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Children's Picture Book Catalog 2026



Starfish Bay Picture Books

Publication Date: July 7th, 2026

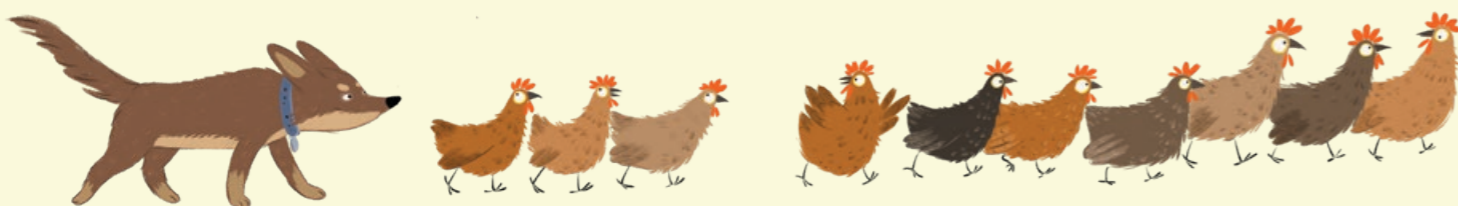
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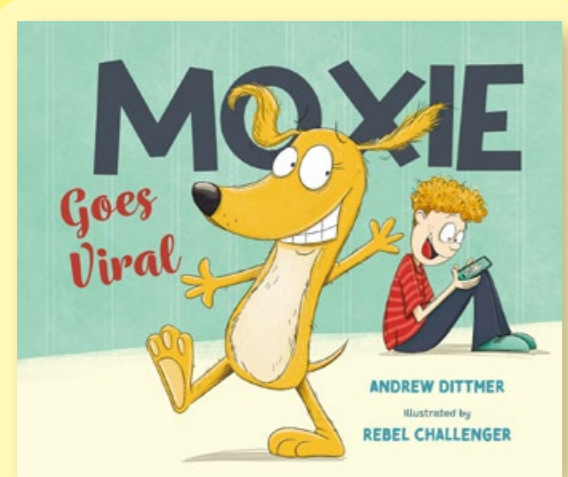
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Moxie Goes Viral



Andrew Dittmer & Rebel Challenger
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-032-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Moxie wants cuddles, but Wally only wants to watch cat memes! How will she get his attention?

Moxie wants her snuggly cuddles, but Wally is too busy watching... cat memes! It's more than a dog can take. Moxie tries everything she can to attract his focus, but Wally barely notices her amazing tricks. It's going to take something really special to get Wally's attention off his phone and onto Moxie where it belongs.

Fun, action-filled illustrations will enrapture and captivate.

Core Themes:

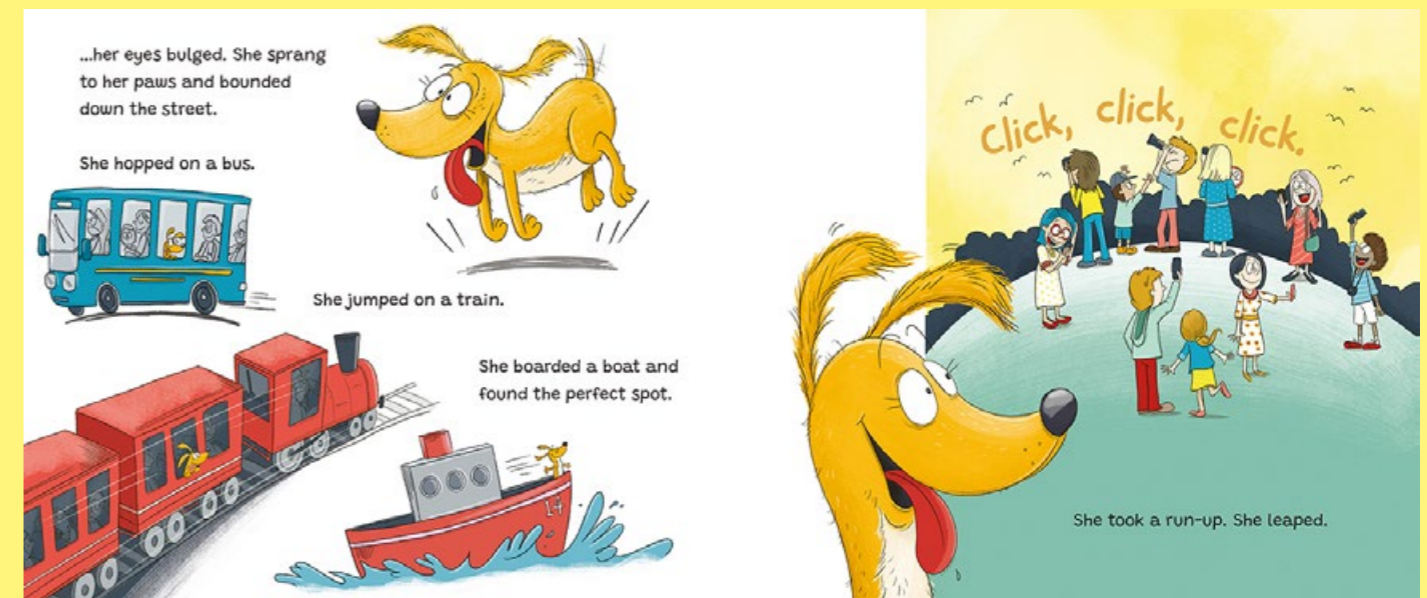
- Technology Addiction/Screen Time - The dangers of excessive device use
- Attention and Presence - Being present with loved ones
- Loneliness - Feeling ignored and disconnected
- Persistence - Moxie's repeated attempts to get attention
- Communication - Different ways of expressing needs
- Human-Animal Bond - The special relationship between pets and people
- Problem-Solving - Finding creative solutions to challenges
- Love and Loyalty - Unconditional love despite being ignored
- Quality Time - The importance of unplugged connection

Key Highlights:

- A fast-paced, bouncing story bound to sweep up young readers.
- A story that gets to grips with the modern age of memes.
- Dynamic characters brilliantly carry the amusing action to the story's conclusion.



Moxie glanced back at Wally.



...her eyes bulged. She sprang to her paws and bounded down the street.

She hopped on a bus.

She jumped on a train.

She boarded a boat and found the perfect spot.

Click, click, click.

She took a run-up. She leaped.



"Oh, Moxie," said Wally. Then he slumped.
"I'm sorry, girl." He scratched her favorite spot.



"My loyal, sweet, a little bit smelly... love of my life. Tomorrow, let's spend the whole day together."

Rebel Challenger is an artist and wildlife carer from Queensland, Australia. Her illustrations are filled with humor and heart and are mostly inspired by the animals who wander around her backyard and animals from all over the world who she would love to meet one day.

Whack! Bang! Crash!



Rhonda Ooi & Maria Kristjansdottir
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-041-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Ned and Sam enjoy building, and together they fill their home with creativity.

Ned loves building incredible depictions of cities with his wooden blocks, but they are often knocked down by his brother, Sam. When Sam rebuilds the blocks, Ned ponders on what the constructions are. When visiting the local park, Ned notices strange objects and finds that they are called sculptures. Ned then realizes how he and his brother can team up to build the perfect city together. *Whack! Bang! Crash!* is a joyous story about creativity, teamwork, and sibling bonds and features whimsical illustrations that reveal the joy of sharing ideas and playing with others.



Core Themes:

- Collaboration and teamwork (primary theme)
- Sibling relationships and acceptance
- Creativity and artistic expression
- Learning to see value in others' contributions
- Different perspectives/ways of creating
- Growth and change
- Letting go of control
- Finding beauty in unexpected places
- Patience and understanding
- The creative process

Key Highlights:

- A delightful story about creativity and teamwork that encourages children to work and play together.
- Demonstrates friendly behavior and sharing play ideas.
- Whimsical illustrations that complement the joys of building and playing co-operatively.

Rhonda Ooi is an author and primary school teacher with a Master of Gifted Education. She lives in Victoria, Australia, by the bay with her husband, son, cat, bird, and hundreds of children's books. When she is not working out how to fit more picture books on her enormous bookshelf, she is imagining stories, inspired by the children in her life.

Maria Kristjansdottir is an illustrator born and raised in Reykjavik, Iceland. She has a BA in architecture from Iceland University of the Arts, but her passion for creating children's stories led her to change directions, and in 2018, she graduated from Cambridge School of Art with an MA in Children's Book Illustration. She currently resides in Iceland with her partner and their daughter.



Cool Egg, Warm Egg



Annika Johansson & Rachel Hudson
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-035-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

A touching exploration of the sea turtle's life cycle and the impact of rising temperatures on their future.

Cool Egg, Warm Egg is a poignant story about the life of a sea turtle, from playful beginnings to nesting on sandy shores. Through captivating illustrations and lyrical text, this story gently introduces the life cycle of the sea turtle and how global warming will affect its future. With fascinating facts and tips on how we can help protect our planet and its fragile sea life, this book encourages readers to take small steps to make a big impact. *Cool Egg, Warm Egg* aims to encourage awareness of the fragility of our planet and Earth's changing climate, and it empowers children to make meaningful change.

Annika Johansson is an Australian author and freelance writer living in the rainforests on Bundjalung Country on the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. She is a self-confessed people watcher and believes there is no better secret power than our own imaginations. She has weekly conversations with kookaburras, pythons, wallabies, tree frogs, turtles, and echidnas, hoping they will one day come inside and join her for afternoon tea.

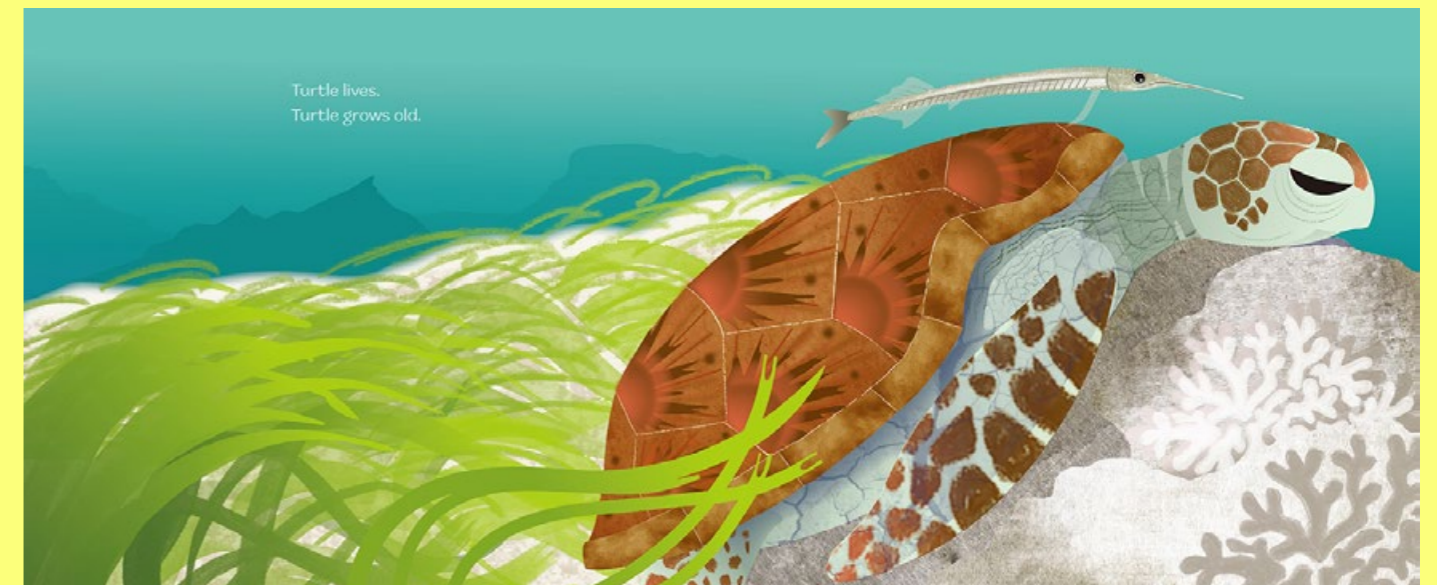
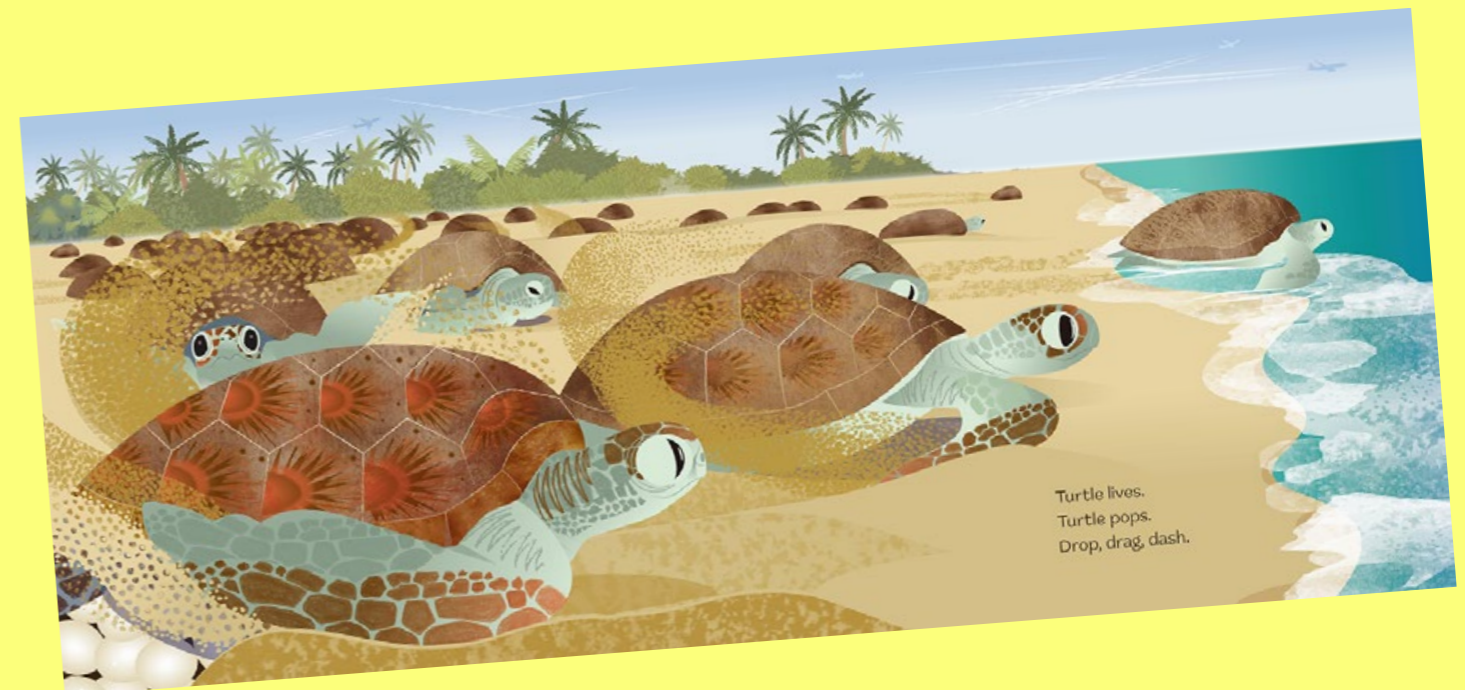
Rachel Hudson creates artwork that brings people closer to nature. She is the author and illustrator of *100 Endangered Species* (Button Books, 2021) and illustrator of *How to Know a Crow* (Greystone Kids, 2024). Rachel lives in Hampshire, England. Her research for *Cool Egg, Warm Egg* included visiting Friday the green turtle in the National Marine Aquarium.

Core Themes:

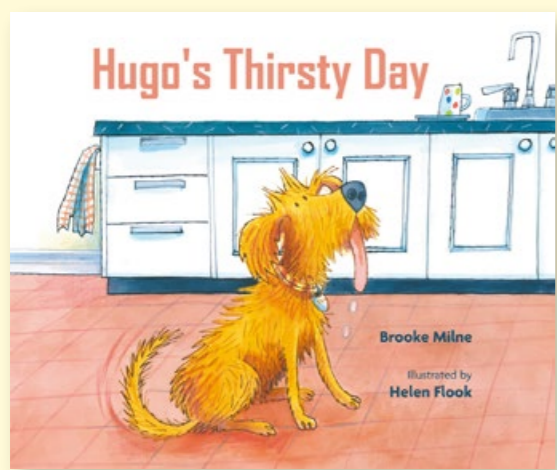
- Climate Change and Global Warming - Human impact on Earth's temperature
- Conservation and Environmental Stewardship - Taking action to protect wildlife
- Life Cycles - Sea turtle development and reproduction
- Extinction - Species vulnerability and survival
- Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination - Unique biological phenomenon
- Environmental Responsibility - Individual and collective action
- Hope and Empowerment - Children as agents of change

Key Highlights:

- This delicate story explores the life cycle of a sea turtle, with an educational message about the environment, global warming, and conservation.
- Empowers kids to take action on climate change with easy-to-understand tips and ideas that can be incorporated into their everyday lives.
- Beautiful underwater artwork vividly brings the sea turtle's journey and the wonder of our oceans to life.



Hugo's Thirsty Day



Brooke Milne & Helen Flook
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-005-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

When no one is home and no water is out, one dog must save himself from thirst.

It's a scorching summer day, and Hugo the dog is home alone—with no water in sight. With no time to waste, he sets off on a solo mission to quench his thirst. From rubber gloves and a stubborn kitchen tap to a silent garden hose, every plan goes hilariously wrong. Just as Hugo is about to make a questionable choice, help finally arrives! Told in lively rhyming verse, *Hugo's Thirsty Day* is a warm and funny celebration of resilience, resourcefulness, and the deep bond between pets and their people. The vibrant, playful, character-driven illustrations capture every comic twist of Hugo's thirsty adventure.

Brooke Milne is an Australian audiologist and children's author with a passion for rhyming. Combining her expertise in sound with a love of storytelling, she crafts engaging books that captivate young readers. Her stories are filled with playful rhymes and rhythms, supporting speech and language development while sparking curiosity in children. Brooke lives in Melbourne, Victoria, with her husband, two children, and two dogs.

Helen Flook is an illustrator from North Wales, United Kingdom. After graduating in Graphic Design from Norwich School of Art, she worked throughout Europe on archaeology sites and managed a RSPB center in North Wales. She later moved to Canada with the intention of becoming an illustrator. Now back in Wales, she has illustrated over one hundred books, including two of her own and one award-winning title in 2014.

Core Themes:

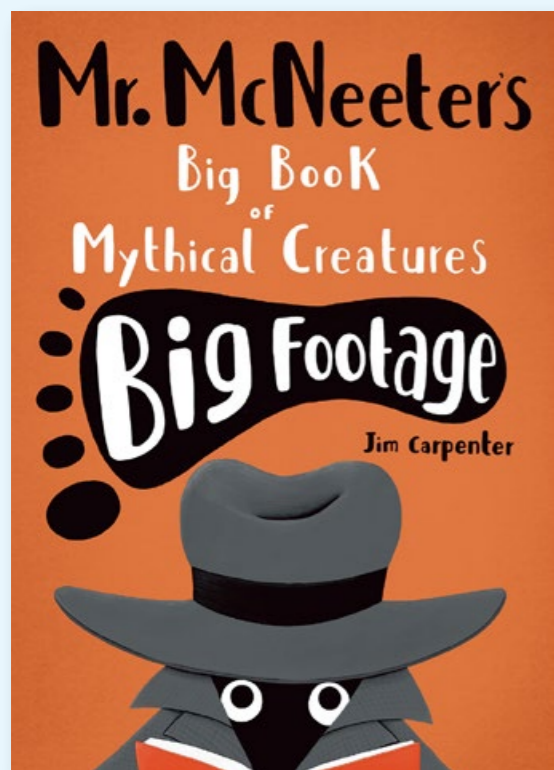
- **Determination and Problem-Solving:** The story highlights Hugo's resourcefulness and his refusal to give up, even when his initial plans fail.
- **Responsibility and Care:** It serves as a gentle reminder of the importance of looking after pets, especially during extreme weather.
- **Resilience:** Despite feeling "glum" and exhausted, Hugo continues to search for a solution to his thirst.

Key Highlights:

- Uses playful rhyme and escalating humour to create a fast-paced, read-aloud story with wide appeal.
- Relatable tale for dog owners that blends comic mischief with emotional warmth and a satisfying ending.
- Expressive, vibrant, character-driven artwork captures Hugo's dramatic highs and lows with comedic timing and visual energy.



Mr. McNeeter's Big Book of Mythical Creatures: Big Footage



Jim Carpenter
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-021-4
Trim Size: 11.1" H x 8.0" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Jim Carpenter is an author and illustrator living in the UK who, despite the name, is not much of a carpenter at all. In fact, holding a wooden pencil to write and draw with is as close to carpentry as it gets for him. He is, however, an avid and incessant daydreamer and when the opportunity strikes, and with wooden pencil in hand, he likes to turn any of the interesting daydreams into stories like this one.

Mr. McNeeter's hunt for Bigfoot leads to a very surprising discovery!

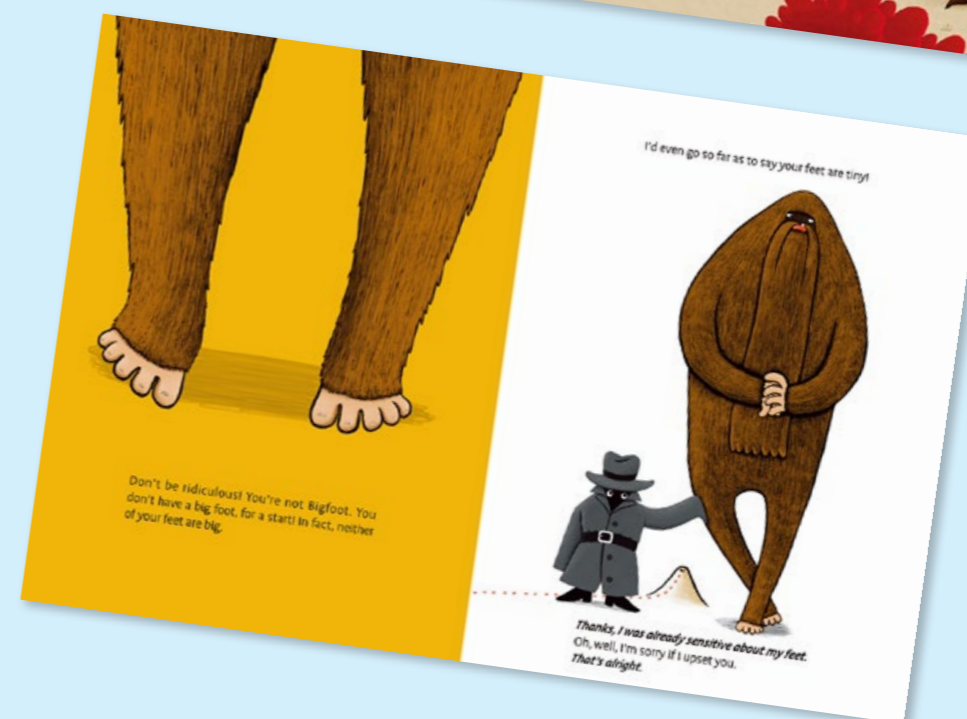
Join Mr. McNeeter and his *Big Book of Mythical Creatures*. Big or small, his mysterious book contains everything you need to know about these amazing beings. But make no mistake, these creatures are *real*! Now, Mr. McNeeter is on the hunt for Bigfoot, and using his trusty book, knows exactly how to find it! *Big Footage* is a funny and engaging adventure that proves that not all mysteries are what you'd expect.

Core Themes:

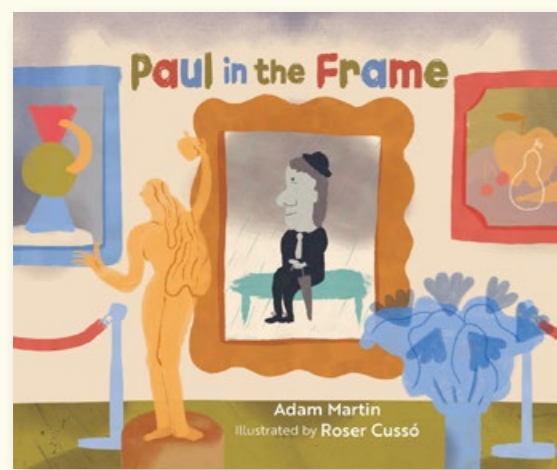
- **Literalism vs. Reality:** A humorous look at how being too narrow-minded or literal can cause someone to miss the truth.
- **Identity and Perception:** Exploring the idea that who we are isn't always defined by our name or how others expect us to look.
- **Humor and Satire:** Using the trope of a "bumbling expert" to create a funny and engaging narrative for children.

Key Highlights:

- A unique and hilarious take on the well-known Big Foot myth.
- Full of humor and quirky characters, this story is sure to be read again and again.
- Engaging illustrations that capture the fun and excitement of this amusing adventure.



Paul in the Frame



Adam Martin & Roser Cussó
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-008-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Paul in the Frame leaves his frame to find belonging in a vibrant museum and discovers his true worth.

In an old museum hangs a picture of a man in a suit and tie painted grey—Paul. While everyone around him looks happy and vibrant, Paul is rather plain and feels that he doesn't belong. Deciding to leave his frame and search for a new home, Paul takes a journey through sketches, statues, and hieroglyphics, which only makes him feel more out of place. Will Paul ever find belonging, or will he discover that perhaps simplicity is often what makes things special? *Paul in the Frame* is an imaginative story—filled with expressive illustrations showing different artforms—about belonging, self-discovery, and individuality.



Core Themes:

- **Belonging and Identity:** Exploring the struggle to fit in and the eventual realization that one's unique qualities are what make them essential to their community.
- **Self-Acceptance:** Learning that being "plain" or different from others is not a flaw, but a part of being "special" and "unique".
- **The Value of Diversity:** Highlighting how different styles (modern, antique, bold, or plain) all have their own place and importance within the world of art.

Adam Martin is an army veteran and full-time dad from New South Wales, Australia. He lives on a small farm, with a chicken who thinks it's a duck, ducks who think they're dogs, dogs who think they're kids, and two kids who think they're adults. He enjoys reading to his kids, making people laugh, and the idea of sleep.

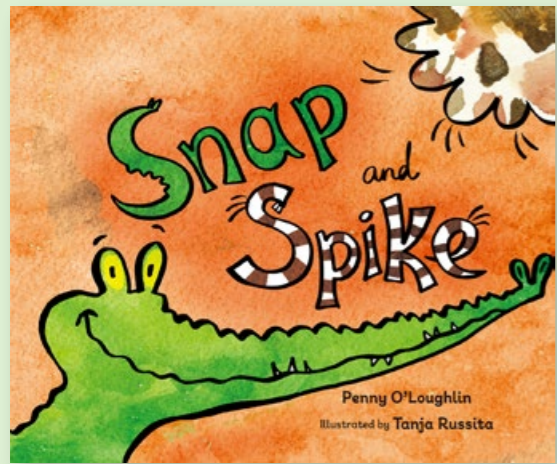
Roser Cussó is a picture book illustrator from Barcelona. She creates colorful illustrations using analogue and digital techniques. Her unique universe is created by intuition, investigation, and storytelling through evocative images. She takes each project as a new opportunity to experiment and play with new artistic expressions.

Key Highlights:

- A multi-layered story, in rhythmic rhyming verse, that explores different forms of art.
- An engaging tale that explores the importance of belonging, self-identity, and celebrating individuality.
- Inventive illustrations that highlight the contrasts between Paul in the Frame and the rich, imaginative setting.



Snap and Spike



Penny O'Loughlin & Tanja Russita
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-006-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **True Friendship:** Looking past appearances to find someone who truly appreciates you.
- **Perseverance:** The importance of not giving up when searching for a place to belong.
- **Self-Acceptance:** Learning that the traits that scare some people away are the very things the right friend will love.

Tanja Russita has been writing and illustrating bestselling children's books worldwide for over ten years. Along the way she's danced tango, taught drawing, raised a dog and three children with her husband—mostly successfully—and moved from her birthplace in Latvia to Sweden via Norway and Russia, probably a journey to be continued.

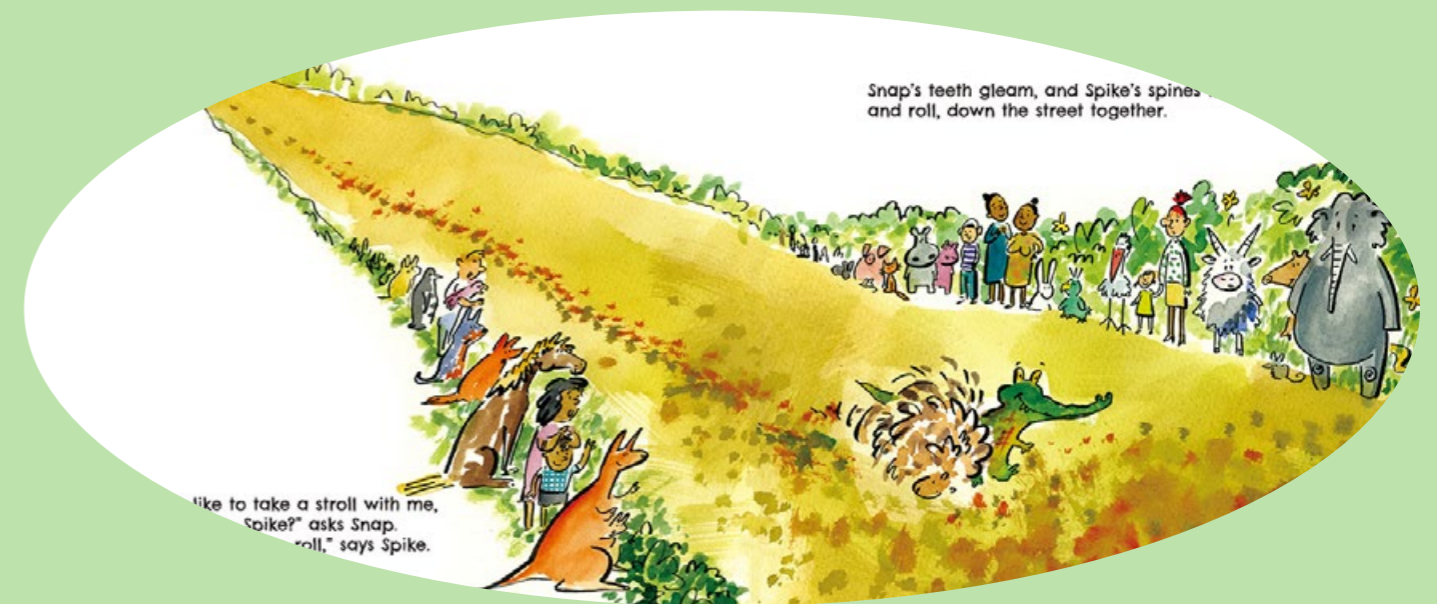
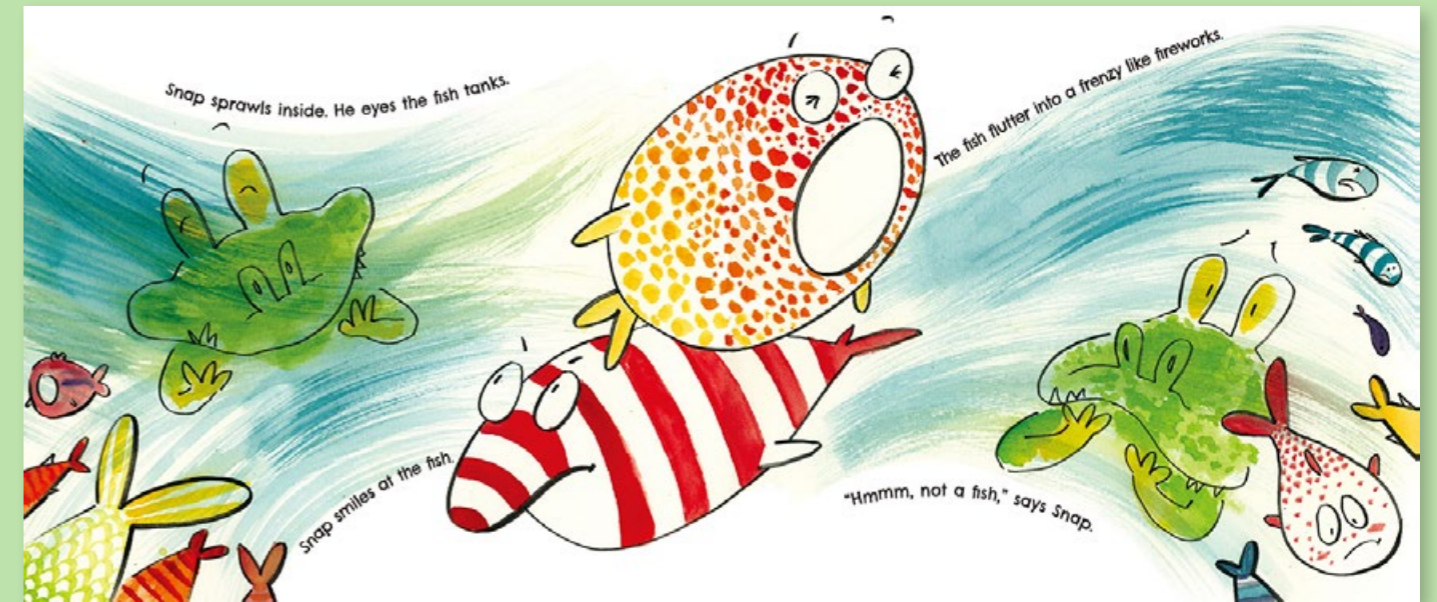
A crocodile with a big toothy grin struggles to make friends—until he meets a spiky surprise!

Snap is a friendly crocodile, but with his enormous toothy grin, he struggles to make friends. Hoping for better luck, he ventures into the city and finds the perfect meeting spot—the pet store! He smiles at each animal he meets, but his eager grin sends them into a panic. Just as he is about to lose hope, Snap accidentally sits on Spike—a plucky echidna who isn't afraid of sharp teeth. Together they discover an unexpected friendship. *Snap and Spike* is a humorous and vividly illustrated story about friendship and respecting differences.

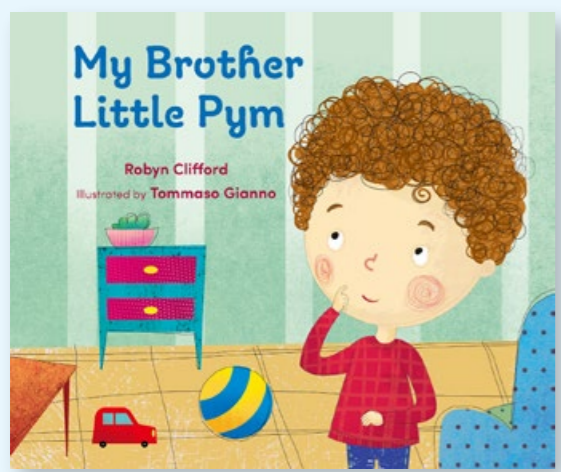
Penny O'Loughlin lives in Melbourne, Australia, and is the mother of two vibrant and very busy boys. She studied Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Melbourne University and works as a Landscape Designer. Penny has always had a love of children's books. When younger, Penny would visit the children's book section in bookstores, spending countless hours sitting, reading, and imagining. Penny's desire in her storytelling is to simplify life's complexities into fable-like tales, to warm hearts and hit chords with both children and adults alike.

Key Highlights:

- A humorous and engaging story that explores themes of belonging, acceptance, and finding friendship.
- Encourages children to be resilient and the importance of self-acceptance.
- Expressive and dynamic illustrations bring warmth, humor, and character to this delightful story.



My Brother Little Pym



Robyn Clifford & Tommaso Gianni
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-062-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Key Highlights:

- A humorous story told in delightful rhyming verse about the importance of sibling bonds and the power of imagination.
- Children will love the surprise ending and seeing hints toward this when rereading the book.
- The delightfully vivid illustrations capture the mystery and fun of this tall tale!
- Expand the reach of this story with Teacher Notes, featuring discussion prompts and fun activities for children.

Tommaso Gianni lives and works as a freelance illustrator in San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy. Self-taught and multi-skilled, he is part of the Association of Image Authors. He currently works in the field of early childhood toys, both as an illustrator and as a designer. Tommaso uses mostly modern digital techniques but will sometimes use traditional techniques. He has won numerous awards for his work and held many exhibitions.

Dean shares stories about his unusual brother, Little Pym, who turns out to be a cat, surprising his teacher and classmates.

Dean brings his unusual brother to show-and-tell, captivating his classmates with tales of Little Pym's quirky habits. As he describes his brother's fluffy feet, glowing eyes, odd sleeping spots, and other peculiarities, the class and his teacher grow increasingly curious and concerned. The big reveal leaves everyone astonished when Dean unveils that his beloved brother is actually a cat! This humorously illustrated story celebrates sibling bonds, imagination, and the joy of unexpected surprises.

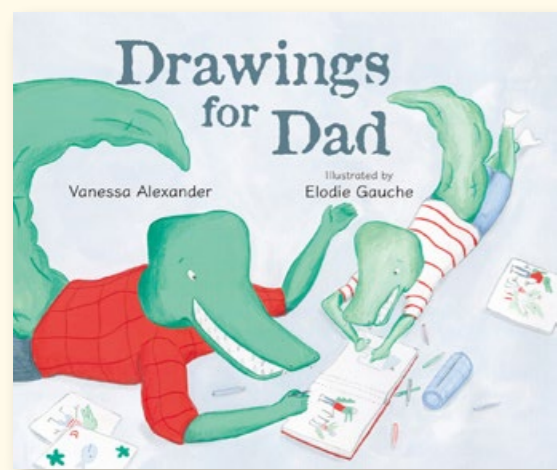
Core Themes:

- **The Bond Between Pets and Children:** Explores the deep, sibling-like emotional connection a child can feel for a pet, framing the animal as an integral member of the family.
- **Perspective and Misunderstanding:** Uses a "unreliable narrator" technique to create humorous tension, showing how the same facts can be interpreted very differently by a child versus an adult.
- **Creative Storytelling:** Celebrates a child's imagination and the joy of sharing one's world with peers, even when that world is a little bit "strange."

Robyn Clifford is an Australian writer, whose favourite things include family, her cats, the fluffy cows across the road, tall tales, the Fibonacci sequence, and scuba diving. She has a couple of science degrees and a Master of Teaching, and she has lived in some of the hottest and coldest places on Earth. From travel journalism to bartending to high school teaching, she has always believed in the extraordinary power of words and is forever doodling story ideas on napkins.



Drawings for Dad



Vanessa Alexander & Elodie Gauche
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-053-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

A young crocodile processes grief by drawing to stay close to his father.

Drawings for Dad is a tender and poignant story about love, loss, and the healing power of creativity. When a young crocodile's father is taken away, his days feel empty. But through his drawings—memories captured in crayon—he finds a way to express his feelings and stay connected. This gentle picture book explores grief, emotional resilience, and the unbreakable bond between parent and child. The soft and expressive illustrations perfectly mirror the emotional journey, offering warmth, sensitivity, and hope. Perfect for sparking important conversations with children about change, absence, and remembering those we love.



Core Themes:

- **Coping with Separation and Grief:** A tender exploration of a child's confusion and sadness when a parent is unexpectedly absent.
- **The Healing Power of Art:** Demonstrating how creativity can serve as a tool for processing difficult emotions and maintaining connections.
- **Family Resilience and Hope:** Highlighting how shared memories and love can help a family find light and strength during dark times.

Key Highlights:

- A sensitive and accessible exploration of childhood grief and emotional expression.
- Encourages creativity as a powerful tool for coping, connection, and healing.
- Gentle, emotionally rich illustrations bring comfort and depth to a difficult subject, with soft textures and expressive characterization.

Vanessa Alexander is a teacher and enjoys reading picture books by fabulous authors and illustrators to school children. She is also a mom and loves to make up stories with her kids. Her fun stories are about ordinary stuff that can sometimes cause big problems for families. Vanessa is from 'The Outback'—far western Queensland, Australia. She is making life happen with her husband and three young kids, doing ordinary stuff, every day.

Elodie Gauche is a children's book illustrator currently living in Nantes, France. Formerly an engineer, she studied illustration at Escola de la Dona in Barcelona, Spain, where she illustrated her first children's books. She uses traditional media such as gouache and colored pencils, and she especially enjoys creating new characters and experimenting with colorful palettes.



Sun Sneezes



Kate Lindquist & Albertina Neri
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-069-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Kate Lindquist lives with her husband and young family in a small coastal town in regional Australia. She spends each day with her three little muses, who love exploring local rivers and beaches, fossicking in rockpools, and mudlarking in the mangroves. In the evenings, with salty hair and sand between their toes, Kate and her children relive their adventures through storytelling. Kate draws inspiration for her writing by looking at the world through the lens of children, making observations of everyday happenings and celebrating life's simple moments.

Albertina Neri is from a small town near Milan, Italy. A freelance illustrator and graphic designer, Albertina also holds creative workshops for children in schools and loves everything about childhood and imagination. As a child, Albertina understood the importance of literature, and she believes that books are treasures made to help children.

Hugo thinks he has lost his magic sneezing power—until his sister helps him find it in the most unexpected place!

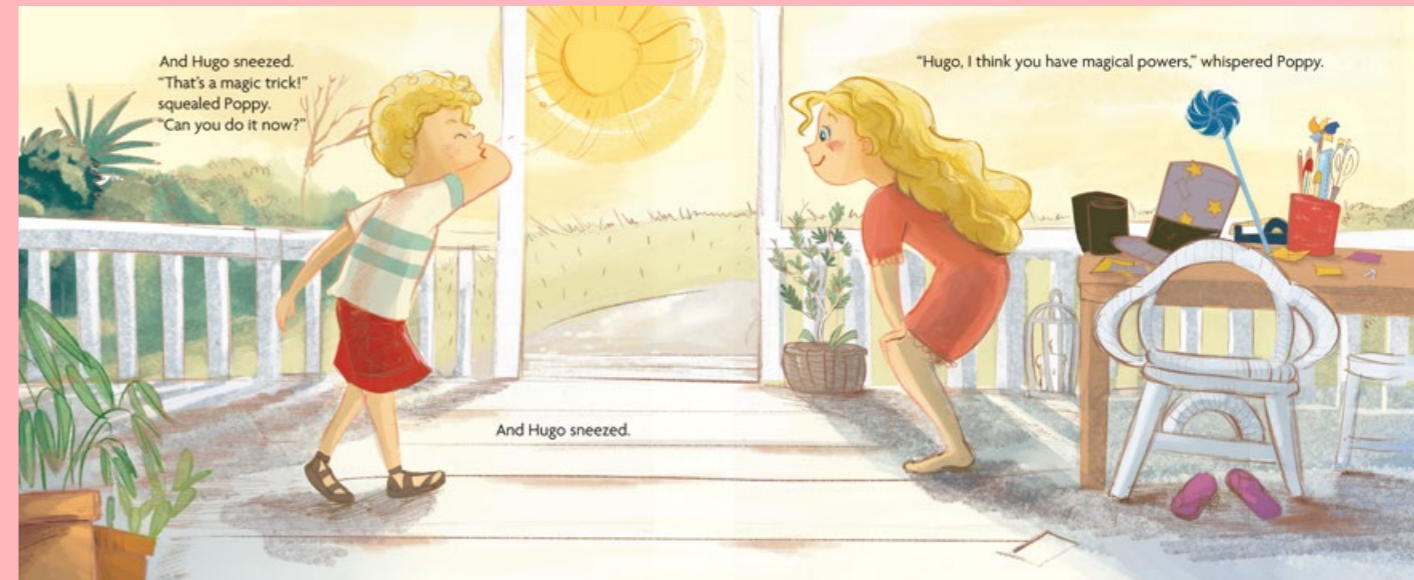
Hugo is thrilled to discover he has a special power—to sneeze on command. But when his sister Poppy asks him to show off his new trick the next day, the sneezes won't come. Fearing the loss of his new power, the pair set off to find a solution. But when even cut grass and a gentle breeze won't help, the two will have to look up to find the answer. *Sun Sneezes* is the second title in the Mini Mudlarks series, exploring sibling connections and the joys of carefree days.

Core Themes:

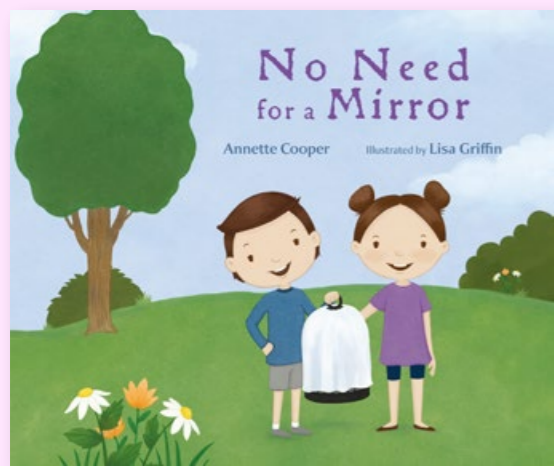
- **Sibling Bond and Support:** The story highlights the encouraging relationship between Hugo and Poppy, showing how they support each other through doubt.
- **Self-Discovery and Identity:** Hugo grapples with what makes him "special," moving from a focus on "magic" to realizing his value as a "good brother".
- **The Wonder of Nature:** The narrative uses the natural phenomenon of sun-induced sneezing to explore the "magic" found in everyday environments like gardens and beaches.

Key Highlights:

- A celebration of childhood curiosity that highlights the power of belief, encouragement, and sibling bonds.
- Children will love following the adventures of Poppy and Hugo, two engaging and playful characters.
- Playful illustrations that capture the warmth and humor of this engaging story.



No Need for a Mirror



Annette Cooper & Lisa Griffin
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-065-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Annette Cooper holds both an Arts Degree in English and a Science Degree in Zoology and Botany from Melbourne University. These contrasting areas of study have enabled her to approach the world from different perspectives, creating innovative contexts for learning. Her love of the natural world saw her employed as a researcher in both the ABC and BBC's Natural History Units. Anette enjoys the innocence, escapism, (deceptive) simplicity and sheer fun of children's books. She currently lives in Melbourne, Australia.

Lisa Griffin spends her days making art from a cozy studio in New Hampshire, USA. Her illustrations have been commissioned for greeting cards, magazines, and children's books. She believes in keeping the pencil moving, in the hopes of adding more happiness to the world, one illustration at a time. When not in the studio, Lisa enjoys yoga, photography, gardening, and being outside in the sunshine (preferably near a palm tree).

Two children discover that their new pet parakeet longs for something much bigger than a cage!

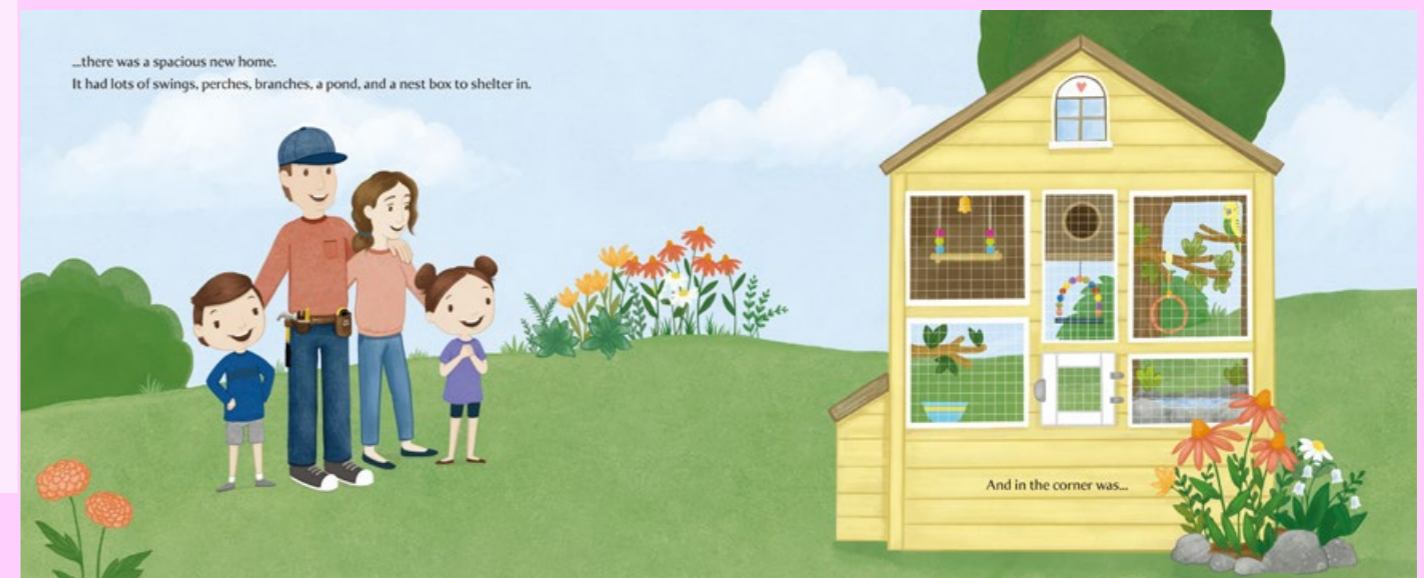
Audrey and Arthur are getting a new pet and are so excited they can barely sleep! But their dreams of rabbits, kittens, and puppies fade when the mystery animal is revealed to be Keith, a clipped-wing parakeet. But as the children quickly find out, Keith isn't all he appears to be. And when he surprises them by talking, the pair find that Keith needs something much bigger than just a cage. *No Need for a Mirror* is a touching and joyous story of empathy and friendship.

Core Themes:

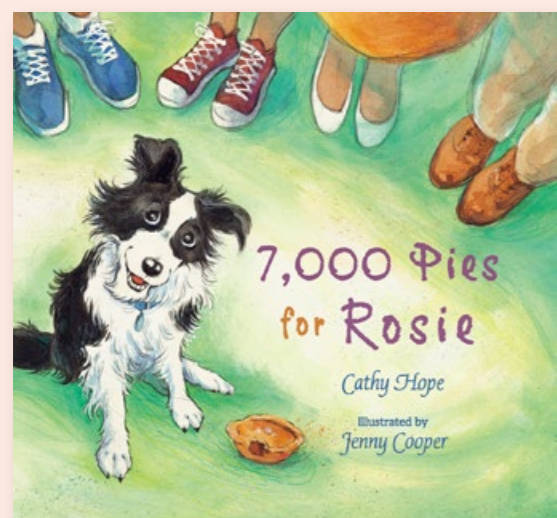
- **Animal Welfare and Needs:** The book educates readers that pets are living beings with social and physical needs beyond basic confinement.
- **The Value of Companionship:** It highlights that for social creatures like budgerigars, a mirror is no substitute for a real companion.
- **Managing Expectations:** The children learn to look past their initial disappointment and appreciate the unique joy a different kind of pet can bring.

Key Highlights:

- An uplifting story that explores friendships and compassion.
- The relatable characters will make children reflect on their own relationships with animals and the natural world.
- Delightful illustrations that capture the warmth and charm of this engaging tale.



7,000 Pies for Rosie



Cathy Hope & Jenny Cooper
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-056-6
Trim Size: 9.5" H x 10.2" W
Publication Date: Jul 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Cathy Hope's carefree childhood in New Zealand included adventures on family farms, exploring riverbeds and beaches, fishing, making cubbies, and climbing trees. Her admiration for New Zealand's landscape, flora, fauna, and culture influences her writing. Cathy, a primary school teacher, has over thirty books published for children and educators. She lives with her family beside the sea at Frankston in Victoria, Australia, and often makes trips back to New Zealand.

Jenny Cooper is one of New Zealand's best known illustrators of books for children. An award winning illustrator of 30 years' experience, she specialises in books for very young children and Pacific Island children. She works in a wide range of styles, her work is always characterful, animated, thoughtful and humorous.

The heartwarming true story of Rosie, a sheep dog who became a train station legend.

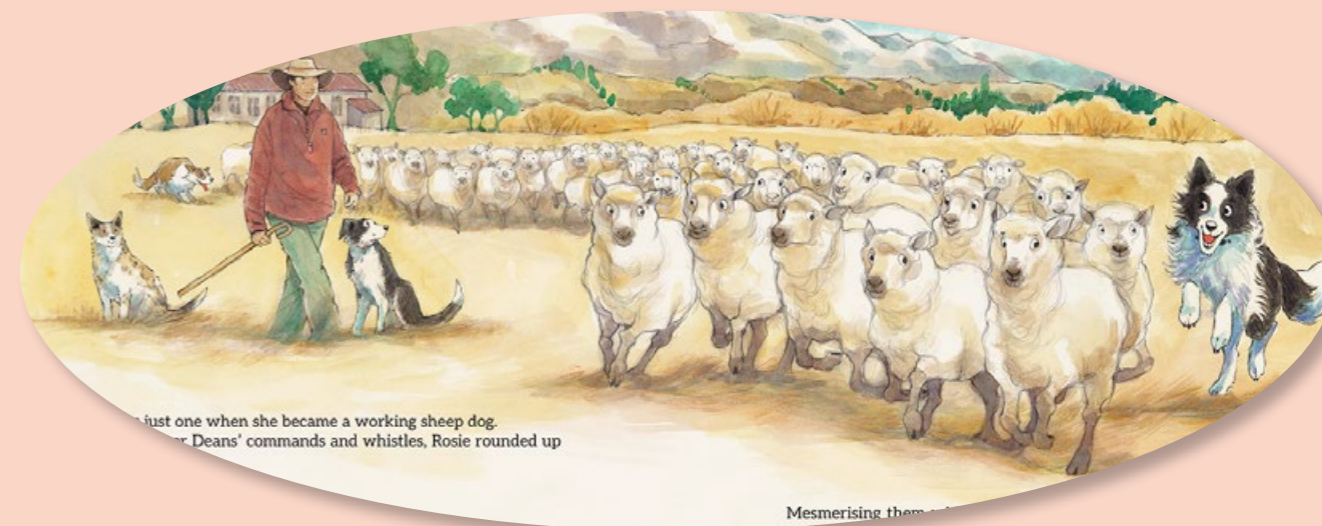
This heartwarming true story celebrates Rosie, an iconic Border Collie and her remarkable life on New Zealand's Canterbury Plains. After ten loyal years spent herding sheep, Rosie retires to the quiet town of Springfield—where she discovers a new calling. Twice a day, she meets the TranzAlpine Express, delighting passengers and rounding up tourists. In return, she receives a delicious meat pie. Over ten years, Rosie is estimated to have eaten more than 7,000 pies! Brought to life with warm, expressive illustrations, this is a delightful tale of purpose, community, and the culture and spirit of New Zealand.

Core Themes:

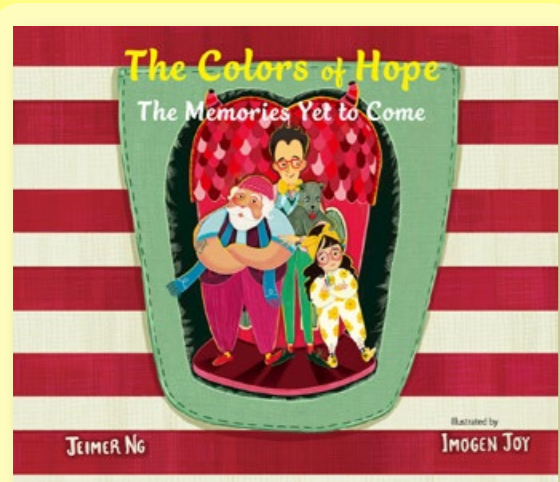
- **Finding Purpose:** The story emphasizes that retirement doesn't mean the end of one's usefulness; Rosie finds joy and meaning in her new role even as she ages.
- **The Bond Between Humans and Animals:** It highlights the deep connection between Rosie, her owners Keith and Clarice, and the community of travelers who looked forward to seeing her.
- **A True Hero's Journey:** Based on a true story, the book celebrates the life of a real-life canine hero in New Zealand.

Key Highlights:

- Based on the incredible true story of one of New Zealand's most beloved Border Collies.
- Blends rural life, train travel, and local folklore into a rich narrative of companionship and legacy.
- Rich illustrations that showcase iconic New Zealand landscapes and historic railway scenes—inviting readers into Rosie's world.



The Colors of Hope: The Memories Yet to Come



Jeimer Ng & Imogen Joy
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-019-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Healing from Grief:** A metaphorical exploration of how loss feels like a flood and the internal process required to navigate overwhelming emotions.
- **The Power of Hope:** Shifting the focus from what has been lost to the "memories to come," emphasizing that the future still holds beauty and new connections.
- **Emotional Architecture:** Visualizes the human heart as a shared space, illustrating how our relationships and internal world provide the support system needed during a crisis.

Key Highlights

- A poignant and endearing story that explores themes surrounding grief, healing, and heartbreak.
- An original interpretation of some big emotions readers can experience.
- Wildly inventive and expressive illustrations that capture the emotional themes and originality of this story perfectly.

Nathaniel Pennon's loved ones must work together after they are washed from his heart in a flood.

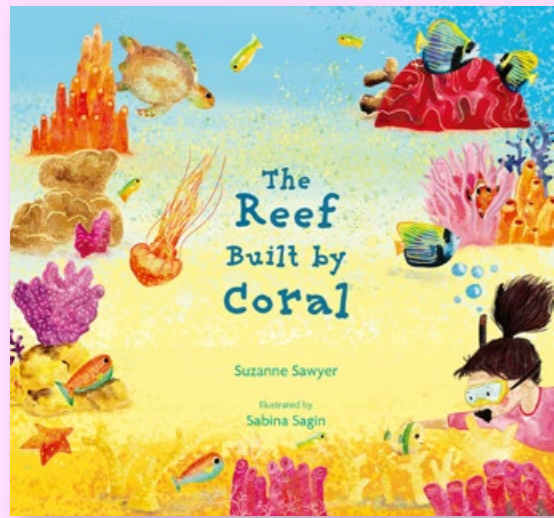
Nathaniel Pennon's heart contains rooms for the people he loves dearly. But one day, a new room appears, and before the residents of Nathaniel's heart can understand who it is for, a flood of water rushes in, washing them away! Together they must work to stop the flood from devastating Nathaniel's heart. But what could possibly be strong enough to stop something as destructive as this? This is an imaginative and visually captivating story that explores themes such as heartbreak, grief, and healing.

Jeimer Ng is an author and occupational therapist from Western Australia with a passion for short forms of fiction. He is also a professional daydreamer and certified sentimentalist in love with the world. You can find him hiking through nature, sipping on hot chocolate no matter the weather, and hunting for the best bakeries in town—mainly so he can claim "writer's block" while eating pastries.

Imogen Joy is an English illustrator living in Sydney, Australia, with her partner, son, and a very fluffy cat. Her mother encouraged her to draw from childhood, nurturing her love of art and her ability to think creatively. Imogen studied fine arts in England and Australia and was delighted to find her voice through illustration, the perfect way to express her whimsical themes and inner magical world with a wider audience.



The Reef Built by Coral



Suzanne Sawyer & Sabina Sagin
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-055-9
Trim Size: 9.5" H x 10.2" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- Ecosystem interconnection and interdependence
- Food chains and food webs
- Coral reef ecology
- Biodiversity
- Environmental conservation
- Human impact on nature (positive and negative)
- Ocean habitat protection
- Symbiotic relationships
- Climate change awareness

Key Highlights

- A factually based and engaging examination of life in a coral reef. Perfect for schools and young explorers.
- Explores the importance of conservation and the impact humans have on this intricate ecosystem.
- Richly detailed and vivid illustrations heighten the impact of the story and its message to care for and understand our coral reefs.

An exploration of various creatures' role in the vibrant, delicate, and complex coral reef ecosystem.

Dive into *The Reef Built by Coral*, a captivating aquatic tale inspired by *The House that Jack Built*. From tiny coral polyps to reef sharks and manta rays, each turn of the page reveals how every element and creature has an important role in the delicate and complex ecosystem of the reef. Through its engaging rhyme, children will discover how everything on the reef shares a connection, how life is sustained under the waves, and what humans can do to protect this incredible environment.

Suzanne Sawyer has a miniature rainforest attached to her house in Sandpoint, Idaho, USA. Her rainforest is a greenhouse filled with hundreds of tropical orchids from exotic places around the world. Sawyer has a degree in Social Science, graduate level work in Marine Science, and is a long-time member of the American Orchid Society.

Sabina Sagin was born in Melbourne, Australia. Classic children's stories, history, adventure, and nature inspire much of her work. She holds degrees in Communication Design and Music. Growing up, she was surrounded by dogs and other pets, and her British bulldog Rosie keeps her company while she writes and illustrates stories for the next generation of readers.



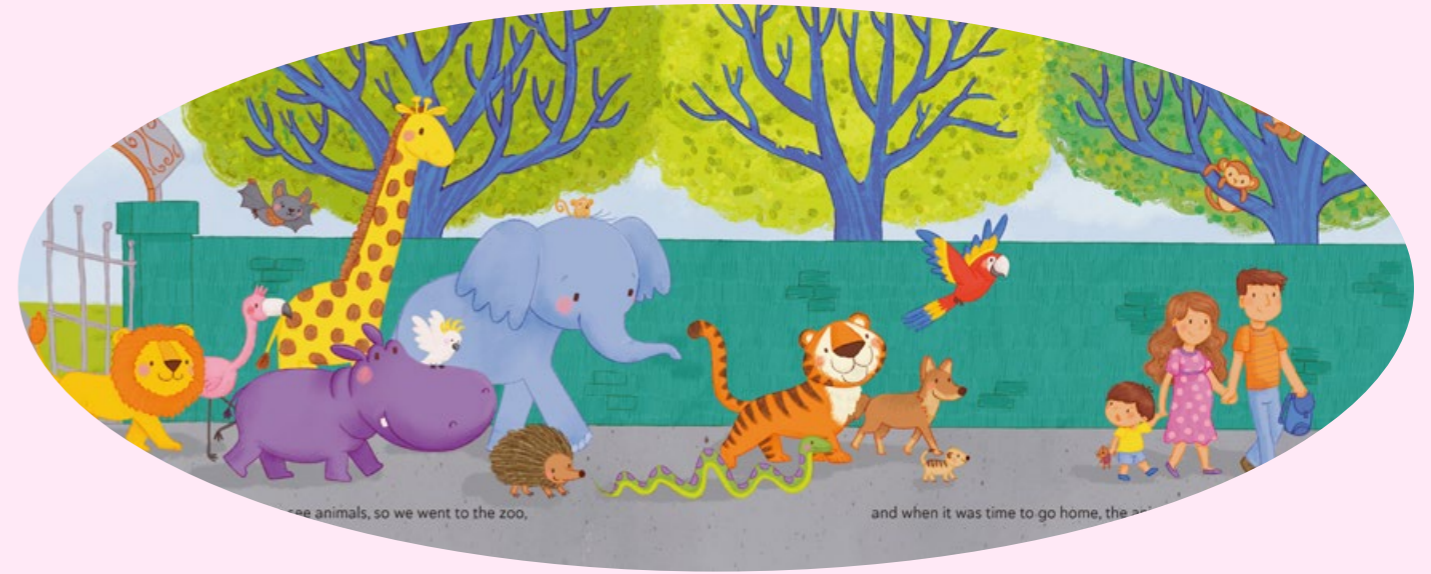
The Zoo That Followed Me Home



Claire E. Peters & Chiara Franceschetti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-049-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Writing has been a companion to **Claire E. Peters** as long as she can remember. Understanding the lasting impact that a childhood book can have on a reader, she's been inspired to create tales that evoke a sense of magic and emotion in both children and adults alike. Claire lives in Australia with her husband and two young children. Together, they keep a watchful eye out for any sneaky zoo animals that may be hiding around their home.

Chiara Franceschetti has always loved drawing. Originally a graduate of architecture, it was after having two children that she began her creative career. Inspired by the mountainous surroundings of her childhood, fairy tales and travel, Chiara works digitally, often combining watercolors to form detailed and joyfully colored artwork. Chiara lives in South Tyrol, Italy, with her husband and two children.



A boy brings home a zoo full of animals and discovers there can be room for one more in his family.

After a trip to the zoo, a young boy discovers the animals have followed him home—and are hiding around the house! There's a lion by the couch, a bat on the ceiling, and even an elephant in the garage! With all these animals around, there isn't much room, but with a baby sibling due soon, this little boy will soon learn that there can be space for everyone. *The Zoo That Followed Me Home* is a delightfully illustrated and whimsical story that explores imagination, discovery, and growing as a family.

Core Themes:

- Lifestyle change and adaptation
- Friendship and support
- Perseverance through trial and error
- Following instructions (recipes)
- Dietary choices
- Change and personal growth
- Compromise and problem-solving

Key Highlights

- *The Zoo That Followed Me Home* subtly explores emotional anxieties about changes within a family, offering reassurance and warmth.
- A playful and imaginative story that features engaging rhyme and rhythm.
- Children will love searching for hidden animals in the wonderfully vibrant and humorous illustrations.



A meerkat keeps watch from the toy tub in my room.

An echidna tries to blend in with our spiky kitchen broom.



I used to be scared when I'd go to bed at night.

But now the animals make me feel safe when it's time to turn off the light.

Finding Big Blue



Christine Kodomichalos & Iryna Bayovska
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-004-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Overcoming Fear:** A relatable journey of a child finding the courage to face the unknown at her own pace.
- **Patience and Observation:** Showing that sometimes the best rewards come to those who wait and look closely.
- **Connection with Nature:** Encouraging an appreciation for marine life and the hidden wonders of the ocean.

Key Highlights

- A beautifully descriptive tale that explores courage, friendship, and curiosity.
- Children will relate and feel empowered by Isla's journey as she overcomes her fears.
- Beautiful illustrations filled with warmth, emotion, and joy.

A young girl overcomes her fear of the sea to search for a mysterious fish.

Isla's fear of what lurks below the water is stopping her from meeting Big Blue, a blue groper. While her friends investigate the waters around them, Isla sits and waits. But when she finally becomes brave enough to join the search, they find that Big Blue is hiding, and they swim on without noticing him. As Isla clambors out of the bay, she slips and falls into the water—only to discover that Big Blue is waiting to meet her. Big Blue is a beautifully illustrated and encouraging story that celebrates childhood adventure, confidence, and friendship.

Christine Kodomichalos was raised in a family of ten with two dogs, three birds, and a turtle. Growing up in the southern suburbs of Sydney, she spent most of her time climbing trees and paddling down rivers with her siblings. Today she lives by the beach in Sydney, Australia, and still loves outdoor adventures. In fact, many of her stories are inspired by the fun she has had exploring nature with her family. When Christine is not writing, she is working in primary schools as a diverse learning teacher. Christine has a Masters in Inclusive Education and is passionate about creating opportunities for all children to shine.

Iryna Bayovska is a children's book illustrator and mother of two. Drawing since childhood, she is grateful her passion became a lifelong career. Since starting as a freelance illustrator in 2014, Ira has illustrated more than twenty books for kids. She has a degree in Graphic Design and currently lives and works in Lviv, Ukraine.



Icky and Old Scaley Chops



Jordon Garbellini Adams & Carlotta Zanettini
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-058-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Friendship and Belonging:** The central theme is how finding the right companion can cure loneliness and make one's "magic" (potential) come alive.
- **Acceptance and Kindness:** The story encourages looking past outward appearances (a "crooked nose" or a "smelly cat") to see the heart within.
- **Overcoming Social Stigma:** It shows how joy and authenticity can change the way a community perceives those who are "different."

Carlotta Zanettini is a children's book illustrator and creator. Her works are inspired by nature, magic, and the little things that happen in our everyday lives. Carlotta was born and lives in the windy city of Trieste in northeast Italy.

A lonely witch and a smelly old cat discover the true magic of friendship—and change their whole town.

Living alone in her mushroom house, Icky the witch has icy toes and a reputation that keeps everyone away. Chops is a fishy-smelling cat with no friends and nowhere to sleep. But when a cold winter forces Icky into town, a chance meeting changes everything. Together Icky and Chops dance under the moonlight, cast joyful spells, and warm more than just toes—they warm hearts, too. Told in lilting rhyme and filled with warm, whimsical illustrations and gentle humor, *Icky and Old Scaley Chops* is an uplifting tale of friendship, belonging, and the kind of magic only acceptance can bring.

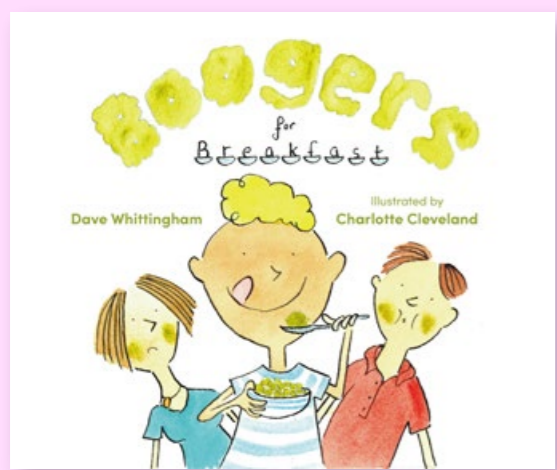
Jordon Garbellini Adams is an Australian author of children's picture books. She enjoys telling stories set in magical worlds in which odd characters live, grow, and learn lessons that young readers can carry through to real life. Her characters may be magical, but they face the same obstacles we do, and Jordon hopes her stories encourage children to be kind to others and confident in themselves.

Key Highlights:

- Told in charming rhyming verse that supports early language development and makes for a delightful read-aloud.
- Explores themes of loneliness, acceptance, and the power of friendship in a gentle, uplifting way.
- Whimsical illustrations bring Icky's magical world and Chop's scruffy charm to life.



Boogers for Breakfast



Dave Whittingham & Charlotte Cleveland
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-066-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Dave Whittingham lives in Orange, Australia. He has worked as a primary schoolteacher and Bible teacher, and he loves his wife and four kids. While he has two degrees, no one knows where he acquired his sense of humor. He loves to make children laugh, and when he is not teaching them a big life lesson, he is usually telling them a dad joke. He always looks forward to breakfast.

Charlotte Cleveland has a unique whimsical and quirky style. She has enjoyed drawing for as long as she can remember, and her biggest heroes are Quentin Blake and Oliver Jeffers. She has a very active imagination and loves to create joy and movement using pencil, ink, and watercolor. Charlotte comes from Colchester, UK.

A hilarious, gross-out tale of a boy's mission to find his favorite breakfast—boogers!

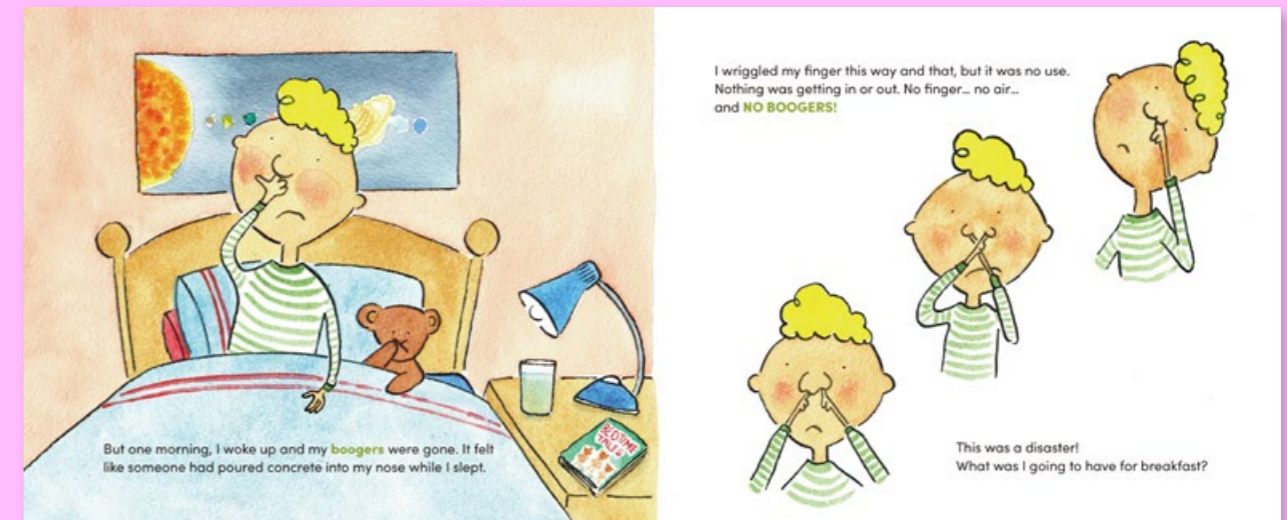
Breakfast is the most important meal of the day—and George loves to have boogers! But disaster strikes when he gets a cold, and his favorite meal disappears. Each day, George wakes to find his boogers change from being non-existent to sticky green gloop, and his family's advice just doesn't help one bit. Will George ever enjoy his favorite breakfast again? A hilarious and delightfully gross story, featuring some equally disgusting—yet playful—illustrations!

Core Themes:

- **Friendship and Belonging:** The central theme is how finding the right companion can cure loneliness and make one's "magic" (potential) come alive.
- **Acceptance and Kindness:** The story encourages looking past outward appearances (a "crooked nose" or a "smelly cat") to see the heart within.
- **Overcoming Social Stigma:** It shows how joy and authenticity can change the way a community perceives those who are "different."

Key Highlights:

- A delightfully disgusting and hilarious story that children will love!
- George's booger dilemma is the perfect story for shared reading.
- Wonderfully expressive, laugh-out-loud designs that are vibrant, warm, and perfectly icky.



Don't Grow Up Ever



Adam Martin & Sara Fandrey
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-022-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

■ **Two siblings embark on an imaginative adventure full of surprises, laughter, and animal antics.**

Hugo and Hazel have incredible imaginations, and they are about to turn an ordinary day on the farm into something extraordinary! As they explore and dream up hilarious activities for the animals, they find a singing horse, a goat stranded on a leaky boat, and lots more unexpected surprises. As the sun sets, Hugo and Hazel head back, proving that adventures are best when shared. A wonderful and incredibly funny story about the power of imagination, sibling bonds, and the joy of a shared adventure.



■ **Core Themes:**

- **The Power of Imagination:** Celebrating how children can transform their everyday surroundings into a world of fantasy.
- **Sibling Bonding:** Highlighting the shared joy and cooperation between a brother and sister as they play together.
- **Preserving Childhood Wonder:** A gentle reminder of the importance of maintaining a sense of playfulness and creativity.

■ **Key Highlights:**

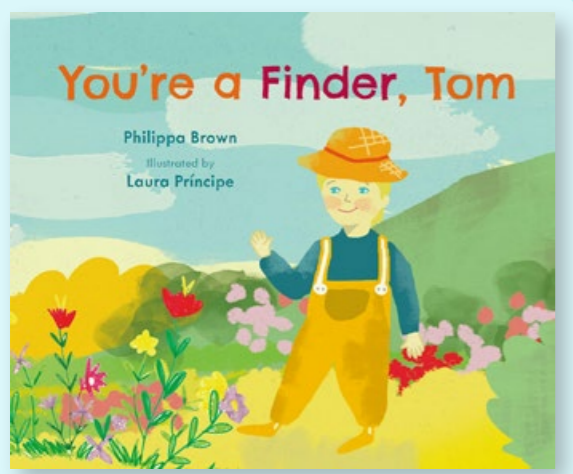
- A hilarious adventure that celebrates sibling bonds, imagination, and creativity.
- The joyous and inventive rhyme will make this story a read aloud favorite!
- Whimsical illustrations that perfectly capture an imaginative day on the farm.

Adam Martin is an army veteran and full-time dad from New South Wales, Australia. He lives on a small farm, with a chicken who thinks it's a duck, ducks who think they're dogs, dogs who think they're kids, and two kids who think they're adults. He enjoys reading to his kids, making people laugh, and the idea of sleep.

Sara Fandrey is an Italian German children's book illustrator living in Portugal. Influenced by her love for all things vintage, she prefers soft, desaturated color palettes. Sara combines traditional and digital techniques, and in her work, you can find warm lightning, cute (often magical) characters, and a dash of humor. Away from drawing, she is running after (or reading to) her two children.



You're a Finder, Tom



Philippa Brown & Laura Príncipe
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-013-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

■ A child explores his surroundings using his senses, finding joy and beauty in mindfulness.

You're a Finder, Tom tells the story of a nature-loving boy who closely observes his surroundings. While on a walk with Mom, he constantly sees animals and insects that she overlooks. With each turn of the page, these finds are revealed to the reader. This gentle, thoughtful story will encourage mindfulness and a love of nature in children, helping them to observe and explore the world around them with all their senses so they too can become "finders". With tender illustrations that capture a child's sense of wonder and learning.

Philippa Brown lives in Sydney, Australia. Together with her husband she has raised three children, and over this time has fallen deeply in love with children's literature. Philippa has worked for twenty years as a general practitioner. As a doctor, she especially loved helping children, but her love of children's stories eventually won, and she retired early from general practice to write. *The New Baby's Bunny* was Philippa's first published story.

Laura Príncipe is a Spanish illustrator of children's stories. She blends artistic skill with narrative sensitivity to create characters that inspire and engage. Trained in design and illustration, she has collaborated on editorial and educational projects with leading Spanish publishers, crafting visual stories that stimulate imagination and promote positive values in childhood.

Core Themes:

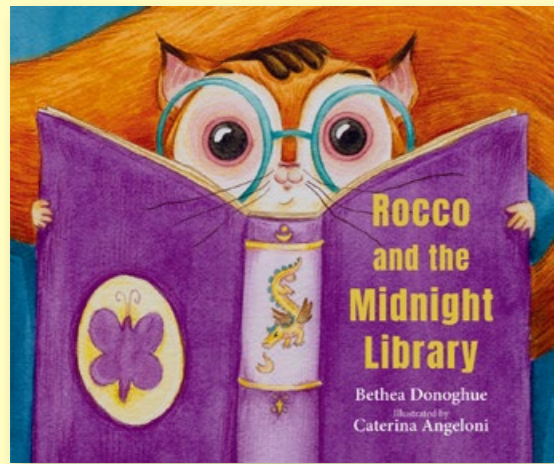
- **Mindfulness and Observation:** Encouraging children to slow down and use all their senses to engage with the world around them.
- **Nature Appreciation:** Finding beauty and wonder in everyday outdoor elements like insects, plants, and animals.
- **Parent-Child Connection:** Highlighting the gentle, supportive dialogue between a parent and child during a shared activity.

Key Highlights:

- A gentle, thoughtful story that encourages readers to observe and explore the world around them using all their senses.
- Captures the essence of childhood and the sense of wonder as children learn.
- Bright yet tender illustrations that capture the joy of discovering the beauty of nature.



Rocco and the Midnight Library



Bethea Donoghue & Caterina Angeloni
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-025-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Aug 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Bethea Donoghue is an author, teacher, and mom who lives by beautiful Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne with her husband, two boys, and tabby cat. Inspired by nature and the innate wisdom of children, Bethea writes heartfelt stories for little people with big questions. Bethea can often be found at the beach, on a yoga mat, or searching for lost Lego pieces.

Caterina Angeloni was born in Rome, Italy, in 1979. She grew up devouring stories and drawing her favorite characters on every available surface – and still does! Caterina uses analogue and digital techniques but has a special love for watercolors and colored pencils. She now lives by the sea with her little girl near Barcelona, Spain.

■ A lonely squirrel discovers that stories shine more brightly when shared with others.

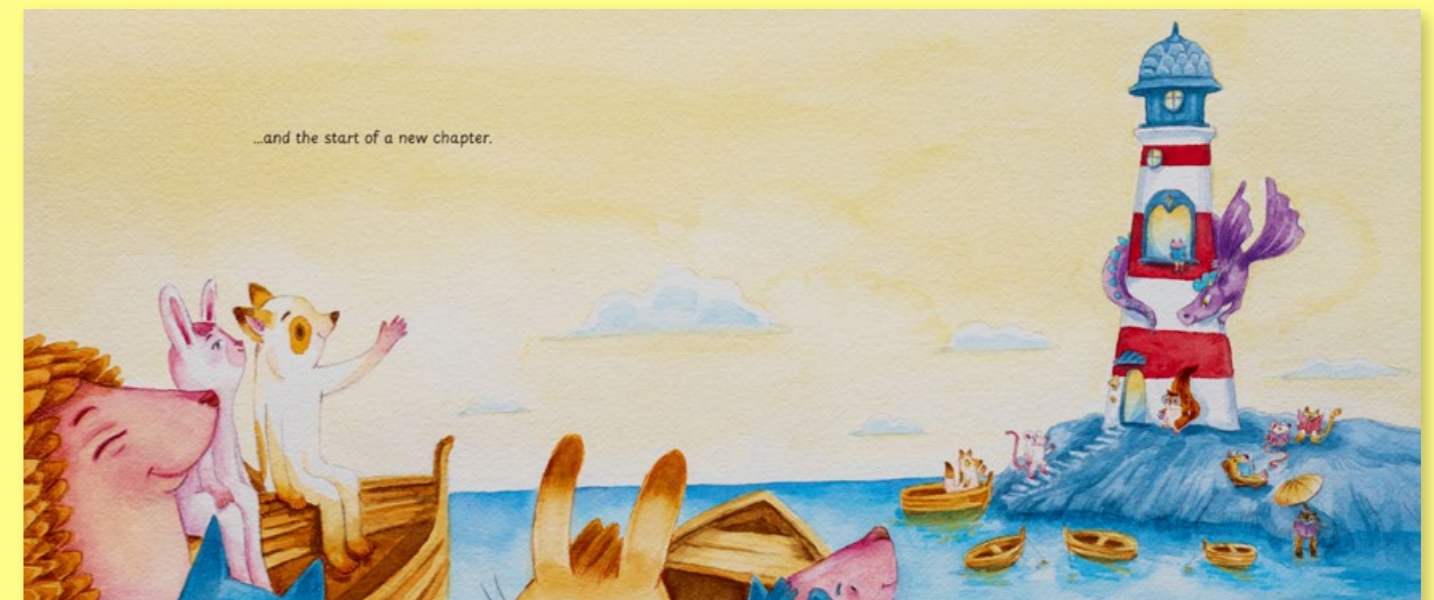
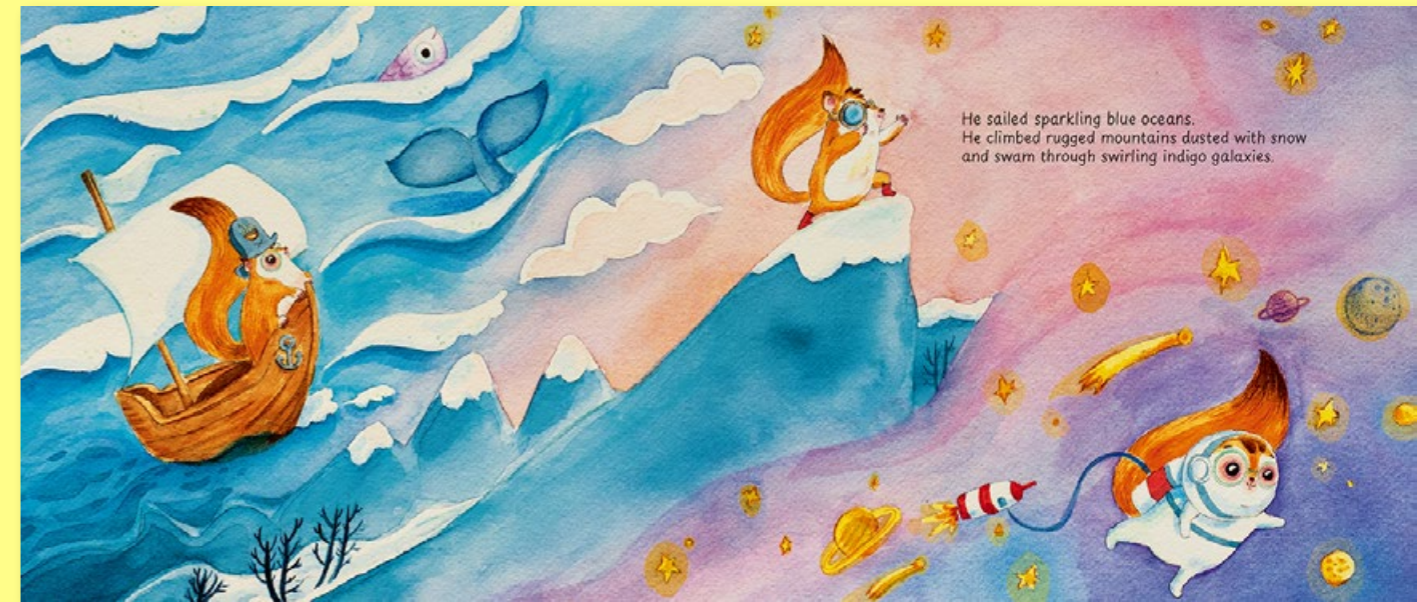
Rocco lives alone in a towering library by the sea, where books are his only friends. Each night, his stories come to life, transporting Rocco on incredible adventures—until a gentle dragon arrives and asks him to share a tale. But when the words in his precious books start to fade, Rocco discovers that stories are more magical when shared. *Rocco and the Midnight Library* is an enchanting and exquisitely illustrated tale that celebrates friendship and the bonds formed through storytelling and words.

■ Core Themes:

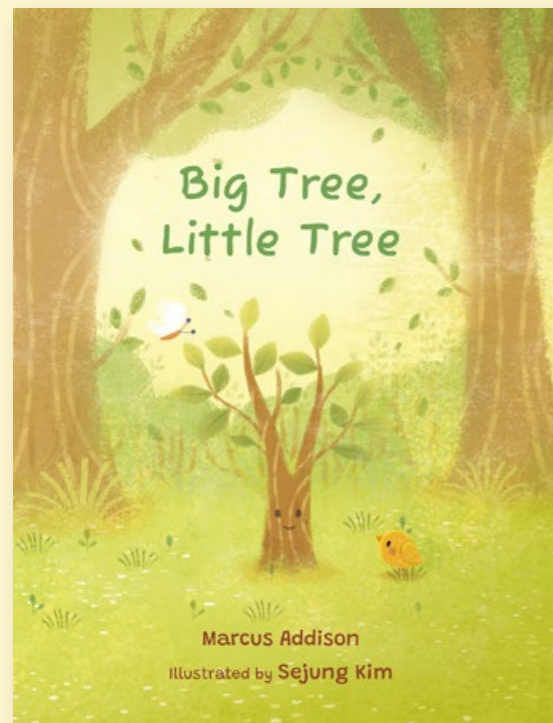
- **The Generosity of Storytelling:** Exploring the idea that stories gain power and life when they are shared with others rather than kept to oneself.
- **Overcoming Selfishness and Fear:** Highlighting Rocco's journey from fearing loss to understanding the abundance that comes from connection.
- **Connection and Loneliness:** Demonstrating how companionship, even with a "fierce" dragon, can chase away the shadows of isolation.

■ Key Highlights:

- A touching and imaginative tale that highlights the power of storytelling and the connections we share with others.
- Encourages empathy, generosity, and creativity.
- Richly illustrated illustrations that invoke a dreamy, magical atmosphere.



Big Tree, Little Tree



Marcus Addison & Sejung Kim
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-043-6
Trim Size: 11" H x 8.5" W
Publication Date: Sep 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Marcus Addison is an Australian author from a little place called The Shire. As a Master's student of Creative Writing at Sydney University he loves writing about many things but almost always about trees. His dream is to cover the earth in green again. He was a kid once too, you know, and vowed never to grow up. So far so good! Now he is 'not-so-little' himself and has four children of his own. They are his inspiration now, and he believes it is this chosen generation (which is you), that will bring nature back into balance throughout the world. He is currently writing a middle grade novel that is, no surprise, narrated by the trees. He hopes his broad life experience in finance, teaching, and healthcare enriches his writing of people and nature.

Sejung Kim is an illustrator from South Korea, now living and working in France. She specializes in children's literature and has collaborated with numerous French and international publishing houses. Always on the lookout for inspiring projects for young and old alike, she aspires to create images that resonate with the child in all of us.

A joyous celebration of life's journey and the joys and sorrows of growing up, beautifully told through the metaphor of a tiny tree who longs to be bigger.

In this moving tale of friendship, nature, and the cycle of life, a little seedling longs to be bigger. A big tree tells him to be patient, assuring him that one day, he will have his day in the sun.

Time passes, and through sun and rain, the little tree grows. The little and big trees weather life's storms side-by-side, until one journey is finally complete and a new one is ready to begin.

Big Tree, Little Tree is a lyrical and life-affirming story of the joys and sorrows of growing up and the importance of being patient and enjoying the wondrous journey of life.

Core Themes:

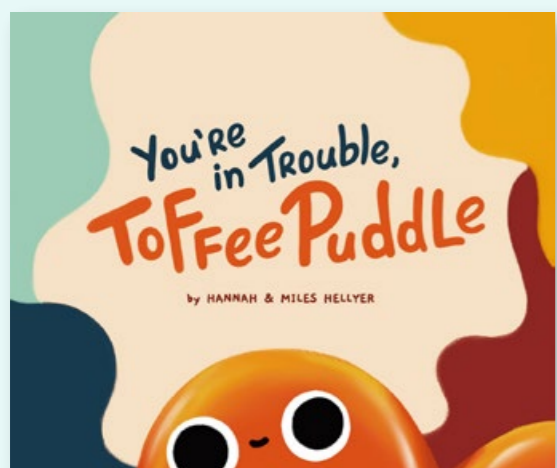
- **Relativity and Perspective:** Teaching children that concepts like "big" and "small" depend entirely on what you are comparing them to.
- **Self-Acceptance:** Encouraging readers to find value and strength in their own size and identity.
- **Abstract Thinking:** Introducing the idea that some words do not have a single, exact definition and can be interpreted in various ways.

Key Highlights:

- An engaging story that explores the life cycle of a tree as it grows from seed to sapling, fed and nurtured by water and sunlight.
- A joyful celebration of the cycle of life, with all its joys and sorrows, exploring the impatience of the young and the wisdom that comes from experience.
- A life-affirming story of friendship, the relationship between young and old, and wisdom passed down through the generations.



You're in Trouble, Toffee Puddle!



Hannah Hellyer & Miles Hellyer
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-039-9
Trim Size: 8.3" H x 8.3" W
Publication Date: Sep 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Hannah Hellyer is a mother of two young children and the co-host, producer, and founder of the award-winning parenting podcast - Baby Brain Podcast, where she interviews parenting specialists for a dedicated weekly audience of thousands. Hannah is also the founder, writer, and producer of the Nana Hannah Bedtime Stories podcast, a best children's podcast finalist at the 2024 Australian Podcast Awards. The episodes contain soothing stories written and narrated by Hannah, with music and sounds to help children sleep.

A sticky toffee causes chaos around the house while creating a new outfit.

Toffee Puddle, a loveable but yucky character, gets into all kinds of mischief at home. While the family is out, he rolls around the house with his sticky toffee body getting stuck on all kinds of objects. From a tube of toothpaste to a kitty litter tray, nothing is too gross as he creates a fabulous new outfit! But what will the family think when they return? *You're in Trouble, Toffee Puddle!* is a hilarious and energetic story in fast-paced rhyme, with simple and appealing illustrations.

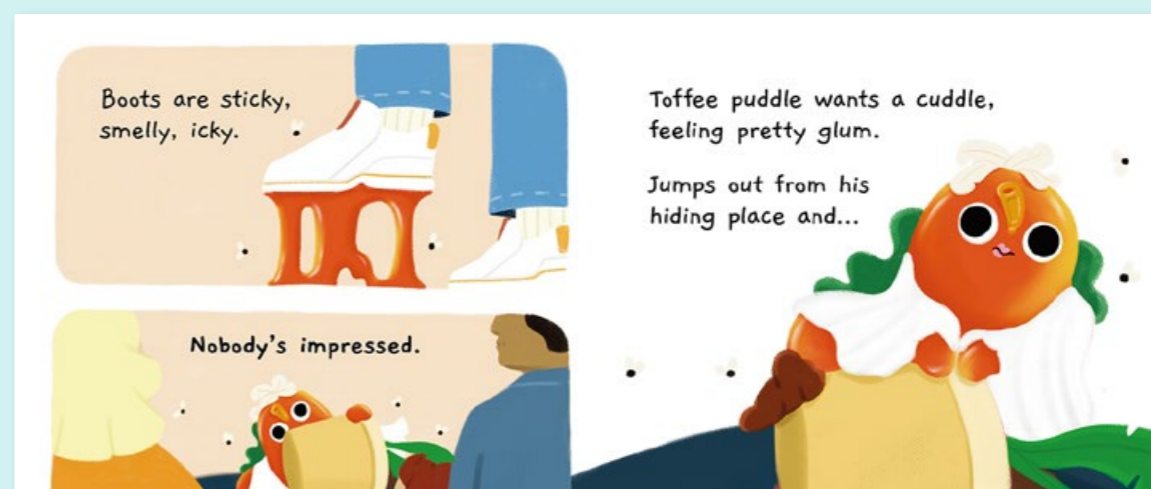
Core Themes:

- Chaos and mischief in everyday life
- Consequences of messy behavior
- Humor in disaster and mayhem
- Parent-child dynamics and boundaries
- Finding joy in silly situations

Key Highlights:

- Energetic, fast-paced rhyme that will delight all readers.
- A hilarious and chaotic character that is sure to bring a lot of laughter.
- Bold, funny illustrations heighten the story's hilarity and will engage readers.

Miles Hellyer is a father of two young children. He is the Founder and Creative Director of Chalk Company, a design and animation studio based in Sydney, Australia. Over the past ten years, Miles has been designing, illustrating, and animating a range of creative projects for clients such as the Art Gallery of NSW, NSW Department of Education, and the Museum of Contemporary Art.



Don't Forget Hugo Bear



Emma Counsell & Chiara Franceschetti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-054-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Sep 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Emma Counsell is a graduate of The Australian Writers' Centre and is passionate about writing picture books that resonate with young readers. With a background in fine arts, her artistic vision enriches her storytelling. Based on the Gold Coast, Australia, she shares her home with her husband, two spirited children, and her father, all of whom provide her with endless inspiration (and occasional chaos) for her creative journey.

Chiara Franceschetti has always loved drawing. Originally a graduate of architecture, it was after having two children that she began her creative career. Inspired by the mountainous surroundings of her childhood, fairy tales, and travel, Chiara works digitally, often combining watercolors to form detailed and joyfully colored artwork. Chiara lives in South Tyrol, Italy, with her husband and two children.

● **Hugo Bear fears being forgotten—until he finds a new role in the family.**

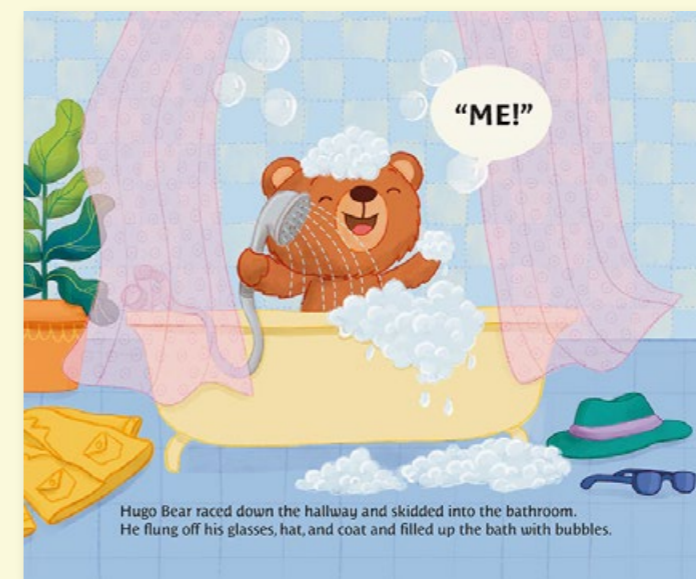
Hugo Bear is a teddy on a heartfelt journey to rekindle a connection with his owner, Ruby. Hugo always loves seeing Ruby, but when she returns home one day, she starts to ignore him. Feeling lost and wondering if Ruby has outgrown him, Hugo starts to think it might be time to leave home forever—until he realizes there is still a very important role for him, especially with a new baby on the way. Join Hugo Bear in this touching story about love, acceptance, and family bonds.

● **Core Themes:**

- Adjusting to a new sibling
- Fear of being replaced / forgotten
- Finding new purpose and meaning
- Growing and adapting to change
- Self-worth and identity
- Love and belonging
- Resilience and transformation
- The enduring bond between child and beloved toy

● **Key Highlights**

- The perfect story for children adjusting to a new sibling, offering comfort and reassurance through Hugo's journey.
- Hugo Bear's expressive and humorous personality will charm readers and make him an unforgettable character.
- Playful illustrations that are filled with character, enhance the connection readers will have with Hugo Bear's journey.



How Big Is Big?



Kylie Tull & Anna Falco
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-052-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Sep 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Kylie Tull is a South Australian educator and author who developed an obsession with poetry and writing from an early age. Believing that every child is an author with countless stories to tell, Kylie has a passion for inspiring young readers to fall in love with creating stories of their own. She believes that children are made readers on their parent's laps, and are made writers through connection, conversation, and storytelling.

Anna Falco is an illustrator, graphic designer and textile print designer from Barcelona, Spain. She studied at Escola Massana and Escola Eina in Barcelona and UDK in Berlin. Since 2011, she has worked as a freelancer, continually expanding her skills through workshops, courses, and diverse projects. Anna also teaches illustration and art courses.

A little mouse helps his new wallaby friend to see that being "big" is all about perspective.

In a deep forest, a small mouse meets a curious wallaby. But when Wallaby assumes that Mouse must find his size difficult, Mouse sets out to prove that being "big" is not just about size. On their journey, the two meet a snake and an eagle, who each have their own ideas about what being big means. This wonderful story shows that being "big" doesn't always matter, and even the smallest creatures can make a difference. A fun and engaging story that explores mathematical concepts while highlighting the positivity of confidence and curiosity.

Core Themes:

- **Relativity and Perspective:** Teaching children that concepts like "big" and "small" depend entirely on what you are comparing them to.
- **Self-Acceptance:** Encouraging readers to find value and strength in their own size and identity.
- **Abstract Thinking:** Introducing the idea that some words do not have a single, exact definition and can be interpreted in various ways.

Key Highlights:

- A fun way to explore mathematical concepts involving size.
- Jaunty rhyming text that highlights confidence, curiosity, and the power of perception.
- Colorful, stylized, and modern illustrations with extra details for children to explore.



Fuzz and Friends



Rebecca Purcell
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 44 pages | 979-8-90115-000-9
Trim Size: 11.2" H x 8.5" W
Publication Date: Sep 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Three friends build a robot that runs away to a birthday party with stolen cupcakes.

When Ed, Ava, and Fuzz build a super-duper robot from a kit, they expect it to do amazing things. But when the robot races off with three cupcakes from Cat's birthday party, the friends must chase it down! This charming story celebrates problem-solving, friendship, and focusing on what someone CAN do rather than what they can't—with a delightfully unexpected party ending.

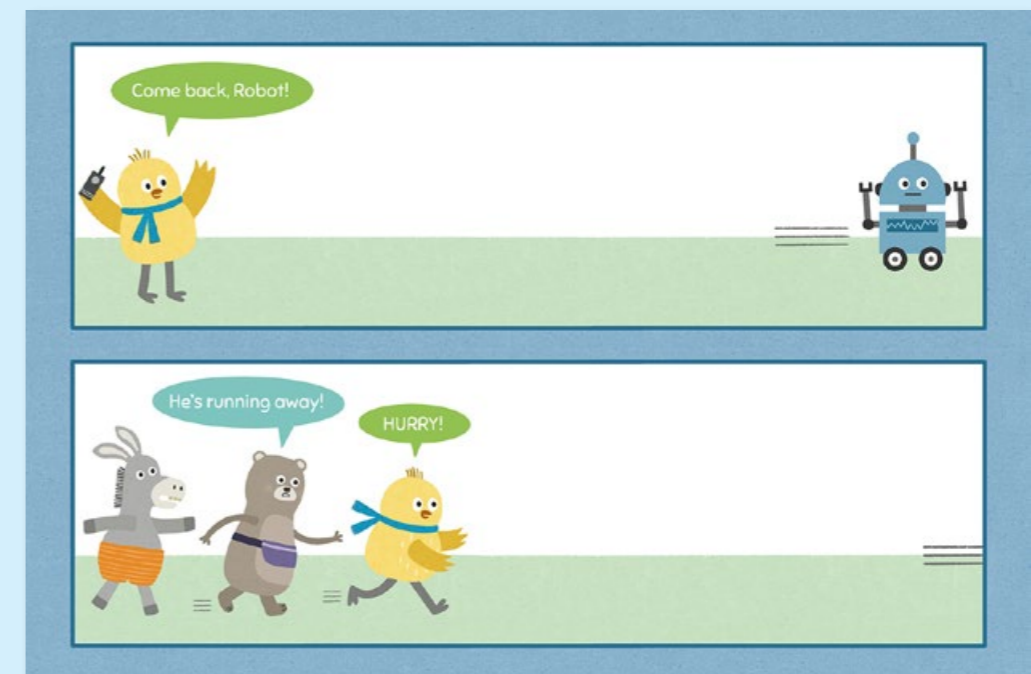
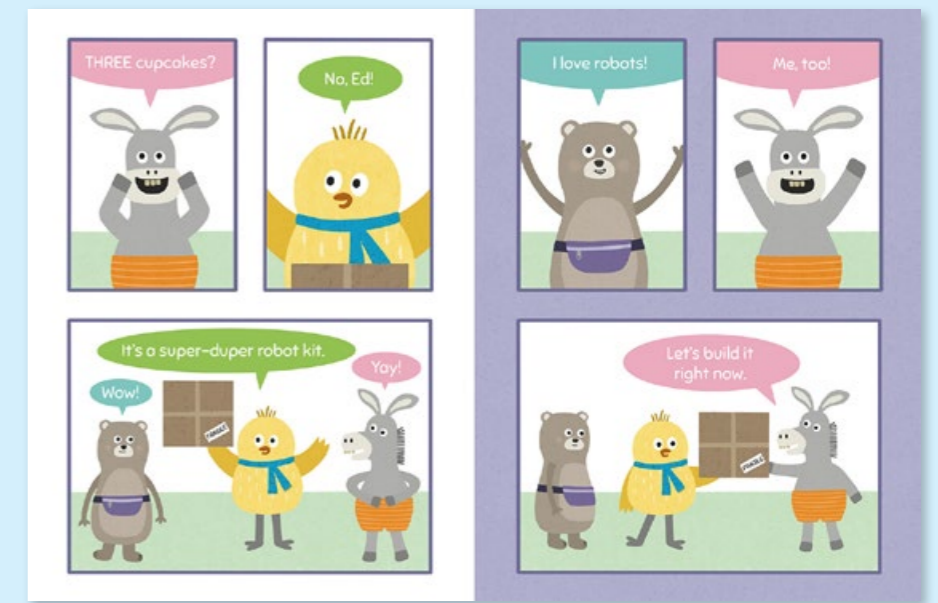
Core Themes:

- **Friendship and Sharing:** Emphasizing the joy of doing activities together and the importance of including others.
- **Social Responsibility:** Teaching children about honesty and the importance of making things right when a mistake occurs.
- **Joy in the Unexpected:** Showing that surprises and even minor "disasters" can lead to new friends and happy memories.

Key Highlights

- **Perfect for emerging readers**
- **Growth Mindset in Action** - The story models positive thinking as friends redirect focus to celebrating what the robot CAN do rather than its limitations.
- **STEM Learning Through Play** - Readers experience assembling parts and troubleshooting when technology doesn't work as expected, making engineering concepts accessible.
- **Friendship and Problem-Solving** - Characters work together through challenges, take responsibility for mistakes, and turn a mishap into a celebration with new friends.

Rebecca Purcell is a children's book author and illustrator from Portland, United States. She studied Art History in college before launching her career as an artist. Prints of her cute illustrations can be found in nurseries and playrooms around the world. Rebecca likes drawing with pencils, hiking through alpine meadows, and drinking large quantities of tea. She has written and illustrated several series of children's board books. Rebecca's book, *Zip the World's Greatest Robot*, was included as a Best of 2020 Board Book / Picture Book from Kirkus Reviews. She lives in an old brick house with her husband, two sons, a stubborn dog, and a nearly perfect cat.



It's Okay, Little Monster



Shelly Higgs & Francesca Costa
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-037-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Shelly Higgs first entered storytelling by telling fibs as a child. It's not clear whether her parents believed these, but they were unsurprised by the career choices that followed: actor, theater director, playwright, dramaturg. Shelly has entertained audiences as a giant frog, wrestled words of acclaimed playwrights, led theater shows across Australia, and won numerous awards for photography. Shelly lives in Canberra, Australia, with her four kids, husband, and a menagerie of pets. She has just completed a Graduate Diploma in Psychology and hopes to combine her understanding of people with the power of imagination.

Poppy's anxiety monster is making her miserable until one day she realizes her monster might just be frightened, too.

Poppy's very brave, but often she gets scared and needs to hold someone's hand. That's when she knows her monster is around.

She has all sorts of ways to help her not feel afraid, but none of them seem to work on her monster. Until one day Poppy realizes... maybe monsters need their hands held, too.

Drawing-style illustrations create a colorful, creative world.

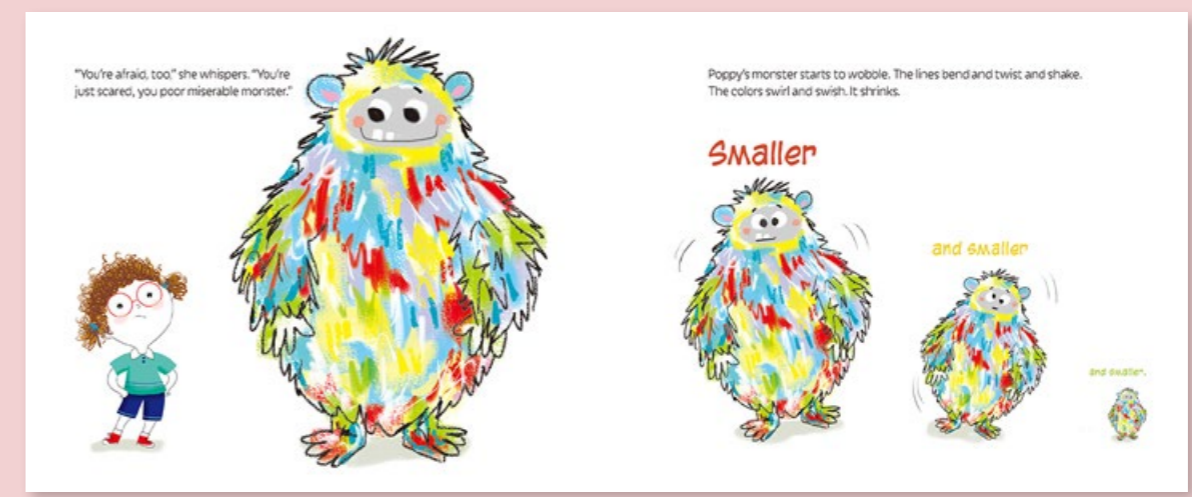
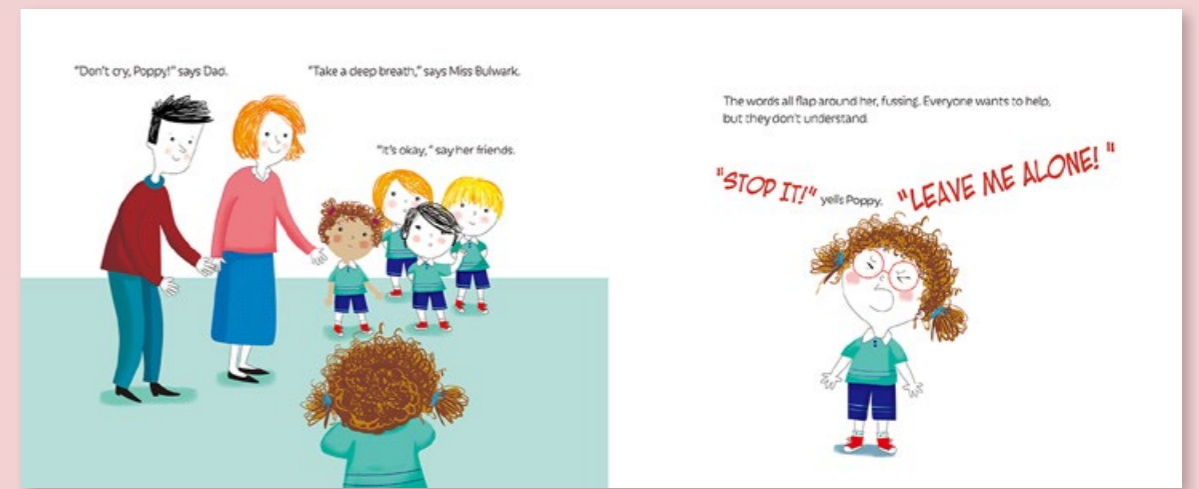
Core Themes:

- Anxiety and fear management
- Emotional regulation
- Courage and bravery
- Self-empowerment
- Understanding emotions
- Growth and resilience

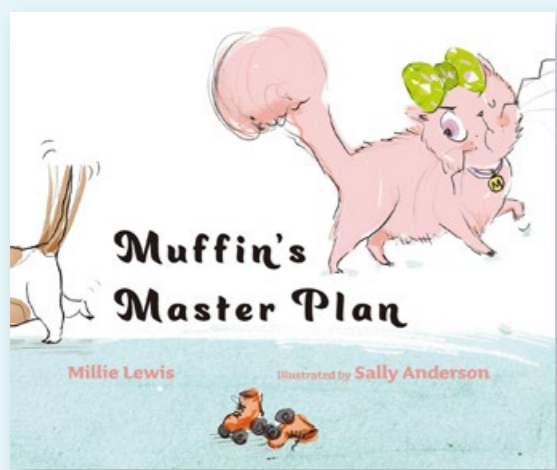
Key Highlights:

- Helps children understand and overcome anxiety by giving it a visual form.
- Provides several strategies and ideas for helping children manage anxious and fearful emotions.
- Creative illustrations with a child's drawing style encourage children to express their own emotions through art.

Francesca Costa is from Savona, Italy. After graduating in Chemical Engineering and working in this field for several years, Francesca moved to Milan to pursue her dream of being an illustrator. She earned a degree from IED, the European Institute of Design in 2002, after which, she started working as a freelance illustrator in the publishing and advertising fields.



Muffin's Master Plan



Millie Lewis & Sally Anderson
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-033-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.

Based in the United Kingdom, **Sally Anderson** is a freelance illustrator specializing in children's book illustration. Her artwork blends traditional mediums like ink, print, and watercolor with digital techniques, and she embodies a passion for drawing from observation. Sally creates charming characters that include diversity and humor, ranging from children's characters to animals in a fun and lively style.

Villainous kitty Muffin McFluff hates Hugly von Hound, but today she's going to get rid of him for good.

Feline Muffin McFluff may look cute as a button, but beneath her pink fur, her desires are rotten. She wants to dispatch with poor Hugly von Hound... but each time she kicks him out, he just comes right back round!

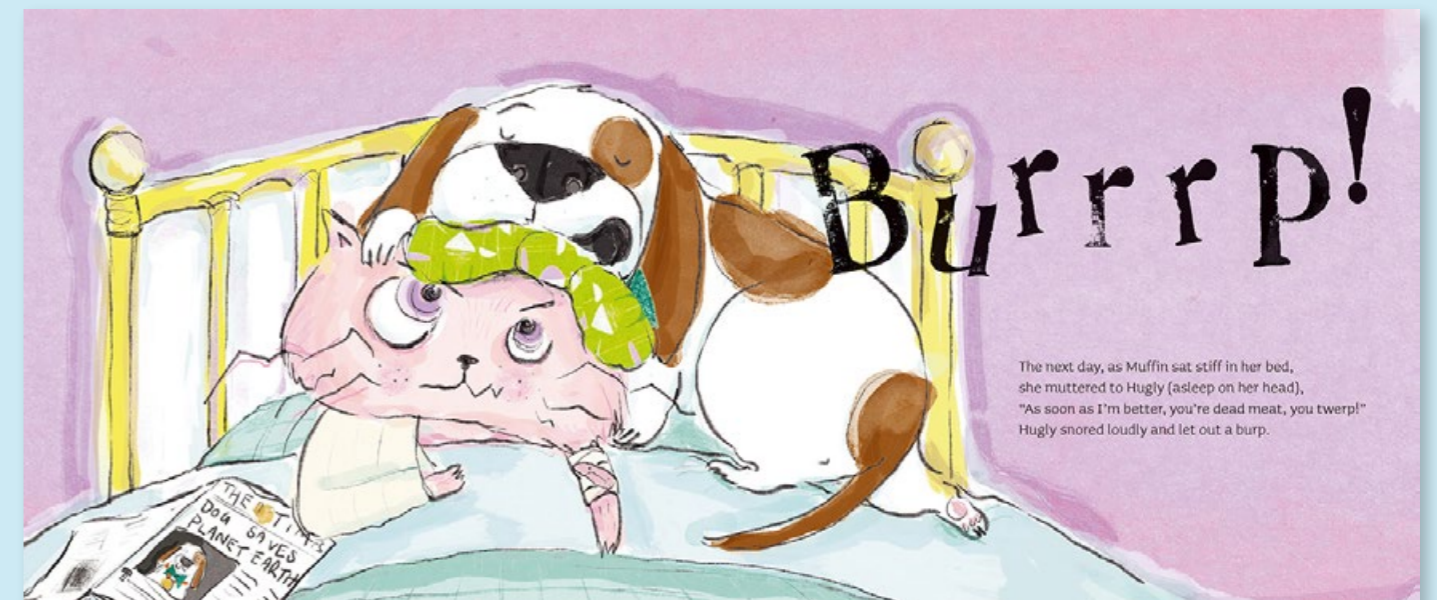
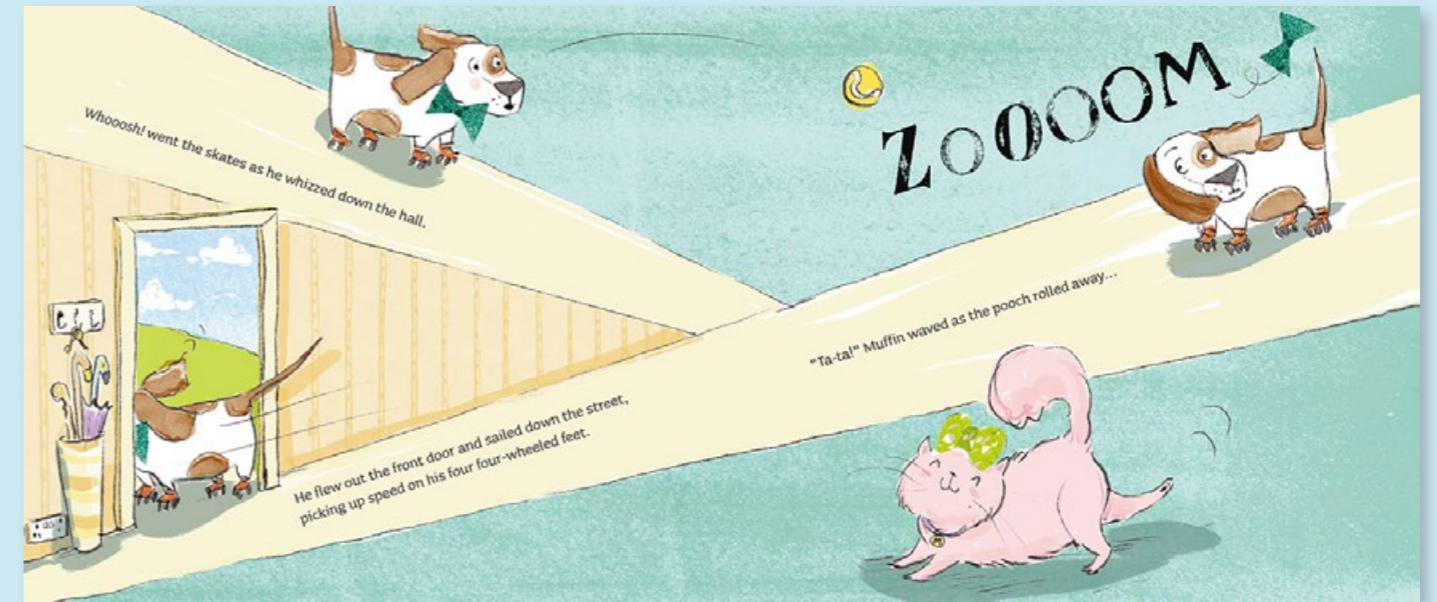
Expressive animal antics animate this hilarious tale.

Core Themes:

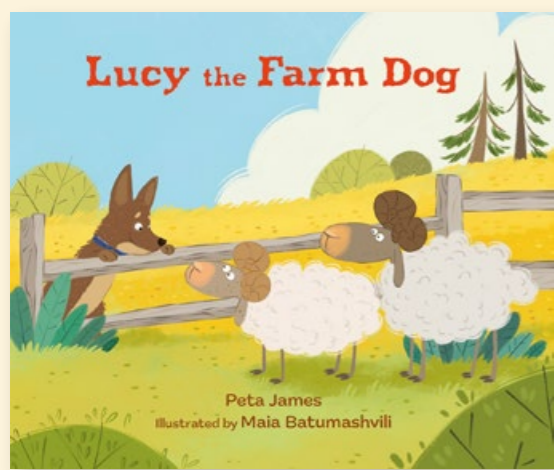
- Sibling Rivalry - Competition and jealousy between pets
- Scheming / Plotting - Planning to get what you want
- Failure - When plans don't work out
- Irony - The victim ends up helping the villain
- Persistence - Not giving up (though applied negatively)
- Unintended Consequences - Actions backfire or have unexpected results
- Obliviousness - Being unaware of danger or ill intent
- Dark Humor - Finding comedy in mean-spirited situations
- Unconditional Love (implied) - Hugly still cares for Muffin despite everything

Key Highlights:

- Follow the fun, villainous Muffin McFluff as she tries to rid herself of Hugly von Hound once and for all.
- Potty humor sure to leave kids in stitches.
- Fun, expressive, and dynamic illustrations elevate this adventurous and humorous story.



Lucy the Farm Dog



Peta James & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-047-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Lucy the sheep dog isn't very good at herding sheep. How can she help Farmer Pete?

Farmer Pete needs a sheep dog, and Lucy is the perfect dog for the job... or so he thinks. But when the sheep butt and stamp and run, Lucy realizes she's not much of a sheep dog after all.

How will Lucy ever help Farmer Pete if she can't herd sheep?

If only all these chickens would stop clucking and getting underfoot...

Stylized illustrations create texture and movement, working to weave a vivid world for readers to explore.

Core Themes:

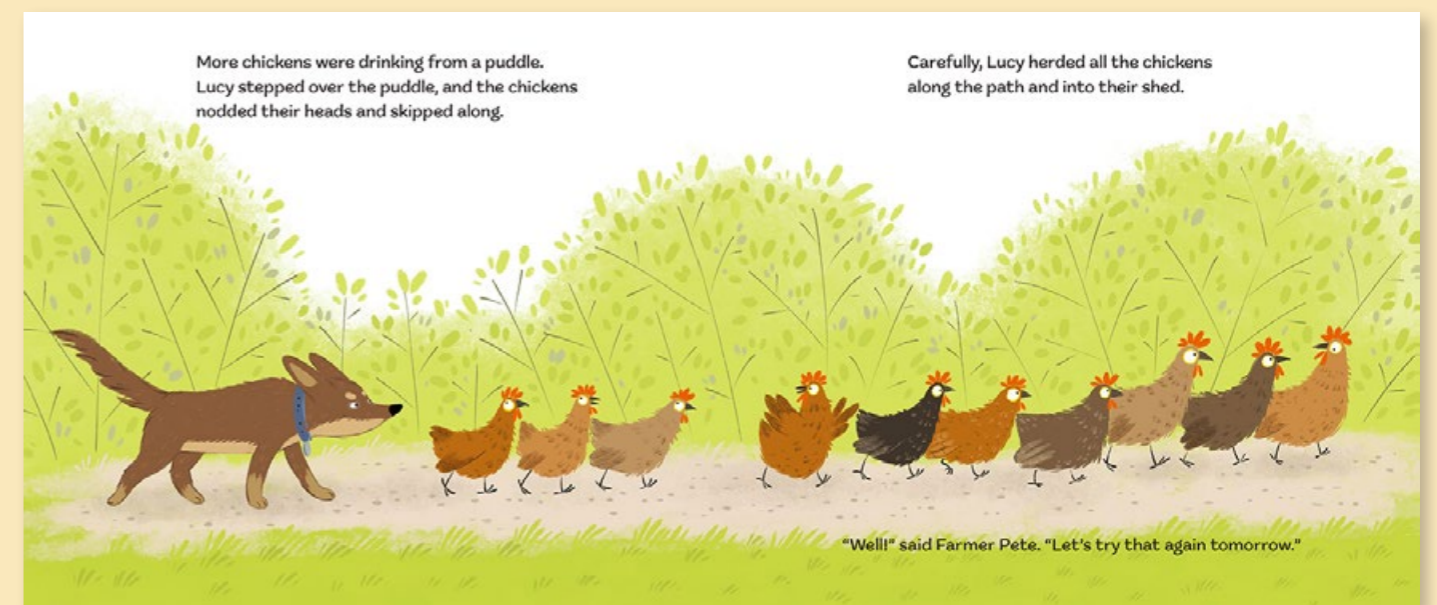
- Finding your unique strengths
- Perseverance and trying again
- Self-discovery and identity
- Being true to yourself
- Problem-solving
- Courage in the face of challenges
- Success comes in unexpected forms

Key Highlights:

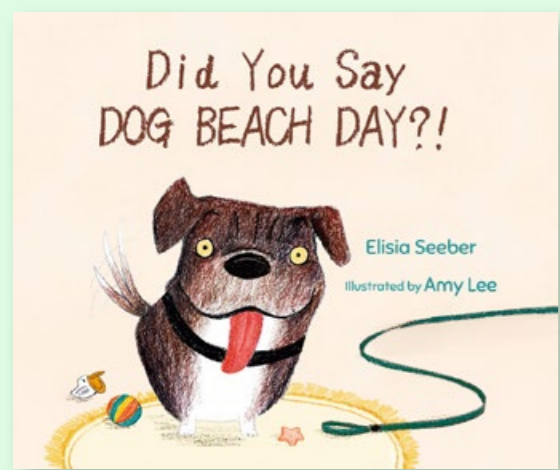
- A story about overcoming obstacles and playing to your strengths!
- A fun farm romp unfolding with excitement and emotion.
- Distinctive and charming characters and backgrounds work expertly with the action to carry the reader along through the story.

Peta James grew up in rural Australia, and as a child her friends were the family cows, dogs, cats, and chickens. Now that she's (sort of) an adult, she writes stories about animals and their adventures. Peta can't go for a walk without stopping to say hello to every dog and cat she meets—because animals are people too! Lucy the Farm Dog is Peta's first children's book.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.



Did you say DOG BEACH DAY?!



Elisia Seeber & Amy Lee
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-016-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Elisia Seeber is an author, journalist, and digital producer living in Perth, Western Australia. With a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media, her writing career focused on nonfiction, until a break from the industry allowed her the time to reignite her childhood love for creative writing. She hopes her stories will inspire creativity and curiosity, encouraging children to always stand up for what they believe in – even if that is unicorns.

Amy Lee, aka Kooky Chooky, is a Sydney-based illustrator who blends her offbeat spirit and career with her Chinese zodiac sign. Navigating her dual roles as a doctor and an illustrator, she finds inspiration in daily life and childhood nostalgia influenced by her Taiwanese roots. She loves transforming everyday moments into extraordinary adventures through her art.

A joyful rhyming romp of dogs, friendship, and seaside fun!

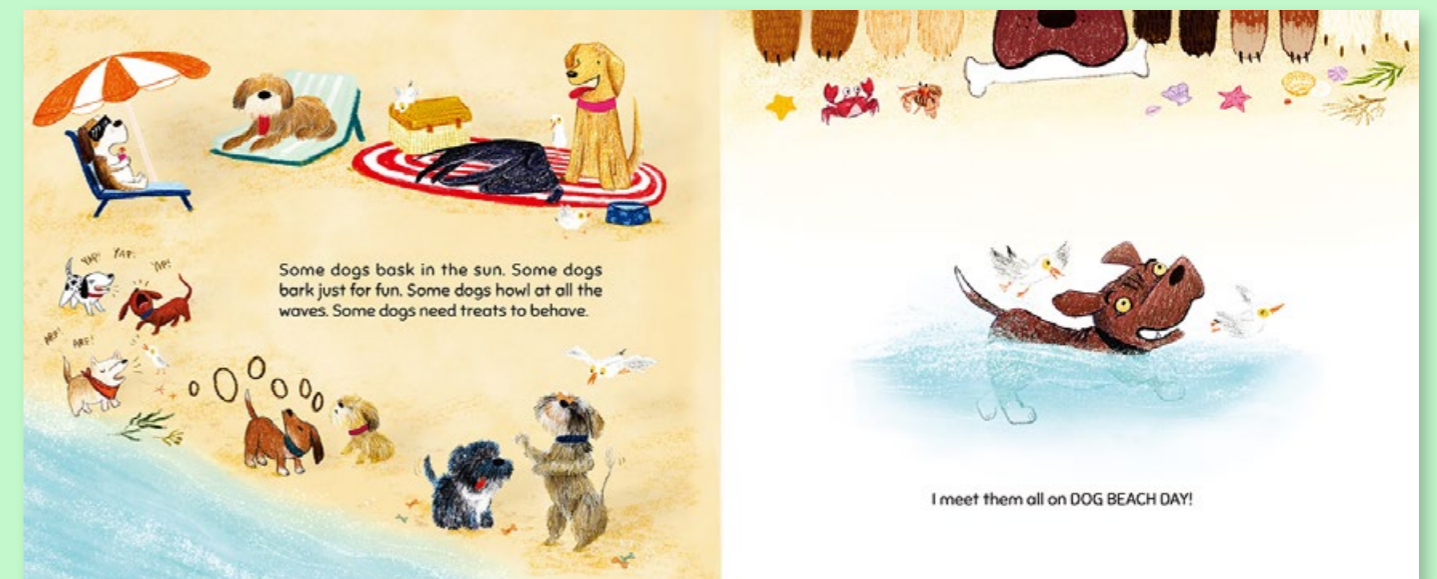
Did you say DOG BEACH DAY!? Chopper can hardly contain his excitement when his paw-parents announce the best day ever. From dashing down the sand dunes to splashing in the waves to meeting furry friends of every shape, size, and temperament, the beach is full of fun surprises. This playful rhyming story, with colorful and energetic illustrations, captures the fun, chaos, and joy of a dog's perfect day while celebrating individuality and community. Perfect for dog lovers big and small, *Did You Say DOG BEACH DAY?!* shows that, while we may be different, tails all wag for the same things.

Core Themes:

- **The Joy of Adventure:** Celebrating the excitement and pure happiness found in a simple day out.
- **Inclusivity and Variety:** Highlighting the diverse community of dogs (representing the diversity in the real world) and how they all have their own unique personalities.
- **Positive Energy and Resilience:** Encouraging children to approach new environments with confidence and to find joy in small moments.

Key Highlights:

- A bouncy, rhyming narrative that perfectly captures a dog's excitement and energy.
- Celebrates diversity and community by showcasing dogs of every shape, size, and personality enjoying the same joyful day together.
- Bright, expressive illustrations bring Chopper's antics and the busy beach scenes to life, encouraging children to explore details and discover new surprises on every page.



Lucy's Last Selfie



Ester Reato & Elodie Gauche
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-017-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Ester Reato collects magical teapots and is a poet, mental health social worker, and writer of children's stories. Her story Willow's Temperamental Wand was published in the collection, It's a Kind of Magic, Stories and Spells by Second Rate Sorcerers. Her poem Apotheosis was published in the Spark to a Flame Journal. She lives in Eltham, Australia, with her dog Augustus and her cat Dimitri, near her grown kids and grandchildren.

Elodie Gauche is a children's book illustrator currently living in Nantes, France. Formerly an engineer, she studied illustration at Escola de la Dona in Barcelona, Spain, where she illustrated her first children's books. She uses traditional media such as gouache and colored pencils, and she especially enjoys creating new characters and experimenting with colorful palettes.

Lucy must say goodbye to some ghostly friends and find courage when moving to a new home.

Lucy is perfectly happy where she is—with her ghostly friends, her camera, and all the small wonders of her home. But when a "For Sale" sign appears in her front yard, Lucy's world turns upside down. Saying goodbye is hard, especially when your best friends shimmer, glimmer, and twinkle. Through tears, turmoil, and one unforgettable final photo, Lucy learns that memories can travel, too. House for Sale is a tender, imaginative story about friendship, change, and the quiet courage it takes to let go. The illustrations shimmer with warmth and whimsy, capturing the bittersweet beauty of growing up and moving on.

Core Themes:

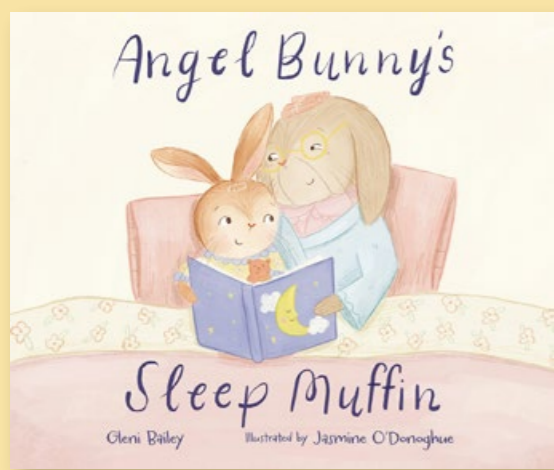
- **Navigating Change:** A gentle exploration of the emotions involved in moving house and starting over in a new environment.
- **The Power of Memory:** Showing how photographs and memories act as a bridge between the past and the present, providing comfort during transitions.
- **Friendship and Resilience:** Highlighting that while some friendships may change form, the love and support they provide stay with us forever.

Key Highlights:

- A deeply relatable narrative for children facing big changes, such as moving house or saying goodbye.
- Cleverly blends emotional themes with imagination and humour, making complex feelings accessible to young readers.
- Whimsical artwork brings the ghostly friends to life with charm and sparkle, perfectly balancing heart and humour.



Angel Bunny's Sleep Muffin



Gleni Bailey & Jasmine O'Donoghue
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-014-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Gleni Bailey began to write children's stories due to her love of nature and desire to teach from learned experiences. Based at her home farm in Western Australia, Gleni's motivation comes from the myriad of characters surrounding her. While the antics of chickens, cats, sheep, other farm animals, and wildlife amuses her, they also inspire, providing the context for her to subtly impart many life lessons while also entertaining readers.

Jasmine O'Donoghue is an illustrator from the UK who, from a young age, has always found joy in being creative. Her first success was winning a competition at preschool to have her stick figure painting printed on a mug. After having her first child, her passion for illustration was reignited. Inspired by her two children, she enjoys illustrating imaginative worlds.

Grandma helps insomniac Angel Bunny cook a magical imaginary "Sleep Muffin" to help her fall asleep.

No matter how hard she tries, Angel Bunny just can't sleep! Counting sheep, sipping hot milk, a jigsaw with Pop—nothing helps, and her brothers and sisters are growing tired of it. So, Grandma comes up with a magical idea at bedtime—creating a "sleep muffin". With a mixture of flavors and ingredients, Angel Bunny's imagination whips into action and leaves her needing a well-deserved rest. A comforting, humorous bedtime story that features charming, playful illustrations that will have children dreaming of their own delicious sleep-inducing treats!

Core Themes:

- **Overcoming Insomnia:** Providing a gentle, imaginative strategy for children who struggle with bedtime anxiety or restlessness.
- **The Power of Visualization:** Showing how positive, creative thinking can help calm the mind and body.
- **Intergenerational Bonds:** Highlighting the special, comforting relationship between a grandchild and a grandparent.

Key Highlights:

- A comforting and amusing bedtime story that celebrates imagination, family bonds, and the delights of sleep.
- Rhythmic rhyming verse will entertain children while lulling them to settle down for the night.
- Gentle, pastel-hued, and playful illustrations that are full of warmth and character.



Brr, It's Cold!



Rita Lim & Alice Jago
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-023-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Seasonal Awareness:** Helping children understand the changes in the environment as summer turns to winter.
- **Sensory Exploration:** Focusing on the physical sensations of cold, from the tingle of a snowflake on the hand to the shiver of the body.
- **Outdoor Play and Joy:** Encouraging children to embrace nature and find fun in every type of weather.

Alice Jago is a self-taught children's illustrator, who lives in Cornwall, England. She spent her childhood writing stories and drawing characters and rediscovered her love of picture books after having children of her own.

A young girl explores the beauty and joy of a snowy winter wonderland.

Follow Milly as she explores the wonders of winter, from building snowmen and making snow angels to catching snowflakes. Discover the magic of a cold day and experience the joys of the sights and sounds it brings. A perfect read for a cozy bedtime, this wonderful rhyming story, with gentle pastel-hued illustrations, captures the joy of the season and shares the excitement of a snowy day.

Rita Lim is a scientist by background, and while working in the material analysis field can be challenging, her biggest challenge to date is raising her two energetic munchkins who have the most curious minds! And so, this book came about because teaching children and answering the 'what', 'why', and 'how' questions can be entertaining—and fun! Rita resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her children and wonderful husband, who will always be a kid at heart!

Key Highlights:

- A snowy exploration of winter that is full of warmth and fun despite the chilly weather.
- Engaging rhyme is perfect for reading aloud and helping to develop phonological knowledge in children.
- Gentle, pastel-hued illustrations immerse readers in a chilly winter wonderland.



A Splash of Rainbows



Suzanne Patterson & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-026-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Resilience and Adaptability:** Finding new ways to shine and succeed when physical challenges arise.
- **Inclusivity and Awareness:** Highlighting the daily life and determination of children living with chronic conditions like arthritis.
- **Self-Discovery:** Understanding that everyone has unique talents and that "winning" can happen in many different ways.

Key Highlights

- Disability awareness and adaptation - navigating physical limitations with chronic illness.
- Perseverance and resilience - continuing despite challenges.
- Self-discovery - finding unexpected talents and strengths.
- Inclusion and participation - finding ways to belong when traditional methods don't work.

A celebration of resilience as a young girl with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis discovers the joys of art.

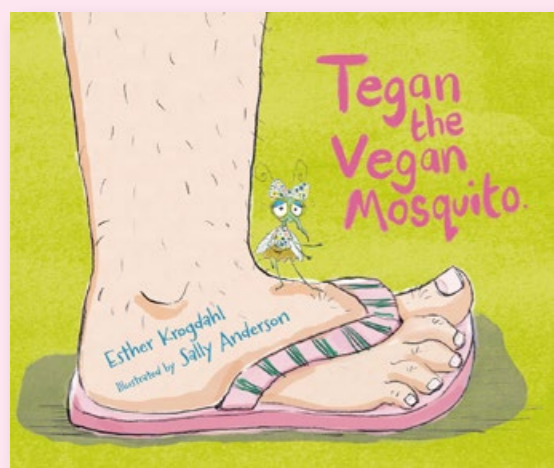
Addy has Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), and there are lots of things she would like to do, but her achy joints make certain activities a challenge. At the Razzle Dazzle Athletic Fun Day, Addy wants to enter all the events with her friends. Trying the egg and spoon race, she holds tight, but her hand groans, she wobbles, and the egg splatters to the ground. Determined to find something she is good at, Addy finds the art tent, and it is here that she discovers a secret talent. An uplifting story about resilience and joy and individual talent.

Suzanne Patterson lives in Bathurst, Australia, with her husband and treasures time with her two grown children. She is an avid koala lover and hopes to one day cuddle one. Suzanne loves to doodle maps, make giant bubbles, and a frothy coffee. She enjoys creating stories from a GINORMOUS imagination pot that make children giggle, laugh, and believe in the magic of books.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.



Tegan the Vegan Mosquito



Esther Krogdahl & Sally Anderson
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-007-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

A mosquito convinces her best friend to go vegan in this hilarious tale of friendship, failure, and determination.

Tegan the mosquito is determined to be vegan, so she enlists her enthusiastic (if wildly unskilled) friend Stu to make three vegan drinks. But with pond slime lemonade and explosive soy shakes, this taste-testing adventure is anything but smooth. Tegan the Vegan Mosquito is a riotous rhyming story packed with gross-out humor, expressive illustrations, and a gentle nod to conscious eating. This is a joyful high-energy read about friendship, persistence, and finding the courage to try something new—even if it doesn't go to plan!

Esther Krogdahl is a published author from Perth, Western Australia. A self-proclaimed game nerd, Esther has had the privilege of professionally writing for games played by hundreds of thousands of people. Esther loves to sprinkle humor throughout her children's books, delighting both kids and parents. Esther is always honing her craft, driven by a passion for storytelling and her bookworm daughter.

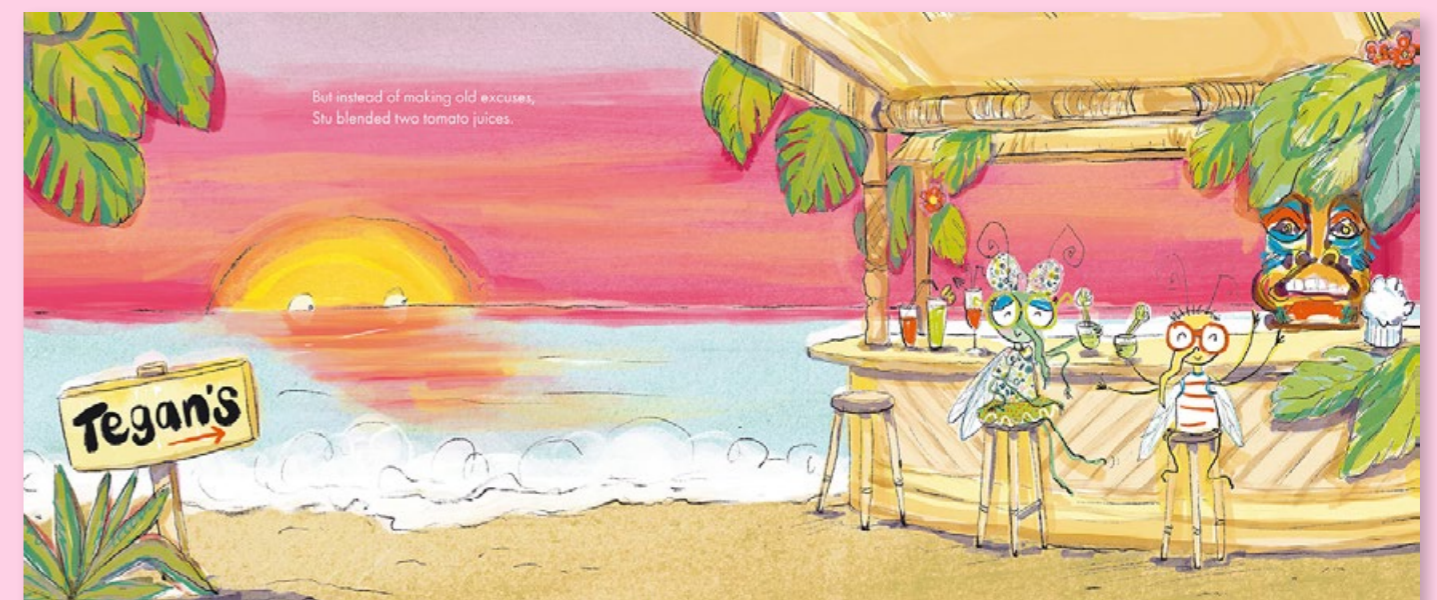
Based in the United Kingdom, **Sally Anderson** is a freelance illustrator specialising in children's book illustration. Her artwork blends traditional mediums like ink, print, and watercolor with digital techniques, and she embodies a passion for drawing from observation. Sally creates charming characters that include diversity and humour, ranging from children's characters to animals in a fun and lively style.

Core Themes:

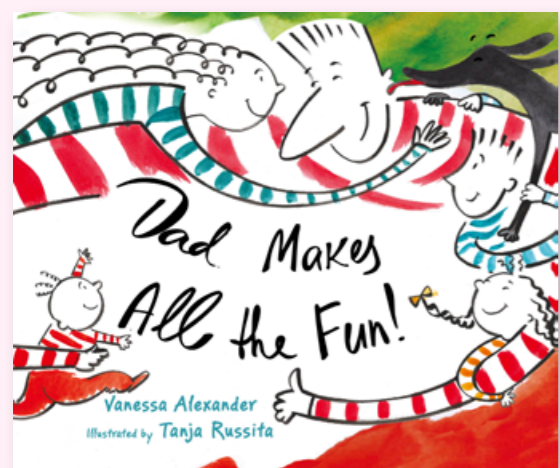
- **Individuality and Self-Acceptance:** Embracing one's unique preferences and identity despite social pressure.
- **Compassion and Dietary Choices:** Exploring the idea of making kinder choices, such as veganism, even in nature.
- **Finding Belonging:** The importance of searching for a community that values and respects differences.

Key Highlights:

- A laugh-out-loud introduction to veganism, with rhyming text, slapstick mishaps, and unexpected heart.
- Encourages conversations around food choices, friendship, and perseverance without being preachy.
- Packed with visual comedy and wild characterizations—perfect for fans of silly details and animated expressions.



Dad Makes All the Fun!



Vanessa Alexander & Tanja Russita
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-063-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Oct 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Dad brings fun and laughter to every chore—making ordinary days extraordinary!

In this heartwarming celebration of family life, chores become moments of joy when shared with Dad. Whether it's doing the dishes, gardening, or putting out the trash cans, Dad always finds a way to bring the fun. With Mom and Dad working as a team, everyday routines are filled with laughter and love. Young readers will enjoy the playful repetition and gentle humor, while adults will appreciate the nod to the small moments that build strong family bonds. A joyful, uplifting picture book, with bold and engaging illustrations, that captures the magic of everyday life.

Core Themes:

- **The Magic of Everyday Moments:** The book celebrates how a positive attitude can transform routine responsibilities into joyful experiences.
- **Parental Partnership:** It emphasizes that Mom and Dad are a "team," promoting a balanced and collaborative view of family life.
- **The Importance of Play:** It highlights how humor and playfulness are essential tools for bonding and teaching children life skills.

Vanessa Alexander is a teacher and enjoys reading picture books by fabulous authors and illustrators to school children. She is also a mom and loves to make up stories with her kids. Her fun stories are about ordinary stuff that can sometimes cause big problems for families. Vanessa is from "The Outback"—far western Queensland, Australia. She is making life happen with her husband and three young kids, doing ordinary stuff, every day.

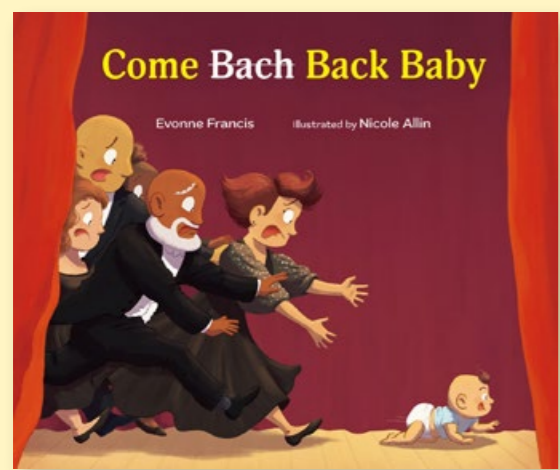
Tanja Russita has been writing and illustrating children's books for more than a decade. Many of her books have been published worldwide and have gone on to become bestsellers. In addition to creating books, she enjoys tango dancing, teaching drawing, and raising a dog and three children with her husband (and varying degrees of success). Originally from Latvia, Tanja currently lives in Sweden.

Core Highlights:

- Celebrates the positive role of fathers in family life through humor, warmth, and relatability.
- Clever repetition and structure help build anticipation, engagement, and a comforting rhythm for young readers.
- Striking, bold, character-driven illustrations capture the humor and affection of family life with expressive charm.



Come Bach (Back) Baby



Evonne Francis & Nicole Allin
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-012-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Humor in Chaos:** Exploring the unpredictable and funny nature of taking a baby to a formal event.
- **Musical Exploration:** Introducing young readers to the different sections and instruments of an orchestra through a playful narrative.
- **Family and Responsibility:** Highlighting the bond between an aunt and her nephew, even in the midst of a "disastrous" situation.

Nicole Allin is an illustrator originally from Ontario, Canada, a place far too cold for crocodiles, even when they wear sweaters. She loves painting animals of all types, and her favorite type of crocodilian is the Osborn's dwarf crocodile. Nicole lives in Washington, U.S.A with her husband, five houseplants, and a stuffed toy shark named Bruce.

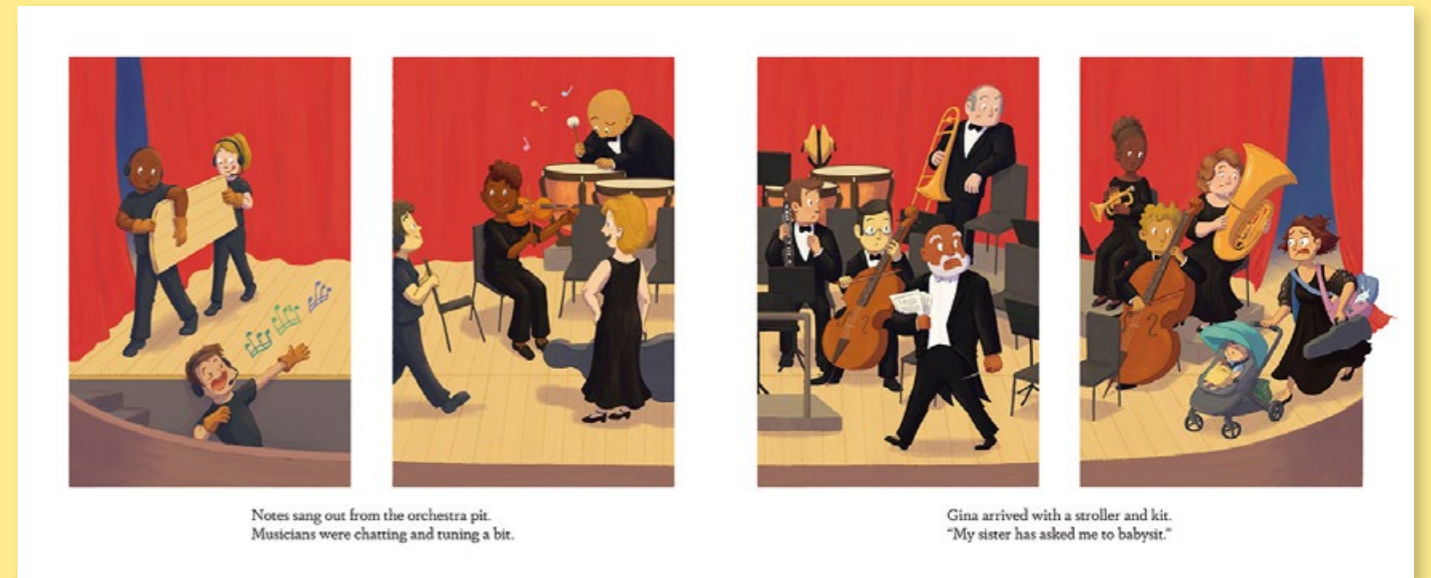
A mischievous baby causes chaos as he disrupts an orchestral performance.

When Aunt Gina reluctantly agrees to babysit her nephew during an orchestral performance, she is sure that he will sleep through the show. However, she soon discovers that her curious nephew is not content with just listening and, instead, takes readers on a hilarious and eventful journey through the orchestra—creating havoc as he goes! *Come Bach (Back) Baby* is a delightful, boldly illustrated rhyming adventure that is full of slapstick fun!

Evonne Francis is an author from Adelaide, Australia, who fell in love with picture books while reading to her own children. When she is not writing, Evonne can be found playing the tuba, walking along the beach, or enjoying hot chocolate with too many marshmallows. With qualifications in music, education, and writing, Evonne blends rhythm and storytelling to create fun, musical tales that celebrate the environment and the unique spark in every child.

Key Highlights

- Readers will love the slapstick humor and escalating chaos as the baby introduces children to orchestral instruments.
- The engaging rhyme and fast pace make this story perfect for reading aloud.
- The playful, expressive, dynamic, and colorful illustrations add life and humor to this thrilling adventure.



Notes sang out from the orchestra pit.
Musicians were chatting and tuning a bit.

Gina arrived with a stroller and kit.
"My sister has asked me to babysit."



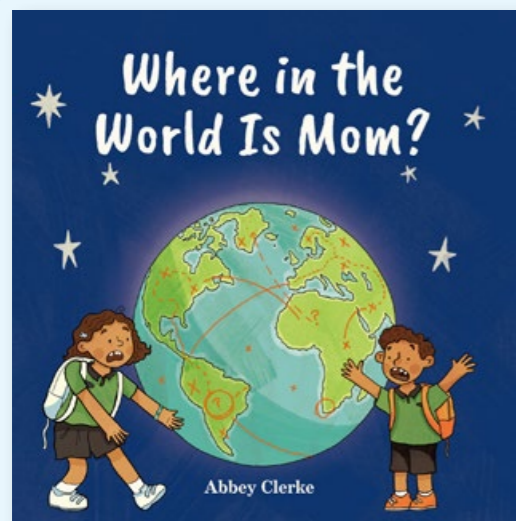
Squeezing through chairs and music and shins,
he spotted his aunt with the violins.

Determined to reach her, he
crawled even faster,
barely avoiding a major disaster.



He bounced, and he giggled from drum to drum,
squealing and laughing and having great fun.
Then a slow quiet rumble started to sound,
shaking him gently back down to the ground.

Where in the world Is Mom?



Abbey Clerke
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 44 pages | 979-8-90115-020-7
Trim Size: 10.0" H x 10.0" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Abbey Clerke is an author and illustrator living and working in Melbourne, Australia. She studied graphic design at RMIT University and now works as a creative freelancer. She loves wearing colorful socks, playing the piano, baking bread, and riding her bike. Abbey has been working as an artist since 2020, and she has completed a variety of projects, from small, illustrated family portraits to big outdoor murals.

Mom's late, and she's never late. That's how Evie and Jack know she must be very far away.

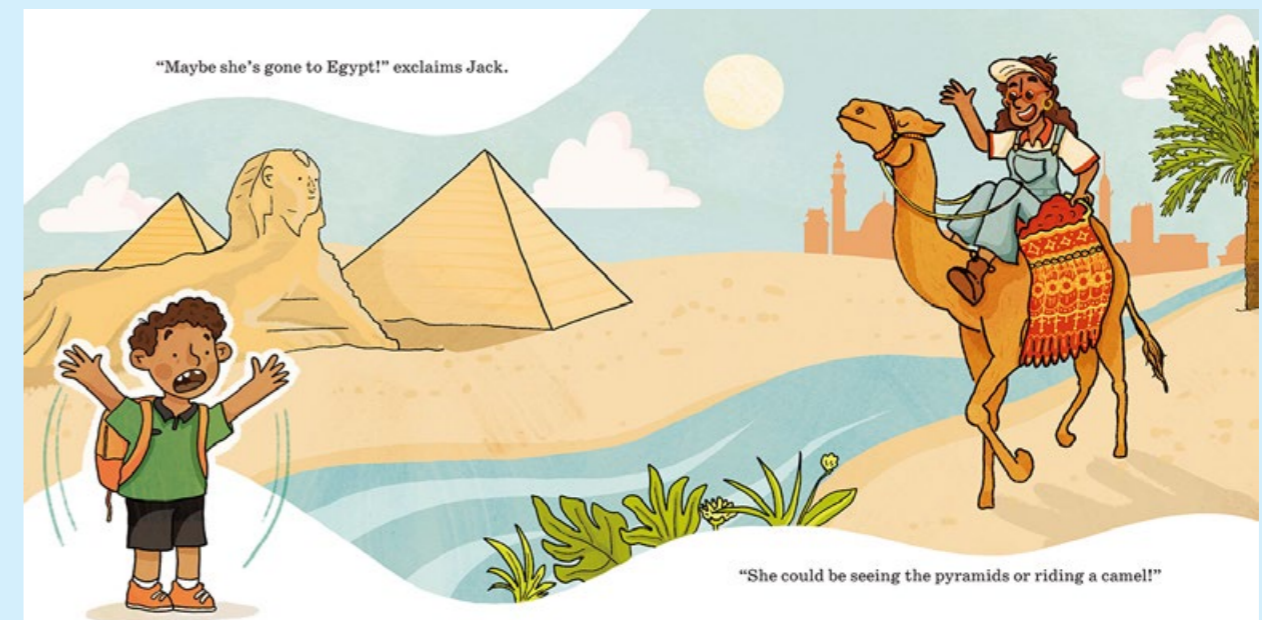
Mom's late. And she's NEVER late. She must be somewhere very far away. "Maybe she's in Egypt," says Jack. "How about Antarctica?" suggests Evie. Or what about... on the moon? Hopefully, she'll be here soon... A delightful story in which two siblings turn a mountain into a molehill – or a maybe missing Mom into a moon trip. The ultra-expressive characters and art style create an immersive, exciting adventure – without even leaving the schoolyard.

Core Themes:

- Managing worry and anxiety
- Imagination as a coping mechanism
- Sibling relationships
- Trust and reliability
- The gap between fear and reality
- Patience
- Parent-child bonds

Key Highlights:

- Tickle your imagination as this supportive pair of siblings imagines escalating adventures for their mom.
- A fun and funny way to explain to a child that a late pick-up is nothing to fear.
- Ultra-expressive character and art-style creates an immersive, exciting world – without even leaving the schoolyard.



Frederic Goes House Hunting



Nicole Carrie Shaw & Laura Giorgi
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-044-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- Finding where you belong
- Home and contentment
- The grass isn't always greener
- Appreciating what you have
- Journey and self-discovery

Laura Giorgi lives near a large and famous car factory in Turin, Italy. Her childhood was filled with colorful drawings, cartoons on TV, and playing in the yard with friends—things she still enjoys today. While her technique is more refined and her styles are different, Laura is still having the same fun. Her style is amusing, colorful, and playful—much-loved by children!

Tired of his house, Frederic the mouse sets out to find another but learns there is no place like home.

Bored by living in a hole in the floor, Frederic the mouse decides that it is time to move out and find a new house. There are many options to choose from – Pigeon's sunny rooftop apartment, Frog's stylish lily pad, a quiet cave... but could any really be called "home"? A fun and engaging story about self-discovery and recognizing the value in what you have, *Frederic Goes House Hunting* will delight readers with its witty rhyming verse, lively and vibrant illustrations, and charming story.

Nicole Carrie Shaw grew up an avid reader and remembers well the books that inspired her life-long love of literature. Using imagination to create entertaining stories for young readers, Nicole hopes she will encourage children to read more, learn new things, and embrace their creativity. She lives in Perth, Australia, working as a medical research scientist. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys spending time with friends and family, exploring the beautiful coastline of Western Australia, and dreaming up new stories.

Key Highlights

- Fast-paced and amusing rhyming verse that encourages phonological awareness.
- A fun story that teaches children the importance of trying new things and valuing what you possess.
- Lively, richly detailed, and colorful illustrations that bring out the humour and uniqueness of this wonderful story.



Not Again, Matthew!



Matt Gregory & Francesca Costa
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-009-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

A boy's wild imagination turns laundry day into a hilarious adventure!

Matthew has a BIG imagination—especially when it comes to explaining the state of his clothes! Each time his mom finds a new tear, stain, or stretch, Matthew spins a new adventure—was it a giant wombat? A grizzly bear? A monster squid? With each outrageous tale, Mom grows weary... until Matthew finds a way to bring home a perfectly clean shirt! *Not Again, Matthew!* is a hilarious rhyming story filled with imaginative illustrations that celebrates creativity, quick thinking, and the joy of a well-told tale.



Core Themes:

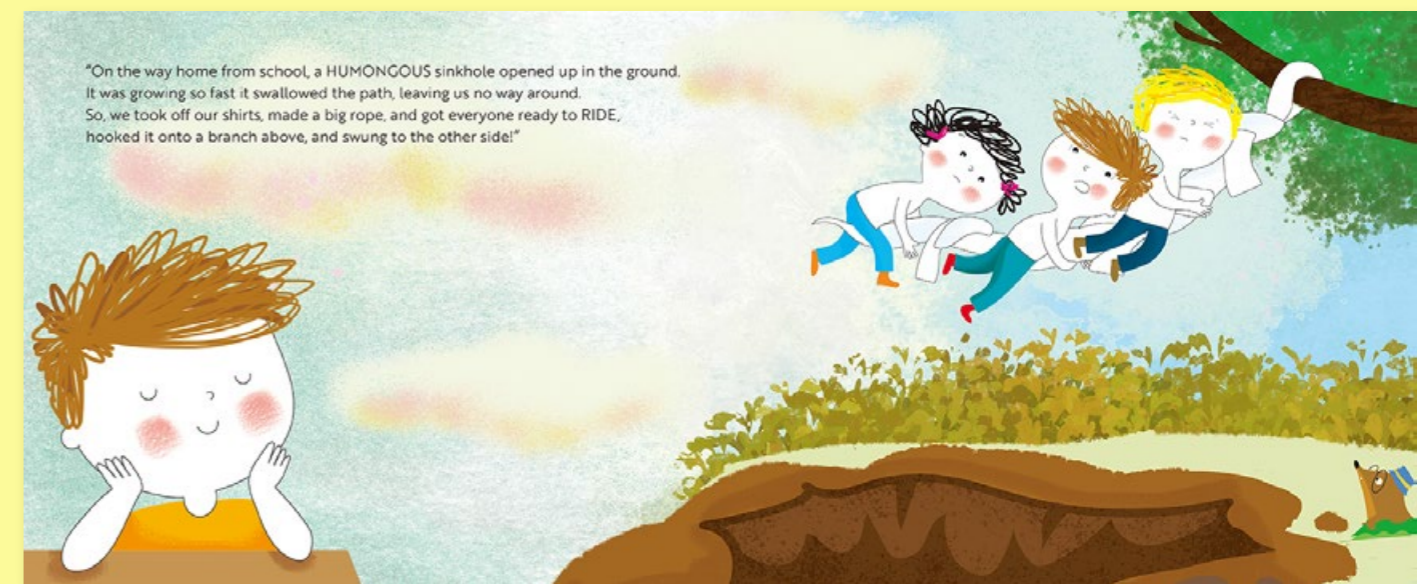
- **Creativity and Imagination:** Celebrating the boundless and vivid inner world of a child.
- **Parent-Child Dynamics:** A humorous and relatable look at the daily struggle of keeping kids clean and the patience required of parents.
- **Problem Solving (with a twist):** Showing a child's unique way of "solving" a problem (keeping a shirt clean) to please a parent, even if the method is unconventional.

Key Highlights:

- A fast-paced and laugh-out-loud read with engaging rhymes and escalating chaos—perfect for reading aloud.
- Encourages creativity and storytelling. Children will love inventing their own wild explanations for everyday mishaps.
- Playful and engaging illustrations that enhance Matthew's hilarious adventures.

Described by his partner as a big puppy dog, **Matt Gregory** is really just a big kid. A father of two and a crane operator from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Matt has utilized his time in the cab to let his imagination flow onto paper (but don't tell his boss that.) His mother's stories of young Matt were the inspiration for his very first book. He is looking forward to keeping pen to paper and sharing more of his stories.

Francesca Costa is from Savona, Italy. After graduating in Chemical Engineering and working in this field for several years, Francesca moved to Milan to pursue her dream of being an illustrator. She earned a degree from IED, the European Institute of Design in 2002, after which, she started working as a freelance illustrator in the publishing and advertising fields.



Looking for Light



Millie Lewis & Ingrid Schraven
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-003-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Perseverance and Hope:** The importance of continuing to search for connection even when faced with repeated disappointments.
- **Loneliness and Belonging:** A sensitive exploration of the desire for companionship and the emotional toll of feeling alone.
- **Perspective:** The clever narrative twist teaches children that the end of one difficult journey can be the start of a wonderful new chapter.

A lonely anglerfish searches for a friend in the mysterious depths of the ocean.

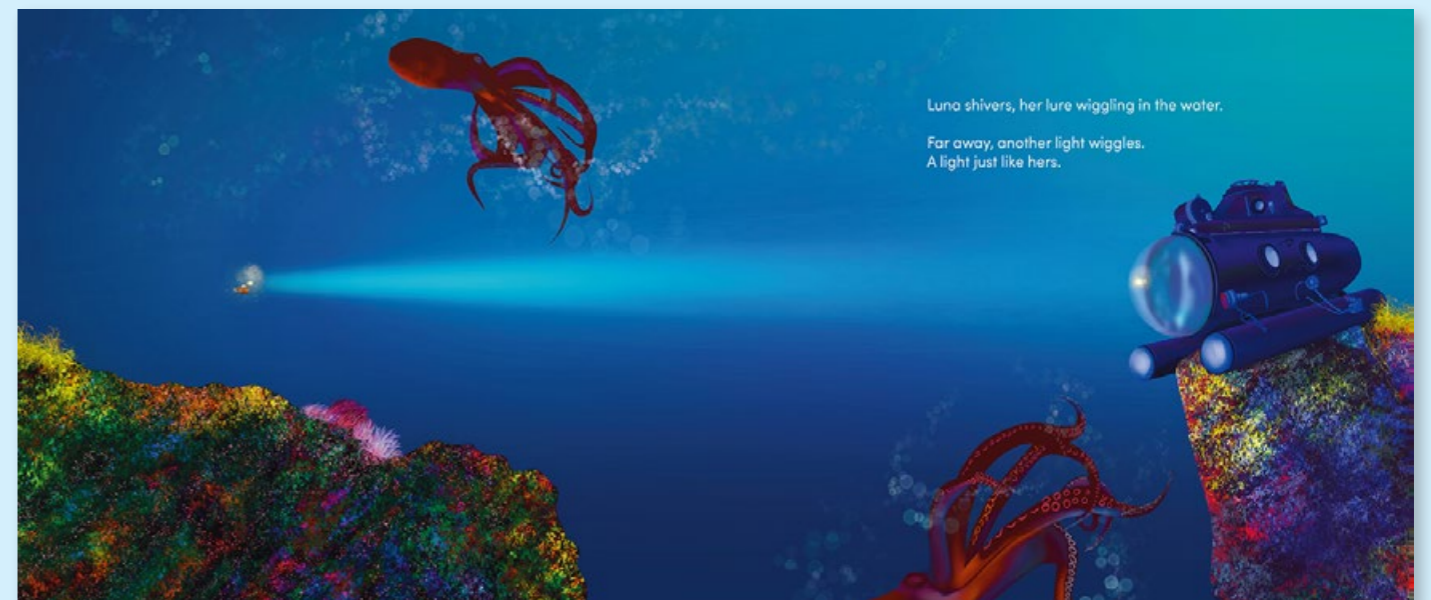
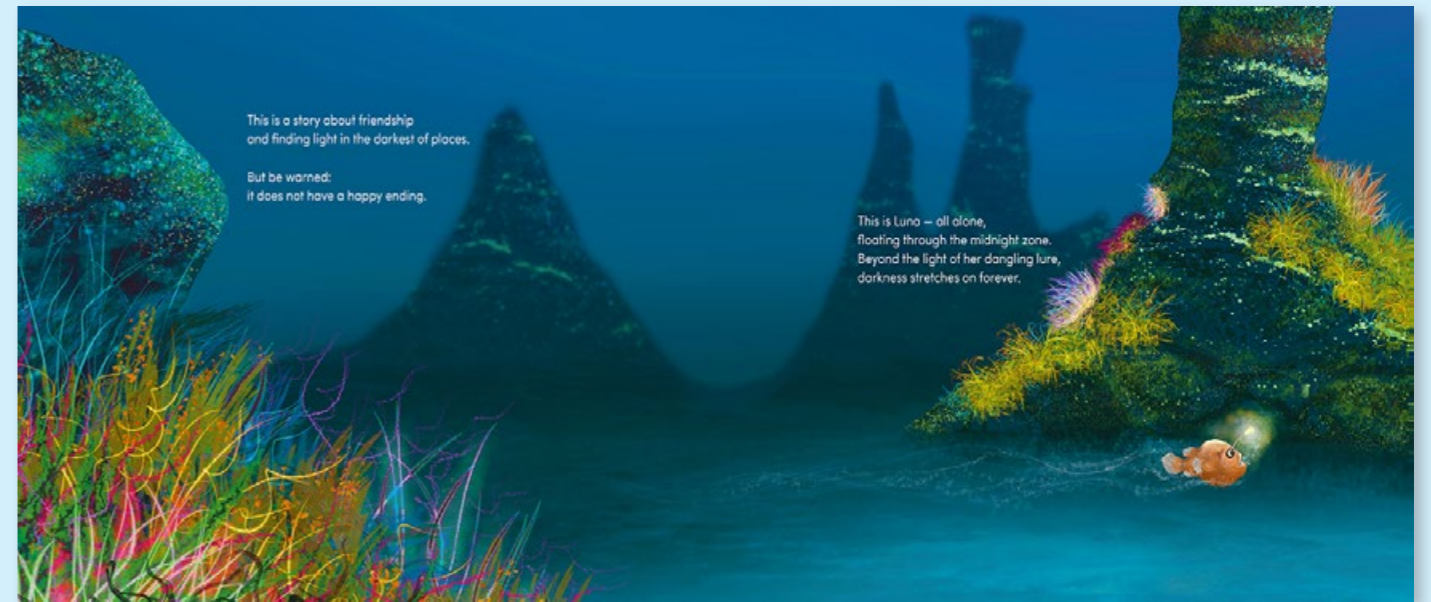
Looking for Light tells the captivating story of Luna, an anglerfish, as she searches for a friend in the shadows of the midnight zone—an area of the deep sea filled with mystery and danger. Using her lure to scan her surroundings, Luna navigates the depths, avoiding the glittering tentacles of jellyfish and investigating sunken treasures. But will Luna ever find a companion in these murky waters? Intricate illustrations plunge the reader into the wonder of the deep-sea darkness, and this gorgeous tale of excitement and suspense will enthrall all readers.

Key Highlights:

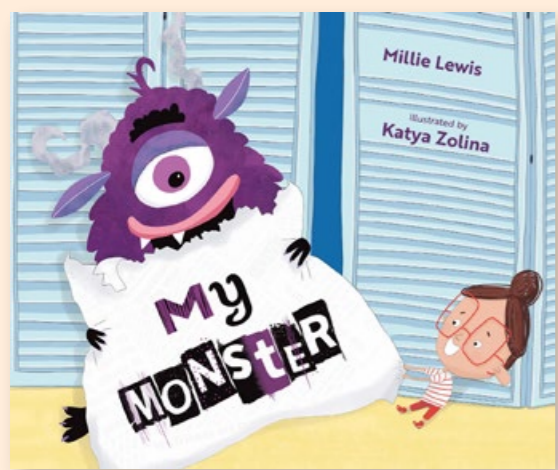
- A thrilling adventure that features themes of loneliness, friendship, and perseverance.
- Readers will love the story's rich atmosphere and surprising ending.
- Intricate and atmospheric illustrations that exquisitely capture the mystery and danger of the deepest oceans.

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.

Born in a small town in The Netherlands, **Ingrid Schraven** is a self-taught Illustrator, former travel agent, and mother of three active boys. In her spare time, she enjoys the company of her dachshund who is recovering from paralysis. With lots of love and affection and using extensive therapy, her dog drives her ambition and inspiration to draw compelling illustrations for children, regularly having animal characters take the lead role.



My Monster



Millie Lewis & Katya Zolina
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-015-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.

Katya Zolina is an artist and illustrator from St. Petersburg, Russia. Katya loves to make her illustrations cheerful and humorous to give hope and happiness to children and their parents. She has completed two books for the La La Book Company and also creates her own children's books. She draws both traditionally and digitally. Katya's interests include interior design, painting, running, and singing. She is married with two young boys.

A girl's noisy closet monster causes chaos—until she learns what he really needs.

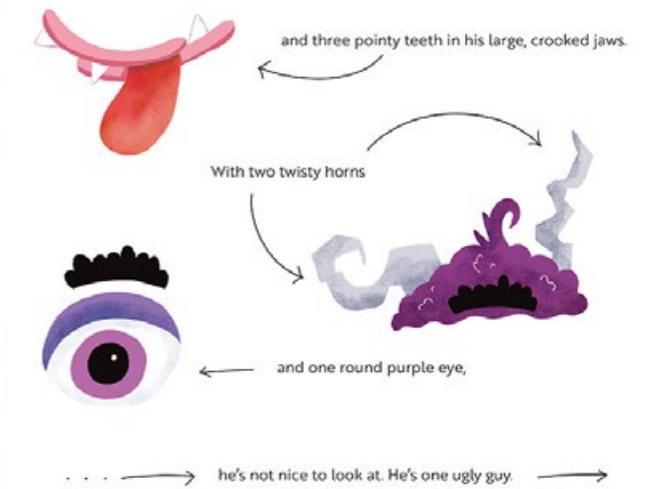
Suzie has got a big problem—a monster in her closet! He's hairy, hungry, loud, and always getting in the way. He chomps her snacks, ruins her playdate, and causes chaos everywhere he goes. But when Suzie finally loses her temper and tells him to leave, she discovers that there's more to this monster than meets the eye. *My Monster* is a heartwarming, humorous, and imaginatively illustrated rhyming story about building empathy and learning that even the most frustrating friendships can be full of joy.

Core Themes:

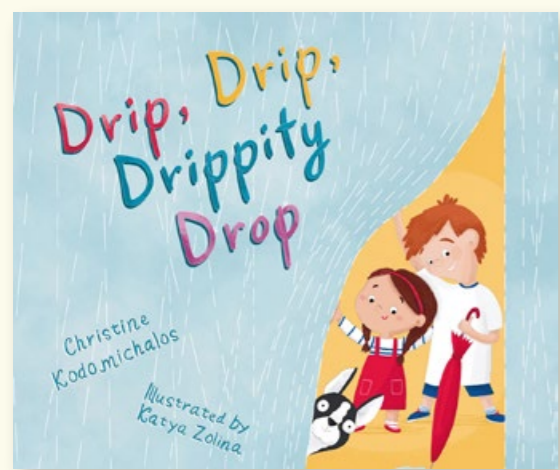
- **Empathy and Compassion:** Teaching children to look beyond surface-level behavior to understand why someone might be acting out.
- **Overcoming Fear:** Transforming the "monster in the closet" trope from something scary into a source of friendship and fun.
- **Sharing and Inclusion:** Highlighting the joy that comes from opening up your space and your heart to others who are lonely.

Key Highlights:

- A fun, fast-paced rhyming text that builds empathy and emotional understanding in young readers.
- Explores themes of friendship, loneliness, and compassion through an accessible and humorous lens.
- Bold, energetic illustrations capture the monster's antics and emotions with playful exaggeration and visual humor.



Drip, Drip, Drippity Drop



Christine Kodomichalos & Katya Zolina
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-010-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Christine Kodomichalos was raised in a family of ten with two dogs, three birds, and a turtle. Growing up in the southern suburbs of Sydney, she spent most of her time climbing trees and paddling down rivers with her siblings. Today she lives by the beach in Sydney, Australia, and still loves outdoor adventures. In fact, many of her stories are inspired by the fun she has had exploring nature with her family. When Christine is not writing, she is working in primary schools as a diverse learning teacher. Christine has a Masters in Inclusive Education and is passionate about creating opportunities for all children to shine.

Katya Zolina is an artist and illustrator from St. Petersburg, Russia. Katya loves to make her illustrations cheerful and humorous to give hope and happiness to children and their parents. She has completed two books for the La La Book Company and also creates her own children's books. She draws both traditionally and digitally. Katya's interests include interior design, painting, running, and singing. She is married with two young boys.

Using the magic of their imaginations, two children have fun indoors on a rainy day.

Drip, drip, drippity drop, the rain just won't stop, and two siblings are determined to turn a boring day indoors into a playful adventure. Using the magic of imagination, the pair build a boat to meet mermaids and have an exclusive tea party with their toys. As the weather outside worsens, and it storms, the new sounds create more opportunities for play. This is a delightful story that encourages children to use their imaginations and co-operate on a day indoors. Featuring lush illustrations that capture the joy and fun of imaginative play.

Core Themes:

- **The Power of Imagination:** Demonstrating how creativity can transform a mundane or restricted environment into a world of adventure.
- **Sibling Bonds:** Highlighting the joy of cooperative play and mutual support between brothers and sisters.
- **Resilience and Positivity:** Encouraging children to find the "silver lining" and make the best of situations that are out of their control.

Key Highlights

- The perfect story to encourage ideas for imaginative play.
- Wild adventures and exciting moments await—all from the comfort of home.
- Humorous and lively illustrations that perfectly capture the fun and joy of young imaginations.



So Careful



Anna Brotherson & Helen Flook
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-011-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **The Power of Imagination:** Exploring how a child's mind can turn an ordinary walk into an epic, fairy-tale adventure.
- **Preparation and Anxiety:** A gentle look at the desire to be in control and the humorous side of over-preparing for life's "monsters."
- **Resilience after Failure:** Showing that even when things go wrong despite our best efforts, the world keeps turning and we can still find the humor in it.

Helen Flook is an illustrator from North Wales, UK. After graduating in Graphic Design from Norwich School of Art, she worked throughout Europe on archaeology sites and managed a RSPB center in North Wales. She later moved to Canada with the intention of becoming an illustrator. Now back in Wales, she has illustrated over one hundred books including two of her own and one award-winning title in 2014.

Imaginative Ruby-Anne is tasked with delivering a casserole to Grandma in this unique spin on *Little Red Riding Hood*.

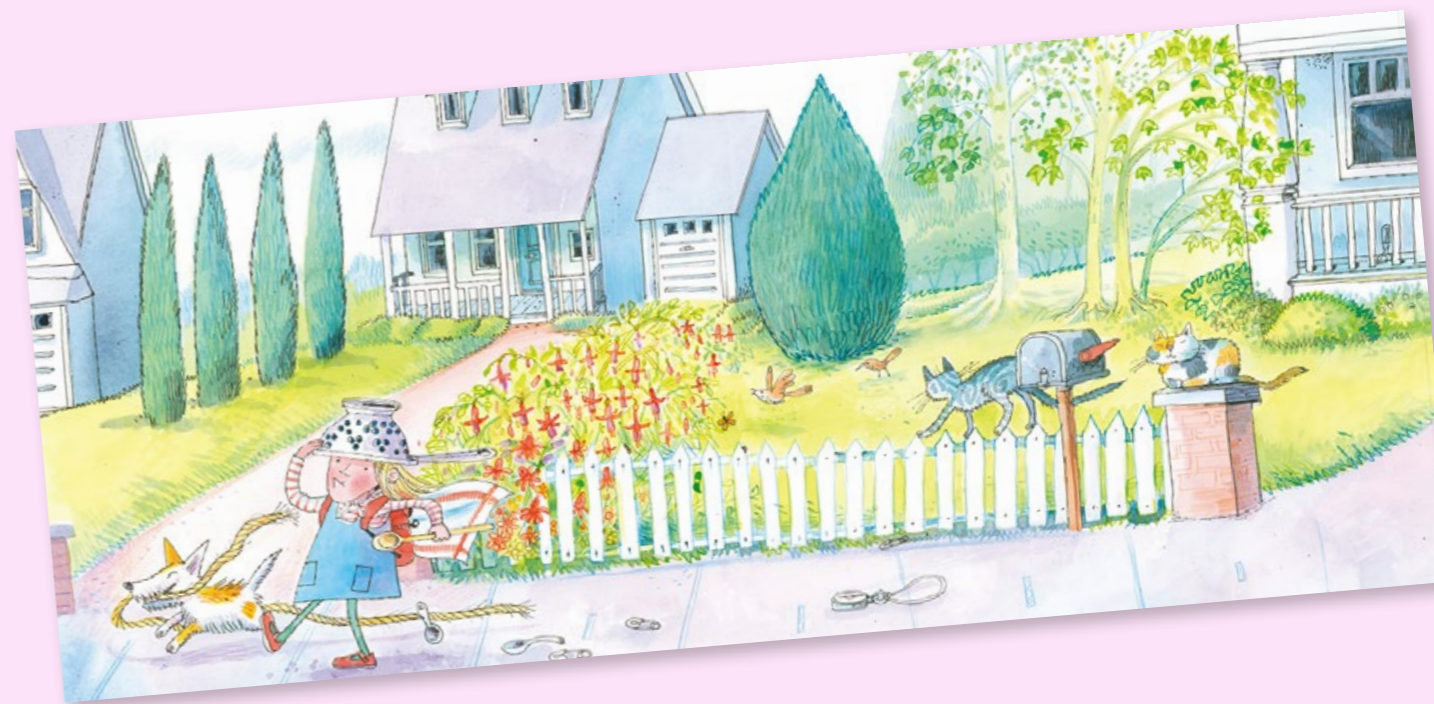
Ruby-Anne is a small girl with a big imagination. When her mother asks her to deliver a casserole to Grandma's house, Ruby-Anne knows from fairy tales that dangers may lurk on the path. She gathers her courage, does her research, and scours the house for resources. But will all her preparations be enough?

So Careful is a hilarious and warm story that celebrates imagination, risk-taking, and resilience. The quirky, detailed artwork beautifully captures and extends the story.

Born and raised in Tasmania, **Anna Brotherson** studied linguistics and Classical Greek at the Australian National University. She has since worked as a public servant, Bible storyteller, childbirth doula, and Koine Greek teacher. She developed a love for quality children's literature during early motherhood, as it afforded her a delightful way to spend time with her children while sitting down. Anna and her family live in Sydney, Australia.

Key Highlights:

- A funny, heart-warming twist on Little Red Riding Hood.
- Ruby-Anne's resourcefulness and courage will inspire young readers who face their own anxieties.
- Dynamic illustrations perfectly capture the fun and emotion of this hilarious adventure.



Finiligus Frog



Matt Sparrow & Matteo Gaggia
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-064-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Interactive Problem Solving:** The book encourages children to think through different solutions and understand why some ideas work while others fail.
- **Direct Engagement:** By breaking the "fourth wall," the story makes the child the hero, fostering a sense of agency and helpfulness.
- **Persistence and Optimism:** Despite multiple failures, Finiligus keeps coming up with new ideas and maintains hope that he will be rescued.

Key Highlights:

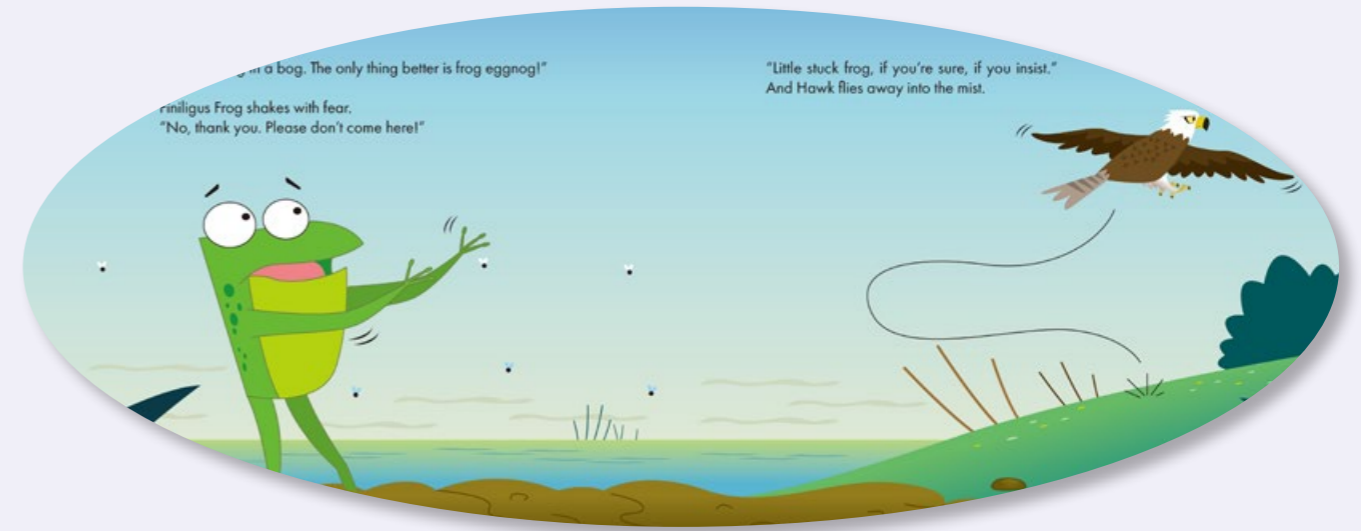
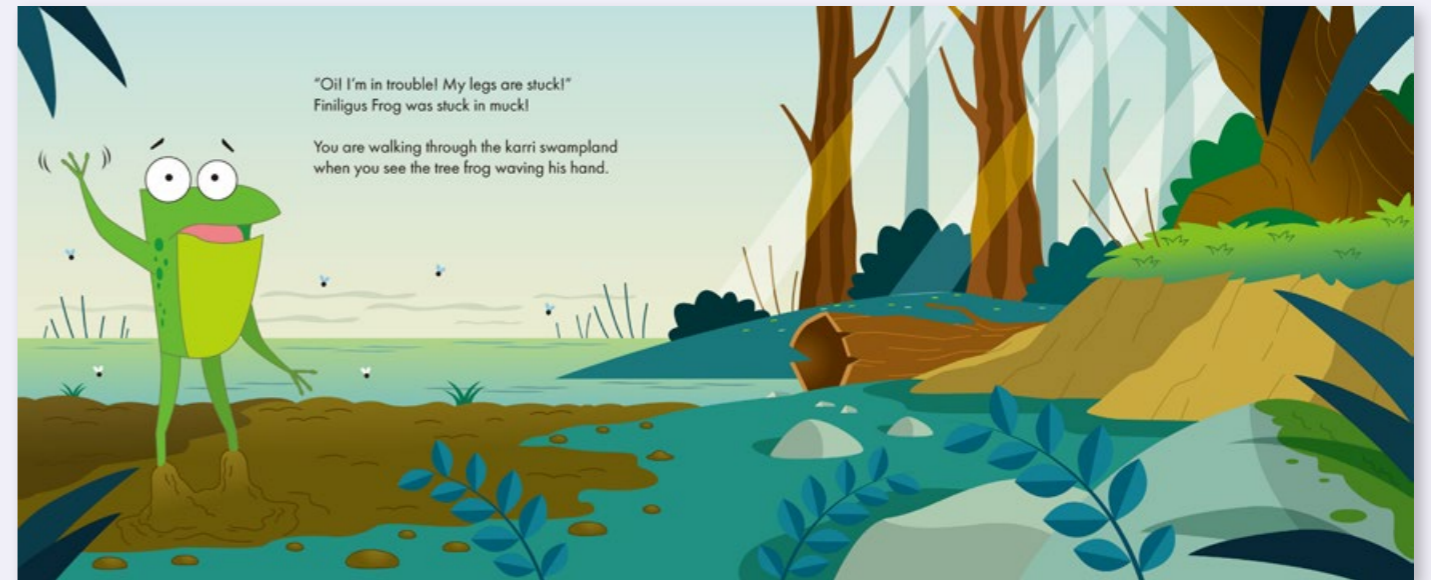
- Fourth wall-breaking narration draws readers in, encouraging interaction, prediction, and engagement.
- High-energy, rhyming text supports language development and read-aloud appeal in classrooms and homes.
- Bold, expressive illustrations burst with personality and visual humor, keeping readers captivated through every muddy twist.

A frog stuck in muck calls on the reader for help in this hilarious swampy adventure!

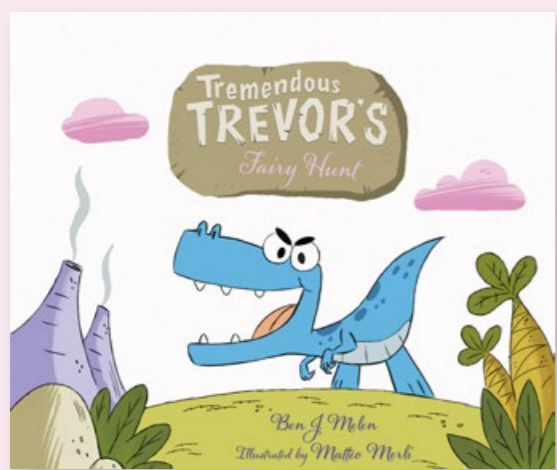
Disaster! Finiligus Frog is stuck in the muck, and only you can save him! As he sinks into the slimy swamp, Finiligus hatches all kinds of wild ideas to escape. Maybe that stick? Or that nice clean bedsheet? When nothing works, some unexpected creatures show up to lend a hand. That hawk looks friendly... doesn't it? Packed with laugh-out-loud rhymes, striking illustrations, and outrageous action, this interactive adventure pulls readers right into the story. Will Finiligus ever escape this boggy mess? A hilariously lively romp that'll have kids giggling—and maybe just a little grubby, too!

Matt Sparrow writes from the Southern Forests region of Western Australia. With a Bachelor of Arts in History and finishing a Master of Teaching at Murdoch University, he was inspired to write after seeing the wonder in his daughter's eyes while reading to her. Surrounded by ancient forests, wild rivers, and vibrant communities, his stories are inspired by people and their engagement with the natural world. Josiah is passionate about storytelling and creating memorable shared experiences between reader and child.

Matteo Gaggia lives in Perugia, Italy. He currently works as a freelance children's book illustrator and has worked for several prominent publishing houses in Italy and around the world. He loves to read, go to the cinema, and collect vintage objects.



Tremendous Trevor's Fairy Hunt



Ben J. Melen & Matteo Merli
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 979-8-90115-068-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Core Themes:

- **Belief and Determination:** The importance of staying true to your dreams even when others doubt you.
- **Perception vs. Reality:** Just because someone looks "scary" (like a T-Rex) doesn't mean they aren't kind-hearted.
- **The Magic of Nature:** Finding wonder in the world and realizing that just because you can't see something, doesn't mean it isn't there.

Ben J. Melen lives in Perth, Western Australia, with his wonderful wife and two amazing kids. Ben is an admitted lawyer with a passion for justice and equity. Ben's favourite activities are exercising, watching his kids play sports, and taking his Cavoodle, Archie, for big walks. Ben loves a good challenge, be it a triathlon, marathon, or even writing children's books!

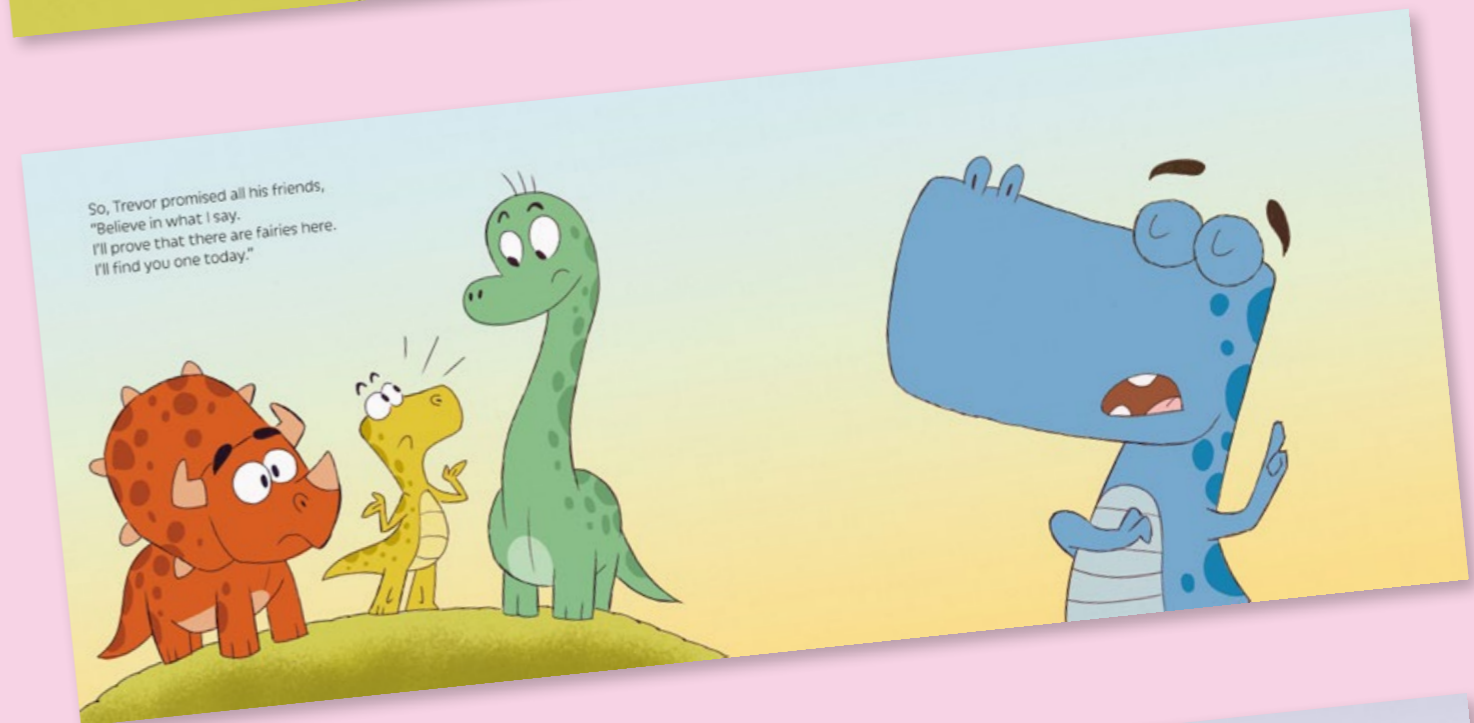
A mighty T-rex wants to prove to his friends that fairies are real, but his search leads to another magical discovery.

Tremendous Trevor, the mightiest T-rex, dreams of finding fairies—despite his friends' disbelief. Determined to prove them wrong, Trevor searches the forest high and low. Just as he's about to give up, he stumbles across a magical unicorn, sparking new hope. When his friends see the enchanting creature, they finally agree: if unicorns are real, then fairies might be, too! *Tremendous Trevor's Fairy Hunt* is a tale of wonder, imagination, and believing in the impossible. Told in rollicking rhyming verse, with bold, playful illustrations full of charm and humor, this uplifting adventure celebrates bravery, friendship, and the magic of keeping dreams alive.

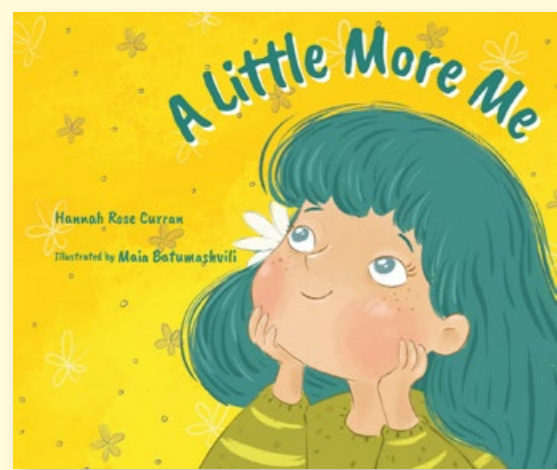
Key Highlights:

- An amusing story filled with wonder and fun, told in rhythmic rhyming verse.
- Trevor's magical adventure teaches the importance of friendship, bravery, and believing in the impossible.
- Bold, colorful, and humorous illustrations that bring life and energy to Trevor's quest to find magic.

Matteo Merli is an artist from Italy who has worked widely in the film and TV industry. With a rich background in character creation and conceptualization, Matteo brings this knowledge into his work as an illustrator. Matteo has worked for many publishing houses and, over the years, has carefully developed his technique. Matteo enjoys illustrating using Bic pens, a Wacom Intuos 4 tablet, Photoshop C5, and SketchBook Pro.



A Little More Me



Hannah Rose Curran & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-059-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Hannah Rose Curran is a mother of two, from Victoria, Australia. A play therapist in the child and family mental health field, she has an undergraduate degree in psychology, a master's in counselling, and certification in play therapy, expressive therapies, and mindfulness teaching. Hannah loves the fun and playful opportunities that children's books provide families, encouraging moments of mindfulness, imagination, and joy, while allowing adults to see the world through the eyes of children.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.

A young girl with anxiety learns a simple breathing exercise to overcome her worries.

Sunny often feels anxious about new things—and meeting her class's new teacher is one of them. When Sunny learns that she will have to read her poem out loud, her worries grow stronger. But Sunny has support from one of her friends, Cisco, who shows her a simple breathing technique to help her remain calm, find courage, and face her fears. *A Little More Me* is a beautifully illustrated story that aims to show children that it is normal to experience strong emotions, and that they have the power to manage their responses with a simple mindfulness skill.

Core Themes:

- **Managing Anxiety:** The book explores how children experience anxiety and provides a practical, actionable tool (mindful breathing) to help manage overwhelming emotions.
- **Self-Discovery and Growth:** Sunny's journey shows that facing fears can lead to a stronger sense of self and a brighter outlook on the world.
- **Friendship and Support:** Cisco plays a vital role as a supportive friend who notices Sunny's struggle and offers a helpful solution.

Key Highlights:

- A gentle story encourages children to explore ways of remaining calm when facing strong emotions.
- Positively demonstrates that feelings of anxiety are perfectly normal.
- Warm, tender illustrations beautifully capture the joy and emotion of this uplifting story.



"Good morning, everyone. My name is Nora," she announced. "Today, we're going to read out the poems you wrote last week. Please get your poems ready."



What?! I was horrified. Reading out loud was my worst nightmare! I felt like I was going to faint.

Fuzz and Friends: The Treasure Hunt



Rebecca Purcell
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 44 pages | 979-8-90115-001-6
Trim Size: 11.2" H x 8.5" W
Publication Date: Nov 2026
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Three friends follow a mysterious map on an unexpected adventure full of surprises.

When Fuzz discovers what looks like a treasure map, he and his friends Ed and Ava set off on an exciting adventure. They prepare for pirates with swords and dragons breathing fire! But as they follow the map past the lake, around the big rock, and toward the special tree, they discover that the best treasure isn't always what you expect—and the greatest adventure is being together.

Rebecca Purcell is a children's book author and illustrator from Portland, United States. She studied Art History in college before launching her career as an artist. Prints of her cute illustrations can be found in nurseries and playrooms around the world. Rebecca likes drawing with pencils, hiking through alpine meadows, and drinking large quantities of tea. She has written and illustrated several series of children's board books. Rebecca's book, *Zip the World's Greatest Robot*, was included as a Best of 2020 Board Book / Picture Book from Kirkus Reviews. She lives in an old brick house with her husband, two sons, a stubborn dog, and a nearly perfect cat.

Key Highlights:

- **Perfect for emerging readers** - Simple dialogue and repetitive text patterns build confidence while keeping young readers engaged and entertained.
- **Friendship takes center stage** - Shows the joy of shared adventures and celebrates how experiences with friends matter more than material rewards.
- **Humor meets heart** - Ed's snack obsession and the friends' imaginative fears create laugh-out-loud moments that lead to a sweet, satisfying twist ending.

Core Themes:

- **The Joy of Adventure:** Emphasizing that the journey and the time spent with friends are often more valuable than the destination.
- **Perspective and Imagination:** Showing how a simple walk can be transformed into an epic quest through the eyes of a child.
- **Adaptability:** Demonstrating how to find happiness in unexpected outcomes, turning a "mistake" into a new opportunity for fun.

