



Walker Books

PAWS_{entation}





Film Tie-In



9781761601446 PAPERBACK

Australia's best-selling

DRAGONKEEPER

by *Carole Wilkinson* is coming
to cinemas January 2025

MOVIE
POSTER



[watch the trailer](#)

- Major motion picture starring **Bill Nighy**, with Australia-wide cinema release
- The best-selling Australian middle-grade series has sold half a million copies, with Book 1 selling over 250,000 copies
- **Dragonkeeper** has won multiple awards including CBCA Younger Readers Book of the Year
- Stunning new movie tie-in edition with movie poster available for POS displays
- Major marketing campaign including outdoor & cinema advertising with movie trailer in cinemas from October
- Updated teacher notes available

Dragonkeeper - Tie In

by Carole Wilkinson

The first book in the internationally award-winning *Dragonkeeper* series, now a major motion picture with a stunning movie tie-in edition.

Ancient China, Han Dynasty. A slave girl saves the life of an ageing dragon and escapes her brutal master. Pursued by a ruthless dragon hunter, the girl and the dragon make an epic journey across China carrying a mysterious stone that must be protected. This is the story of a young slave girl who believes she is not worthy of a name but finds within herself the strength and courage to make this perilous journey – and do what must be done. This beautiful book by award-winning author Carole Wilkinson will enchant every reader.

- **The Dragonkeeper series has been extraordinarily successful both in Australia and internationally.**
- **Book of the Year, Younger Readers Category, The Children's Book Council of Australia, 2004**
- **Winner, Best Young Adult Book, Aurealis Awards, 2003**
- **Winner, Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, 2004**
- **Best Children's Book, Queensland Premier's Literary Award, 2004**
- **Winner, Older Readers, Kids Own Australian Literary Awards (KOALA), 2006**

Carole Wilkinson is an award-winning and much loved author of books for children. She has a long-standing fascination with dragons and is interested in the history of everything. Though Carole has written over 30 books, she did not write her first book until she was nearly 40. Before that she had worked as a laboratory assistant and as a film and television writer and editor.



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Publication Date:	04 December 2024	Age:	8 years +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$17.99	Format:	198mm x 129mm
NZ Price (incl. GST):	\$19.99	Extent:	0 pages
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For any marketing enquires contact: MarketingWBA@walkerbooks.com.au

WALKER BOOKS



Fiction

WHAT WOULD YOU KILL FOR?

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Night Film* spins a twisted web in this masterful YA psychological thriller.

- An ingenious dark thriller – taut, full of twists and turns and genuinely scary, perfect for fans of Holly Jackson.
- *Darkly* is an intricate labyrinth of buried clues and hidden connections, featuring mixed media including maps, letters and photographs, to create an immersive reading experience.
- Marketing and publicity campaign featuring social media assets, digital chapter sampler, TikTok influencer campaign and Better Reading feature.
- Special hologram bookmarks available.

DARKLY



MARISHA PESSL
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF NIGHT FILM

9781529527483

PAPERBACK

DECEMBER 27, 1954
**DEADLY FIRE
KILLS FAMILY**

A family of five, including three young children, were burned to death early this morning when a fire swept a Hollywick Street, Scodge...

LOND

**PIONEER
AND DEAD**

ve become a cultural phenomenon for over a decade on 4 at midnight, a new game was great fanfare, with shelves clear...

recently, Darily has been plagued of wrongful death lawsuits, following release of games critics have called r and dangerous, including 1980's aspinin.

from a single Tarler profile at the ber meteoric rise and a few scant poots, Veda stanned formal inter- opting for stage photo ops with dop- tagers and public trickery, which singly drew fire from fans. Veda fied astronomical bids for her company's from Mattel, Hasbro, and Milton Brad- ley. Proclaiming herself a "legendary spin- ster," she never married and is survived by no known relatives.

Darkly representatives could not be reached for comment.

Darkly

by Marisha Pessl

What would you kill for?

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Night Film* spins a twisted web in this masterful YA psychological thriller about the dark legacy of a notorious games designer.

A seemingly ordinary high school student. A mysterious summer internship. And a legendary games designer, now dead.

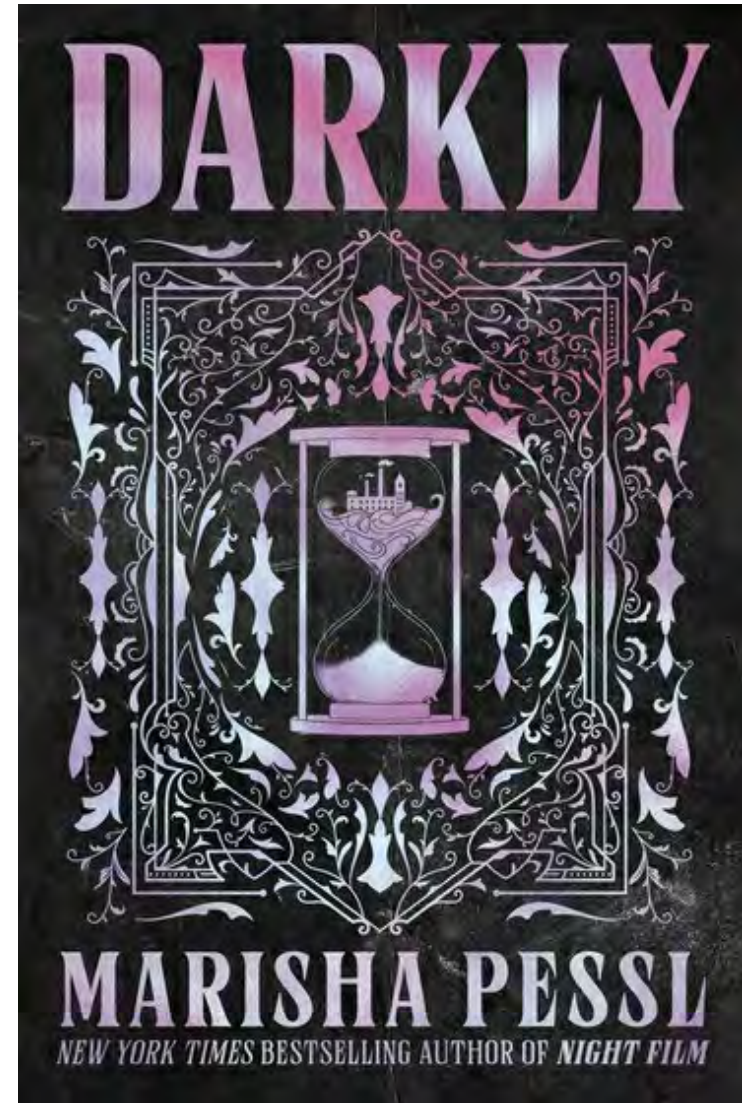
When an ad for an internship with the Louisiana Veda Foundation appears, Arcadia 'Dia' Gannon rushes to apply. Veda's game-making empire, Darkly, was renowned for its ingenious and terrifying games back in the day and Dia is as obsessed with them as anyone.

The remaining games are priced like highly sought-after works of art, with the rarest and most notorious commanding tens of millions of dollars at auction. Now, Dia is thrust into the enigmatic heart of the operation. But who are these other interns? Why do they all seem to have something to hide? And why was she really chosen? It soon becomes clear that this summer will be the most twisted Darkly game of all.

- An ingenious dark thriller – taut, full of twists and turns and genuinely scary.
- “Pessl is gargantuan: wildly smart, extremely surprising, a wordsmith, a queen. Read her.” – E. Lockhart
- Marisha Pessl is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Night Film* and *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*.
- Mixed media throughout, including maps, letters and photographs, help to create a fantastically immersive reading experience. Perfect for fans of Holly Jackson.

Marisha Pessl is the author of the critically acclaimed young adult novel *Neverworld Wake*, as well as two *New York Times* bestsellers: *Night Film* and *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*. She lives with her husband and three daughters in New York.

Publication Date:	04 December 2024	Age:	14 years +
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ISBN:	9781529527483		



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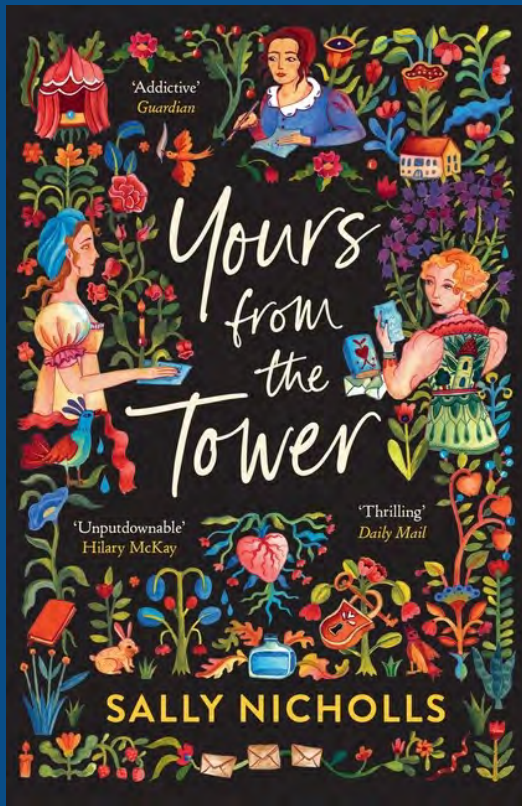
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WALKER  BOOKS



Yours From the Tower

Sally Nicholls

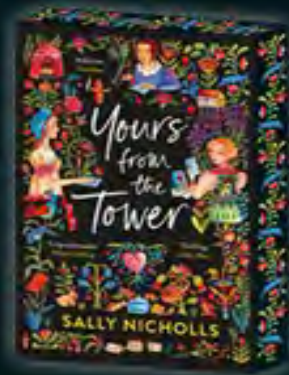
A romantic, feel-good historical fiction told through letters between three very different friends in the Victorian era

- Ideal for fans of Laura Wood, Bridgerton, Capture the Castle and Eva Ibbotson's YA historical romances
- Shortlisted for 2024 YA Book Prize

In 1896. Tirzah, Sophia and Polly are best friends who've left boarding school and gone back to very different lives, all united in trying to find happiness for themselves.

'An addictive, romantic epistolary novel'
Guardian

'I loved this book. An unputdownable friendship story told in letters so vivid and immersive that I felt like joining in with the correspondence'
Hilary McKay



New paperback edition has beautiful decorative flowered sprayed edges



December 2024
Paperback
Fiction – Young Adult

Yours From the Tower

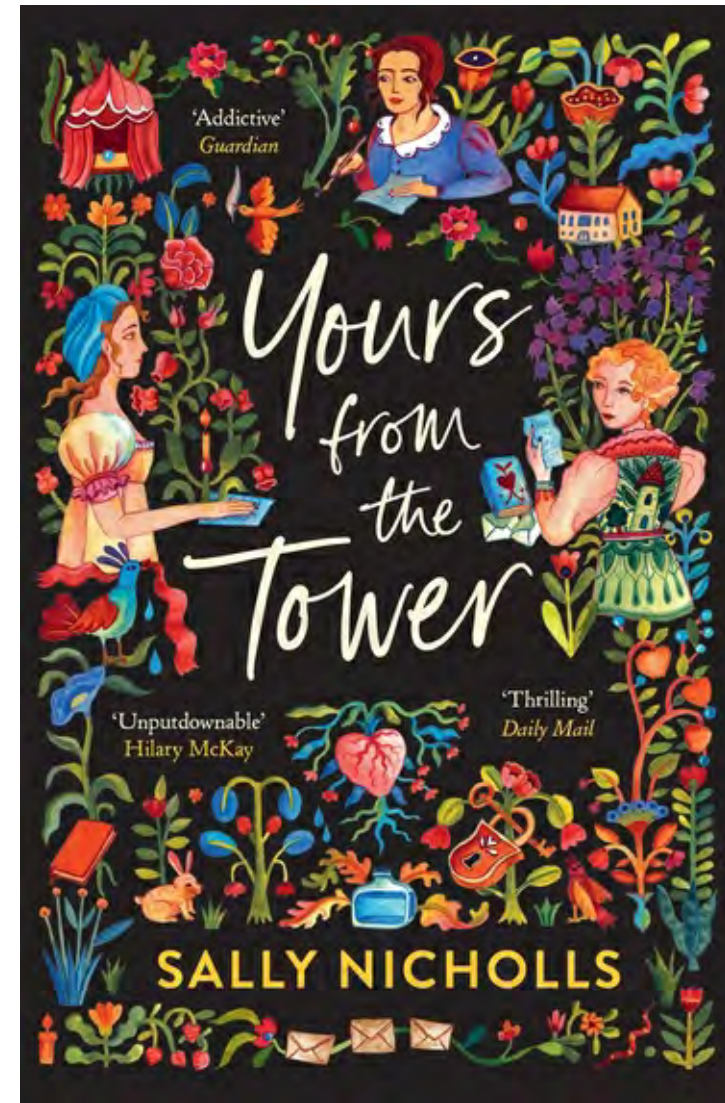
by Sally Nicholls

Three very different young women make their way through late Victorian England - can they each find true happiness?

1896. Tirzah, Sophia and Polly are best friends who've left boarding school and gone back to very different lives. Polly is teaching in an orphanage. Sophia is looking for a rich husband at the London Season. And Tirzah is stuck acting as an unpaid companion to her grandmother. In a series of letters, they share their hopes, their frustrations, their dramas ... and their romances. Can these three very different young women find happiness?

- Ideal for fans of Laura Wood, *Bridgerton*, *Capture the Castle* and Eva Ibbotson's YA historical romances
- A romantic, feel-good historical tale told through letters, set in the late Victorian era
- *The Silent Stars Go By* was a Book of the Year in eight publications: The Times, Guardian, Daily Mail, Telegraph, Observer, New Statesman, Daily Express, Daily Mirror
- Sally Nicholls' *Things a Bright Girl Can Do* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, National Book Award, Books Are My Bag Readers' Awards and the YA Book Prize
- *Things a Bright Girl Can Do* has sold over 70,000 copies across editions

Sally Nicholls grew up in Stockton-on-Tees, and after school, travelled the world, working for a period at a Red Cross hospital in Japan. Sally's first novel, *Ways to Live Forever*, won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and she has been shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, the Costa Children's Book Award, and the Carnegie Medal, twice. She lives in Liverpool with her husband and two sons.



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Binding:	Paperback	Imprint:	Andersen Press
ISBN:	9781839134814		

WALKER BOOKS



Non-Fiction



What on Earth!



9781804661185 HARDBACK

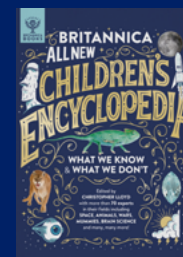
HOW do scientists see into space?
HOW do bugs walk on walls?
HOW do keys open locks?

A compendious and stunningly illustrated fact-filled book for every inquisitive child.

The real world is far more amazing than anything you can make up! Discover more amazing titles from What on Earth Books:



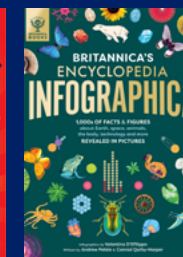
9781913750411



9781912920471



9781804660751



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9781913750794

THE BODY

.....

**How does hair grow?
And other curious
questions about people**

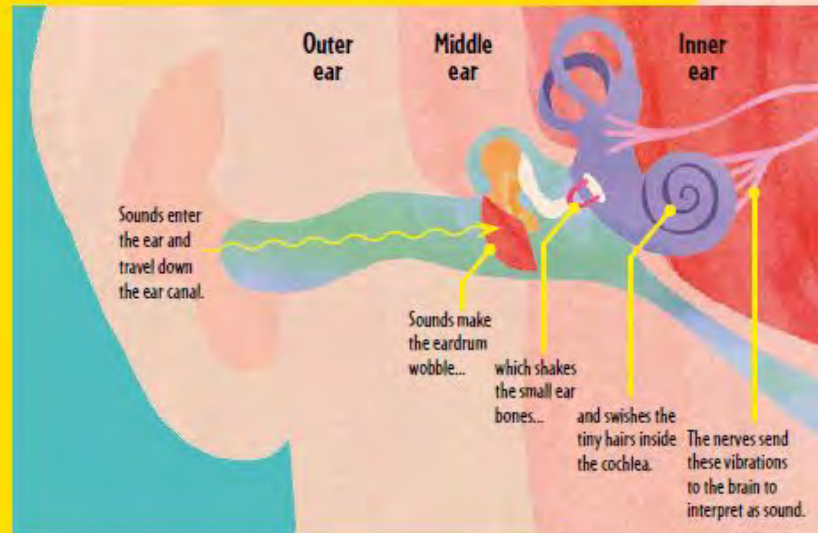


How do ears hear?

Did you know that most of the ear is inside the head? The flappy bit you see on the outside catches sounds in the air. The sounds travel into the head along a tube called the ear canal and hit a tiny piece of stretched skin called the eardrum. Vibrations from the sound wobble the eardrum, which makes three very small bones shake. The shaking-bone vibrations then pass into a curly, liquid-filled tube called the cochlea, which is lined with tiny hairs. As the hairs swish to and fro with the vibrations, they create a signal for the brain to interpret as sound. Hear! Hear!

WACKY FACT

Earwax protects the ears by trapping dust, dirt and germs.



Ears work by picking up wobbly movements in the air and turning them into messages that the brain understands as sound.

How do I breathe in and out?

You breathe air in and out through your mouth or nose. When you breathe in, the air travels down a tube called a windpipe and enters two breathing parts inside your chest called lungs. Lungs are like sponges. They get bigger to help you breathe fresh air in, and smaller to push old air out. Helping the lungs do their job is a dome-shaped muscle called the diaphragm that sits right underneath them. The diaphragm flattens down to help you breathe in, allowing the lungs to get bigger and suck air in. The diaphragm domes up and makes the lungs smaller when you need to breathe out, pushing the air out of your lungs.

WACKY FACT

The right lung is bigger and heavier than the left lung, which shares the same space as the heart.



Lungs and breathing



As you breathe in, the lungs fill with air. Air contains a gas called oxygen that you need to stay alive.



As you breathe out, you get rid of stuff your body doesn't need, including a gas called carbon dioxide.

The lungs are protected by a rack of bones called a ribcage. You can feel it move when you take big breaths in and out.



How does the heart beat?

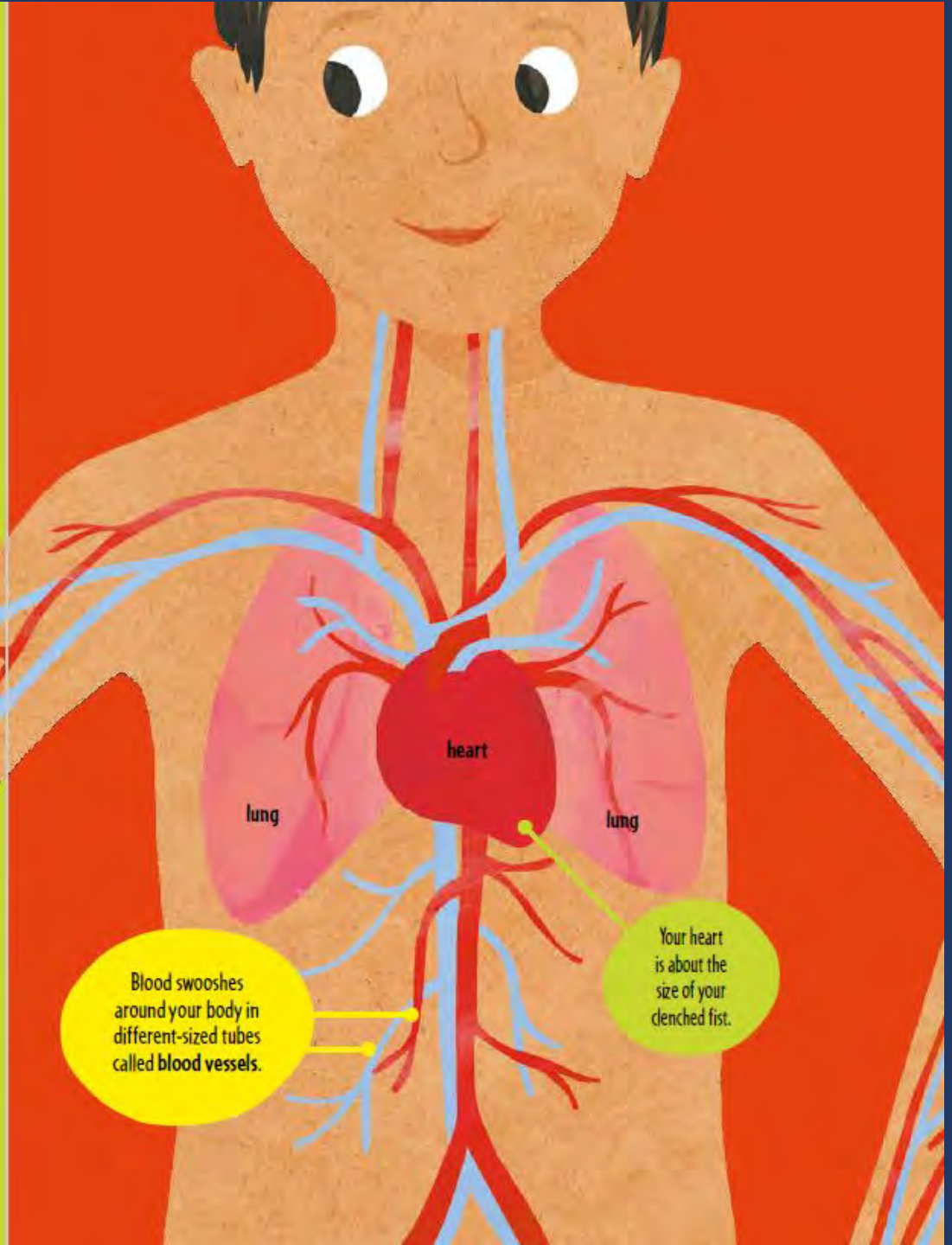
Put your hand on your chest. Buddum! Buddum! That's the feeling of your heart pumping blood. A zap of electricity makes the heart beat about once every second without you even thinking about it. When this happens, the heart pushes blood to your lungs, and all around your body, through tubes called blood vessels. The blood carries important things, such as oxygen, to the parts of your body that need them – and the heart helps them get there. Buddum! Buddum!

WACKY FACT

The blue whale has the largest heart of any mammal. It's about the length of a small car!



If a doctor presses two fingers against the inside of your wrist, they can feel the pulse of blood being pumped around your body by your heart.



Blood swooshes around your body in different-sized tubes called blood vessels.

Your heart is about the size of your clenched fist.

First Big Book of How: HOW do polar bears keep warm? HOW do keys open locks? HOW do spacesuits work? The ultimate book of answers for kids who need to know HOW!

by Sally Symes

illustrated by Kate Slater

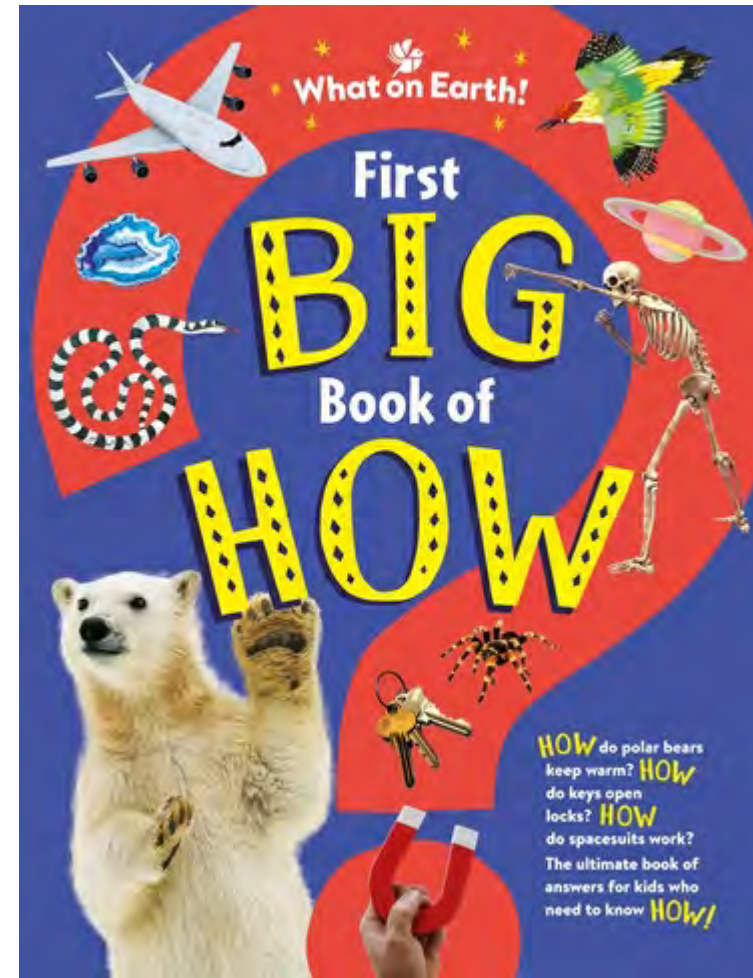
A compendious and stunningly illustrated fact-filled book for children who have endless questions about how the world works.

How do scientists see into space? How do we know what the dinosaurs looked like? How do chameleons change colour? How do bugs walk on walls? How do bones grow? How do keys open locks? Featuring compelling questions about space, Earth, machines, vehicles, buildings, animals and the human body, this magnificent book provides answers for every inquisitive child. By encouraging children to question how things are happening in the world around us, First Big Book of How Things Work supports STEAM learning and nurtures curious minds. With stunning photography and gorgeous original illustrations by Kate Slater, including a host of helpful and friendly diagrams, this is the ultimate gift for kids who need to know everything – and now!

- Over 150 questions answered in clear and accessible ways.
- Every chapter contains two 'Tell me... NOW!' quickfire questions spreads, which offer snappy and memorable answers to a child's most pressing questions.
- Especially commissioned illustrations, detailed diagrams showing just how things work, and full colour photography.
- Every chapter also features two fully illustrated 'Search and Find' spreads, in which readers must spot and count the illustrations amidst the photography.
- Every spread has been thoroughly fact-checked and reviewed by subject experts.

Sally Symes worked for many years as a designer of children's books before turning her skills to writing them. Her collaborations with Nick Sharratt have won several awards, including The Educational Writers' Award for *The Gooney, Chewy, Rumble, Plop* and she is the author of the bestselling *Britannica First Big Book of Why*. She works from a shed in Sussex, accompanied by her grumpy cat.

Kate Slater grew up on a beautiful farm in deepest Staffordshire, and studied illustration at Kingston University. Her children's books include: *Britannica First Big Book of Why*, *A is for Ant*, *The Birthday Crown*, *The Little Red Hen*, *ABC London*, *Maggie's Treasure*, *Make Your Own Birds of Prey* and *Make Your Own Flying Machines*. Alongside work for publishing, editorial and advertising, she has created several large-scale installations and window displays.



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Publication Date:	04 December 2024	Age:	5 years +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$39.99	Format:	280mm x 210mm
NZ Price (incl. GST):	\$44.99	Extent:	256 pages

For any publicity enquires contact: PublicityWBA@walkerbooks.com.au

For any marketing enquires contact: MarketingWBA@walkerbooks.com.au

Britannica First Big Book of Why: Why can't penguins fly? Why do we brush our teeth? Why does popcorn pop? The ultimate book of answers for kids who need to know WHY!

by Sally Symes, Stephanie Drimmer
illustrated by Kate Slater

The definitive and stunningly illustrated question and answer book from Britannica, with answers to more than 100 questions that kids really want to know.

Why do elephants have trunks? Why are clouds different shapes? Why does popcorn pop? Why does my tummy rumble? Why do we flush the toilet? This magnificent book features chapters on Bugs, Pets, Wild Animals, the Body, Food, Machines and Space and also includes some of the mysteries which experts are still trying to solve! By encouraging children to question how the world works, Britannica First Big Book of Why supports STEAM learning and nurtures enquiring minds. With stunning photography and gorgeous original illustrations by **Kate Slater**, this is the ultimate gift for kids who need to know WHY.

- Britannica offers authoritative, clear and fascinating answers to more than 100 questions that span space, earth, wild animals, pets, bugs, machines, the body and food.
- A huge and lavishly illustrated book with more than 200 illustrations, including specially commissioned artworks by Kate Slater and stunning photography.
- Pages feature 'Wacky Facts' and 'Who Knows?', where a spotlight is shone on the mysteries that scientists are still trying to solve.

Sally Symes worked for many years as a designer of children's books before turning her skills to writing them. Her collaborations with Nick Sharratt have won several awards, including The Educational Writers' Award for *Gooey*, *Chewy*, *Rumble*, *Plop*, and The Southampton Favourite Book to Share Award for *Something Beginning with Blue*. She works from a shed in Sussex, UK, accompanied by her grumpy cat.

Kate Slater grew up on a beautiful farm in deepest Staffordshire, and studied illustration at Kingston University. Her children's books include *A is for Ant*, *The Birthday Crown*, *The Little Red Hen*, *ABC London*, *Magpie's Treasure*, *Make Your Own Birds of Prey* and *Make your Own Flying Machines*. Alongside work for publishing, editorial and advertising, she has created several large-scale installations and window displays.

Publication Date:	03 November 2021	Age:	4 years +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$39.99	Format:	280mm x 210mm
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Binding:	Hardback	Imprint:	Britannica Books



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WALKER BOOKS

MINIBEASTS



Why are slugs slimy?
And other curious questions
about creepy-crawlies



Why does a caterpillar make a chrysalis?

A caterpillar is a young butterfly. It spends most of its time eating and growing. One day, the caterpillar stops munching, finds somewhere safe to hang and makes a shiny chrysalis. Inside, the caterpillar transforms into a grown-up butterfly.



When it's ready to become an adult, the plump caterpillar hangs under a twig or leaf.



Starting at the head, the caterpillar's striped skin splits upwards to reveal a shiny chrysalis underneath.



The skin drops to the ground, and the soft chrysalis hardens to protect the caterpillar.

WHO KNOWS?

Scientists have discovered caterpillars that love eating plastic bags. They have no idea how they digest the plastic!



After about a week, the caterpillar soup transforms into a butterfly.

Inside its protective chrysalis, the caterpillar's body dissolves into a goopy liquid.



The butterfly makes its way out of the chrysalis and flutters away.

The Football GOAT: Messi v Ronaldo: Who is the greatest of all time?

by Matt Oldfield and Seth Burkett

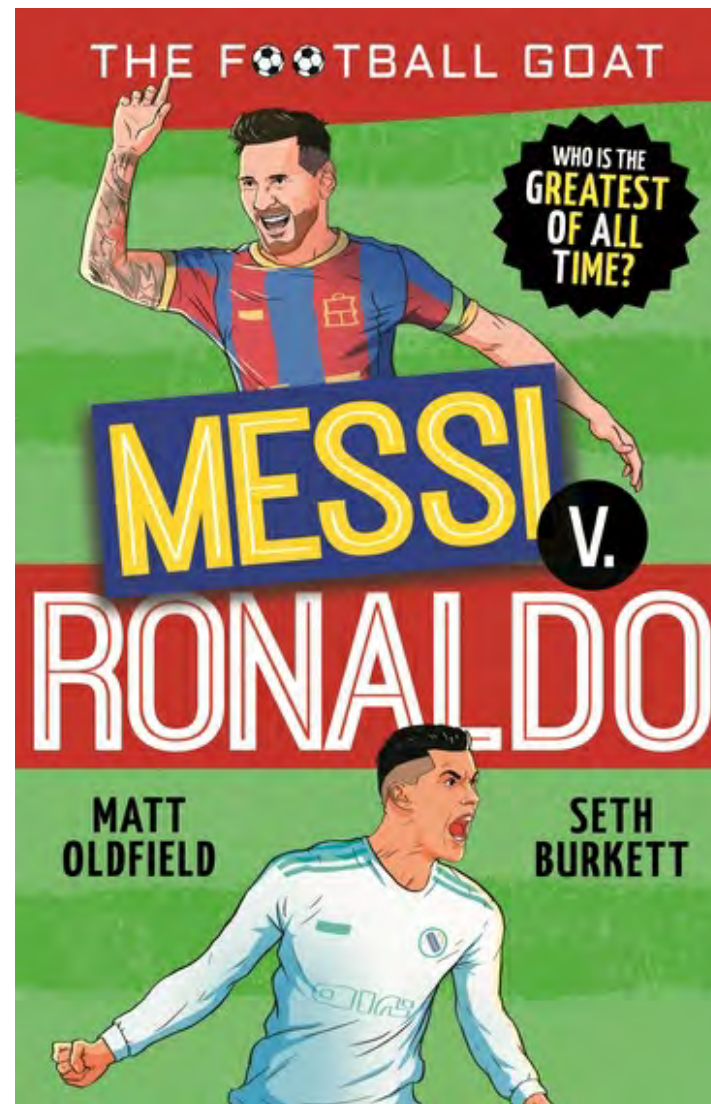
Messi vs Ronaldo: which of these footballing legends is the Greatest Of All Time?

The brand-new series from Matt Oldfield, the bestselling author of Ultimate Football Heroes, and Seth Burkett, a former professional footballer, tackles the question that every football fan wants answered: who is the GOAT? Each book will pit two of the biggest and best players in the world head-to-head in a battle for the crown, kicking off with the superstar clash of Messi vs Ronaldo. Action-packed and full of detailed facts, trivia, stats and funny illustrations, this is the the collectable new series that's perfect for fans of Ultimate Football Heroes and Football School.

- The launch title in a new non-fiction commercial black-and-white series to follow the success of Ultimate Football Heroes. 3 books acquired in a heated auction.
- Written by the bestselling author of the Ultimate Football Heroes series of biographies, which have sold over 800,000 copies through TCM.
- The GOAT is a playground and TikTok phenomena, loved by kids and adults alike. The series combines the collectability and head-to-head appeal of Top Trumps with the biographical information of Ultimate Football Heroes.
- Perfect for boys and reluctant readers.

Matt Oldfield grew up in Southampton, playing football with his brother Tom. The two brothers are the authors of the bestselling Ultimate Football Heroes series – fun football biographies that tell the exciting life stories of superstars like Gareth Bale, Lionel Messi and Mo Salah, from the playground through to the pitch. The Johnny Ball books are Matt's first fiction series. He lives in Bristol.

Seth Burkett is an English writer and futsal player and former professional footballer. Having played professional football in Brazil for Sorriso EC and Sri Lanka, Seth now dedicates his time to writing and speaking in schools.



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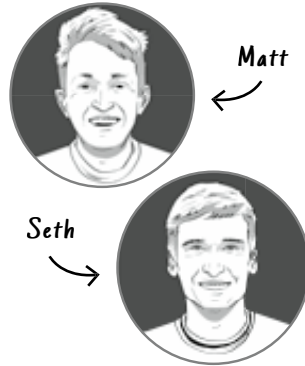
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Publication Date:	04 December 2024	Age:	9 years +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$14.99	Format:	198mm x 129mm
NZ Price (incl. GST):	\$16.99	Extent:	160 pages
Binding:	Paperback	Imprint:	Walker
ISBN:	9781529521023		

WHAT IS A FOOTBALL GOAT?

Hi there, we're Matt and Seth – we're two friends who love football. *A lot.* Now, seeing as you're reading this book (thanks, by the way), we're guessing you love football too. *Snap!* Welcome to our world...



We love playing football, watching football and reading about football. But most of all, we love *arguing* with each other about football.

Matt

Your team is trash! My team would beat your team any day – 50–0!



Seth

Matt, that would be the biggest win in football history!



Matt

So?!



And our favourite topic to fight over?
The football GOAT!

Oh yeah, before we go any further, we should issue a very important warning: this book is *not* about animals. Sorry! Don't get us wrong, we do like the goats you find on farms, with their cute, fluffy beards; it's just that we prefer the GOATs you find on the football field – the...

GREATEST OF ALL TIME.

Yes, we're talking about the smartest, the fastest, the most skilful and the most successful players to ever grace the beautiful game. There have been some real legends over the years, but we believe that two stand out above the rest ...

IT'S MESSI V. RONALDO!



LIONEL

MESSI



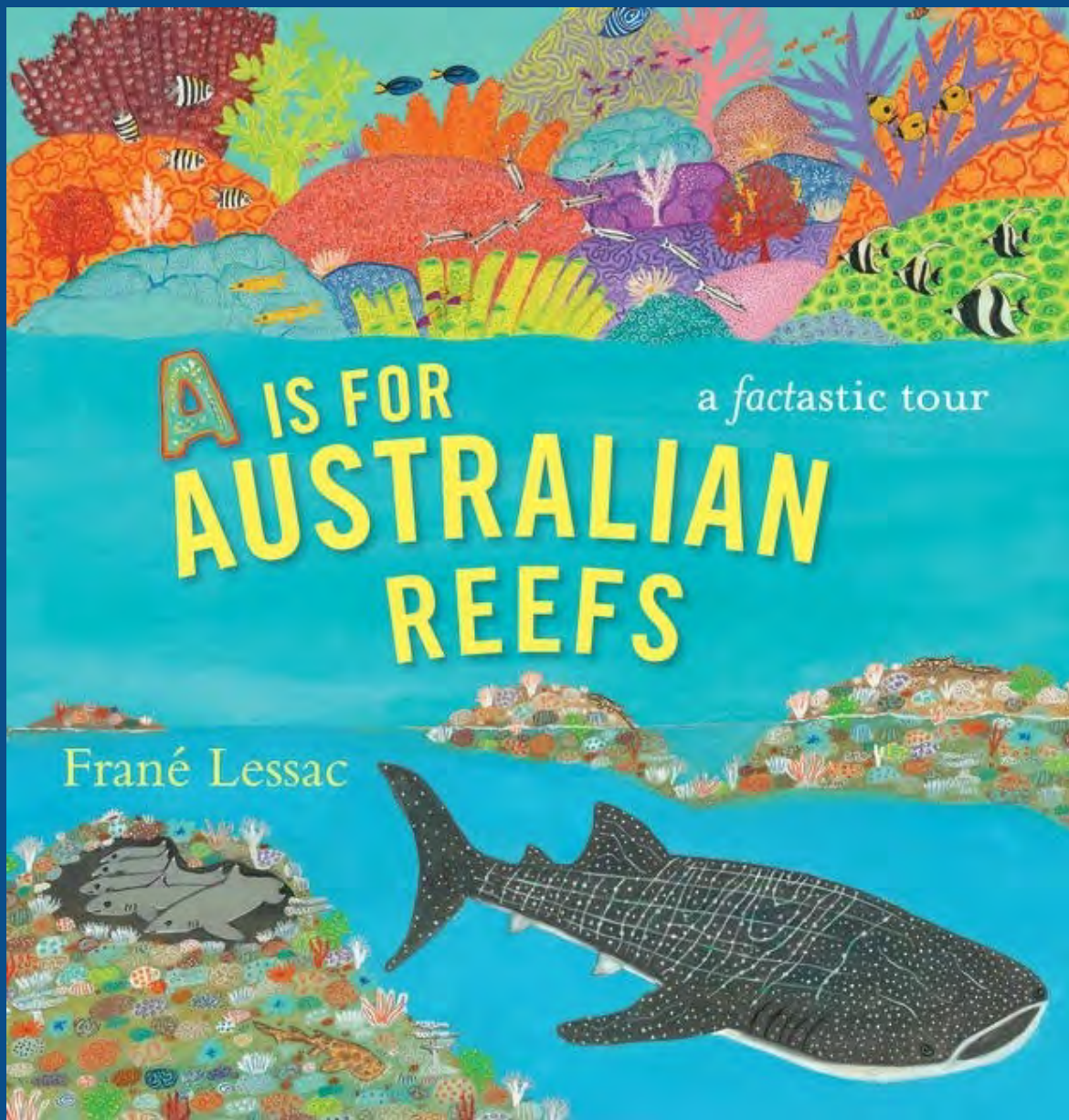
DATE OF BIRTH	24 June 1987
BIRTHPLACE	Rosario, Argentina
CURRENT POSITION	Centre-forward
CLUBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barcelona (2003–21) • PSG (2021–23) • Inter Miami (2023–present)
NICKNAMES	Leo • Messidona <i>La Pulga</i> (The Flea) The Little Magician • GOAT

CRISTIANO

RONALDO



DATE OF BIRTH	5 February 1985
BIRTHPLACE	Madeira, Portugal
CURRENT POSITION	Striker
CLUBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting Lisbon (2002–03) • Manchester United (2003–09, 2021–22) • Real Madrid (2009–18) • Juventus (2018–21) • Al-Nassr (2022–present)
NICKNAMES	Ronnie • CR7 • <i>El Bicho</i> (The Bug) • Mr Champions League • GOAT

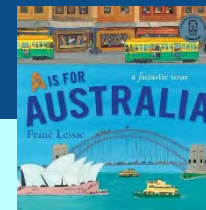


A Is For Australian Reefs Frané Lessac

Along the coastline of Australia, underwater reefs are bustling with the most amazing sea creatures living on the planet!

- Follow up from best-selling, multi-award-winning author/illustrator Frané **Lessac's** previous successes, A is for Australia and A is for Australian Animals
- Full of amazing and intriguing facts about reefs and their inhabitants – and the threats that face our marine life
- Frané's vibrant illustrations bring the ocean to life, with colour that leaps off the
- Perfectly pitched, accessible information for young readers, and their parents and teachers

A deep dive into the biodiversity of **Australia's** remarkable coastline from sharks to octopuses to dolphins and the most famous reef of all – the Great Barrier Reef.



9781925381979



9781760650940



December 2024
Paperback
Picture Books



G

Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the planet's most breathtaking coral reef system. It is so expansive it is visible from space.

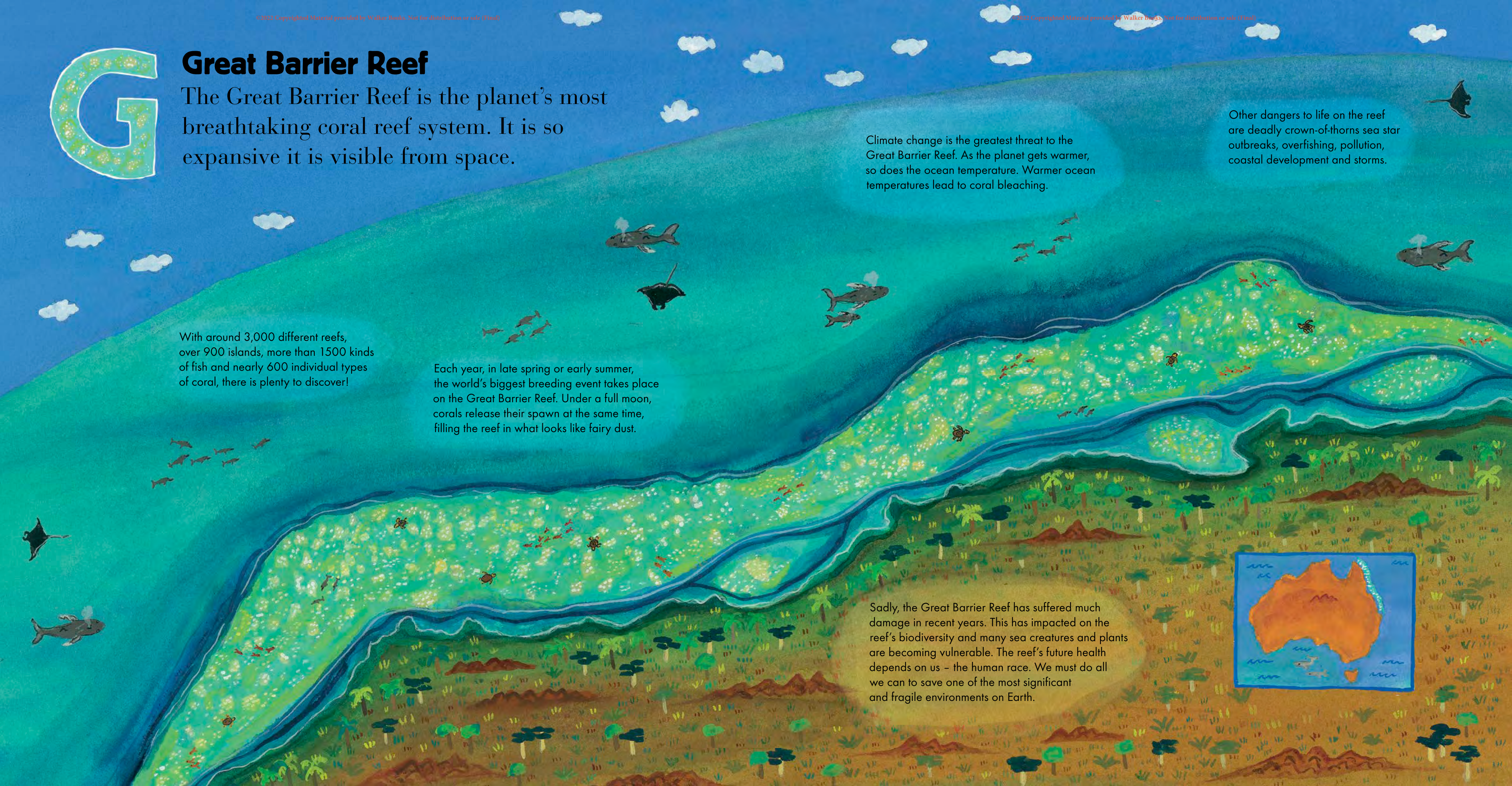
With around 3,000 different reefs, over 900 islands, more than 1500 kinds of fish and nearly 600 individual types of coral, there is plenty to discover!

Each year, in late spring or early summer, the world's biggest breeding event takes place on the Great Barrier Reef. Under a full moon, corals release their spawn at the same time, filling the reef in what looks like fairy dust.

Climate change is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. As the planet gets warmer, so does the ocean temperature. Warmer ocean temperatures lead to coral bleaching.

Other dangers to life on the reef are deadly crown-of-thorns sea star outbreaks, overfishing, pollution, coastal development and storms.

Sadly, the Great Barrier Reef has suffered much damage in recent years. This has impacted on the reef's biodiversity and many sea creatures and plants are becoming vulnerable. The reef's future health depends on us - the human race. We must do all we can to save one of the most significant and fragile environments on Earth.





Handfish

Handfish have fins that look like hands.
They can swim but prefer to “walk”
on their fins to search for food.

Red handfish are only found on shallow rocky reefs in Tasmania. Even though it is bright red, it is tiny and difficult to find in the seaweed.

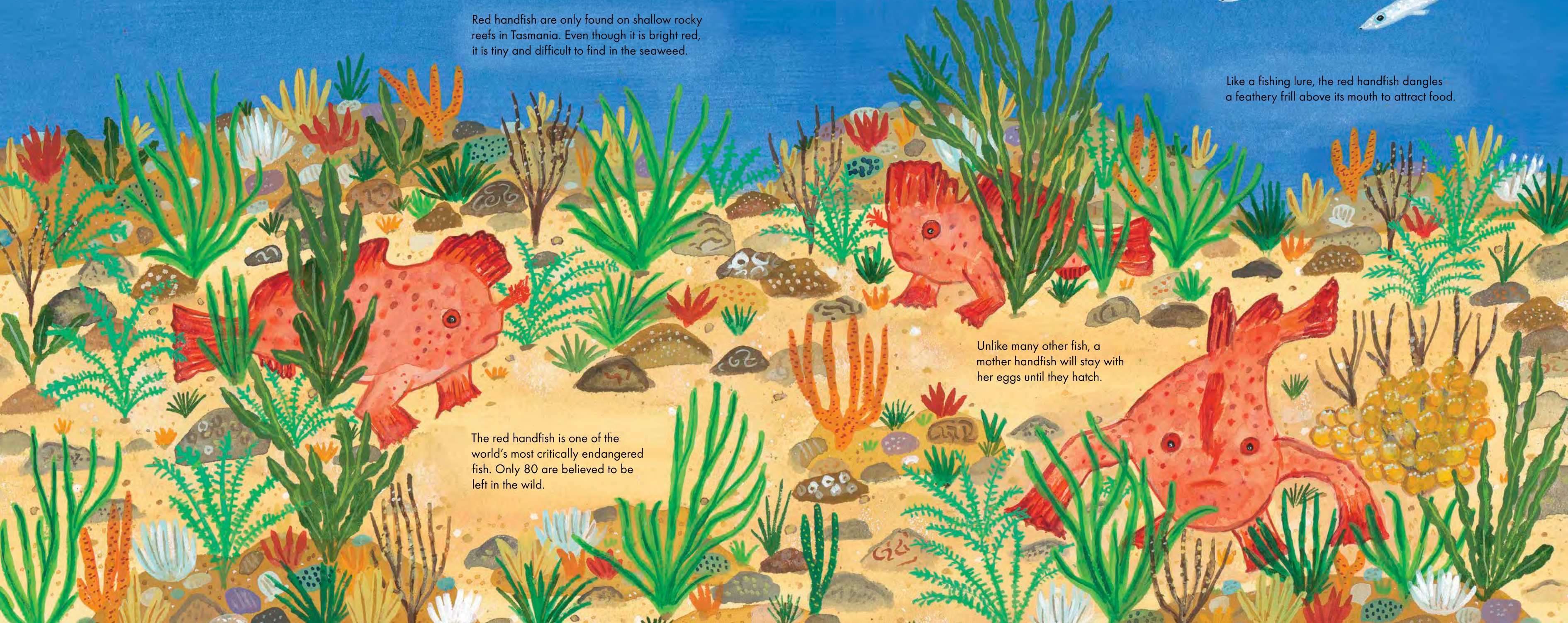
The biggest threats to the survival of the handfish are pollution, coastal development and climate change, as well as being collected illegally for aquariums.



Like a fishing lure, the red handfish dangles a feathery frill above its mouth to attract food.

Unlike many other fish, a mother handfish will stay with her eggs until they hatch.

The red handfish is one of the world's most critically endangered fish. Only 80 are believed to be left in the wild.



A Is for Australian Reefs

by Frané Lessac

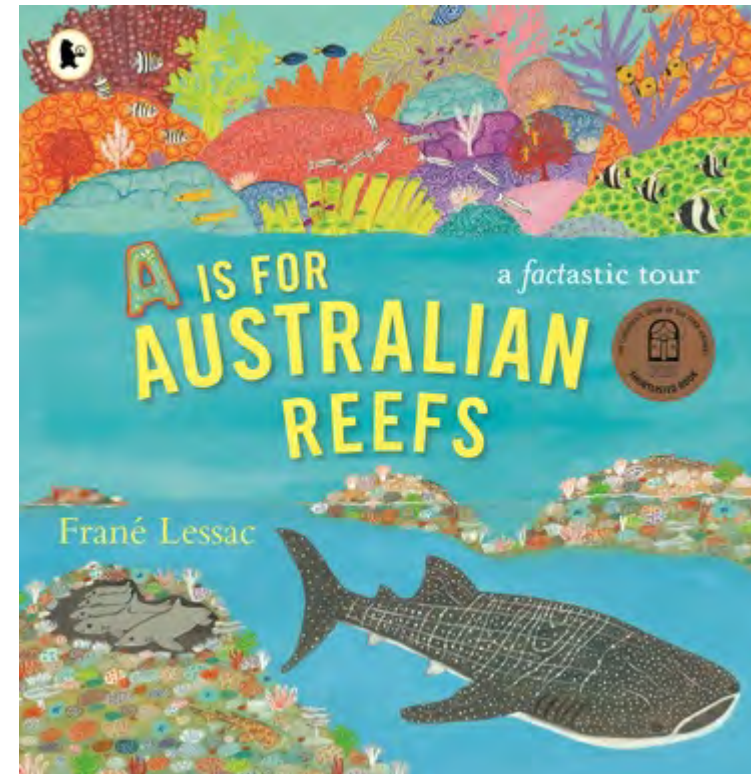
illustrated by Frané Lessac

A dive into fascinating facts from best-selling, multi-award-winning author/illustrator Frané Lessac. Now in paperback!

Along the coastline of Australia, underwater reefs are bustling with the most amazing sea creatures living on the planet! A deep dive into the biodiversity of Australia's remarkable coastline from sharks to octopuses to dolphins and manta rays and seahorses - and the most famous reef of all - the Great Barrier Reef.

- Follow up to Frané Lessac's previous successes, *A is for Australia* and *A is for Australian Animals*
- Full of amazing and intriguing facts about reefs and their inhabitants – and the threats that face our marine life
- Frané's vibrant illustrations bring the ocean to life, with colour that leaps off the page
- Perfectly pitched, accessible information for young readers, and their parents and teachers

Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator of international renown, having nearly fifty children's books published throughout the world. She was born in the USA and lived on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, as well as in London, before moving to Australia. Frané loves to travel and create books based on her worldwide journeys. She has contributed her distinctive paintings to many critically acclaimed children's picture books including, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* which won the West Australian Premier's Children's Book Award, and *Simpson and His Donkey*, a CBCA Honour Book that was also selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book. In 2019, *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, written by Traci Sorell, was awarded the Robert F. Sibert Honor Book Honor medal, the Orbis Pictus Honor Book medal and the Boston Globe Horn Book Honor medal.



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WALKER BOOKS

A Is for Australia

by Frané Lessac

illustrated by Frané Lessac

A factastic tour of Australia from A to Z with award-winning author and illustrator Frané Lessac. Now in paperback!

What is the Fremantle Doctor? Where is Qui Qui? And why are some islands named after days of the week? You'll uncover these exciting facts when you explore the A to Z of Australia – from Bondi to Kakadu and all the way to Taronga Zoo. Discover why Australia is one of the most amazing countries in the world!

- In 2016, it was the Winner of the Crystal Kite Member Choice Award, Australia and New Zealand Division, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and a Notable Book, Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, Children's Book Council of Australia Awards.
- Includes high interest facts and full colour illustrations of diverse locations throughout the country. All states are represented, and Indigenous content is included.
- "A good reminder that there are plenty of natural and man-made sights to enjoy without a passport ... 4/5 stars." *Books+Publishing*

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WALKER BOOKS



Fremantle (WA) is one of the best preserved 19th-century seaports in the world.

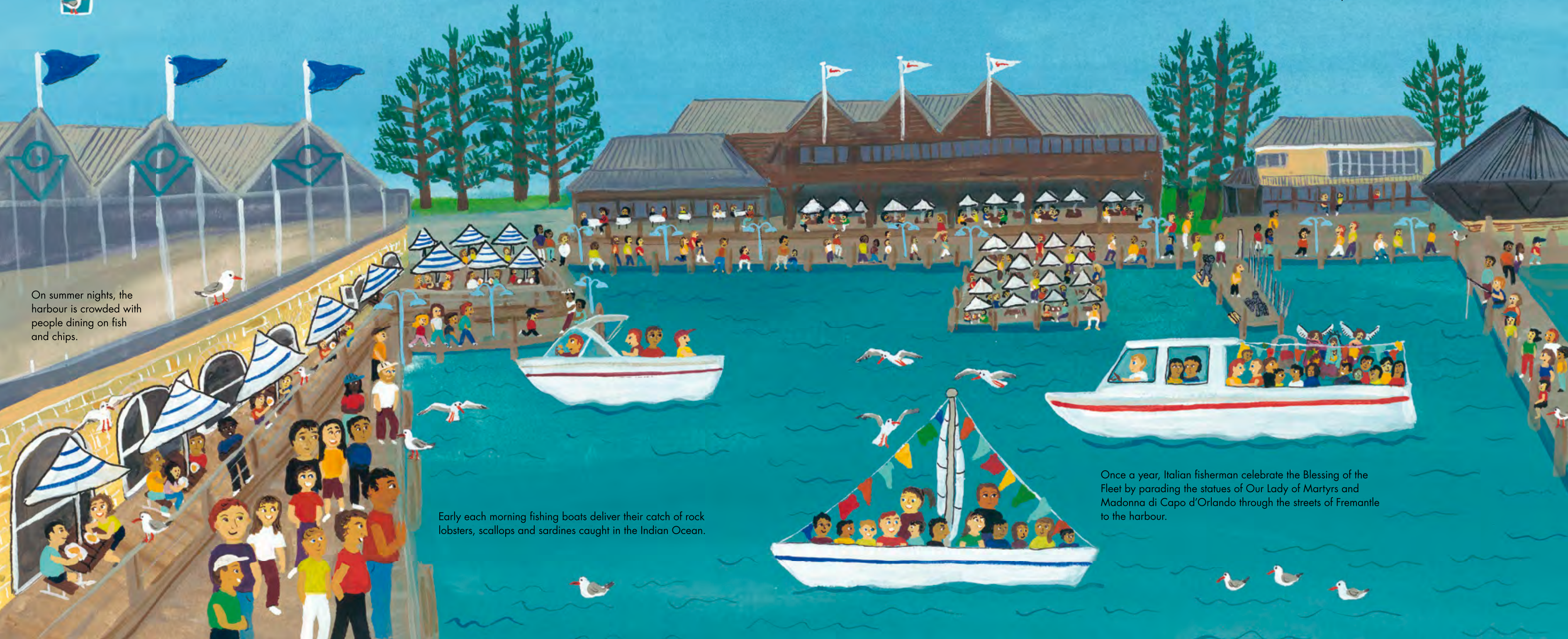
Fremantle is known as *Walyalup* by the Noongar people, the traditional owners of the land.

The Fremantle Doctor is a cool sea breeze that blows in from the ocean on hot summer days.

On summer nights, the harbour is crowded with people dining on fish and chips.

Early each morning fishing boats deliver their catch of rock lobsters, scallops and sardines caught in the Indian Ocean.

Once a year, Italian fisherman celebrate the Blessing of the Fleet by parading the statues of Our Lady of Martyrs and Madonna di Capo d'Orlando through the streets of Fremantle to the harbour.





Sydney (NSW) is home to Australia's best-known landmarks – the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

Sydney Harbour Bridge is affectionately called the "Coat Hanger" because of its shape. You can climb 1437 steps to the top of the bridge.

The bridge took 8 years to build and was opened in 1932. The 485,000 square metres of steelwork is grey because there was no other colour available in such a large quantity.

The Sydney Opera House, Australia's most iconic building, was designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon. It took 16 years to build and was opened in 1973.



Sydney Opera House is located on Bennelong Point on the land of the Gadigal people. It was named after Bennelong, a man who worked to make peace between Aboriginal people and the first European settlers. The Aboriginal name for the point is *Tu-bow-gule*, meaning "meeting of the waters".

Paul Robeson was the first person to sing at the Sydney Opera House while it was being built. He sang "Ol' Man River" to the workers as they ate their lunch on the top of the scaffolding.

During a show featuring live chickens, a playful chicken fell off the Opera House stage and landed on a cellist's head. Shortly after, a net that had been tested to hold the weight of 70 chickens was installed above the orchestra pit.

One way to see Sydney Harbour is by ferry. Circular Quay is the hub of the harbour; boats go to Taronga Zoo, Cockatoo Island and the famous voyage to Manly starts here.

The metal arch of the bridge rises and falls 18 centimetres when the temperature changes. The bridge has special hinges that retract and expand.

A Is for Australian Animals

by Frané Lessac

illustrated by Frané Lessac

A factastic tour of Australian animals, by award-winning author-illustrator Frané Lessac. Now in paperback.

Australia is full of the most amazing animals on the planet! What animal has six thumbs? What animal produces square poo? What animal is made up of 95 per cent water and is highly venomous? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this factastic tour of Australian animals.

- **Notable Book, Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award, Eve Pownall Award for Information Books category, 2018**
- **"Vividly illustrated and packed with fascinating information ... destined to become a family favourite." *The Sunday Telegraph***
- **Companion to *A is for Australia*, which was a Notable Book for the 2016 Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, CBCA Awards and Winner of the 2016 Crystal Kite Members Choice Award. Received 4/5 stars from *Books+Publishing*.**

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Death Adder

The death adder is one of the deadliest land snakes in the world.

Dingo

The dingo is a wild dog and Australia's largest land predator.



This is the desert death adder. To lure prey, it wriggles its tail like a worm. When animals, birds or lizards come closer to have a look, the death adder strikes with lightning speed and injects venom.

Asian sailors first brought dingoes to Australia about 4500 years ago.

Unlike many snakes, death adder babies are born live and slither off soon after birth.



Dingoes do not bark; they moan, snuff and howl.

Dingoes have special wrists that rotate. When hunting, they can use their paws like hands to pick up food.

To see behind them, dingoes can turn their heads nearly right around in each direction, without moving their bodies.





Irukandji Jellyfish

The Irukandji jellyfish is one of the most venomous creatures in the world.

Made up of 95 per cent water, Irukandji look like clear jelly, making them difficult to spot.

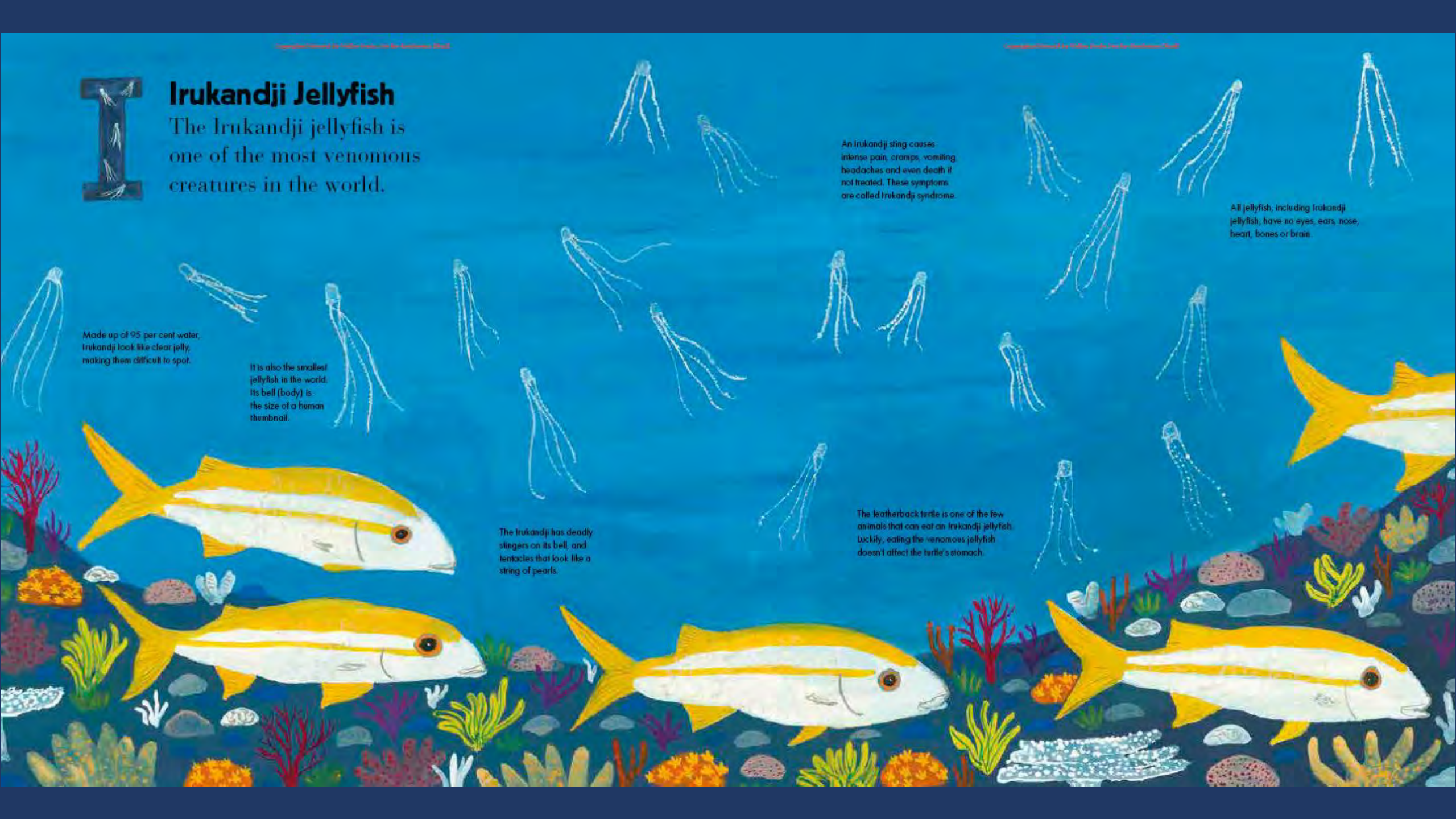
It is also the smallest jellyfish in the world. Its bell (body) is the size of a human thumbnail.

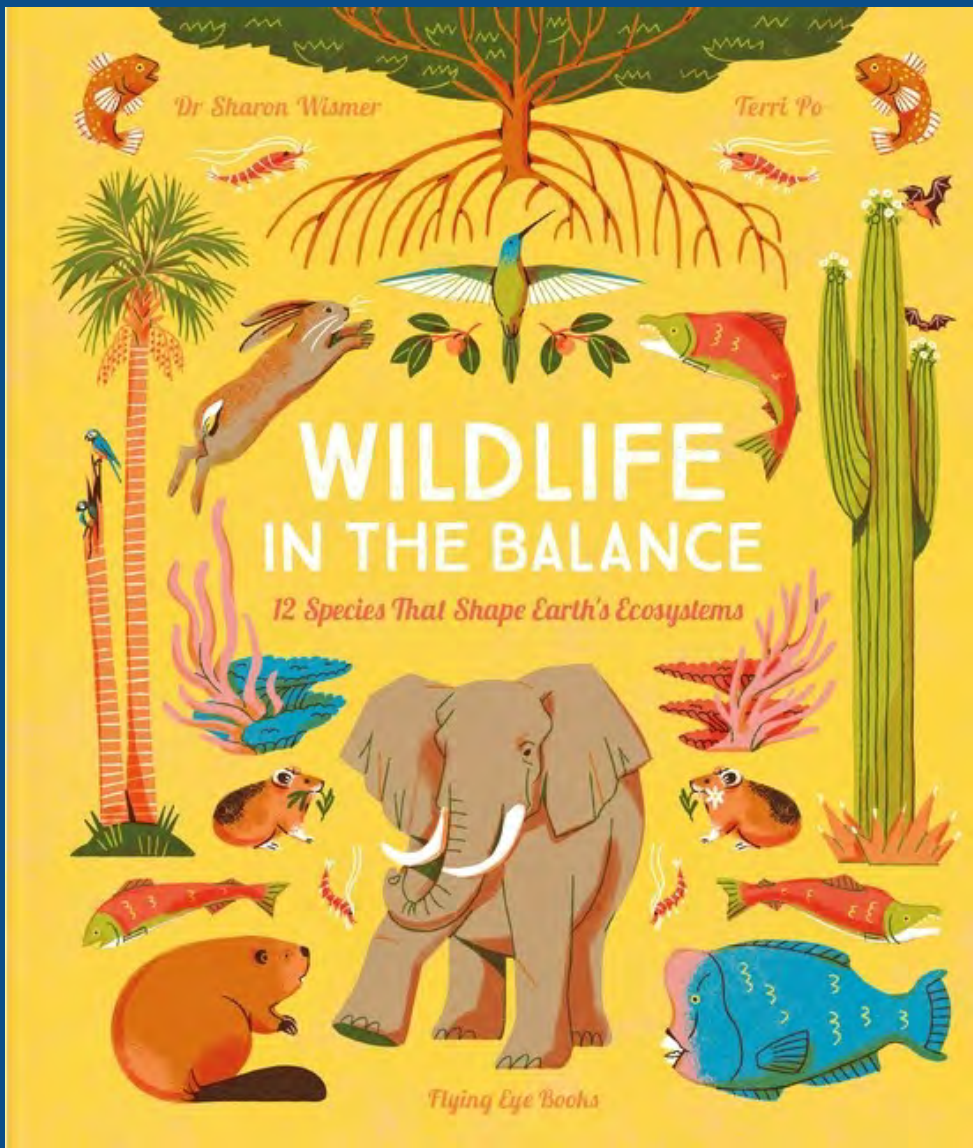
The Irukandji has deadly stingers on its bell, and tentacles that look like a string of pearls.

An Irukandji sting causes intense pain, cramps, vomiting, headaches and even death if not treated. These symptoms are called Irukandji syndrome.

All jellyfish, including Irukandji jellyfish, have no eyes, ears, nose, heart, bones or brain.

The leatherback turtle is one of the few animals that can eat an Irukandji jellyfish. Luckily, eating the venomous jellyfish doesn't affect the turtle's stomach.





Wildlife in the Balance: Species that Shape Earth's Ecosystems

Dr Sharon Wismer

Meet some of the most important animals to our ecosystem and find out all the incredible ways they are helping save the planet.

- This book offers factual information on habitats, wildlife and the latest conservation processes for our environment
- Global appeal as every habitat on the planet has these keystone species
- Promotes a positive and hopeful message that impactful conservation can be successful in saving the planet

This book introduces readers to keystone animals across all the five major biomes - aquatic, grassland, forest, desert, and tundra – and includes facts about wildlife, habitats, and modern conservation practices to help protect these species.

WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM?

An ecosystem is a community of living things, like plants and animals, the environment they live in, like soil or water, and the many interactions between them. Ecosystems are found on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. They can be small, like a neighbourhood pond, or cover large areas, like the Amazon rainforest. Our whole planet is like a big puzzle made up of many different ecosystems. Each ecosystem is unique and has its own set of plants and animals that have learned how to live there.

Desert

Dry land with little plant life and well-adapted animals. These are some of the hottest places on Earth which receive very little rainfall.



Tundra

Cold, windy and treeless areas often found in the polar regions. These are some of the coldest places on Earth.



Tropical Forest

These forests are found near the equator where it is warm and humid. The plants here stay green throughout the year.



Temperate Forest

These forests are mostly broad-leaf or needle trees that grow in mild climates. The trees here often drop their leaves in winter.



Temperate Grassland

These areas consist mostly of grass and trees that thrive in mild climates with some rainfall.



Open Ocean

Oceanic areas away from the coast and above the seabed.



Coral Reef

These are tropical marine ecosystems. Reefs are made up of hundreds to thousands of living corals. These are some of the most diverse places on Earth.



Savanna Grassland

Found mostly in Africa, these are large areas dominated by grasses and maintained by grazing animals.

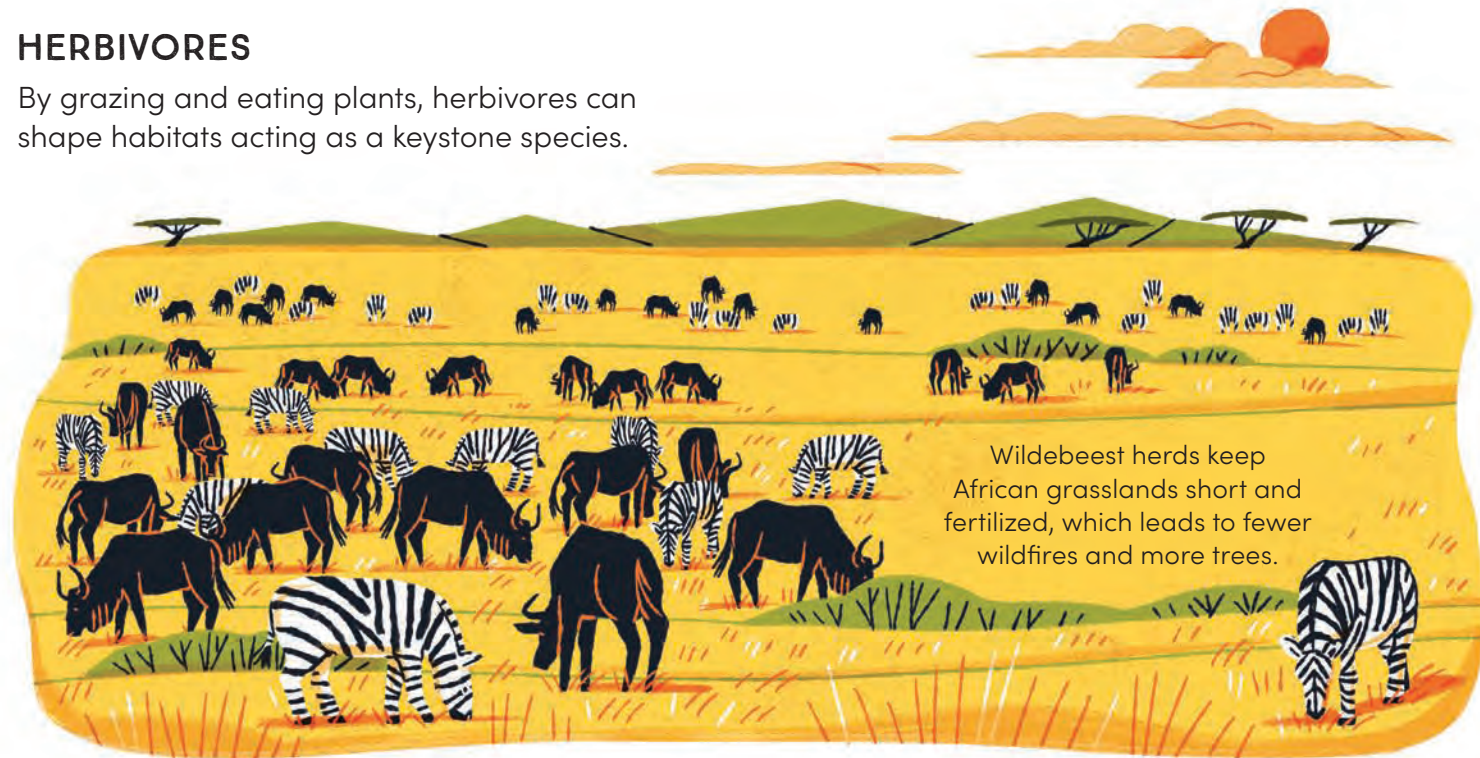


MEET THE KEYSTONES

Ecologists soon realised that keystone species don't have to be predators. In fact, some species of plants, birds, insects and grazing animals are types of keystone species.

HERBIVORES

By grazing and eating plants, herbivores can shape habitats acting as a keystone species.



PLANTS

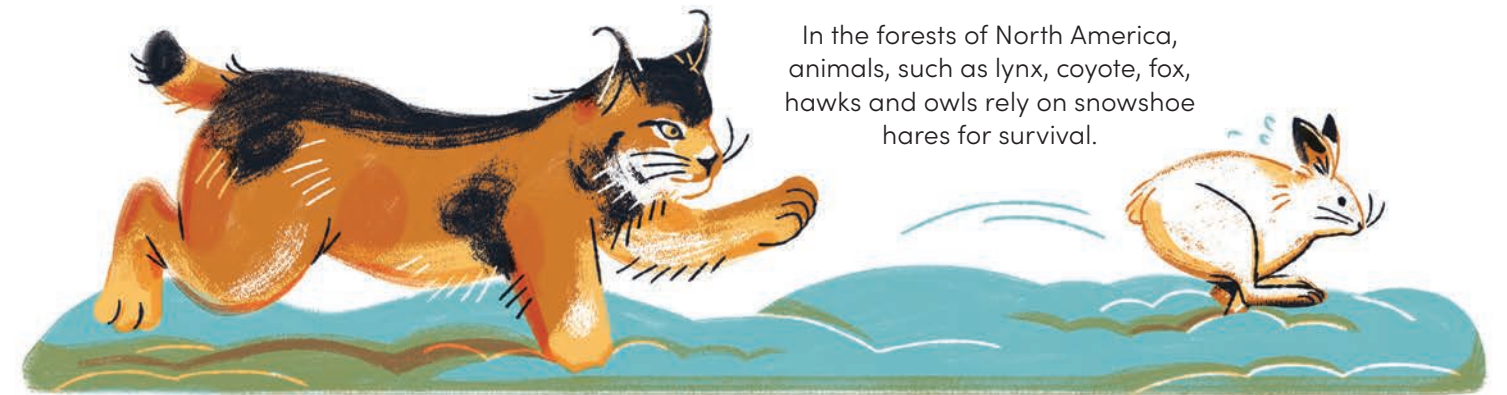
Even plants can be a keystone species. They often provide food or habitat for other species to thrive.

Fig trees in the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia are critical for many fruit-eating animals, including bats, monkeys and birds.



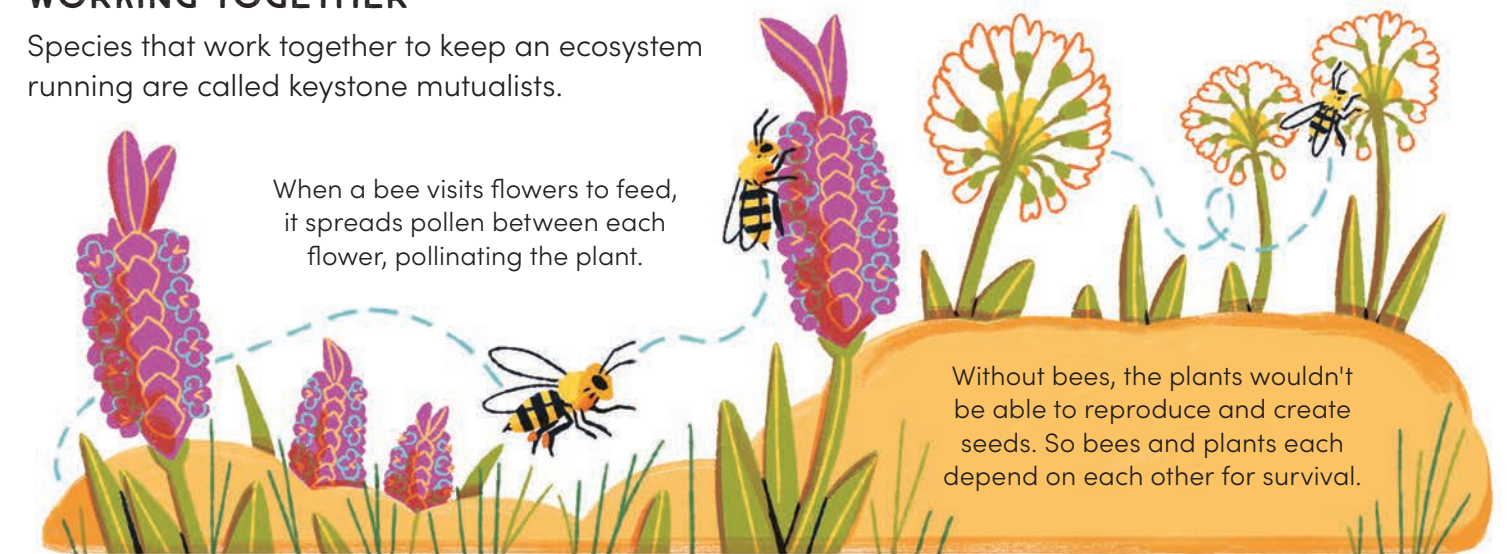
PREY

Some animals are called prey because they are food for other animals. They play a very important role in the food web. Many different species rely on these prey animals for their survival. Without them, the whole ecosystem would be affected.



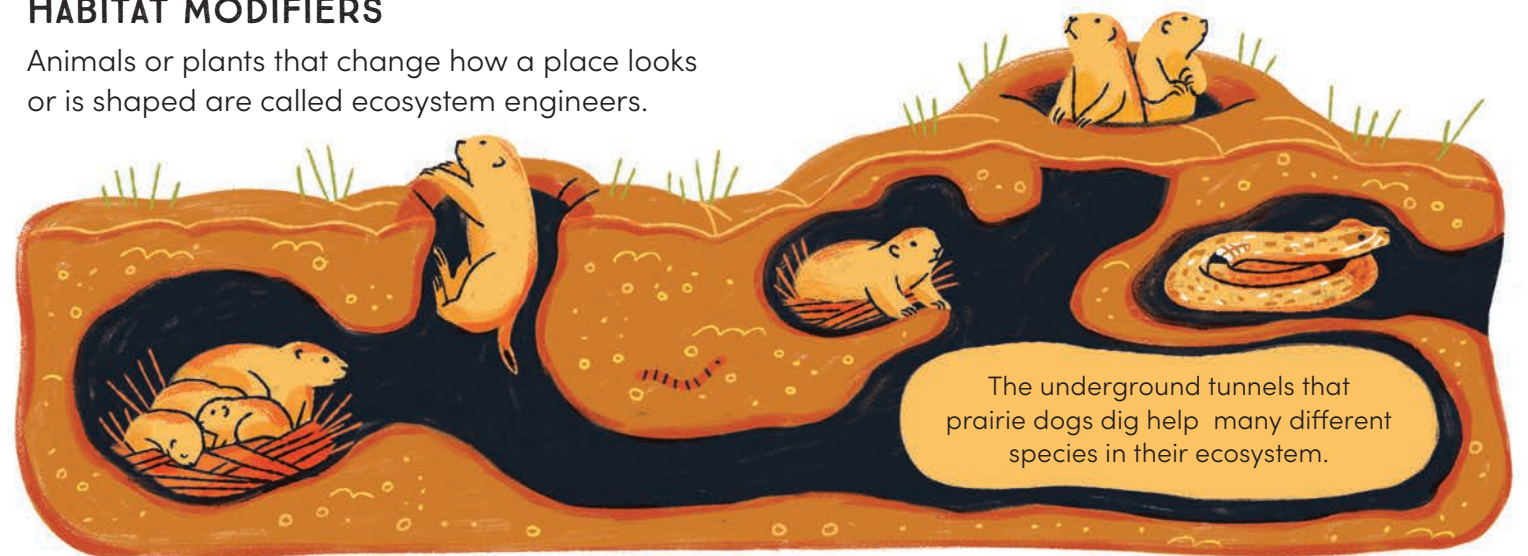
WORKING TOGETHER

Species that work together to keep an ecosystem running are called keystone mutualists.



HABITAT MODIFIERS

Animals or plants that change how a place looks or is shaped are called ecosystem engineers.



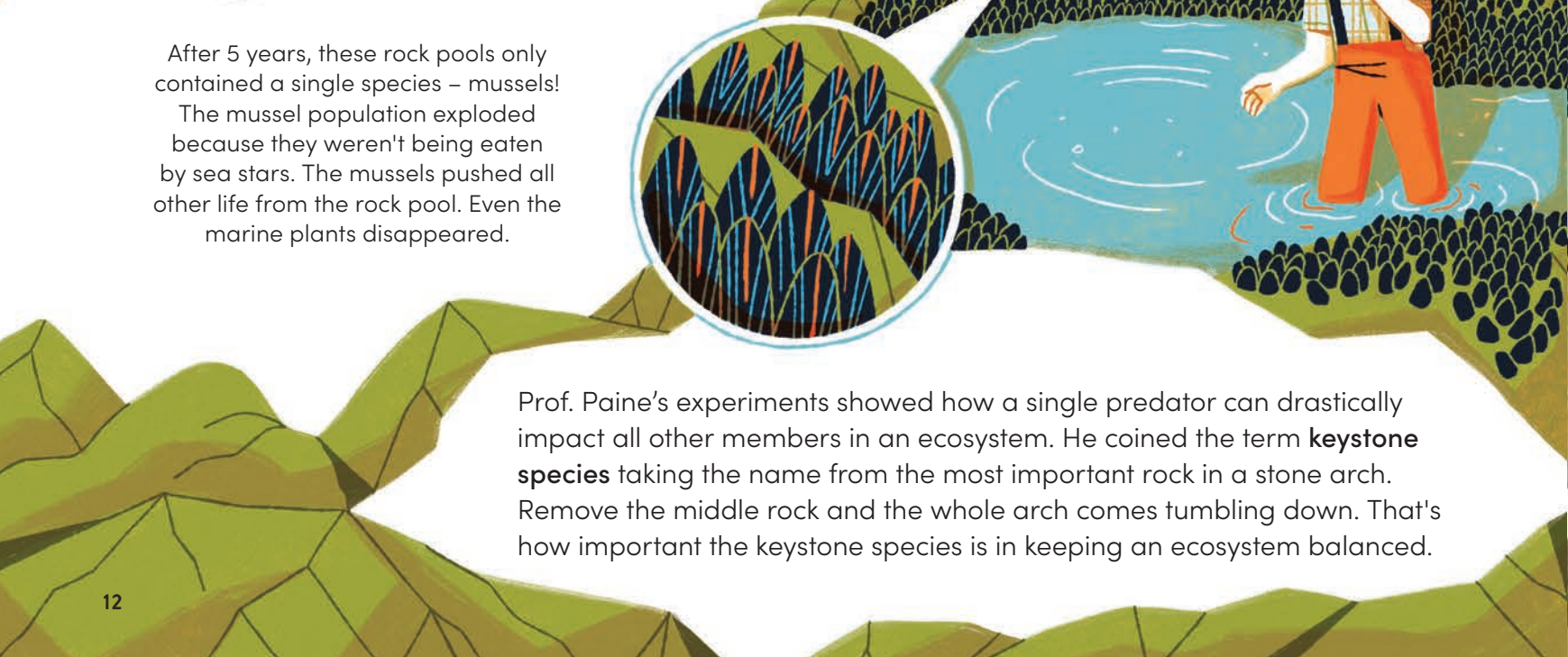
DISCOVERY OF KEYSTONE SPECIES

In the 1960s biologists began asking some simple questions about the natural world. They knew that land was covered in plants but wondered why plant-eating animals didn't end up eating all the vegetation on our planet? They also began to wonder what would happen when certain animals are removed from a place. A scientist named Prof. Robert Paine studied the vibrant rock pools along the Washington State coastline and found something interesting. He discovered that not all animals in a food web are equally important. Some animals play a bigger role in keeping the ecosystem balanced.



The rock pools were home to 16 different species, including the top predator, the ochre sea star, as well as, mussels, limpets, barnacles, anemones, sponges, and sea slugs.

Prof. Paine removed ochre sea stars from half of the rock pools each month for several years. Every year, the total number of species in the rock pools without sea stars became less and less.

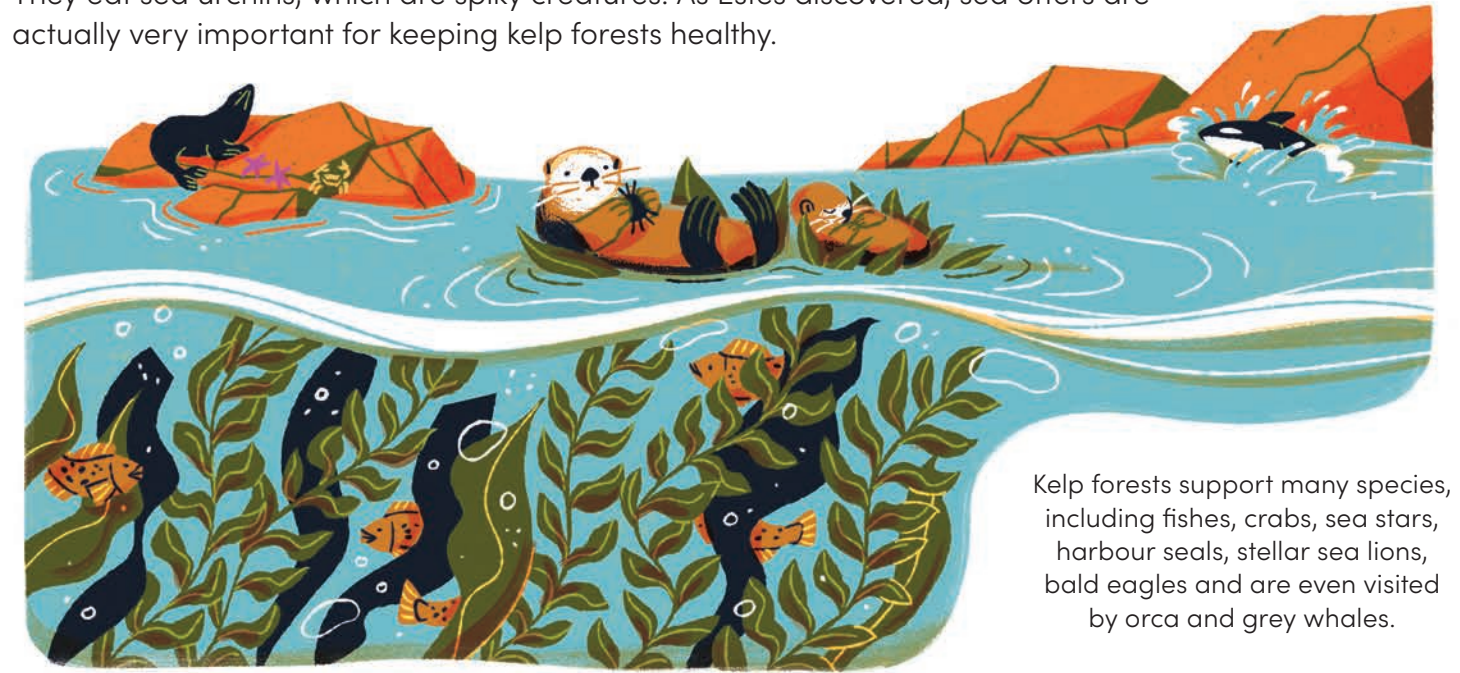


After 5 years, these rock pools only contained a single species – mussels! The mussel population exploded because they weren't being eaten by sea stars. The mussels pushed all other life from the rock pool. Even the marine plants disappeared.

Prof. Paine's experiments showed how a single predator can drastically impact all other members in an ecosystem. He coined the term **keystone species** taking the name from the most important rock in a stone arch. Remove the middle rock and the whole arch comes tumbling down. That's how important the keystone species is in keeping an ecosystem balanced.

FRIENDLY YET FIERCE

A little further up the coast, in the waters of the Pacific Ocean, young scientist James Estes (with help from Prof. Paine) discovered another keystone species – the sea otter! Sea otters may look fluffy and cute, but they are really strong and fierce hunters. They eat sea urchins, which are spiky creatures. As Estes discovered, sea otters are actually very important for keeping kelp forests healthy.



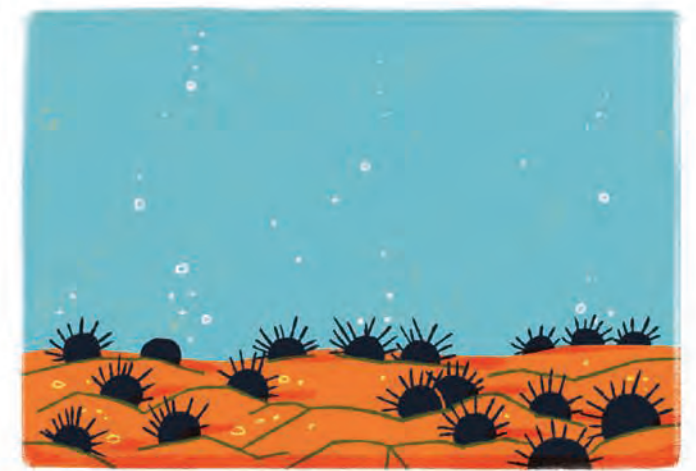
Kelp forests support many species, including fishes, crabs, sea stars, harbour seals, stellar sea lions, bald eagles and are even visited by orca and grey whales.

THE FORESTS OF THE OCEAN

In the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, sea otters are only found on some of the islands.

It is in here that James Estes discovered that islands with lots of sea otters were also home to healthy, flourishing kelp forests.

In contrast, islands with no sea otters were ravaged by urchins. There was no kelp and no life, just a barren sea floor covered with spiny creatures.



Without predatory sea otters, urchins grew and grazed unchecked, until the kelp forest was destroyed. When the kelp disappeared, many other animals that lived there also disappeared. It was like a big chain reaction. Scientists call this kind of reaction a '**trophic cascade**'.

APEX PREDATORS

Apex predators are like the kings and queens of the animal world. They are at the very top of the food chain, which means they don't have any animals that hunt or eat them. These special predators are important for keeping the balance in an ecosystem. They control the populations of other animals by hunting and eating them.



When an apex predator is removed from an area it can upset the balance of the whole ecosystem. This is what happened in Yellowstone National Park. In the 1920's, the park's apex predators, grey wolves, were hunted and hunted, until they were eliminated from the park.

With wolves gone from Yellowstone, elk had no predators, and their numbers grew and grew. These large deer eat grasses, as well as shrubs, bark and the shoots of young trees. Without their natural predators, elk became fearless and grazed until the landscape was barren.

In 1995 scientists relocated wild wolves from Canada and Montana to the park and released them. By reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone, the knock-on effect called trophic cascade happened restoring balance to the ecosystem.



Wolves hunted, killed and ate elk. As wolves usually target weak or old elk, the Yellowstone elk population became stronger and more resilient.



Grizzly bears, ravens and eagles scavenged on wolf kills.



With fewer elk aspen and willow trees were able to grow again.



With big, healthy trees, beavers were able to create dams again.



Beaver dams created new habitats for ducks, amphibians, fish, reptiles, and river otters.



Trees provided places for songbirds to nest, and brought back migratory birds.

Wildlife in the Balance: Species that Shape Earth's Ecosystems

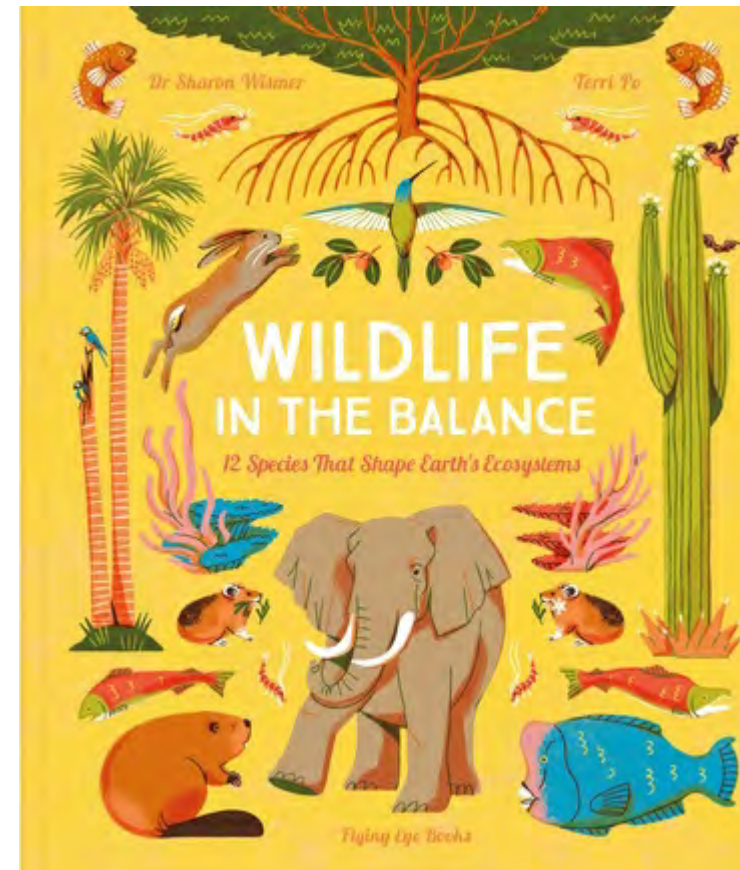
by Dr Sharon Wismer
illustrated by Terri Po

Meet some of our planet's most important animals and discover the remarkable ways they are helping save our planet.

Learn about 12 keystone species around the world from elephants to wolves, honeybees to beavers. Keystone species are animals or plants that play a crucial role in different habitats and have a huge effect on the environment around them. Entire ecosystems can depend on a single species, and they act as a glue that holds the ecosystem together. The book will introduce readers to keystone animals across all the five major biomes (aquatic, grassland, forest, desert, and tundra) with facts about wildlife, habitats, and modern conservation practices to protect these species.

- A unique perspective on some of the latest conservation processes. The book will combine information on habitats, wildlife and conservation work.
- Global appeal as every habitat/biome on the planet has keystone species.
- Positive and uplifting conservation message - it's not too late to fix the planet.

Sharon Wismer is a scientist, children's book author and mother who enjoys sharing her passion for wildlife and science. She is currently funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and leads a science communication project at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Sharon obtained her PhD in 2017. As a marine biologist, her research focused on the behavioural ecology of reef fishes and the impacts of mass coral bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef. Her scientific work has been published in many peer-reviewed international journals, while her children's books, *Keepers of the Reef* and *When Nature Runs Wild*, aim to make emerging science accessible and exciting for children's generation.



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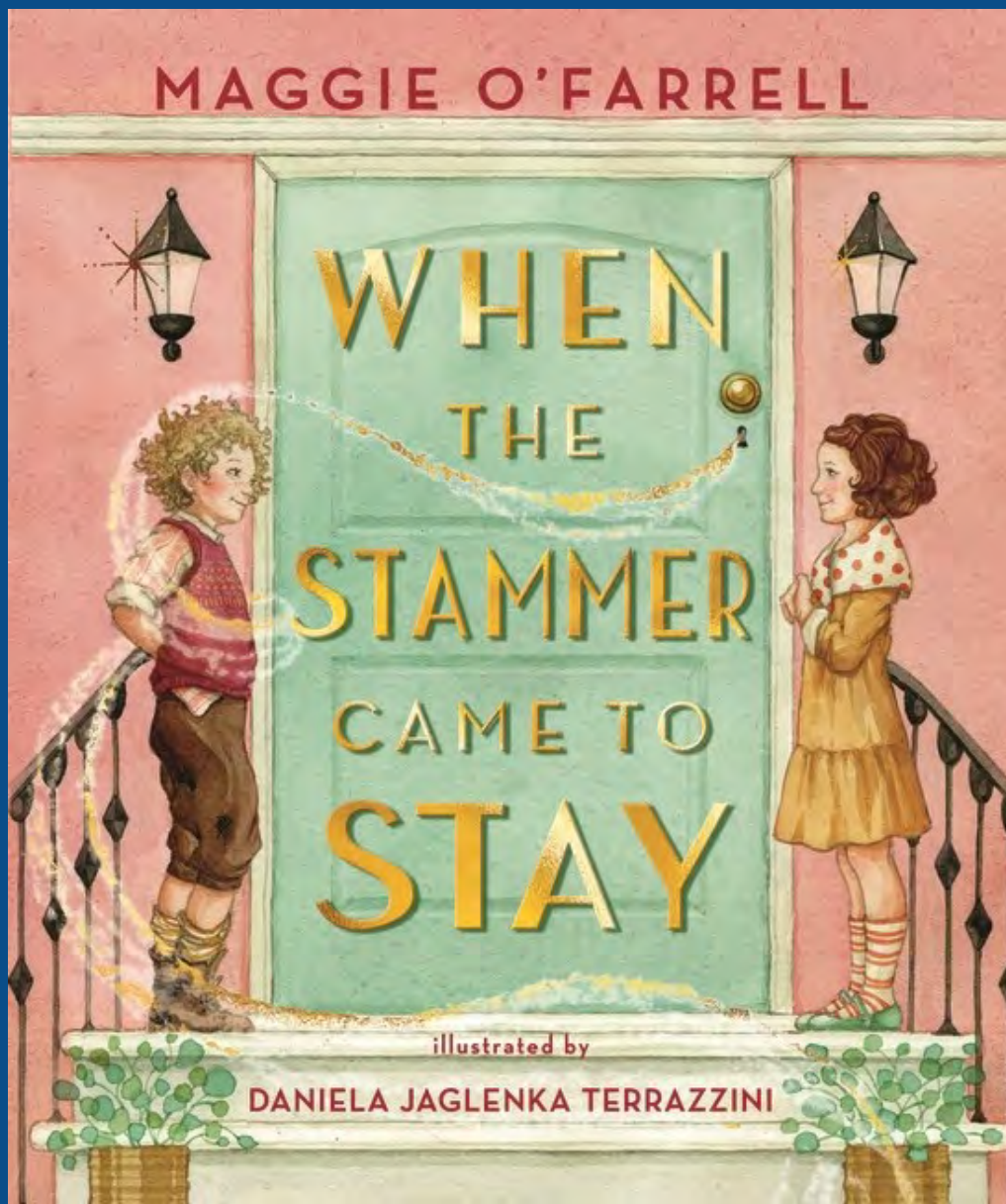
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WALKER BOOKS



Picture Books



When the Stammer Came to Stay Maggie O'Farrell

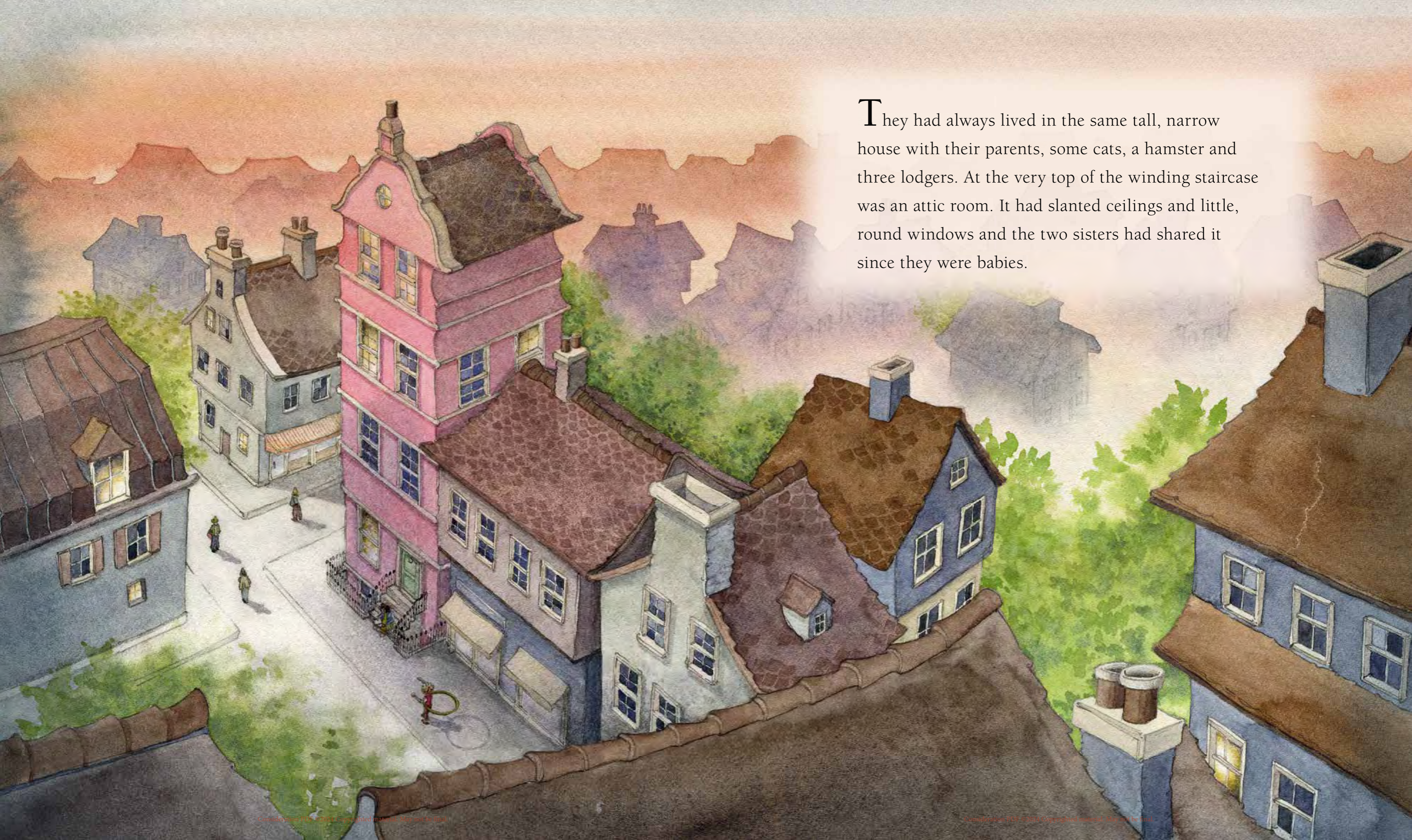
From multi-award winning author Maggie O'Farrell, comes a hopeful and powerful book based on Maggie's own experience living with a stammer.

- Explores the important topic of speech impediment in children through a unique, original lens
- Third title from this amazing author and illustrator collaboration
- Will appeal to fans of the Maggie and relatable for anyone struggling with a speech impediment
- Maggie O'Farrell is the winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Waterstones Book of the Year for Hamnet, now a West End play. She also won the Indie Book of the Month for her debut children's book, Where Snow Angels Go.

Sisters Bea and Min are a perfect pair because Min loves to chat and Bea loves to listen. However, one day Min begins to struggle with a stammer, forcing her to question how she can be herself without being able to do what she loves most. Together the sisters go on a journey of self-discovery to find a way to make peace with themselves and embrace what makes them different.

December 2024
Hardback
Picture Books





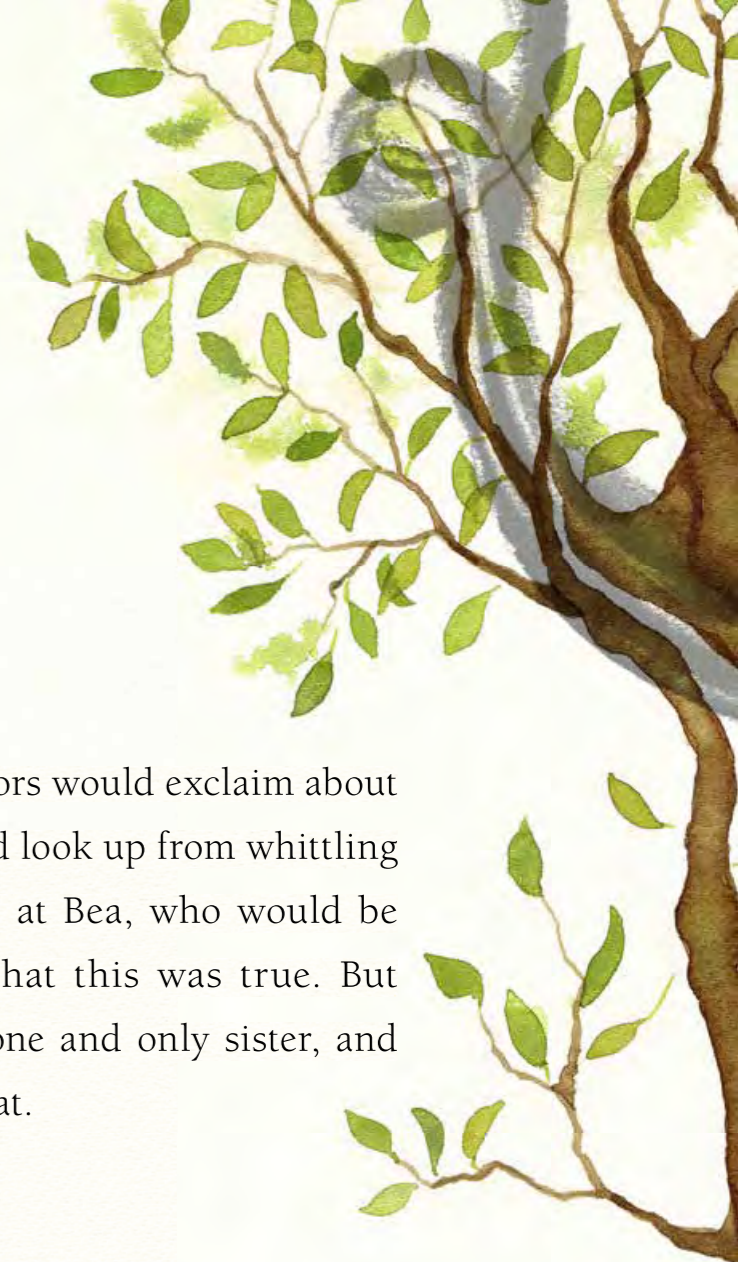
They had always lived in the same tall, narrow house with their parents, some cats, a hamster and three lodgers. At the very top of the winding staircase was an attic room. It had slanted ceilings and little, round windows and the two sisters had shared it since they were babies.

Bea was a child who always kept her shoes polished and who folded her clothes every night. She liked the smell of freshly ironed cotton and the sight of her pencils lined up in order of size. Her favourite task was taking down her books and reshelving them in alphabetical order.

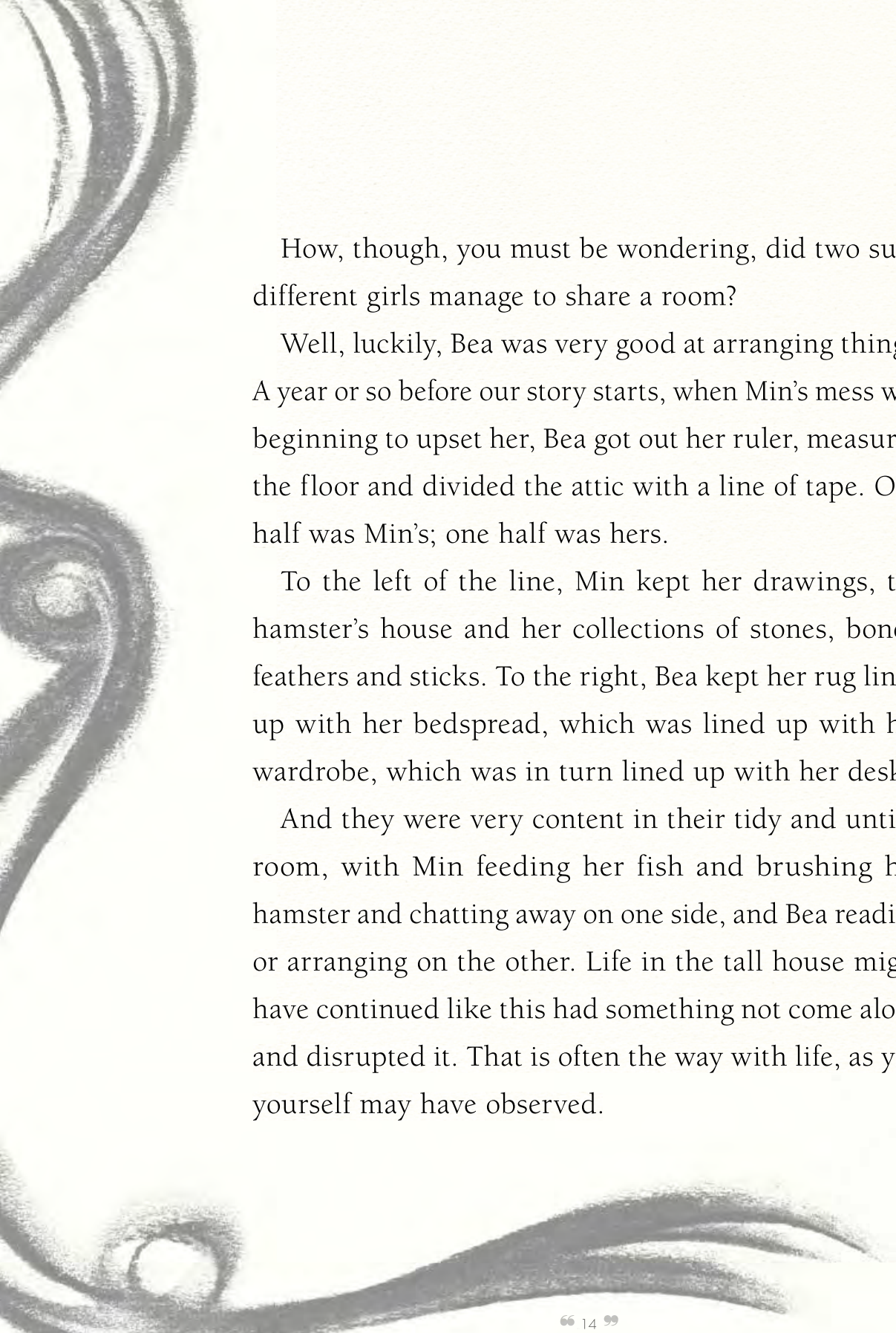
Min was not interested in order of any kind. She liked to run from one side of the park to the other, feeling the way the wind lashed her hair about. Her trousers were often torn at the knees, and she was fond of wading into ponds to collect frogspawn. More than anything, however, Min liked to chat.

She chatted about the pictures she had drawn, about her dreams, about a funny-looking dog she'd seen in the street. She chatted to her friends, to the lodgers, to her mother, to her father, to the cats, to the attentive hamster; most of all, she chatted to her sister, which worked well because Bea was one of those people who preferred listening to talking.





“They are so *different*,” visitors would exclaim about the two sisters. And Min would look up from whittling a stick or making a mud pie, at Bea, who would be reading a book, and know that this was true. But she didn’t care. Bea was her one and only sister, and she loved her, and that was that.



How, though, you must be wondering, did two such different girls manage to share a room?

Well, luckily, Bea was very good at arranging things. A year or so before our story starts, when Min's mess was beginning to upset her, Bea got out her ruler, measured the floor and divided the attic with a line of tape. One half was Min's; one half was hers.

To the left of the line, Min kept her drawings, the hamster's house and her collections of stones, bones, feathers and sticks. To the right, Bea kept her rug lined up with her bedspread, which was lined up with her wardrobe, which was in turn lined up with her desk.

And they were very content in their tidy and untidy room, with Min feeding her fish and brushing her hamster and chatting away on one side, and Bea reading or arranging on the other. Life in the tall house might have continued like this had something not come along and disrupted it. That is often the way with life, as you yourself may have observed.



When the Stammer Came to Stay

by Maggie O'Farrell

illustrated by Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini

From Maggie O'Farrell, the multi award-winning author of *Hamnet*, and the stunning imagination of Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini, comes a hopeful and powerful new book, based on Maggie's own experience on living with a stammer.

Sisters Bea and Min couldn't be any more different – Bea is neat and tidy; Min is messy and mucky. Together, they are a perfect pair because Min loves to chat and Bea loves to listen. And in their happy differences, they share the attic room at the top of their very tall, narrow house. Then, one day, as Min is chatting, her tongue feels suddenly locked. The words forming in her mouth never make it out. Some days later, still struggling to speak, she sees the most extraordinary thing at her shoulder in a mirror ... a creature, a *thing*, seizing the words as they rise to her lips, and cramming them into its mouth. Min continues to struggle with her stammer – how can she truly be herself, when she cannot do what she loves most: chat! Bea is the only one who truly sees, and understands, her. Together, they go on a journey of discovery – what IS this creature? – and they find not quite a solution, but a way to make peace with themselves and to love and embrace what makes each of them different.

- Will appeal to fans of the Maggie O'Farrell's gorgeous, oh-so-human writing and anyone struggling with a speech impediment.
- The third title from this incredible author and illustrator pairing that explores important topics through their own unique brand of magic and mythology.
- Maggie O'Farrell is the winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Waterstones Book of the Year for *Hamnet*, now a West End play. She won the Indie Book of the Month for her debut children's book, *Where Snow Angels Go*, and the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Honour Award for Fiction for *The Boy Who Lost His Spark*.

Maggie O'Farrell is an award-winning Irish-British author. Her books for adults have received international acclaim; she has won the 2013 Costa Novel Award for *The Hand That First Held Mine*, the 2020 Waterstones Book of the Year Award and the 2020 Women's Fiction Prize for *Hamnet*, and her non-fiction book *I Am I Am I Am* reached number 1 on the *Sunday Times* bestseller list. *Where Snow Angels Go* was her first book for children, and it won the Indie Book of the Month. *The Boy Who Lost His Spark*, its follow up title, won the the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Honour Award for Fiction. Find her online at maggieofarrell.com.

Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini studied Fine Art in Milan and moved to London to study Photography at the London College of Printing. She is now an illustrator of both detailed paintings and graphic surface patterns. She has illustrated *Where Snow Angels Go* and *The Boy Who Lost His Spark* by Maggie O'Farrell, *The Night I Met Father Christmas* by Ben Miller and *The Seeing Stitch* by Jane Yolan. Daniela lives in south east London. Follow her on Twitter as @DJTerrazzini and Instagram as @danielajterrazzini.

Publication Date:	04 December 2024	Age:	5 years +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$27.99	Format:	250mm x 210mm
NZ Price (incl. GST):	\$29.99	Extent:	72 pages
Binding:	Hardback	Imprint:	Walker
ISBN:	9781529504286		



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WALKER BOOKS

A Mouse Called Julian

by Joe Todd-Stanton

illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

Julian is a mouse who is perfectly happy avoiding other animals. They seem to just get in the way, and sometimes even try to eat him! But one day, Julian has an unexpected dinner guest...

When a fox tries to sneak into Julian's burrow for a tasty bite of mouse, it finds itself stuck headfirst in Julian's front door! At first alarmed and wary, they soon find themselves having a lovely dinner together, and it's not long before each realises that they have found a lifelong friend.

- A charming story of unlikely friendship between predator and prey.
- Subtly communicates ideas of tolerance and altruism towards others.
- Joe Todd-Stanton's previous book, *The Secret of Black Rock*, won the Waterstone Best Illustrated Book Prize in 2018.

Joe Todd-Stanton is from Brighton and grew up drawing with his mum. He studied Illustration at the University of the West of England, afterwards moving to London where he currently lives. His children's book, *The Secret of Black Rock*, won the 2018 Waterstones Children's Book Prize and since then he has written and illustrated seven books with Flying Eye Books.



Publication Date:	04 December 2024	Age:	0 years, 1 months +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$16.99	Format:	175mm x 200mm
NZ Price (incl. GST):	\$19.99	Extent:	16 pages
Binding:	Board Book	Imprint:	Flying Eye Books
ISBN:	9781838742140		

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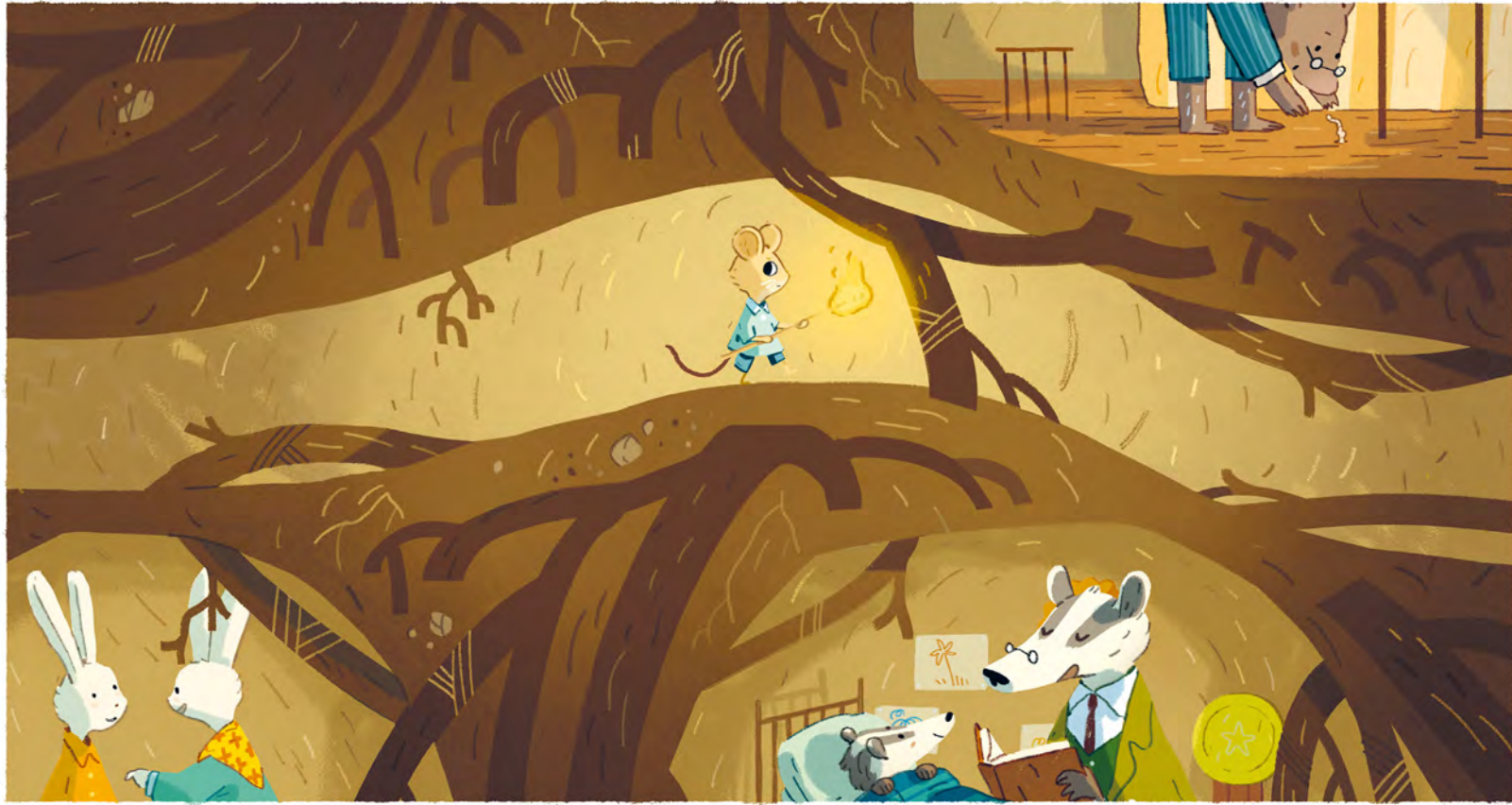
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So he made sure to avoid everyone.



He knew how to dodge the rabbits, the moles and the badgers.



He knew which branch to leap across to escape the hungry barn owl...



He knew where to hide from the farmer and her dog.



...and get home safe.

The next day, Julian tried a new plan...



...and with a bit of effort...



...the fox popped free.



"Thank you," said the fox, as he disappeared back into the woods.

A Mouse Called Julian

by Joe Todd-Stanton

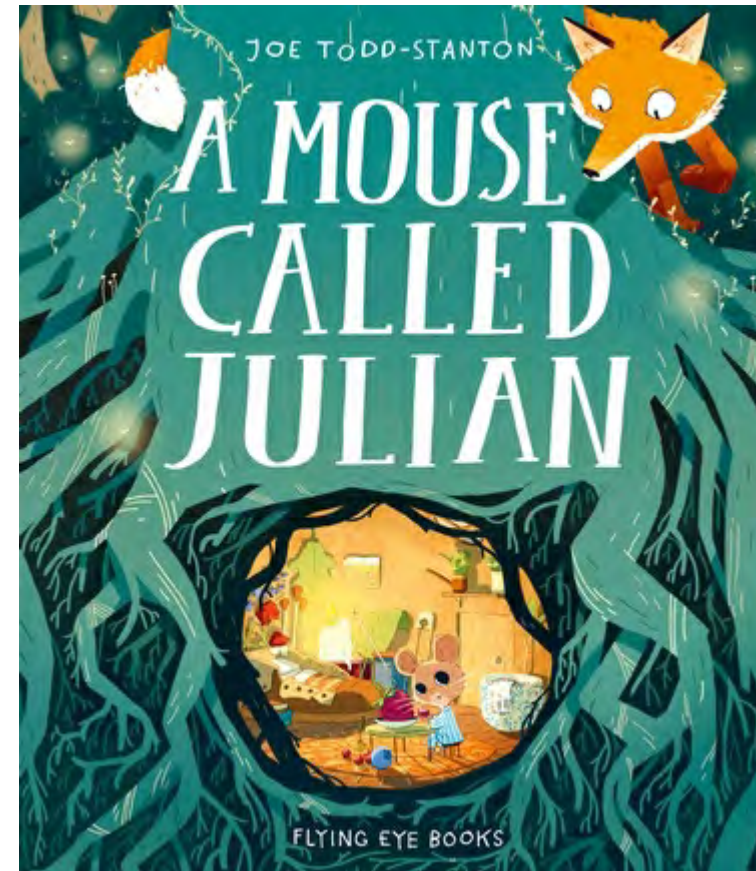
illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

Julian is a mouse who is perfectly happy avoiding other animals. They seem to just get in the way, and sometimes even try to eat him! But one day, Julian has an unexpected dinner guest...

When the fox tries to sneak into Julian's burrow for a tasty bite of mouse, it finds itself stuck headfirst in Julian's front door! At first alarmed and wary, they soon find themselves having a lovely dinner together, and it's not long before each realises that they have found a lifelong friend. Now for the first time in Paperback!

- A charming story of unlikely friendship between predator and prey
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- Joe Todd-Stanton's previous book, *The Secret of Black Rock*, won the Waterstones Best Illustrated Book Prize in 2018

Joe Todd-Stanton grew up in Brighton and was taught to draw by his mother, who is also an illustrator. He studied at UWE Bristol, receiving a First Class Honours in Illustration. Todd-Stanton has been commissioned to work for clients such as Oxford University Press, Usborne Publishing and Aquila magazine. His second picture book, *The Secret of Black Rock*, won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for Best Illustrated Book in 2018.



Publication Date:	02 June 2021	Age:	3 years +
AU Price (incl. GST):	\$16.99	Format:	270mm x 230mm
NZ Price (incl. GST):	\$19.99	Extent:	40 pages
Binding:	Paperback	Imprint:	Flying Eye Books
ISBN:	9781912497478		

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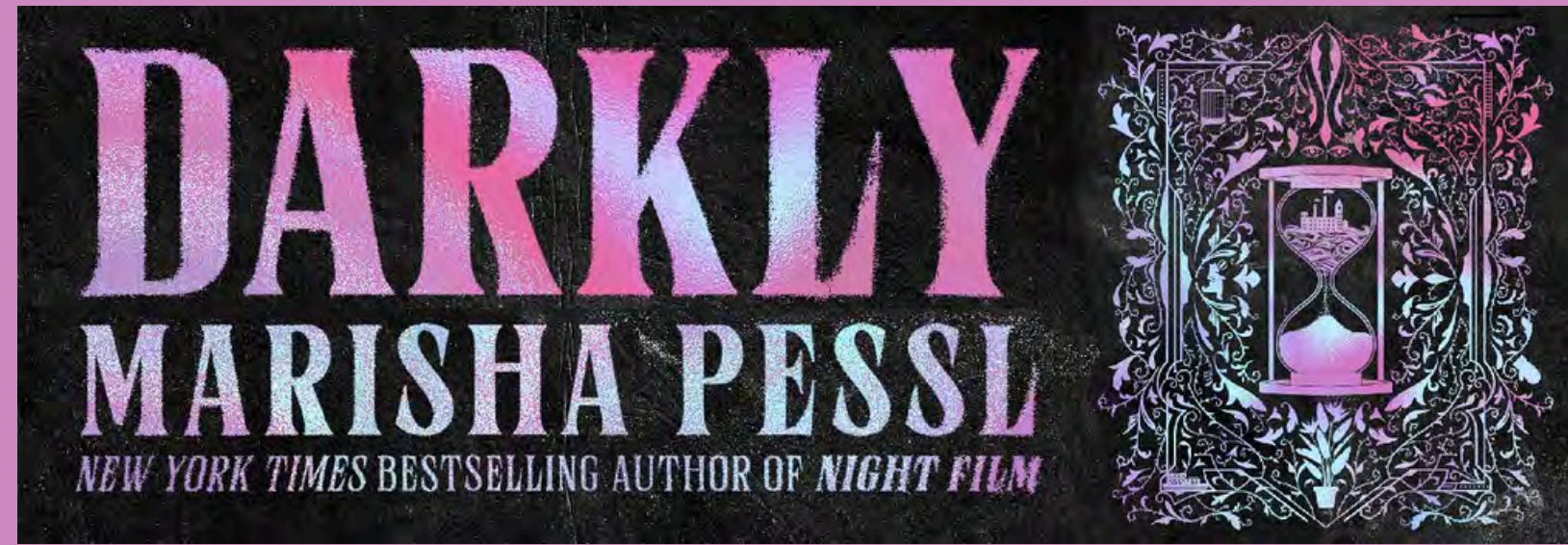
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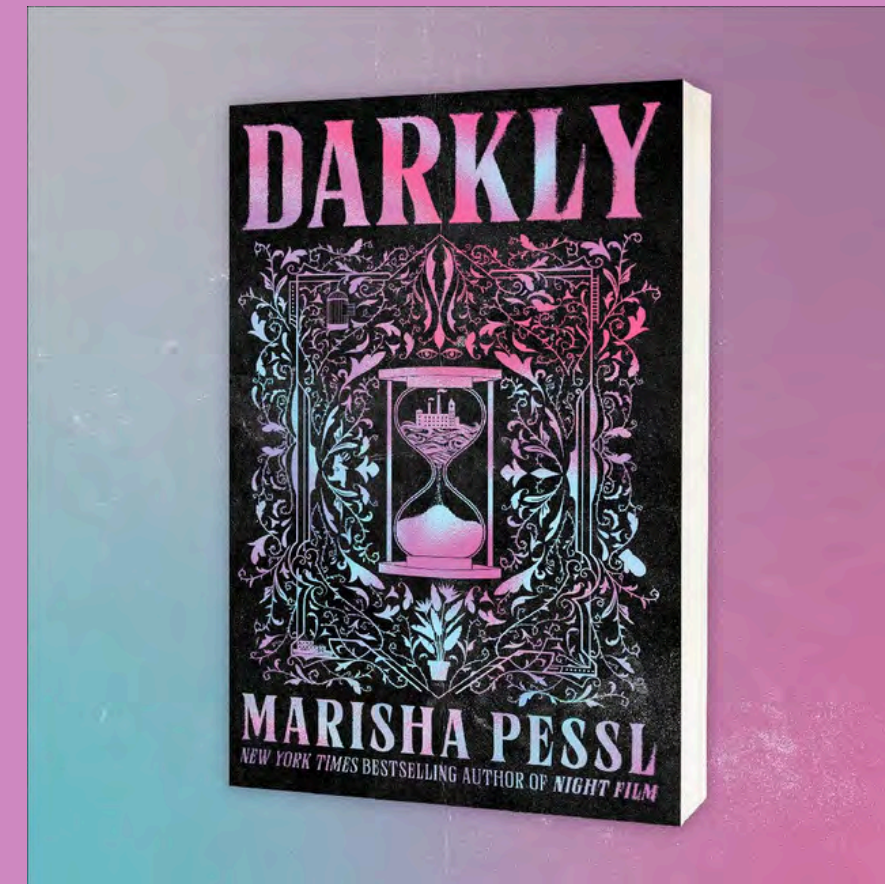
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December Web Banners



*Mock-up: Not Final

December Social Media Tiles



*Mock-up: Not Final

