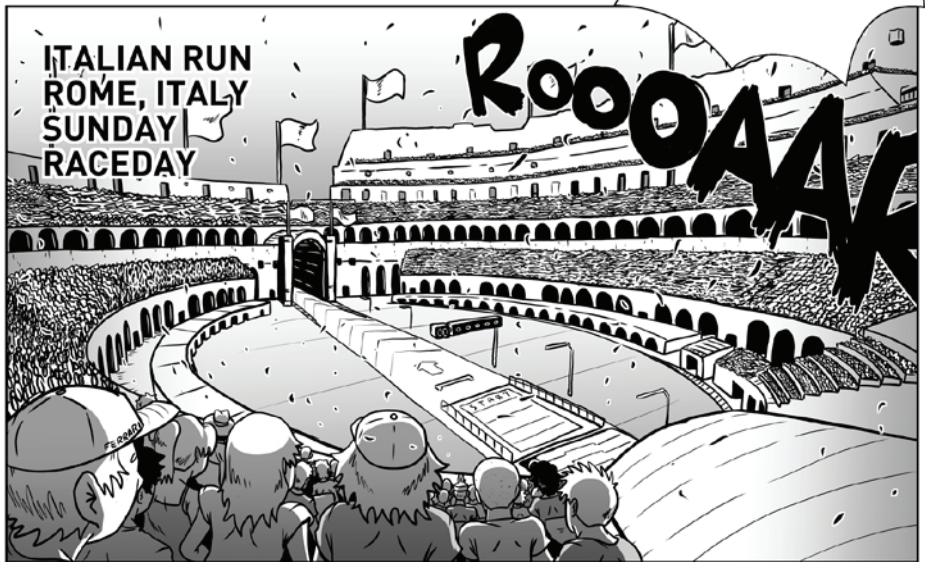
PUBLISHER: Pan Macmillan
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

MATTHEW REILLY's books are published in over 20 languages with worldwide sales of more than 8 million copies. *Interceptor*, directed by Matthew and co-written with Stuart Beattie, streamed on Netflix in 2022 and was number 1 around the world with over 100 million hours viewed. JOHN HANNA is the writer and artist behind *Midnight Runners Comics*.



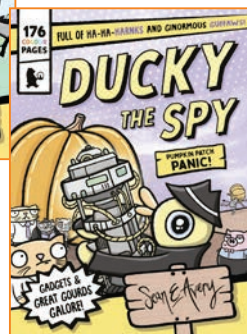
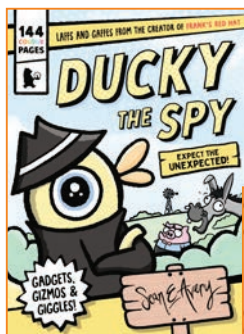
THIS IS YOUR
THREE MINUTE
WARNING.
WOULD
ALL PIT
PERSONNEL
PLEASE
VACATE THE
START AREA.



Ducky the Spy

Books 1 and 2

SEAN E AVERY



Laugh-out-loud who-dunnit
ridiculousness in this new graphic
novel series from Sean E Avery

Ducky the Spy: Expect the Unexpected (Book 1)

Ducky works as a spy on Mr Pig's farm, with his friend, a ditzzy donkey called Donny. Ducky's mission is to find the thief who is stealing from Mr Pig's food trough. But then Ducky and Donny are tasked with a harder ask - confronting the cat gang. Luckily Gretta the Inventor is on hand to help.

Ducky the Spy: Pumpkin Patch Panic (Book 2)

Ducky the Spy and Donny the Donkey are tasked with a protect and deliver mission. Mr Pig's prize pumpkin, Brunhilde (Hildy for short) needs to arrive safely at the Big Veggie contest. Unfortunately, Hildy is destroyed and Ducky has to think on his feet to replace it before the competition begins.

PUB DATE: April 2024 and
September 2024

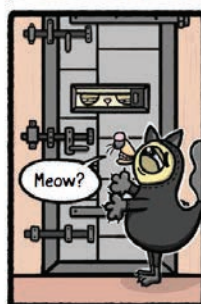
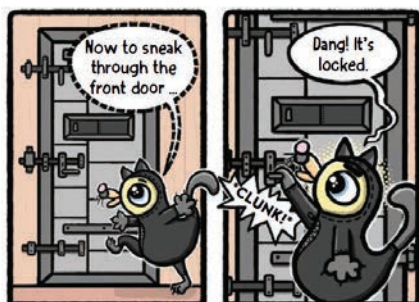
PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

FORMAT: 144pp; 210mm x 154mm

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

SEAN E AVERY is a teacher, writer-illustrator, sculptor and designer. He's best known as the writer-illustrator of well-loved children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Harold and Grace*. Internationally, he's best known as a sculptor who uses CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections all around the world.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF AARON BLABEY AND DAV PILKEY



Get Your Story Straight

BRIAR ROLFE

In a twist on the fake wedding romance trope, the adventures of Henry, a young trans man out to everyone except his conservative Christian parents

When Henry realises his best shot at accessing top surgery is faking an engagement to his friend Cooper, he learns it isn't easy to plan a wedding - even a fake one. His mum wants to control everything, his dad is convinced that nonbinary Cooper is a closeted gay man, 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? And is a person *really* torn to pieces by a crocodile in North Queensland every three months?

TRULY UNIQUE – A TRANSGENDER
LOVE LETTER TO THE ROMCOM GENRE

COVER ART TO COME

PUB DATE: September 2025

PUBLISHER: Hachette Australia

RIGHT SOLD: North America (Levine Querido)

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation (excl Spanish and Dutch)

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.

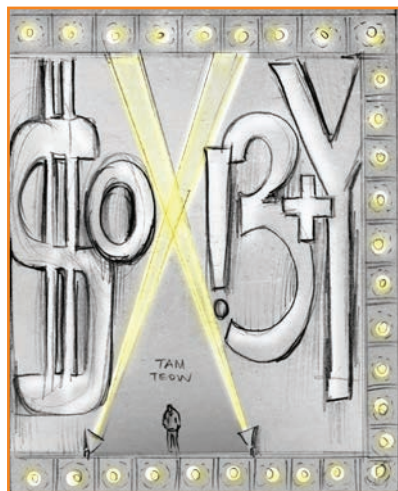


Sample Final Pages



SoXxiety

TAM TEOW



A wordless symphony of resilience, where darkness births light, and hope takes root in the unlikeliest of places

In a melancholic present-day concrete jungle resides tech addicts of all different kinds, surrounded by never-ending skyscrapers and the incessant flashing of neon signs and lit up screens. At night they return to lonely isolation, in soulless, utilitarian apartments, where all they have to turn to is more of the same.

Spiralling further into depression and anxiety, consuming more but never being nourished, one man is so diminished that he shrinks, becoming less and less until he eventually falls through the grate on a roadside drain.

In that mysterious underworld—a dark land filled with strange plants and unusual creatures—a metamorphosis begins...

And when the man eventually returns to the world above, a seed travels with him.

A seed of community.

A seed of hope.

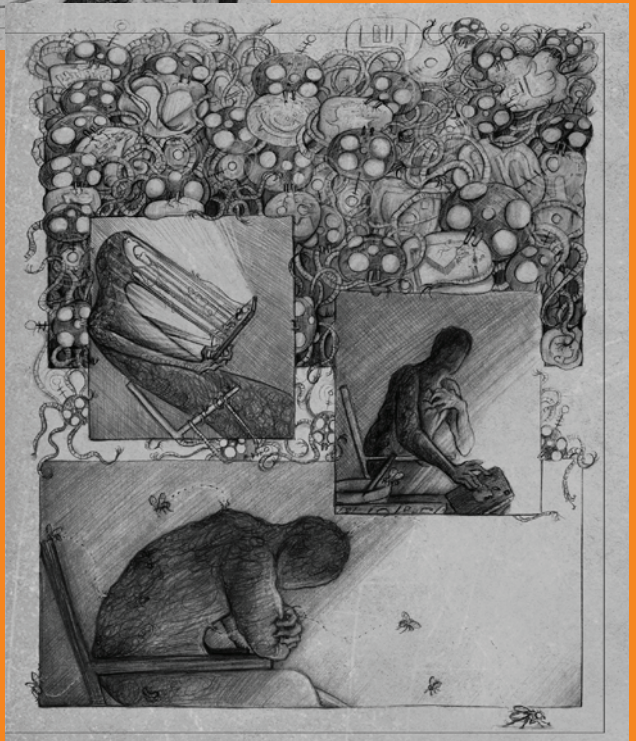
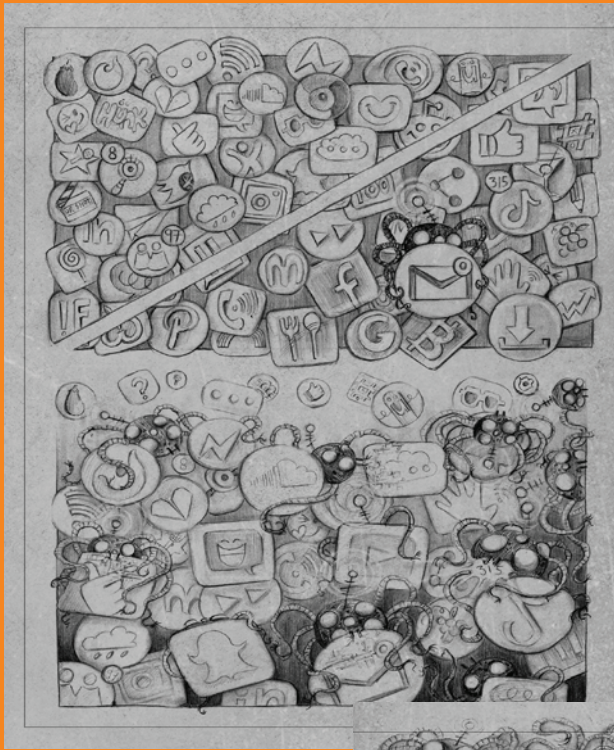
PUB DATE: late 2025


PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

TAM 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.

DRAWING INSPIRATION
FROM FILMS LIKE
HER, IDIOCRACY, AND
BLADE RUNNER, TAM TEOW
CREATES A MOOD AND
ATMOSPHERE OSCILLATING
BETWEEN DESPAIR AND A
FRAGILE HOPE.





Middle Grade Stand Alone

Six Summers of Tash and Leopold

DANIELLE BINKS



In the tradition of *Bridge to Terrabithia*, an uplifting story that shows the power of friendship and how bravery can take many forms

Leopold and Alytash - Leo and Tash - are neighbours who used to be best friends but aren't anymore, for reasons that Leo doesn't entirely understand. But now it's the last week of Year Six and Tash is standing in Leo's front yard with a misdelivered letter - and a favour to ask.

When Leo and Tash reunite to solve a neighbourhood mystery and help a reclusive neighbour with a tragic past, they each have to confront faultlines in their own recent histories and families. They will discover that friendships can grow and change, that bravery takes many forms and, whatever the future holds, friends and family are what matter.

For fans of *The Secrets We Keep* and *Bridge to Terrabithia*.

PUB DATE: September 2024

PUBLISHER: Hachette Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management

RIGHTS HELD: North America, Translation

DANIELLE BINKS is a writer, literary agent and lecturer in creative writing at RMIT University. Her debut novel, *The Year the Maps Changed*, was a CBCA Notable Book for Younger Readers and shortlisted for the Readings Children's Book Prize. She is also the author of *The Monster of Her Age*.

BINKS' AWARD-WINNING DEBUT, *THE YEAR THE MAPS CHANGED*
WAS PUBLISHED IN NORTH AMERICA AND POLAND

My Brother Finch

KATE GORDON



Psychological suspense that poignantly explores grief, loss, and the unbreakable bond of siblings.

Finch and Wren shared a bond as tight as siblings could have.

But when Finch vanished at the age of nine, Wren's world shattered. Despite the media frenzy surrounding another missing girl named Ava, Finch remained forgotten by everyone except Wren. For three years, Finch's presence lingered, whispering guidance in Wren's ear as she navigated life.

As Wren enters high school and befriends enigmatic Freddie, Finch's urging becomes more insistent: be bolder, be braver, seize life with both hands.

When yet another girl, Johanna, disappears, Wren feels compelled to search for her. Freddie joins her in piecing together Johanna's story, questioning whether she truly ran away or if something more sinister occurred.

Woven into it all are the threads connecting Finch, Ava, and the truth waiting to be uncovered. *My Brother, Finch* explores family bonds, loss, friendship, grief, and the profound journey of letting go and moving forward.

PUB DATE: July 2024

PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

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*, *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling* and *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn*. In 2021 she won CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for *Aster's Good, Right Things* and in 2023, *Xavier in the Meantime* was shortlisted in the same category.

REMINISCENT OF *PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK*, A COMPELLING STORY OF MISSING CHILDREN, SIBLING BONDS, LOSS, GRIEF AND LETTING GO.

Small Acts

KATE GORDON &
KATE FOSTER



From acclaimed authors Kate Foster and Kate Gordon, a special story about being kind to others ... and yourself.

Josh and Ollie are in Year 5, and know of each other, but don't talk to each other. Both have passions that bring them joy; Ollie her art and gardening and Josh his photography. And both want more.

Written in alternating chapters by each of the main characters, Josh and Ollie, this is a story about leaving things in life better than you found them and helping those around you.

THE FIRST COLLABORATION
BETWEEN TWO BESTSELLING
AND AWARD-WINNING
NEURODIVERSE AUTHORS

PUB DATE: September 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

KATE FOSTER is passionate about encouraging and teaching a wider understanding of autism and mental illness via positive approach and representation. In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. In 2021 she won the prestigious CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for her novel *Aster's Good, Right Things*.

The Helios Book

SLADE CARTER

Weaves together science, magic, and courage as Hugo and Kitty embark on a quest that will change their lives—and the fate of two worlds—forever.

Twelve-year-old twins, Hugo and Kitty, share an extraordinary bond: heterochromia, a rare condition that gifts them with eyes of different colors. Their lives take an unexpected turn when they cross paths with the enigmatic Lucas.

Lucas, a brilliant inventor, unveils his latest creation—the Helios Book, a solar device promising to revolutionize global energy consumption. But this invention attracts dangerous attention. Fearing theft, the twins embark on a daring adventure. Guided by a strange bird, they venture down a burrow and emerge in the mysterious world of Taara.

In Taara, the land is plagued by a seismic phenomenon known as the Blurrings. As Hugo and Kitty navigate this perilous realm, they discover that their heterochromia holds a secret coveted by nefarious forces. To protect their unique gift and unravel the mysteries of Taara, the twins must confront ancient magic, treacherous alliances, and the true power of the Helios Book.



PUB DATE: May 2024

PUBLISHER: MidnightSun Publishing

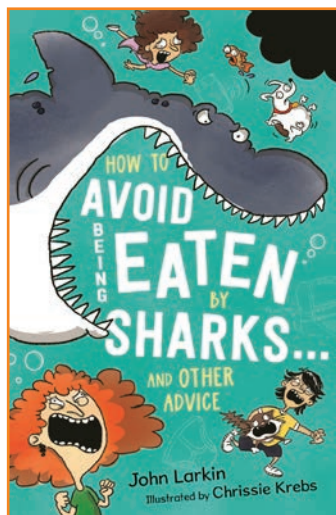
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

SLADE CARTER lives in Melbourne with his wife and two children. *The Helios Book* is his first novel.

'IF IMAGINATION AND EXCITEMENT COULD MAKE SOLAR POWER, THIS BOOK WOULD BE SHINING LIKE THE SUN. A THRILLING ADVENTURE SET AMONGST THE HIGHEST OF STAKES – A LIVEABLE FUTURE ON THE PLANET.' KATE HOLDEN, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

How to Avoid Being Eaten By Sharks ... and other advice

JOHN LARKIN &
CHRISSIE KREBS



A collection of hilarious, nonsensical, witty and mischievous subjects - the best (and worst) advice for growing up.

There is one sure-fire method to avoid being eaten by sharks: Don't go in the ocean.

How can you avoid being eaten by sharks?

What does it mean to 'skateboard' someone?

Is there a chance you could be abducted by aliens?
Are there zombies hiding under your brother's bed?

In this hilarious guide, John Larkin relates his tried and tested advice for navigating the mysteries of life, with a sprinkling of some the facts and history he's discovered along the way.

Accompanied by entertaining comic-style illustrations from Chrissie Krebs, this is an education not to be missed!

INTERESTING FACTS AND
HISTORICAL ANECDOTES TO ENGAGE
A WIDE RANGE OF READERS

PUB DATE: February 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: Poland
(Wydawnictwo Kobiectwo)

JOHN LARKIN is a multi-award-winning author. His novels include *The Shadow Girl* and *The Pause*.

CHRISSIE KREBS is the author-illustrator of several picture books, including *There is Something Weird in Santa's Beard*. Chrissie is living her inner four-year-old's dream, and cannot believe she gets paid to draw pictures all day.

Cora Seen and Heard

ZANNI LOUISE

Being the new kid is hard enough without your secret thoughts being put on display for all to see.

Shy, library-lurking Cora Lane moves to a small town, where her parents have bought an old theatre to renovate.

After discovering the secret letters of a famous local performer, Cora writes back, using her imaginary pen pal to reveal all her secrets and worries.

When her letters accidentally go public, Cora thinks her life is over – but no one would ever suspect the writer is the quiet new kid ... would they?

A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY,
MUSIC AND THE POWER OF
FRIENDSHIP, FROM AN ACCLAIMED
AND PROLIFIC AUTHOR



PUB DATE: May 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: British
Commonwealth (excl ANZ
and Canada)

ZANNI LOUISE has written 16 books for children. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables. Her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for The White Ravens catalogue.



The Cave

VICTOR KELLEHER

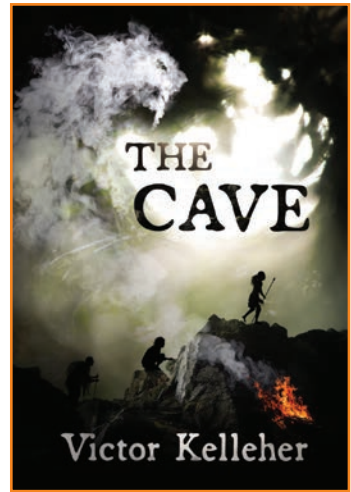
Set in a richly recreated Paleolithic past, *The Cave* is an exploration of loss, survival and courage from multi-award-winning author Victor Kelleher.

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

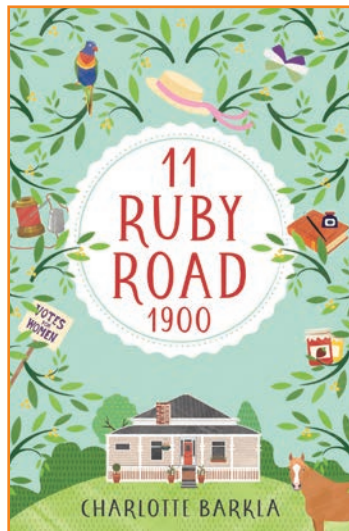
PUBLISHER: Christmas Press
(Eagle Books)

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.

11 Ruby Road: 1900

CHARLOTTE BARKLA



Perfect historical fiction for
middle-grade girls

It is 1900 and Dorothy and her family have just moved to a new house at 11 Ruby Road. Ruby Road is a busy street, bustling with activity - families and children, noisy carts and animals. The house is close enough to see the city and very different from the rural life Dorothy has known. Best of all, it has a secret writing room that only she knows about.

Dorothy has big plans for her new neighbourhood - she wants to put on a play and write it herself.

As Dorothy delves deeper into her new neighbourhood, she uncovers more than just the joys of her secret writing room. There are mysteries to unravel, secrets to discover, and lessons to learn about the fascinating time she finds herself growing up in.

PUB DATE: March 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

CHARLOTTE BARKLA

worked as a civil engineer and physics teacher before rediscovering her love for children's literature. Charlotte's books have been translated in multiple languages and shortlisted for awards, and she has been the recipient of grants and mentorships for her fiction writing.

CHARLOTTE'S NEXT BOOK IS SET IN THIS SAME
HOUSE BUT IN THE YEAR 1925



Middle Grade Series

The Secret Detectives

Club 1:
The Haunted House
on the Hill

KATE GORDON

COVER ART
TO COME

The Three Investigators meets Scooby-Doo for a fresh generation of aspiring detectives, featuring neurodiverse characters who bring a different perspective to sleuthing

Rocko Jarvis, the least cool kid in Table Cape Bay, faces a challenge: how to turn his luck around. With best friend Cosmo, they've tried every club – movies, Chinese Checkers, even a pink polo shirt club. But when Mingus Reid, the town's second-coolest kid, unexpectedly joins their Scrabble Club, everything changes.

Mingus, Rocko, and Cosmo share a love for the Trio of Sleuths books. They ditch Scrabble for a new mission: become real detectives. The catch? Their quiet town lacks mysteries.

Enter PD Watkins, a renowned author seeking solace at Hindmarsh Hall – the 'haunted house on the hill'.

But strange occurrences disrupt his writing retreat. The boys, fueled by admiration for their favourite author, vow to uncover the truth and The Secret Detectives Club is born.

Soon, they'll face more mysteries than they ever imagined.

PUB DATE: Early 2025

PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

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*, *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling*, *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn*, 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*, and in 2023, *Xavier in the Meantime* was shortlisted in the same category.

The 113th Assistant Librarian

STUART WILSON

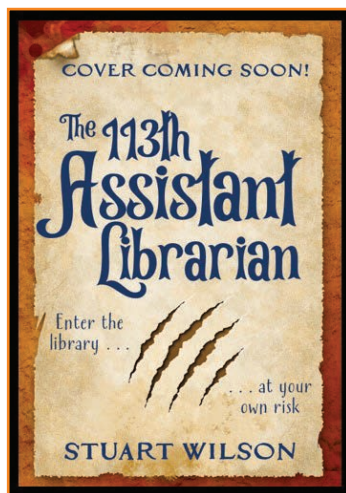
A hugely inventive – and occasionally dark – adventure for fans of *Skulduggery Pleasant* and *Nevermoor*.

Oliver Wormwood wants to be like his older sisters and apprenticed to one of the heroic Trades.

Instead, Hieronymus Finch-Thackeray picks him as the new Assistant Librarian. But, on his very first day, Hieronymus dies of a heart attack before explaining how the library works.

The library is enormous and borrowers come thick and fast: the mages need their spell books, the historians are desperate for their versions of the truth, while the scientists argue about classification systems. His only companions are nine library cats – that hinder as often as they help.

Then Oliver discovers that the tools in his Librarian's bandolier have magical properties, and that he needs to learn just how much power lies between the covers of books.



PUB DATE: October 2024

PUBLISHER: Penguin Random House Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation (excl Germany)

STUART WILSON is the author of the *Prometheus High* series.

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; LEARNING TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF WITHOUT NEEDING BIG MUSCLES TO BE A HERO; AND FINDING FRIENDSHIP WHERE YOU DON'T EXPECT IT

Esme in the Limelight

KATE GORDON



The fourth book in the acclaimed award-winning 'Aster' series of interconnected (but can be read as stand alone) titles.

Esme has never liked the girl she saw in the mirror.

Not pretty enough. Not thin enough. Not smart enough or talented enough. Nothing at all like her big sister, Ro.

Then, a new friend came into her life—a friend who wanted Esme to be exactly who she was, or so Esme thought. But then, she messed up and her friend went away and she was left with herself.

When two new friends try to help her see the real Esme again, she can't risk it happening all over again. She can't be their friend. And she definitely can't let them convince her to be in the school play.

PUB DATE: March 2024

PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: World (excl ANZ),
Translation

In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. Kate's books include *Writing Clementine*, *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling*, *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn*, 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*.

GENTLY INCORPORATES THEMES AND DISCUSSION POINTS SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH, SIBLING RIVALRY, PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS AND PERFECTIONISM

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?

SHORTLISTED CBCA AWARD 2023 BOOK OF THE YEAR YOUNGER READERS



Indigo in the Storm

Pub date: March 2023

Indigo Michael isn't like other kids. And her mum isn't like other mums. When her mum abandons her, Aster's Aunt Noni becomes her foster parent. 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.



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**

Losing the Plot

ANNALEISE BYRD

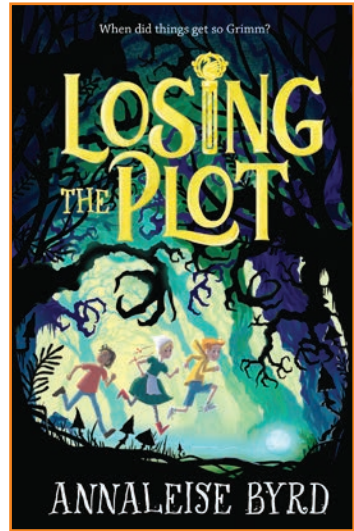
**A hilarious tale of readers finding
themselves immersed in a story
– literally!**

Basil is roped into listening to reluctant reader Terry read fairytales out loud. Every. Single. Saturday.

But when Terry brings over a battered copy of *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*, and haltingly begins reading *Hansel and Gretel*, the pair find themselves transported inside the book, having fallen through a plot hole.

They meet Gretel and endeavour to help her find Hansel (who is stuck in a bottle). But then Gretel and the boys are accused of breaching SLIP and SLIDE (Safety Laws of Interworld Portals/ Secrecy Laws of Interworld Demystification Experiences).

Using a combination of Basil's bookishness and Terry's sporting skills, the boys must outwit their opponents, as Basil realises he has always underestimated princesses, and Terry realises that books are growing on him.



PUB DATE: March 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

ANNALEISE BYRD writes picture books, poetry, short stories and middle grade fiction. Her favourite stories nearly always involve kids having grand adventures with no grown-ups in sight!

**FUNNY, CLEVER, WITH A SAVVY PLOT,
STRADDLES THE RELUCTANT READER/
LITERARY READER MARKET AND IS
PERFECT FOR ALL READERS 9+**

Book 2:
*Down the
Plothole* to be
published in
March 2025

Pearly and Pig and the Island of Secrets

SUE WHITING &
REBECCA CRANE

Third instalment of the fast-paced middle-grade adventure series, following adventurologist Pearly Woe!

Pearly Woe is a worrier.

On remote Mammút Island off the coast of Iceland, Pearly's worrying is put to the ultimate test when she and Pig are winched from a helicopter onto the island to complete a five-day survival challenge – alone.

But they are not alone. And that is not the only surprise in store for Pearly and Pig as Mammút Island reveals its many secrets.

'THIS IS A WONDERFUL STORY ABOUT OVERCOMING SELF-DOUBT, TRUSTING YOUR INSTINCTS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY.' LAMONT BOOKS ON *PEARLY AND PIG AND THE LOST CITY OF MU SAVAN*



***PEARLY AND PIG AND THE LOST CITY OF MU SAVAN* HAS BEEN LISTED AS A GBGA NOTABLE (2024)**



PUB DATE: March 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

SUE WHITING is an award-winning children's and YA author and editor who has worked in publishing for more than twenty years. REBECCA CRANE studied Illustration at Edinburgh University and has an MA in Character Animation. She is author and illustrator of *Barkley*, and lives in London.



Junior
Readers
6-8 Years
Old

Tim Tie Your Shoelaces

SALLY BARTON &
CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN

Goosebumps meets The Treehouse in this wonderful first instalment of a hilarious new series, *Something Terrible*.

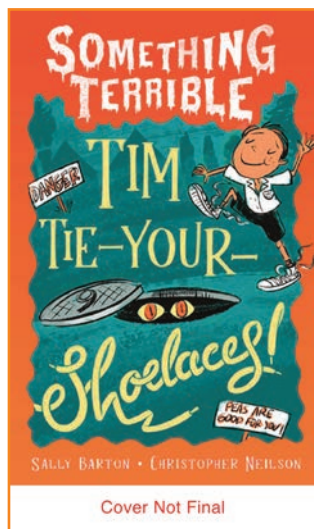
Tim Mulligan lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is his name, because most people think his name is Tim Tie-your-shoelaces. But no matter how many people tell him, or how often, Tim never ties his shoelaces.

One morning, just as Tim was leaving for school, his mum called, 'Tim! Tie your shoelaces. Something terrible could happen!'

This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Sally Barton weaves a tale of mayhem, mess and beasties, in this flip-flappin' street-slappin' first installment of the terrible things that happen in Rufus Street.

First in a series! *Becky Brush-Your-Hair* will be published in March 2025 and *Wanda Wear-Your-Glasses* in 2026.



Cover Not Final

PUB DATE: February 2025

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

SALLY BARTON won the Writers Unleashed Picture Book Competition in 2022 with *Goodnight Sheep*.

CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN's illustrations flow forth from a love of vintage design. He was shortlisted in 2018 for the CBCA Crichton Award for best new illustrator in children's book illustration.

EASY-READING STORIES FULL OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND EMPHASIS
WORDS THAT WILL KEEP ANY RELUCTANT OR AVID READER ENGAGED.

Ella and the Amazing Frog Orchestra

CASSY POLIMENI

COVER ART
TO COME

The story of a girl, a frog and a
rescue mission, without a prince or
princess in sight.

*Did you know frogs can find their way home?
It's called a 'homing instinct' ... no matter where
they are, they know where they belong.
I think I know how frogs feel ...*

Eight-year-old Ella hates her new house. She wants to be back in her old house with her best friend Viv next door. But then she discovers a secret pond in her neighbour's backyard inhabited by an orchestra of frogs. At her new school she befriends Mai and learns about the class frog bog project. New friends and frog expeditions make Ella feel at home, but when a development threatens the pond, Ella and Mai must come up with a plan to save the frogs before it's too late.

PUB DATE: September 2024

PUBLISHER: UWA Press

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di
Mase Management

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

CASSY POLIMENI is a Melbourne-based children's author with a passion for the environment. Cassy was awarded an Australian Society of Authors/Copyright Australia mentorship to develop her junior fiction series.

ELLA AND THE AMAZING FROG ORCHESTRA IS THE
FIRST IN A FOUR-BOOK SERIES.

Junkyard Fairies 1: Dig Deep

EDWINA WYATT &
LAUREN O'HARA



The first title in a new series with magic, charm, mischief and mayhem from Edwina Wyatt, author of the *Magnolia Moon* series, and Lauren O'Hara, co-creator of *Frindelswyld*.

PUB DATE: October 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

Junkyard Fairies is a magical chapter book adventure series about three fairies, Fur, Tip and Nug, who live in a pumpkin in a junkyard.

Dig Deep chronicles their adventures and misadventures as they navigate life at the bottom of the heap, joined by a rich cast of characters including a curmudgeonly toad called Burp and a monstrous caterpillar called Yowch.

Illustrated by UK illustrator Lauren O'Hara, published in hardback, and oozing with nostalgic charm, these stories are destined to become keepsakes.

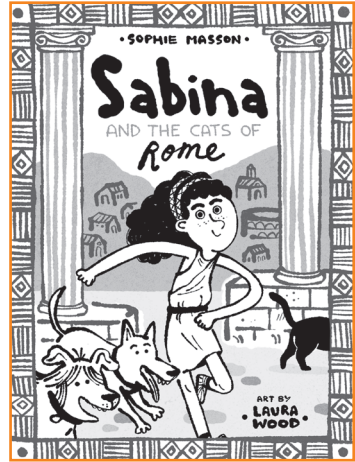
EDWINA WYATT is an award-winning Australian children's author. LAUREN O'HARA is an illustrator from the north of England, and among her many titles, she is the illustrator of *Madame Badobedah* by Sophie Dahl.

A MAGICAL WORLD OF FAIRIES,
WITH AN URBAN EDGE!

Junkyard Fairies 2: Set Sail will be published in May 2025 with Book 3 to follow in October 2025

Sabina and the Cats of Rome

SOPHIE MASSON



This light-hearted fantasy will transport you to ancient Rome. Dive into a world where cats talk, heroes rise, and extraordinary adventures await!

On a hot afternoon, Sabina decides to venture into the wild part of her garden, where anything can happen.

But on this extraordinary afternoon, Sabina discovers something unexpected perched in a tree - it's not a mythical creature, but a cat! And not just any cat, but a princess! The only daughter of the King of the Cats in Rome, and she possesses the incredible ability to speak both cat and human languages. But there's trouble afoot. The King of the Rats has cast a wicked spell on the princess's father, and she desperately needs Sabina's help to save him. Sabina teams up with Cleo, the talking cat princess, and with the enthusiastic assistance of Major and Minor, they embark on a race against time. Their mission: to find help for the King of the Cats before it's too late.

PUB DATE: October 2024

PUBLISHER: Christmas Press

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. LAURA WOOD has illustrated many books, for both Italian and Australian publishers.

PD McPem

The Baffling Beach Bandit

ANNA BATTESE & RUTH-MARY SMITH

A blend of humour, curiosity, and clever problem-solving, makes this the perfect series for young readers who love a good mystery

PD and her classmates are all set for a day of sun and sea, but the excitement takes an unexpected turn when they discover somebody has sunk the lifeboats.

As Detective PD McPem and her team investigate, they unravel a trail of chaos – bananas missing, food scattered, and the bell from Mr Li's ice cream trike is missing.

The culprit? A brown shaggy dog, according to a witness.

Can PD and her friends find the real rascal before Scooter gets the blame? Grab your detective gear and get ready for a beach day like no other!



PUB DATE: June 2024

PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

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,
DETECTIVES, 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*

Epic Explorer (Book 5)

Nothing could stop Juno helping her secret ninja friend, Futoshi, defeat the Alien Lizard Men before they take over the world—except a book-themed school camp of course!

It wasn't so great that Bella and her wannabe-pop-star clones were going too, but even that couldn't spoil her excitement at spending time with the two best things in life: friends and books. But unbeknownst to Juno, Book Camp has some surprises in store.

When Bella and Juno get lost in the woods, the outcome is more epic than even Juno could have imagined!

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

PUB DATE: April 2024

PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

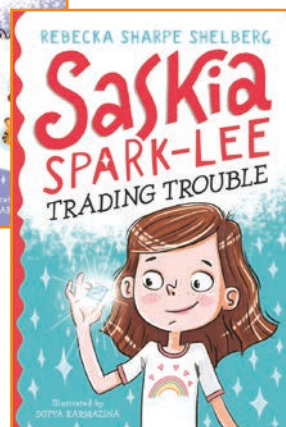
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

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.

BOOK 6
COMING IN
2025

Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail

REBECCA SHARPE SHELBERG & SOFYA KARMAZINA



A new contemporary series, featuring an appealing new protagonist and her modern family.

Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail (Book 2)

Saskia Spark-Lee loves animals – she’s almost adopted a whole zoo’s-worth! But when Da and Dee say they can’t add another to the collection, she must come up with a new plan to continue supporting her furry friends. With some help from Nanna, and the amazing fundraising skills of her friends, Saskia may find that where there’s a will there’s a way!

Saskia Spark-Lee: Trading Trouble (Book 1)

Saskia Spark-Lee collects sparkles – shiny rocks, crafting gems, bits of glittery wrapping paper and even dewdrops off the leaves in her garden. Entranced with a classmate’s shiny quartz stone, Saskia promises to trade her real diamond for it. The only problem is, she doesn’t have a diamond! But with the advice of her two dads – Da and Dee – Saskia could solve her trading trouble and light the spark of a new friendship.

PUB DATE: June 2023 and March 2024

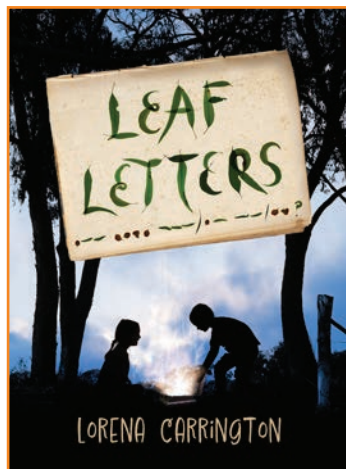
PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

REBECCA SHARPE SHELBERG believes that stories and illustration are the real magic in this crazy, confusing world. Her first picture book, *Reflection*, was a CBCA Notable book. SOFYA KARMAZINA is an award-winning illustrator who works both digitally and using traditional media. Her work is driven by curiosity and perseverance.

Leaf Letters

LORENA CARRINGTON



Can you help Hazel and Cole solve the puzzles and discover the mysterious child who buried the secret codes so many years ago?

Nine-year-old Hazel Bird is happiest on her own, photographing the tiny wild worlds in her neighbourhood bushland. But then she meets Cole, a boy with a hundred pockets and a strange and marvellous way of talking.

Together they find hidden treasure and a handwritten book of secret codes ...

Written and illustrated by Lorena Carrington, this is a unique, interactive story for young readers told in words and pictures, with coded messages to decipher and mysteries to solve.

PUB DATE: July 2024

PUBLISHER: Christmas Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

LORENA CARRINGTON

is an illustrator and writer with a background in fine arts, photography and design. She is the recipient of the 2020 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her 'outstanding contribution to the field of Australian Fairy Tales' and a May Gibbs Creative Time Fellowship for 2023.

Hazel's Treehouse

ZANNI LOUISE &
JUDY WATSON

Join Hazel and her friends in the
heartwarming tales of their
days together.

A collection of whimsical stories sharing the days of Hazel, a young girl living inside a tree hollow with her friends: Odette the pademelon, Walter the cranky wombat, Poky the feelings echidna, and Tiny the honey possum.

At the heart of the tales of their days are friendship, kindness, imagination and adventure.

HILDA MEETS WINNIE-THE-POOH IN THIS COLLECTION OF WHIMSICAL STORIES SET IN THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH



PUB DATE: July 2024

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

ZANNI LOUISE has written 16 books for children. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables. Her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for The White Ravens catalogue. JUDY WATSON's first picture book won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction. She has illustrated over 20 books for children.





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Designed by Christabella Designs

Cover image © Walker Books Australia 2024

Illustration by Astrid Hicks

From *Small Acts* by Kate Gordon and Kate Foster



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