

MidnightSun Publishing

Children's Books 2025



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MidnightSun Publishing
Picture Books



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WHERE SHALL WE TRAVEL TODAY?

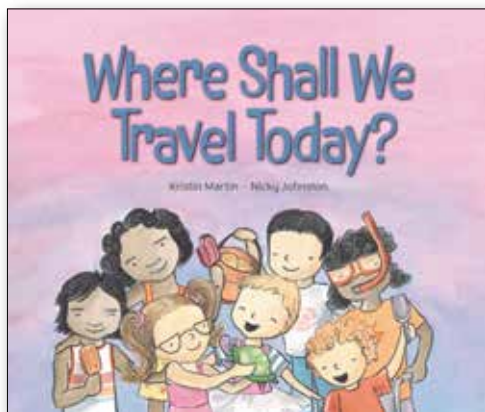
Written by Kristin Martin and illustrated by Nicky Johnston

Picture book | HB 32 | 216 x 256
ISBN: 9781922858542

Rights held: World

Delightful story for anyone who has ever had a favourite piece of clothing. A group of neighbourhood friends search for adventure. They climb mountains, sail through waterfalls and snorkel the reef. At night, they marvel at the sky above and wonder where to go next.

Where Shall We Travel Today? is a delightful story about the power of the imagination, of stories and of exploring the world together.



Kristin Martin is an author, poet and primary school teacher. She draws inspiration from the natural world and from observing her young students' imaginative play. Her books include *Honey Possum's Bush Café*, *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular* and *To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme?* Kristin lives in Adelaide, South Australia with her family, turtles, green tree frogs and a bearded dragon named Ash.



Nicky Johnston is an educator, speaker, and author/illustrator of children's books. She enjoys every aspect of creating books for kids, especially illustration. Nicky's illustration style is often described as whimsical, emotive, soft, and expressive. Her love of teaching sees her busy with school visits and presenting at workshops and conferences.





MidnightSun

THE GIANT

Written by Sophie Masson and illustrated by Lorena Carrington

Picture book | HB 32 | 220 x 290

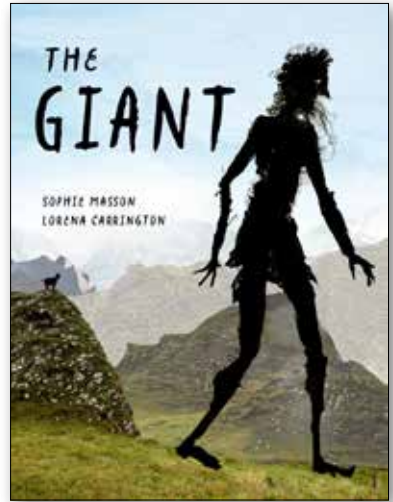
ISBN: 9781922858658

Rights held: World

On the day the giant wakes from a long sleep, he's filled with joy at the thought of seeing his friends in the town again. But he's slept so long that nobody remembers him, everyone hides from him, and his joy turns to a sadness that might engulf the whole town—

Until he hears the voices, calling to him...

A beautiful, touching story of memory, inclusion and friendship, by the award-winning creative duo of writer Sophie Masson and illustrator Lorena Carrington, whose previous picture book *Satin* with MidnightSun Publishing was a Notable Book in the 2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards.



Sophie Masson AM was born in Indonesia of French parents, brought up in France and Australia and now lives in regional NSW. She is the multi-award-winning author of many books, for children, young adults and adults, and in 2019 received an AM award in the Order of Australia honours list for her significant service to literature. Her most recent titles for children include *Sabina and the Cats of Rome*, illustrated by Laura Wood, Christmas Press 2024, and *Satin*, illustrated by Lorena Carrington, MidnightSun Publishing 2023, which received a Notable Books citation in the 2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Forthcoming is *Bold Ben Hall*, Walker Books, 2025, and *The Giant*, illustrated by Lorena Carrington, MidnightSun 2025.



Lorena Carrington is an acclaimed illustrator and writer based in regional Victoria, known for her intricate photographic montage illustrations. Some of her recent books include *The Grown-Up's Guide to Picture Books* with Lara Cain Gray (author) and Timothy Ide (co-illustrator), *Leaf Letters*, *Kate Forsyth's Long Lost Fairy Tales*, and *Satin* with Sophie Masson. Her work has earned her numerous accolades, including a 2024 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable Book of the Year for *Satin*.



WINDY WASHING DAY

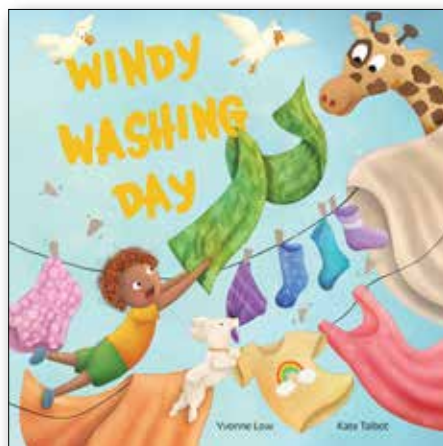
Written by **Yvonne Low** and
illustrated by **Kate Talbot**

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 210
ISBN: 9781922858672

Rights held: World

How an ordinary day becomes extraordinary...

It's a dry, sunny day and perfect for hanging out the laundry. But what happens when an unexpected wind pulls the washing off the line and carries it next door – to the Zoo! Will the animals give up their new-found clothes and can all the washing be returned safely.



Yvonne Low is a writer, illustrator and award-winning fine artist, creating picture books, poetry and junior fiction. While nature is her main inspiration, through her background in the performing arts as a dancer and choreographer, theatre, film, music and foreign cultures also feed her imagination. Her work is whimsical and often has a dash of humour and wordplay. Yvonne is published with Little Pink Dog Books, Christmas Press, ABC Commercial, *The School Magazine*, *Eucalypt: a tanka journal* and *Poetica Christi Press*. She was a finalist in the 2021 SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Awards and won a 2021 ASA/Copyright Agency Mentorship Award, for her graphic novel/picture book project. Yvonne's debut picture book (as illustrator) was *Lola and Grandpa* (Little Pink Dog Books) and *Windy Washing Day* marks her debut as a picture book author.



Kate Talbot is an Australian-born, New Zealand-based children's book writer and illustrator. Working digitally, she is passionate about instilling a love for stories and storytelling in little people and hopes to nurture life-long readers and artists through her quirky characters and vibrant illustrations.



BOUND TOGETHER

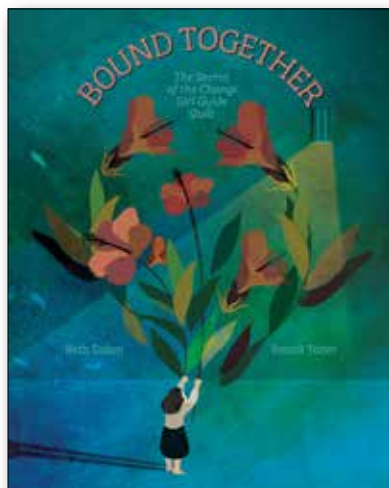
Beth Dolan and Ronak Taher

Picture book | PB 32 | 203 x 254
ISBN: 9781922858665

Rights held: World

Working in secret in the infamous Changi Gaol, after the Japanese defeat of Singapore in 1942, and using whatever materials they can scrounge, a group of interned Girl Guides creates a very special gift for their Guide leader.

Bound Together is a stunning and very moving book about the power of collaboration during hard times.



WILLOW'S GUMBOOTS

**Beverley McWilliams
and H el ene Magisson**

Picture book | HB 32 | 256 x 216
ISBN: 9781922858535

Rights held: World

Willow loved her gumboots. She wore them wherever she went. The gumboots were there in the garden, at the beach and even at parties. But one day Willow discovered that something was wrong with her beloved gumboot.

Delightful story for anyone who has ever had a favourite piece of clothing.



• **NOTABLE Book CBCA Awards 2025**



Beverley McWilliams is a children's author from South Australia with a passion for historical fiction. Her debut picture book *Born to Fly* published by MidnightSun Publishing was a CBCA notable book. Beverley has published two middle-grade historical novels with Pantera Press: *The Reindeer and the Submarine* (2022) and *Spies in the Sky* (2023). Beverley is the event coordinator for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (South Australia).



H el ene Magisson is a critically acclaimed French-Australian illustrator of many books for children. Before H el ene turned to book illustration, she was a painting restorer in Paris, where she was also trained in the art of medieval illumination. H el ene's children's books are widely known and loved across the world. Her timeless style lends itself beautifully to classics, such as *The Velveteen Rabbit* (New Frontier, 2021), and also universal contemporary stories, such as *Before You Were Born* (HarperCollins, 2020). H el ene is frequently recognised by the Children's Book Council of Australia. Most recently, she was awarded the CBCA 2020 Notable Picture Book of the Year Award for *Little Puggles' Song*, written by Vikki Conley.



THE KELLY GANG KIDS

Coral Vass and Deb Hudson

Picture book | HB 32 | 260 x 250
ISBN: 9781922858375

Rights held: World

Chasing each other down Avenel Way, the Kelly Gang kids just wanted to play.

Young Ned Kelly and his mates get up to all sorts of mischief. But when Ned's friend is found drowning in the creek, will Ned be able to save him?

The Kelly Gang Kids is a story about friendship, fun and bravery.



Coral Vass is an award-winning children's author, presenter, editor and reviewer. With over 20 published children's books, Coral's books include *Sorry Day* (Speech Pathology Awards Book of the Year and CBCA Book of the Year – Eve Pownall Award), *Grandma's Treasured Shoes* (Caleb Book of the Year), and *Jørn's Magnificent Imagination* (CBCA Notable and shortlisted for Speech Pathology Book of the Year). Many of Coral's books have appeared on ABC's Playschool, UK's Story Den on Milkshake TV, Storytime with Fergie and Friends, as well as on Australia's StoryBox Library. Coral is an ambassador for Reading Out of Poverty and is passionate about children's literacy and giving all children equal opportunity to learn.



Deb Hudson is an Australian illustrator of children's picture books and creator of other artistic works including pattern design and stationary. She loves colour and finds joy in creating illustrations that celebrate life, love, growth and wonder. Highlighting all the beauty around, even the tiny unnoticed details. Her work has been described as whimsical, carrying you off to fantastic places and worlds. She has illustrated a number of children's books including *The Golden Thread* by Amelia Donnelly and the What Zola Did series by award-winning author Melina Marchetta.



TAYTA'S SECRET INGREDIENT

Amal Abu-Eid (author) and
Cara King (illustrator)

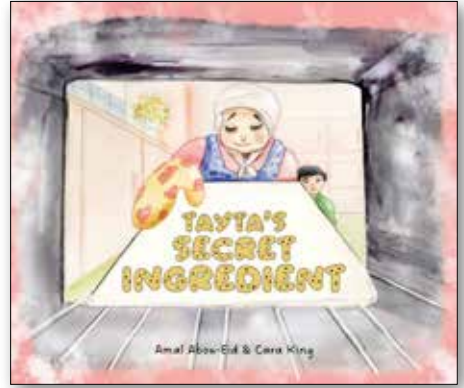
Picture book | HB 32 | 280 x 240
ISBN: 9781922858122

Rights held: World

Billy loves Harmony Day. He loves the colours, the clothes and especially the food. This year Tayta is making *kaak*, a Lebanese treat, for Billy to share with

his class but he can't share the recipe because Tayta bakes with a secret ingredient.

Tayta's Secret Ingredient is a heart-warming inter-generational story about everyday life in



multicultural Australia, where a curious boy takes centre stage alongside his beloved baking grandmother.



Amal Abou-Eid is a passionate educator, mother and author of multiple self-published books. Amal started writing children's books when she realised she couldn't find books for her children with characters and stories that related to their Muslim Lebanese Australian identity. She believes in the power of representation and inclusion in books and writes stories which depict characters and events her family and community can identify with and relate to. She hopes her stories can educate, entertain and empower others to tell their stories, too.



Photo:
Damjan Janevski

Cara King is a Melbourne-based illustrator and graphic designer. She has illustrated around 10 books since 2016, published both traditionally and for self-publishing authors. Cara enjoys painting in watercolour, scribbling with pencils and dabbles in a bit of digital art too. She has a love of nature, travel and animals and shares her home with her husband, 2 boys, 5 chickens, some fish, bees and a toy poodle.



MEDIEVAL MONSTERS AND OTHER CREATURES

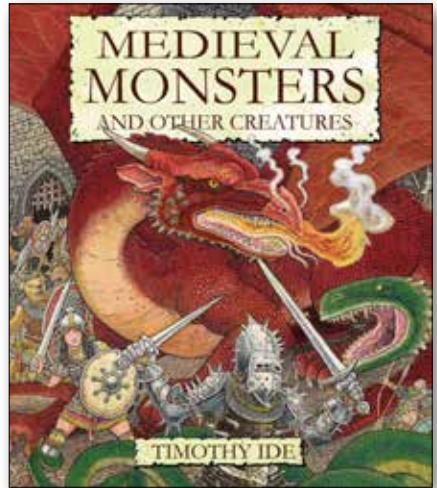
Timothy Ide

Picture book | PB 64 | 245 x 280
ISBN: 9781922858177

Rights held: World

Take a monstrous journey through the Middle Ages to discover creatures both familiar and unfamiliar.

Explore the hazards of medieval life at the claws, paws and fangs of dragons, wyverns, cockatrices, lamias, manticores, ghouls and many other monsters!



Timothy Ide is an Adelaide based illustrator. He is best known locally for his work as a sketch artist for the TV News, capturing some of South Australia's most notorious cases over the last thirty years. Timothy has also illustrated a number of children's books, one of which, *Tom the Outback Mailman* written by Kristin Weidenbach and published by Hachette in 2012 won the Eve Pownall CBCA award in 2013. His most recent children's books are *King of the Outback*, *the Story of Sidney Kidman* (2017), also by Kristin Weidenbach and *Born to Fly* (2019) by Beverley McWilliams, both published by MidnightSun Publishing. *Medieval Monsters and Other Creatures* is his first book as both author and illustrator. When he is not illustrating, Timothy enjoys wargaming and role-playing games. He practices armoured medieval fighting with the Society for Creative Anachronism.



RAISED BY MOTHS

Charlie Archbold and Michelle Conn

Picture book | PB 32 | 230 x 270
ISBN: 9781922858184

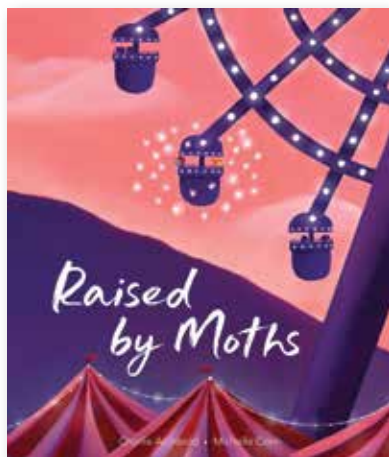
Rights held: World

Willow jumps on the Ferris Wheel and is intrigued to see a boy surrounded by moths.

As they travel high above the fairground he tells her the reason why the moths love him so much: he was raised by moths.

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

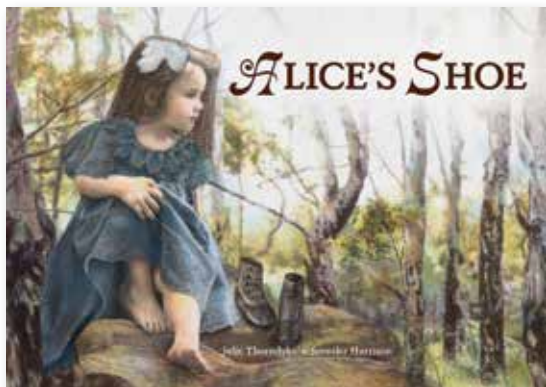
• SHORTLISTED
BOOK CBCA
Awards 2024



Charlie Archbold is an educator and writer. Charlie's debut young adult novel, *Mallee Boys*, was the recipient of the 2016 Adelaide Literary Festival Unpublished Manuscript Award and was named an Honour Book in the 2018 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year for Older Readers Award. Her second young adult novel, *Indigo Owl*, is a fast-paced speculative fiction adventure. Her middle-grade manuscript, *The Sugarcane Kids and the Red Bottomed Boat*, was shortlisted for the 2020 Text Prize and was released in 2022. *Raised by Moths* is her first picture book.



Michelle Conn is a children's book illustrator and author who lives in the coastal town of Torquay, Victoria. She combines watercolour and pencil with digital illustration to create worlds filled with wonder and emotion. Michelle has a Bachelor of Design from The College of Fine Arts in Sydney and has worked as a graphic designer in print and corporate illustration. She has also completed a Bachelor of Education and worked for several years as a primary school teacher.



ALICE'S SHOE

Julie Thorndyke and
Jennifer Harrison

Picture book | PB 32 | 297 x 210
ISBN: 9781922858139

Rights held: World

A country child, Alice ran barefoot. On smooth waxed floorboards, over dusty clay in the yard, through icy water in the creek... she refused to wear shoes. After losing her sight and hearing through illness, Alice slowly made her way back to life and became the first deafblind person in Australia to be educated. Her hated shoe was Alice's first connection with the world of language as she learnt to sign.

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



Julie Thorndyke is a graduate of the University of Sydney Master of Creative Writing program, Sydney writer Julie Thorndyke's two collections of tanka poetry, *Rick Rack* and *Carving Granite*, were published by Ginninderra Press. Editor of *Eucalypt: a tanka journal* since 2017, Julie also writes fiction and other poetry forms. Her debut novel for adults, *Mrs Rickaby's Lullaby*, was published in 2019.



Jennifer Harrison lives in Adelaide with her son Nathaniel. Since leaving university she has worked as a graphic designer, commercial artist and art director. Her illustrations have been commissioned for book covers, magazines and packaging for overseas and local markets and she has exhibited in Adelaide Galleries.



MIZUTO AND THE WIND

Kaye Baillie and Luisa Gioffre-Suzuki

Picture book | PB 32 | 230 x 260
ISBN: 9781922858023

Rights held: World

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

Following a deadly tsunami, Mizuto's father is missing.

Could a mysterious telephone connected only to the wind help him find his father?

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

• **NOTABLE BOOK**
CBCA Awards 2024



Kaye Baillie is a writer of fiction and non-fiction children's picture books. She has a Diploma in Professional Writing and Editing. In 2022 her book *When The Waterhole Dries Up* was shortlisted in the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards and many of her picture books have won or been shortlisted in awards such as the NSW Premier's History Awards, WAYRBA (West Australian Young Readers Book Awards), Speech Pathology Australia Book Awards and the Children's Peace Literature Award. Her work has been published in Australia and internationally. One of Kaye's passions is bringing stories about remarkable people to young readers. *Mizuto and the Wind* is Kaye's third picture book with MidnightSun.



Luisa Gioffre-Suzuki is a professional illustrator, artist and teacher based in Victoria. After spending over a decade in Japan, her personal style has developed with influences from vibrant Japanese culture and is underpinned by her Fine Art training and love of color. Luisa uses a variety of mixed media including inks, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, pen and pencil to create her colorful imagery. She has illustrated over 30 books in both the education and trade markets and also creates original works for clients.

SATIN

**Sophie Masson and
Lorena Carrington**

Picture book | HB 32 | 240 x 240
ISBN: 9781922858016

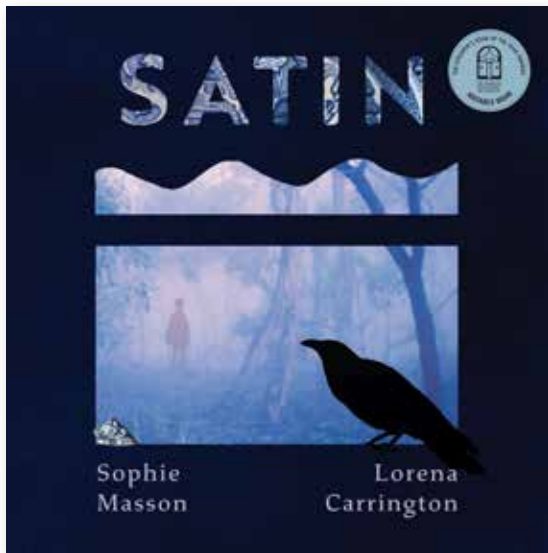
Rights held: World

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

He's collected all kinds of blues, from all kinds of places. He's making something beautiful, with all those blues. But something's missing, and he doesn't know what it is. And then, one day, he comes to a street he's never been in before. And what he finds there will change his lonely life forever.

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

• **NOTABLE BOOK CBCA
Awards 2024**



Sophie Masson was born in Indonesia of French parents, and brought up in France and Australia, Sophie Masson is the award-winning and internationally published author of over seventy books for children, young adults and adults. A former Chair of the Australian Society of Authors and current Chair of the New England Writers' Centre, in 2019 Sophie received an AM award in the Order of Australia honours list.



Lorena Carrington is an illustrator whose books have been published in Australia and internationally. Her works are created using photography and digital montage techniques to form richly layered images. She has worked with the likes of Kate Forsyth, Sophie Masson and Carmel Bird, and has illustrated fairy tale collections, picture books, and created covers for novels and anthologies. She also exhibits her work in galleries around Australia, and holds workshops on illustration, books and story. She is recipient of the 2020 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her 'outstanding contribution to the field of Australian Fairy Tales.'

WILD BUSH DAYS

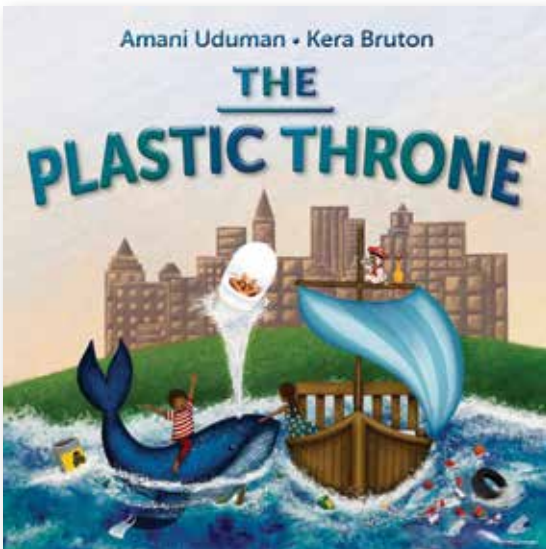
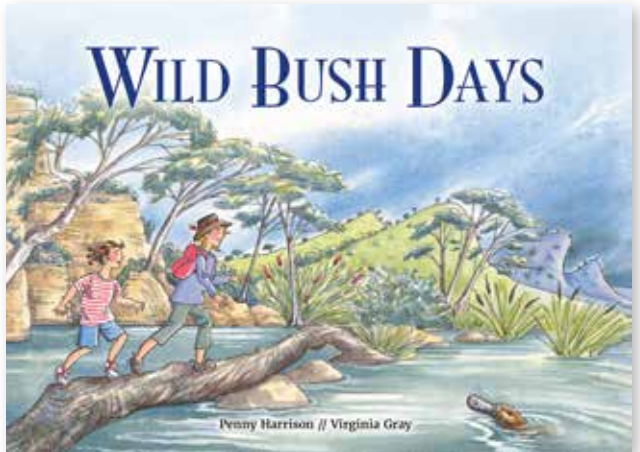
**Penny Harrison and
Virginia Gray**

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 295
ISBN: 9780987380906

Rights held: World

In this wild and unruly adventure, we meet Jessie Hickman, the Lady Bushranger, as she soars through the rough Australian landscape. Following her tail (and tale) are two contemporary sisters who feel Jessie in the wind and hear the galloping of her historical horse in every crunch of their footsteps.

An adventurous story that immortalises a bold and daring woman.



THE PLASTIC THRONE

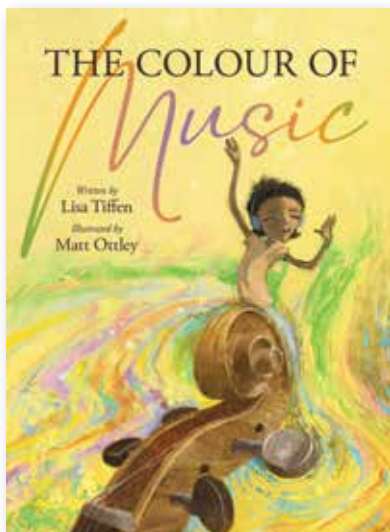
**Amani Uduman and
Kera Bruton**

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 210
ISBN: 9781925227802

Rights held: World

Denver flushes all kinds of things down the toilet but never stops to think about what happens to them once they are gone. One night, while he sleeps, the ocean begins to stir, no longer able to suppress its fury over how it's being treated. Can Denver and his sister Maisy make things right before it's too late?

This engaging story touches on the concepts of sustainability and the protection of our natural environment all while keeping a tongue placed firmly in its cheek.



THE COLOUR OF MUSIC

Lisa Tiffen and Matt Ottley

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 297
ISBN: 9781925227871

Rights held: World

Molly can see the music. Colours flash brilliantly as she listens. The music takes her on a journey into places filled with colour, revealing connections between music, emotions, and the world we live in.

The Colour of Music mixes art, music and the written word in a truly synaesthetic experience.

- Multi-award winning illustrator

ANISA'S ALPHABET

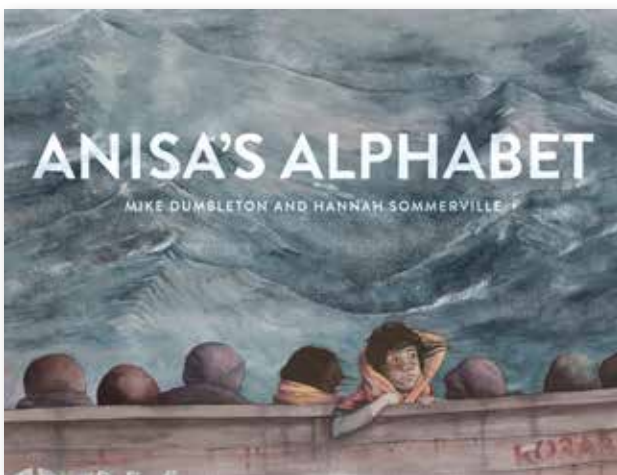
Mike Dumbleton and Hannah Sommerville

Picture book | HB 32 | 280 x 240
ISBN: 9781925227574

PB 32 | 280 x 240
ISBN: 9781922858269

Rights held: World

For many refugees the alphabet represents the start of a new language and a new future, but *Anisa's Alphabet* is different. A poignant and highly imaginative telling of one girl's story which will appeal to children and adults alike. Come with Anisa, and see things through her eyes.



- NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2021
- SHORTLISTED West Australia Young Readers Book Awards

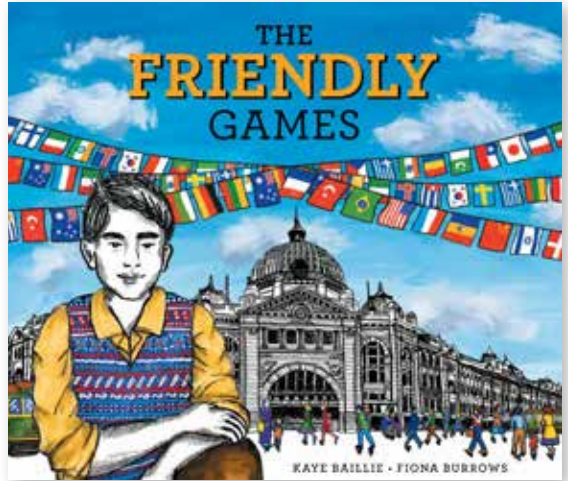
THE FRIENDLY GAMES

**Kaye Baillie and
Fiona Burrows**

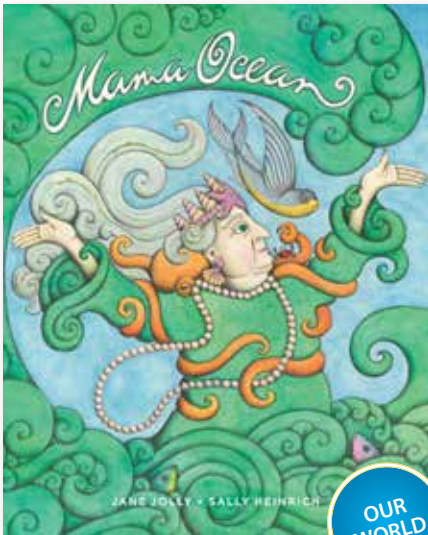
Picture book | HB 32 | 256 x 216
ISBN: 9781925227642

Rights held: World

In 1956 Melbourne hosted the Summer Olympic Games. Student John Wing was so proud of his country, one of the friendliest places on earth. But when world tensions dominated the news, John wrote an urgent letter suggesting how to change the Closing Ceremony to bring all nations together as one.



- SHORTLISTED NSW Premier's History Awards
- SHORTLISTED Children's Peace Literature Award



MAMA OCEAN

**Jane Jolly and
Sally Heinrich**

Picture book | HB 32 | 250 x 300
ISBN: 9781925227659

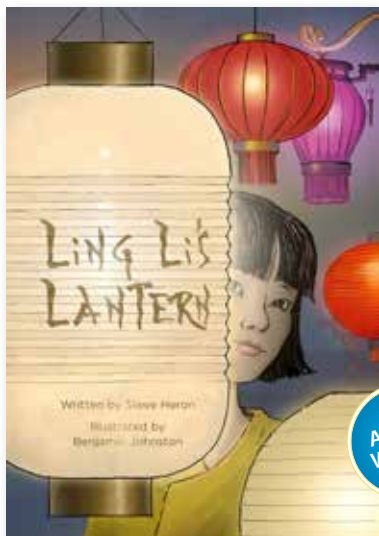
Rights held: World

Mama Ocean had eyes that sparkled, like sunlight on the sea, and tresses which tumbled and trailed through the tides.

But something is troubling Mama Ocean.

Who will help her?

- From the team that created *One Step at a Time*, a CBCA Honour Book, and *Papa Sky*, a CBCA notable book.



LING LI'S LANTERN

Steve Heron and Benjamin Johnston

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 297

ISBN: 9781925227673

Rights held: World

After she is set a challenge to test her wisdom, Ling Li returns from the village marketplace with only a lantern to light her way. How will she prove herself to her father?

Ling Li's Lantern is a heart-warming story about compassion, kindness and the true nature of wisdom.



• **WINNER** Picture Book All Ages Category in the Northern Lights Awards

ESMERALDA'S NEST

Robert Moore and Mandy Foot

Picture book | HB 32 | 215 x 215

ISBN: 9781925227666

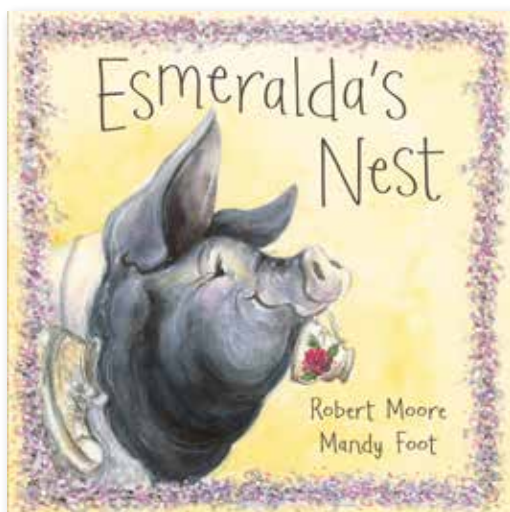
Rights held: World

Each day Esmeralda collects a variety of objects and waddles down the hill.

Everyone wonders why the Saddleback sow is carrying a bottle, fencing wire and a pair of trousers in her mouth.

Only Esmeralda knows. Nothing will stop her.

A sweet story introducing children to the days of the week and the way that animals nest.



VANISHING

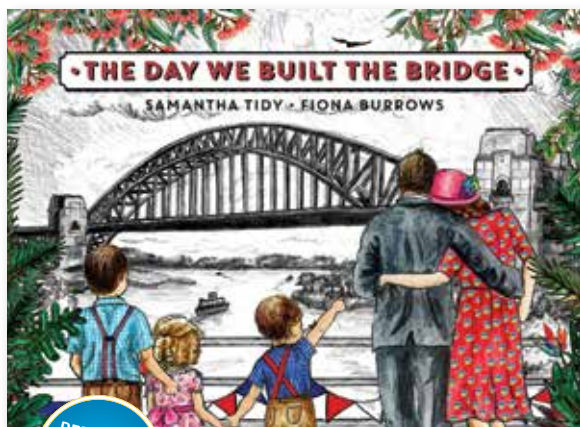
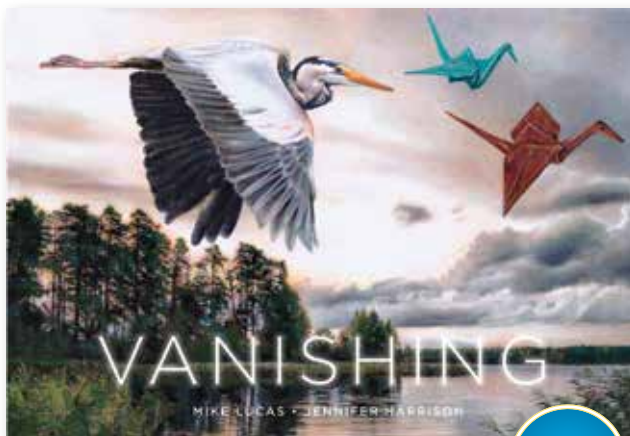
**Mike Lucas and
Jennifer Harrison**

Picture book | HB 32 | 295 x 250
ISBN: 9781925227444

PB 32 | 295 x 250
ISBN: 9781922858252

Rights held: World

Once creatures of all shapes and sizes, from the magnificent and mighty, to the tiniest of marvels, wandered this empty land. They had horns and wings and survived in all kinds of lands, from desert plains to icy tundras. But where are they now? *Vanishing* is a striking tale of our natural world and the looming environmental threats to the creatures that call it home.



THE DAY WE BUILT THE BRIDGE

**Samantha Tidy and
Fiona Burrows**

Picture book | HB 32 | 297 x 210
ISBN: 9781925227437

PB 32 | 297 x 210
ISBN: 9781922858245

Rights held: World

Big dreams, like the Sydney Harbour Bridge, can take generations. It can also take six million hand-driven rivets and 53,000 tonnes of steel. *The Day We Built the Bridge* celebrates our connection with one another, and declares that despite the greatest of challenges, together we can make history.



I WOULD DANGLE THE MOON

Amber Moffat

Picture book | HB 32 | 280 x 260
ISBN: 9781925227529

Rights held: World

What would you do if you could pluck the moon from the sky? Would you scoop it up in an ice cream cone, or ride it like a snail shell across the night sky? *I Would Dangle the Moon* is an imaginative and playful story about all the wonderful things a mother would do with the moon for her child if she could do anything in the world.

Lyrical and poetic, this unique and beautifully illustrated story evokes the love and warmth between a parent and child.

BORN TO FLY

**Beverley McWilliams and
Timothy Ide**

Picture book | HB 32 | 282 x 245
ISBN: 9781925227567

Rights held: World

Born in 1889 on a farm in rural South Australia, Harry Butler was determined to fly. Follow Harry's remarkable journey from studying the flight of his chickens to becoming one of Australia's most significant pioneer aviators.

An inspiring true story of a young Australian hero who proved that anything is possible if you believe in yourself and follow your dreams.



• NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2020

OLIVIA'S VOICE

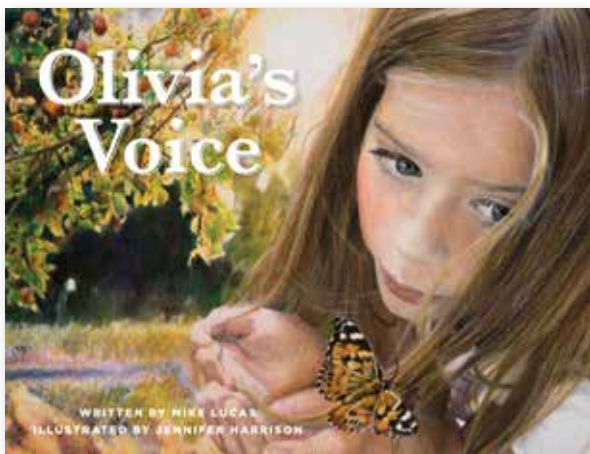
**Mike Lucas and
Jennifer Harrison**

Picture book | HB 32 | 297 x 210
ISBN: 9781925227192

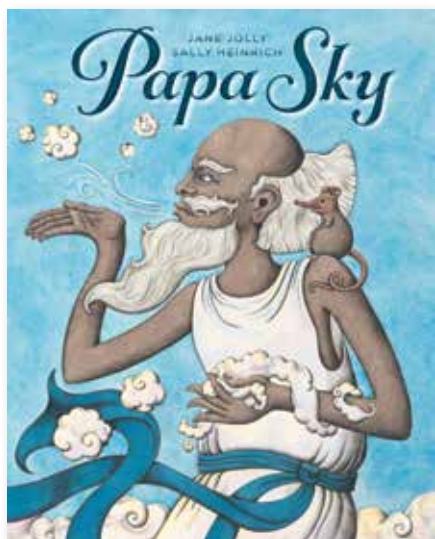
Rights held: World

Today, like all days, Olivia wakes to a silent world. Outside her window, birds dance upon the branches of the giant gum tree. She follows the delicious smell to breakfast downstairs, walks to school with her friends and is greeted by her favourite teachers. In the music room, everyone knows which instrument she will choose. This is *Olivia's Voice*.

With evocative language and beautifully detailed illustrations, Lucas and Harrison bring to life the vivid experiences of Olivia, a young deaf girl, as she explores a silent world full of vibrant colour, friendship and fun. *Olivia's Voice* allows underrepresented deaf children to see themselves in a story and gives hearing children an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world.



• **NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2018**



PAPA SKY

**Jane Jolly and
Sally Heinrich**

Picture book | HB 32 | 250 x 300
ISBN: 9781925227291

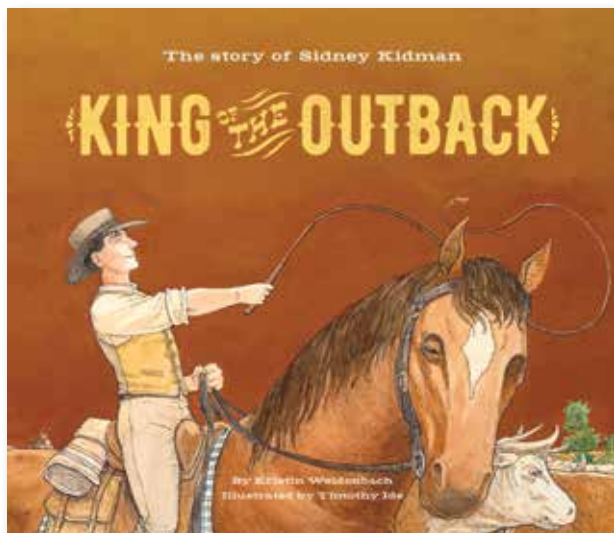
Rights held: World

Another stunning picture book from the award-winning team who brought you *One Step at a Time*, Honour Book in the CBCA Awards 2016.

Papa Sky sits where earth meets sky, until one night the wind blows him down, down, down through the cloud forest, where he lands with a bump.

What will happen next? Who will help him?

• **NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2018**



KING OF THE OUTBACK

Kristin Weidenbach and Timothy Ide

Picture book | HB 32 | 290 x 260
ISBN: 9781925227246

Rights held: World

Sidney Kidman runs away from home at thirteen and travels to the outback on a one-eyed horse. He finds stray cows in the scrub, swims across rivers by hanging on to a bullock's tail and dreams of having the biggest herd of cattle in Australia.

Many years later, when the workers on Sid's cattle station organise a giant rodeo for Sid's birthday party, the cattle from the bush take fright in the city. People panic and horses bolt. Can the Kidman stockmen save the day? *King of the Outback* tells the rags to riches story of one of Australia's greatest pastoral pioneers.

MESSAGE IN A SOCK

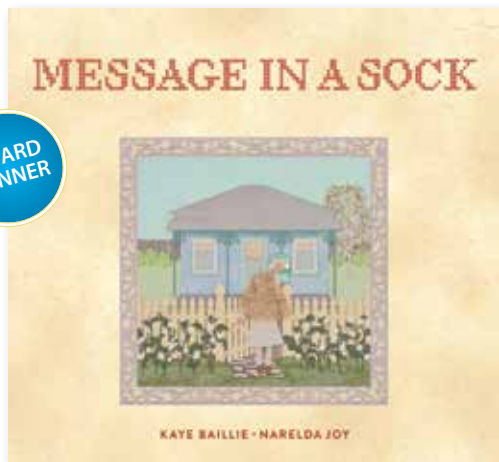
Kaye Baillie and Narelda Joy

Picture book | HB 32 | 294 x 271
ISBN: 9781925227383

Rights held: World

Tammy is safe at home, but her heart is with her father at the warfront. While her mother knits socks for the soldiers, Tammy slips a message inside each pair. But will her one special message find her father, and bring him safely home?

Based on a true exchange between Lance Corporal A. McDougall and a young girl, *Message in a Sock* is a gorgeous collage-style tale which pays respect to the soldiers and their families, a century after the end of World War I.



- **WINNER** Northern Lights Book Awards 2019
- **SHORTLISTED** West Australian Young Readers' Book Award 2019
- **SHORTLISTED** NSW Premier's History Awards 2019

ONE STEP AT A TIME

Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich

Picture book | HB 32 | 250 x 300
ISBN: 9780987380951

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Simplified Chinese,
World Spanish

One Step at a Time is the touching story about a relationship between a young boy, Luk, and his elephant, Mali. One day on the border of Thailand and Burma, Mali steps on a landmine. Luk supports her during her recovery, as she is eventually fitted with a prosthesis and gets a second chance at life.

One Step at a Time is a ground-breaking story about courage, friendship and true love. Heinrich's beautiful illustrations match Jolly's light touch when it comes to writing about the sensitive subject of landmines. *One Step at a Time* is a story to enthrall children around the world.

- HONOUR BOOK CBCA Awards 2016
- SHORTLISTED Western Australian Young Readers Awards 2016
- LONGLISTED Australian Book Industry Award 2016
- Chosen to travel to the Bologna Children's Book Fair with the exhibition *Hello! from Australia* 2015





MidnightSun

MidnightSun Publishing Non-fiction

THE GROWN-UP'S GUIDE TO PICTURE BOOKS

Written by Lara Cain Gray and illustrated by Lorena Carrington and Timothy Ide

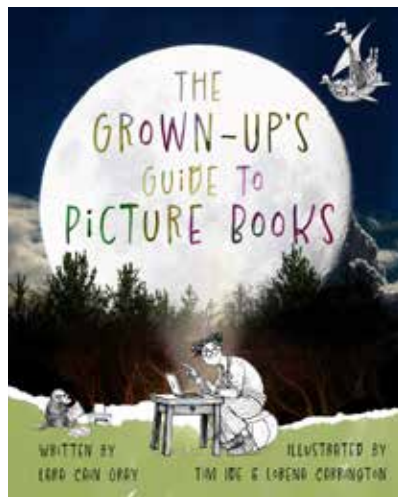
Non-fiction | HB | 297 x 210 | ISBN: 9781922858504

Rights held: World

A picture book is a book with pictures, but it's so much more than that! This A to Z guide helps you level up your picture book reading experiences, empowering yourself and the young readers in your world to dive deeper into what makes a great picture book great. With histories, insights and handy talking points for shared reading, come and explore the complexities of modern picture books. Discover the science of page layouts, the purpose of rhyme, and why our favourites linger in our hearts and minds for life. Let's read!

'A delightful deep-dive between the covers of picture books, exploring both the inner-workings and enchanting wonders of the artform.'

Matt Cosgrove, author & illustrator of *Macca the Alpaca*



'I know of no other book that will so quickly improve a grown-up's ability to engage more deeply with that which is so human – the combination of words and pictures to tell stories.'

Matt Shanks, award-winning picture book author and illustrator



Dr Lara Cain Gray is a writer, librarian and storytelling advocate based in Brisbane, Australia. Her professional past spans library and museum curatorship, academic research, and corporate and creative writing and editing. She is currently Head of Acquisitions at nonprofit publisher Library For All, delivering cross-cultural children's books to remote and low-income communities. She reads every day and will NEVER be too old for picture books.



Timothy Ide is an Adelaide based illustrator with a number of children's books under his belt, including *Tom the Outback Mailman* written by Kristin Weidenbach, which won the Eve Pownall CBCA award in 2013. His most recent children's books are *King of the Outback*, *the Story of Sidney Kidman* (2017), also by Kristin Weidenbach and *Born to Fly* (2019) by Beverley McWilliams. *Medieval Monsters and Other Creatures* (2023) is his first book as both author and illustrator. When he is not illustrating, Timothy enjoys wargaming and role-playing games as well as practising medieval fighting in full armour.



Lorena Carrington is an illustrator whose books have been published in Australia and internationally. Her works are created using photography and digital montage techniques to form richly layered images. She has worked with the likes of Kate Forsyth, Sophie Masson and Carmel Bird, and has illustrated fairy tale collections, picture books, and created covers for novels and anthologies. She also exhibits her work in galleries around Australia, and holds workshops on illustration, books and story. She is recipient of the 2020 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her 'outstanding contribution to the field of Australian Fairy Tales.'

MidnightSun Publishing
**Middle-grade
& Young Adult**



MidnightSun

www.midnightsunpublishing.com



True South

Gisela Ervin-Ward

Middle-grade fiction | PB 192 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781922858597

Rights held: World

It's not every day that you crash your boat into a house. As Nell South-Nicholas hung over the gunwale of her sailboat to inspect the damage, she wondered why that day had to be today.

When twelve-year-old Nell crashes her sailboat into a submerged house in the lake, she stumbles into a treasure hunt that plunges her into a generations-old family feud.

Things begin to take a sinister turn as the adults get involved, and Nell has no choice but to team up with her neighbour and family rival, Charlie. As friendships begin to morph and stretch, can these two unlikely allies end the feud and work out the treasure's secrets, or will their rivalry lead to one last epic betrayal?

'This story is a treasure submerged in character, mystery and heart.'
Neen McKenzie, author of *Cryptosight*, *Xenoflight* and *Timefire*

'A page-turning adventure, filled with mystery and heart – I adored *True South*!'
Anna Battese, author of the *P.D. McPem Mysteries*

'*True South* capsizes the notion of a sleepy rural life when friendships (and long-standing grudges) are put to the test in the race to resurface drowned secrets. As much adventure of the heart as high-stakes competition between feuding families.'
Michael Earp, bookseller and editor of *Kindred*, *Everything Under the Moon* and *Avast!*



Gisela Ervin-Ward writes stuff for kids to read and teaches them how to read it. She grew up on a farm in Western Victoria and moved to South-East Asia to be an aid worker for many years before returning to Australia with her family to live in the Macedon Ranges. She's now a writer of children's tales and specialist literacy teacher, teaching neurodivergent children how to read. Gisela loves writing and reading stories with rural settings where children are free to have real adventures. Gisela has had short stories published in the *School Magazine*, won an Australian Society of Authors Mentorship prize and has been a literacy and learning difficulties advisor for several children's publications. She also writes educational materials for Sally Rippin's books. *True South* is her debut novel. Gisela can be found on Instagram at @giselaerwinward or on her website www.giselaerwinward.com.



The Helios Book

Slade Carter

Middle-grade fiction | PB 224 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781922858412

Rights held: World

Twelve-year-old twins Hugo and Kitty have an ultra-rare condition called heterochromia, which bestows them with different coloured eyes: one hazel, the other blue. On holiday in rural Australia, the twins befriend their solitary neighbour, Lucas, who has developed a powerful solar device he calls the Helios Book. Lucas promises it will revolutionise global energy use. In a desperate attempt to escape those who would steal the Helios Book, the twins follow a fairy wren down a wombat burrow and into the mysterious world of Taara, a land plagued by a terrifying earthquake-like phenomenon called the Blurrings, and home to those who would take a nefarious interest in the twins' heterochromia.

The Helios Book is the *Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* for the Age of Extinction.

'A cracking read, full of strange creatures, tricky situations and high adventure.'

Hilary Harper, ABC Broadcaster

'Wow! 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



Slade Carter was born in Bendigo, Australia, and currently lives in Melbourne with his wife and two children. By day, Slade works in policy and advocacy in the health sector, which is more interesting than it sounds. Slade enjoys reading, travelling, the wonders of nature, music and spending time with his family. *The Helios Book* is his first novel.



TIMEFIRE

Nean McKenzie

Middle-grade fiction | PB 240 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9780987226518

Rights held: World

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

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

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

'Original, perilous, you can smell the smoke.' **Neridah McMullin**

'A gripping story of time, family – and fire.'
Pamela Rushby

'*Timefire* is a thrilling page-turner full of intrigue and heart. A fantastic and absorbing middle-grade novel.'
Maggie Jankuloska, author of *The Rat-Catcher's Apprentice*



Nean McKenzie is a children's writer and optometrist who lives in western Melbourne. Originally from Bendigo, Nean lived in New Zealand, Europe and North East Africa before returning to Victoria. She lives with her family and a cat called Lemonade who purrs, even when nervous. Nean has had three middle-grade novels out with MidnightSun Publishing: *Cryptosight* (2019), *Xenoflight* (2022) and *Timefire* (2023). She was awarded a Maurice Saxby mentorship in 2016, a fellowship for the KSP Writers Centre for 2023 and has a diploma in Professional Writing and Editing from RMIT. When not writing or testing people's eyes, Nean enjoys running and travelling to interesting places around the world. She also likes bush-walking and reading books, especially those for 8-12-year-olds.

THE QUEST FOR THE GALLEON OF TIME

Tanya Hunter

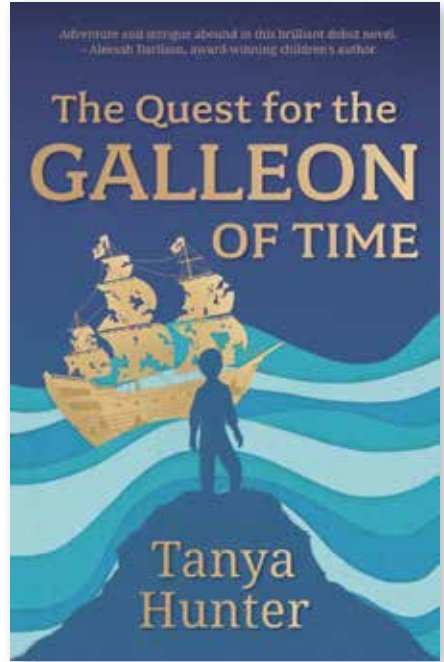
Middle-grade fiction | PB 208 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781922858191

Rights held: World

The year is 1738 and eleven-year-old Tobias Crane is forced to leave his home to work as a ship's lad on a trading galleon. Once onboard, Tobias discovers that the ship is a time-travelling galleon! A galleon that can inexplicably appear in different dimensions in the past, present and future.

A captain's obsession with revenge will force Tobias and the crew on a dangerous adventure through treacherous waters. With the help of new friends, Tobias must somehow return home to warn his father that he's in grave danger.

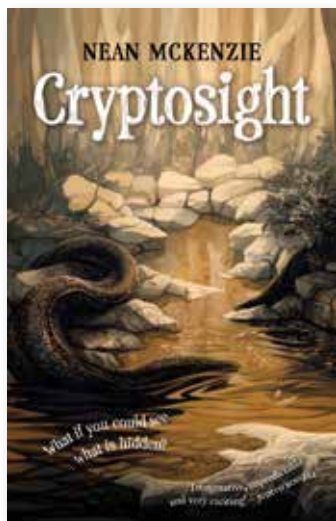
Along the way, Tobias faces deadly obstacles made more complicated by the lethal family dynamics of three brothers – one good, one evil, and one dead!



'Adventure and intrigue abound in this brilliant debut novel!' **Aleesah Darlison**, award-winning children's author



Tanya Hunter's love of adventure stories began as a child living in Nottingham, England, when she regularly explored the same countryside as the fabled Robin Hood. A former primary school teacher, Tanya has been a police officer for nearly twenty-five years. She is also a proud ambassador for Multiple Sclerosis QLD and has a passion for disability advocacy. Tanya's debut novel is *The Quest for the Galleon of Time*.



CRYPTOSIGHT

Nean McKenzie

Middle-grade fiction | PB 176 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9781925227536

Rights held: World

Rafferty Kaminski is a 13-year-old boy who believes in facts. Not like his Cryptozoologist father, who hunts for creatures not proven to exist.

However, when Raff's father disappears in the Flinders Ranges, strange things start happening. Raff's younger sister Zara receives a warning from a crow about bunyip hunters. A creepy red-handed ranger pursues the children who stow away on a school bus.

Raff is drawn into the weird world of Cryptozoology, as he and Zara follow 'sightings' around country Victoria of creatures Raff doesn't believe in. Will they find their father? And what is the ancient voice that only Raff hears, as they approach the Wombat State Park?

'Imaginative, unpredictable and very exciting' **Judith Rossell**

XENOFLIGHT

Nean McKenzie

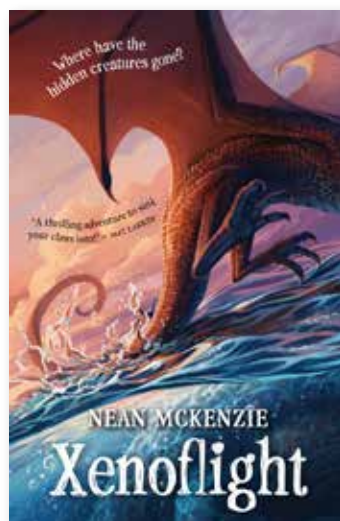
Middle-grade fiction | PB 240 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9780987226518

Rights held: World

Apart from her flying pet ferret Fernando and her auntie Carla, 13-year-old Nessa Santiago is alone. Her mother died in a circus accident and she has never known her father. But when the day finally comes for Nessa to meet him, everything goes wrong. Her auntie unexpectedly leaves in a helicopter and a menacing Cryptid Hunter, who captures unusual creatures like Fernando, shows up instead. In order to keep Fernando safe, Nessa must run.

With help from Kep, a boy from her school, Nessa embarks on a wild journey through rural Australia to find her father. Nessa, Fernando and Kep are pursued by the anti-cryptid organisation HARNESSE and a mysterious giant bird in the sky. Along the way, they meet weird and wonderful creatures, but with each new encounter, more questions arise. What are the visions Nessa gets every time she closes her eyes? And what are they trying to tell her about her parents?



'A weird and wonderful cryptid mystery that teases out the clues, one by one...' **Sherry Clark**

THE RAT-CATCHER'S APPRENTICE

Maggie Jankuloska

Middle-grade fiction | PB 192 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227949

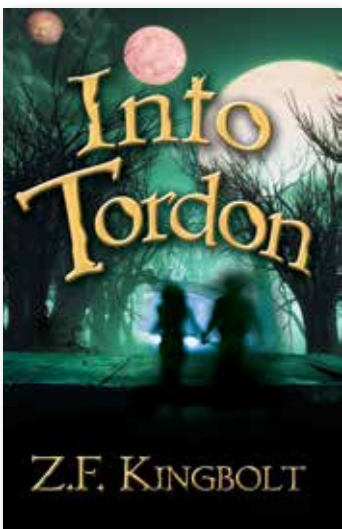
Rights held: World

It's 1665. Rats have infested homes and alleys in Marie Perrin's provincial French town. Twelve-year-old Marie is set to become a maid, although she hungers for adventure. However, one mistake alters her fate and as punishment she is forced to apprentice for an intimidating rat-catcher.

Away from her parents and twin brother, and handling gnarly rat traps under Gustave Renard's unusual mentorship, Marie must overcome a new set of challenges which come after a plague enters her town.

Are rats responsible for the spread of the illness? Can Marie find a way out of the bubbling danger around her?

The Rat-Catcher's Apprentice depicts non-traditional families, belonging and female bravery in an atmospheric historical setting.



INTO TORDON

Z.F. Kingbolt

Middle-grade fiction | PB 256 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227147

Rights held: World

Thirteen-year-old Beth has been waiting for weeks to play in the championship of her favourite online game, *Tordon*. Now tribes of beastmen roar through her speakers. Game on! She plays to win, until her gaming nemesis Zane challenges her to a real-life risk that has them sucked into a strange world. Here they must push their skills to the limit just to survive! Faced with riddles, a multitude of dangerous creatures, exotic cultures and scientific impossibilities, Beth and Zane are forced to take on challenge after challenge if they're ever to return home.

'A pacy, exciting read' *Books+Publishing*

A CARDBOARD PALACE

Allayne L. Webster

Middle-grade fiction | PB 176 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9781925227253

Rights held: World

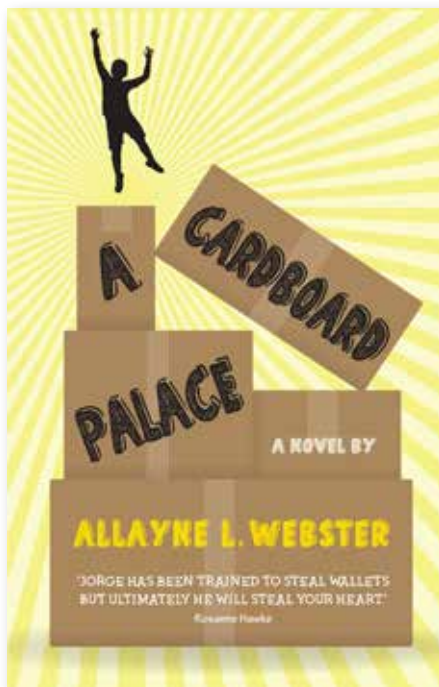
Rights sold: Swedish

Jorge lives in a shanty town on the outskirts of Paris. Bill, a controller, has an army of child thieves at his command – and Jorge is one of them.

But soon Jorge faces an even bigger threat. His home is to be bulldozed. Where will Jorge sleep? What will happen to his friends, Ada and Gino? Could a burgeoning friendship with Australian chef, Sticky-Ricky, help Jorge to stop Bill and save the army of child-thieves? And will he do it before he loses Ada forever?

Jorge can't keep fighting to live – now he must live to fight.

A harrowing, humbling story about one boy's desperation to escape a life of crippling poverty.



• NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2018



MidnightSun

WHEN DARK WATERS BURN

Zena Shapter

YA fiction | PB 400 | 129 x 198

ISBN: 9781922858627

Rights held: World

Stay out of sight. Stay hidden under the lake. Even as giant water-ants scout the surface, and deadly trees slop their hungry roots along the shoreline. For unrest surges in the swamps, getting closer and closer... Sala will only be safe for as long as their ship's location remains a secret.

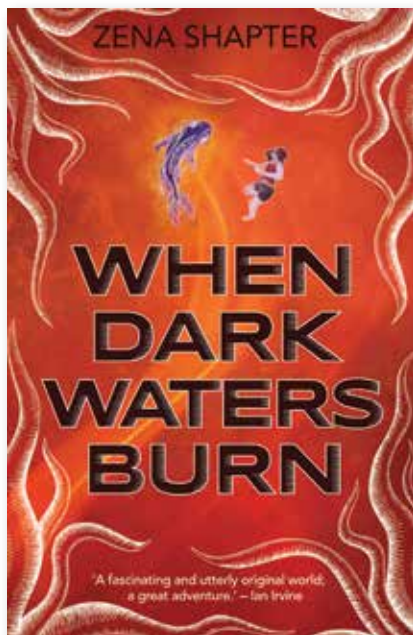
But when a horrifying threat ignites close to home, and the lakeside hillfarms are forced to reveal a desperate truth, it unleashes a wreckage of terror and destruction on the world of Palude. What Sala fears most becomes irrelevant. All she can do is run, and make one irrevocable choice after another. If she's to have any kind of future, she must fight to accept the collapse of her past. Hiding from it was never an option.

'A timely epic futuristic quest, fast paced and absorbing, with a slow burn romance that will leave readers wanting more. Readers will be gripped by this thrilling and immersive tale from one of Australia's most exciting and inventive writers.'

CBCA Notable author Pip Harry

'A fascinating and utterly original world; a great adventure.'

Ian Irvine, bestselling author of the *Three Worlds* fantasy sequence.



'*When Dark Waters Burn* held me captive from page one! This engaging, action-packed fantasy world will appeal equally to lovers of fantasy and science fiction.

Five out of five stars.'

USA Today Bestselling Author Dionne Lister

Also from the world of Palude, *When Dark Roots Hunt*:

- Best Novel 2024 Ditmar Award Finalist
- Reprinted before release

Zena Shapter is a multi-award-winning author, youth writing competition judge, and high school English tutor whose students told her exactly what they wanted to read – escapist stories that resonate with their fears about sustainability, being unheard, threat of war, misinformation... and Australian property prices! So she rolled all that into the thrilling carnivorous tree swamp world of Palude! When not writing, Zena loves movies, frogs, chocolate, potatoes and living with her family among Sydney's beautiful Northern Beaches. Her website at zenashapter.com lists more of her incredible award-winning fiction.



A WAY HOME

Emily Brewin

YA fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198
ISBN: 9781922858382

Rights held: World

Sixteen-year-old Grace lives under a bridge in Melbourne's CBD. It's cold and wet, but hidden. Safe, at least, until she can go home.

When winter drives her to the City Library one morning, Grace meets Louie, a weird kid with his own problems, and discovers a community piano. The piano reminds Grace of her mum, a celebrated pianist whose mental illness makes life a rollercoaster – and not always a fun one.

When Grace comes up with a plan to find the help she and Mum need, life begins to look up. But things don't work out as Grace imagines and suddenly her world's turned upside down again, and maybe for good this time.

A Way Home is a big-hearted novel that explores the complexities of growing up with a parent who is struggling, and about the places and people we call home.

'A page-turning, gritty story full of hope and compassion.

The writing is assured and gripping, and Grace is a memorable and compelling character, beautifully realised.

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



'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***

- **NOTABLE Book CBCA Awards 2025**
- **WINNER Gab Williams Prize**
- **SHORTLISTED Readings Prize**

Emily Brewin is a Melbourne author, copywriter, and learning designer. Her first novel, *Hello, Goodbye*, was published in 2017 and her second, *Small Blessings*, in 2019. *A Way Home* is her first YA novel. Her short stories have appeared in anthologies, *Into Your Arms: Nick Cave's Songs Reimagined* by Fremantle Press, *We'll Stand In That Place and Other Stories* by Margaret River Press and the *Bristol Short Story Anthology - Volume 10*. She has written for *The Age*, *ABC Education*, *news.com.au*, *Meanjin*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Archer*, *Feminartsy*, *The Victorian Writer*, *Screen Education*, and *Mamamia*. She is currently working on her fourth novel.



THE WEAVER

Melanie Kanicky

YA fiction | PB 352 | 129 x 198

ISBN: 9781922858283

Rights held: World

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

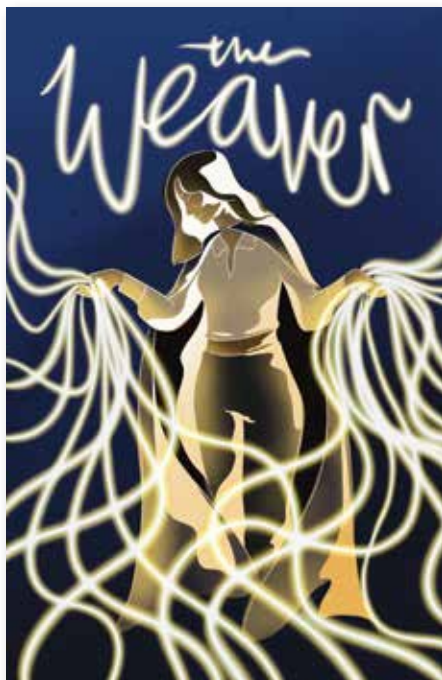
But when a pair of thieves appear in the dead of night, Saatcha's duty to her father is torn from her. Forced to leave her home behind, the bounds of magic that once held Saatcha begin to slip away.

Papa is gone.

Magic is real.

And her kidnappers are much more than simple thieves.

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



• **White Raven Pick**

Melanie Kanicky is a Melbourne-based author. Born in the Yarra Valley, Melanie has a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Film & Television) from Deakin University, and is currently completing her Master's Degree in Writing & Literature with a focus on creative writing. Outside of her studies, Melanie currently manages a bookstore, where she delights in sharing her love of reading and literature with others. Her short fiction has appeared in the *Wyndham Writing Awards Anthology* and the *Forty South Short Story Anthology*, as well as being shortlisted for the 2022 Tasmanian Writers' Prize. *The Weaver* is her first novel.



THIS

Lazaros Zigomanis

YA fiction | PB 368 | 129 x 198
ISBN: 9781922858146

Rights held: World

High school.

Friends.

Overbearing Greek parents.

Then comes the panic attacks.

The worry.

The obsessiveness.

And the depression.

What is this thing called anxiety?

Life as a teen growing up in the 1980s is never easy.

But, sometimes, it's just about impossible.



Set in the 80s, a fifteen-year-old unnamed Greek boy is completely confused about what is going on as he tries to fend off what we now know as anxiety, panic attacks and depression while surrounded by his Greek family, friends and girls he might or might not have a crush on.



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

WHEN DARK ROOTS HUNT

Zena Shapter

YA fiction | PB 400 | 129 x 198
ISBN: 9781922858061

Rights held: World

Don't go out onto the lake. Wyann trees search the shallows to spear passing prey with their roots. Giant water-ants hunt anything that moves on the water-skin. Sala's village survives hidden behind a wall of poisonous ivy, because everyone agrees: don't go out onto the lake.

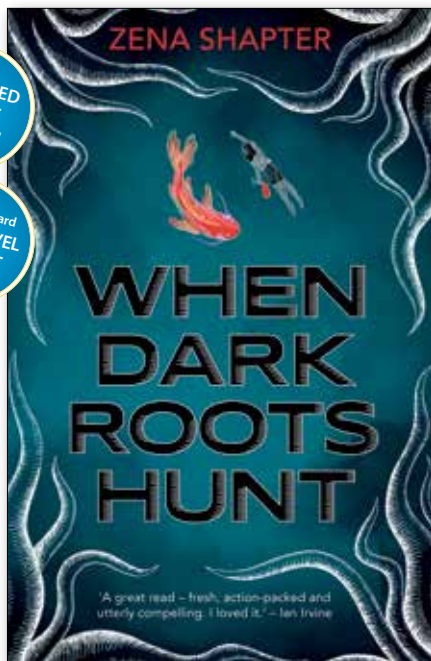
But then a strange comet crosses the night sky, throwing Sala and her pet pointer into a race through wyann-infested swampland that has her risking it all, unearthing long-hidden truths and stirring rivalries into a terrifying conflict set to change the world of Palude forever. Sala must do whatever it takes to face the truth of who she is: to save her village, to save her family, to save herself. If only they had listened.

'An intriguing new world filled with luminous beauty, exotic dangers, and unsettlingly familiar aging tech'
Leife Shallcross, *The Beast's Heart*

'Fresh, action-packed and utterly compelling.'
Ian Irvine, internationally bestselling author of *The Gates of Good and Evil* series

REPRINTED
BEFORE
RELEASE!

Ditmar Award
BEST NOVEL
FINALIST
2024



'Shapter has created an immersive, fantastical world with tension poised to snap at any moment. I couldn't put it down.'
USA Today bestselling author Dionne Lister, *The Circle of Talia*



Zena Shapter writes from a castle in a flying city hidden by a thundercloud, reaching across age and genre into the heart of storytelling. A multi-award-winning author of speculative and contemporary fiction, she loves conjuring journeys into the beyond and unusual. To read more of her work, please browse the bibliography on her website at zenashapter.com. When not writing, Zena loves movies, frogs, chocolate, potatoes and living with her family among Sydney's beautiful Northern Beaches. She's travelled all around the world, visiting close to 50 countries, which inspire her to create worlds of her own. With her BA (Hons) in English Literature, Zena enjoys working as a mentor, editor and inclusive creativity advocate, inspiring writers to develop their craft. She teaches storytelling and writing at festivals, libraries and schools, judges various literary awards and encourages everyone to value the importance of creativity. She believes that stories are our best invention.



SOMETHING ABOUT ALASKA

J. A. Cooper

YA fiction | PB 224 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9780987380975

Rights held: World

'It's a wicked cold, the Alaska winter, and can kill a man in a second...'

Nearing 15, Zac Greene travels to Alaska to re-connect with the father he's only ever known from a distance. But Zac's dad is a lone wolf – a wounded soul who'd rather drown his regrets in a bottle of bourbon than confront the mistakes of his past. As Zac struggles to earn his father's approval, things spiral out of control forcing Zac to take his chances with the Alaskan winter. Whatever hope remains for father and son quickly fades, as Zac is forced to hitchhike to escape the hostile weather and soon finds himself sharing a remote cabin with a total stranger... and his gun.

'They say you don't know your enemies from your friends until the ice breaks beneath your feet...'

THE GHOST SQUAD

Sophie Masson

YA fiction | PB 448 | 128 x 198

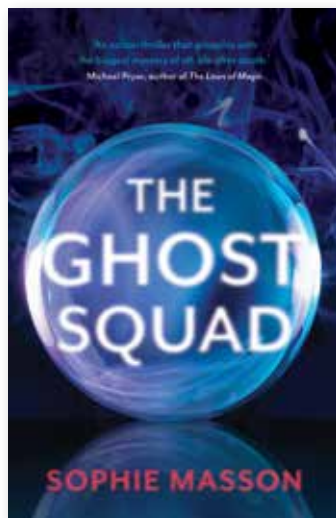
ISBN: 9781925227772

Rights held: World

Imagine a world where all seems normal and yet nothing is – a world very much like our own, yet jarringly unlike. A world where two clandestine organisations, the Ghost Squad and the Base, are engaged in a secret battle for control of information so dangerous it could literally change life as humans have always known it...

A bold, exciting novel with thrilling twists and turns, *The Ghost Squad* is a novel that will keep readers guessing – and keep them awake at night!

'An action thriller that grapples with the biggest mystery of all: life after death.' **Michael Pryor, author of *The Laws of Magic***



THE LANTERNIST

Stephen Orr

YA / Middle-grade fiction | PB 400 | 128 x 198

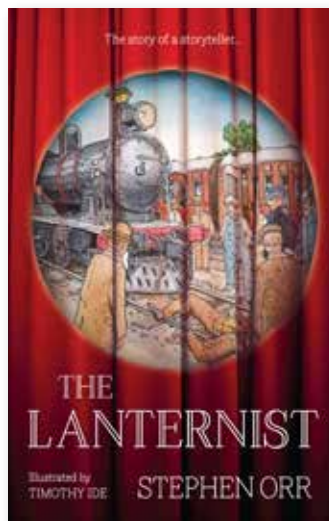
ISBN: 9781925227840

Rights held: World

1901. The slide clunks into the lantern, and Phantoms come alive on the wall. The father-and-son Magic Lantern team of Bert and Tom Eliot are masters of The Art of the Story. The only problem is that they are missing a wife and mother. Then one morning eleven-year-old Tom wakes to find his father missing, too.

The Lanternist's apprentice is thrown out of home, forced to work for the arch-criminal Jimmy Sacks, arrested and imprisoned. Will he ever be able to escape with his new friend Max and make the long, flea-bitten, rat-infested journey to Sydney in search of his parents?

The Lanternist is a story about stories, and how they show us a way through life, despite callous landlords, corrupt officials, criminal companions and the problems with living in incinerators. But mostly, it is about searching, and making your own endings.



Celebrated author Stephen Orr's first foray into young adult literature is a thrilling historical adventure.



HEAVEN SENT

S.J. Morgan

YA fiction | PB 256 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9781925227451

Rights held: World

Angels come in many guises; some have broken wings ...

Evie's life is in tatters. She has a father she barely knows, a stepdad she'd rather she didn't and a best friend going off the rails. Then there's the brace she has to wear for her wonky spine.

So when the gorgeous Gabe crashes into her world, claiming he's been sent to save her, Evie's desperate to believe him. But Gabe isn't all he seems and Evie is drawn into a whole new set of calamities. Can she ever be saved? Can he?

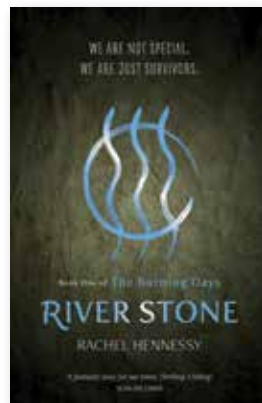
Heaven Sent is a story of love, trust and redemption in a world where not everyone is the perfect fit.

RIVER STONE – Rachel Hennessy

YA Fiction | PB 368 | 128 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227499 | **Rights held:** World

Pandora, of the River People, wants more than her village can provide. When disaster comes to her people, Pan has the opportunity to become their saviour and escape her inevitable pairing with life-long friend Matthew. She wants to make her own choices. Deep in her soul, she believes there is something more out there, beyond the boundaries, especially since she encountered the hunter of the Mountain People.

A story of confused love, difficult friendships and clumsy attempts at heroism, Pan's fight for her village will bring her into contact with a whole new world, where the truth about the past will have terrifying reverberations for her people's future survival.



MOUNTAIN ARROW – Rachel Hennessy

YA Fiction | PB 368 | 128 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227741 | **Rights held:** World

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

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

While Pan now knows how to shoot an arrow, she still does not know the shape of her heart and the river stone remains in two pieces...



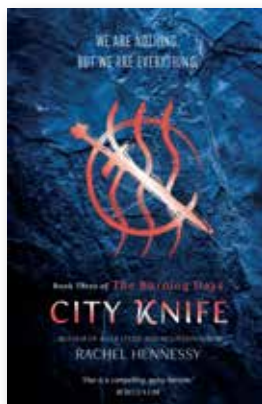
CITY KNIFE – Rachel Hennessy

YA Fiction | PB 344 | 128 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227970 | **Rights held:** World

The chimera of the city are on the hunt.

After years of being individually slaughtered, they have come together to make war on Pandora and her people.

In the conclusion to *The Burning Days*, the sins of the past will be revealed and all hope for the future will be under attack.



Coming in 2026 and beyond

Audrey Skips

Andrea Rowe and Lisa Coutts

The iconic Skipping Girl sign in Melbourne lights up the sky as she skips. Children and adults alike look up to her and she keeps their spirits up during hard times.

This unique look at an historic landmark by award-winning writer Andrea Rowe is sure to surprise and delight.

The Puffer-upper-er

Michael Paulson and Kruti Desai

Every day puffer fish Pudge's fear gets worse. There's no better puffer-upper-er than Pudge, but when it comes to blowing out, well, that's the real worry. Will he sink? Will he drown? But when he starts to work on overcoming his fears, Pudge finds out that he can be braver than he ever thought he could be.

Lulu

Beverly McWilliams and Timothy Ide

It's 1943 and the 6th New Zealand Field Ambulance await their orders to advance. But Private Mark notices something scratching in the scrub...

Delightfully illustrated by Timothy Ide, *Lulu* is this true story of an unlikely wartime pet offering lightness and joy during a time of darkness and trouble.

Stuff

Jen Sherrington and Hélène Magisson

Morri wants more stuff. He doesn't have enough. But when Morri's piles of stuff grow and grow and grow, can Morri's friend Birdie help him see that having all that stuff isn't as important as Morri thinks it is?

Girls Like

Katrina Germain and Deb Hudson

Girls like.. sweet food, green food, hot food, queen food. Girls like all sorts of things. Girls like things that are fun. They like park days, rain days, town days, train days.

With smooth rhythm and delight in everyday situations Katrina Germain guides youngsters through things they might like.

Lollipop Lu

Rebecca Ralfe and Lisa Coutts

In the busy town of Busselton Downs, nobody has time for fun. And they certainly don't have time for dancing.

So, when Lollipop Lu arrives, she really shakes things up with her razzle dazzle dance moves on the school crossing. Intrigued by Lu's zest for life, little Connie starts dancing too and encourages others to join in.

But not everyone is happy about the traffic delays. Will the residents of Busselton Downs run Lu out of town? Or will Connie help them recognise the benefits of putting a bit of boogie into every day?

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