



IMAGINARY HOUSE

www.imaginaryhouse.com



IMAGINARY HOUSE

Imaginary House is a boutique publisher and bookstore in South Africa with a focus on children's books and YA literature. We publish high-quality children's and YA books to entertain and inspire.

To discuss distribution or book sales,
contact our publisher, Brad Harris:



brad.harris@imaginaryhouse.com



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www.imaginaryhouse.com



IMAGINARY?

We can spell. We assure you.

When our founder was looking for a name for his publishing business in 2015, he coined 'Imaginary House'. The name grew from out of a phrase that a mentor once impressed upon him.

If you walk in the measurable, you miss out on the imaginable.

The phrase had him summarise his hopes for the local children's literary scene, in that he wanted to inspire new generations with imagination before moral lessons. He had almost gone ahead with this name, when a chance misspelling by a friend's child had him re-think his decision.

On a torn piece of paper, in coloured crayon, he saw written: 'Imagnary'. Quite immediately, he adopted the misspelt name instead, as it so perfectly mimicked the child-like heart he was after. And so was born our publishing house, already with a heart for story above the rules of language.



CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS



LISTEN TO YOUR DIDDALUM

Author: Emily Child

Illustr: Maria Lebedeva

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-9-6

Format: Paperback, (21cm x 21cm)

Pub date: 2020

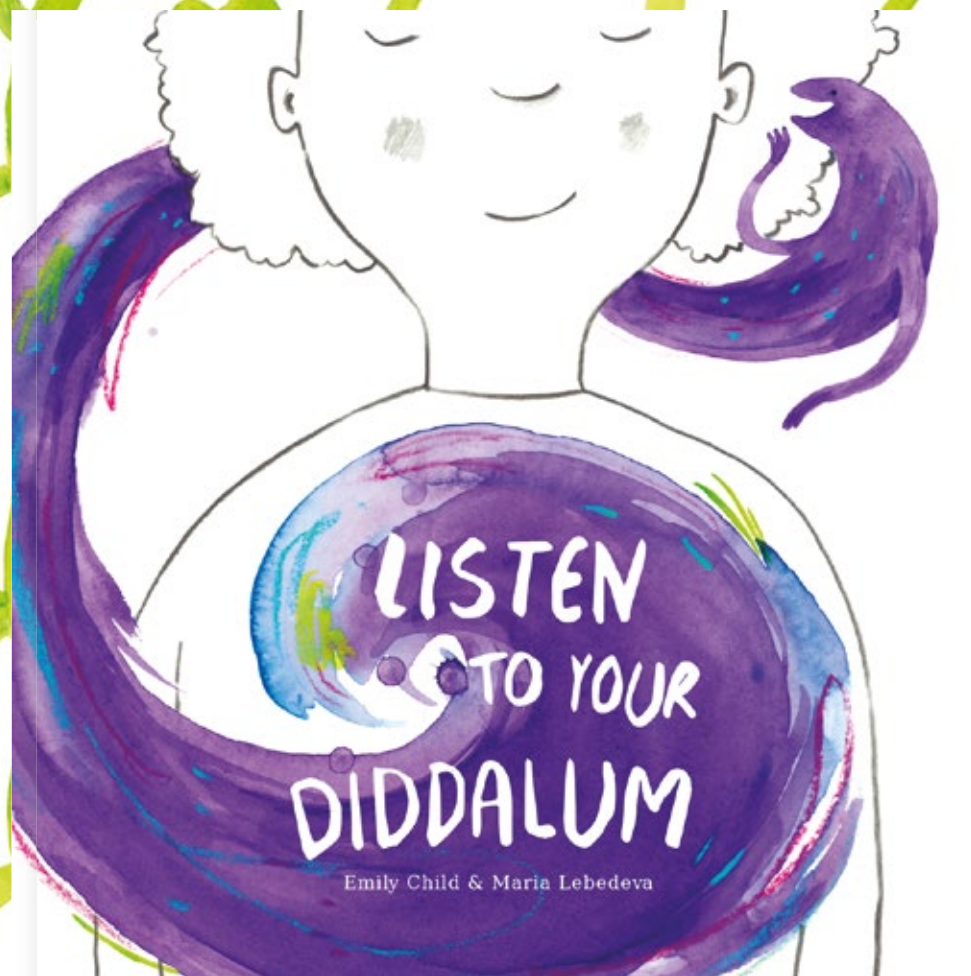
Pages: 40

Audience: 5+ years

Rights sold: Japan, Turkey, South Africa, Germany

Sometimes you feel a noise. It's not loud. And it's not scary. It comes from inside. Somewhere between your chest and your tummy. If you listen carefully, you will hear that it's not angry, and it's not sad. It's not jealous, and it doesn't want to worry you. It's your Diddalum.

What does it do? Sometimes it makes you strong. Sometimes it makes you want to sing. And sometimes it helps you say "I'm sure" even if you aren't.



Illustrator profile: [@maria.lebedeva.illustration](https://www.instagram.com/maria.lebedeva.illustration)



LISTEN TO YOUR DIDDALUM



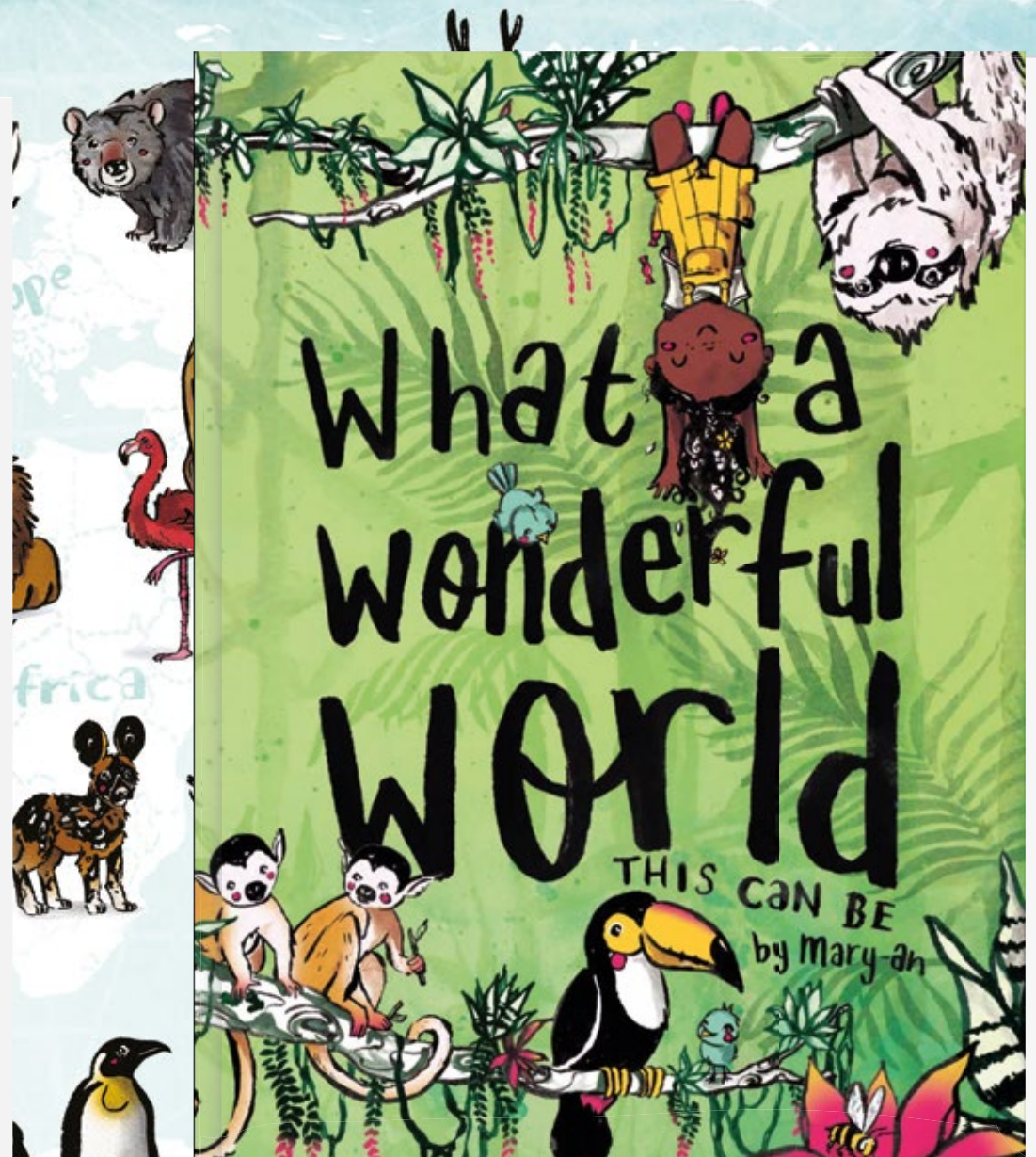
It's **YOU**
but not the body part.



LISTEN TO YOUR DIDDALUM



Rhyming and non-rhyming editions available.



WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD THIS CAN BE



There are birds. There are bees.
There are sloths up in trees.
What a wonderful world this can be!



LIEFIE (LITTLE LOVE)

Author: Jessica Bosworth Smith

ISBN: 978-0-6398061-2-9

Format: Paperback, (A5)

Pub date: 2019

Pages: 34

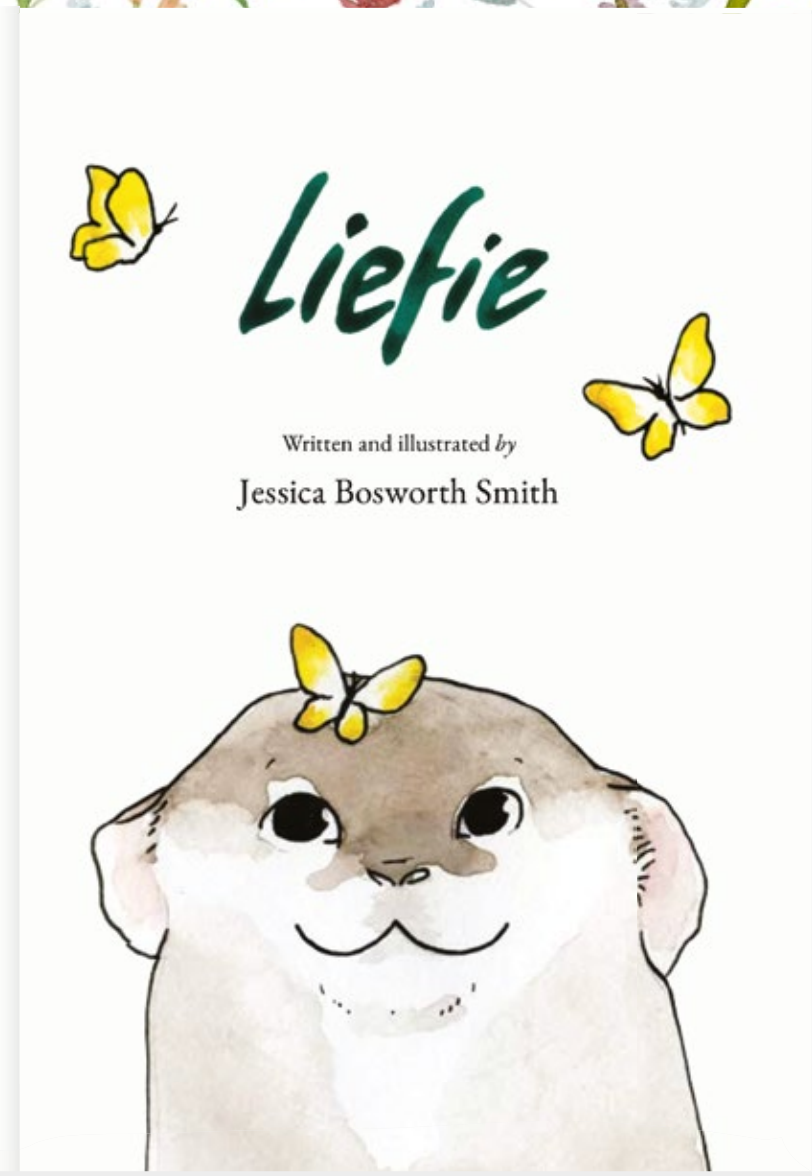
Audience: 4+ years

Rights sold: South Africa

From the illustrator of *The Straw Giant & The Crow* comes a new picture book, *Liefie*.

Explore the wonders and worries of having a surprise new child with this heart-melting family of otters!

Liefie (a.k.a. *Little Love*) is an incredibly heart-warming and humorous take on a family of otters, who have a surprise child.



LIEFIE (LITTLE LOVE)



Author profile: [@jess.bosworthsmith](#)



THE CHALK GIRAFFE

Author: Kirsty Paxton
Illustr: Megan Lotter

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-3-4

Format: Paperback, (20cm x 20cm)

Pub date: 2018

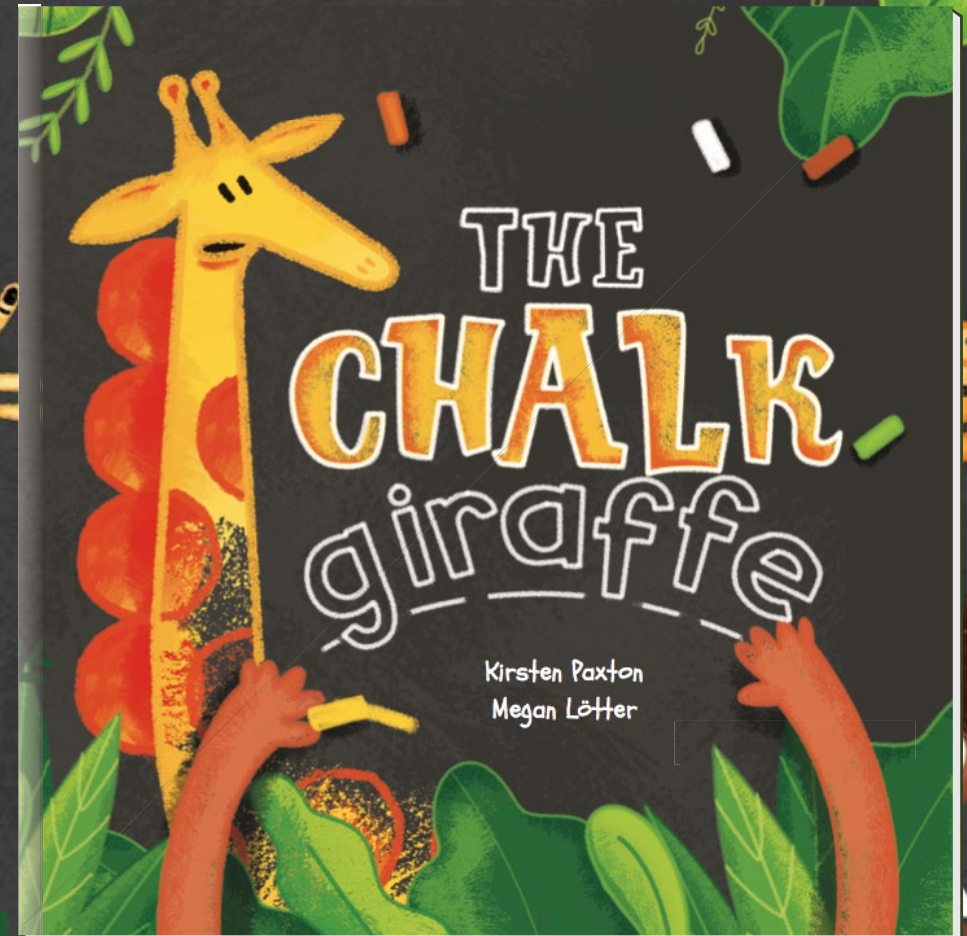
Pages: 38

Audience: 4+ years

Rights sold: USA (English) | South Africa
| Korea

The Chalk Giraffe is about an artistic child who draws a giraffe out of chalk, but is surprised when her giraffe comes alive and proves to be a rather demanding art critic.

What follows is a quirky tale of creativity and perspective, with the beautiful African landscape as a backdrop.



THE CHALK GIRAFFE



WHAT ON EARTH AM I?

Author: Lara Salomon

Illustr: Megan Bird

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-0-3

Format: Paperback, (20cm x 20cm)

Pub date: 2018

Pages: 34

Audience: 5+ years

What on Earth am I? is a wonderful picture book for children with more questions than answers about the world, exploring identity and maturity.

The book follows a young child's over-active imagination, which often leaves her confused as to what kind of creature she is. She tries to discover the answer by recalling the creatures and animals that she's read about in storybooks.



Illustrator profile: @meganthebird



THE STRAW GIANT & THE CROW

Author: Jessica Bosworth Smith

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-1-0

Format: Hardback, (A4)

Pub date: 2018

Pages: 62

Audience: 6+ years

The Straw Giant and the Crow is a heartfelt and off-the-wall story about a mysterious relationship between a straw giant and a crow.

Grumpy and miserable with his cold winter surroundings, the straw giant chases away all the other animals in his field... until the crow arrives and begins leave the straw giant little gifts each morning. A sweet and subtle friendship emerges — but will the crow be able to last the Winter Solstice? And will the straw giant be able to help him?



LUCY

Author: Emily Child
Illustr: Warwick Kay

ISBN: 978-0-620-74679-3

Format: Paperback, (20cm x 20cm)

Pub date: 2017

Pages: 32

Audience: 3+ years

Rights sold: China | South Africa

Lucy hears the world a little differently. She is fascinated by the sounds around her, especially the sound of shoes. She dreams of a life where she is surrounded by high-heels. She dreams of being grown-up.

One morning, Lucy sneaks into her mother's cupboard and tries on her favourite pair of stilettos. An unusual and dreamlike day of high-heeled hope, happiness and hindrance follows, leaving Lucy a little less certain that she wants to feel grown-up after all.



Illustrator profile: @warwick_kay

Sequel in development...



TINA TADPOLE

Author: David Bourke

ISBN: 978-0-620-74678-6

Format: Paperback, (20cm x 20cm)

Pub date: 2017

Pages: 32

Audience: 4+ years

Rights sold: Mobile app rights (global)

Tina is a different kind of witch, especially being green and all. Going to school has always seen Tina being the odd one out, yet she doesn't mind one bit. Although, that means choosing her pet isn't quite so easy as her classmates find it.

Tina Tadpole: Witch in Training is an exciting read with jokes at every turn. Join Tina and her friends in tale, as they set about choosing their magical pet to journey with them in the next school year.



Sequel in development...



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO BEING A MONSTER

Author: Astika Chetram

Illustr: Danica Ricciardi

ISBN: 978-0-620-77534-2

Format: Paperback, (22cm x 22cm)

Pub date: December 2017

Pages: 28

Audience: 3+ years

Every little monster faces some challenges while growing up. Wouldn't it be great to have someone teach you how to deal with these challenges?

Have you practiced your roar? Have you embraced the dark for its glow worms and twinkling stars? Follow three adorable little monsters, Ike, Spike, and Mia, as they discover what it means to be a monster, and learn what it means to enjoy being you.



Illustrator profile: @danicaricciardi



BONBON & BLANKET

DEVELOPING
2021 TITLE



Author profile: [@emilyhouse.design](#)



BONBON & BLANKET

DEVELOPING
2021 TITLE



BONBON & BLANKET



EMILY HOUSE



DEVELOPING
2021 TITLE

Jeff and George are best friends. They are crazy about rugby and inventing things. On a rainy day in Cape Town, the two put their heads together to hatch a clever plan that leaves them "pronking" for joy. For this energetic little boy and the tiny springbok, nothing is impossible.

Emily Child lives in Cape Town and is a professional actress. She is also an avid people-watcher, chocolate-eater and daydreamer. This is her first book.

Julia Anastasopoulos is an illustrator whose fantastical characters and landscapes adorn pages, walls and bus stations all over Cape Town. She also has a design label, knolc.

Illustrator profile: @julia_knolc

Two-book series...

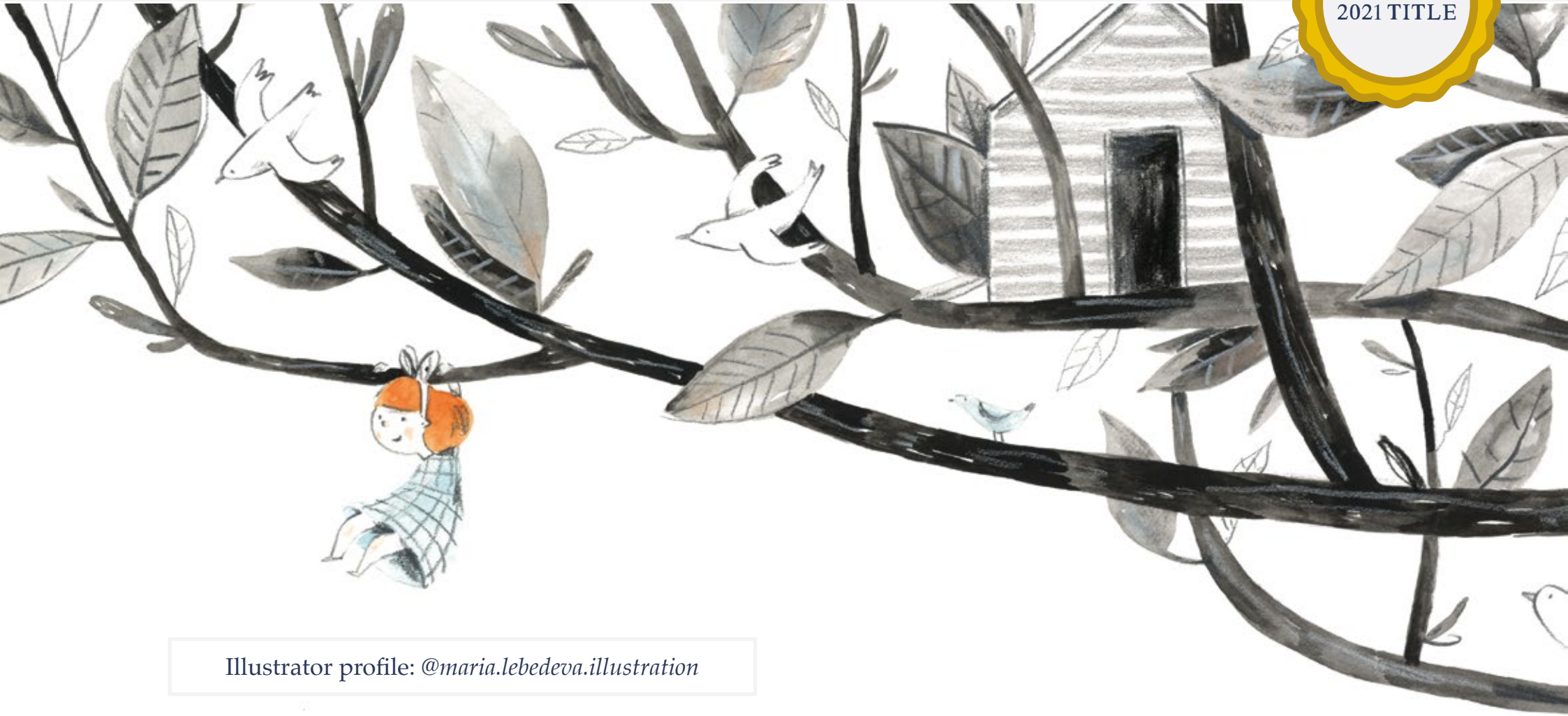
JEFF
AND
GEORGE

AND THE
Totem Pole

written by EMILY CHILD
illustrated by JULIA ANASTASOPOULOS

HELLO, TREES!

DEVELOPING
2021 TITLE



Illustrator profile: [@maria.lebedeva.illustration](https://www.instagram.com/maria.lebedeva.illustration)

**Do trees have souls? What about feelings?
Are they so different from you and I?**

Join a journey into the imagination behind nature.



MIYAYU: THE MISCHEVIOUS CAT

DEVELOPING
2021 TITLE



Author profile: @subi_bosa

MiYAYU
The Naughty Cat



CHAPTER
BOOKS

&

TEEN/YA
NOVELS



THE AFTER-TIME CHRONICLES

Author: Andy Woodage

ISBN: 978-0-6398061-4-3

Format: Paperback

Publ date: 2020

Pages: 310

Audience: 9-13 years

Imagine a world without oil, where metals are only available if they can be salvaged or recycled and even coal is running out.

It's a world where armies no longer build metal monsters, but biological ones; genetic engineering has become the cutting edge in the art of war.

This is 12-year-old Jothan's world.

**first book in a planned trilogy*



THE AFTER-TIME CHRONICLES

Orphaned by a terrible accident, Jothan dreams of leaving his uneventful life with his grandparents on the family's griffin farm. However, when a catastrophic attack wipes out every homestead in The Zoological Zone, his world is turned upside down.

When a warrior appears out of the flames and offers to take him to a place of safety, the fabled 'Temple of Elohim', Jothan unknowingly sparks a rebellion by following.

Accompanied by his best friend, the griffin Gozell, Jothan sets off across a land ravaged by poverty and wild creatures. He confronts many dangers along the way and his eyes are opened to an empire in the grip of war and unrest.

www.imaginaryhouse.com/products/one-small-spark



IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE ARMIES NO LONGER BUILD METAL MONSTERS, BUT BIOLOGICAL HORRORS. A WORLD WHERE GENETIC ENGINEERING HAS BECOME THE ART OF WAR.

This is 12-year-old Jothan's world. Orphaned by a terrible accident, he dreams of one day leaving his uneventful life with his grandparents on the family's griffin farm. However, when a catastrophic attack wipes out every homestead in The Zoological Zone, his dreams are turned upside down. A warrior appears out of the flames and offers to take him to a place of safety, the fabled 'Temple of Elohim'. Accompanied by his best friend, the griffin Gozell, he sets off across a land ravaged by poverty and wild creatures, opening his eyes to an empire in the grip of war and unrest... with the ever increasing weight of his role in events to come.

Will they make it to the Temple? Will they be welcomed when they arrive? Can Jothan unravel the secrets that seem to control the lives of everyone he meets, including his mysterious saviour?

'A rich adventure story with the right mix of excellent world-building, intense action, mythical creatures and a sweet coming-of-age story of a boy and his unlikely best friend. 'The After-Time Chronicles' is as gripping as it is charming.'

- The Sunday Times



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A VIKING LEGEND

Author: Aoife Lennon-Ritchie

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-5-8

Format: Paperback

USA pub date: 2016

SA pub date: 2019

Pages: 240

Audience: 8-11 years

Rights sold: USA (English) | South Africa

This winter, siblings Ruairi and Dani Miller visit their grandmother in the legendary Viking island of Yondersaay. In less than twenty-four hours of their arrival, Ruairi is mistaken for the lost Boy King of Denmark, kidnapped by Vikings, and scheduled to be sacrificed at sundown. Granny isn't very pleased.

"As witty as 'A Series of Unfortunate Events', highly imaginative and wholly original, it's a total blast." — Sarah Lotz



THE NEW GIRL CODE

LOCAL
BESTSELLER

Author: Niki Smit
Editor: Buhle Ngaba

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-7-2

Format: Paperback

Pub date: 2018

Pages: 285

Audience: 9-13 years

Rights sold: USA | Sweden | Netherlands

Tumi Letsatsi is a 15-year old melanin kween living in Cape Town. Her favourite colour is yellow, she's still trying to figure out how not to dent her afro on the bus, and how one goes about (ahem!) "french kissing". She's a little awkward and a lot uncertain about her future, friendships and how to put together a cool outfit! But then she stumbles across the magic of coding and creates an app called "Project Prep" that goes viral and rockets her and her friends to fame.



THE NEW GIRL CODE

#PreppyLook

Friday August 2nd

10 AM In my room

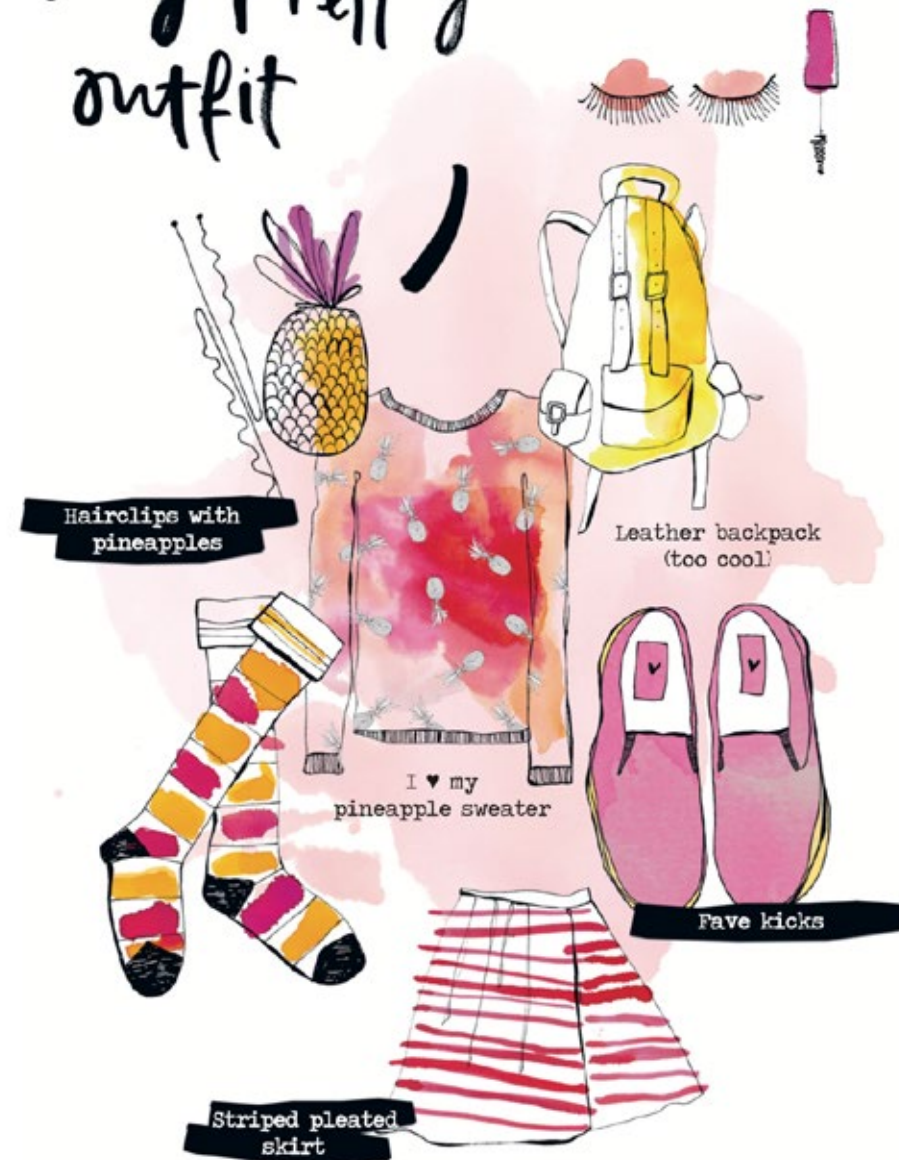
#20FACTSABOUTME

Twenty facts about me. 1) I'm 13 years old. 2) I'm a girl. 3) I live in Rondebosch, a suburb of Cape Town. 4) I always look silly in selfies. 5) I don't know what my favourite animal is. 6) My dad is a primary school teacher. 7) My mom is a scientist. 8) My favourite colour is always changing. This month, it's yellow. 9) I always open my Tempo chocolate bars without tearing the wrapper. 10) Pretty sure no one cares TBH. 11) I'm tall. 12) I have dark almond eyes and a black afro. 13) I'm pretty sure I have a weird nose. 14) I don't have a favourite item of clothing. 15) I'm not sure what I want to be when I grow up. 16) All I know is I don't want to be as whack as my parents. 17) Maybe I'll start a company of my own. 18) I just have no clue what kind of company it would be. 19) In precisely 4,260 minutes I'll be starting my 3rd term in High School as a grade 8 student. All this basically means is that we can wear civvies after school like all the older kids. 20) I wish I had been born as Tammy.

Obviously, I would never post these #20facts on my Instagram.

Tammy is my best friend and, every now and then, I kinda find her annoying. Not always and not on the inside. Actually, not on the outside either. She has long curly hair, hazel eyes and a cute, little button nose. Nothing crazy, so far. The thing that bothers me about her is her fashion sense. She happens to be a natural-born showstopper with a knack for styling. All she needs are three quick looks into her cupboard and she'll pull out a top, a vest and pants, a pair of shoes and that's it: PERFECTION. Then I am stuck walking alongside her all day. Even her bedroom is stylish. Stylish lamps, stylish candles, a stylish comforter, stylish pictures on her pin-up board. I mean, sure, I also have some stylish stuff, but

my preppy outfit



THE BRAVE TURTLE

Author: B. D. Harris
Illustr: Megan Bird

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-8-9

Format: Paperback

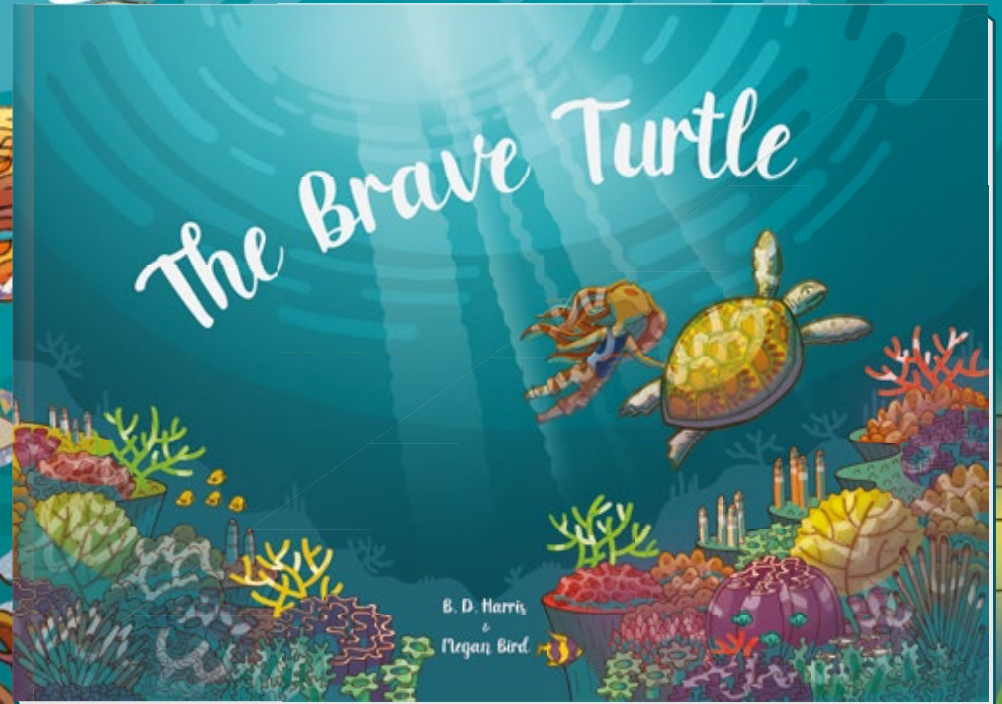
Pub date: 2018

Pages: 80

Audience: 6-9 years

Late one night, Sam rolls off her bed and *splash!* Her entire room has flooded! Not just her room, but the whole house is filling up with water as the world floods outside.

Confused and cold, Sam is quickly rescued by a wise, little turtle called Neville, who takes her along the beautiful underwater highway, teaching her the ways of this watery world to rescue her parents.



ALICE'S ADVENTURE IN WONDERLAND

Author: Lewis Carroll
Illustr: Megan Bird

ISBN: 978-0-6399343-2-7

Format: Paperback

Pub date: 2018

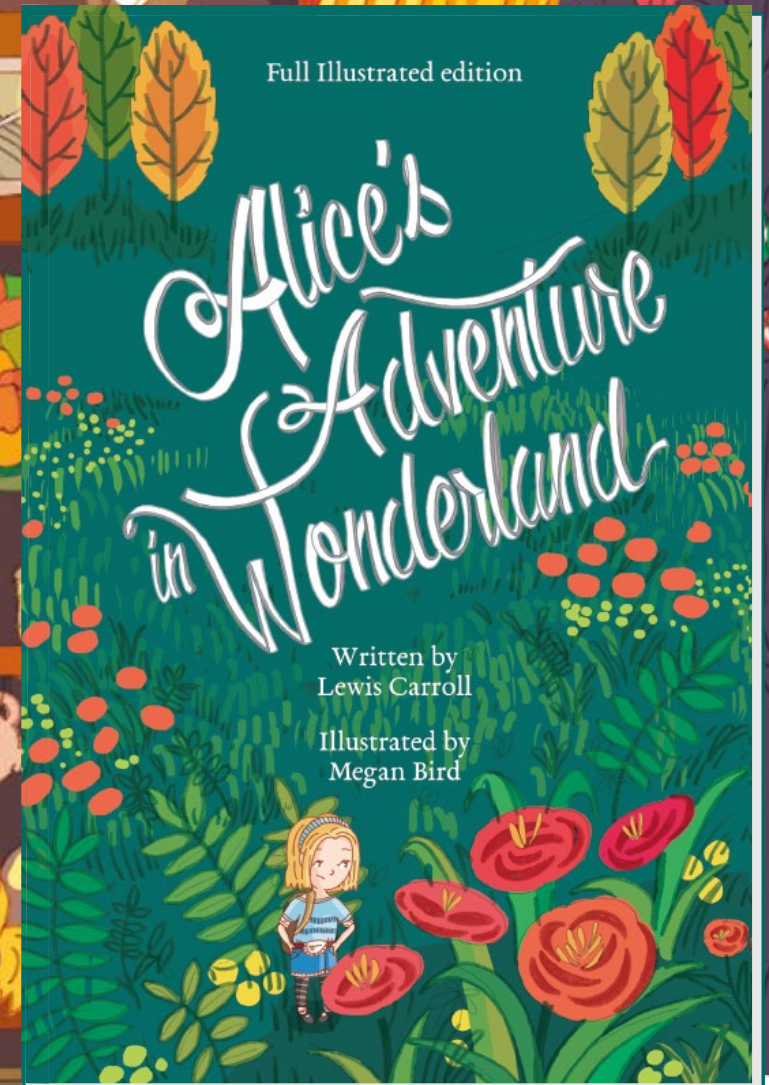
Pages: 112

Audience: 7+ years

Megan Bird, a significantly established South African illustrator, has re-imagined this wonderful children's tale by Lewis Carroll to be a modern twist of maddened adventure.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is about a curious little girl called Alice, whose curiosity leads her to fall down a rabbit hole and into a marvelously troublesome world.

**fully illustrated*





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