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CHILDRENS RIGHTS CATALOGUE

SPRING 2024



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Zeitgeist Agency is a unique literary agency founded in 2009 with an international outlook. From our Sydney and Brussels offices, we represent writers from around the world including Australia, USA, UK, Europe, Russia, Turkey and China.

Our catalogue includes bestsellers, the finest literary fiction, crime and thrillers, inspiring memoirs and thought-provoking non-fiction. We also represent picture books, middle grade and YA/crossover titles from around the world.

We work directly with publishers in UK, Australia/NZ, France, Israel, Nordic countries and the Baltic states. In other countries we rely on a network of 15 dedicated co-agents (see full list on the last page).

Our passion is to connect writers, publishers and media across the globe. We hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Warm regards,
Benyhton, Sharon and Thomasin
www.zeitgeistagency.com/



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CO-AGENTS

Young Adult



LITERARY FICTION /
CROSSOVER YA

#truth #reincarnation #power of
connection #fate #spiritual quest

Australia/NZ Aug 2024 · Hachette
Russia 2024 · Azbooka-Atticus

* All other rights available

* MS available

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK:

'This extraordinary novel—propelled by the dark, rich talents of a truly brilliant writer—dazzles, staggers and amazes.'
— Elizabeth Gilbert



Courtney Collins (AUSTRALIA)

Bird

Bird has already died twenty-two times, each time just before her 15th birthday. Who can she trust to break the pattern?

Himalayas: unknown year.

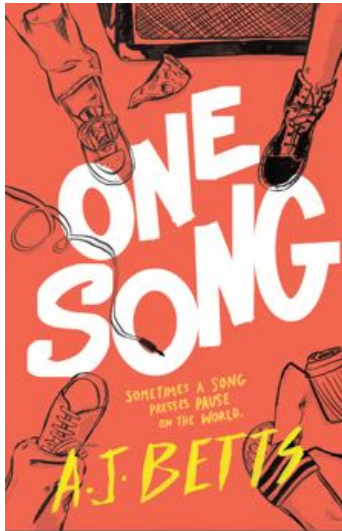
'Ten thousand strands of trouble,' is what Bird's father says, watching as Bird's sister braids her hair. On the eve of her fourteenth year, that trouble finds Bird. She recruits her only friend Teshi and flees her home to escape an arranged marriage. They vanish into a crowd of pilgrims on the way to the Holy Mountain—not knowing that violence is circling and now has its eyes on Bird.

Darwin: present day.

Waking in a hospital bed, Bird tries to remember what brought her here. A man whose gaze she knew to fear, a stolen car, a plastic gun, and a real bullet in her shoulder. Strand by strand, memories return of her first life and the Holy Mountain, and she faces the awful truth that she is stuck in a never-ending pattern. Every life, she dies alone before she reaches the age of 15. When nurse Margie wants to help Bird, why is her instinct always to run? The lesson she has failed to learn so far is that to survive, she must learn to trust and can't liberate herself alone.

A masterful and profoundly moving novel about a girl determined to live on her own terms, no matter the cost. *Bird* is an unforgettable story of hope, resilience and the power of connection.

COURTNEY COLLINS is a writer and producer and a creative writing teacher. In 2017 she started Ngukurr Story Projects to support First Nations storytellers to tell stories in their traditional languages. Her first novel, *The Burial* (Allen & Unwin), was published in ten countries and shortlisted for the Stella Prize, the Nita B Kibble Literary Award and NSW Premier's Literary Awards for New Writing. It is being adapted as a feature film. Courtney holds a Masters of Creative Writing from the University of Melbourne. In 2019, she undertook initial research on *Bird* in the Himalayas as part of an Asialink Residency. She is currently completing a PhD titled 'Working Against Whiteness in Creative Literary Production'. Instagram: [@cc_writer](https://www.instagram.com/cc_writer)



YA FICTION / CONTEMPORARY

Age 12+

76,000 words

Australia Sept 2023 · Pan Macmillan

* All other rights available

* From the author of *Hive* & *Rogue*



AJ Betts (AUSTRALIA)

One Song

Sometimes A Song Presses Pause on the World

Write and record a new song in a weekend: what could possibly go wrong?

On a Friday evening, 17-year-old Eva and three other band members meet in Cooper's granny flat for their final rehearsal. They're scheduled to record the song they'll enter into 2022's Triple J Unearthed High competition, which will hopefully change their lives completely.

But things don't go to plan. After Ruby lambasts the song, Eva forbids them from leaving and demands a weekend lock-in during which they'll collaboratively write, rehearse, and record a new song, uploading it in time for the Sunday afternoon deadline.

Set in one location over 45 hours, *One Song* is part *Breakfast Club*, part fly-on-the-wall documentary, and part coming-of-age story. It features an unlikely band of teenagers—Eva, Cooper, Ruby, and Ant—as well as Mim, who's recording the event for her school media project. The novel delves into ideas of aspiration and hope, creativity, relationships, mental health, courage, passion, and unrequited love.

One Song is told in 28 chapters and in six parts to resemble a song structure: Intro, Verse, Pre-chorus, Chorus, Bridge, Outro.

AJ BETTS is the award-winning author of five YA novels (*Hive*, *Rogue*, *Zac & Mia*, *Wavelength*, *Shutterspeed*). *Zac & Mia* (Text Publishing 2013) was adapted for television and is an Emmy Award-winning two-season series, streaming worldwide. The novel won the Text Prize for YA writing, the Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature (NSW Premier's Award), the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award, and was published in 12 countries. *Hive* (Pan Macmillan 2018) was shortlisted for various awards, and is studied throughout Australian schools as a dystopian text. In 2018, A.J. was awarded a PhD on the topic of 'wonder' in young adult fiction and in 2019 she received the inaugural West Australian Premier's Writer's Fellowship. A.J. is a popular presenter at festivals and schools, combining her passion for creativity, story, and education. She lives in Fremantle, Western Australia.

**YA FICTION**

Age 14+

#gothic #horror

85,000 words

* All rights available

* MS available May 1

Amy Glover (UK/AUSTRALIA)**The Witches of Belle River****This is not a ghost story... this is a human story.**

The Campbell sisters, Claire and Emilie, are returning to Belle River two years on from the tragic death of their mother. The trip is not a homecoming; it's a chance for them to pack up the last of their possessions and sell their childhood home, The Manor. The Manor is surrounded by bushland and large gum trees bordered by a river, linked closely to the ancestral magic of the Campbell family.

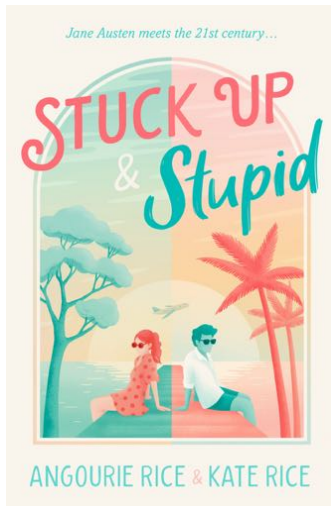
Neither Claire or Emilie practice their magic anymore. Emilie works as a fashion reporter in the city and Claire is in school and blames herself for her mother's death. For Claire, returning to Belle River brings up feelings of dread, surrounded by memories of her mother and their magical powers.

In the next town over, Oliver Welch finds himself in the centre of something unexplainable. He and his friends are being haunted, or at least that's what one of them is convinced is happening, and as his friends begin to die, Oliver is led to believe she must be right.

When Oliver meets the Campbell sisters, commonly referred to as 'the witches' around town, he finally finds the help he needs, or so he hopes. Claire and Oliver do not know it, but their worlds are slowly being entwined, drawn together by grief, magic and a spirit hell bent on destroying everything.



AMY GLOVER is a London-based writer, bookseller and librarian. When she isn't taking photos for her Instagram or creating book-inspired music playlists, she is attempting to finish a novel or two, motivated by the dream of connecting with readers who she hopes will love her characters as much as she does. Being the creator of the next YA heartthrob is also a goal. Instagram: [@amyglover_writer](https://www.instagram.com/amyglover_writer)



YA FICTION / TEEN ROMANCE

Australia 2025 · Walker Books

UK 2025 · Walker Books

USA 2025 · Candlewick Books

Film option · Hello Sunshine

* Walker Books Australia holds World Rights

Angourie Rice & Kate Rice (AUSTRALIA)

Stuck Up & Stupid

A reimagining of *Pride and Prejudice* set in today's international film world, by a mother-and-daughter writing team who share a love of Jane Austen and first-hand experience of Hollywood

Stuck Up & Stupid follows the daughters of the Bennet sisters — as if they were coming of age in the 2020s. This generation of teens is definitely not looking for love.

The quiet coastal community of Pippi Beach, Australia is rocked when a party of young Hollywood movie stars and influencers arrives for the summer. Like most of the locals, mum **Lydia** is thrilled to have celebrities stay nearby. Her teenage daughter **Lily** is not so impressed. As she expected, the Hollywood types are superficial and arrogant—especially **Dorian Khan**, the most famous of them all.

While Lily's mum falls for the young **Alex** and imparts on a fling, Lily is in turns amused and appalled by the excesses of the movie business, and more than a little surprised when Dorian Khan seeks her out.

Where is love to be found amidst lies, scandals, bribes, influence, not to mention helicopters landing on protected beaches?



ANGOURIE RICE is an actor with international feature film and television credits, including *Mare of Easttown*, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, *Black Mirror* and *Ladies in Black*. Angourie also writes, produces and hosts a literary podcast, *The Community Library*.



KATE RICE is an AWGIE award-winning playwright with a PhD in ethical creative process and experience writing theatre with and for young people. Her work has been commissioned by Melbourne City of Literature, Curtin University, Deckchair Theatre, Barking Gecko Theatre, Darwin Theatre Company, Darwin High School and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts.



YA FICTION / THRILLER

* All rights available

* MS available

'Really exciting page-turner with an excellent premise and terrific pacing. Huge potential.'

– Tablo Judge and Publisher, Hardie Grant Australia

'Catherine has a great voice, and she has created an intriguing cast of characters...Mae's internal thoughts, her paranoia and awkwardness were done really well.'

– Tablo Judge and Publisher, Pantera Press Australia

Catherine E. Kovach (USA)

Jenny Was a Friend of Mine

In an attempt to uncover who killed her best friend, Mae will do anything to get a confession...even if it kills *them*.

College student Jenny is murdered at a party. Her best friend and secret lover Mae is shattered. A month goes by and the police still don't know who killed Jenny. In a desperate attempt to unveil the killer, Mae invites five friends (and in her mind the most likely suspects) to her family's cabin in the woods.

A bloody surprise in the woods mixed with revealed secrets sets the group on edge and soon they begin to unravel. Trapped in the cabin due to a snowstorm and a few slashed tires, they each recount their version of the party where Jenny ended up dead, all in an attempt to uncover the killer and save themselves. As they start to lose grip on reality, one of the five friends is murdered.

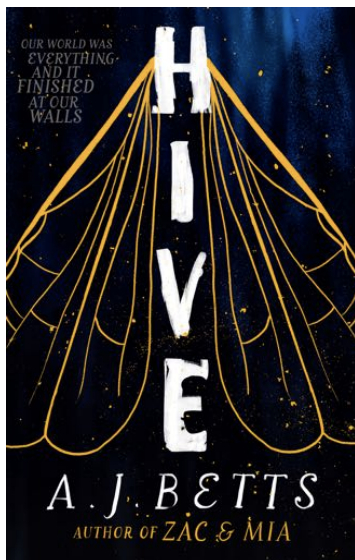
As Mae sits in a police station explaining the events herself, she not only tells the story of what happened at the cabin, but also reveals what transpired during the party. As Mae goes deeper and deeper in recounting events, it becomes clear to the reader that she might not be telling the whole story. What is Mae hiding? Who killed Jenny? What really happened at the cabin?

Told primarily from Mae's point of view, with the story shifting from events at the party to the cabin to the police station, *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is a new spin on the classic page-turner with an unreliable narrator.



CATHERINE E. KOVACH has written articles and stories for *Diabolique Magazine*, *Bustle.com* and *Starlog Magazine*. She was an assistant editor for Skyhorse Publishing and now works as a content producer for a marketing firm specializing in engineering and augmented reality. You can also find her in the online role-playing gaming community where she creates virtual characters. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and three beloved cats. *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is her first novel. Twitter: [@Catherin3Kovach](https://twitter.com/Catherin3Kovach)

Young Adult
Featured Backlist Title



YA FICTION / SPECULATIVE

Age 13+

Book 1 is 260 words

Book 2 is 350 words

Australia June 2018 & July 2019 ·

Pan Macmillan

TV/Film rights · optioned, by producer

Rebecca O'Brien

* All other rights available



AJ Betts (AUSTRALIA)

Hive & Rogue

Shortlisted ABIA (Australian Book Industry Award) Book of the Year 2019

Shortlisted Indie Book Awards 2019

Shortlisted The Inky Award 2019

Longlisted CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia Awards) 2019

In a world that shouldn't exist, lives a girl who doesn't belong.

BOOK #1: HIVE

It's the year 2120 and fifteen-year-old Hayley is a beekeeper in an underwater seed vault where people came 100 years earlier seeking shelter from an asteroid. Seeking relief for her headaches, Hayley trespasses where she shouldn't. She sneaks into the engine house to hide in the unused corridor, the only place in the world that gives her comfort from her headaches, a worrying symptom of madness.

It's there she hears the drip. *A drip of water from the ceiling?* It doesn't make sense. In this world, water only comes from the source, from God. Everybody knows that. And yet the drip is real. She hears it, catches it. Tastes it. *Why would salt water drip from a ceiling of a corridor?*

Curiosity is a hook. What starts as a drip leads to a lie, a death, a boy, a beast, and too many awful questions. As Hayley uncovers more secrets, she learns there are greater fears than madness. Her world will never be the same.

BOOK #2: ROGUE

Having escaped the only world she'd ever known, Hayley finds herself afloat in another. Washing up on Maria Island, Hayley discovers a lush kind of Eden thick with eucalypts and butterflies. She has no words for these things, nor knowledge of how to survive.

How do you start again? And how do you know if you truly want to?

To everyone in this world, Hayley looks like just any other drifter, floating for a safer place...until they realise how special she is.

Everything has a price, Hayley learns, and some things are more valuable than others. What would she do to protect her old world and the boy who helped her to escape? *What wouldn't she do?*

AJ BETTS is the award-winning author of three YA novels (*Zac & Mia*, *Wavelength*, *Shutterspeed*). *Zac & Mia* (Text Publishing, 2013) won the Text Prize for YA writing, the Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature (NSW Premier's Award), the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award, and was published in 12 countries. AJ recently completed her PhD in 'wonder' in young adult fiction. She works at Princess Margaret Hospital as an English teacher. She is a popular presenter at festivals and schools, combining her passion for creativity, story, and education. She lives in Perth by the beach.

Middle Grade



**MIDDLE GRADE / NON-FICTION /
POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY**

232 pages · Two-colour illustrations
Age 8+

Greece 2023 · Key Books

* All other rights available

* English full translation available (68
pages without illustrations)

* Greek final pages available

*World English & Nordic rights by Zeitgeist
Agency on behalf of Ersilia Agency

*The adult edition is a bestseller
with 30,000+ copies sold in Greece
alone & published in 15 territories.*

Dr Theodore Papakostas (GREECE)

How to Fit All of Ancient Greece into an Elevator [for kids]

Middle grade edition of best-selling adult book

**Can antiquity be fun, thrilling, and accessible? Is archaeological
knowledge something you can flex about?**

Fun, funny, and full of facts, this book will educate young readers (and parents too!) about archaeology and antiquity in the most entertaining way. It will take them on a tour of the ancient world, show them how exciting archaeology can be, and help them reconnect with their ancient brothers and sisters.

Kids will find out who the biggest superhero of the ancient world was; how the twelve gods of Olympus were actually thirteen; why a little donkey became a celebrated hero in ancient Athens; what was the most famous riddle of antiquity (and how to solve it); as well as the inner workings of archaeology itself. By the end of the book, readers will not only have fallen in love with antiquity, they might even be inspired to become - why not! - archaeologists themselves!

The comic-book-style illustrations by Lawrence Ellick in two colours enhance the reading experience.



DR. THEODORE PAPAΚOSTAS was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He earned his bachelor's degree in Archaeology from the U. of Reading and his MA in Prehistoric Archaeology from the U. of Nottingham. He has participated in excavations in Greece and the UK and has worked at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki and the Archaeological Service of Kilkis. He holds a PhD in Classical Archaeology (Aristotle U. of Thessaloniki). With the belief that knowledge of the past is power and that antiquity concerns us all, he created [Archaeostoryteller](https://www.archaeostoryteller.com), Instagram stories about ancient times conveyed in a straightforward, immediate and entertaining way with 100k followers.



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

#football #series potential

Age 7-11

* All rights available

* MS available March 1st

Dean Wallis (UNITED KINGDOM)

Misfits FC

Can Jack lead his club to success or will his football dreams drown in Hodgson-on-Sea?

At eleven-years-old, Jack Wilson's football career is on the rocks. A family move forces Jack to leave his all-conquering team and join Hodgson FC, a scrappy tin-pot club with a serious habit of losing.

Jack's fast feet and silky skills make him Hodgson's best player. But his ambition of captaining a band of misfits to success leads to conflict with his best friend Sky and X, the team's loud-mouth goalie. Jack's disillusion grows when the club hires a female coach and a new *girl* player crushes Jack at juggling. It's a boys team!

Will he ever make the big league? And is that even what success looks like? As Jack doubles down in pursuit of greatness, his determination and single-mindedness clashes with something deeper – a yearning for acceptance and belonging at his new club.

Misfits FC is a story about football, friendship and the ups-and-downs of chasing a dream. It explores themes of friendship, personal development, rivalry, jealousy, and wider societal issues of gender equality, diversity in sport, and immigration. In the spirit of Jamie Johnson and Ted Lasso, it is a feel-good story for anyone looking for a place to call home.



DEAN WALLIS grew up in the East End of London before stints of living in Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. He has coached football and has taught junior school for 10 years, and today he splits his time between writing, tutoring and social impact projects. These include helping found an academy in Sri Lanka, working with displaced children in Kosovo, mentoring young entrepreneurs and helping students overcome their maths anxieties. Dean champions the notion that children learn best when surrounded by love and respect, as true on the football pitch as it is in the classroom. Dean is coordinator for SCBWI Belgium. *Misfits FC* is his debut. Dean's [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



LOWER MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Age 7+

#comedy #horror

25,000 words

World Rights 2025 · Larrikin House

* Larrikin House holds World Rights

Pip Harry (AUSTRALIA) & Kate Foster (UK-AUSTRALIA) Camp Spook: Attack of the Aliants

First in a series of horror-comedy books in the spirit of *Goosebumps*.

Julia Eton, 10, loves music. It's her thing, her talent, her passion. So attending the week-long Sensational Sport Superstars of the Future Sports Camp for her average netball skills is all down to her professional sporting hero parents. If only they listened and understood that sports aren't her future. Still, she's on the bus so there's no turning back now.

Jimmy Lewis, 11, swims at a council pool in a ratty pair of speedos and leaky goggles, but his natural talent has earned him a golden ticket to the Camp. He intends to make the most out of every second with top coaches and state-of-the-art facilities.

After their bus almost crashes enroute after an unexplained earthquake, Julia and Jimmy's camp goes from weird to weirder. What starts with rank smells and flashing lights at night, turns to missing mobile phones and kids playing sports with superhuman strength, turns to a shocking discovery in an underground tunnel behind the bin – giant, blue alien ants whose spaceship has crashed, leaving them stranded.

When secret agents from the Bureau of Unexplained Mysteries (B.U.M.) catch wind of alien activity on the camp, Julia and Jimmy use their skills and courage to get the Camp – and their own dreams – back on track.



KATE FOSTER is originally from southeast England and now lives in Australia with her family and second-hand dogs. She is passionate about encouraging a wider understanding of autism and mental illness through a positive approach and representation in both her books and talks. Her middle grade novels include *PAWS*, *The Bravest Word*, *The Unlike Heroes Club*, and *Small Acts* along with her chapter book *Harriet Hound*. She has written a guided reader for the neurodiverse series *Third Time's The Charm!* (Collins Big Cat, 2023) kfosterbooks.com



PIP HARRY writes contemporary fiction including bestselling verse novel *The Little Wave*, winner of the 2020 CBCA Children's Book of the Year. Through her work, Pip encourages kids to be kind, brave and true to themselves. Pip's most recent middle grade novels include *CNBA Notable Are You There, Buddha?* and *August & Jones*. She is working on two contracted picture books and as a content creator for a non-profit foundation who builds homes for at-risk youth. Insta: [@piphaz](https://www.instagram.com/piphaz) pippharry.com

Illustrator Corner

Illustrator Focus

Gabriela Larios

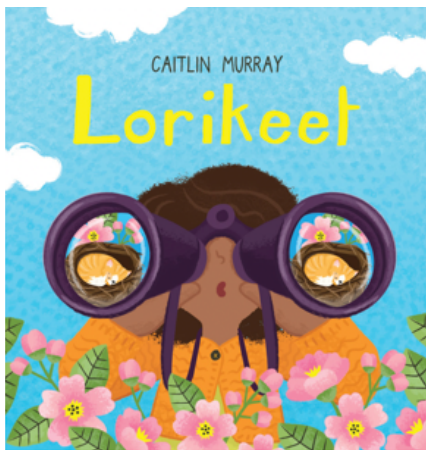


GABRIELA LARIOS received her Masters' from Camberwell College of Arts in London. As illustrator and textile designer, her creative world derives from her interest in the natural world. There is a naive and playful spirit captured in her work and a strong connection between memories of her childhood in El Salvador and her body of work: tortoises, fishes, plants, flowers. Her work has been exhibited in Europe and has appeared in books and magazines worldwide.

Recent honours: In 2016 Gabriela received an Honourable Mention for her illustration "Coastal Birds" from 3x3 International Illustration Awards. In 2017, her work was featured at the Cass Art Gallery in Islington/London in their exhibition "Wild and Civilised", organised in conjunction with the AOI. She was selected as a finalist for the VIA Art Prize and exhibited at the Brazilian Embassy in London. Her pattern work was featured in Laurence King's book Print & Pattern Nature Book published this year.

www.gabriellarios.com





PICTURE BOOK

Age 3-5

24 pages / 450 words

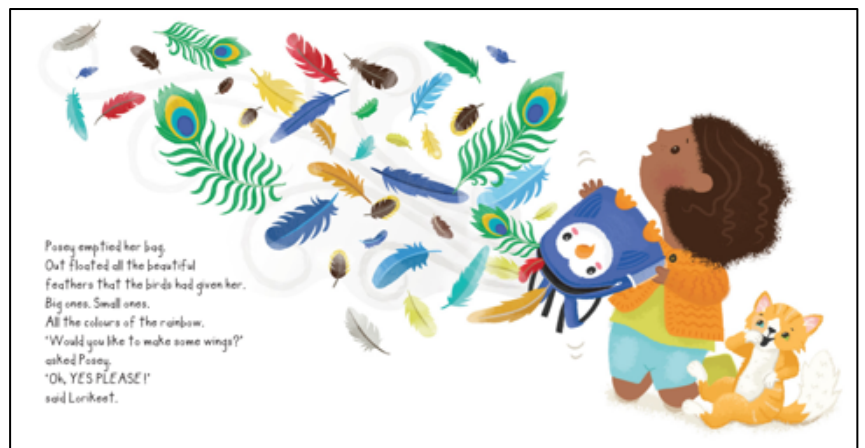
* All rights available

Caitlin Murray (AUSTRALIA)

Lorikeet

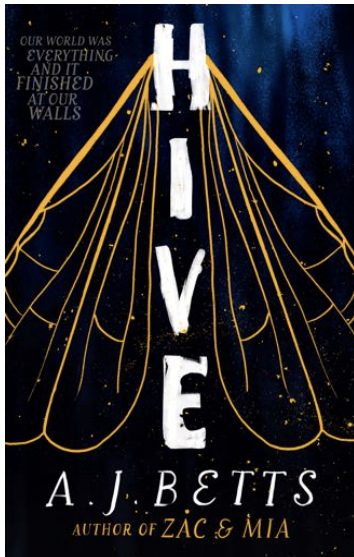
Posey had never met a cat who wanted to fly before, UNTIL TODAY! Spring has sprung at 15 Clancy Street. Join Posey, Peacock, Fairy Wren and Rosella as they adventure through the garden and work together to turn dreams into a reality for a very special new friend!

Lorikeet explores themes of courage, friendship, belonging/identity, acceptance, sharing, teamwork, diversity, celebrating difference and big dreams.



CAITLIN MURRAY spent her childhood in Victoria Australia's Western District, where the country air suited her allergies and the horses suited her teenage dreams. After a Bachelor of Education at Melbourne University, she studied Gold and Silversmithing, then Millinery and finally realised that illustration was her passion. She completed a Diploma of Illustration in 2002. Caitlin spent ten years in the fashion industry designing prints and graphics for some of Australia's largest retailers. Since 2014 she writes and illustrates children's books and creates for Melbourne Toy Company *Tiger Tribe*. Caitlin's books include *Beetle and Boo*, *The Missing Treasure* and *The Medical Emergency*. She has also illustrated *Something For Fleur* and *Diary of a Pregnant Dad*.

Backlist



YA FICTION / SPECULATIVE

Age 13+

Book 1 is 260 words

Book 2 is 350 words

Australia June 2018 & July 2019

Pan Macmillan

TV/Film rights · optioned, by producer
Rebecca O'Brien

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AJ Betts (AUSTRALIA)

Hive & Rogue

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It's the year 2120 and fifteen-year-old Hayley is a beekeeper in an underwater seed vault where people came 100 years earlier seeking shelter from an asteroid. Seeking relief for her headaches, Hayley trespasses where she shouldn't. She sneaks into the engine house to hide in the unused corridor, the only place in the world that gives her comfort from her headaches, a worrying symptom of madness.

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YA FICTION / CROSSOVER

Australia/NZ 2020 · Vintage PRH

Film Rights · Caravan Pictures with

Director Ben Lawrence

Theatre · Belvoir Theatre, Sydney

** All other rights available*

'An outstanding debut about love, memory, community and finding your place in a beautiful and heartbreaking world. Pham is a master at showing that all people are complex, contradictory and difficult to define. The characters in The Coconut Children will linger on in your mind like a great open-ended question.'

— Felicity Castagna, author of *No More Boats*, shortlisted, Miles Franklin Award

'In lyric slivers as sharp as the 'blade of water' refugees cross, Pham maps the shape and grain of fierce and fragile resilience against intergenerational trauma, secrets and desire. The momentum of this novel, its originality, energy and verve, are extraordinary. Vivian Pham is, without doubt, a major new talent.'

— Felicity Plunkett, poet and critic



Vivian Pham (AUSTRALIA)

The Coconut Children

Shortlisted ABIA New Writer of the Year 2021 (winner tba April 28)

Shortlisted The Victoria Premier's Award 2021

Shortlisted The New South Wales Premier's Literary Award 2021

'Vivian Pham is one of the indispensable voices of her generation'

- Dave Eggers

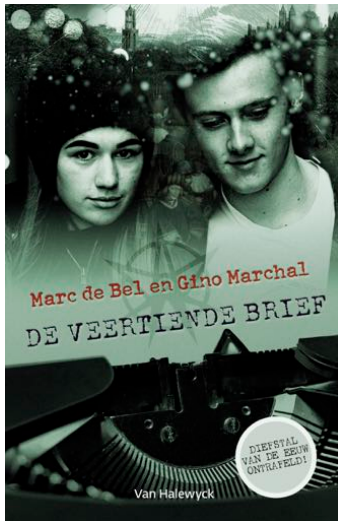
Sonny and Vince have always known each other. It took two years of juvenile prison, a crazy mother and a porn stash for them to meet again.

The year is 1998. The place is Cabramatta, a Sydney suburb with the largest Vietnamese population in Australia. Stabbings are commonplace, drug dealers peddle on every street corner and teenage boys are armed with pocketknives. Sixteen-year-old Sonny Vuong couldn't be more removed from all the trouble that stirs right outside her bedroom window. Sheltered and helplessly hormonal, Sonny is consumed with a burning desire for just about anyone. Her casual love interests include a balding high school chemistry teacher, any KFC employee that happens to spare her a glance and, of course, Prince William. The web of steamy affairs she has invented for her own entertainment has helped her cope with her controlling and angry mother.

But all pretenses threaten to fall apart at the return of Vince Tran, a family friend who was taken to juvenile prison two years ago. Now, Vince is back, and Sonny is determined to light a flame in his heart. Only one problem remains: they have not spoken a word to each other since they were children. Against all odds, an unlikely and sweet romance blossoms. In an age where children are forced out of their youth, Sonny and Vince pick up the scraps of innocence together.

The Coconut Children is a tale of coming of age, growing apart from parents, and coming to terms with who we are, instead of how others see us.

VIVIAN PHAM is an eighteen-year-old student and writer. Her father was the same age when he escaped war-torn Vietnam by boat and set out to make a life for himself in America. Vivian was born in Orange County California and emigrated to Australia with her family as a toddler. *The Coconut Children* was purchased by Penguin Random House in a five-way auction. Vivian recently attended the invitation-only International Congress of Youth Voices in San Francisco founded by Dave Eggers.



YA FICTION / MYSTERY

Age 12+

208 pages

Belgium (Flemish) 2018 · Van Halewyck

* All other rights available

* Dutch final ms available

* English sample translation and long synopsis available



Marc de Bel & Gino Marchal (BELGIUM)

The Fourteenth Letter

For 84 years it has been missing. An 15th century art masterpiece stolen from a cathedral, then hidden, and never found. Until now.

Dear Mr. Mayor, Dear Chief Commissioner,

We have the privilege to inform you that we know where Van Eyck's masterpiece painting, stolen from the Ghent cathedral on April 10th 1934, has been hidden for the past 84 years.

Sincerely, Wannes and Nina

When Wannes' grandfather dies, he inherits his old typewriter. It is no ordinary typewriter, but the one used by Arsene Goedertier to type 14 extortion letters: ransom notes asking for payment in exchange for the return of a Van Eyck painting. The 14th letter, unsent, was discovered in a desk drawer, and contains clues to the location of the missing painting. No one has managed to decipher the clues until now.

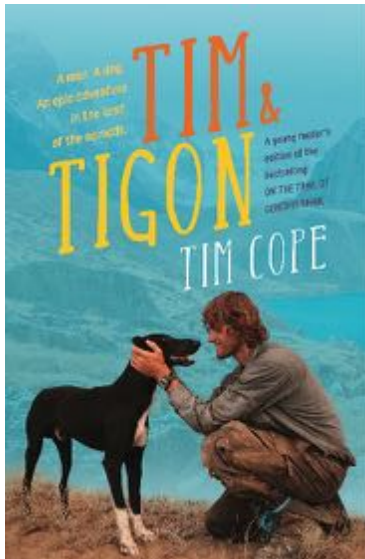
Based on a true story of one of the greatest unsolved art robberies of all time, *The Fourteenth Letter* plunges the reader into Wannes' and Nina's search for the missing painting. The story alternates with letters, photos and maps from Ghent's archives, and with present day internet searches and lyrics from The Beatles and Nirvana.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/15/puzzler-says-he-has-cracked-code-to-stolen-belgian-masterpiece>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ghent-altarpiece-code-solved-gino-marchal-belgium-treasure-dig-holes-kalandeberg-mystic-lamb-a8402156.html>

MARC DE BEL, with over 2 million copies sold of his novels, is one of the best-loved children's writers in Belgium. He has written over 160 books and graphic novels, plus four films, theatre reproductions, and has won the most prestigious children's book award in Belgium, the Flemish Youth Jury Prize. His work has been translated into French, German, Chinese, Italian, Danish, Norwegian, Korean, Faroese and even Sami. He lives in Flanders with his wife, three cats, dog, ponies and chickens.

GINO MARCHAL is an R&D engineer by day and an amateur-sleuth by night. After an intense investigation last year, he believes to have solved the largest art puzzle in Belgium's history: the location of stolen painting by Van Eyck. He likes to solve puzzles, find his way out of an escape-room or engage in some mad-scientist tinkering when he's not playing with his cat Igor.



MIDDLE GRADE NON-FICTION /
MEMOIR

Age 10+

352 pages

Australia Sept 2019 · Pan Macmillan

* All other rights available

'Tim Cope is a beautiful explorer – by which I mean that he explores beautiful places, but also that he does it beautifully. This is a young man possessed of extraordinary courage, but also great sensitivity and respect. His writing, like his journeys, speaks to a heightened soul, operating at its highest potential. He is an inspiration to me and I believe he will be an inspiration for many. To anyone who believes that there are no worlds left to be discovered, I offer up the evidence of this magnificent tale.' – Elizabeth Gilbert, author *Eat, Pray, Love*



Tim Cope (AUSTRALIA)

Tim & Tigon

Young Reader's Edition of *On The Trail of Genghis Khan*

Tim's epic adventure in the hostile steppe teaches that the key to life is making friends, helping one another, and persevering when times are difficult.

Tim & Tigon is a book for young readers based on Tim Cope's global bestseller *On the Trail of Genghis Khan: An Epic Journey Through The Land Of the Nomads* (Bloomsbury 2013).

The story details Tim's extraordinary three-year 6,000-mile adventure as he rides by horse from Mongolia to Europe, inspired by the legendary horsemen of Genghis Khan.

This young reader's edition focuses on adventures in vast and wildly extreme landscapes and the meeting of diverse, mainly nomadic cultures and individuals. Tim builds relationships with his band of horses, occasional camels and especially his trusty canine companion, Tigon – a Kazakh hunting dog gifted to Tim in the early days of his trip.

The journey is a true rite of passage for Tim, and serves as a metaphor for the journeys that young adults go through in life, equipping them with inspiration and tools to overcome adversity and follow their dreams. Messages of resilience, community, cultural tolerance, staying positive, connection to the natural world and animals are at the core of the story.

TIM COPE is an award-winning adventurer, author and film-maker with a special interest in the traditional cultures of Central Asia and Russia. He has studied as a wilderness guide in the Finnish and Russian subarctic, ridden a bicycle across Russia to China, and rowed a boat along the Yenisey River through Siberia to the Arctic Ocean. Tim's most renowned journey was a three-year, 6,000-mile trek by horse from Mongolia to Hungary on the trail of Genghis Khan – a quest to understand the horseback nomads of the great Eurasian steppe. Tim is the author of *Off the Rails: Moscow to Beijing on Recumbent Bikes* (Penguin) and *On the Trail of Genghis Khan: An Epic Journey Through the Lands of the Nomads* (Bloomsbury).



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Ages 8-12

33,000 words

** All rights available*

Erica Green (USA)

The Maggie B

A reimagining of *Where the Wild Things Are* for girls, with a touch of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

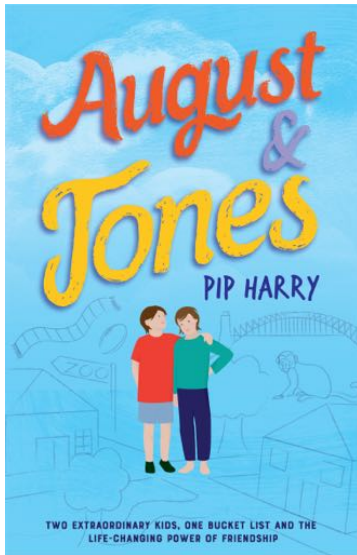
12-year-old Maggie wakes up during a massive storm to discover that her houseboat, once docked in Sausalito, California, is lost at sea. After surviving a harrowing night alone, she arrives at a spectacularly beautiful island. There, she's joined by an adorable, energetic dragonfly and befriends an intelligent bird in distress. Maggie sets out to help the bird, hoping that in doing so she can also find a way to help herself.

As she makes an arduous trek across the island, Maggie must find her strength and learn to trust her totally foreign companions. Maggie discovers that even when we feel completely lost, if we believe in ourselves, rely on those who are different to us, and give in—even a little bit—to the wild magic of our planet, we can thrive.

The story explores themes around self-esteem, body image, positive thinking and how girls find and harness strength. With the backdrop of a picturesque island, there's also a light thread of conservation, inspiring readers to care about the environment.



ERICA GREEN has worked in the publishing industry for over twenty years: as an editor, a freelance writer, as the founder of the Iceland Writers Retreat, as the VP, Editorial Director at National Geographic Kids, and now as the Co-Founder of WonderLab. She has authored articles for websites and newspapers, and had stories published in travel anthologies. *The Maggie B* is her first novel. Erica currently resides in Washington DC with her husband, two children, and a beagle.



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Age 9+

Australia/NZ 2022 · Hachette

Russia 2022 · Melik Pashaev

* All other rights available

PRaise for previous works:



'Pip Harry's words are imbued with hope, and the message that falling down doesn't mean you never get back up... There is nothing not to like about this book – it is perfect.'

– Children's Book Daily

'A hopeful story about human resilience and the life-changing power of discovering your best friend...a powerful coming-of-age story.'

– Books & Publishing, Five Stars



Pip Harry (AUSTRALIA)

August & Jones

Shortlisted CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia Awards) 2023

(winner TBA August 18)

Winner Kids' Choice award for Book of the Year, CBCA Shadow Judging 2023

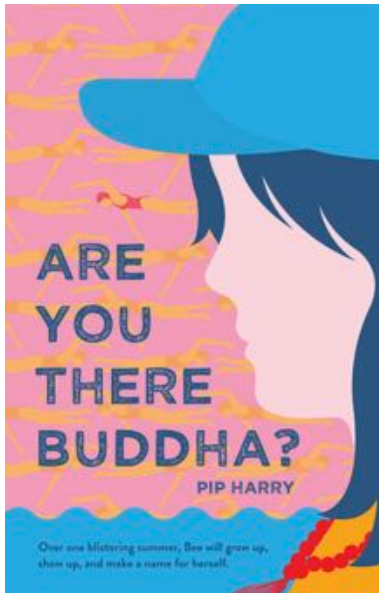
Two extraordinary kids discover the life changing power of friendship and teamwork.

Eleven-year-old JONES KIRBY has just moved to the big city of Sydney from her farm. She's missing her alpacas and wide-open paddocks and can't get used to her family's tiny apartment on a noisy train line. She's also worried that her vision is blurry - she lost her eye to cancer as a toddler. Could it be another tumour?

When Jones enrolls mid-year at Oakwood Primary, she meets shy, awkward AUGUST GENTING. He loves fun facts, the library and knitting as much as Jones loves rock climbing and being outdoors. Despite their differences, they become fast friends.

At home, August's parents are fighting. And for Jones, the news from the doctor is not good. To cheer themselves up, the pair hatch a brilliant plan: the *August and Jones Must-See Bucket List*. Together, this brave duo will set out to meet a rare monkey, run across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and even climb Australia's highest mountain. After all, with your best friend beside you, anything is possible!

PIP HARRY is a writer, copywriter and journalist. She has written 3 award-winning YA novels. Her latest, *Because of You* was shortlisted for the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the CBCA, and Queensland Literary Award. Pip published her first story for middle graders in 2019, *The Little Wave* (UQP) which won the CBCA and *Are You There Buddha?* in 2020. *August & Jones* is her sixth novel. Instagram: [@piphaz](https://www.instagram.com/piphaz)



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION / VERSE

Age 9+

40,000 words

Australia/NZ June 2021 · Hachette

* All other rights available

* Copy-edited pages available

PRaise for previous works:



'Pip Harry's words are imbued with hope, and the message that falling down doesn't mean you never get back up... There is nothing not to like about this book – it is perfect.'

– Children's Book Daily

'A hopeful story about human resilience and the life-changing power of discovering your best friend...a powerful coming-of-age story.'

– Books & Publishing, Five Stars



Pip Harry (AUSTRALIA)

Are You There Buddha?

A fresh, funny and modern take on puberty, first periods and relationships.

Bridget "Bee" Rickards is 12 and starting her first year of high school at Crescent Bay on the Central Coast of Sydney. Still reeling from the departure of her mother for an ashram in India, Bee talks to Buddha and begs for her first period *not* to arrive. She's not ready to become a woman yet, whatever that means.

Although Bee's yet to find her tribe at school, her best friend forever is surfer Leon McKay, also known as the hottest boy in Year Eight. As long as Leon has her back, Bee can survive the mean girls, her meddling step-Mum Kath, and her swimming nemesis, The Piranha.

Over one blistering summer, set against the backdrop of bushfires, smoke haze and water restrictions, Bee will grow up, show up, and make a name for herself.

A long overdue companion to the 1970s classic novel, *Are You There God, It's Me, Margaret*, Pip Harry's story tackles puberty and relationships geared to a generation growing up in the confusing (and often terrifying) age of social media. It touches on themes of climate change, faith, blended families, absent parent, swimming and bullying.

PIP HARRY is a freelance writer and editor. She has written 3 award-winning YA novels. Her latest, *Because of You* was shortlisted for the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the CBCA, and Queensland Literary Award. Pip published her first middle grade verse novel in 2019, *The Little Wave* (UQP) which won the CBCA. Pip lives in Singapore with her family. When not at a keyboard, she can be found eating noodles and swimming laps.



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION / VERSE

Age 8+

230 pages

Australia/NZ May 2019 · UQP

(University of Queensland Press)

* All other rights available

'Pip Harry's words are imbued with hope, and the message that falling down doesn't mean you never get back up.'
— Children's Book Daily

'a beautiful verse novel about three well developed characters with clear, memorable, age-appropriate voices, personalities and hopes. Their individual stories are compelling and poignant. Throughout the novel, beautiful imagery is drawn with swift, skilful and purposeful brushstrokes.'
— Holly Thompson, author of verse novel Orchards



Pip Harry (AUSTRALIA)

The Little Wave

Winner 2019 CBCA Award (Children's Book Council of Australia), Book of the Year, Young Reader category (**The CBCA is Australia's most prestigious literary award for children's books*)

Three unforgettable Australian children bridge the gap between city and country life.

A contemporary verse novel set on Sydney's Northern Beaches and Mullin, a remote rural town. It focuses on three central characters - cricket mad JACK (10), surf grommet NOAH (10) and future entomologist (insect lover!) LOTTIE (9) and their involvement in a program to bring country students to the coast to learn about beach safety, sea creatures and how to spot a rip tide.

The novel examines themes of friendship, diversity and difference, responsibility, teamwork, grief, recovery and second chances as the lives of Noah, Jack and Lottie interweave in surprising ways.

NOAH

We're getting special visitors
this term.

Kids from the bush who
want to swim at Manly Beach.
They're driving a long way,
just for a dip.

Some of them
have never even seen
the ocean. Imagine that?

They're from a town
called Mullin.
We look it up.
Population: 3,300.

They've got a post office,
a school
and two rivers.
But no beach.

There are farms there, too.
Wool, wheat and cotton.
But sometimes
the drought is so bad
nothing grows
from the thirsty,
cracked earth.

I live in Sydney.
Population: 5.1 million.

I don't really
like crowds or noise.
Might be nice
to live in the bush.
But I couldn't stay
long without waves.

PIP HARRY is a freelance writer and editor. She has written 3 award-winning YA novels. Her latest, *Because of You*, won the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Pip lives in Singapore with her family. When not at a keyboard, she can be found eating noodles and swimming laps.



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Ages 8-12

256 pages

France/Belgium May 2021 · Mijade

Russia 2022 · Albus Corvus

** All other rights available*

Cyril Guinet (FRANCE)

The Eraser

Original title: Le jour où j'ai réussi à effacer mes interrogos...et le reste !

If you had the power, what would you make disappear from your life?

Emile is a sixth grader, passionate about science-fiction films. A series of coincidences leads him to believe that he is in possession of a magical eraser. Just write a word (correctly spelled!) on a sheet of paper, then erase it and whatever or whoever will disappear from your life.

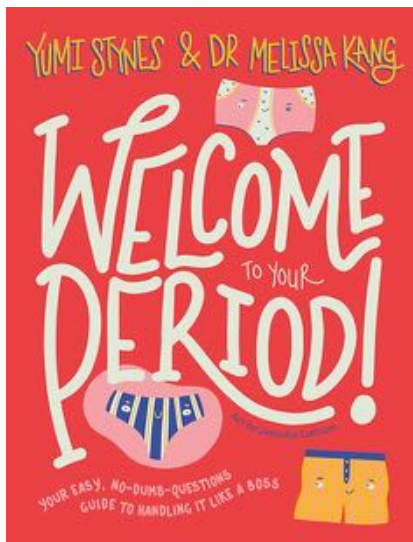
First Emile's fish dinner disappears straight from the frying pan, then an English homework assignment, then the English teacher himself. The next targets are the three bullies who terrorize everyone at school.

But the more Emile erases from his life, the more his troubles pile up, at home, at school, and with his two best friends. The final straw is when Emile decides to make his dad's new girlfriend Corina go away, but he only manages to erase half of her name...and she ends up in a coma. How will Emile manage to turn things around?

Emile's story explores themes of divorce, friendship and more with a healthy dose of humor and a touch of magic.



CYRIL GUINET is a journalist with the celebrated GEO magazine, for whom he explores the world. Cyril is an established author for adults, having published several books with Michel Lafon and First. He recently wrote the script for a 5-episode TV adaptation of a children's graphic novel (M6 channel). This is his first book for young readers. Twitter: [@CyrilGuinet](https://twitter.com/CyrilGuinet)



MIDDLE GRADE / NON-FICTION

Australia/NZ 2019 · Hardie Grant
(World Rights)

N America 2020 · Walker/Candlewick

UK 2020 · Little Tiger/Stripes

Germany 2020 · Carlsen Verlag

Netherlands 2020 · Kluitman

Spain 2020 · Liana Editorial

Russia 2020 · Albus Korvus

China 2020 · Thinkingdom

Korea 2020 · Studio Dasan

S Africa (Afrikaans) 2020 · LAPA

Ukraine 2020 · Crocus

* Hardie Grant holds World Rights



Yumi Stynes & Melissa Kang (AUSTRALIA)

Welcome to Your Period!

Your easy, no-dumb-questions guide to handling it like a boss

A frank, funny, age-appropriate guide for pre-teens about getting your period

Getting your period for the first time can be mortifying, weird and messy – and asking questions about it can feel even worse. But it doesn't have to be like that!

This little book is packed with honest advice on all the things you need to know: from what cramps feel like to whether you can feel it coming out, to what you should do if your pad leaks onto your clothes.

Welcome To Your Period includes case studies, first-person accounts and questions from real teens (and answers from real experts) so you can manage your period like a boss.

Also in the series...

Welcome to Your Boobs!

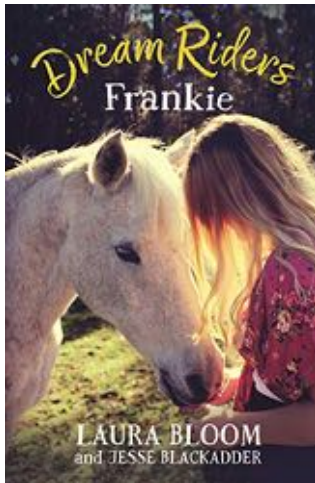
Welcome to Consent!

And coming soon...

Welcome to Sex!

YUMI STYNES is a writer, broadcaster, television presenter, food fanatic, fitness enthusiast and mother-of-four, including two teenage girls. She presents a daily national radio show on the KIIS network called *The 3pm Pickup*. She hosts the ABC podcast *Ladies, We Need to Talk* about women's health, female sexuality and social issues, known for its directness and taboo-breaking conversations. Yumi presented the SBS documentary *'Is Australia Sexist?'*, gave keynote speeches at Dark Mofo Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Department of Rural Health Sexual Health Conference, The Australian Women's Leadership Symposium, One of One International Women's Day Conference and was the fearless MC at the 2019 Women's March in Sydney. She is the author of *Zero F*cks Cooking* and *Endless Summer*.

DR MELISSA KANG is best known as the longest-serving expert behind the iconic Dolly Doctor column, but she's also a practising medical doctor for marginalised young people and has academic roles at the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney. She specialises in adolescent sexuality and sexual health and is a regular speaker about these topics in the mainstream media.



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Age 10+ / 150 pages each

Australia/NZ June 2019 & Sept 2019
& Dec 2020 & 2021 · Walker Books



Jesse Blackadder & Laura Bloom (AUSTRALIA)

Dream Riders

Four-book series: *Frankie, Storm, Kai, Violet*

Without a saddle or bridle, what's left is... the truth.

In an Australian north coast town, four young teens who don't fit in – Frankie, Storm, Kai and Violet – break away from the restrictive regime of Pony Club led by ambitious Olympic rider Oliver, to learn free-riding without saddles or bridles. They're inspired by love and respect for their horses, and taught by the magnetic horse whisperer Shannon at her natural horsemanship centre, Pocket of Dreams, in the secluded rainforest valley behind town known as The Pocket.

But when they face the closure of their new world at The Pocket, only their new riding skills and the loyalty born between each horse and rider will allow the Dream Riders to triumph and save themselves and the centre.

Dream Riders is a series of four books, each written from the unique first person voice of the four main young teens: Frankie, Storm, Kai, Violet. Although the main plot arc revolves around free riding, along the way the teens face challenges common to 12- and 13-year olds – family conflicts, coming of age, friendships, siblings, school and work.

JESSE BLACKADDER is an award-winning journalist, writer, screenwriter and public speaker. With a PhD in Creative Arts, she also leads StoryBoard, who teach creative writing to 3500 young people per year. Her writing fellowships have taken her to Antarctica, Alaska and outback Australia. She has written four adult novels and three junior novels. *The Raven's Heart* won multiple awards, including the Benjamin Franklin Award for Historical Fiction (US). Her middle grade fiction includes a 3-book series featuring a koala, brumby horses and an Antarctic dog (Harper Collins). www.jesseblackadder.com

LAURA BLOOM grew up in inner city Sydney dreaming of riding horses, and now lives in Mullumbimby where she at last fulfilled her dream to learn natural horsemanship. She has written six novels including middle grade *Augustine's Lunch* (NSW Premier's Awards shortlist and Young Australian Readers Awards runner-up); two YA novels for Pan MacMillan's *Dolly Fiction* series published in the US, UK and Canada; and three adult novels. www.laurabloom.com.au



MIDDLE GRADE / ILLUSTRATED

Age 8+

128 pages

Greece 2014-2020 · Metaichmio

Egypt/Arabic World 2019 · Egyptian

Office for Publishing & Distribution

China 2020 · Citic Books

Korea 2020 · Sunest

Turkey 2020 · Epsilon

** World English, Scandinavia, Russia, Israel & film rights by Zeitgeist Agency on behalf of Ersilia Literary Agency*

** Full translation in English available for books 1, 2, 3, 4*



Eleni Andreadis (UK/GREECE)
Stefanos Koltsidopoulos, illustrator (GREECE)

Planet Agents series

Winner 2016 State Children's Book Award for Educational Book

Shortlisted 2015 Greek IBBY Award

Top 10 Best Children's Books 2015 Public Book Awards by 100,000 participating readers

Top Children's Knowledge Book 2015 Anagnostis Mag. Book Award

'Are you prepared to take on a mysterious, top secret mission full of surprises? Are you ready to save the world? If the answer is no, DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOK! Then again, if your answer is yes, this book is for you. But open it slowly and with great caution. Because your life will never be the same again.... '

The reader is asked to join an elite task force protecting the planet, by becoming a Planet Agent and taking on a top-secret mission. The Planet Agents defeat baddies like Ivan Von Energythirsty the energy vampire and Gulp Watersucker who sucks water when people are wasting it.

Original and smart with an inventive layout, *Planet Agents* is a fun way for kids to learn about protecting the planet. Each book in the series is a standalone quest to complete missions dealing with climate issues:

Book 1 *Become a Planet Agent*

Book 2 *The Burning Revenge of Pee-ew* on global warming,

Book 3 *The Attack of the Sea Monsters* on oceans,

Book 4 *Piranhas on Land* on animal extinction and biodiversity loss due to humans (deforestation, hunting, wildfires),

Book 5 (untitled – publication 2021) on plastic pollution.



ELENI ANDREADIS is a sustainability consultant, educator and writer. She earned her Master's in Environmental Policy & Media at Harvard and has presented and produced for TV channels in the UK and US. Eleni worked on the follow-up documentary to *An Inconvenient Truth* and has consulted for Climate of Change and EnergyWatchUK. She currently consults on eco-tourism in Greek resorts. She founded the non-profit Planet Agents (www.planetagents.org) to empower children to take action on environmental issues. Eleni is bilingual English-Greek, and a UK citizen.

Illustrator **STEFANOS KOLTSIDODOPOULOS** studied Visual Communication Design & Animation at Middlesex University and Computer Animation at London Guildhall University. He works with TV channels with global reach such as MTV, and collaborates with large international advertising agencies in Sweden, Denmark and Greece.



PICTURE BOOK

Age 5+

48 pages / 21 x 19 cm

Greece 2018 · Kaleidoscope

USA/Canada 2021 · Star Bright Books

** All other rights available*

** World English, Scandinavia, Russia, Israel by Zeitgeist Agency on behalf of Ersilia Literary Agency*

** Full English translation available*

Anna and Manos Kontoleon, authors (GREECE)
Fotini Tikkou, illustrator (GREECE)

Comings and Goings

Shortlisted 2018 Greek IBBY Award for Best Illustrated Book

Shortlisted 2018 Anagnostis Best Illustrated Book Award

A clever take on visiting “home”.

Phoebus prepares to travel for the first time alone, from the North, to spend his holiday in the city he was born, in the South.

The story flips back and forth between Phoebus's thoughts and preparations in the north and to those of his family in the south: Leandros, Phoebe, Aris, Melpo and the twins Frixos and Ellie who eagerly await Phoebus' arrival.

A fresh take on the nowadays common story of migration, and of traveling “home”.



ANNA KONTOLEON was born in Athens in 1974, studied drama and acting and works as a drama teacher. She has been writing and translating for 15 years, including fairy tales and novels for children. She was awarded the 2012 Greek IBBY award for *The Seven Lives of Kombos* and in 2015 won the 'Award for Translation of a Book for Children' by the Greek Society of Literary Translators.

MANOS KONTOLEON was born in Athens in 1946, studied physics, but literature won him over at a very young age. He is one of the most popular Greek children's authors and has won many Greek IBBY and Society of Greek Writers awards.

FOTINI TIKKOU was born in Athens, graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts in 2009. She completed a MA in Visual Arts in Brussels in 2014. She has illustrated several children's books for Greek and international publishing houses. After living in Copenhagen for several years, she is now based in Greece.

Zeitgeist Agency works directly with publishers in
UK, US, Australia & NZ, France, Israel, the Nordic countries and the Baltic States

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