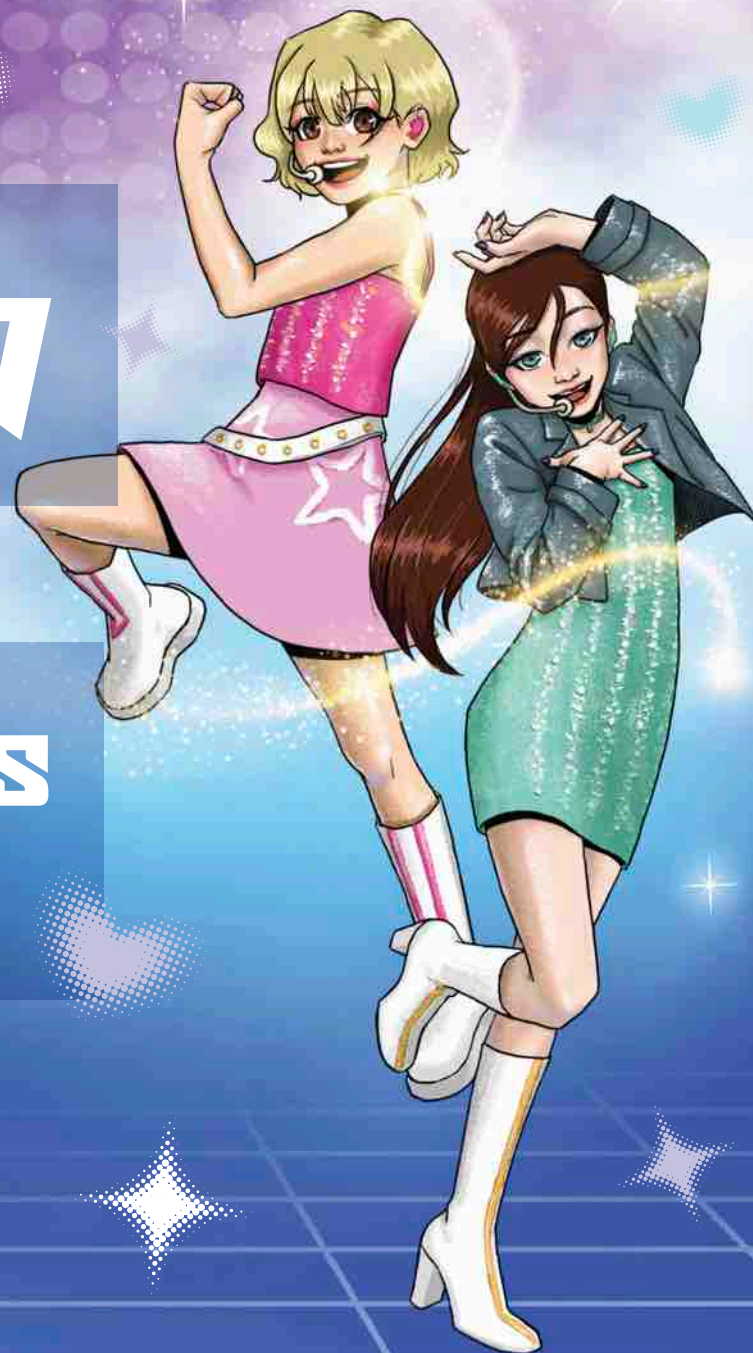


SCHOLASTIC AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Fiction

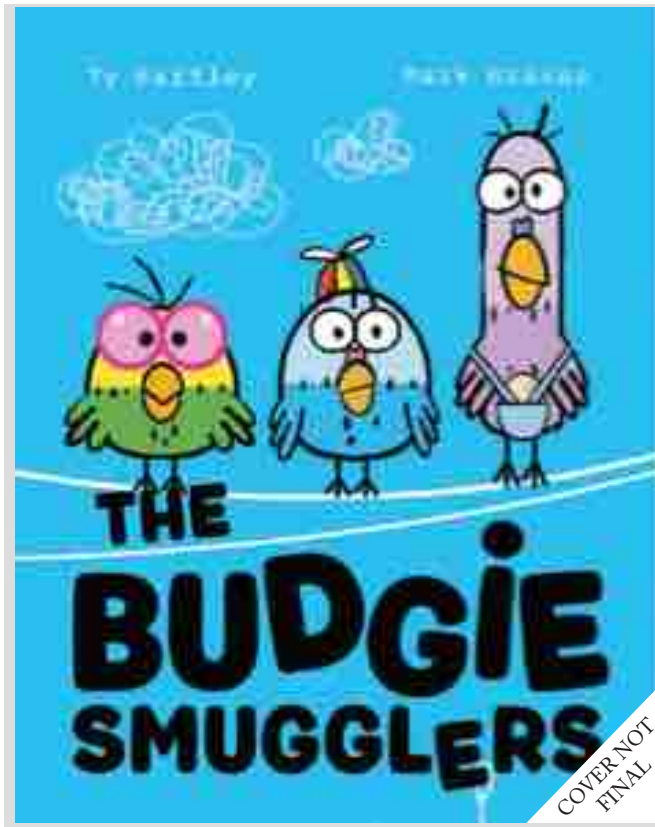
New Titles 2026



The Budgie Smugglers #1

By Ty Hartley

Illustrated by Mark Gravas



Watch your pockets . . . the Budgie Smugglers are coming!

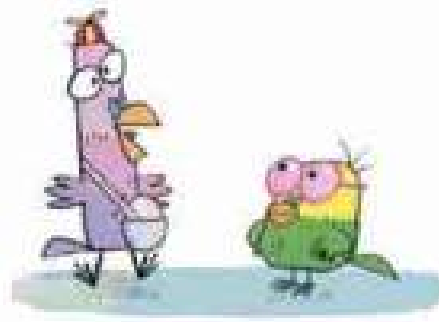
The Budgie Smugglers—aka Peta, Paul and Merry—are three little birdcage buddies, as thick as thieves! Life on the perch can get pretty boring so they like to break out!

One day, Peta and Merry wake up with the worst headaches of their lives! They have NO MEMORY of the night before, a mysterious BIRD'S EGG in their possession . . . and their mate Paul IS MISSING! Now they're feathers-deep in trouble and must retrace their steps to work out THE ABSOLUTE MAYHEM they caused and what happened to their friend!

Key Selling Points

- A brand-new series stealing the limelight, starring a trio of hilarious budgies. Think of them as the Three Stooges . . . with a bit of kleptomania on the side!
- Fun-filled, unputdownable story illustrated in **FULL COLOUR!**

TINY BIRDS, TOTAL CHAOS!



AU RRP: \$16.99
NZ RRP: \$17.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Press

ISBN: **9781761720338**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Chapter book

Age Level:
7+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
176 PP

Printing:
Colour

Publish Date:
October 2026

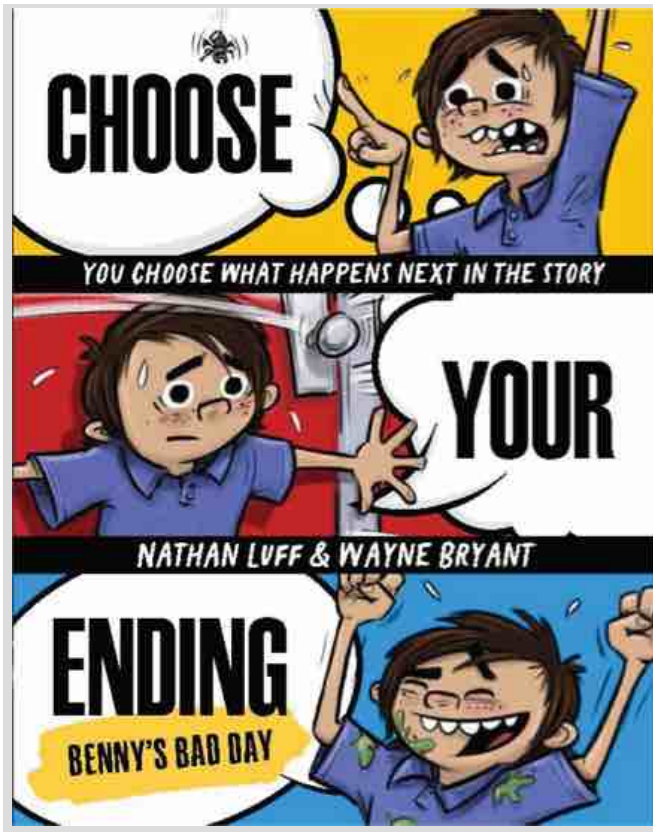
Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Ty Hartley is a writer from Sydney who has always loved words, stories and books that make you laugh. Ty's favourite things are reading, football and eating fancy cheese (but not always at the same time). Ty has never owned a budgerigar, but does have a crotchety cat who probably wouldn't mind getting one. *The Budgie Smugglers* is Ty's first book with Scholastic Press.

Mark Gravas is a Sydney-based author, illustrator and director. He has been creating, writing and directing animated children's TV series for over 20 years, plus he is the author and illustrator of the children's picture book *Noodle Bear*. *The Budgie Smugglers* is his first book with Scholastic Press.

Choose Your Ending: *Benny's Bad Day*

Written by Nathan Luff
Illustrated by Wayne Bryant



More from Nathan Luff
The Nerd Herd
Family Disasters

Benny's idea of a good day at school is when things are calm, predictable and boring. But today is NOT one of those days.

You see, Benny has ZERO CONTROL over what is about to happen. But you do! Just how bad is Benny's day going to get? Well, that's up to you to choose.

Because with you in charge, things are about to turn dramatic, or funny, or gross, or perhaps just plain weird!

Key Selling Points

- Brilliant new CHOOSE YOUR ENDING adventure, full of action-packed, fun, chaotic and mischievous scenarios for readers to choose from.
- A brand-new series from the author of the hilariously funny *The Nerd Herd* series, Nathan Luff, working with the enormously talented Wayne Bryant.
- With the many options to choose from, readers get 7 stories in the one book!
- Contains over 70 internal illustrations.
- Perfect for fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Worst Week Ever*.



AU RRP: \$16.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761642791

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Age Level:
8+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
192 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
June 2026

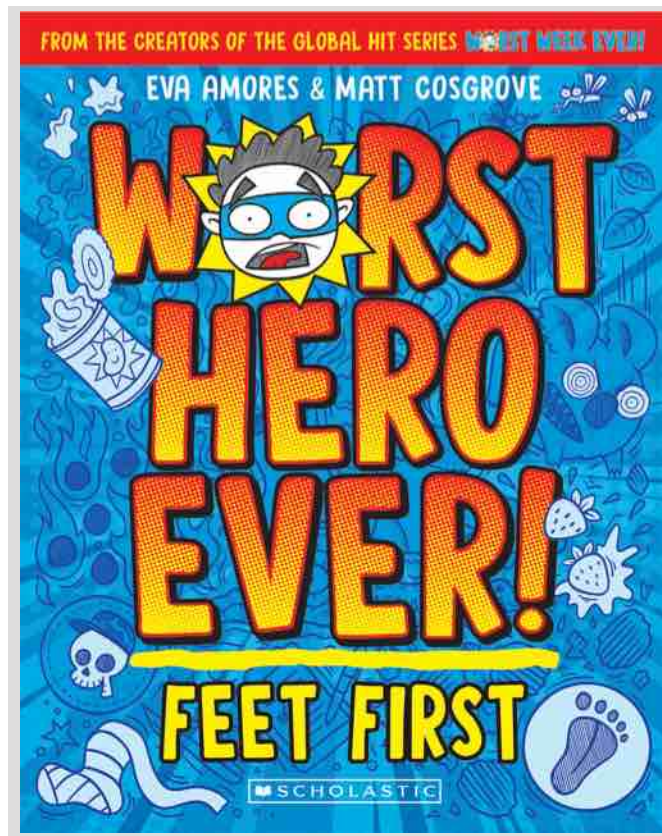
Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Nathan Luff grew up on a farm in rural NSW as one of five boys. He is the author of *The Nerd Herd* and *Family Disasters* series and the middle-grade novels *Jungle Escape*, *Bad Grammar* and *Chicken Stu*. Nathan was previously a primary school teacher and is currently the YA and Children's Manager for the Sydney Writers' Festival.

Wayne Bryant cut his teeth on fast-paced, character-driven storytelling that flowed naturally to children's book illustration in film and television animation. His published series include *So Wrong* with Michael Wagner, *Pugnacious* and *Scuttlebutt* with Adam Wallace, *Urban Legend Hunters* with Joel McKerrow, and *Hectic Electric* with Josh Lefers.

Worst Hero Ever: Feet First

By Eva Amores and Matt Cosgrove

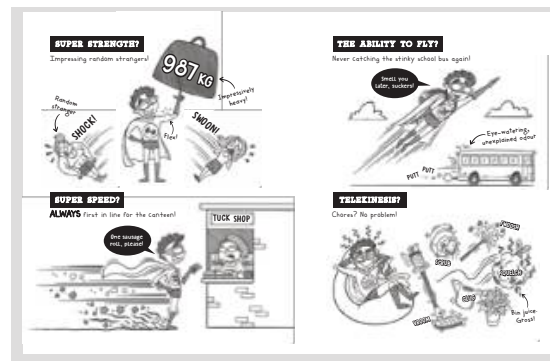


If you could have ANY superpower, what would YOU choose? Super strength? Invisibility? The ability to fly? Super speed? So many superpowers to choose from. Unfortunately, for LICKY RICKY, he didn't get to choose. He just woke up one day with the most useless, least impressive, socially unacceptable, slightly embarrassing, frankly gross, SUPERPOWER of all time!

Grab your barf bags, buckle up and brace yourself for the unbelievable but entirely true origin story of the WORST HERO EVER!

Key Selling Points

- From the creators of the worldwide smash-hit, Worst Week Ever.
- A brand new series about the WORST hero ever!
- Worst Week Ever is sold in over 50 countries.
- Licky Ricky has an unusual power!
- Matt Cosgrove is the author/illustrator of *Macca the Alpaca*
- For fans of *Worst Week Ever* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*



More from Eva Amores and Matt Cosgrove

Worst Week Ever Monday
Worst Week Ever Tuesday
Worst Week Ever Wednesday
Worst Week Ever Thursday
Worst Week Ever Friday
Worst Week Ever Saturday
Worst Week Ever Sunday

AU RRP: \$15.99

Publisher:
 Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761725159

Format/Binding:
 Paperback

Age Level:
 8+

Dimensions:
 (P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
 160 PP

Printing:
 Mono

Publish Date:
 April 2026

Rights:
 World excl. ANZ,
 Germany

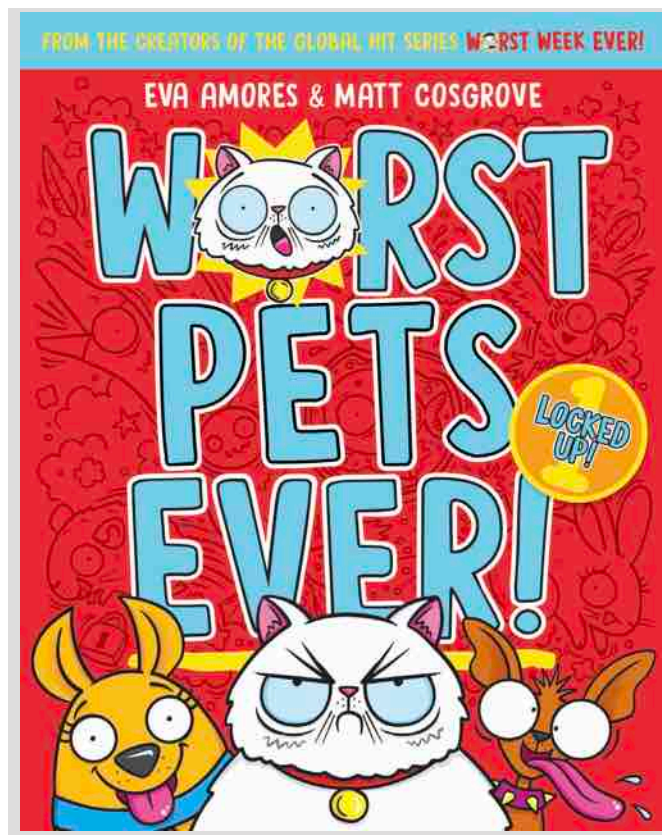
Eva Amores is an author and designer/photographer who has worked for the Sydney Opera House and the ABC. She was born in The Philippines and moved to Australia in high school. She likes shoes, travelling and more shoes.

Matt Cosgrove is the best-selling author/illustrator of *Macca the Alpaca* and the 'Epic Fail Tales' series. He was born and raised in Western Sydney. He likes chocolate, avoiding social interactions and more chocolate.

Eva and Matt met when they were randomly placed together for a group assignment at University twenty-five years ago and they've been collaborating ever since. They've made dinner, cakes, a mess, the bed, mistakes, memories, poor fashion decisions and two actual humans. *Worst Week Ever* was their first book series together.

Worst Pets Ever: Locked Up!

By Eva Amores and Matt Cosgrove



Captain Fluffykins, Nickers and Brutus are the newest recruits LOCKED UP at the Worst Pets Ever Obedience School. There are so many rules! Their daily schedule is a nightmare. The teachers are terrible. Don't even mention the food! And the other students are all kinds of disturbing. The only option for the trio is to team up and make a great escape!

Key Selling Points

- From the creators of the worldwide smash-hit, Worst Week Ever.
- A brand new series about the WORST pets ever!
- Worst Week Ever is sold in over 50 countries.
- This series is a shorter page count with black and red illustrations
- The naughtiest pets are about the bust out of obedience school
- Matt Cosgrove is the author/illustrator of *Macca the Alpaca*
- For fans of *Worst Week Ever* and *Hot Dog*.



More from Eva Amores and Matt Cosgrove

Worst Week Ever Monday
Worst Week Ever Tuesday
Worst Week Ever Wednesday
Worst Week Ever Thursday
Worst Week Ever Friday
Worst Week Ever Saturday
Worst Week Ever Sunday

AU RRP: \$15.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761724657

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Age Level:
6+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
128 PP

Printing:
2-colour

Publish Date:
November 2025

Rights:
**World excl. ANZ,
 Dutch, Finland,
 Germany, Poland,
 Slovakia**

Eva Amores is an author and designer/photographer who has worked for the Sydney Opera House and the ABC. She was born in The Philippines and moved to Australia in high school. She likes shoes, travelling and more shoes.

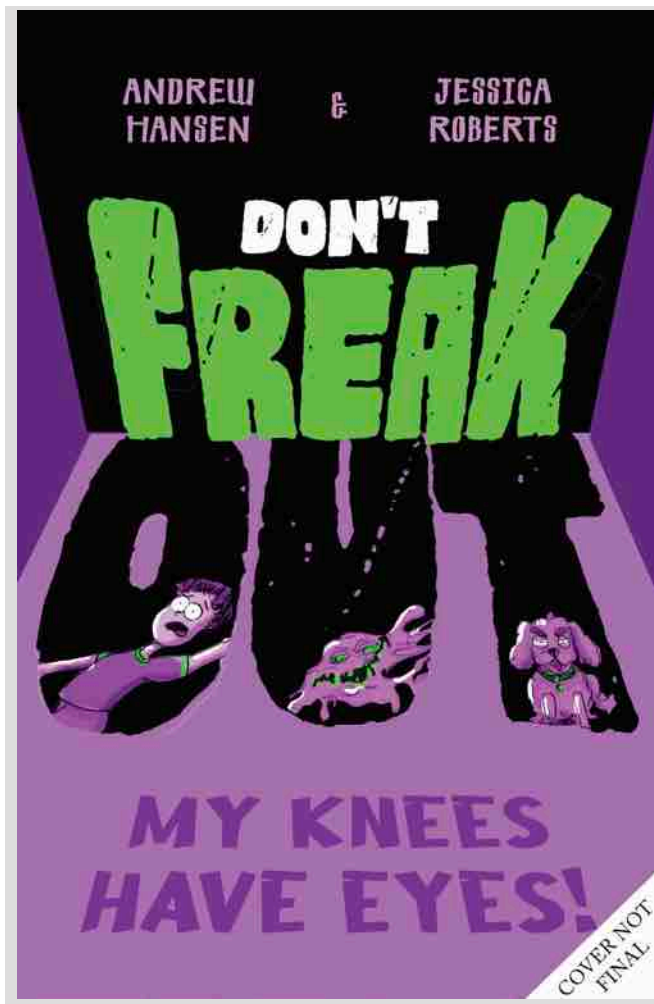
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Eva and Matt met when they were randomly placed together for a group assignment at University twenty-five years ago and they've been collaborating ever since. They've made dinner, cakes, a mess, the bed, mistakes, memories, poor fashion decisions and two actual humans. *Worst Week Ever* was their first book series together.

Don't Freak Out #1: *My Knees Have Eyes*

By Andrew Hansen

Illustrated by Jessica Roberts



Philbert longs to be a SPORTS STAR like Tiger O'Toole. So when a bizarre encounter with SLIME suddenly gives him super strength and super speed, it's like a dream come true. Well, sort of. Because now there's also something super WEIRD going on with Philbert's knees.

DON'T FREAK OUT, but the school swimming carnival is about to get SERIOUSLY strange.

Key Selling Points

- Don't Freak Out is a series where spooky and unexpected things happen to ordinary kids... always with hilarious consequences!
- Packed with laugh-out-loud illustrations and unforgettable characters.
- Co-written by Chaser star and comedian Andrew Hansen.
- Comparisons: *Round the Twist*, *Worst Week Ever*, *Goosebumps*.



AU RRP: \$16.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761725067**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Chapter book

Age Level:
8+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
224 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
September 2026

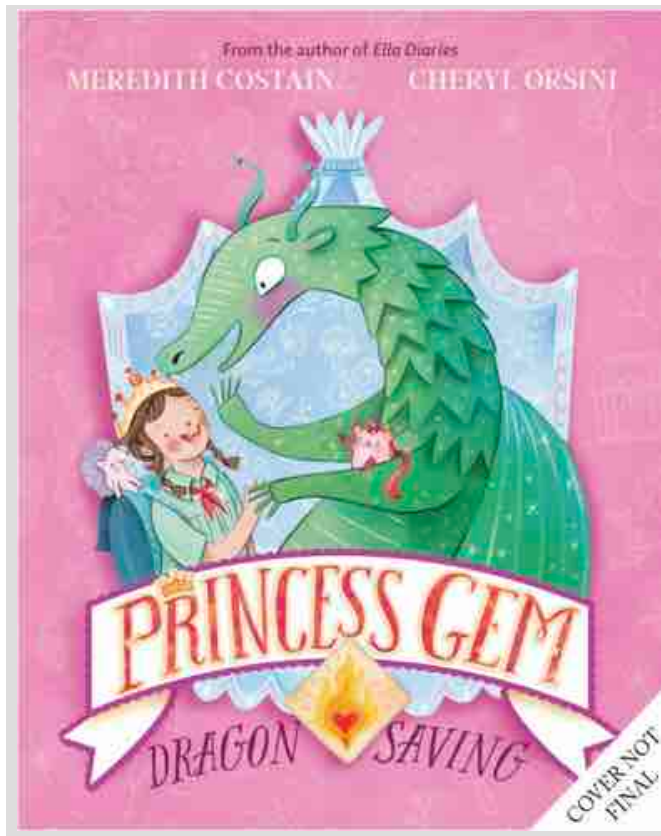
Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Andrew Hansen is a multi-talented comedian, actor and musician, best known as a member of Australian comedy group The Chaser. Andrew's written, starred in and composed for musicals, radio shows, award-winning television shows, humorous newspapers and comedy anthologies.

Jessica Roberts writes, draws and films stories. She has a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design, and a Foundation Diploma in film studies. With Andrew Hansen, she has co-written and illustrated several middle-grade comedy series.

Princess Gem #1: *Dragon Saving*

By Meredith Costain
Illustrated by Cheryl Orsini



Release schedule

Apr 2027: Princess Gem #2 *Glitterhopper*

Gem's real name is Her Royal Highness Princess Gemma of Glimmerdale. And she and her friends want to meet a dragon more than anything.

So when it's time to choose which Pixie badge to earn next, Princess Gemma chooses the most daring one of all: Dragon Saving!

Key Selling Points

- From the bestselling author of the 'Ella Diaries' series, and the award-winning illustrator of the 'Travelling Bookshop' series.
- Gorgeous full-colour illustrations throughout.
- Gem earns a new Pixie Club badge in each book. Join her for every quest!
- A fairytale world with real friendships and gentle humour.
- Princess Gemma's pocket-sized pet, Tibby, magically transforms into a pony-sized steed.
- Comparisons: 'Pearl the Unicorn', 'Dragon Girls', 'Ella Diaries', 'Princess in Black'



AU RRP: \$14.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761525483**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Chapter book

Age Level:
6+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
128 PP

Printing:
Colour

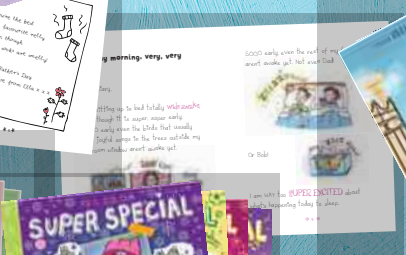
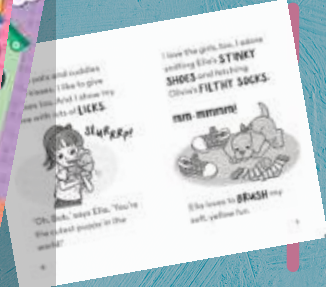
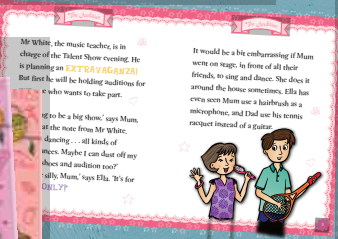
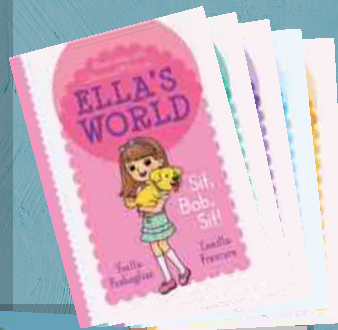
Publish Date:
August 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Meredith Costain is a versatile award-winning writer. Her first picture book, *Musical Harriet*, was adapted for television by the ABC, and her poetry book *Doodledum Dancing* was a CBCA Honour Book. A former English teacher and kids' magazine editor, she enjoys writing poems with kids around Australia, and playing 'Fetch!' with her dogs and cats.

Cheryl Orsini started small and drew big! She has illustrated over seventy books, including many picture books and several fiction series for young readers. She longs to be thought of as 'controversial and edgy' but is more often described as a good egg with a frightfully keen eye for a straight line. Cheryl lives in Sydney with her husband and daughter.

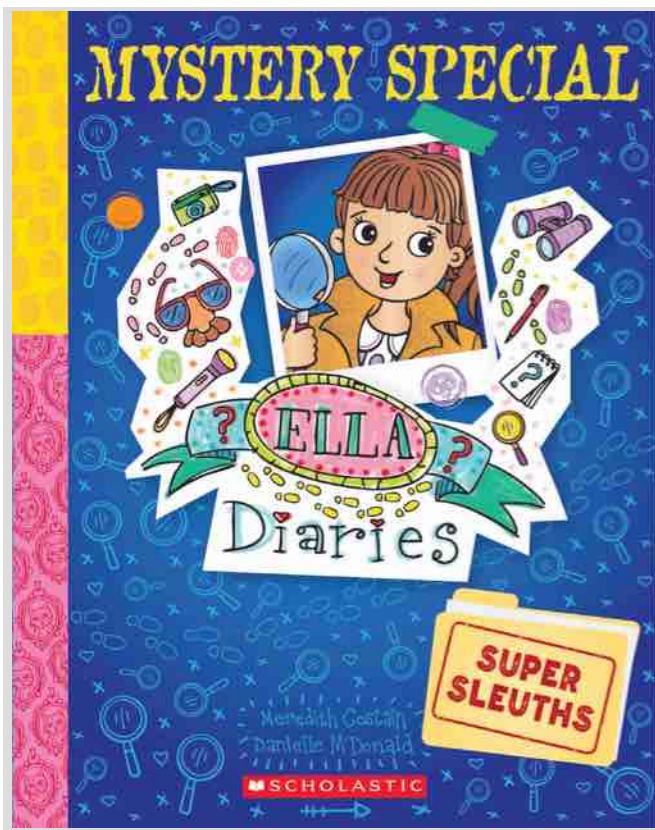
THE ELLA UNIVERSE



Ella Diaries Mystery Special #1: *Super Sleuths*

By Meredith Costain

Illustrated by Danielle McDonald



WARNING: You are about to read my UTTERLY BIGGEST SECRETS. Can I trust you? OK then. I'm Ella, and this is my diary.

Ella and her BFFs are wearing DISGUISES, taking FINGERPRINTS and following FOOTPRINTS. Why? Because a real-life DETECTIVE is visiting their school, and their classroom is at the centre of a MYSTERY.

Can Ella crack the case?

Key Selling Points

- First book in a new series of mystery-themed 'Ella Diaries' stories
- Longer 'Super Special' extent allows for extra illustrations and mystery-themed plot twists
- Holographic foil makes the cover sparkle
- Ella Diaries is a beloved Australian series—over ONE MILLION books in print!
- For fans of series like *The Babysitter* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Friday*



AU RRP: \$17.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761644498

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Chapter Book

Age Level:
7+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
192 PP

Printing:
2-colour

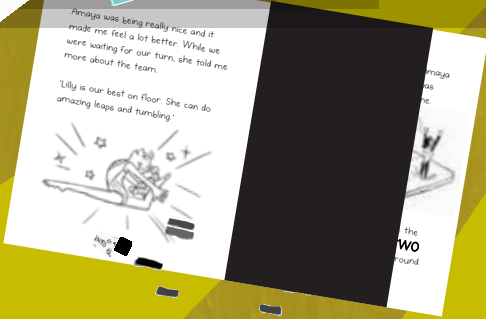
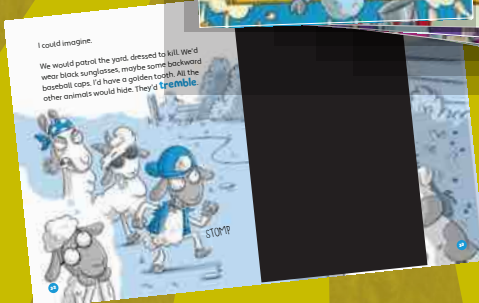
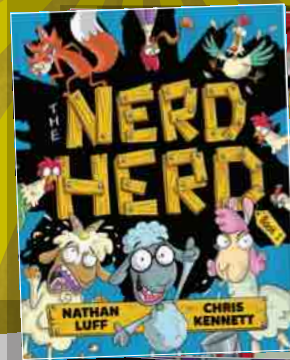
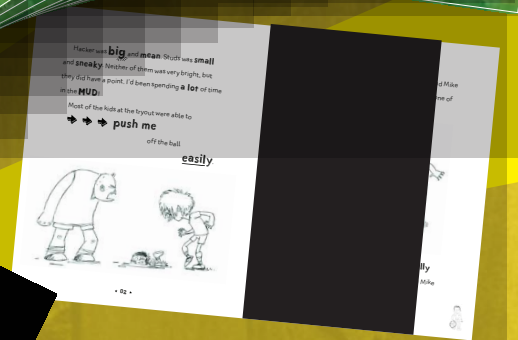
Publish Date:
July 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Meredith Costain is a versatile award-winning writer. Her first picture book, *Musical Harriet*, was adapted for television by the ABC, and her poetry book *Doodledum Dancing* was a CBCA Honour Book.

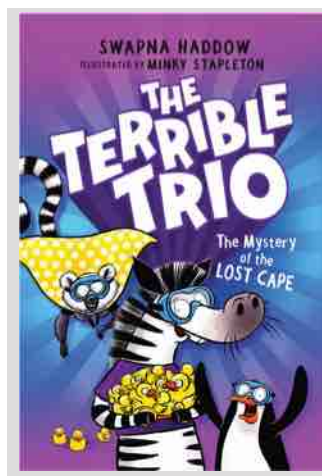
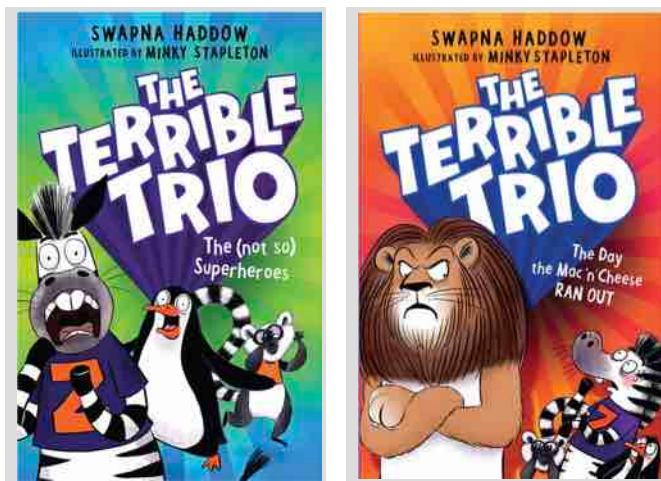
Danielle McDonald is driven by a passion for colour and a love for creating fun characters. She is a graphic designer and children's book illustrator, and has designed plush toys, bedding, home wares and all kinds of amazing things for kids.

BEST-SELLING FICTION



The Terrible Trio

By Swapna Haddow
Illustrated by Minky Stapleton



In a world where all animals have superpowers, café workers Zeb the zebra, Margarine the penguin and Barry the lemur have been given the WORST powers of all. Watching all the other superheroes save the world, day in and day out, Zeb, Margarine and Barry wonder if they will ever get to be superheroes for a day themselves.

Key Selling Points

- Series already sold to publishers in over 20 countries.
- “Brilliantly funny and wonderfully illustrated, this graphic novel is one that is filled with sharp humour that will have youngsters laughing out loud, but is also one that addresses serious issues such as the importance of true friendship and sibling rivalry [...] This is a series that I’m hoping will run and run and I know many young fans will feel the same way.” — UK book review
- Hilariously illustrated by the gifted Minky Stapleton, whose wacky sense of humour really brings these characters to goofy life!

Rights:

World excl. Australia, Brazil, Canada, Catalan, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, UK, USA



AU RRP: \$16.99
NZ RRP: \$18.99

Publisher:
Scholastic New Zealand

ISBN:
9781775438977 (#1)
9781775439004 (#2)
9781775439011 (#3)

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Illustrated Junior Fiction

Age Level:
5+

Dimensions:
(P) 208 x 135 MM

Page Count:
192 PP

Printing:
**Full colour cover,
B&W Internals**

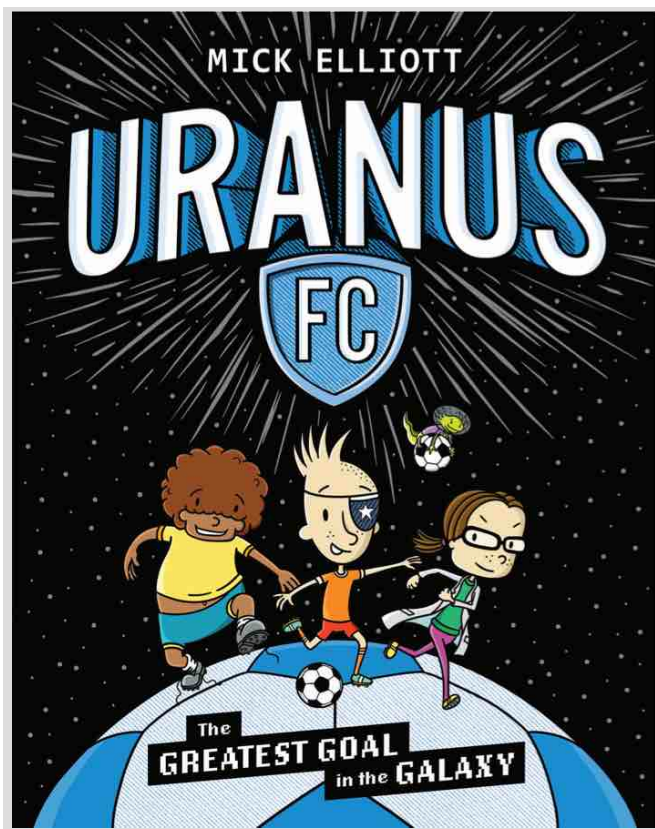
Publish Date:
**Sept 2025, Feb 2026,
June 2026**

Swapna Haddow grew up in the UK and wrote her first book at age eight. She wishes she'd kept it, but it seemed like a good idea at the time to trade it for two stickers and a couple of marbles! Her first published book was the award-winning junior novel *Dave Pigeon*. She has also written the early reader Ballet Bunnies series as Swapna Reddy. Swapna now lives in Dunedin, NZ, with her husband, son and their dog.

Minky Stapleton is a multi-faceted illustrator with a range of styles. Originally from South Africa, Minky threw in the advertising game to follow her first love, illustration. As well as writing and illustrating her own picture books *Roo and Vladimir* and *Bubbles the Zooting, Tooting Manatee*, she has also illustrated a number of other successful picture books for Scholastic NZ. She resides with her husband and family in Auckland.

Uranus FC #1: *The Greatest Goal in the Galaxy*

By Mick Elliott



Meet Tyko Brayne.

He's the biggest football fan on planet Earth. Only problem is, he's stuck on Uranus. The planet, that is.

Tyko's chances of playing for Earth FC in the GLOOFF* Cup are about one in a gazillion. But a cosmic catastrophe results in planet Earth vanishing, someone needs to step up and take Earth's FC's place. Where in the universe is there a team to represent humankind? URANUS.

Do the players of Uranus FC have the skills to take on the galaxy's most vicious football-playing species? NO.

Does the team have the courage to take the field? YES.

Is there a plan? KIND OF.

Will they survive? PROBABLY NOT . . .

*The Galactic League of Orbiting Football Federations

Key Selling Points

- Readers will be immersed in on-the-edge of your seat football action and laugh-out-loud comedy – it's Ted Lasso for kids!
- Uranus FC is the graphic novel series that football-obsessed fans have been searching for.
- Each book is a fast-paced, frenetic account of Uranus FC's desperately doomed attempts to survive (and maybe even score) against the scariest and uproarious extra-terrestrial teams ever to take to the field.
- Will appeal to fans of *Real Pigeons* and *Tiny Timmy*. It's a perfect hybrid of football and hilarity!
- **'More ups and downs than goal-line dance. More exciting than a penalty shoot-out!' – Andrew Redmayne, Soccerroos goalkeeper**

AU RRP: \$16.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761527500**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Graphic Novel

Age Level:
8+

Dimensions:
(P) 190 x 150 MM

Page Count:
192 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
March 2026

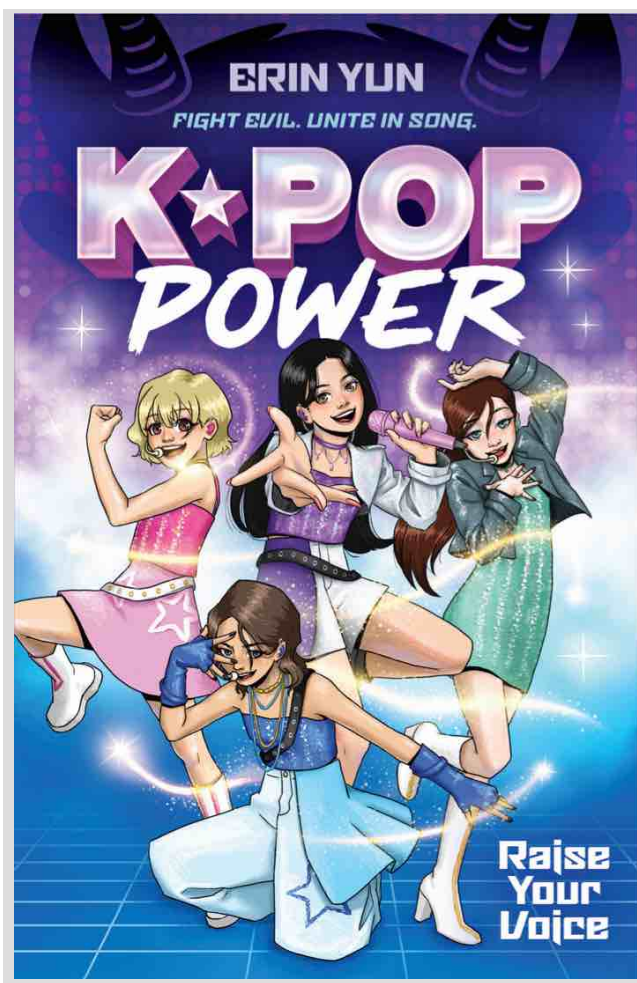
Rights:
World excl. ANZ

When **Mick Elliott** is not writing and illustrating awesomely epic books for kids, he is also a TV producer, screen writer, literacy ambassador and professional mischief maker. Mick has worked on a range of TV shows for kids for Nickelodeon, the ABC, The Sesame Street Workshop and Channel 10. When writing, Mick likes to explore themes of identity and humour. He aims to create stories that resonate with kids, treating them with intelligence and respect. His motto, 'Heart, Fart, Smart', reflects his approach to storytelling, ensuring that his narratives are both entertaining and meaningful.

K-Pop Power: Raise Your Voice

By Erin Yun

Illustrated by Laura Ye



GlowGirlz is the newest group to hit the K-Pop scene! Led by Yuna Moon alongside her friends, glamorous fashion designer Ara; moody lyricist Jade; and bubbly choreographer Sun-Hee, this group is the next BIG THING. But these girls are more than just K-Pop stars. They work for K42 Entertainment – a pop music producer with a deep secret. K42 is responsible for training K-Pop stars with magical powers which are used to keep the human world safe.

When the GlowGirlz hear of the return of the villainous Echo, they know they are going to have to stick together to defeat her.

Will they find the magic tool they need to defeat Echo? Or does Echo have another trick up her sleeve?

It's just another day of music, fashion and keeping forces of evil from taking over the world with their ... K-POP POWER!

Key Selling Points

- New K-Pop fantasy fiction about a group of four K-Pop stars who perform and take on evil.
- Written by American/Korean author, Erin Yun.
- Themes of fashion, friendship, music, good and evil.
- For fans of K-Pop music and K-Pop television and movies, such as K-Pop Demon Hunters.
- Yuna Moon, Jade, Ara and Sun-Hee—upholding the world of good and vanquishing evil with their voices.
- Middle-grade chapter book with black and white illustrations.



AU RRP: \$16.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761729676**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
8+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
192 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
April 2026

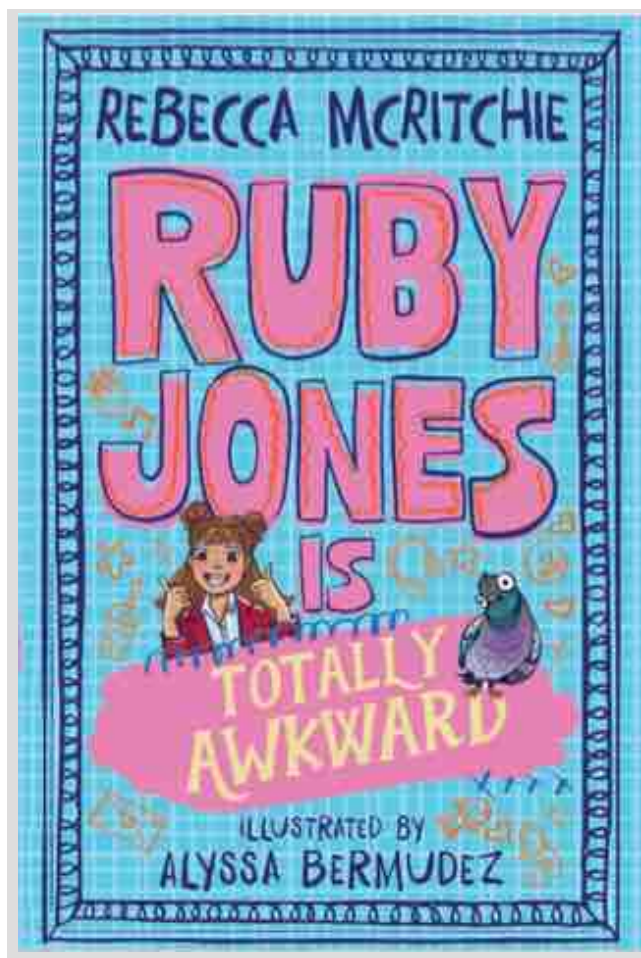
Rights:
**World excl. ANZ,
Denmark, France,
Greece, Israel, UK,
USA**

Erin Yun is the author of the bestselling AAPI middle-grade series Pippa Park, which includes two titles: *Pippa Park Raises Her Game* (Book 1) and *Pippa Park Crush at First Sight* (Book 2). She received her BA in English from New York University and her Masters in Creative Writing from Cambridge. While at NYU, she served as president of its policy debate team. This experience came in handy when she worked as the debate consultant for the Tony-nominated Best Play on Broadway—*What the Constitution Means to Me*. She created the Pippa Park Author Program, an interactive writing workshop that she has conducted both in person and virtually at schools, libraries, and bookstores. Folks can tell she grew up in Texas by how often she says “y’all.” And yes—she used to play basketball as a middle grader!

Ruby Jones is Totally Awkward

By Rebecca McRitchie

Illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez

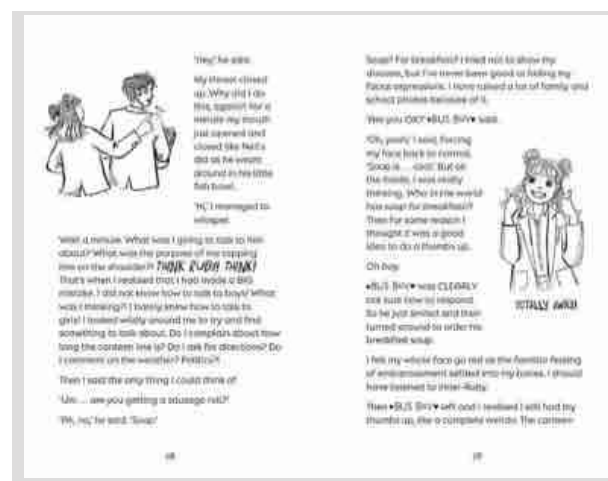


Ruby Jones is that girl. You know that girl? The one who does something totally embarrassing in the first year of high school and nobody EVER forgets it?!

Ruby Jones has just started Year 7 and everything is going WRONG. Why is she so awkward?! And why does her crush have such perfect hair and teeth?! It's really distracting! Not only that, but her dad has suddenly been using words like slay (ick!) and her BFF might actually be turning into an EFL (that's Enemy For Life!). Can Year 7 possibly get any worse? (Spoiler: it actually can.)

Key Selling Points

- Absolutely HILARIOUS new coming-of-age comedy series.
- Ruby Jones is starting Year 7 and she is TOTALLY AWKWARD!
- A book about friendship, crushes, puberty and navigating all the ups and downs of tween life.
- By popular children's author, Rebecca McRitchie.
- Funny illustrations by Alyssa Bermudez.
- For fans of Lottie Brooks and Dork Diaries.



AU RRP: \$17.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761721793

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
10+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
288 PP

Printing:
Mono

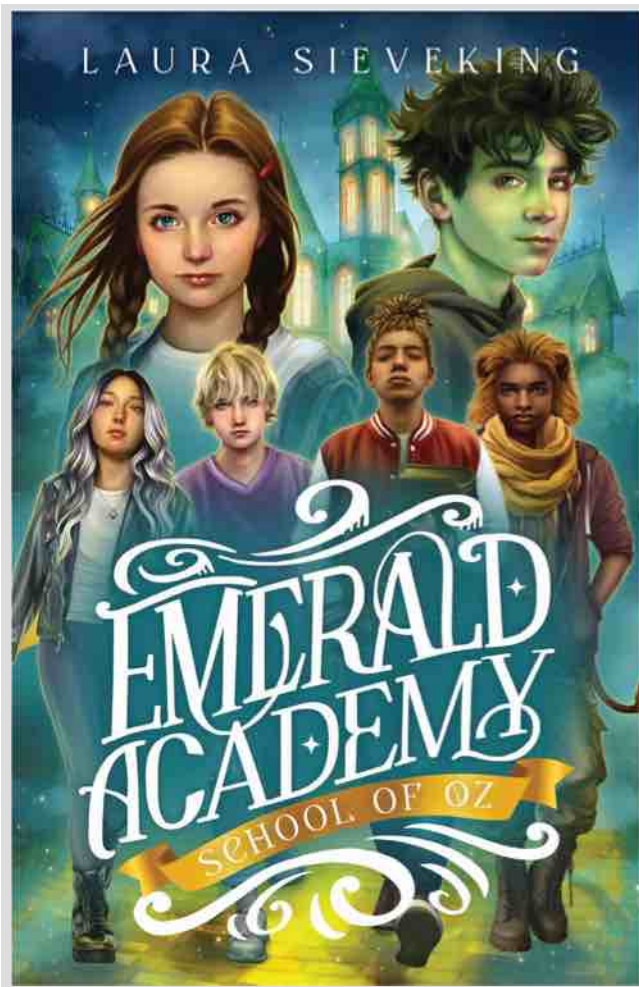
Publish Date:
September 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Rebecca McRitchie would love to tell you she was raised by wolves in a snow-laden forest, or that she once saved a village from a disgruntled dragon. In reality, she is usually found clutching a stack of books in a quiet bookstore aisle or engaged in a staring contest with her computer. A longtime editor and author of children's literature, Rebecca is the author of the 'Meet Ella' series and almost thirty other books for children. She frequently wishes she could meet her characters in real life—though to be honest, she and Ruby Jones are essentially the same person.

Emerald Academy: School of Oz

By Laura Sieveking



Welcome to Emerald Academy: School of Oz.

Emily Gale, the daughter of Dorothy, is beyond excited to begin at Emerald Academy—the school for the future leaders of Oz. She is reunited with her friends, the Scarecrow’s son, the Tin Woodsman’s daughter, Glinda’s son and the Lion’s son.

But then a new boy arrives. Seth has green skin in a distinct pattern that every Ozian knows. Could he be related to the most evil villain Oz had ever known, the Wicked Witch of the South?

When a dangerous magic ball is stolen, suspicions rise and fingers begin pointing at Seth. But Emily isn’t sure Seth is as wicked as everyone thinks. And the only hope they have of saving Oz is to trust Seth to go with them along the yellow brick road. For whatever awaits them.

Key Selling Points

- Brand-new, exciting fantasy created within L. Frank Baum’s magical world of Oz.
- A thrilling, action-packed mystery that will captivate 10+ readers and keep them enthralled—who is the new boy who has joined Emerald Academy? And is he related to the most evil villain Oz has ever known?
- Written by Laura Sieveking, author of the bestselling ‘Ella at Eden’ series, which has over 150,000 copies in print.
- Contains themes of friendship, building trust, overcoming prejudice, and best of all, magic.
- For fans of *Wicked*, *The Descendants* and *The School of Good and Evil*.

AU RRP: \$17.99
NZ RRP: \$19.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761725623**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
10+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
288 PP

Printing:
Mono

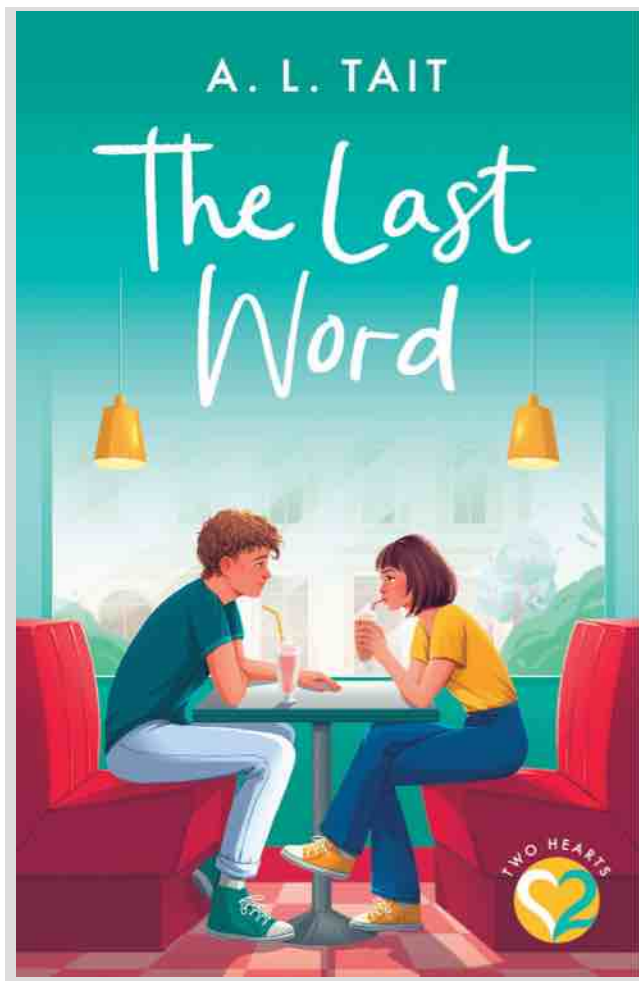
Publish Date:
July 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Laura Sieveking has loved creating stories ever since she learned to hold a pen. She remembers hiding in her room as a six-year-old, writing a series of books about an unlikely friendship between a princess and a bear. As an adult, Laura has spent the vast majority of her career working in publishing as an editor. After several years, she decided to put down her red pen and open up her laptop to create books of her own. Laura’s books revolve around all the things she loved as a child—friendships, sport and a little bit of magic. She has written series for early independent readers and middle-grade fiction, and is the author of the bestselling ‘Ella at Eden’ series, and the ‘Gymnastics Diaries’ series with Olympic gymnast Georgia Godwin. She lives in Sydney with her husband and two children, and her two fluffy dogs who look like teddy bears.

Two Hearts: *The Last Word*

By A. L. Tait



Fall in love with **Two Hearts**—romantic fiction for young hearts.

There are two things Matilda Bell can count on: her best friend, Gemma, and being top of every class.

But this year, everything has changed. Gemma has moved away, leaving Matilda all alone at school, and Will O'Connor has moved to town.

Not only does Will disrupt every lesson—Matilda's pet hate—but he's somehow matching her grades with zero effort. If only Matilda could ignore him . . . but Will gets under her skin in a way that no-one else ever has.

When Will is forced to join the debating team, he and Matilda spend more time arguing with each other than winning debates. With their team losses mounting up, Gemma ignoring her calls, and old enemies getting up to new tricks, Matilda feels like her life is out of control.

Key Selling Points

- Brand-new, gorgeous, heartwarming middle-grade romance for 10–14-year-olds who want to be part of the BookTok YA romance phenomenon but are too young.
- A beautiful first-love story by much-loved Australian author A. L. Tait.
- Readers can safely explore the beauty, wonder and confusing world of love and romance, without the danger of encountering inappropriate material, as they would in the YA romance genre.
- Contains a first kiss, and themes of friendship, being brave and trying new approaches to work through problems.

AU RRP: \$17.99
NZ RRP: \$19.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761646874**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
10+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
240 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
April 2026

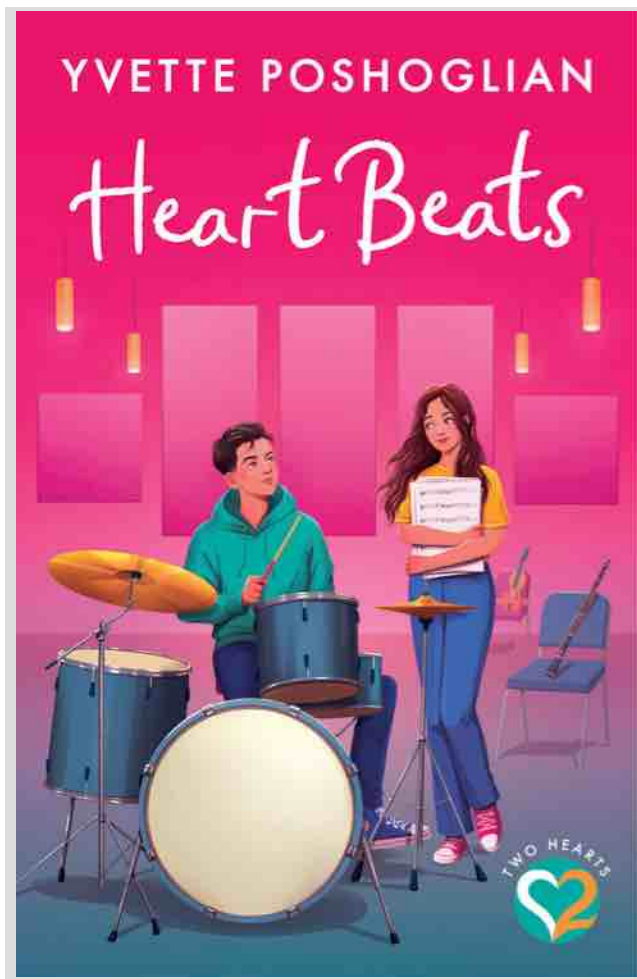
Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Allison Tait (A. L. Tait) writes stories full of adventure and mystery. She is the internationally published bestselling author of three epic middle-grade fantasy series—*The Mapmaker Chronicles*, *The Ateban Cipher*, and *The Maven & Reeve Mysteries*—as well as contemporary novels *The First Summer of Callie McGee* and *Willow Bright's Secret Plot*.

Allison is a multi-genre writer, teacher and speaker, and co-host of the top-rating Your Kid's Next Read podcast. She lives on the south coast of New South Wales, where you'll usually find her reading crime and mystery novels.

Two Hearts: *Heart Beats*

By Yvette Poshoglian



Fall in love with **Two Hearts**—romantic fiction for young hearts.

When Sophia is accepted into the Teen Orchestra Focus Camp, she's equal parts excited and terrified. It's her dream to play clarinet for the symphony orchestra, but the camp will have a hundred hopefuls just like her, all competing to be noticed. And will she be able to make even one friend?

Gabe isn't sure about anything anymore. He hates his new school and his new family dynamic. Percussion was always his happy place, but lately, even that has lost its shine. When he's accepted into the teen camp, his dad makes it clear: this is his last chance to sort himself out.

But when Sophia and Gabe are paired together at camp, they completely clash. How can Sophia be expected to work with someone who doesn't seem to care about his music at all? And how can Gabe deal with the quiet, intense, super-serious nerd Sophia seems to be?

Will they be able to find their rhythm, or are they destined to fall flat at the final showcase?

Key Selling Points

- Brand-new, gorgeous, clean middle-grade romance for 10–14-year-olds who want to be part of the BookTok YA romance phenomenon but are too young.
- A beautiful first-love story by trusted children's author Yvette Poshoglian, who writes the bestselling 'Ella and Olivia' series and has written over 70 books for children and young readers.
- This is a clean love story between two young teens that will appeal to 10+ readers. There is no danger of encountering inappropriate material, as they would in the YA romance genre.
- Contains a first kiss, and themes of friendship, overcoming insecurities and having the courage to follow your dreams.

AU RRP: \$17.99
NZ RRP: \$19.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761646881**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
10+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
240 PP

Printing:
Mono

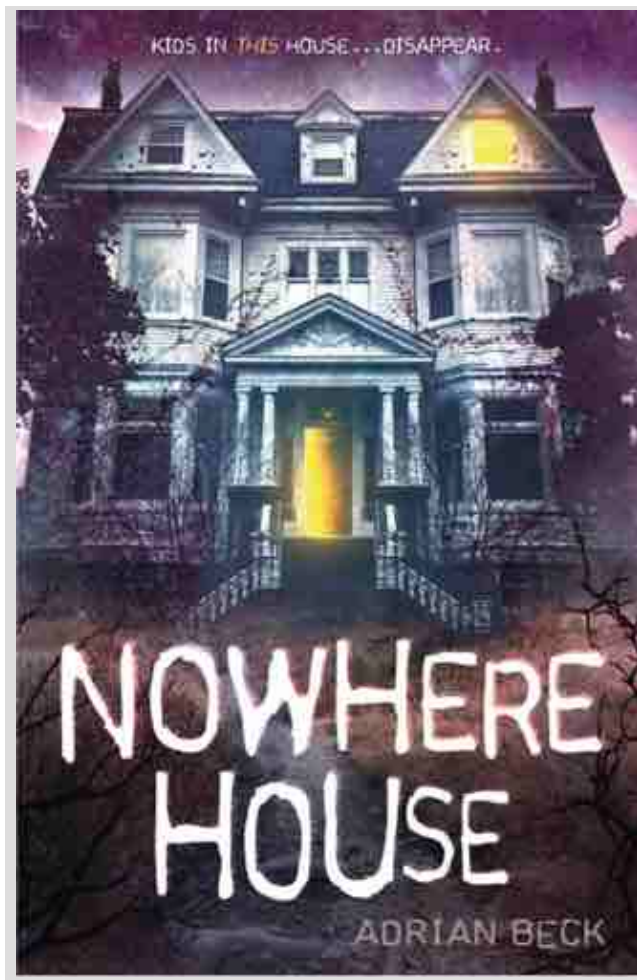
Publish Date:
August 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Yvette Poshoglian is the bestselling author of over 70 books for children and young readers. She writes the wildly popular 'Ella and Olivia' series, *Ella's World*, and the new 'Puppy Club' series. She has written for older readers too, including *Dear Greta* and *Escape from Cockatoo Island*. Yvette has worked as an English teacher in south-west Sydney and consults on educational projects. She is a regular guest and panel host at writers' festivals and continues to work in schools with both students and teachers in the area of creative writing, storytelling and literacy. She is proud to be an ambassador for the Books in Homes charity.

Nowhere House

By Adrian Beck



Kids in THIS house . . . DISAPPEAR.

A cursed house. A decades-old mystery. A brother and sister on the edge.

Nate is furious that he's had to leave his school, break up his band and move to the middle of nowhere with his family. But he never imagined he'd be moving into an old farmhouse that's been left for dead.

From the moment Nate's family arrives, he's sure someone is watching them and a series of creepy discoveries leads him straight to danger. Soon, Nate and his little sister, Mila, uncover a chilling secret: the previous owner's children vanished without a trace.

But someone is desperate to keep the house's secrets hidden. And if Nate can't solve the mystery of the missing kids in time ... maybe he and his sister will be next.

A gripping twisty thriller that will keep readers guessing till the end.

Key Selling Points

- A fast-paced thriller from well-known author Adrian Beck.
- A mystery that will keep kids guessing until the end.
- From the acclaimed author of *Villain* and many junior novels for kids.
- For fans of Tristan Bancks' *The Fall*.
- Age-appropriate crime thriller.

AU RRP: \$15.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: **9781761720956**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
10+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
208 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
July 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Adrian Beck is a bestselling, award-winning author who writes and illustrates funny, action-packed stories for kids. He is also a TV producer and a connoisseur of very bad dad jokes. Adrian has appeared at hundreds of schools, as well as the Sydney Writers Festival, Melbourne's Kids BookFest and Somerset Storyfest and is passionate about fostering a love of reading among the next generation. Adrian proudly grew up in Hobart, but now lives in Melbourne with his sport-loving family and sock-stealing cavoodle.

Ghost Kiwi

By Ruth Paul



Can Ruby save a white kiwi?

When her grandfather Rex is hospitalised, 11-year-old Ruby retreats to the forest with her trusty dog sidekick and a weird old doll she wants to get rid of. Near the treehouse built by Rex, she discovers a kiwi burrow. And is that a white kiwi chick she sees?

Ruby and her friend Spider uncover a plot by the local vet to catch the white kiwi for an international smuggling ring. Together with a social misfit, who is both ex-convict and nature lover – and perhaps some mystical help from the local patupaiarehe – they manage to expose and catch the crooked vet.

Key Selling Points

- Award-winning author Ruth Paul found inspiration for this story close to home—she lives on a rural property that is a home to kiwi and she is actively involved in the kiwi conservation programme
- This well-crafted, compelling story weaves two cultures in an intriguing and action-packed mystery adventure, spiced with Kiwi banter and humour, but with universal themes of family connections and belonging, conservation and care for the nature and wildlife
- With trees that hold hands and friends that bridge cultures, the story takes us from deep inside a kiwi burrow to a town where families work together to protect a taonga of Tāne Mahuta—a precious white kiwi chick named Rākaunui, after the full moon
- Features themes of family relationships, friendship, conservation, mental health and the supernatural

AU RRP: \$18.99
NZ RRP: \$20.99

Publisher:
Scholastic New Zealand

ISBN: **9781775439080**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Fiction

Age Level:
9+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
176 PP

Printing:
**Full colour cover,
B&W Internals**

Publish Date:
July 2025

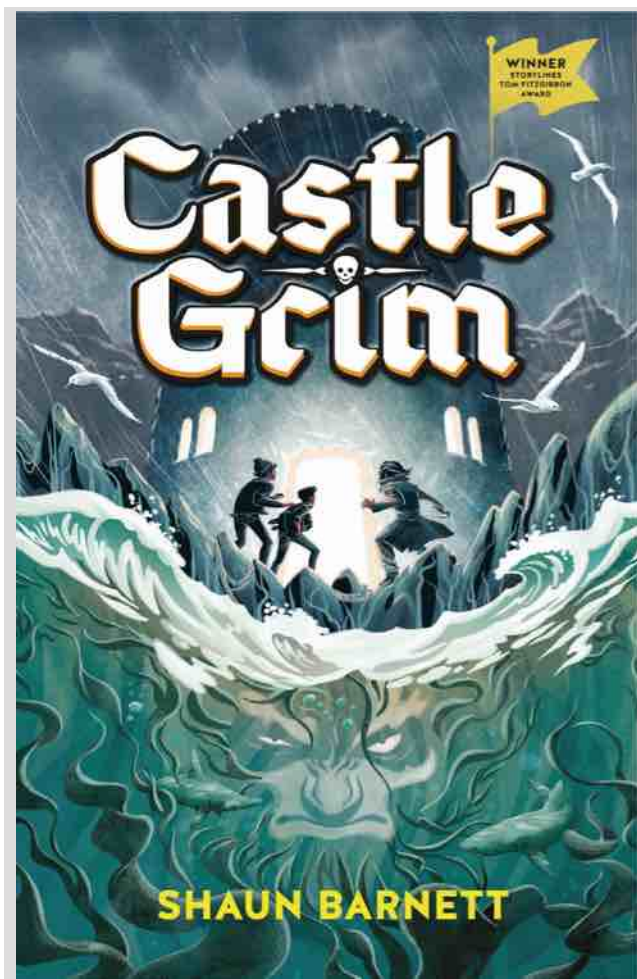
Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Ruth Paul is an award-winning author and illustrator, with titles *Stomp!*, *Bad Dog Flash*, *Bye-Bye Grumpy Fly*, *My Dinosaur Dad*, *My Meerkat Mum* and the popular 'Mini Whinny' series among her Scholastic collection. Her books have been published in NZ, Australia, the UK, the US, Canada, China and Korea. Scholastic titles *The King's Bubbles* and *Lion Guards the Cake* have both won best Picture Book at the NZ Children's Book Awards. Now turning her hand to longer work, *Ghost Kiwi* is Ruth's first middle-grade fiction.

Ruth lives on a rural property at Mākara, near Wellington, and found inspiration for this story close to home when wild kiwi were reintroduced to Te-Whanganui-a-Tara after 150 years' absence. She now hears kiwi calling at night and is actively involved in conserving their population and environment.

Castle Grim

By Shaun Barnett



Are there still people out there, in the rest of the world? For decades there's been nothing. No ships, no messages, nothing but floating debris.

Set in a future dystopia with no internet or global communications, where books can no longer be made and have become invaluable, twelve-year-old Herman's life is turned upside down when he's sent off to an orphanage – known as Castle Grim. Surrounded by pirates and stalked by kidnappers prowling the land, Herman is determined to find out what has happened to his parents and enlists the help of his clever friend Polly.

Having read every adventure story he could ever get his hands on, Herman is about to star in his own!

Key Selling Points

- Winner of the 2025 Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award
- Shaun Barnett's dramatic story of pirates, lighthouses and bravery will appeal to readers who enjoy fast-paced adventures
- A compelling, edge-of-your-seat story of courage, determination, friendship and mysterious family dramas, set amidst treacherous waters and rugged rocks that test the survival skills of all

AU RRP: \$18.99
NZ RRP: \$20.99

Publisher:
Scholastic New Zealand

ISBN: 9781775439639

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Fiction

Age Level:
9+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
248 PP

Printing:
Full colour cover,
B&W Internals

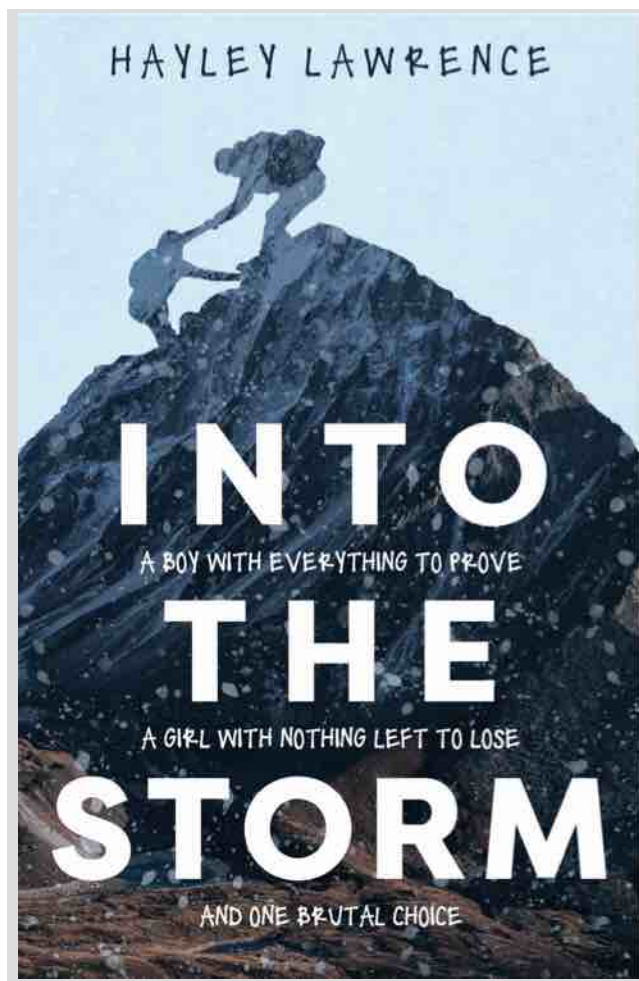
Publish Date:
March 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Shaun Barnett grew up in Auckland, the Waikato and Hawke's Bay before shifting to Wellington. He gained a degree in zoology and began his career working as a ranger for the Department of Conservation. Over time he followed his passion for photographing and writing about the New Zealand backcountry, being involved with Wilderness and Backcountry magazines both as a contributor and editor, as well as authoring a number of acclaimed books about tramping in New Zealand. Shaun explored just about every backcountry track and hut that Aotearoa has to offer and has often been described as the leading tramping author of his generation. Shaun loved to tramp, sea kayak, climb and spend time in nature – but he also loved to read. He loved children's literature throughout his life and some of his favourite childhood authors were Lloyd Alexander, Roald Dahl, Franklin W Dixon, Maurice Gee, Tove Jansson, Ursula K Le Guin, CS Lewis, Margaret Mahy, JRR Tolkien and Willard Price. Sadly, Shaun passed away before this book was published.

Into the Storm

By Hayley Lawrence



Silas's life is spiralling out of control when he receives an invitation from Eve to trek the Tasmanian wilderness, with a disclaimer:

It will be cold. Remote. Treacherous. And I cannot guarantee passage home alive.

The trek is a sheer vertical climb. In Antarctic conditions. Subject to violent storms. Untamed, unpeopled and dangerous.

Also, exactly what Silas needs to reset his compass.

But then a polar blast hits. Perilously cold and cut off from help, Silas and Eve face a stark, gale-forced world. And one terrible choice.

Choices are not always easy, even when they're right. But Silas has never shied away from making tough decisions. Until now. Until this.

Because *this* is the most brutal survival lesson. And sometimes the cost of saving a life can only be measured by the cost of losing one.

Key Selling Points

- A gripping new standalone thriller from acclaimed author Hayley Lawrence.
- Brilliantly written, this is a breathtaking, suspenseful novel that is full of heart-stopping action and danger.
- The story is told from two POVs: 16-year-old Silas, one of the characters from *Into the Wild*, who is desperate to escape his problems and reconnect with his dad, and 16-year-old Eve Winters, who is desperate to claim her freedom and reconnect with her sister.
- The story is about two fierce, fearless teenagers who will do anything to defy the odds and overcome the obstacles thrown in their paths.
- Contains themes of survival, bravery, personal loss and love.



AU RRP: \$19.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761727931

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
10+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
336 PP

Printing:
Mono

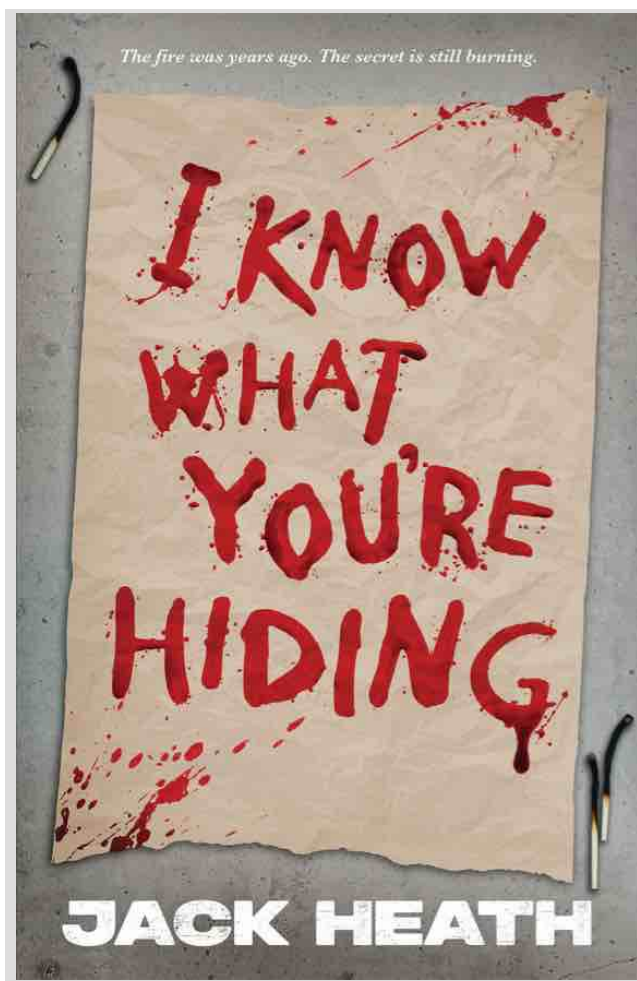
Publish Date:
June 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Hayley Lawrence has been writing since she learned to hold a pencil. She is currently a lawyer in coastal NSW, where she lives with her five beautifully wild daughters. Hayley's work is haunted by the stories she encounters as a lawyer, through her daughters and in the incredible people who lay their souls bare to her. Hayley's novels have won fellowships and been shortlisted for the Vogel Literary Award. Her novels have also received critical acclaim with the Children's Book Council of Australia, including an Honour Book Award in 2023.

I Know What You're Hiding

By Jack Heath



A DEADLY BLAZE. A DESPERATE GIRL. THREE DAYS TO CRACK THE CASE.

Everyone knows the story. Jamie George was the golden child. Her sister, Morgan, was nothing but trouble. When their house mysteriously burned down, Jamie barely survived. Morgan wasn't so lucky.

Three years later, teen podcaster Zoe Gale gets an urgent message. Jamie has been receiving anonymous threats and demands for cash, written in blood. She can't afford to pay. Instead, she wants Zoe to unmask the blackmailer.

Zoe has dealt with dangerous people before. She might have the skills to help, but she's not sure Jamie can be trusted. And soon she's digging up secrets someone would kill to keep buried . . .

Key Selling Points

- True crime podcaster Zoe Gale from *If You Tell Anyone, You're Next* has a new mystery to solve.
- From master of suspense, Jack Heath.
- Zoe is fierce, smart and not afraid to stir the pot.
- Impossible to put down—full of heart-pounding danger and intrigue.
- Stunning twist at the end.
- For fans of *Knives Out*, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* and *One of Us is Lying*.

More from Jack Heath

If You Tell Anyone, You're Next (2023)

'Spy Academy' series

'Minutes of Danger' series



AU RRP: \$17.99

Publisher:
Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 9781761526794

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
Novel

Age Level:
12+

Dimensions:
(P) 198 x 128 MM

Page Count:
320 PP

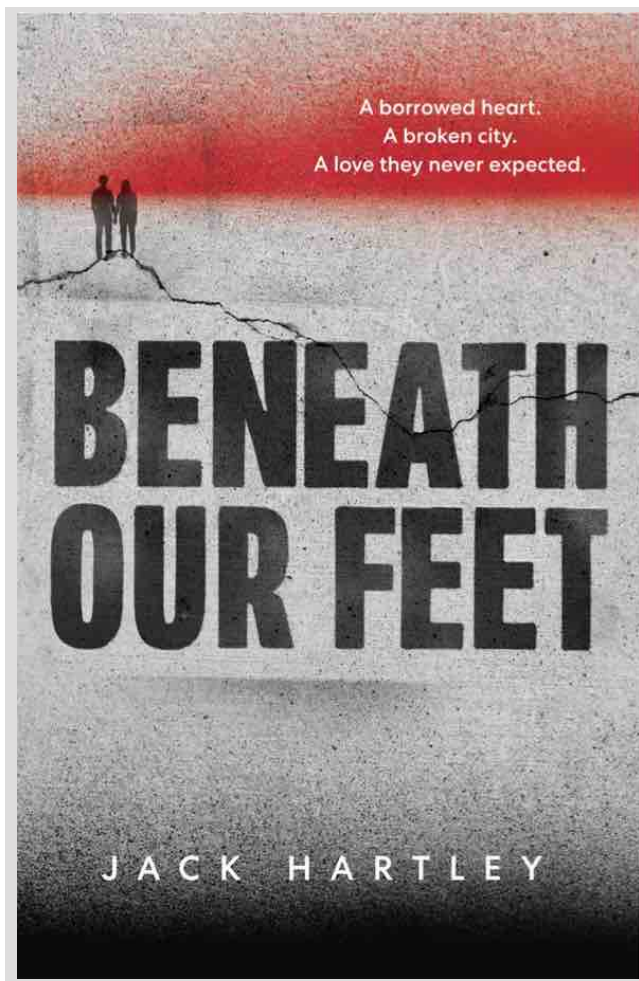
Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
April 2026

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Beneath Our Feet

By Jack Hartley



Alfie watches as the city he calls home crumbles in the Christchurch earthquake. From this tragedy, he gets a second chance at life; a heart transplant that links him forever to one of the victims.

Dani's diagnosis is grim. She's already survived cancer once, but knows there's no escaping it this time. She refuses to suffer like her mother did, or put her father through that again.

When Alfie and Dani meet, she takes him into Christchurch's sealed-off cordon—where they discover a world beyond anything they could have imagined, a world where time stops.

Key Selling Points

- Hartley has written a YA love story of subtle magical realism that explores the struggles and joys of growing up in the shadow of societal and personal tragedy.
- Readers are shown Alfie and Dani's world through their own eyes, sharing their goofy, fun times, as well as their tender ones, as the relationship blossoms.
- Set in the post-quake Christchurch of 2011.

AU RRP: \$17.99
NZ RRP: \$21.99

Publisher:
Scholastic New Zealand

ISBN: **9781775439196**

Format/Binding:
Paperback

Type:
YA Fiction

Age Level:
14+

Dimensions:
(P) 208 x 135 MM

Page Count:
256 PP

Printing:
Mono

Publish Date:
October 2025

Rights:
World excl. ANZ

Jack Hartley was born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand. With his background in psychology and his passion for raising awareness and understanding of mental health issues, Jack uses his literature to tackle the complexities and hardships that teens face as they go through major life events, discover who they are, and feel real love for the first time.

Jack's first YA novel, *All the Other Days* was published in 2018. *Beneath Our Feet* is his first novel with Scholastic New Zealand.



AARON
BLABEY

