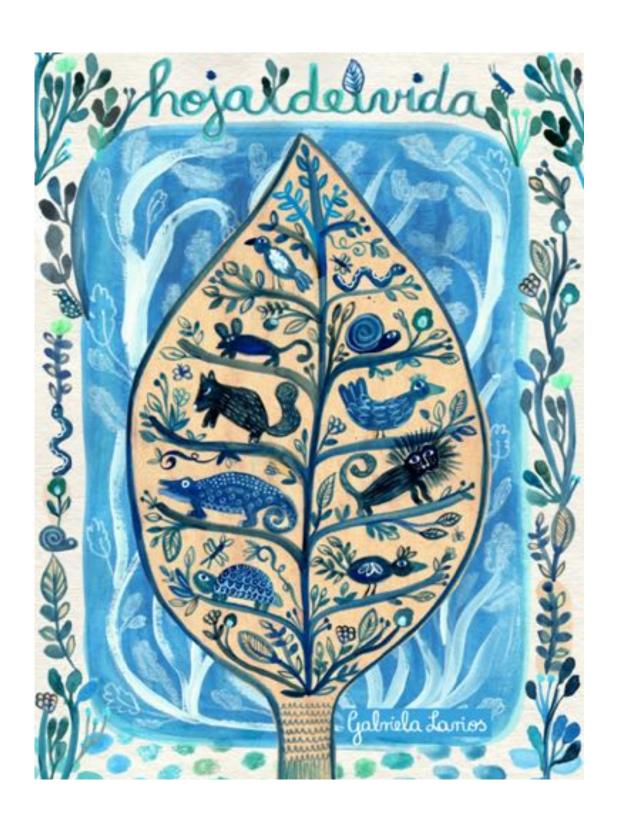


SYDNEY | BRUSSELS | LONDON

# SPRING 2025 CHILDRENS RIGHTS CATALOGUE



## zeitgeist agency

SYDNEY | BRUSSELS

**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, US, 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,
Benython, Sharon, Thomasin and Sam
www.zeitgeistagency.com/



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#### **YOUNG ADULT**

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p 9 Hive by AJ Betts

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p 11 Misfits FC by Dean Wallis

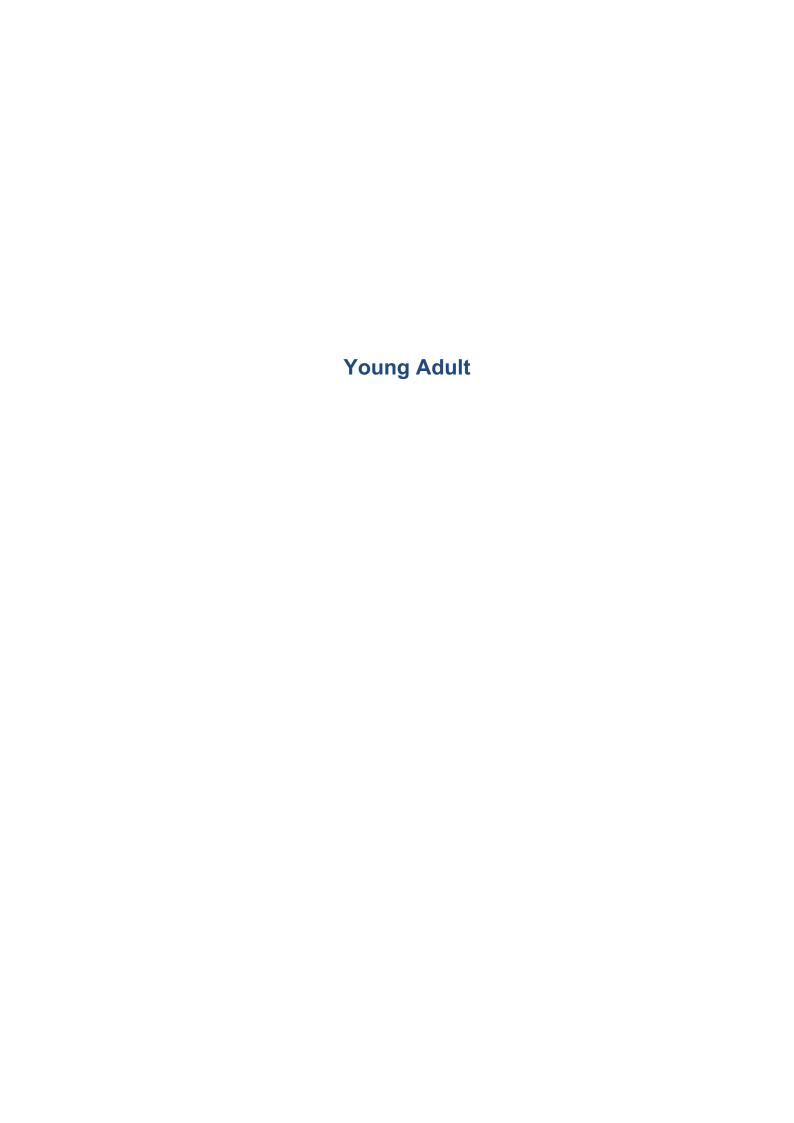
#### **ILLUSTRATOR CORNER**

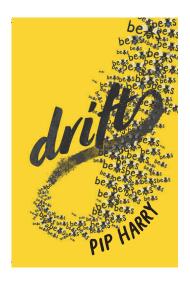
p 13 Gabriela Larios

p 14 Caitlin Murray

#### **BACKLIST**

**CO-AGENTS** 





LOWER YA / TEEN FICTION Age 12+ 34,000 words

#contemporary #realistic #verse #friendship #sports #courage #selfbelief #beekeeping #mental health #anxiety #social media #viral 'fight' videos

#### Australia August 2025 · Hachette

\* First pages available

#### PREVIOUS WORKS:







#### Pip Harry (Australia)

#### **Drift**

Fourteen-year olds Nate and Luna join forces to rescue the 20,000 bees that swarm Nate's home and build a hive in the walls. Can they rescue each other, too?

Nate has recently moved to a sleepy town with his mum. Separated from his dad, who's stayed behind until he can relocate his job, Nate misses his father, friends, and previous life.

When a 20,000 strong swarm of bees invade the walls of their dilapidated beach house, Nate forms a connection to them and sets about trying to save the hive with the help of a young local beekeeper Tyler. But when the devastating varroa mite virus hits, the hive might have to be destroyed.

Meanwhile, next door, Luna's anxiety is spiralling out of control since a "fight" video in which she's brutally attacked by two girls at a party went viral. Luna has become a social outcast at school and lost her best friend Sia. She and Nate – who crucially hasn't seen the shocking video - become friends. They hatch a plan to avoid disaster for the bees. Can they save the hive *and* save each other?

Told in a dynamic first-person dual narrative, *Drift* will resonate with younger-teen readers beginning to understand themselves and the changing world they live in. In the spirit of *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell, *Toffee* by Sarah Crossan, and *Blood Moon* by Lucy Cuthew.



PIP HARRY writes acclaimed contemporary fiction including bestselling verse novel *The Little Wave*, winner of the 2020 CBCA Children's Book of the Year and *August & Jones*, winner of the kids' choice 2023 CBCA Shadow Judging Book of the Year. Through her work, Pip encourages kids to be kind, brave and true to themselves. Pip's debut picture book *Over or Under?* releases in October 2024, followed by *The Inside Dog* in February 2025. A co-written junior fiction series *Camp Spooky: Attack of the Aliants* lands in July 2025. In her day job Pip works as a content creator for a non-profit homeless youth foundation. Insta: <a href="mailto:opiphary.com">opiphary.com</a>



#### **YA FICTION**

#passion for ballet #obsessed artist #gender norms #friendship

Australia January 2026 · Black Inc

\* All other rights available

\*MS before structural edit available; post-structural available May 1

#### **Ariane Beeston (AUSTRALIA)**

#### From This Pointe On

A story of fame, privilege and consent – set in the world of ballet.

Clara and Elle have left high school at age 16 to train full time at a prestigious ballet academy.

Clara has been dancing since she was three and knows exactly what she wants – a place at the National Ballet School and a career as a principal dancer.

Elle, who accidentally found herself TikTok famous after a #balletfail went viral, is new to the dance world, horrified at how racist, sexist and classist it is, and thinks ballet needs to grand jeté itself into the 21st century.

Meanwhile, fellow student Ben just wants to be able to wear pointe shoes, tutus and have the choice to dance both male and female solos.

Clara thinks Elle is a show-off. Elle thinks Clara's uptight. Both want a place in the finals at the Oz Awards, the Olympics of ballet. When a scandal involving famous British dancer Jason Manning threatens their futures, Elle and Clara must put aside their differences to confront ballet's dark past - and demand that it do better.

Tiny Pretty Things meets The Queen's Gambit in this gripping dance world story.



ARIANE BEESTON began dancing before she could reliably speak in two-word sentences, and trained to a pre-professional level in ballet and contemporary dance, performing with the Sydney City Youth Ballet and in the English National Ballet's Australian performances of Swan Lake. Ariane teaches ballet to pre-schoolers and adults. She is passionate about ensuring that dance training is safe, inclusive and fun (i.e. the complete opposite of what it was in the 90s). Ariane's debut memoir Because I'm not Myself, You See, (May 2024, Black Inc), recounts her experience of severe perinatal mental health issues. She is a mental health advocate and former child protection caseworker and psychologist and works for The Centre of Perinatal Excellence as Communications and Content Manager. She still wants to be a ballerina when she grows up. Ariane's Twitter and Instagram.



# YA FICTION Age 14+ #gothic #horror 85,000 words

- \* All rights available
- \* MS available

#### 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



#### YA FICTION / TEEN ROMANCE

Australia Nov 2023 · Walker Books
UK May 2025 · Walker Books
USA May 2025 · Candlewick Books
Italy 2025 · Piemme
Portugal 2025 · Porto

**Brazil 2025** · Vergara & Riba **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.

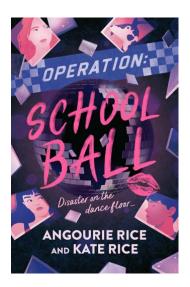
While Lily's mum falls for the young **Alex** and imparts on a fling, Lily is in turns amused and appalled by the excesses of the movie business, and more than a little surprised when Dorian Khan seeks her out.

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, and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts.



#### **YA FICTION**

40,000 words / 150 pages

Australia 2026 · Walker Books
UK 2026 · Walker Books
USA 2026 · Candlewick Books

- \* All other rights available
- \* Typeset pages available

#### Angourie Rice & Kate Rice (AUSTRALIA)

## **Operation School Ball**

After the terrible events of the school ball, Ms Kruger, the principal, assures parents that everyone is safe, the obscene photo was very blurry, and investigations are underway.

Maths teacher Miss Starkey gives a statement to police protesting her innocence: she was walking in the park near the hotel for most of the night. Leo Prince is interviewed by a case worker over his whereabouts and whether he was or was not hit in the face. Larissa Nguyen writes a letter of apology to the hotel for the damage caused by the goat's blood.

Meanwhile, in her journal, Amy Middleton tells all about her crush, her outfit, the lead-up to the night, the revealing photograph, how she came to kill the goat, how the goat's corpse ended up in the ballroom, and her reconciliation with her best friend, Bethany.

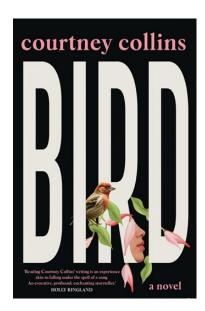


Previous novel Stuck Up & Stupid optioned for film by Hello Sunshine. 10,000 copies sold in Australia; 100,000 copies first print run in USA.



**ANGOURIE RICE** is an actor with international feature film and television credits, including *Mean Girls, 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.* 

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#### LITERARY FICTION / CROSSOVER YA

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

Australia/NZ Aug 2024 · Hachette

Japan 2025 · Shogakukan

Turkey 2025 · Filtresiz

Russia 2025 · Azbooka-Atticus

\* Final pages 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

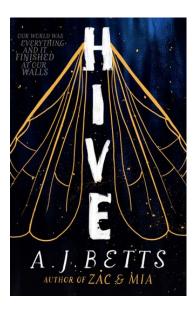
Waking in a hospital bed, Bird tries to remember what brought her here. A man whose gaze she knew to fear, a stolen car, a plastic gun, and a real bullet in her shoulder. Strand by strand, memories return of her first life and the Holy Mountain, and she faces the awful truth that she is stuck in a never-ending 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

## Young Adult Featured Backlist Title

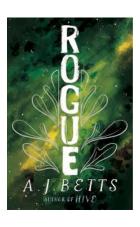


YA FICTION / SPECULATIVE Age 13+

Book 1 is 260 words Book 2 is 350 words

Australia 2018 & 2019 · Pan Macmillan TV/Film rights · optioned, by producer Rebecca O'Brien

"Hive carves out a niche through intriguing and original world building" - Sydney Morning Herald





#### 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 FICTION #football #series potential Age 7-11

- \* All rights available
- \* MS available

#### 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 <u>website</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>

**Illustrator Corner** 

#### Illustrator Focus Gabriela Larios

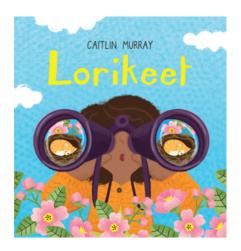


GABRIELA LARIOS received her Masters from Camberwell
College of Arts in London. As illustrator and textile designer, her
creative world derives from her interest in the natural world.
There is a naive and playful spirit captured in her work and a strong
connection between memories of her childhood in 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 conjuction with the AOI. She was selected as a finalist for the VIA Art Prize and exhibited at the Brazillan Embessy in London. Her pattern work was featured in Laurence King's book Print & Pattern Nature Book published this year.

www.gabrielalarios.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.

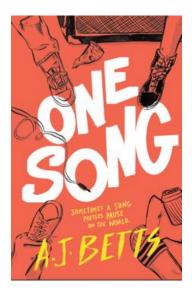






CAITLIN MURRAY spent her childhood in Victoria Australia's Western District, where the country air suited her allergies and the horses suited her teenage dreams. After a Bachelor of Education at Melbourne University, she studied Gold and Silversmithing, then Millinery and finally realised that illustration 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**

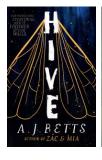


YA FICTION / CONTEMPORARY
Age 12+
76,000 words

Australia Sept 2023 · Pan Macmillan

\* All other rights available

\* From the author of Hive & Roque





#### AJ Betts (AUSTRALIA)

### **One Song**

#### **Sometimes A Song Presses Pause on the World**

**Longlisted** CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia Awards) 2023 (Shortlist announcing March 19)

**Shortlisted** Western Australian Young Readers Book Awards (WAYRBAs) 2024 (Winner announced April)

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.

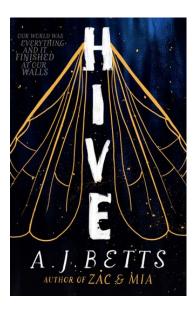
But things don't go to plan. After Ruby lambasts the song, Eva forbids them from leaving and demands a weekend lock-in during which they'll collaboratively write, rehearse, and record a new song, uploading it in time for the Sunday afternoon deadline.

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.

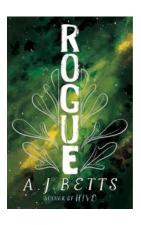


YA FICTION / SPECULATIVE Age 13+

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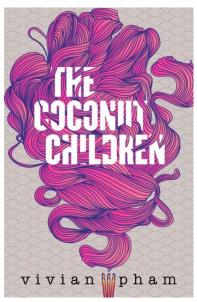
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#### YA FICTION / CROSSOVER

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

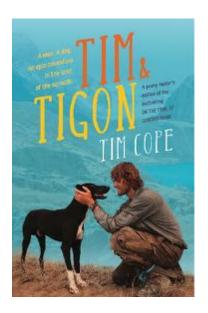
Sonny and Vince have always known each other. It took two years of juvenile prison, a crazy mother and a porn stash for them to meet again.

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.

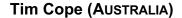


# MIDDLE GRADE NON-FICTION / MEMOIR Age 10+ 352 pages

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 & 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.



LOWER MIDDLE GRADE FICTION
Age 7+
#comedy #horror
25,000 words

World Rights May 2025 · Larrikin House

\* Screen rights available





## 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.

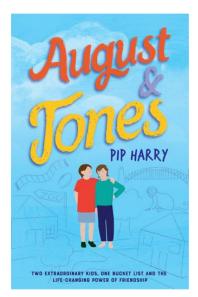
Jimmy Lewis, 11, swims at a council pool in a ratty pair of speedos and leaky googles, but his natural talent has earned him a golden ticket to the Camp. He intends to make the most out of every second with top coaches and state-of-the-art facilities.

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: <a href="mailto:opiphary.com">opiphary.com</a>



MIDDLE GRADE FICTION
Age 9+

Australia/NZ 2022 · Hachette
Russia 2022 · Melik Pashaev
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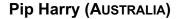
#### PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:



'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



## **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.

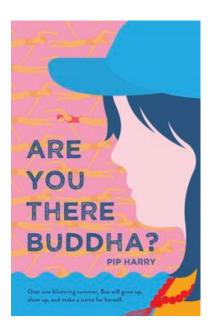
Eleven-year-old JONES KIRBY has just moved to the big city of Sydney from her farm. She's missing her alpacas and wide-open paddocks and can't get used to her family's tiny apartment on a noisy train line. She's also worried that her vision is blurry - she lost her eye to cancer as a toddler. Could it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



#### 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 interros...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.

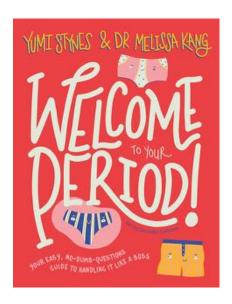
First Emile's fish dinner disappears straight from the frying pan, then an English homework assignment, then the English teacher himself. The next targets are the three bullies who terrorize everyone at school.

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: <a href="mailto:@CyrilGuinet">@CyrilGuinet</a>



#### **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

<sup>\*</sup> 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 / ILLUSTRATED
Age 8+
128 pages

Greece 2014-2020 · Metaichmio
Egypt/Arabic World 2019 · Egyptian
Office for Publishing & Distribution
China 2020 · Citic Books
Koroa 2020 · Support

Korea 2020 · Sunest Turkey 2020 · Epsilon

\* World English and Nordic 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 KOLTSIDOPOULOS** 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

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- \* World English and Nordic rights 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.

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