



# EK BOOKS

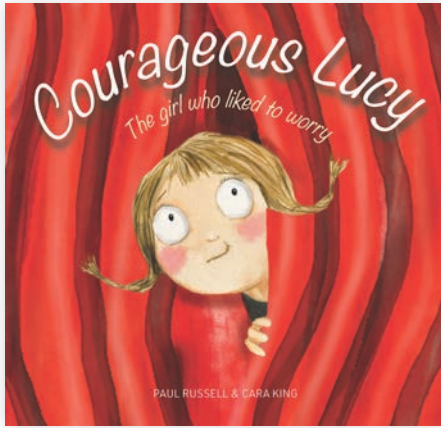
## 2021 FOREIGN RIGHTS CATALOGUE

ESSENTIAL PICTURE BOOKS FOR EVERY FAMILY,  
LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM



Books with Heart on Issues that Matter

[www.ekbooks.org](http://www.ekbooks.org)



## Courageous Lucy

*The Girl Who Liked to Worry*

**PAUL RUSSELL & CARA KING**

Lucy worries about everything. She's so skilled at worrying that she worries about things no one else even thinks about! When a school musical is announced, Lucy wants to be part of it but is scared to try out. Then, her teacher finds a part especially for her. Lucy stands proud and tall to be the best tree she can, even as her knees knock and her tummy ties in knots. Lucy's bravery will show children everywhere that it's okay to be worried, and they can still embrace opportunities!



**New from CBCA  
Notable author,  
Paul Russell**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Paul Russell** is a primary teacher, playwright and children's author who never wants to grow up. He is passionate about fostering imagination in children's learning.

**Cara King** is a designer and illustrator, who runs her own design business, Caratoons.

### THEMES: ANXIETY, BRAVERY, OVERCOMING FEARS, SCHOOL

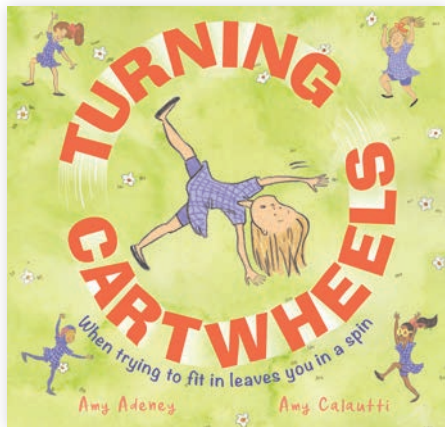
9781925820775 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Feb 2021 | USA \$18.99

AGES  
4-8

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## ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR



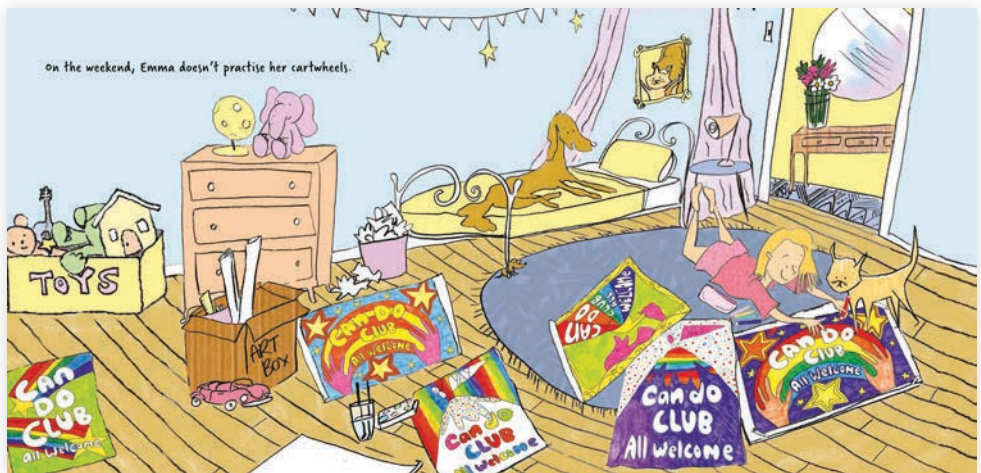


## Turning Cartwheels

When Trying to Fit In Leaves You in a Spin  
**AMY ADENEY & AMY CALAUTTI**

Emma is desperate to join queen bee Carly's Cartwheel Club. Week after week Emma lines up for a try-out, only to be told that she hasn't made the cut. When Emma is finally accepted, she finds that Carly's rules and requirements take all the joy out of cartwheeling, and being part of the gang isn't as awesome as she expected. *Turning Cartwheels* cleverly explores the subtle, underhanded social bullying conducted by so-called 'frenemies' that is so often experienced by primary school-aged girls.

**A valuable resource for parents, teachers and carers that will enable them to assist children in identifying true friends.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Amy Adeney** is a writer with a special interest in literacy education in the early years. She developed Busy Bookworms as part of her mission to inspire in children a love of reading.

**Amy Calautti** loved to draw from a young age and made up games based around drawing to entertain her younger relatives.

**THEMES: SOCIAL BULLYING, FRIENDSHIP, PEER PRESSURE, FITTING IN, SCHOOL**

9781925820515 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
 Feb 2021 | USA \$18.99

**RIGHTS AND DISTRIBUTION:** USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand

**AGES**  
 5-9



## Tomorrow Girl

*A Tale of Mindfulness*

**VIKKI CONLEY & PENELOPE PRATLEY**

Catch up with a girl called Tomorrow — you'd better be quick because she's always in a hurry! 'You'll catch up with the next day if you keep rushing,' says Tomorrow's mother. But when Tomorrow meets Yesterday and trips over Today, her whole world begins to slow down. *Tomorrow Girl* is a quirky tale delivering a timely reminder about the importance of mindfulness and what can happen when we allow ourselves time to be in the moment amidst the modern-day rush.

**Encourages kids to be more mindful in their everyday life and to remember to live in the moment.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Vikki Conley** is a children's author, communicator, book reviewer and intrepid adventurer.

**Penelope Pratley** has been mucking about with paint since she was a small girl. She has taught art from preschool to high school, and now illustrates at her business, Penelope's Nest.

#### THEMES: MINDFULNESS, FRIENDSHIP

9781925820362 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour | Feb 2021 | USA \$18.99

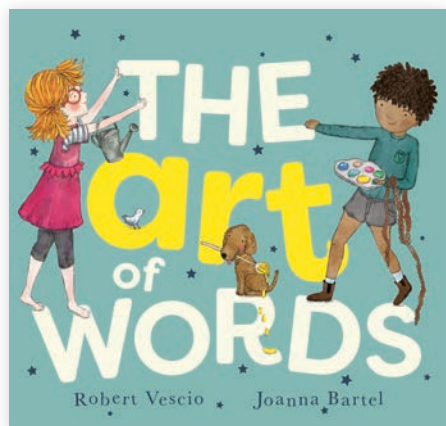
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*Ella & Mrs Gooseberry*

**ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR TEAM**



## The Art of Words

ROBERT VESCIO & JOANNA BARTEL

Words are everywhere! In this fun and interactive story about the magic of words, you'll meet ugly words, colourful words, and words that just need a friend. The imaginative illustrations show a young boy and girl playing with words: stretching them, squashing them, colouring them, and sewing them together to reflect their meaning. Engaging, entertaining and educational, this unique 'language through adventure book' will inspire young readers to appreciate the joy of making stories from words.

Explores words through imaginative imagery, making it perfect for beginning readers.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Robert Vescio** is a full-time children's author and a Books in Homes role model, with an aim to inspire children to read, write, and use their imaginations.

**Joanna Bartel** is a designer and illustrator with experience in Arts education, design, teaching and creative marketing. She particularly loves character design, and creating imaginative and playful images to engage children and enhance imaginative learning.

**THEMES: WORDS, LANGUAGE, STORYTELLING, CREATIVITY**

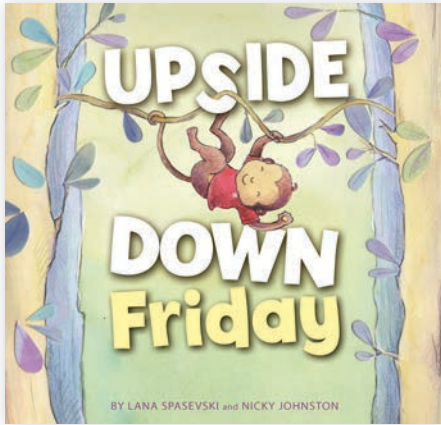
9781925820843 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Apr 2021 | USA \$18.99

AGES  
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### ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR





## Upside-Down Friday

LANA SPASEVSKI & NICKY JOHNSTON

Hugo the monkey doesn't like Upside-Down Fridays. His routine is the wrong way round, and school is a scary place full of uncertainty. However, with just a small gesture of friendship and understanding from Maddie the giraffe, Hugo begins to feel braver. *Upside-Down Friday* reflects how helping others and accepting change can reduce childhood anxiety. With its emotive language and unique 'upside-down' illustrations, it is the perfect resource for building emotional resilience in children.

**A valuable resource for anyone involved in teaching children strategies to cope with anxiety and change, from carers to therapists.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Lana Spasevski** is an author who writes stories that tap into the curious world of children. Her work has been longlisted in several competitions.

**Nicky Johnston** is an educator and author/illustrator, with a strong focus on children's emotional resilience and mental health awareness.

### THEMES: COPING WITH CHANGE, ANXIETY, SCHOOL

9781925820850 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Apr 2021 | USA \$18.99

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## Growing Pains

ALISON MCLENNAN & MELISSA JOHNS

When Finn's family plants a tree in their backyard, he feels responsible for it and worries the little sapling is cold, hungry or lonely. He tries to share his breakfast with it, offers it his scarf, and keeps it company. Just after going to bed, his nightlight goes out and Finn is plunged into darkness. But when he sees his tree standing tall and brave in the moonlight, it inspires him to be brave as well. A touching story about curiosity, empathy, care of the environment, and overcoming fears.

**Focuses on the important Emotional Intelligence (EQ) tools of kindness and empathy**



Finn lay wondering if trees got growing pains. If he was growing and it made him hurt, then when trees grew taller, were they hurting too? He tried to imagine his body was a tree trunk and soon felt his bark tingling and his leaves twitching.

Finn decided he would rub the tree's bark tomorrow and tell it a story until it felt better.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Alison McLennan** is an Australian children's author, professional voiceover artist, singer, actor and mother of two.

**Melissa Johns** is an artist, illustrator and avid upcycler. Her artworks are predominantly made of recycled materials that lend her work a textured, uniquely whimsical quality.

### THEMES: EMPATHY, KINDNESS, CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

9781925820522 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Apr 2021 | USA \$18.99

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AGES  
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## Pear of Hope

WENDA SHURETY & DEB HUDSON

*Pear of Hope* is the story of a little girl with cancer and her tale of recovery. This is intertwined with the growth of a pear tree, which symbolises the enigmatic concept of hope. Told through sensitive words and gentle, beautiful illustrations, the story will comfort and inspire any children who are struggling to feel positive, whatever journey they may be on. It is a vibrant reminder of the beauty of the world around us and of the fact that, like Anna, with hope you can face any battle!

**Explores the topic of illness in a gentle, positive way that will be a comfort to any children struggling with this difficult journey.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Wenda Shurety** is a children's author, scientist and archer. Her books are inspired by her love of being a mum, and hope that has helped her through illness.

**Deb Hudson** is an illustrator who is passionate about drawing bright, happy and colourful images that evoke emotion and thought in their viewer.

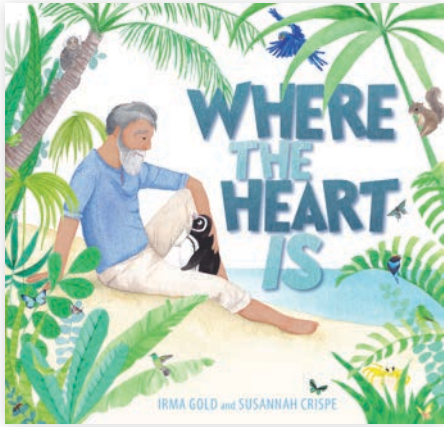
**THEMES: ILLNESS, OVERCOMING CHALLENGES, RESILIENCE, HOPE, CANCER**

9781925820867 | Hardcover | 215 x 288 mm | 8½ x 11 ¼ inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
May 2021 | USA \$18.99

AGES  
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## Where the Heart Is

IRMA GOLD & SUSANNAH CRISPE

In 2011, Dindim the Magellanic penguin washed up on an island beach near Rio de Janeiro. He was rescued by a man called Joao, who nursed him back to health, and unwittingly formed a lifelong friendship between them. Since then, Dindim has spent most of every year with Joao, leaving only to travel 8000 miles to the Patagonia coasts of Argentina and Chile. *Where the Heart Is* was inspired by this extraordinary true story.

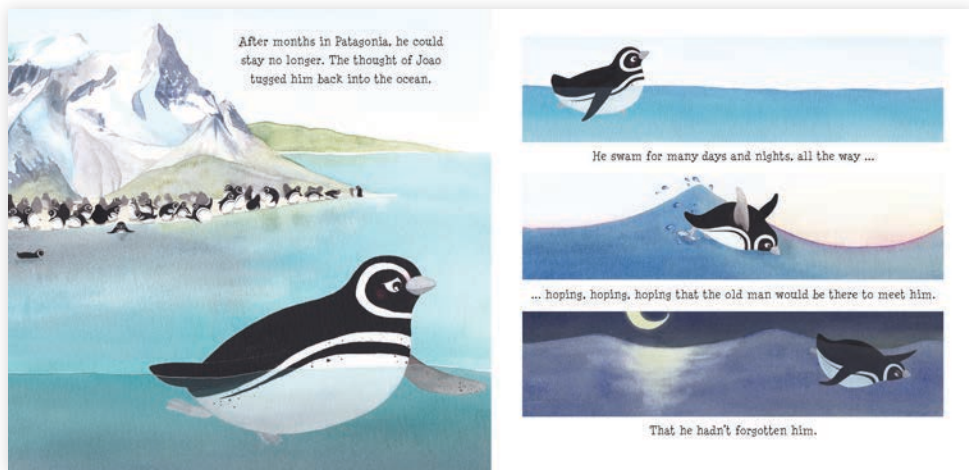
With beautiful prose and stunning illustrations, Dindim's story will capture the hearts of young readers and adults alike. His journey across the ocean highlights both the little penguin's intrepid nature and the variety of wildlife he meets on the way. From whales to albatross, children will discover the kaleidoscope of life that exists in the far reaches of the earth.



*Where the Heart Is* also offers a window into discussing big issues with young readers, such as the oil spill that almost killed Dindim, and the effects of climate change on animal habitats. Magellanic penguins are a near-threatened species, and it is vitally important to increase our awareness of the dangers faced by these beautiful birds.



**Based on an incredible true story, this lyrical book will inspire children to take better care of our world.**



Poignant, moving, funny and heartfelt, Dindim and Joao's story is a celebration of friendship and nature. It explores the deep bond that can form between humans and animals, and encourages children to think more about the incredible animals who share our world.



### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR**

**Irma Gold** is an award-winning author and editor of books for children and adults, and Ambassador for the ACT Chief Minister's Reading Challenge.

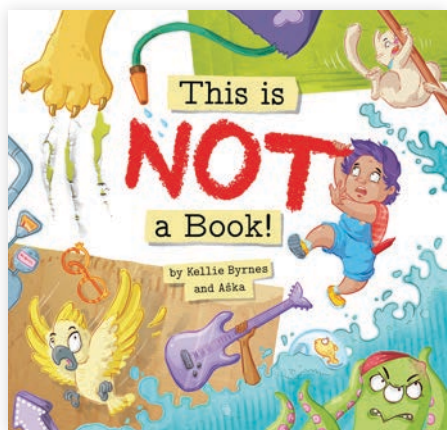
**Susannah Crispe** has been illustrating professionally for four years, producing a large selection of greeting cards, logo designs and wildlife artworks.

### **THEMES: FRIENDSHIP, ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION**

9781925820874 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
June 2021 | USA \$18.99

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**AGES**  
3-8



## This is NOT a Book!

KELLIE BYRNES & AŚKA

In this fun-filled picture book, our main character is convinced they're not in a book. After all, if this was a book, there'd be pages to turn ... Oops! We've turned the page. But that's not proof this is a book. If it was a book, there'd be interesting settings and problems to solve. Hold on! Why is our lead character being chased by a lion? Why are pirates stealing treasure? And are those mermaids playing in a rock band? The perfect introduction to how to tell a story.

**Introduces kids to the structure of a book and elements of good storytelling.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Kellie Byrnes** is a children's author, freelance writer, kidlit blogger and book reviewer.

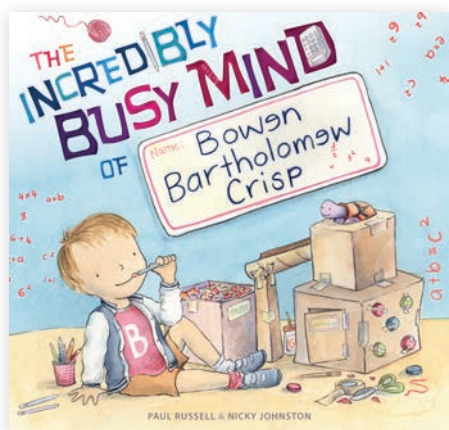
**Aśka** is an award-winning illustrator, artist and scientist. She loves to create energetic characters with a curious streak.

### THEMES: METAFICTION, STORYTELLING

9781925820508 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
June 2021 | USA \$18.99

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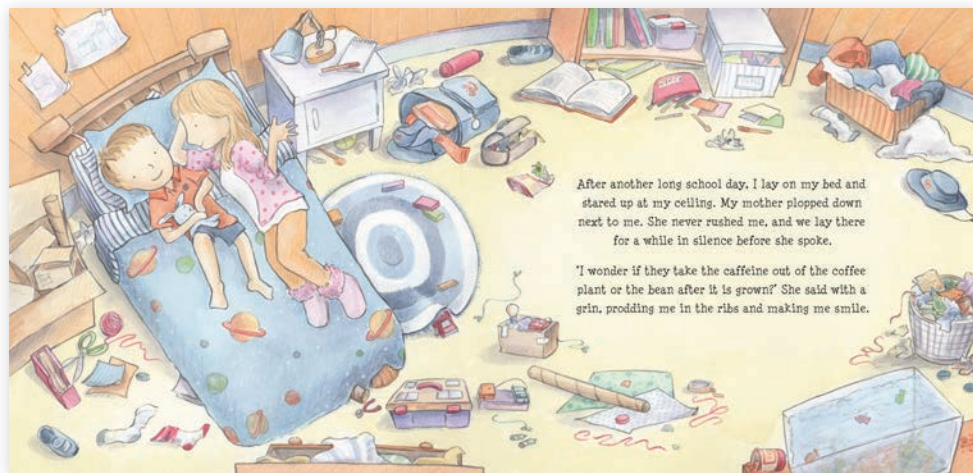


## The Incredibly Busy Mind of Bowen Bartholomew Crisp

PAUL RUSSELL & NICKY JOHNSTON

Most children would say that the ocean is blue, but when Bowen looks at it he sees white where the waves crash, deep black on the ocean floor, and green when there's a storm. Bowen sees the world differently and struggles to fit in. When he turns his uniqueness into his greatest strength, however, he finds his place in the world. Young readers, carers, teachers and psychologists alike will be inspired by this story of embracing diversity while also encouraging children to think differently.

**A rollicking ride celebrating neurodiversity.**



After another long school day, I lay on my bed and stared up at my ceiling. My mother plopped down next to me. She never rushed me, and we lay there for a while in silence before she spoke.

'I wonder if they take the caffeine out of the coffee plant or the bean after it is grown?' She said with a grin, prodding me in the ribs and making me smile.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Paul Russell** is a primary teacher, playwright and children's author. He is passionate about children's literacy and building young appetites for the written word.

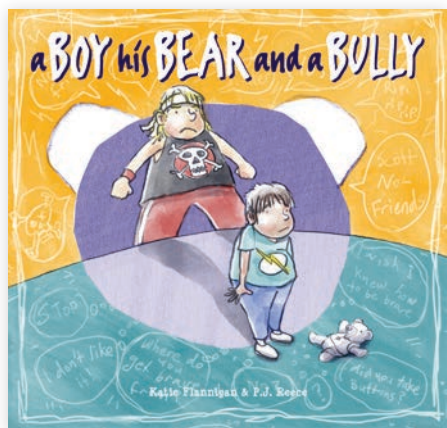
**Nicky Johnston** is an educator and author/illustrator, with a strong focus on children's emotional resilience and mental health awareness.

**THEMES: NEURODIVERSITY, CURIOSITY, FITTING IN, SCHOOL**

9781925820881 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour | July 2021 | USA \$18.99

**RIGHTS AND DISTRIBUTION:** USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand

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3-8



## A Boy, His Bear and a Bully

KATIE FLANNIGAN & P.J. REECE

Scott takes his bear, Buttons, to school with him every day to help him feel brave. He has to, because every day Duncan is mean to him. When Buttons goes missing though, Scott has to look elsewhere to find his brave, and much to his surprise, he does. *A Boy, His Bear and a Bully* addresses the global issue of bullying in a hopeful, gentle way. It is an inspiring conversation starter for children, carers and professionals, providing guidance for anyone who wishes they could be brave.

**Helping kids give bullies the boot.**



He snatched Scott's treat  
and stuffed it in his mouth.  
He started to chew.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Katie Flannigan** has had twenty years' experience in the Health Sector, and now writes full time for children. She lives in Melbourne with her husband, three children and way too many dogs.

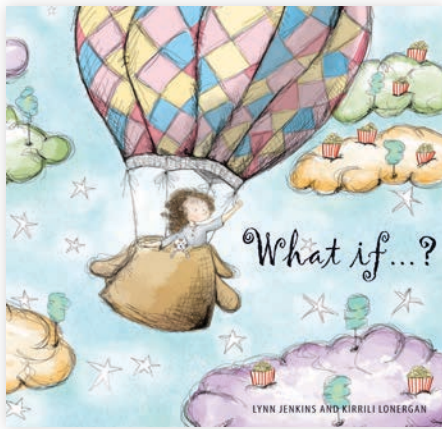
**P.J. Reece** is an Australian illustrator who has done illustration work for Blake Education, sold greeting cards of his designs at various retail outlets and has had two children's books published through Little Steps Publishing that feature his illustrations.

**THEMES: BULLYING, FRIENDSHIP, BRAVERY, FORGIVENESS, SCHOOL**

9781925820898 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Aug 2021 | USA \$18.99

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AGES  
4-8



## What if ... ?

LYNN JENKINS & KIRRILI LONERGAN

In this colourful adventure, 'what ifs' become springboards for happiness and imagination. Why worry about monsters under the bed when you could wonder what it would be like if the clouds were purple and orange and green? Children will delight in this playful exploration of words and their power to change how we feel, turning anxiety into wonder.

**Ideal for early and primary education on mental well-being.  
From the creators of the popular 'Lessons of a LAC' series.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Lynn Jenkins** is a clinical psychologist whose books have a strong focus on early intervention in the social and emotional development of children.

**Kirrili Lonergan** is a children's book illustrator and former paediatric nurse, passionate about illustrating picture books that have a healing message.

### THEMES: ANXIETY, IMAGINATION

9781925820973 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Sep 2021 | USA \$18.99

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**A beautifully illustrated, heart-warming exploration of depression, empathy and the love between a pet and their person, from a budding young talent.**



## Cookie

**ISABELLE DUFF & SUSANNAH CRISPE**

*Cookie* is a heart-warming story about the love between a pet and their person. It is also a sensitive exploration of childhood depression and anxiety, and the importance of empathy. With beautiful words and playful illustrations, it provides a gentle starting point for big conversations.

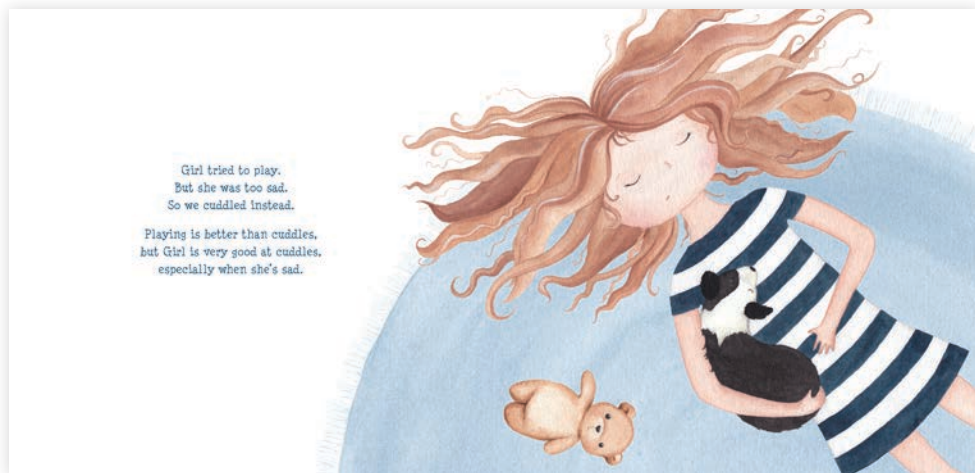


20-year-old author Isabelle Duff was inspired to write *Cookie* by her personal experiences with acute depressive disorder and anxiety, and by her wonderful dog, Saffy, who has been an invaluable support to her. The result is a valuable resource for reducing the stigma around mental illness, and a tribute to the loved ones who are able to get you out of bed when nothing else can.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR**

**Isabelle Duff** is a farmer, author, and soon-to-be student at the UNSW, where she will study Advanced Science/Commerce. *Cookie* is her first book.

**Susannah Crispe** is a Canberra-based illustrator inspired by a background in zoology and art history. She has been illustrating professionally for four years, producing a large selection of greeting cards, logo designs and wildlife artworks.



Girl tried to play.  
But she was too sad.  
So we cuddled instead.  
  
Playing is better than cuddles,  
but Girl is very good at cuddles,  
especially when she's sad.



Anyone who picks up *Cookie* will find themselves learning something from this mischievous pup and his Girl. It is for children who have experienced depression and anxiety just like Girl. It is for kids who don't understand why someone close to them is so sad. It is for child psychologists who need to talk to young people about mental illness. And, of course, it is for dog-lovers everywhere.

**THEMES: ANXIETY, DEPRESSION**

9781925820959 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |  
Oct 2021 | USA \$18.99

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**EXISLE  
ACADEMY**

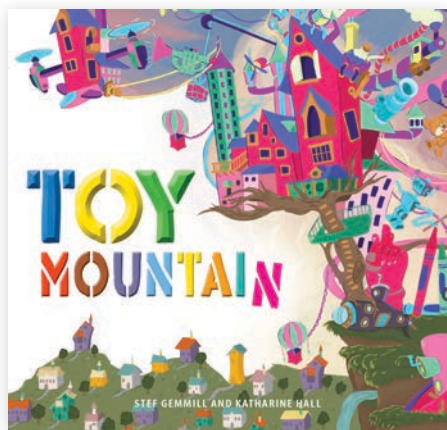
[www.exisleacademy.com](http://www.exisleacademy.com)

*Cookie* is Isabelle's debut picture book after she came to our attention as a result of her participation in 'Exisle Academy', an author-training program launched in response to Covid-19.

Isabelle's manuscript evolved through a mentoring process with EK Books publisher, Anouska Jones. The result is a beautifully crafted picture book, in which the young writer's voice is fully developed and the story ready for commercial publication.

The book, which is narrated from the point of view of the dog, is 'hopeful and warm — a perfect fit for EK Books who are known for their books with heart on issues that matter'.





## Toy Mountain

STEF GEMMILL & KATHARINE HALL

Sam's dreams seem to have come true when he becomes a toy tester for the Tiny Hands Toy Factory, and his house is filled with plastic toys in all sorts of shapes and colours. But one by one and plonk by plonk, his shiny new toys start to break. Soon enough, Sam has a mountain of broken toys that just won't stop growing! This whimsically illustrated story highlights the huge amounts of plastic waste generated by 'consumer culture', and empowers children to take sustainability into their own hands.

**Outlines the plastic waste crisis in a way that is simple for children to understand, and shows them how they can help.**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Stef Gemmill** is a children's author and former technical writer, teacher, and freelance music journalist. She won the children's category of the International Rubery Book Awards with her picture book *A Home For Luna* in 2020.

**Katharine Hall** is an illustrator who tells stories that translate across language, specialising in ink work and digital design. Her lively, happy-go-lucky style is inspired by a few simple loves: intricate details, fluffy cats, funny stories, bright colours, and nature.

### THEMES: RECYCLING, SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT

9781925820966 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour | Oct 2021 | USA \$18.99

AGES  
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EK Books publishes picture books with broad appeal, providing advice, reassurance and courage to overcome common issues that affect children worldwide. Our messages are uplifting: The boy who 'defeats' the bully, with help from the teacher, the girl who overcomes a debilitating illness, the kid who gains courage by studying the example of the lonesome tree in his backyard.


With the courage to tackle subjects that other publishers often shy away from, EK Books has won a dedicated international following and received several prestigious industry awards, including two SCBWI Crystal Kite Book of the Year Awards (Australia and New Zealand), and a nomination for Publisher of the Year at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.


Our books last; most are kept in print for years. The stories empower, entertain and uplift. Yes, many of our authors are experts including child psychologists, but the important life lessons imparted never overpower the fundamental goal of engaging and entertaining children.




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 **YOUTUBE:** EK Books for Kids

 **FACEBOOK:** @ekbooksforkids

Teacher's notes and classroom resources available from [www.ekbooks.org](http://www.ekbooks.org)

All titles, specifications and prices are subject to change.

Cover images from *Go Away, Worry Monster!* Written by Brooke Graham and Illustrated by Robin Tatlow-Lord

**Books with Heart on Issues that Matter**