

## ANIMAL FORCE

CERISE MADSEN, ILLUSTRATED BY SALLY HEINRICH

- Perfect for readers 8-12 who love nature, laugh-out-loud adventure, and heart-filled stories of courage, kinship, and the wild power within

### Age range 8 to 12

*Animal Force* is a magical wildlife adventure for young readers about standing up for what you believe in and discovering where you truly belong.

Adopted twins Leo and Kelly are spending their 11th birthday camping on Ember Island, but their holiday takes a wild turn when strange dreams, school bullies, and threats to the island's fragile ecosystem collide. Leo is quiet and cautious; Kelly is fearless and fast but when they uncover a hidden family secret and awaken a magical connection to endangered animals, the twins must work together to protect the island and its wildlife.



9 781922 858740

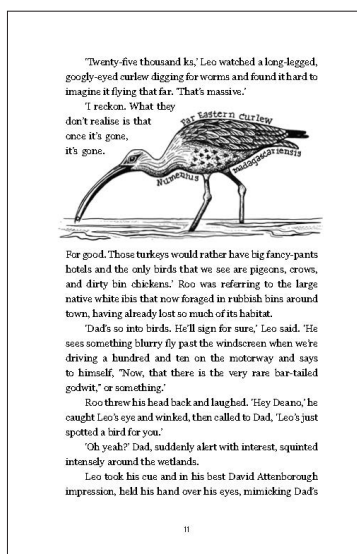
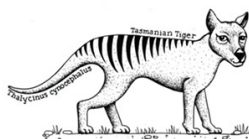


9781922858740 | July 2026 |  
MidnightSun Publishing | PB | 136pp |  
198x129mm | AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99

DISCOUNT: GEN



Meanjin  
(Brisbane)



"Twenty-five thousand ks," Leo watched a long-legged, googly-eyed curlew digging for worms and found it hard to imagine it flying that far. That's massive.

"I reckon. What they don't realise is that once it's gone, it's gone."

For god's sake, those tunkeys would rather have big fancy-pants hats and the only birds that we see are pigeons, crows, and dirty bin chickens." Roo was referring to the large native white bins that now foraged in rubbish bins around town, having already lost so much of its habitat.

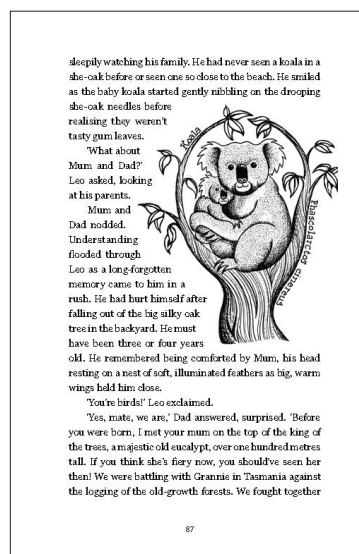
"Dad's so into birds. He'll sign for sure," Leo said. He sees something blurry fly past the windshield when we're driving a hundred and ten on the motorway and says to himself, "Now, that there is the very rare bar-tailed godwit," or something."

Roo threw his head back and laughed. "Hey Deano, he caught Leo's eye and winked, then called to Dad, "Leo's just spotted a bird for you."

"Oh yeah?" Dad, suddenly alert with interest, squinted intently around the wetlands.

Leo took his cue and in his best David Attenborough impression, held his hand over his eyes, mimicking Dad's

11



deeply watching his family. He had never seen a koala in a she-oak before or seen one so close to the beach. He smiled as the baby koala started gently nibbling on the drooping she-oak needles before realising they weren't tasty gum leaves.

"What about Mum and Dad?" Leo asked, looking at his parents.

Mum and Dad nodded.

Understanding flashed through Leo as a long-forgotten memory came to him in a rush. He had hurt himself after falling out of the big silky oak tree in the backyard. He must have been three or four years old. He remembered being comforted by Mum, his head resting on a nest of soft, illuminated feathers as big, warm wings held him close.

"You're birds!" Leo exclaimed.

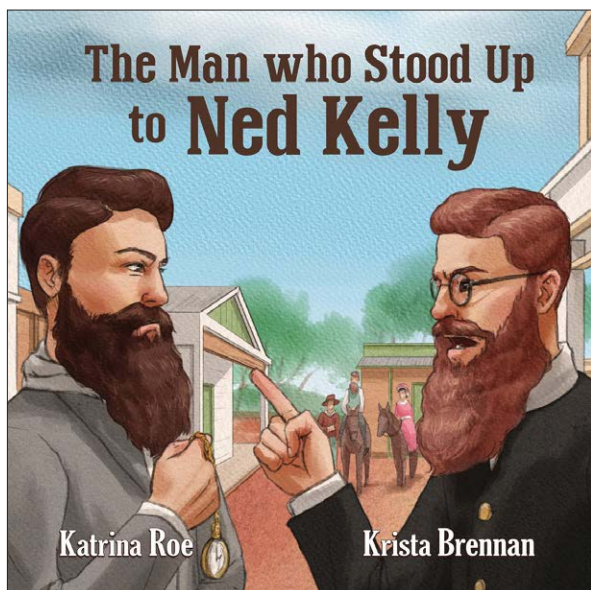
"Yes, mate, we are," Dad answered, surprised. "Before you were born, I met your mum on the top of the King of the trees, an ancient old monkey-pot, over one hundred metres tall. If you think she's feisty now, you should've seen her then! We were battling with Granic in Tasmania against the logging of the old-growth forests. We fought together

87

### About the author and illustrator:

**Cerise Madsen** is a speech pathologist in Brisbane, where she runs her own practice supporting language development through speech, storytelling, and sign. Fluent in Norwegian, French, and the ever-evolving language of tweens and teens, Cerise has shared her love of communication by teaching English to international students, Norwegian to refugees, and now supporting children, teens and adults with disabilities. Her writing is inspired by her passion for nature, her work with diverse communicators, and the joyful chaos of raising two adventurous boys. Cerise weaves her expertise in alternative communication methods, like key word sign, into stories that celebrate the many ways we connect and express ourselves.

**Sally Heinrich** works in a number of mediums, primarily watercolour and graphite pencil, pen and ink and lino-prints. Her work includes illustrations for more than forty books, as well as writing and illustrating her own picture books, novels and non-fiction. Her artwork ranges in scale from greeting cards to murals, including for the Singapore Zoo and a number of schools. Her artwork and lino-prints are widely exhibited and collected. When not in her studio, Sally is most often out walking in the bush.



**THE MAN WHO STOOD UP TO NED KELLY**  
KATRINA ROE, ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTA BRENNAN

- A story about a little known part of both Australia's and Ned Kelly's history
- Teaches children about being brave in the face of danger and standing up for what is right
- Features the true story of Reverend John Gribble who was known for championing Australia's Indigenous community
- A timeline of Gribble's life and his achievements can be found at the end of the book

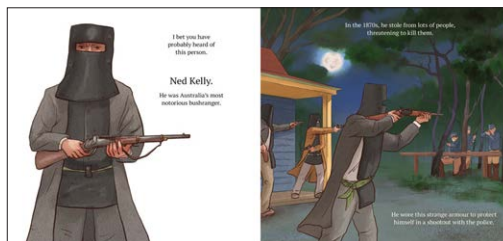
**Age range 4 to 10**

*The Man Who Stood Up to Ned Kelly* tells the true story of John Gribble, who had an extraordinary encounter with Australia's most notorious bushranger.

In 1879, Ned Kelly and his gang took over the town of Jerilderie for three days. At this time, Ned was a dangerous outlaw who had already killed three police officers. In Jerilderie, he and his gang ambushed the police, held up the bank, took more than thirty people hostage and stole thousands of pounds.

But John Gribble insisted that Ned return a woman's horse he'd stolen, as well as Gribble's watch, which one of Ned's men had snatched.

*The Man Who Stood Up to Ned Kelly* is a picture book that teaches children about bravery and standing up for people who need help. It also details a part of the Ned Kelly story they are unlikely to have heard before, providing new insight into the life of Australia's most well-known bushranger.

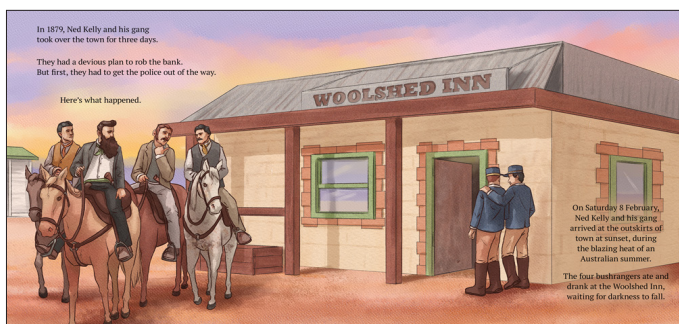


9 781761 112423 | July 2026 | Wombat Books | HB | 32pp | 220x220mm | AU \$27.99 | NZ \$32.99



**Wagga Wagga, NSW; Warrane (Sydney)**

DISCOUNT: GEN



**About the author and illustrator:**

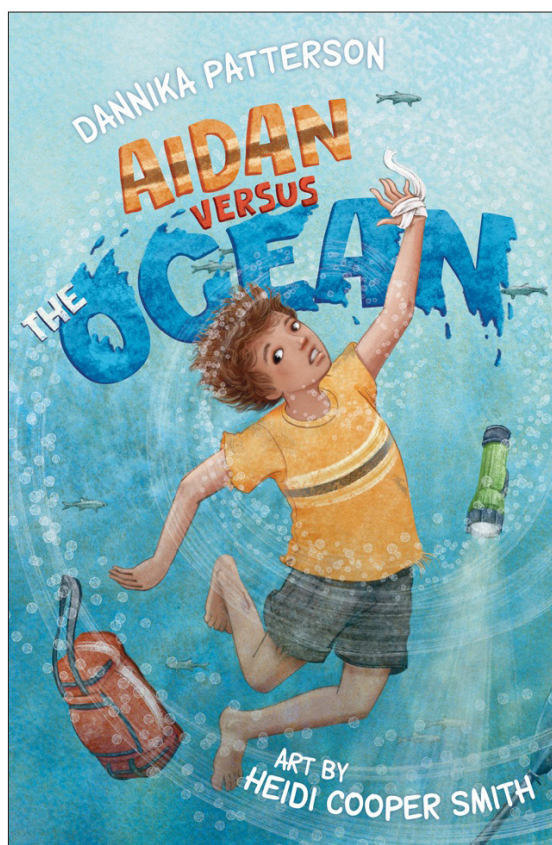
**Katrina Roe** is a children's author, book reviewer and media professional. She writes inclusive stories that inspire kids to face challenges with courage and kindness.

For many years she presented a morning radio show on Sydney's Hope 103.2 and was the host of two podcasts, *The Hope Book Club* and *Australia's Invisible History*.

Her first picture book, *Marty's Nut-Free Party*, was shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year while *Emily Eases Her Wheezes* was a CBCA Notable. In 2023, she won the Forevability Award for *Same*, a true story about her brother, Charlie, who has cerebral palsy. She won the published author section of CYA in 2023.

Katrina lives and works on Wiradjuri Country in Wagga Wagga.

**Krista Brennan** is a freelance illustrator, fine artist and art teacher who lives in Sydney, Australia, with her partner and mischievous cat. She primarily uses traditional methods for her art, including watercolour, ink and oils. Krista's art has been featured in books, card games, exhibitions and competitions, but she enjoys using her pictures to tell stories most of all.



9 781761 113192



9781761113192 | July 2026 | Wombat Books | PB | 116pp | 198x128mm | AU \$16.99 | NZ \$19.99



DISCOUNT: GEN

#### About the author and illustrator:

**Dannika Patterson** is a children's author and presenter with degrees in journalism and psychology. She has written numerous picture books for children including *Jacaranda Magic*, *Scribbly Gum Secrets*, *Heavy* and *Hedgehog the Wonder Dog*. Dannika's words and workshops entertain, educate and empower children in a gentle, joyful way. *Aidan Versus the Ocean* is her debut middle-grade novel.

**Heidi Cooper Smith's** childhood was filled with drawing, and dreams of becoming an illustrator, but at university she fell in love with ceramics and spent the next 20 years elbow deep in clay.

In 2014, she found herself with three children under four and joined an online illustration challenge during naptime to stay sane. Six months later, she was offered her first illustration contract and began writing soon after.

## AIDAN VERSUS THE OCEAN

DANNIKA PATTERSON, ILLUSTRATED BY HEIDI COOPER SMITH

- Contemporary Australian middle grade fiction for 8-11 year old readers
- 16K 'bite-sized' middle grade novel – perfect for reluctant readers or those short on time
- A survival story with humour and heart, wrapped up in a thrilling adventure, with a sprinkle of science, ecology and conservation
- Fast-paced action with entertaining title and chapter headings that give a nod to the classic 'choose your own adventure' style novels of the late '80s and '90s, as well as references to contemporary interactive television series
- With key Australian Curriculum links and a full set of accompanying teaching notes spanning Years 3-7, this title is an ideal whole class set mentor text or classroom read-aloud novel

### Age range 8 to 12

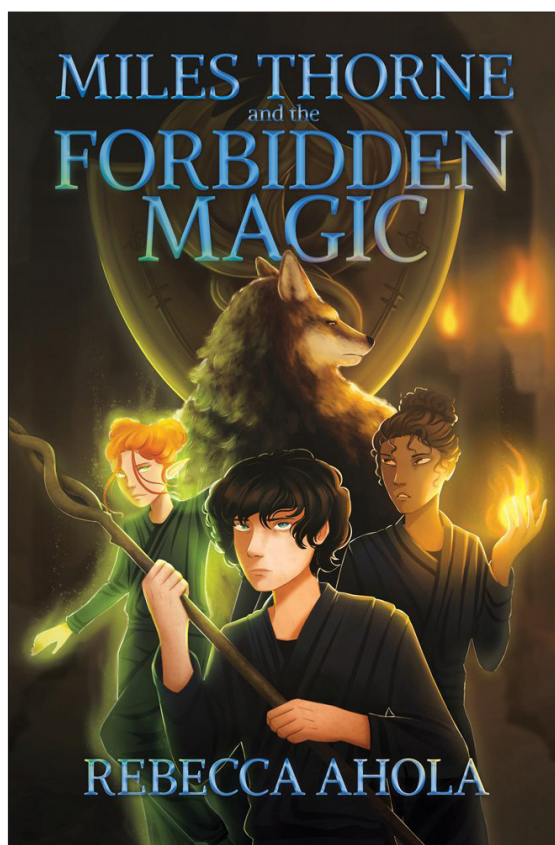
Dive into an exhilarating adventure with *Aidan Versus the Ocean*, a middle-grade novel about a young boy swept out to sea off the rugged West Australian coast.

All Aidan thought he'd have to survive during the summer school holidays was yet another game of Fortnite with his mates. But one teeny-tiny bad decision leads to a whole bunch, and he's forced to play a real-life game of survival off the wild West Australian coast.

With his Border Collie Barney by his side, will Aidan's courage, humour and grit, along with inspiration from a few celebrities, be enough to see him get safely home?

As well as being a thrilling independent read, *Aidan Versus the Ocean* aligns with the Australian Curriculum (Science, HASS, English).

This survival story is perfect for middle-grade readers. They'll be hooked by the fast-paced action, survival tips, courage and humour Aidan uses as he struggles to survive in wild coastal Australia. They'll be kept on the edge of their seats with every battle Aidan faces as they discover if he'll ever be rescued.



9 781761 113390



9781761113390 | July 2026 | Rhiza Edge  
| PB | 280pp | 203x133mm | AU \$19.99 |  
NZ \$22.99



Cairns, QLD

DISCOUNT: GEN

#### About the author:

**Rebecca Ahola** was raised in Tasmania and has lived in Cairns, Far North Queensland, for the last 28 years. She is a guidance offer and English teacher, and has loved writing and storytelling since she was a child.

As both a teacher and counsellor, Rebecca has seen the power stories have to help young people make sense of the world. She is passionate about creating characters that children both love and to whom they can relate.

As a child, Rebecca loved computer games, *Dungeons and Dragons* and fantasy novels, and while she enjoys spending time in the beautiful tropical environment, she still secretly loves gaming and refuses to think she's too old for it!

## MILES THORNE AND THE FORBIDDEN MAGIC

REBECCA AHOLA

- A fantasy world inspired by the Australian landscape filled with exciting action, magical beasts and monsters
- It explores inheriting special family traits, and the responsibilities and risks that come with it
- A lovable cast of 'misfits' who learn the value of team work, supporting each other, and even accepting their own uniqueness as they grow into their own
- Themes of friendship and self-acceptance

#### Age range 11 to 16

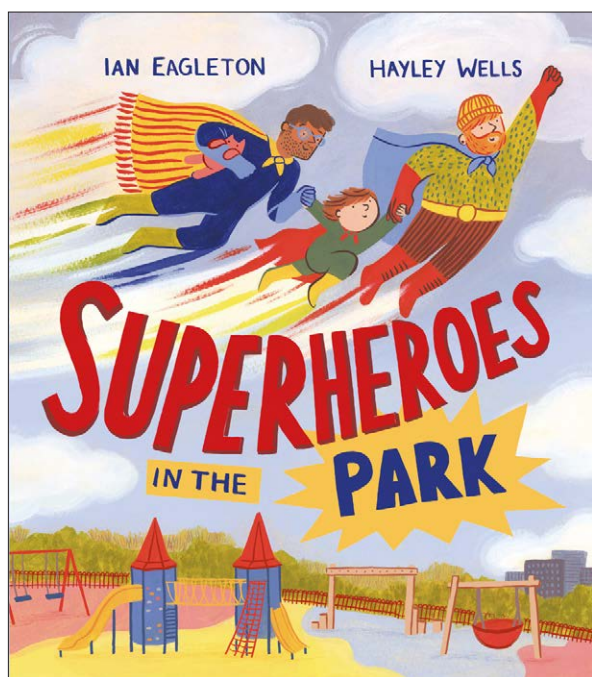
Miles Thorne is petrified on his first day at Ravenfell school. He was kicked out of his last school, the prestigious Nox Wizarding Academy, because he's a wizard with almost no magic.

But Eric, a monster, quickly befriends him, introducing him to Freya, a fairy with breathtaking magical skills, and Colter, a werewolf. To protect Miles from school bullies, Eric decides that the four of them should enter the Battle Games, a highly dangerous contest only for the strongest of magic users. Miles objects, but Eric is sure he has magic in him somewhere.

But when Miles's magic starts to develop, it's different from anyone else's. Why is his grandfather so worried about Miles using his newfound skills in the Battle Games? What secret is his family hiding?

If Miles is going to help his friends survive against the magical beasts and powerful teams in the battles, he will need to uncover his family's secret and discover the truth of who he really is.

*Miles Thorne and the Forbidden Magic* is about the importance of family, the power of friendship and finding the courage to accept yourself no matter what anyone else thinks.



Otter-Barry BOOKS

9781915659972 | July 2026 | Otter Barry Books | HB | 32pp | 275x240mm | AU \$26.99 | NZ \$29.99

DISCOUNT: GEN

## SUPERHEROES IN THE PARK

IAN EAGLETON, ILLUSTRATED BY HAYLEY WELLS

- Authentic story written from personal experience, featuring a two-dad family
- Explores how to have adventures and stay safe
- From the author of the bestselling *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman*, co-authored by James Mayhew
- Lively, characterful illustrations by an exciting, up-and-coming illustrator

### Age range 3+

One little boy can't wait to get to the park with Dad and Daddy. But oh no! The path is too icy. 'Careful or you'll slip', says Dad. The ropes are too high... 'Stop, or you might fall', says Daddy. Everything is too high, too fast, too slippery or too big. It's not fair!

But after some tears and a big hug the boy has a brilliant idea. They will all play TOGETHER at the playground and he will show Dad and Daddy what to do! On the ropes they're pirates, on the swing they are swooping birds and on the roundabout they're SUPERHEROES.

What adventures will they have next?

'With Dad and Daddy by my side, I know I can do anything!'

A delightful, inclusive and empowering story, full of love and tenderness, based on the author's own family.

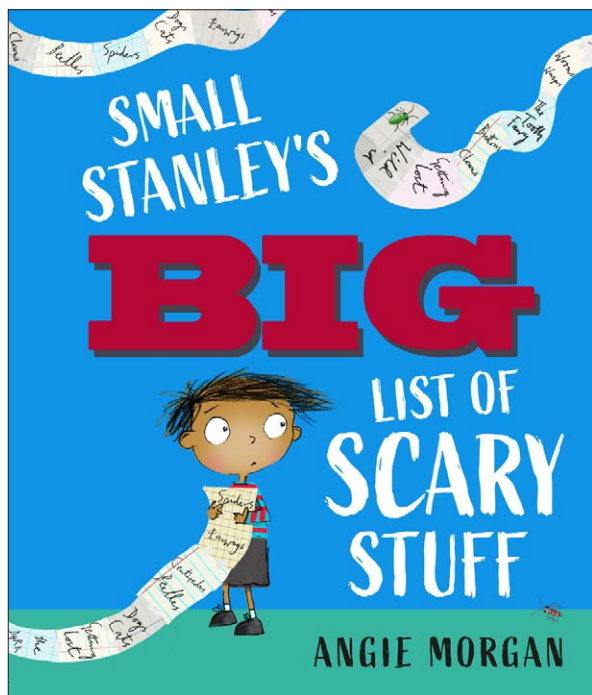
### About the author and illustrator:

**Ian Eagleton** is a former primary school teacher, now a reviewer, resource writer and picture book author whose first two books, *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman* and *Violet's Tempest*, were widely acclaimed. Ian runs the Reading Realm online resource and enjoys running virtual workshops for children. He and his husband have recently become dads through adoption and his book *Superheroes in the Park* (Otter-Barry Books, 2026) is very much based on their own experiences of parenting a toddler. He lives in Essex.

**Hayley Wells** is an illustrator and author with a special interest in portraying social and environmental themes. Their work has been shortlisted in the World Illustration Awards 2022 and the Hiii Illustrations Awards 2022. Hayley is dedicated to using recycled and vegan-based materials in her art whenever possible. *Superheroes in the Park* is her first book for Otter-Barry Books. She lives in Essex.



**‘A wonderful book to read, share and discuss with younger children. Highly recommended.’ – School Reading List**



**SMALL STANLEY'S BIG LIST OF SCARY STUFF**

ANGIE MORGAN

- An original and fun story about conquering fears and worries

**Age range 3+**

Small Stanley wants to be BRAVE and FEARLESS...but what about SPIDERS and DOGS and the DARK?

Stanley's list of SCARY things grows longer and longer, until one day a Wild Wind blows and – oh no! – Stanley's list gets blown away!

But could it be that Stanley's worries have gone too?

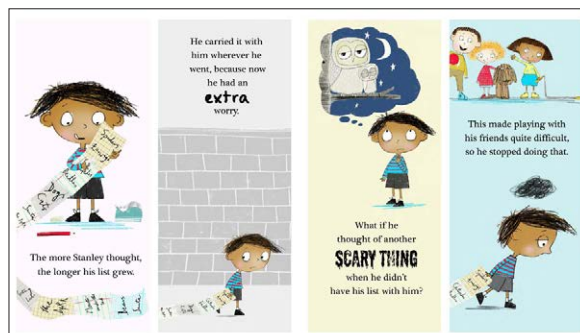
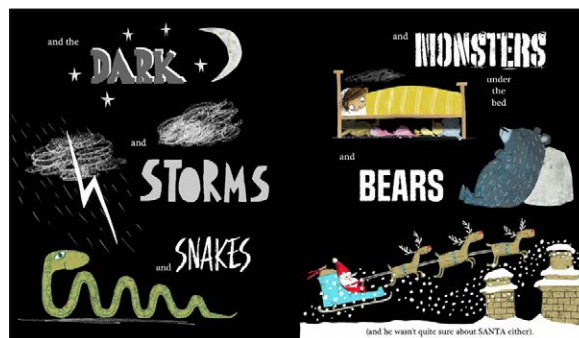
**‘Completely charming and beautifully illustrated by the author.’ – Books for Topics**

**‘A brilliant book for addressing lots of childhood fears...the illustrations are fabulous.’ – Mini Travellers Magazine**



9781917865203 | July 2026 | Otter Barry Books | PB | 32pp | 275x240mm | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99

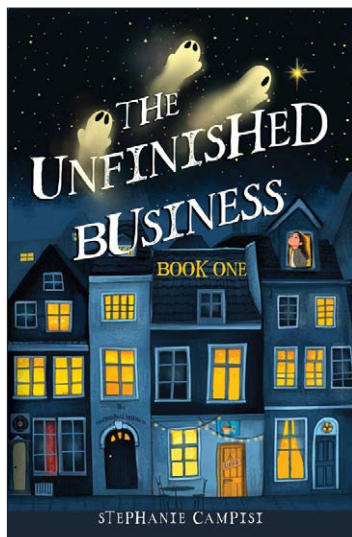
DISCOUNT: GEN



**About the author:**

**Angie Morgan** was born in Bristol and trained in Graphic Design at Goldsmiths College, London, in the early 1970's. Her previous picture books include *Daisy's Big Dig*, *Enormouse* and the *Shouty Arthur* series as well as the hilarious *Sedric* books that she wrote for older children. *Small Stanley's BIG List of Scary Stuff* was her first book for Otter-Barry Books, showing her acute and sympathetic understanding of young children. Her colourful and humorous illustrations are made up of scanned drawings which she colours in using Photoshop.

Angie gets her inspiration from all sorts of unlikely places, but mostly from her five grandchildren who make her laugh most of the time. She lives in Bath with her husband and a fluctuating number of chickens.



**THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
STEPHANIE CAMPISI

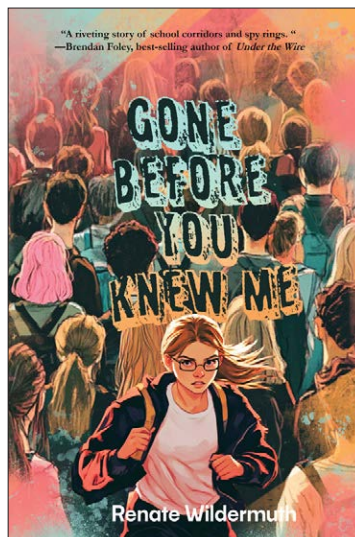
- A thematically complex book exploring what it means to haunt – or be haunted – and the nature of the things that we carry with us
- A not-too-scary exploration of ghosts and what they mean to the people who see them – or don't
- A plot twist you'll never see coming
- A stylishly written book written with warmth and humour
- An empathetic main character and a rich ensemble of supporting characters add endless layers to the story

**Age range 9 to 12**

When Dari Glenn's eccentric neighbor Maude, owner of The Unfinished Business, meets an untimely end, Dari's ability to communicate with ghosts goes from being a family embarrassment to a surprising gift. Maude, back in fine ghostly form, has some unfinished business of her own that she needs Dari's help with: the myriad local spirits who must be 'finished' before Maude can rest in hard-earned peace. But handling the unfinished business of others proves no easy task – especially when Dari has ghosts of her own to deal with. As Dari navigates the world of the living and the dead, she realises that sometimes, letting go of the past is the hardest business of all.



9781646036752 | July 2026 | Fitzroy Books | PB | 184pp | 216x140mm | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$29.99 | DISC: GEN



**GONE BEFORE YOU KNEW ME**  
RENATE WILDERMUTH

- The best worst years of your life: Cliques, crushes, bullies, football, secret agents, and impending doom prove high school can literally be torture
- For fans of *Harriet the Spy* and *The Hunger Games*: High School requires tribute. A biting observant YA about making it to graduation alive by surviving cliques, crushes, bullies, secret agencies and all that shapes and scars us in our formative years

**Age range 12+**

Told through a series of redacted confessions recorded by a secret agency, this is the story of Talya – a girl who's equal parts Katniss Everdeen and *Harriet the Spy*. Sharp-eyed and fiercely independent, she navigates crushes, cliques, bullies, and conspiracies, all while proving one undeniable truth – high school is pure torture. Having lost her parents and her memory, Talya's only goal is to survive senior year. When Axel walks into her English class, she's convinced he's a spy who holds the key to her past and can save her from a sinister plot. After she stumbles upon a real conspiracy, Axel reluctantly gives her the tools to protect herself. But Talya has secrets of her own – and even under interrogation, she won't admit the real reason she's drawn to the enigmatic, attractive new student. When the homecoming football game explodes into an international crisis, Talya discovers she's not just at risk – she may be the biggest threat of all.



9781646036844 | July 2026 | Fitzroy Books | PB | 188pp | 216x140mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



**ARE YOU BORED, MINIMONI?**  
ROCIO BONILLA

- The second adventure of Minimoni: the energetic and charming character of the bestseller *What Color is a Kiss?*
- A picture book to highlight the possibilities of boredom, that will appeal to the imagination of children
- With the unmistakable style of well-known Rocio Bonilla
- When the weekend arrives, Minimoni is bored, but in her boredom, she finds entertainment as her minds goes on a quest to find something to do

Age range 3 to 6

Boredom buster! Join Minimoni's fun quest for amazing adventures!

Uh oh! It's Sunday, and for super-fun Minimoni, that can only mean one thing: BOREDOM! After a week packed with reading in the library, hiking, hockey, and hanging out with Grandma, Sunday feels...blah. Nothing to do, nowhere to go – Minimoni is officially BORED! But wait! Could it be that the best adventures aren't planned, but imagined? Join curious Minimoni on a delightful journey of discovery as she learns that the world around her is bursting with possibilities, just waiting for a little spark of creativity. *Are You Bored, Minimoni?* shows young readers that they have the power to turn any ordinary day into an extraordinary adventure, all with the amazing tool of their own imagination!

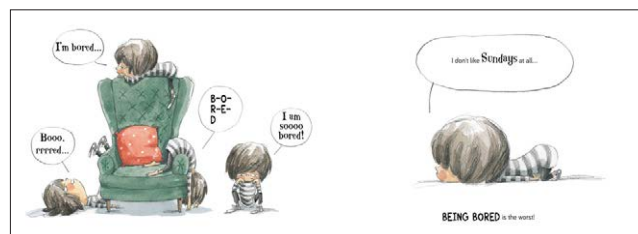


9 788000 076065

9788000076065 | July 2026 | Albatros Media | HB | 40pp | 211x292mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN

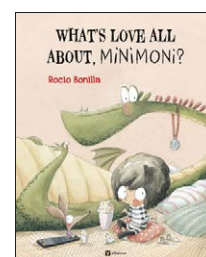


Good... now I have a DIARY where I write down the things I do each day



Also available:

**WHAT'S LOVE ALL ABOUT, MINIMONI?**  
ROCIO BONILLA



9 788000 074658

9788000074658 | September 2025 | Albatros Media | HB | 32pp | 300x241mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN

**WHERE'S MY TEDDY BEAR?**  
ROCIO BONILLA



9 788000 076119

9788000076119 | March 2026 | Albatros Media | BH | 20pp | 139x139mm | AU \$16.99 | NZ \$19.99 | DISC: GEN

**BATH TIME**  
ROCIO BONILLA



9 788000 076096

9788000076096 | March 2026 | Albatros Media | BH | 20pp | 139x139mm | AU \$16.99 | NZ \$19.99 | DISC: GEN



**‘A brilliant, uplifting, and world-embracing tale to unite us in divisive times.’**  
 – **Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review**

## TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW

OLGA FADEEVA

- Timely SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) read-aloud: Complements teaching global citizenship at home and in the classroom
- Challenges the reader to have an open mind and think critically about the world around them
- Detailed and nuanced illustration style; attentive readers will find new connections with each perusal

**Age range 3 to 7**

*Right now you are here...reading this book.*

*Now imagine what someone else is doing at this exact moment two blocks away.*

*What about someone across the country? Or an animal on the other side of our big, beautiful planet?*

*What else is happening round the world, right now?*

A variety of colours and textures throughout the book will keep young readers engaged while each new scene will encourage curiosity, an adventurous spirit and a sense of awe that we can all share.



9 798985 849455

9798985849455 | July 2026 | Blue Dot Kids | HB | 40pp | 254x191mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



## EVERY SPACE BETWEEN

NASEEM HRAB, ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN MARTZ

- Through *Every Space Between*, very young readers will learn to recognise and use the ‘spaces in-between’ to pause, reflect and recognise their emotions and relationships to others. These concepts are key early features of social-emotional learning. They support childhood learning and development with big heart and humour

**Age range 3 to 7**

Playful and poetic, *Every Space Between* highlights the little moments tucked between beginnings and endings, between actions and reactions, between you and me – and shows how special an ordinary day can become if you pay close enough attention.

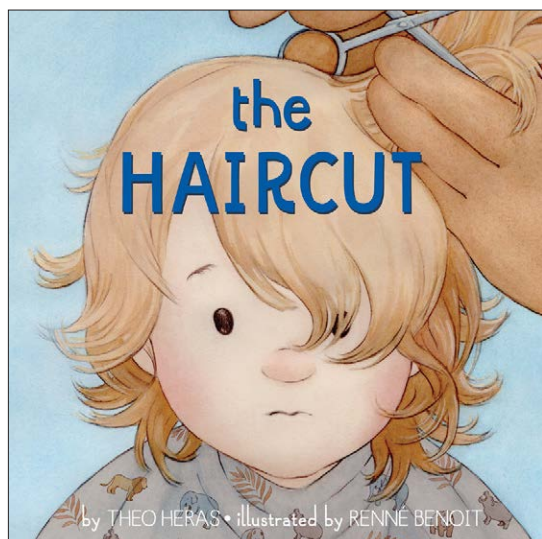
You can find in-betweens everywhere! Some are as overlooked as the space between an itch and a scratch. Others are as thrilling as the pause between making a wish and blowing out your birthday candles. How you feel about an in-between really does depend on your perspective...and each one is full of potential.

Once you spot the spaces in-between, everything changes. Instead of rushing from one thing to the next, you can pause to collect and reflect. Is this something you really want to do? How much longer can you wait? Maybe it's time to say...sorry?



9 781773 067100

9781773067100 | July 2026 | Groundwood Books | HB | 48pp | 229x229mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



### THE HAIRCUT

THEO HERAS, ILLUSTRATED BY RENNÉ BENOIT

- Prepares children for a milestone event that may be intimidating
- New board book format is excellent for little hands
- Celebrates sharing new experiences with parents and family members

Age range 2 to 7

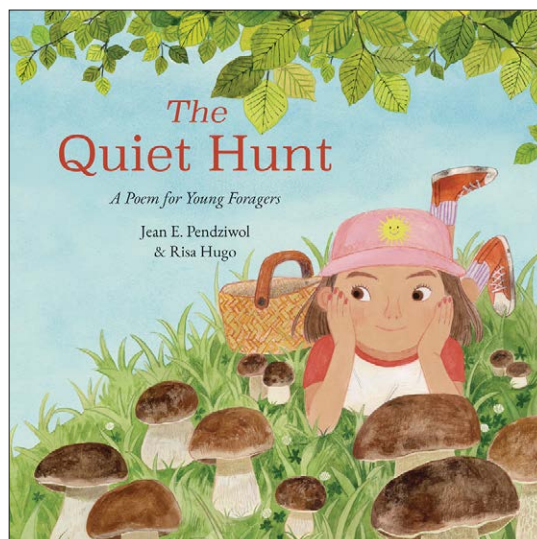
Uh oh, hair in eyes – it's time for this toddler's first haircut. The barbershop comes alive with sensory details as he watches other customers and bravely takes his own turn in the chair.

Clip, clip, clip...now there is a big boy in the mirror!

Theo Heras and Renné Benoit, the creators of *Hat On, Hat Off, Baby Cakes*, and *Where's Bunny?*, once again capture the toddler experience with simplicity and charm. This new board book format is perfect for little ones who are just beginning to feel big.



9781772783568 | July 2026 | Pajama Press | BH | 24pp | 178x183mm | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99 | DISC: GEN



### THE QUIET HUNT

A Poem for Young Foragers

JEAN E. PENDZIWOL, ILLUSTRATED BY RISA HUGO

- Food security and accessibility are important issues in our modern world. *The Quiet Hunt* connects our contemporary physical and environmental considerations with the foraging and plant identification of our ancestors, encouraging young readers to consider where their food comes from. It is NOT a field guide or reference text, but does provide examples of food that can be foraged in urban locations

Age range 3 to 6

In the forests and fields, beside rivers and creeks, under the earth and hidden in trees, food is waiting to be found...if you know where to look!

Follow the footsteps of our ancestors as they head out on the quiet hunt, looking for roots and leaves, mushrooms and berries, fruits, flowers, nuts and seeds. But foraging is about more than just food – our ancestors also helped spread seeds and spores, took only what they needed, and gave thanks to the plants and animals that sustained them. Today, in our cities and towns, the quiet hunt looks a little different. But we can still gather our tools and follow the paths our ancestors took to find what grows in our own backyards.



9781773067674 | July 2026 | Groundwood Books | HB | 32pp | 229x229mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN





## WELCOME TO THE ANTHILL

STEPANKA SEKANINOVA, ILLUSTRATED BY LINH DAO

- Provides a detailed and imaginative look inside an anthill
- Teaches children about the daily lives, habits and diets of ants
- Explains roles, queen's duties, ant communication and much more

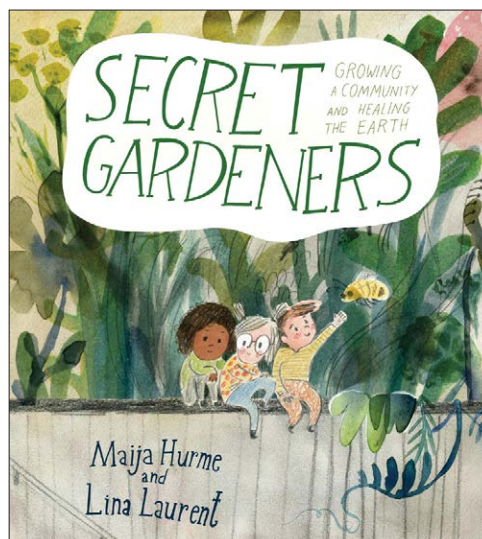
Age range 6 to 9

**Tiny city, big adventures! Journey inside an anthill and discover an amazing secret world!**

Get ready to shrink down and explore the bustling world right beneath your feet! *Welcome to the Anthill* takes young explorers on an incredible journey deep inside an anthill, revealing the amazing daily lives of these tiny but mighty insects. Discover how ants work together as a team, build incredible homes, and even have their own royal family chambers and favourite 'pets'! Through captivating storytelling and easy-to-understand facts, kids will learn about this unique habitat and the fascinating social structures of the ant colony. With beautiful and vibrant illustrations that make you feel like you're right there in the tunnels with these mighty insects, this book will spark a curiosity about the natural world all around us.



9788000075730 | July 2026 | Albatros Media | HB | 32pp | 259x216mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



## SECRET GARDENERS

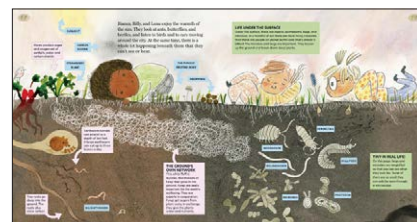
Growing a Community and Healing the Earth  
LINA LAURENT, ILLUSTRATED BY MAIJA HURME, TRANSLATED BY SOFIA KARLSSON & JEN PULJU PORTER

- A thorough primer for no-till gardening (also called no-dig gardening), which is gaining traction around the world, even in commercial operations, as a way to grow food without damaging the soil and releasing carbon from the soil into the atmosphere
- Celebrates intergenerational relationships and community building

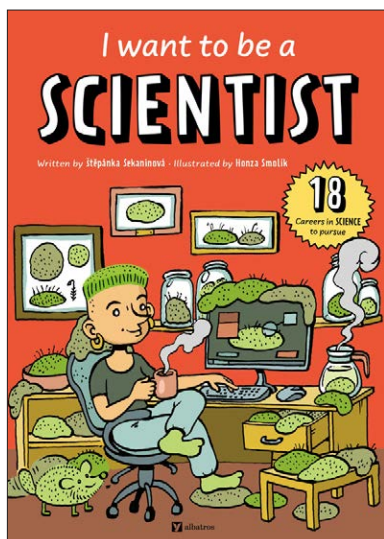
Age range 6 to 9

**When three children stumble into an overgrown city yard, they end up elbows-deep in an urban gardening project that replenishes the earth and unites a community.**

With the mentorship of Amy, a neighbour who is well-versed in no-dig gardening, Luna, Bianca, and Billy set to work mixing manure, spreading mulch, and sowing seeds. After a few weeks of hard work, the yard is transformed into a sustainable community garden, and more and more people are showing up to grow herbs, mushrooms, vegetables, and fruit.



9781772783339 | July 2026 | Pajama Press | PB | 56pp | 254x229mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



**I WANT TO BE A SCIENTIST**  
STEPANKA SEKANINOVA, ILLUSTRATED BY  
JAN SMOLIK

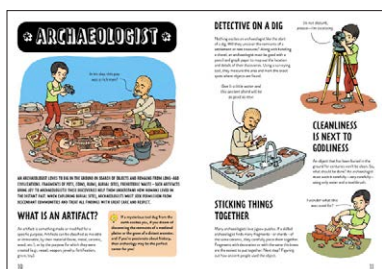
- Comprehensive introduction to diverse scientific and craft professions
- Descriptions and illustrations of the equipment used in these professions
- Includes a short quiz about the content

**Age range 9 to 12**

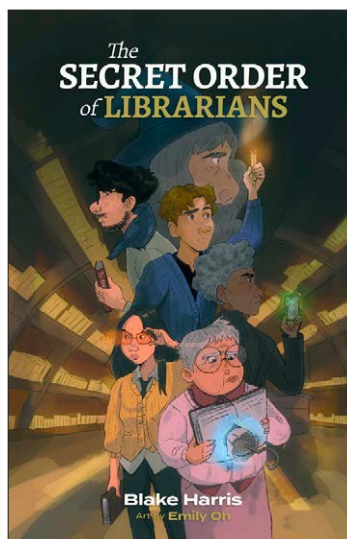
**Forget lab coats and beakers! Discover 18 super cool science jobs you never even knew existed!**

Think science is all dusty, old textbooks and super complicated formulas? Think again! *I Want to be a Scientist* throws open the doors to a world of seriously cool science careers you won't believe are real. Ever dreamed of digging up dinosaur bones? Maybe diving deep to study colourful fish? Or even exploring the secret science of music? Buckle up as we journey through 18 mind-blowing scientific fields, meeting the amazing people who make it their job to study everything from squishy moss to ancient fossils.

Discover the surprising tools they use and get ready to say 'Wow, I could do that!' At the end, test your newfound knowledge with a fun quiz that will spark even more scientific curiosity. Get ready to see science in a whole new, incredibly exciting light!



9788000075747 | July 2026 | Albatros Media | HB | 56pp | 279x203mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



**THE SECRET ORDER OF LIBRARIANS**  
BLAKE HARRIS

- Black and white illustrations with pops of colour

**Age range 8 to 13**

**An exciting fantasy graphic novel about books come to life!**

Aspiring graphic novelist Dewey Page's world is changed when he uncovers the Philadelphia Library Company is part of a secret order tasked with protecting our world from the ones in books. When the most notorious characters in literature are mysteriously freed from their books, Dewey must team up with head Librarians Mildred and Erma to embrace his true identity, unlocking a powerful secret along the way.

From hidden high-tech library headquarters and spellbound binding stamps to No. 2 pencils that erase gravity, *The Secret Order of the Librarians* is a fast-paced, fantasy graphic novel that reimagines the true heroes among us, proving that a cardigan can be just as powerful as a cape.



9781962447409 | July 2026 | Genius Cat Books | HB | 230pp | 254x165mm | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$29.99 | DISC: GEN

## PECULIAR PARENTS

STEPHANIE OWEN REEDER, ILLUSTRATED BY INGRID BARTKOWIAK



- Features fun and wacky facts about animal courting and the raising of their young to entertain readers aged 6-12
- Connects to key areas of the national curriculum, such as biological sciences, geography and sustainability

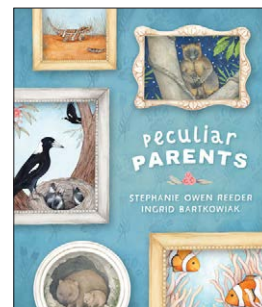
Age range 6 to 12

**\*\*Shortlisted, CBCA 2026, Eve Pownall Award\*\***

Welcome to the charmingly funny and perfectly peculiar world of Aussie animal mums and dads and their awesome kids.

*Peculiar Parents* explores 60 Australian native animals, focusing in particular on all things family, including their courting practices, gestation periods, births and the raising of their young.

9781922507822 | July 2025 | National Library of Australia | HB | 64pp | 300x256mm | AU \$29.99 | NZ \$34.99 | DISC: GEN



## AN ANT'S GUIDE TO BEING AN ANT

ZOE MEAGHER, ILLUSTRATED BY JULIA DARLING



- Learn all about ants in this book dedicated to improving ant PR – ants are an important part of our natural world and we can learn so much from them about community, working together and caring for each other

Age range 3+

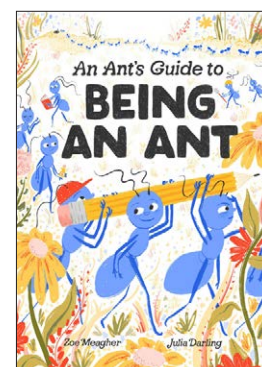
**\*\*Shortlisted, NSW Literary Awards 2026, Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature\*\***

**\*\*Shortlisted, NSW Literary Awards 2026, UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing\*\***

Ants achieve incredible things by working together, looking after each other and – most importantly – following the 11 Ant Rules. If you haven't memorised the Ant Rules yet, don't worry – this book is here to help!

Discover the delicacies of ant cuisine (the joys of vomit soup are best shared with friends).

9781921833700 | January 2025 | Museums Victoria | HB | 32pp | 245x171mm | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99 | DISC: GEN



## MARION AND THE FORTY THIEVES

SARAH LUKE



- **Hot price! Was \$19.99, now \$14.99**
- Rollicking middle-grade adventure based in history, featuring turn-of-the-century Sydney street and wharf life
- Connects to HASS curriculum points for Grade 6; teachers' notes will be provided
- Features a strong female heroine and cast of diverse characters, including a key character with a disability

Age range 8 to 12

Marion's life is anything but ordinary. The daughter of the principal, Captain Neitenstein, she is the only girl aboard a magnificent floating boys' school, anchored permanently in Sydney Harbour in the late 1800s. Her best friend has boarded a steamship to France and now it's just her and this ship full of ragtag schoolboys.

9781922507679 | July 2024 | National Library of Australia | HB | 208pp | 200x150mm | AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99 | DISC: GEN

