
HarperCollins Publishers New Zealand

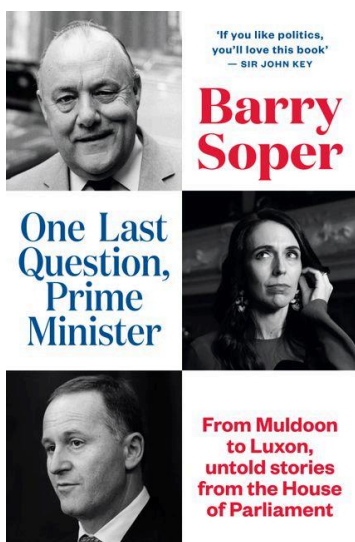
First Edition

May releases from HarperCollins and Walker Books

Kia ora,

Welcome to our May 2026 First Edition. Please contact
Sandra.noakes@harpercollins.co.nz
for author interviews, extracts, and review copies!

NON-FICTION



One Last Question, Prime Minister Barry Soper

From Muldoon to Luxon, untold stories from the House of Parliament

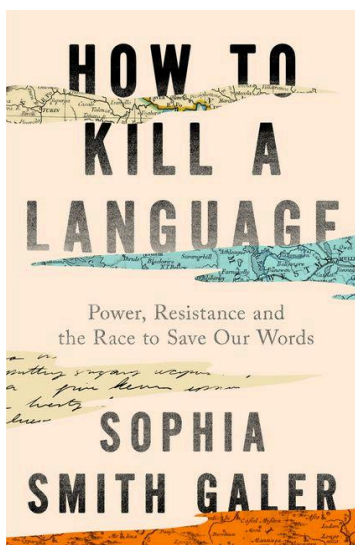
Barry Soper has spent close to five decades questioning New Zealand's prime ministers.

From the imposing, larger-than-life characters of Rob Muldoon and David Lange, to the golden age of Helen Clark and John Key, and the post-Covid era of Jacinda Ardern and the 'Chrises', Soper's insight and nose for a story are second to none.

This is the story of a working life measured by 12 prime ministers - packed with entertaining yarns from the hallways, back-rooms, and hotel bars where New Zealand's chosen leaders - for better or worse - created their lasting legacies.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins NZ
RRP: \$39.99



How to Kill a Language Sophia Smith Galer

As Sophia Smith Galer's Nonna lay dying, she realised it wasn't just a beloved grandmother she was losing - it was the language she spoke, too.

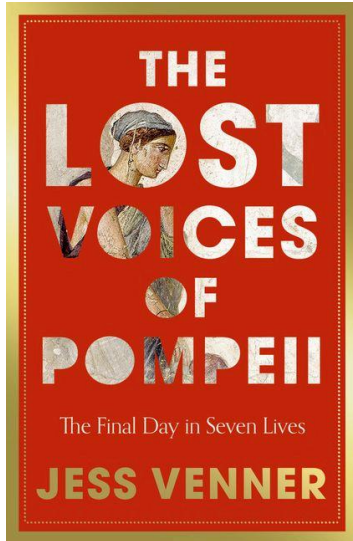
From Northern Italy, she spoke a dialèt that Sophia, like so many children and grandchildren of migrants, can understand but can't speak. With the death of the language, Sophia would lose a culture, a history, an inheritance - a whole world.

This tragedy reaches far beyond her family. Globally we are witnessing an unprecedented mass extinction event. By the end of this century half of the world's 7000 languages will be gone, killed by war, climate breakdown, migration, nationalism or neglect, along with the vital knowledge that they have sustained for centuries.

Award-winning journalist Smith Galer has journeyed across continents and generations to report from this disappearing world. From Ghana to Greece, Ecuador to Oman, California to the UK, she meets people experiencing this loss at first hand - but also campaigners and linguists who prove that a multilingual future is still possible.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 12/05/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$37.99



The Lost Voices of Pompeii **Jess Venner**

Relive the dramatic last day in Pompeii in this immersive story, based on the city's real residents

We all know how the people of Pompeii died.
But what about how they lived?

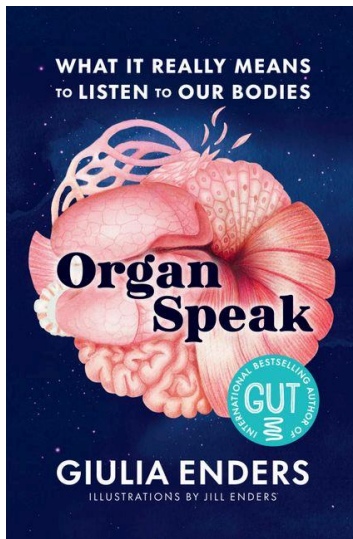
Drawing on the latest archaeological discoveries, Dr Jess Venner brings the ancient streets to life through the eyes of those who lived, worked, loved and ultimately met their fate in Pompeii.

Along the way, Venner reveals a community more complex, diverse and human than we ever imagined. We meet Julia Felix, a successful female entrepreneur defying Roman convention; Petronus, a slave grappling with his future after gaining his freedom; politician Gaius Cuspius Pansa, who cements his power and prestige by hosting the Plebian Games at the amphitheatre; and many others.

Pompeii is remembered for its destruction, but here we discover the vibrant lives that came before. Richly evocative and immersive, *The Lost Voices of Pompeii* vividly recreates the final twenty-four hours before the eruption, reminding us exactly what – and who – was lost in 79 AD.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$39.99



Organ Speak **Giulia Enders**

The international bestselling author of *Gut* returns with a spellbinding journey through the human body

In a world that is becoming ever louder and more complicated, sometimes the answer is to look inward. For thousands of years, our bodily organs - from our muscles to our brain - have faced problems and found their own unique ways to overcome them. What can we learn from these intricate systems?

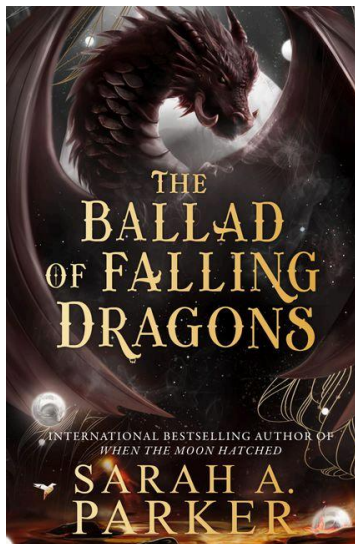
In *Organ Speak*, Giulia Enders guides us through our inner landscape, revealing how our body is our best teacher: what, for example, can the immune system teach us about our need to feel safe? How does the process of wound-healing mirror emotional recovery? Why do our brain's reward pathways favour unpredictability? What do we truly need to thrive?

Blending recent scientific discoveries with her gift for making complex ideas accessible, Giulia Enders inspires a deep appreciation for something that is both intimately familiar yet profoundly mysterious.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$37.99

FICTION



The Ballad of Falling Dragons Sarah A. Parker

The bestselling sensation *When the Moon Hatched* continues with the second book in The Moonfall Series, *The Ballad of Falling Dragons*...

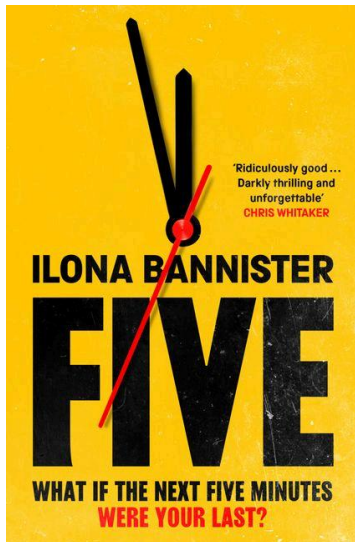
Sarah A. Parker is an international bestselling author who grew up on a farm in New Zealand, where she spent her days getting lost amongst the rolling pasture, building forts in the hedge, and exploring the forest pathways – making up elaborate stories that never lost their grip on her. Her genre of choice is epic fantasy romance, and she thrives off dreaming up real, complex characters and immersive worlds to get lost amongst.

Raeve's thirst for vengeance continues to burn, as does her love for Kaan Vaegor – a staunch beacon from a past she's yet to face. With Rekk's blood still fresh on her hands, she learns the world will face its most devastating moonfall yet, forcing her to pick a path:

Chase death.
Or life.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 19/05/2026
Publisher: Voyager
RRP: \$38.99



Five Ilona Bannister

Five passengers. Five minutes until the next train... five minutes until someone dies.

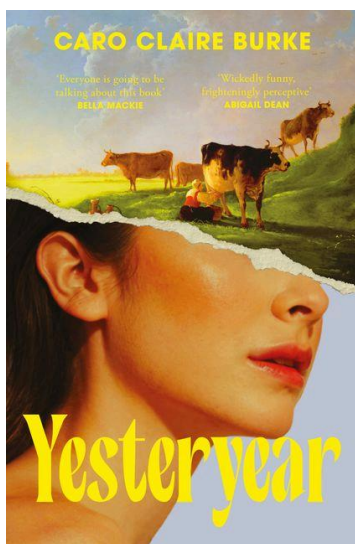
Someone will die here this morning, at this suburban train station. It will happen in the next five minutes when the 7:06 to London Victoria arrives.

On a train platform, five strangers unknowingly face a chilling countdown. In this gripping tale narrated with a sharp tongue, the five main characters – a child, a mother, a businessman, an old woman, and a gambler – will draw you in with their stories of fate, sacrifice, and the relationships we build and those we break.

As the clock ticks down, we look away from the demonic child Gideon. We judge his mother Emma who must surely be to blame. We are curiously compelled by the successful yet damaged businessman Liam. We pity the furious old Mrs Worth who grew up in a macabre household and failed at being a mother. And we fall in love with the beautiful Sony who is on the verge of gambling his life away.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 12/05/2026
Publisher: Juniper
RRP: \$34.99



Yesteryear Caro Claire Burke

'My name is Natalie Heller Mills, and I was perfect at being alive...'

Natalie lives a traditional lifestyle – and has the social media accounts to prove it. Her charming farmhouse on her working ranch is artfully cluttered, her husband is a handsome cowboy, her homemade sourdough boules are each more beautiful than the last. So what if there are nannies and producers and industrial-grade ovens behind the scenes?

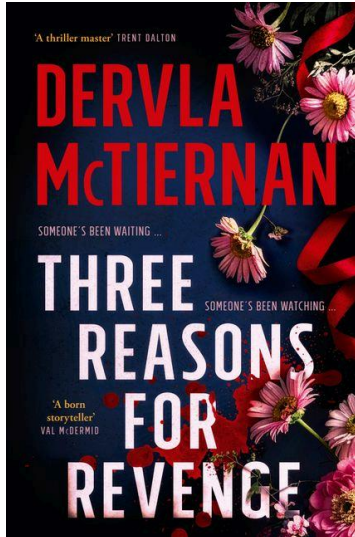
What Natalie's followers don't know won't hurt them.

Then, one morning, Natalie wakes up in a strange, horrible version of reality. Her home, her husband, her children—they're all familiar, but something's off. Is this a hoax? A reality show? A test from God? Natalie knows just two things for sure: this isn't her perfect life, and she must escape, by any means possible.

NOW BEING ADAPTED INTO A MAJOR FILM STARRING ANNE HATHAWAY

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: 4th Estate
RRP: \$36.99



Three Reasons for Revenge Dervla McTiernan

A gripping high-stakes novel of suspense about three seemingly unconnected people, caught in a lethal web of deceit and unhealed wounds.

Three gifts. Three victims. One deadly game.

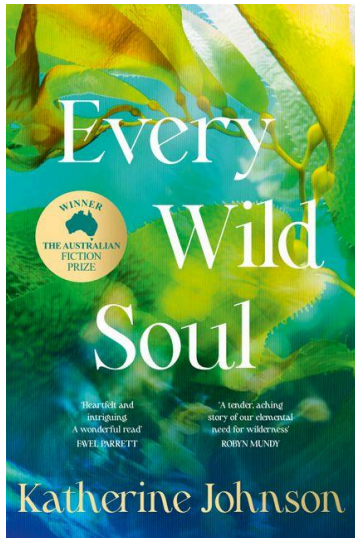
Alexis Turner walks into the police station to report an assault. By the end of the day, she is nowhere to be found.

Soon after she disappears, three identical packages arrive at three very different doors: a respected psychologist's home, a socialite's mansion, and a struggling single father's run-down apartment. Inside, each gift is perfectly tailored to its recipient - and each will tear apart the life of its intended victim.

Detective Sergeant Judith Lee is smart and experienced, but this is no ordinary case. Someone with intimate knowledge of their targets is orchestrating these attacks. Someone who knows exactly how to hurt each victim where they're most vulnerable. And she's convinced that somehow, it connects back to Alexis Turner.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$37.99



Every Wild Soul Katherine Johnson

The winner of the inaugural Australian Fiction Prize, *Every Wild Soul* is a lyrical and compelling tale of secrets, survival, and the healing power of nature.

On Tasmania's wild and remote Maria Island, eighteen-year-old Min is trying to break free from her controlling, overly protective father, the island's head ranger. Her unlikely ally is Werner, an eccentric, homeless biologist who has always taught her to care for the imperilled natural world around her - even as it sets them against Piers, her father, who has his own plans.

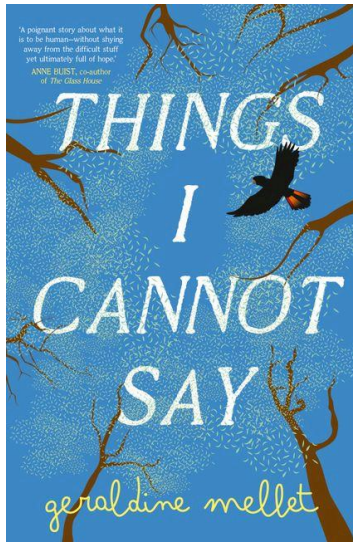
When Lucie, a journalist haunted by her family's role in the thylacine's extinction, arrives from London to investigate the island's Tasmanian devil conservation project, she is drawn into the island's rare beauty and mysteries, discovering a community grappling with the tension between progress and preservation, care and control.

After a tempestuous storm sees a stranger wash ashore, a chain of events is set in motion that ends in a shocking and mysterious death, only weeks later.

A breathtakingly beautiful and gripping exploration of humanity's connection to the wild - and the hope that can be born from even the darkest of times

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$37.99



Things I Cannot Say Geraldine Mellet

Journalist and disability rights ally Geraldine Mellet brings us a wry, clever and ultimately uplifting novel about a young woman, newly paralysed and voiceless, who must find a way to save the day.

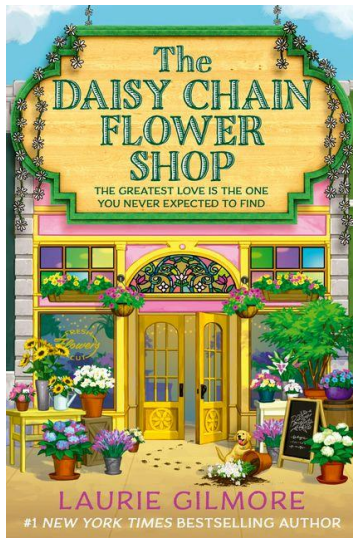
Tracey Read is well and truly trapped. A globetrotting engineer in her thirties, as adept at fixing failing projects as she is at avoiding commitment, she's now paralysed after a major accident and warehoused in an aged care facility she nicknames The Last Resort. For the first time in her life Tracey can't just get up and go - not unless she channels her former self and stages a breakout.

Forced to interact with others who live and work in the 'home', Tracey overcomes her own prejudices to find pockets of kindness and community, and with each small moment of independence she claws back, she begins to recognise herself again.

But as her analytical brain comes back online, Tracey notices something darker going on. When her suspicions are ignored by the people in charge, it's left to her to speak up, a tricky proposition given her voice disappeared on the day of the accident and no one knows if it's coming back.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HQ Fiction
RRP: \$36.99



The Daisy Chain Flower Shop Laurie Gilmore

The brand new summer romance set in Dream Harbor from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Pumpkin Spice Café* and *The Strawberry Patch Pancake House*!

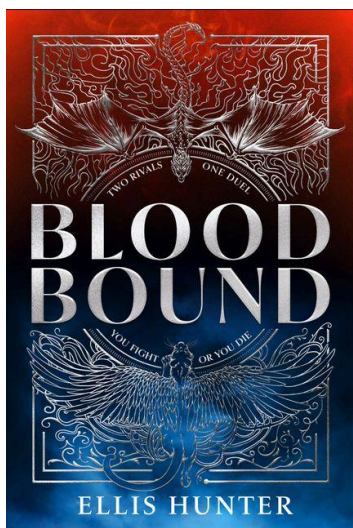
Daisy is fed up with being unlucky in love. And since Mayor Kelly declared her beloved flower shop cursed in one of his infamous visions, business has been slow.

Dream Harbor newcomer Elliot has been adjusting to small-town life following his own relationship turmoil. And until now he's avoided the flower shop at all costs. If the mayor is correct, he doesn't need any more bad luck in his life.

When he finds himself walking through the door of the Daisy Chain Flower Shop, he doesn't expect it to be a life-changing moment. But as the petals blossom in the sunlight, might the unluckiest woman in Dream Harbor finally find that love comes when you're least expecting it?

[Read more](#)

Release date: 12/05/2026
Publisher: One More Chapter
RRP: \$26.99



Blood Bound Ellis Hunter

You cannot forfeit. You cannot run. You duel or you die.

Astrid has always known she is destined to die. She is the last Nachstern witch and heir to the Queendom of Arturea, cursed to duel her rival from the Kingdom of Vatra for the source of all magic. She only has her familiar, her potions and her wits to aid her; her opponent, Prince Zryan, has a massive Hel-damned dragon. She's going to die, and the chance to cure the Blight ravaging her queendom will die with her.

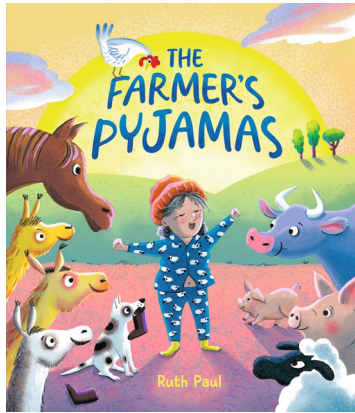
Deep in dragon country, blade-juggler Skylar is searching for her best friend, who she fears has been taken in the king's conscription of those with Blooded powers. She despises the royals, but the path to find him may just take her closer to them – and the witches – than she would like...

As the duel looms, Skylar and Astrid's fates intertwine, forcing them to choose between loyalty and survival in a world where every decision could lead to ruin.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 12/05/2026
Publisher: Voyager
RRP: \$36.99

KIDS



The Farmer's Pyjamas Ruth Paul

**What can go wrong when the farmer loses her pyjamas?
Everything!**

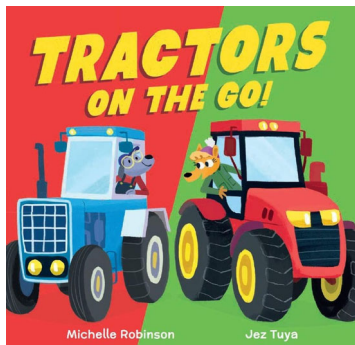
A delightful read-aloud (again and again!) from award-winning kiwi creator Ruth Paul.

*Before the farmer's day is done,
she does her chores, one by one.
She milks the cow, counts the sheep,
sings the piglets off to sleep.*

The farmer needs her favourite pyjamas to sleep well after her hard day's work.
But now her pyjamas are gone! Where could they be?

[Read more](#)

Release date: 01/05/2026
Publisher: Walker Books
RRP: \$26.99
Ages: 3-7



Tractors on the Go! Michelle Robinson & Jez Tuya

Perfect for little tractor fans, this is the latest in the *Busy Vehicles* series from much-loved duo Michelle Robinson and Jez Tuya.

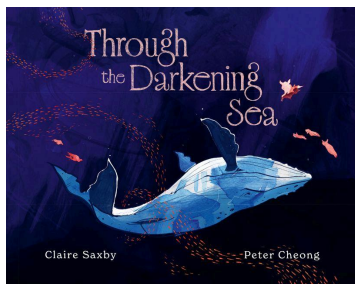
Join two hard-working tractors on their very busy day, in this rhyming adventure perfect for little tractor enthusiasts!

Chugga-chugga, vroom vroom! From ploughing the fields to spreading seeds, and harvesting the fields to spreading muck – yuck! – the two tractors have so many jobs to do, all year round! But there's a sheep on the loose, and they're about to cause some chaos on the farm... can the tractors save the day? Of course they can!

The latest in the *Busy Vehicles* series from award-winning author Michelle Robinson, *Tractors on the Go!* is bursting with farm vehicles and their doggy drivers, and with a wind-down bedtime ending, this book is sure to keep little tractor fans busy spotting.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 01/05/2026
Publisher: Andersen Press
RRP: \$29.99
Ages: 2+



Through the Darkening Sea Claire Saxby & Peter Cheong

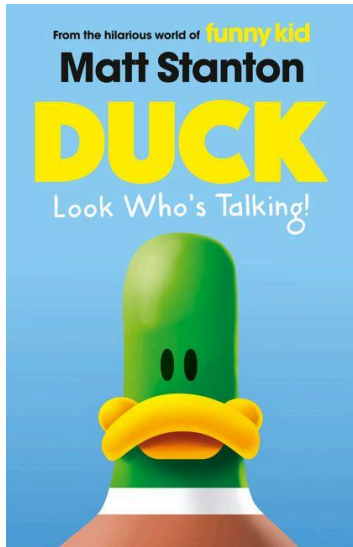
An awe-inspiring, lyrical story by award-winning author Claire Saxby, rendered by illustrator Peter Cheong in collage-style artwork that is equally eye catching and breathtaking.

*Out in the open ocean where currents sway wild as wind,
where sharks and sea lions widely roam,
a whale falls.*

The ocean comes alive in this incredible tale about the cycle of life.
Watch the colours of marine creatures change as a whale falls towards the darkness of deep waters. Discover the extraordinary animals that live beyond the light.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$29.99
Ages: 3+



Duck **Matt Stanton**

New in 2026, the latest quirky children's series from million-copy mega-bestselling author Matt Stanton.

Do you ever think about the animals we share our streets with?

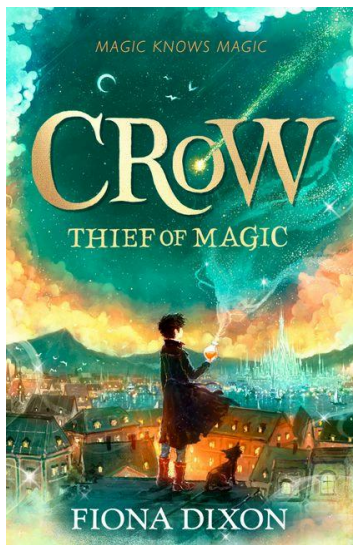
Well, they think about us. A lot. And, boy, do they have opinions! Duck, Mouse and Dog have decided that the fancy new coffee shop in town is bad news.

It's time for the animals of Redhill to UNITE and RUFFLE SOME FEATHERS before it's too late!

From the hilarious world of FUNNY KID comes DUCK, a brand-new series that will have you in hysterics!

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: ABC Books
RRP: \$19.99
Ages: 7-11



Crow: Thief of Magic **Fiona Dixon**

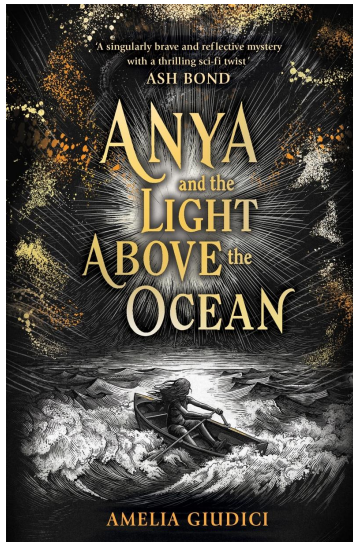
With an incredible story, a stunning, richly detailed world, and a wonderful cast of characters, *Crow: Thief of Magic* is an unputdownable, exciting and hugely ambitious fantasy adventure.

Twelve-year-old Crow is a thief. Scraping a living on the winding streets of Starsgard, Crow works for the leader of the criminal underworld, stealing from the city's wealthy ruling class. But when a routine job takes Crow to the home of a mysterious sorcerer, his whole life is turned upside down – and after a planned heist goes wrong, leaving Crow alone and with nowhere to turn, he finds himself a new position as the sorcerer's apprentice.

Before long, Crow is introduced to the ancient art of dream magic – catching dream essence and using it to create dreams for the rich citizens from whom he once stole. But when Crow learns of an ancient strain of nightmare magic that threatens to unleash devastation on Starsgard, he must make a terrible choice... and decide who he can really trust.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 12/05/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$19.99
Ages: 9-12



Anya and the Light Above the Ocean **Amelia Giudici**

A thrilling, heartfelt debut novel perfect for fans of Ross Montgomery.

Amelia Giudici grew up in New Zealand and Warwickshire. She is currently based in East London where she works as a primary school teacher. Prior to teaching, Amelia studied Philosophy at Cambridge University, where she first encountered the thought problems concerning personal identity that *Anya and the Light Above the Ocean* draws on.

When her mum disappears one night, Anya sets out to find her in the middle of a storm. Taking a boat out to sea, she encounters a strange window of light hovering above the waves. Transfixed, she reaches out to touch it. Moments later, Anya wakes in her boat. The sea now eerily silent.

With her mum still missing, Anya is packed off to stay with the odd, unwelcoming Mr and Mrs Ungsworth. Trapped under their watchful gaze, she uncovers a shocking secret: the light has split her into two people.

Anya escapes and returns home – to find another girl, identical to her, living there. Confronted with this impossible situation, the girls soon realise the organisation their mum worked for, Janus, is seeking to harness the power of the mysterious light and is now after them.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 01/05/2026
Publisher: Andersen Press
RRP: \$21.99
Ages: 10-12



The Unchosen One **Amy Sparkes**

The first book in a hilarious and magical adventure series that takes common fantasy tropes and spins them on their head.

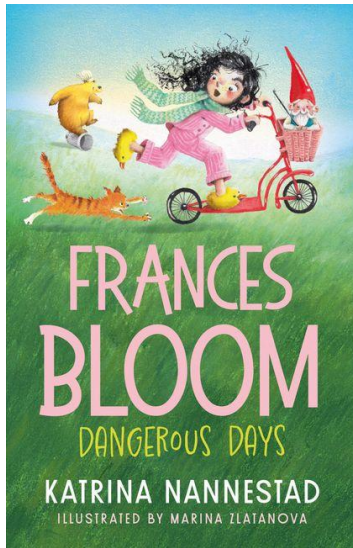
Tassie has always dreamt of a life of adventure and exploration. Instead, she's grown up in the Citadel under the care of the Chief Steward, well away from any form of danger.

When the Wisest of the Wise Witches comes to visit and proclaims her the Chosen One, destined to save her people from death and destruction, Tassie realizes why she's spent her life wrapped in cotton wool. The time of fulfilling the prophecy is nigh – but unfortunately, it doesn't sound much fun!

Deciding she can't possibly take on the role of the Chosen One, Tassie resolves to find an alternative. Along with her best friend, a griffin called Spin, and an enigmatic elf known as Darley, she embarks on an epic quest through magical lands in a race against time.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 01/05/2026
Publisher: Walker Books
RRP: \$19.99
Ages: 9-12



Frances Bloom: Dangerous Days
Katrina Nannestad

Relish in mischief, adventure and the most unusual family ever, with the bestselling and multi-award-winning Katrina Nannestad.

Frances Bloom's dreams have come true. Her grandparents are a honey-coloured bear and a garden gnome. Nasty Ms Thistle has been taken to Harsh Island Home for Unwanted Teachers and Cats. Her class is being taught by a retired pirate and a busker. Her friends are many and her happiness is huge. So why is she troubled?

Could it be the mean cats that are new to the village? The talking bush in her garden? The stolen tricycle? Or the feeling that she's being followed?

Can Frances work it out before disaster strikes?

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026

Publisher: ABC Books

RRP: \$19.99

Ages: 7-11



Edith
Catharina Valckx

A philosophical adventure story for early readers that playfully combines fairytale with absurd comedy to ask a big question about what makes a good life.

As a newborn, Edith received two gifts: the ability to bring any object to life and eternal childhood. That's why today, 100 years later, Edith is celebrating her centenary as a seven-year-old. What will she wish for this time? Certainly a new life—being seven forever has its downside. On her birthday, Edith sets off to find the fairy who bewitched her and reverse the spell. She takes her only friends, a wise dog and a talking lemon.

Fully illustrated in colour, this one-of-a-kind chapter book bursts with good things: the dry wit of a faithful dog, a fairytale adventure, camping, boating, friendship and danger, and a question that matters.

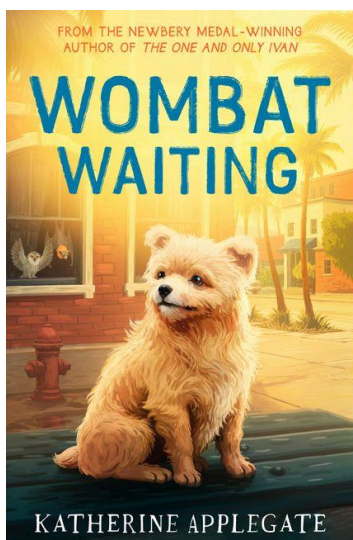
[Read more](#)

Release date: 01/05/2026

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP: \$19.99

Ages: 6-10



Wombat Waiting
Katherine Applegate

From the bestselling author of *The One and Only Ivan* comes a stunning new novel about compassion, resilience, and surprising friendships, following a dog named Wombat in the aftermath of a catastrophic fire.

Wombat isn't actually a wombat—but when the homeless dog is discovered, singed and ash-covered after a terrible fire destroys a community, someone tags her with the nickname and it sticks.

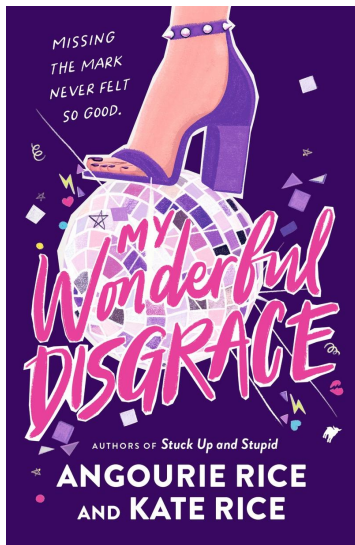
Wombat is a "destiny dog." Something inside of her (she nicknames it "Voice") keeps telling her there's a special someone out there who is meant to be her person.

Surrounded by a devastated town, Wombat takes up residence on bench near the makeshift community center, an old brick warehouse that, for the most part, survived the flames. A small part of the community center evacuation site has been repurposed for the local wildlife rehab sanctuary that burned down. All of the animals were spared, and the temporary quarters include an elderly fruit bat and a young Northern saw-whet owl.

No matter what, Wombat refuses to move from her perch, despite the efforts of many humans. Clearly the dog is waiting for someone. But for whom? And what are the odds they survived?

[Read more](#)

Release date: 12/05/2026
Publisher: HarperCollins
RRP: \$19.99
Ages: 8-11



My Wonderful Disgrace **Angourie & Kate Rice**

A funny, edgy dark comedy of errors – the highly anticipated second novel from bestselling authors Angourie and Kate Rice.

Amy Middleton has all her plans in place for the school ball – the perfect designer dress, the perfect dream date, the perfect night.

When Leo Prince finally agrees to go with her, success seems assured, and the night belongs to Amy.

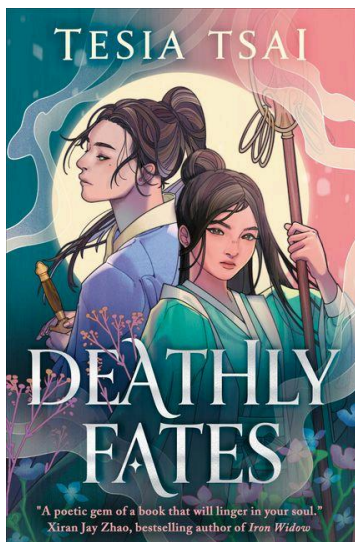
But fate, it seems, has other plans, and with the buzz of an unexpected text, her perfect night begins to unravel.

In the second novel from acclaimed Australian mother-daughter duo Angourie Rice and Kate Rice, brutally honest journal entries, texts, interviews and school newsletters slowly reveal a night gone terribly and hilariously wrong.

My Wonderful Disgrace is a deliciously dark comedy of errors about unrequited love, manipulation, misunderstandings and the tragic fate of one innocent goat.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 01/05/2026
Publisher: Walker Books
RRP: \$24.99
Ages: 14-18



Deathly Fates **Tesia Tsai**

As a priestess paid to guide the deceased home, Kang Siying has never feared death.

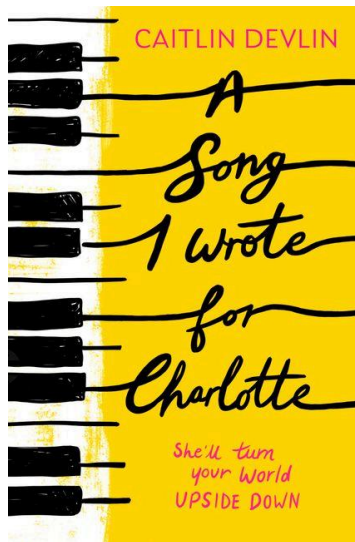
But when her father collapses due to his declining health, Siying realizes that even she is not free from the cruel grasp of mortality. Desperate to save her father, Siying accepts a dangerous job and travels through enemy territory to retrieve the corpse of a missing prince.

But the moment Siying places her talisman on the dead prince's head, the prince comes back to life. Worse, he won't stay alive for long—not unless he absorbs enough qi, or life force, to keep his soul anchored to his body.

In return for a reward worth twice her original commission, Siying agrees to aid him in finding and purifying evil spirits for their qi. But as they journey across the countryside, encountering vengeful ghosts and enemy spies alike, they gradually uncover dark secrets about the prince's death—secrets that could endanger both Siying's father and their entire kingdom.

[Read more](#)

Release date: 28/04/2026
Publisher: Farshore Fiction
RRP: \$24.99
Ages: 14-18



A Song I Wrote for Charlotte Caitlin Devlin

Connie Moore has never failed at anything.

That is until the Royal Academy of Music decide her piano playing isn't good enough and she finds herself pursuing her back-up plan: moving into student halls to study English Literature. With her grandmother piling on the pressure and her father's absence weighing on her, she knows she has to stay focused this year – mediocrity must be avoided at all costs.

Just across the corridor, Music Production student Charlotte Owen has other ideas. Sweet, sociable and not a girl who takes no for an answer, Charlotte drags Connie determinedly into university life. As an unlikely friendship blossoms between them, Connie begins to wonder if there's something more to the way she feels about Charlotte – and, even more terrifyingly, whether there's something more to the way Charlotte feels about her.

But Charlotte isn't the kind of person you can hold on to forever. And Connie might have to consider whether the life that Charlotte has built for her is one that she can sustain alone.

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