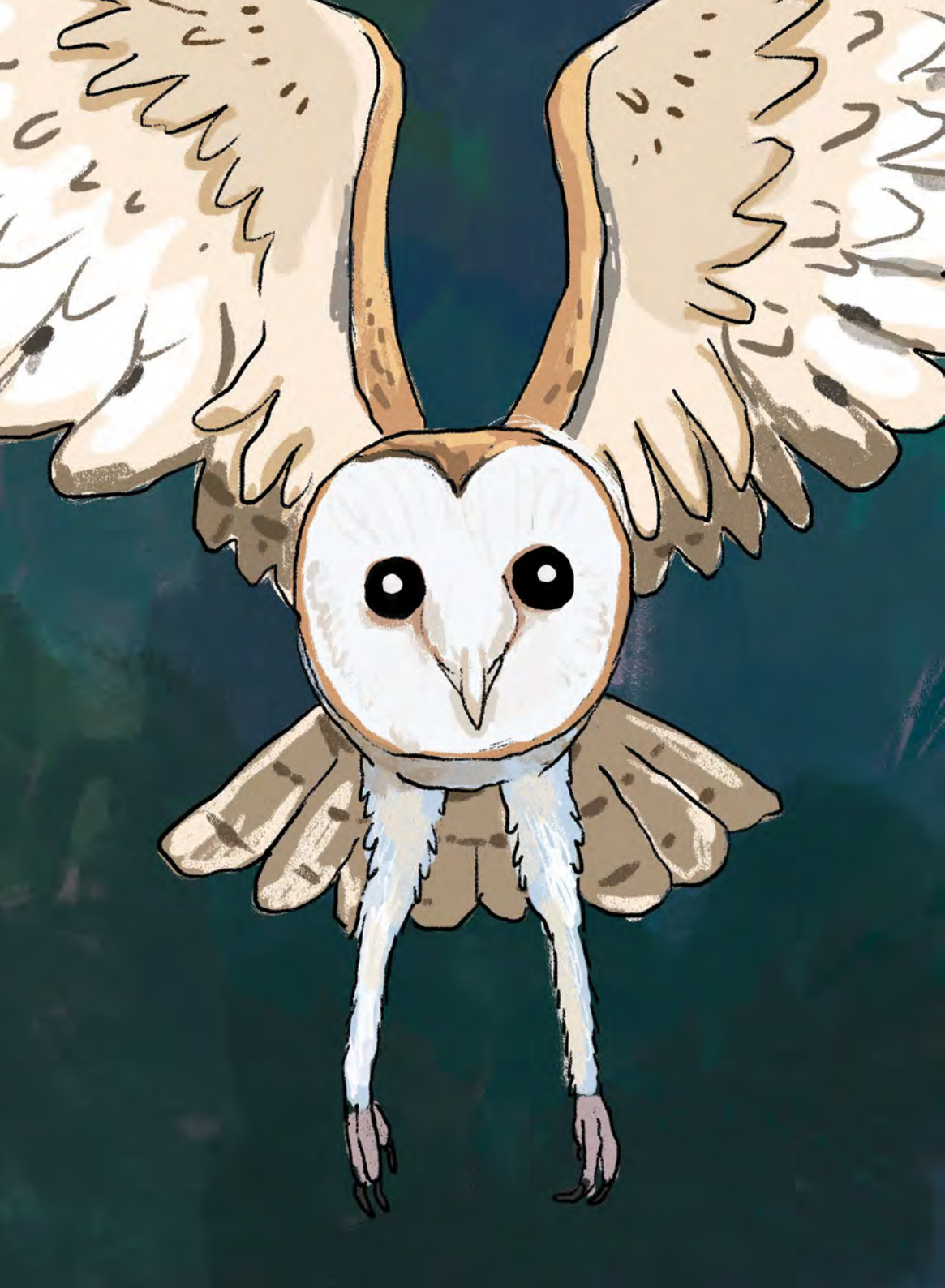


Foreign Rights Spring 2026

GECKO PRESS





About Gecko Press

Gecko Press is the international imprint of Lerner Publishing Group. Founded in New Zealand in 2005, Gecko Press operates out of Minneapolis with publisher-at-large Rachel Lawson based in New Zealand.

Gecko Press publishes curiously good children's books from around the world—books of good heart and strong character, excellent in story, illustration and design.

Alongside books in translation, Gecko Press publishes two or three original books each year. This rights guide presents current and backlist titles original to Gecko Press.

Creative New Zealand provides subsidies for the translation of New Zealand literature into foreign languages with the New Zealand Translation Grant Scheme. Find more information at publishers.org.nz

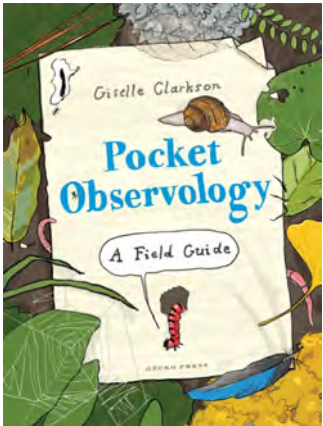
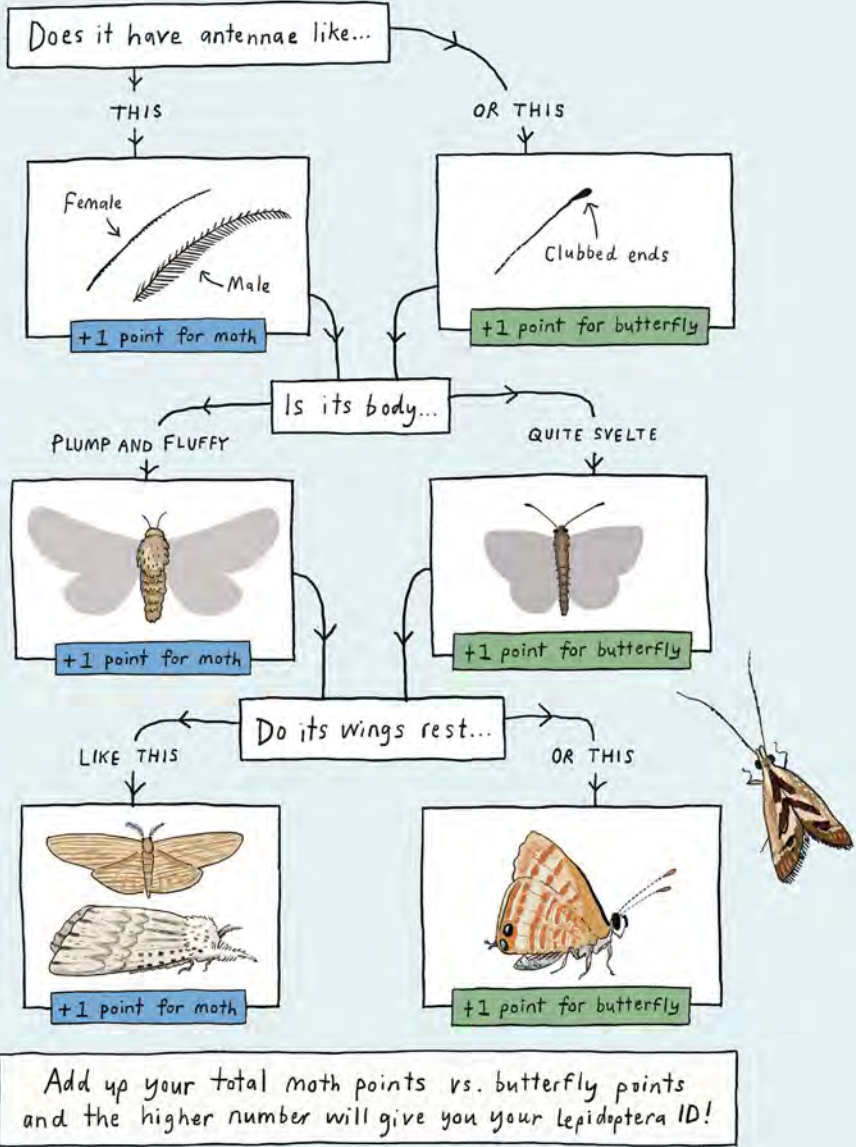
Look for these links to:
Look inside / Watch trailer



IMAGE OPPOSITE © GISELLE CLARKSON

IMAGE FRONT COVER © DAVID BARROW

Slip this practical field guide out of your pocket to identify, measure, compare, or find clues to the things you encounter every day in nature.



Pocket Observology
A Field Guide
Giselle Clarkson

This pocket guide is a useful tool and fun reminder of how to look at the world around you with care and close observation every day. Use it to identify whether you've found a bee or wasp, centipede or millipede, moth or butterfly. Compare shapes of seeds, leaves, and feathers to deduce their origin. Notice snail trails and make discoveries by turning over a leaf. Learn how to observe—listen, look, record, and collect.

With its how-to guides, comic illustrations, weatherproof cover, and built-in, useful tools—such as a ruler, key, and quick access sections—this handy guide will enliven every expedition. After poring over Giselle Clarkson's rich, oversized books indoors, every observologist and omnibird can slip this guide in their pocket and set out on small scientific outings every day.

Giselle Clarkson is an author, illustrator and comic artist based in Greytown, New Zealand, known for her work on conservation and environmental topics. She has written and illustrated award-winning picture books and nonfiction and is an Arts Foundation Laureate.
[More from Giselle Clarkson](#)

Age 8–13
Nonfiction
225 x 165 mm
96 pages
September 1, 2026
Paperback
\$14.99
All rights: Lerner

Companion guide to
The Observologist
and *Omnibird*





Adventure and emotion in a story that stays with you

Vivid writing, original voice



Cass and the Beast

Claire Mabey / illustrated by Jill Calder

A sweeping and original picture book about a girl who chooses not to be afraid

When a fearful beast arrives in the township, Cass finds her courage and is rewarded with a wild and magical journey. The creature takes her on a thundering ride through a forested landscape, leaving the town and people far behind. In the wilderness that is home to the beast, Cass finds adventure, ferocity, and gentleness. And the beast finds its name.

Atmospheric illustrations complement an original narrative voice in this collaboration between an author and illustrator from opposite sides of the world.

Claire Mabey is a children's writer with a background in publishing and multi-arts festivals. Author of two novels, she founded two literary festivals and writes about books for leading media. She lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

Jill Calder is an award-winning illustrator based in Scotland. She studied at Edinburgh and Glasgow art schools and lectured at Edinburgh College of Art. Her prize-winning children's book illustrations include nomination for the Carnegie Medal for Illustration and a shortlisting for the World Illustration Awards.

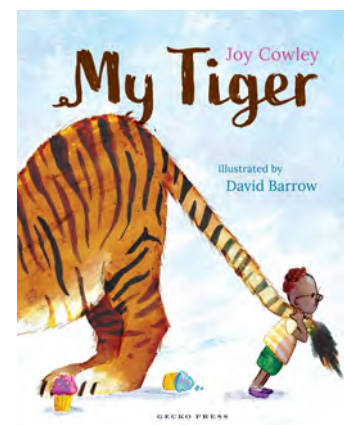
Age 4–8

Picture book
276 x 225 mm
32 pages
August 4, 2026
Trade Hardcover
\$18.99

All rights: Lerner



“A deeply amusing, wonderfully subversive look
at defying expectations and watching what you eat.”
—starred, *Kirkus Reviews*



My Tiger

Joy Cowley / illustrated by David Barrow

A boy's pet tiger is apprehensive about his first trip to the dentist—but the twist ending of this funny picture book turns the dentist's advice satisfyingly on its head (and that's the end of the dentist).

My tiger loved cake, and I went with him to the cake shop. Then he got a bad tooth, so I went with him to the dentist. My tiger didn't like sitting in the waiting room, climbing onto the dentist chair, or being told by the dentist what to eat. Especially when she said no more cake! What's a tiger supposed to eat?

A bossy adult is made to look silly and a charming tiger wins the reader's heart in this subversively funny story about a love of cake and the pull of natural tiger instincts.

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

David Barrow teaches at the Cambridge School of Art. He lives in England with his wife and son. [More from David Barrow](#)



Age 4–7

Picture book
276 x 225 mm
32 pages
March 3, 2026
Trade Hardcover
\$18.99

All rights: Lerner

Rights sold

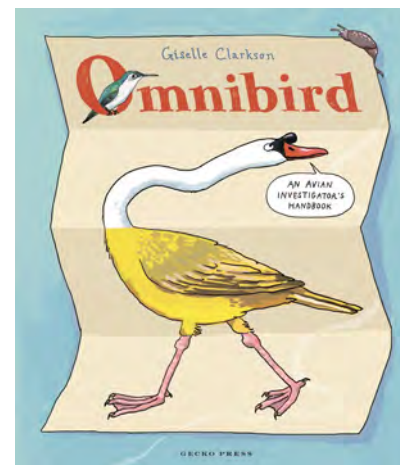
Dutch
Gottmer



The Guardian and *The Spinoff's* Best Book of the Year



“A truly stellar work that will delight bird enthusiasts while converting the ambivalent into eager avian investigators.”
—starred, *Kirkus Reviews*



Omnibird *An Avian Investigator's Handbook*

Giselle Clarkson

This highly illustrated, playful field guide to common international birds brings the art of observology to the science of ornithology, showing the many ways these familiar creatures are remarkable if you take the time to look.

In *Omnibird* Giselle Clarkson investigates the evidence of everyday birdlife to show us how to become expert at finding extraordinary things around us, just by looking.

After getting to know all the best bird features, *Omnibird* investigates 12 common birds from habitats around the world—eagles, owls and seabirds, starlings, ducks and swans. Through them we explore the incredible internal structure of bird bones, learn what a gizzard stone is for, meet the tiny creatures that live on birds, and find the fascinating in eggs, bird poop, feathers, and flight patterns.

More from Giselle Clarkson



Age 8–13

Nonfiction
290 x 250 mm
120 pages
February 6, 2024
Trade Hardcover
\$24.99

All rights: Lerner

Rights sold

Dutch
Lannoo
French
Editions Thierry
Magnier
German
Moritz Verlag
Korean
Pan Publishing
Simplified
Chinese
TB Publishing



Follow-up to the
international success
The Observologist





Winner
Riverby Award
(USA)

**Best Children's Books of the Year: School Library Journal,
Kirkus, Bank Street**

Awards and shortlistings in numerous international prizes

LUCHS prize (German edition)



The Observologist

A Handbook for Mounting Very Small Scientific Expeditions

Giselle Clarkson

A highly illustrated, playful field guide for natural scientists and curious observers of the world right under our noses.

The Observologist puts more than 100 small creatures and features of the natural world under the microscope, piquing our curiosity with only the most interesting facts. Subjects range from slugs, ants, and seeds to fungi, flies, bees, and bird poop.

But this is no everyday catalog of creatures. It is an antidote to boredom, an invitation to observe our environment, with care and curiosity, wherever we are..

A charming work sure to spark a lifelong habit of looking closely at the natural world.

STARRED, KIRKUS REVIEWS

Styled as a naturalist's sketchbook...Clarkson distills complex topics using text that emanates amazement.

STARRED, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Giselle Clarkson is an illustrator, comic artist and 2023 New Zealand Arts Foundation Laureate. [More from Giselle Clarkson](#)



Age 8–13

Nonfiction
260 x 200 mm
120 pages
Published 2023

Rights sold

Dutch
Lannoo
German
Moritz Verlag
Spanish/
Catalan
Libros Del
Zorro Rojo
Bulgarian
Knigozavar
Korean
Pan Publishing
Simplified
Chinese
TB Publishing
French
Thierry Magnier
Russian
Popuri
All other rights
available, excl.
World English

Finalist

Wainwright Prize
Science and Nature
Writing (UK)

NZCYA Book Awards
(NZ)

Cybil's Book Awards
(US)

Aotearoa Booksellers
Choice (NZ)



Shortlisted for Hans Christian Andersen Award

Nominated for Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

Read more about
Joy Cowley here



JOY COWLEY PORTRAIT BY GISELLE CLARKSON

Joy Cowley

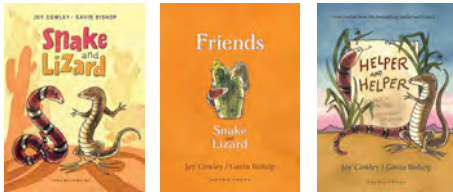
Dame Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's most accomplished writers for the past three generations of children. She has sold more than 40 million copies of her books worldwide, in English and over two dozen other languages. Cowley's awards include a New Zealand Arts Foundation Icon Award for lifetime achievement, the Prime Minister's Award for contribution to literature, and shortlisting for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. She has won the Margaret Mahy Medal, the NZ Post Children's Book Award, the Roberta Long Medal (Alabama, USA), and the AW Reed Award for Contribution to Literature.



PICTURE BOOKS

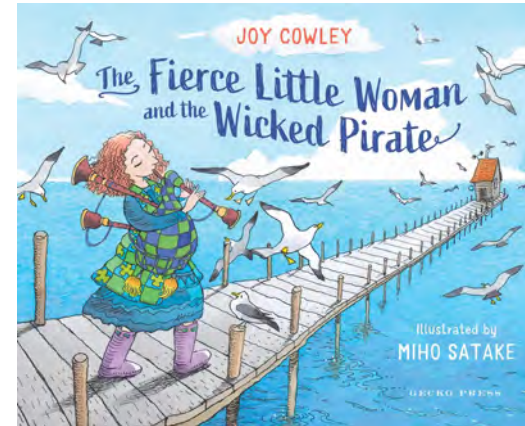


JUNIOR FICTION



NOVELS





The Fierce Little Woman and the Wicked Pirate

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Miho Satake

A new reillustrated edition of this family story with a strong female main character and a pirate who is afraid of the dark.

The fierce little woman lived in a house at the end of a jetty. She knitted socks in blue and green wool, to sell to sailors who had got their feet wet. But when there were no ships at her jetty, she was quite alone. One stormy day, a pirate came to the house on the jetty. He stood on his toes, and starting tap-tap-tapping on the window...

This delightful story is told with the cadences of a real storyteller.
JUST IMAGINE (UK)

A beautiful story of how to ask a question, of how never to give up, and how to let others know if you're not feeling as brave as you appear.
DOLPHIN BOOK BLOG (UK)

See original illustrations (also available) and hear the story read aloud [here](#).

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Miho Satake is a highly regarded Japanese artist and illustrator known for illustrating the Japanese editions of classic children's books including Diana Wynne Jones and anniversary editions of the Harry Potter series.

Age 3–6

Picture book
218 x 272 mm
32 pages
Published 2025

Rights sold

Japanese
Shoten Tokuma
All other rights
available, excl.
World English

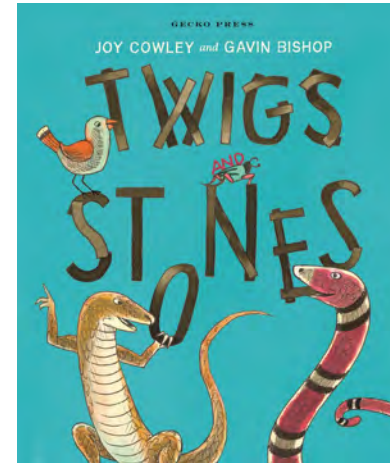
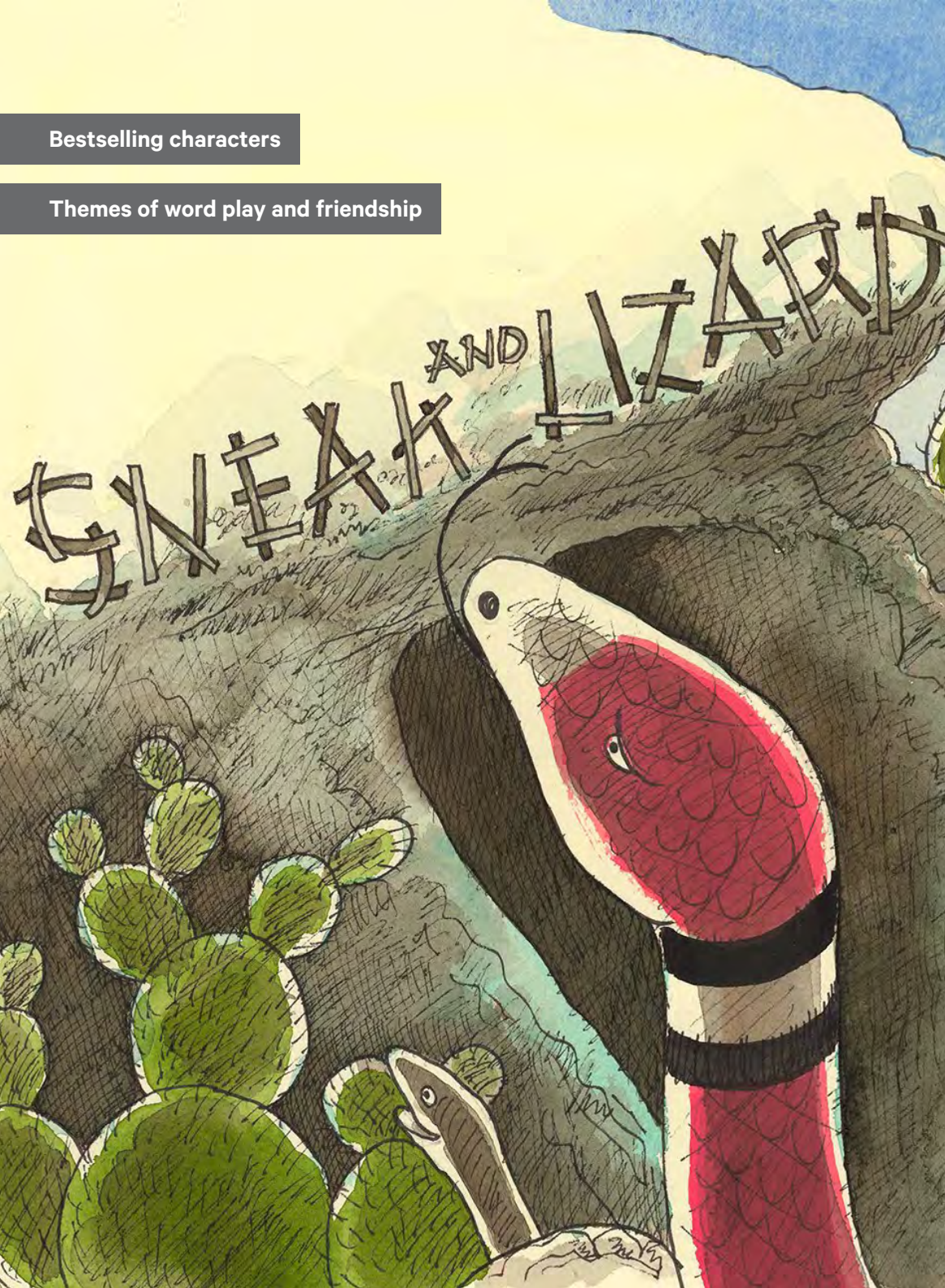
Illustrations

World rights
available
for original
illustrations by
Sarah Davis
Miho Satake
illustration
rights through
Tokuma Shoten



Bestselling characters

Themes of word play and friendship



Twigs and Stones

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Gavin Bishop

A funny, warm and wise picture book by world-renowned Joy Cowley and Gavin Bishop that captures the essence of friendship and nudges us to notice the power of the words we choose.

Snake and Lizard live together in a hole under a rock. They are such good friends that Lizard decides to put their names in large letters over the entrance. Lizard carefully makes each letter out of twigs stuck with mud from the river. But three small words can test a friendship—especially when the letters get muddled and the words start to change their meaning.

This funny picture book holds a mirror to our human flaws and reminds us that names and nicknames must be used with care.

[Read more about Snake and Lizard](#)

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, is a five-time Book of the Year winning illustrator living in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has published over 70 books internationally and been translated into 12 languages. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)

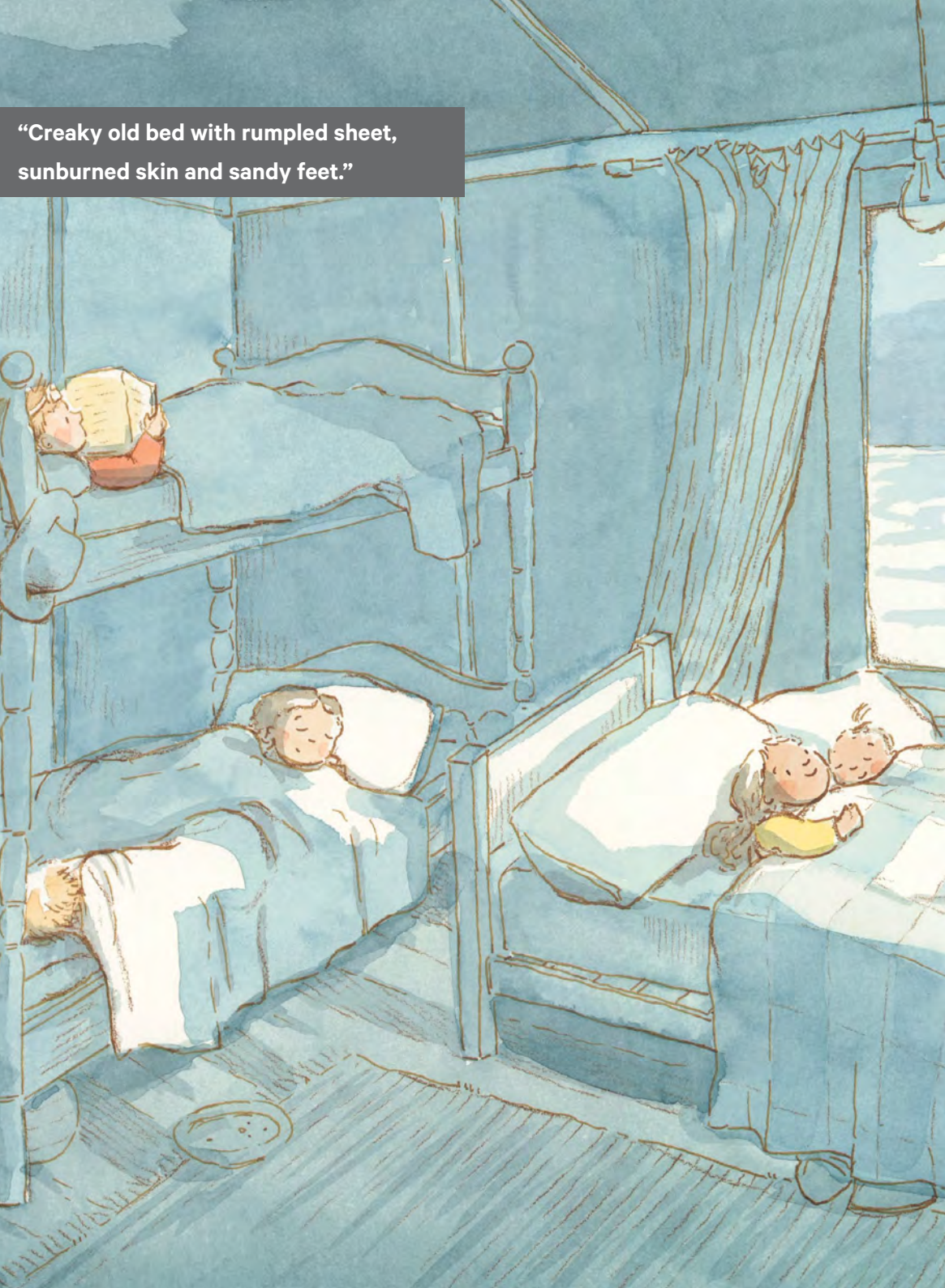


Age 4–7

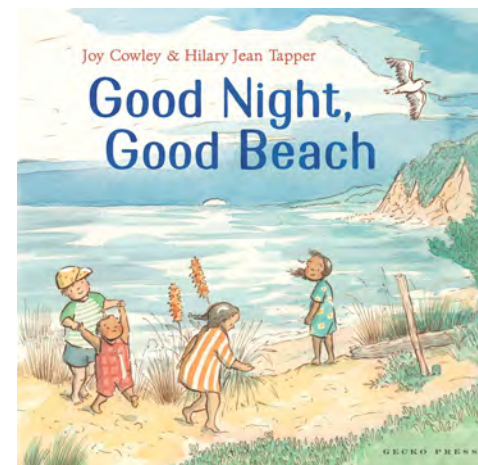
Picture book
230 x 195 mm
32 pages
Published 2025

All rights
available, excl.
World English





“Creaky old bed with rumpled sheet,
sunburned skin and sandy feet.”



Good Night, Good Beach

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Hilary Jean Tapper

An evocative and beautiful bedtime picture book by one of the world's foremost writers for children that distils the essence of summer at the beach—creaky old bed, sandy feet, waves hush-hushing and a shell under the pillow.

Summer holidays by the sea have a rhythm all their own. With a few resonant images Cowley takes us straight to the end of a long hot day with beach treasures under the pillow and the salty smell of the sea. The cadence of the final words echoes the shushing waves in a gentle signal of time for readers to sleep—“good day, good sea, good sand, good night”.

Exudes the satisfactions of a salt-sprayed holiday.

WALL STREET JOURNAL (US)

One you will read so often, you'll know it off by heart.

THE SAPLING (NZ)

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation.

[More from Joy Cowley](#)

Hilary Jean Tapper is an illustrator and creative arts therapist. Her picture books include *What To Say* by Davina Bell, which won the Australian children's picture book of the year 2024.

Age 3–7

Picture book
242 x 250 mm
28 pages
Published 2023

World rights
available
Excl. World
English



Finalist

Aotearoa
Booksellers' Choice
Award 2024

New Zealand
Children's Book
Awards 2024

PANZ Book Design
Awards 2024

Notable book

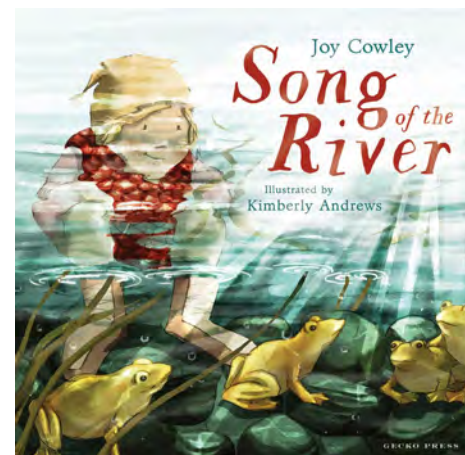
Storylines NZ 2023





Rhythmic, compelling text, a tremendous read aloud

Changing perspectives



Song of the River

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Kimberly Andrews

In this lyrical and evocative picture book, a child follows the river's journey from its source in the mountains all the way to the sea.

The river leads Cam through forest, farms and towns to the salty wind of the beach. The dramatic landscapes are packed with detail to discover in the world of the river.

Andrews renders the rush and earnestness of the boy's journey through striated light, city smoke, and the broad, blue sea.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (US)

Sentences...build and accrete like that rivulet taking readers on the journey. A lovely homage to nature.

KIRKUS REVIEWS (US)

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Kimberly Andrews is a trained biologist and geologist who grew up in the Canadian Rockies. She lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

Age 4-7

Picture book
242 x 250 mm
32 pages
Published 2019

Rights sold

Simplified
Chinese
Beijing United
Publishing Co

Korean
Korean Studies
Information
Co., Ltd

Turkish

Koç Üniversitesi
Yayınları
Rumelifeneri

All other rights
available, excl.
World English



Winner

Teach Early Years
Award 2020

Finalist

New Zealand
Children's Book
Awards 2020

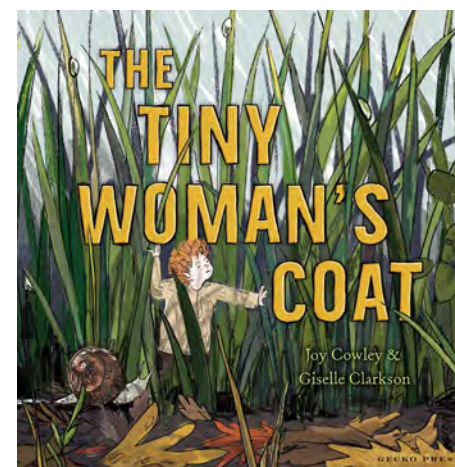




For preschoolers who love tiny things

Selected for *The Times Children's Book of the Week*

50 Best Kid's Books 2021, *New Zealand Listener*



The Tiny Woman's Coat

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Giselle Clarkson

The tiny woman makes a coat of leaves with the help of friends in this vibrant rhyming tale.

Resourcefulness and friendship are at the heart of this simple rhythmic poem by one of the world's best children's writers.

An inventive and delightful tale that evokes Thumbelina, the Borrowers, and other beloved wee characters.

KIRKUS REVIEWS (US)

A new favourite cosy read to add to my collection ... Giselle Clarkson's evocative illustrations tell another story of the powers of collectivism.

THE TIMES CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK (UK)

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. She has been nominated for the ALMA and shortlisted for the Hans Christian Anderson Award.

[More from Joy Cowley](#)

Giselle Clarkson is an illustrator and comic artist based in Wellington, New Zealand. [More from Giselle Clarkson](#)



Age 2-5

Picture book
216 x 216 mm
28 pages
Published 2021

Rights sold

Italian
Storiedichi
Simplified
Chinese
Oriental Babies

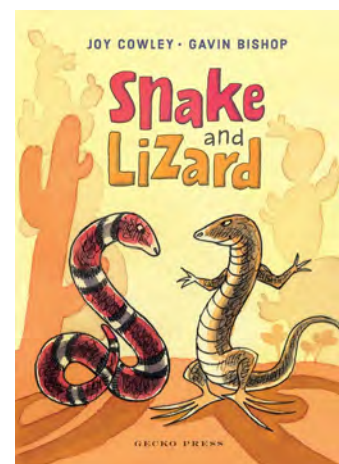
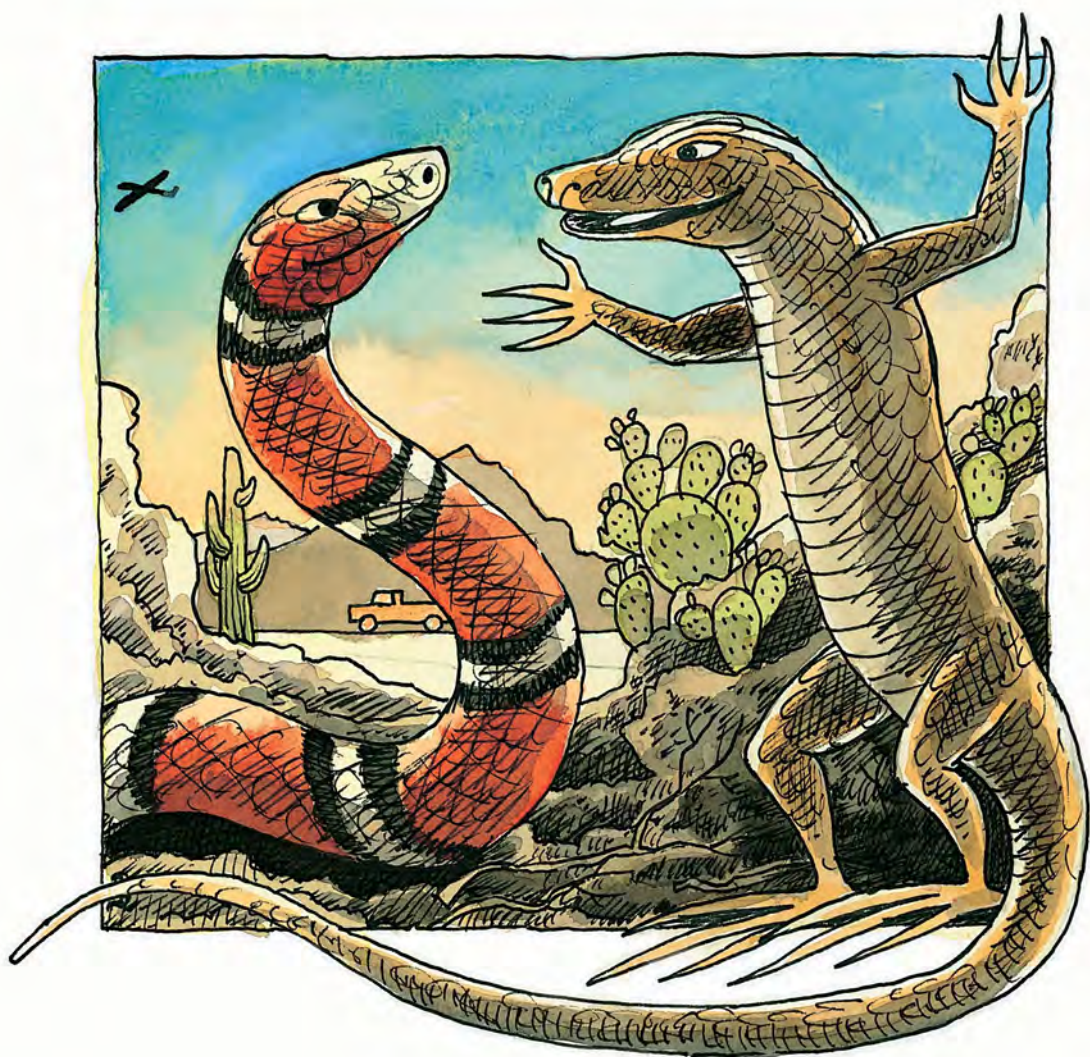
All other rights
available, excl.
World English



A much-loved, timeless classic

Over 20,000 copies sold

Starred review, *US School Library Journal*



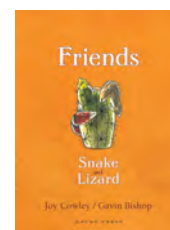
Winner

NZ Post
Children's Book
of the Year

Snake and Lizard

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Gavin Bishop

Two very different creatures learn about the give-and-take of friendship in this warm and funny story set in the desert.



Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, has published over 70 books internationally, translated into 12 languages. His awards include the Sir Kingi Ihaka Award 2018 and the New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year five times. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)



Awards for *Snake and Lizard*
White Raven 2008

Storylines NZ Notable Book List 2008

LIANZA Merit Award 2008

North Dakota Library Association Flicker Tale
Children's Choice Book Award 2011

Top 10 Best Children's Books, China Times

Storylines NZ Notable Book List 2018

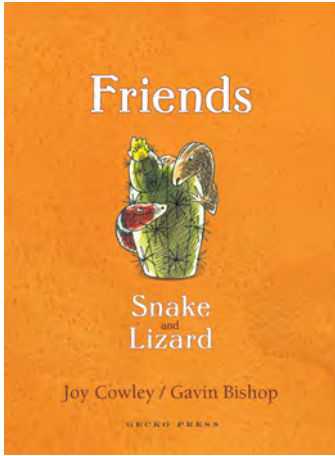
Age 6–10

Junior fiction
198 x 146 mm
102 pages
Published 2007

Rights sold

Dutch
Gottmer
German
Jacoby & Stuart
Japanese
Alice-Kan
Korean
Whale Story
Lithuanian
Vsj leidykla
Odile
Norwegian
Cappelen
Damm
Philippines
Kane Miller
Simplified
Chinese China
King-in Culture
Traditional
Chinese Taiwan
CPL
Turkish
Kuraldisi
Yayinlari
All other rights
available, excl.
World English





Friends

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Gavin Bishop

The beguiling pair introduced in *Snake and Lizard* now share a burrow and are business partners, too!

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, has published over 70 books internationally, translated into 12 languages. His awards include the Sir Kingi Ihaka Award 2018 and the New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year five times. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)

Awards

Finalist, NZ Post Children's Book Awards 2010

Top 50 Children's Books 2009, *New Zealand Listener*

Children's Choice winner, NZ Post Children's Book Awards 2010

Storylines NZ Notable Book 2010

Top 10 Best Children's Books, *China Times*

3-book series

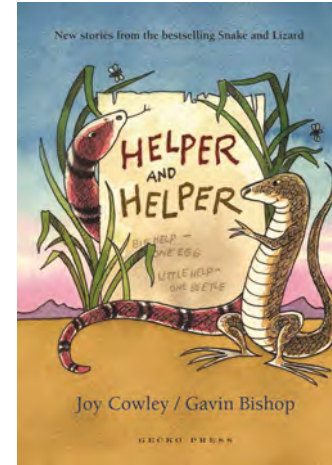
Timeless stories of
friendship

Age 6–9

Junior fiction
198 x 146 mm
144 pages
Published 2009

Rights sold

Korean
Whale Story
Lithuanian
Vsj leidykla
Odile
Norwegian
Cappelen
Damm
Simplified
Chinese China
TB Publishing
Traditional
Chinese Taiwan
CPL
Turkish
Kuraldisi
Yayinlari
All other rights
available, excl.
World English



Helper and Helper

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Gavin Bishop

...what quirky, credible characters these two are.
NEW ZEALAND BOOK COUNCIL

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, has published over 70 books internationally, translated into 12 languages. His awards include the Sir Kingi Ihaka Award 2018 and the New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year five times. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)



Twigs and Stones by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Gavin Bishop is a new picture book about Snake and Lizard.

Age 6–9

Junior fiction
198 x 146 mm
128 pages
Published 2017

Rights sold

Lithuanian
Odile
Simplified
Chinese China
TB Publishing
Turkish
Kuraldisi
Yayinlari
All other rights
available, excl.
World English

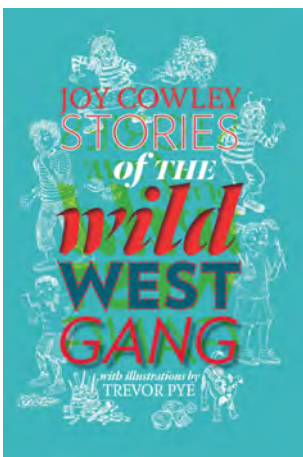
Finalist

New Zealand
Children's Book
Awards 2017

Notable Book

Storylines NZ 2018





Stories of the Wild West Gang

Joy Cowley

Hilarious stories packed with pandemonium, mud and mayhem

Wherever the Wild West Gang goes, adventure is not far behind—and it's the sort of adventure you don't want your parents to know about.

Rollicking reads.

JOHN MCINTYRE, THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOP

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. She has won a multitude of awards and honours for her best-selling books. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

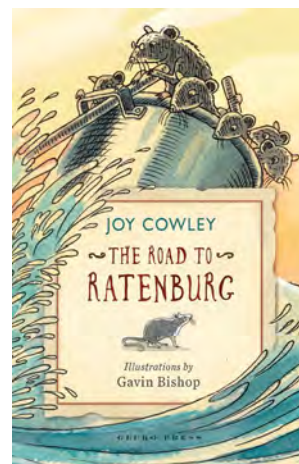
Age 7–11

Novel
234 x 156 mm
368 pages
Published 2011

Rights sold

Arabic,
Morocco
Here & There
For Global
Culture
Connection
French
Bayard
Traditional
Chinese Taiwan
Linking
Turkish
Uyurgezer
Yayincilik
All other rights
available, excl.
World English

50 Best Kids Books,
New Zealand
Listener



The Road to Ratenburg

Joy Cowley / illustrated by Gavin Bishop

Forced to make a new home, Spinnaker Rat's family set out for the fabled and glorious city of Ratenburg.

A piece of quality fiction that will stand the test of time and will make a great addition to any library.

IN NEED OF A READ (UK)

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation. She has won a multitude of awards and honours for her best-selling books. [More from Joy Cowley](#)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, has published over 70 books internationally, translated into 12 languages. His awards include the Sir Kingi Ihaka Award 2018 and the New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year five times. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)

Age 8–11

Novel
198 x 128 mm
200 pages
Published 2016

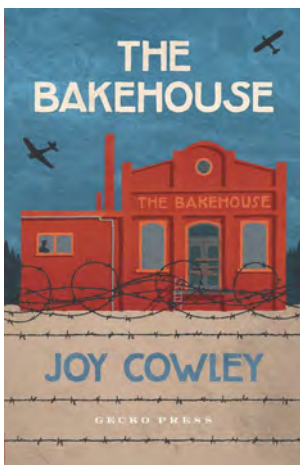
Rights sold

Turkish
Uyurgezer
Yayincilik
Simplified
Chinese China
TB Publishing
All other rights
available, excl.
World English

From a much-loved writer and illustrator pair

A fable with pace, humour and a rollicking good quest





The Bakehouse

Joy Cowley

Bert wants nothing more than to be old enough to fight in the war. Little does he know that the secrets and danger of war don't always stay at the front line.

A well-written, gripping novel with intense emotional involvement in a well-drawn historical background

MAGPIES MAGAZINE (AUS)

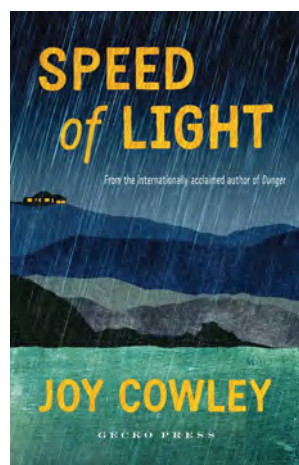
Rights sold

Turkish (Uyurgezer Kitap)

All other rights available excluding World English

Awards

Storylines Notable Book 2016



Speed of Light

Joy Cowley

A strange old woman is blown in to an affluent but dysfunctional family, and when things go very wrong, her influence is suspect.

Sometimes when you finish a book you close it and walk away. Others you hold in your lap, reluctant to let the feelings and emotions it created in you die down. So it was for me with Speed of Light.

AROUND THE BOOKSHOPS

Rights sold

Korean (Gaesunamu), Taiwan (Linking)

All other rights available excluding World English



Dunger

Joy Cowley

A fast-paced, funny, accessible junior novel with a realistic brother-sister relationship from beloved New Zealand writer Joy Cowley.

William and Melissa have been roped into helping their old hippie grandparents fix up their holiday home. They'll have no electricity, no cellphone reception, and only each other for company. As far as they're concerned, this is not a holiday.

Spirited, warm, intelligent and has sensible and mature messages to impart.

THE BOOKBAG (UK)

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children and adults, with an international reputation.

[More from Joy Cowley](#)

Winner

Junior Fiction,
NZ Children's
Book Awards
2014

Age 8-12

Novel
198 x 129 mm

Dunger
156 pages
Published 2013

The Bakehouse
140 pages
Published 2015

Speed of Light
206 pages
Published 2014

Rights sold

Korean
Gaesunamu

Simplified
Chinese China
TB Publishing

Turkish
Uyurgezer
Kitap

All other rights
available, excl.
World English

15,000 copies sold in New Zealand

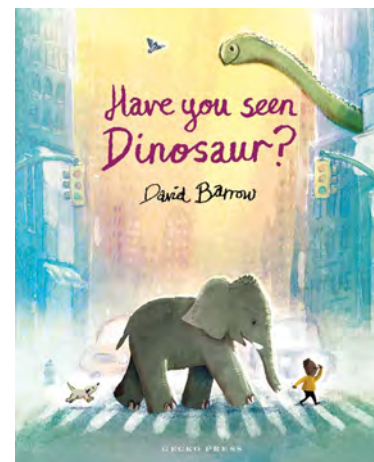
Storylines New Zealand Notable Book 2014



Sequel to international bestseller *Have You Seen Elephant?*

Dramatic cityscapes and beautiful use of light and color

Absurd, laugh-out-loud story



Have You Seen Dinosaur?

David Barrow

Play hide and seek in the city with a boy, his animal friends and a dinosaur that's surprisingly good at hiding.

Best friends boy, dog and elephant are VERY good at hide-and-seek. There's a missing dinosaur in the city—who better to spot this elusive giant? They search the skate park, the museum, the subway...

No one in the city can spot the dinosaur, not even this crack hide-and-seek team. But delighted readers will be pointing "There it is!" from the first page.

Beautiful! Adults will love it too, kids will love it the most.

BBC RADIO, UK

David Barrow teaches at the Cambridge School of Art. He lives in England with his wife and son.

[More from David Barrow](#)



Have You Seen Elephant?

Long seller in every English market

Chosen by UK and US book clubs and charities
Shortlisted, Waterstones Children's Book Prize
Silver Pencil (Dutch) 2018

Age 3–5

Picture book
276 x 225 mm
32 pages
Published 2023

Rights sold

Dutch
Gottmer
Italian
Terre di Mezzo
Turkish
Koç Üniversitesi
Yayınları
Rumelifeneri
Simplified
Chinese
Beijing Cheerful

All other rights
available, excl.
World English

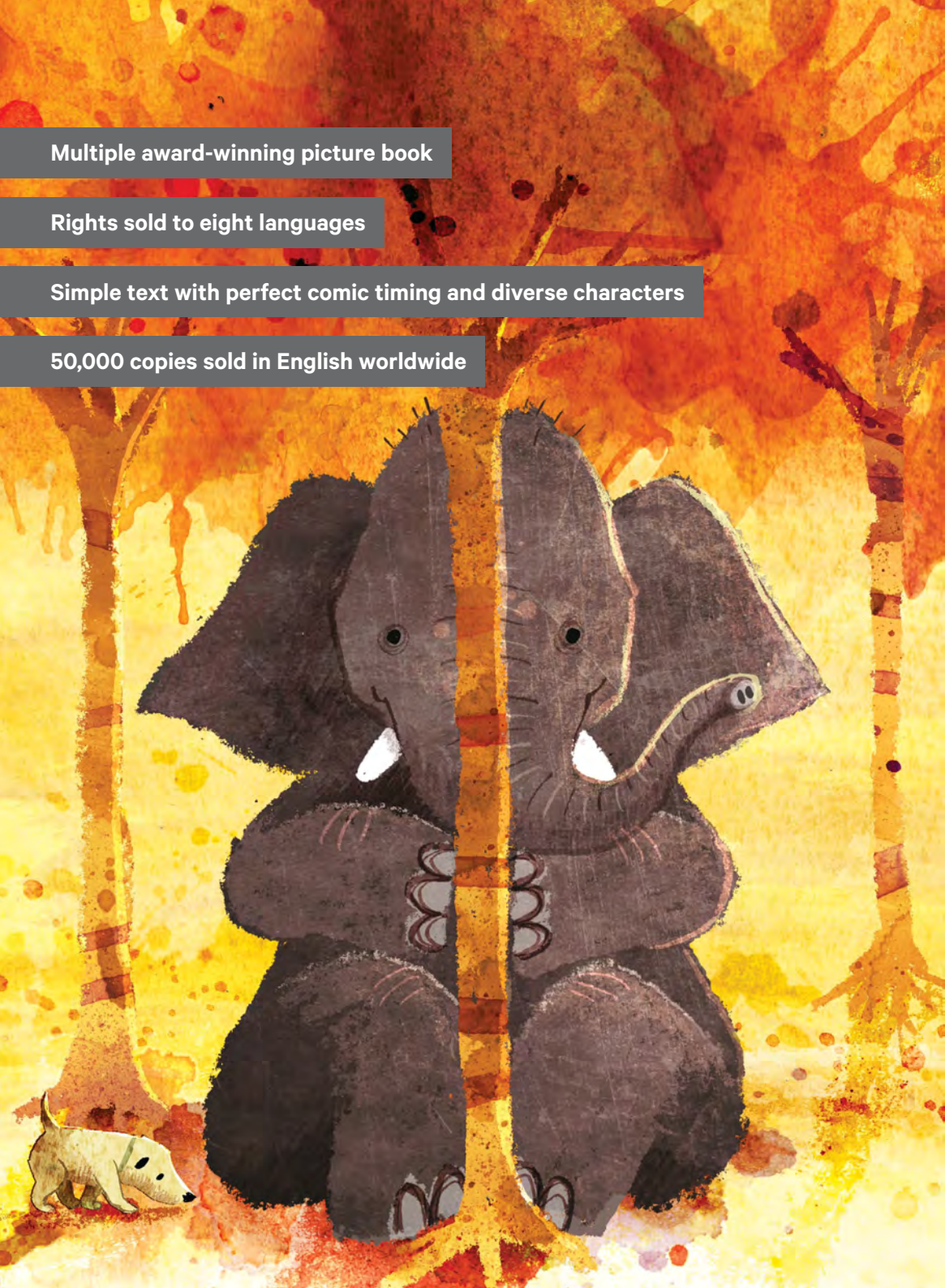


Multiple award-winning picture book

Rights sold to eight languages

Simple text with perfect comic timing and diverse characters

50,000 copies sold in English worldwide



Have You Seen Elephant?

David Barrow

An absurd and heart-warming picture book with perfect comic timing from a brilliant storyteller.

This game-inside-a-book celebrates imaginative play, perfect for sharing with children who will love being better at finding the elephant than the boy. Watch out for the tortoise, too!

Beyond the sheer absurdity, children will delight in details... Younger audiences will be screaming "There it is!" from the get-go.
STARRED REVIEW & BEST PICTURE BOOKS OF 2016, KIRKUS REVIEWS

A bonafide pitch-perfect laugh-out-loud picture book for all ages.
THE BOOK SNIFFER (UK)

Awards

Shortlisted, Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2016

Longlisted, Klaus Flugge Prize 2016

Sebastian Walker Award for most promising children's illustrator 2016

Silver Pencil (Dutch) 2018



David Barrow graduated from the Cambridge School of Art with a Masters in Children's Book Illustration. He lives in England with his wife and son.

[More from David Barrow](#)

Age 3-5

Picture book
32 pages
276 x 225 mm
Published 2015

Rights sold

Italian
Terre di Mezzo
Basque
Txalaparte
Dutch
Gottmer
Frisian
Afûk
German
Ueberreuter
Greek
Psichogios
Italian
Terre di Mezzo
Korean
Marubol
Slovenian
Zabola Zala
Simplified Chinese
Chinese China
Cheerful Century
Traditional Chinese
Taiwan
The Eastern Company
Turkish
Okuyanur
All other rights available, excl.
World English



Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement

New Zealand Book of the Year 2022, 2018, 2008, 2003, 2000

Sir Kingi Ihaka Award for lifetime contribution to Māori art and culture

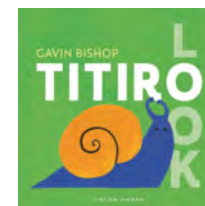
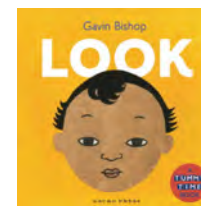
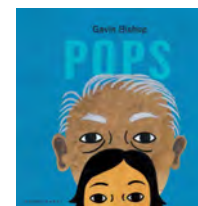
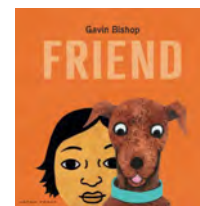


Gavin Bishop

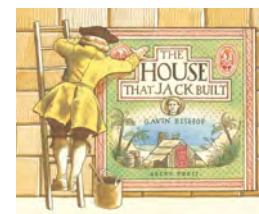


Gavin Bishop, Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM), Tainui, Ngāti Awa, is a leading New Zealand illustrator. He has published over 70 books internationally and been translated into 12 languages. He has written for television and theatre, as well as a libretti for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. His awards include the New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year multiple times, the Sir Kingi Ihaka award for lifetime contribution to Māori art and culture, and the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement—Non Fiction.

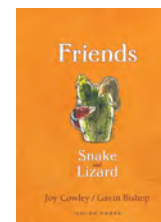
BOARD BOOKS



PICTURE BOOKS



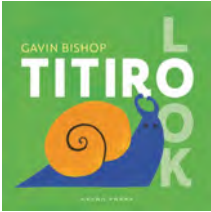
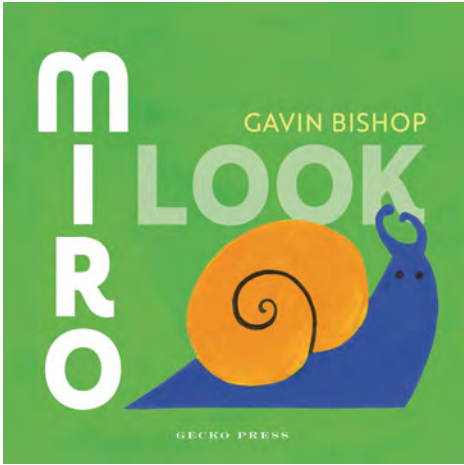
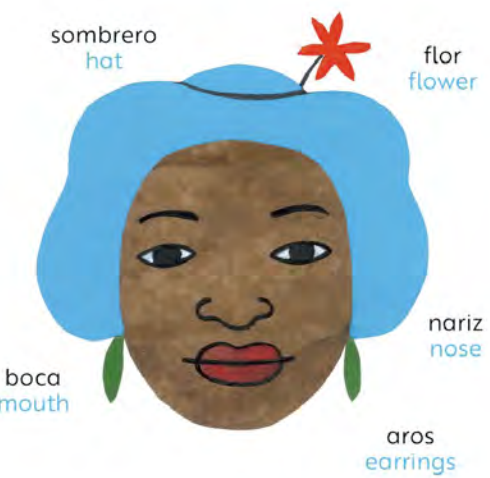
JUNIOR FICTION



NOVELS



Can be adapted for first words in any two languages



Miro / Look

Titiro / Look

Gavin Bishop

This arresting bilingual board book of first words by award-winning Gavin Bishop pairs family and toys to show connections while building vocabulary for shapes, colours, objects.

Published in English/Māori and English/Spanish editions.

Words and images are chosen to include the unexpected and imaginative alongside the obvious, making this more than a first-words book.

This is a bilingual book to ask questions, point and talk, for adult reader and child to learn and explore together—or to enjoy quietly alone.

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, is a five-time Book of the Year winning illustrator living in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has published over 70 books internationally and been translated into 12 languages. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)

Age 0–3

Fully cased
board book
215 x 215 mm
18 pages
Published 2024

World rights
available
Excl. World
English / North
American
Spanish / Māori



Winner

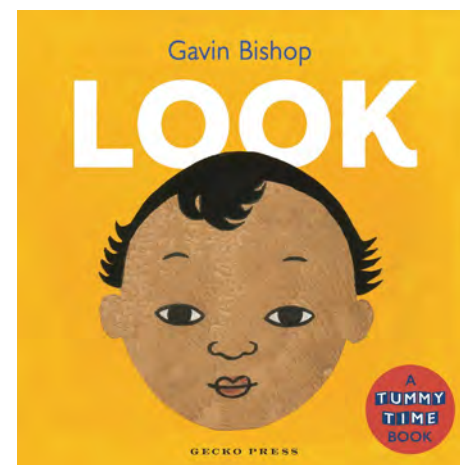
Best New Zealand
Picture Book 2025

PANZ Book Design
Awards 2025

Top 50 Kids Books
2024, *New Zealand
Listener*

Notable book
Storylines NZ 2024





two front covers

Look A Tummy Time Book

Gavin Bishop

A concertina board book of big bright faces to place around the baby on the floor at tummy time—family faces on one side and toys on the other.

This sturdy fold-out book has compelling illustrations of the things babies love. Friendly faces from the whole family combine with familiar toys and objects, drawn in bold lines with a striking color palette.

As the baby grows the strong simple images are perfect for introducing first words and concepts, with family faces to name—including the dog—and objects that babies love to hold and explore—soft toys, ball, keys, an enticing pair of spectacles and more.



Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, is a five-time Book of the Year winning illustrator living in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has published over 70 books internationally and been translated into 12 languages. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)

Age 0–2

Leporello
150 x 150 mm
24 pages
Published 2023

World rights
available
Excl. World
English

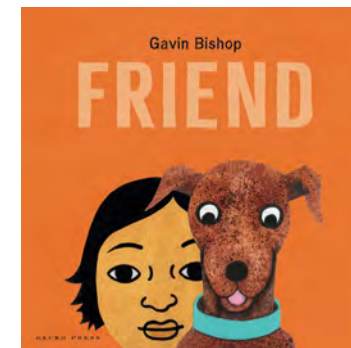
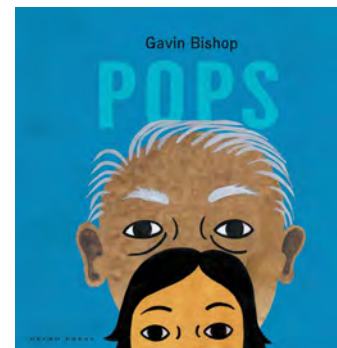




Perfect for adult and child to read together then build their own stories

Multigenerational, multiracial family #ownvoices

Captures simple moments & real feelings



Pops / Friend

Gavin Bishop

Simple stories about a special visit to grandad and a friendship between a child and their dog.

Warm and comforting books that show emotional bonds.

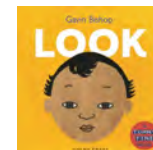
Powerful painted collages with up-close expressive faces of child and their grandad and dog.

Simple text introduces words for everyday objects and a range of feelings.

[Pops is] a beautiful board book highlighting the joy of spending a day with a grandpa. Recommended for every shelf.

STARRED REVIEW, SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (US)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, is a five-time Book of the Year winning illustrator living in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has published over 70 books internationally and been translated into 12 languages. [More from Gavin Bishop](#)



Age 0–2

Board book
185 x 185 mm
18 pages
Published
2021/2023

World rights
available
Excl. World
English





The view from below-decks in the great age of explorers

Endpapers include maps, diagrams & definitions

Colonial renaming of places



Cook's Cook

The Cook Who Cooked for Captain Cook

Gavin Bishop

The 1768 journey of James Cook's *Endeavour* to the South Pacific told through the eyes of the ship's cook.

In 1768 James Cook set sail for the South Pacific on HMS *Endeavour*. Among the 94 crew on this famous voyage was the ship's cook, John Thompson.

Thompson tells the story of shipboard life and exotic places, and makes a friend of the famous botanist Joseph Banks. He shares his recipes—Pease Porridge, Shark Steaks, Albatross Stew. He has only one hand, but it's enough to stir the porridge.

Recognizing the blood, sweat, and years given by the lesser known people who made the journey possible.

BYU CHILDREN'S BOOK & MEDIA

A unique angle; a generous format and top-quality production standard; salient and high-interest details; succinct text and appealing illustrations.
MAGPIES (AU)

Gavin Bishop ONZM, Tainui, Ngāti Awa, is a five-time Book of the Year winning illustrator living in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has published over 70 books internationally and been translated into 12 languages.

[More from Gavin Bishop](#)

Age 5–10

Picture book
245 x 295 mm
40 pages
Published 2018

World rights
available
Excl. World
English



Finalist

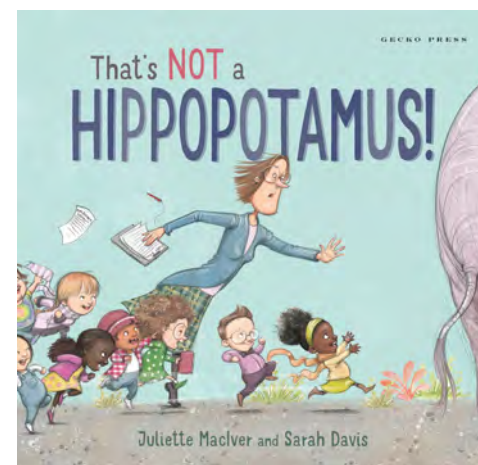
NZ Children's
Book Awards 2019

Best Picture Books
2018, *New Zealand Herald*

Best 50 Kid Books
2018, *New Zealand Listener*



50,000 copies sold worldwide in English



That's Not a Hippopotamus!

Juliette MacLver / illustrated by Sarah Davis

A class trip to the zoo descends into a chaotic hunt for the missing hippopotamus—spotted by quiet Liam from the start.

Children love spotting the hippo hiding in all the pictures and identify with observant Liam, the quiet boy no one listens to.

Good-natured, funny, and a fabulous readaloud.

BEST BOOKS OF 2016, THE SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (US)

A fantastic romp to read aloud . . . wonderful to share so the nuances in the illustrations can be fully appreciated. MAGPIES MAGAZINE (AUS)



The Grizzled Grist Does Not Exist!

Reminiscent of The Gruffalo in the best ways possible . . . more enjoyable, and entertaining on every read. KIDS READ THE WORLD (UK)

White Raven 2023 | Winner, Funky Kids Radio
Global Picture Book Award 2022

World rights available excl. World English

Juliette MacLver is a picture-book writer and mother of four, who lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

Sarah Davis is an award-winning New Zealand illustrator who lives in Sydney, Australia.

Age 3–7

Picture book
250 x 260 mm
32 pages
Published 2016

Rights sold

Simplified
Chinese China
TB Publishing

All other rights
available
excluding
World English



Winner

Best New Zealand
Picture Book
2017

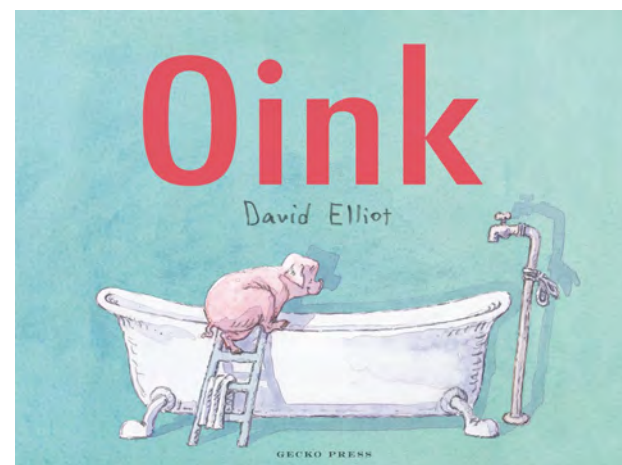


Starred reviews from major US journals

Story told only in animal sound effects, works perfectly as class theatre

Finalist, NZ Children's Book Awards 2019

White Raven 2019



Oink

David Elliot

A comical story about a very busy bath.

Pig has been looking forward to a lovely peaceful bath all day. In come Horse, Cow, Sheep... They are very noisy! Pig finds a way to make them go away—with a subtle fart to finish. Oink!

The delicacy and subtlety of the art only adds to the frisky humor.
NEW YORK TIMES (US)

Told only in animal dialect and sound effects, but with brilliant visual details, this story will become a bathtime favorite.
STARRED REVIEW, KIRKUS REVIEWS (US)

Pencil-and-wash pictures in muted tones evoke a sense of calm, while splashes of bright color provide a contrast to the tranquil atmosphere.
STARRED REVIEW, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (US)



David Elliot is one of New Zealand's leading authors and illustrators of children's books, who has won many awards and is published worldwide.

Age 2–5

Picture book
180 x 240 mm
32 pages
Published 2018

Rights sold

Korean
Media Changbi
Spanish
Editorial
Océano de
México

All other rights
available, excl.
World English



The perfect gift for booklovers



“You can read a book while you walk,
but you have to be careful not to bump into things.”



A Book Is a Book

Jenny Bornholdt / illustrated by Sarah Wilkins

Told from a child's view, this book captures the magic of books felt by voracious readers, and is a perfect gift for book-lovers of all ages.

This small-format jacketed hardback has whimsical yet humorous illustrations and words that perfectly define everything that is good about a book.

A whimsically philosophical tribute ... a keepsake for the future.
UNITY BOOKS WELLINGTON (NZ)

Perfect for a child on a lap or as a stocking stuffer for older bibliophiles.
KIRKUS REVIEWS (US)

A riotously colourful piece of imagination for children.
BEST BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS, NORTH AND SOUTH (NZ)



Jenny Bornholdt is an acclaimed poet—the 2005 New Zealand Poet Laureate, recipient of the 2003 Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award and the 2020 Prime Minister's Award for Achievement in Poetry. [More from Jenny Bornholdt](#)

Sarah Wilkins is an award-winning New Zealand illustrator, whose work is published in books and magazines in France, Italy, United States, Australia and New Zealand. [More from Sarah Wilkins](#)

Age 4+

Picture book
180 x 120 mm
40 pages
Published 2013

Rights sold

German
Thiele
Korean
Charlie Book
Simplified
Chinese China
TB Publishing
Spanish Latin
America
Ediciones
Castillo
Turkish
Can Cocuk

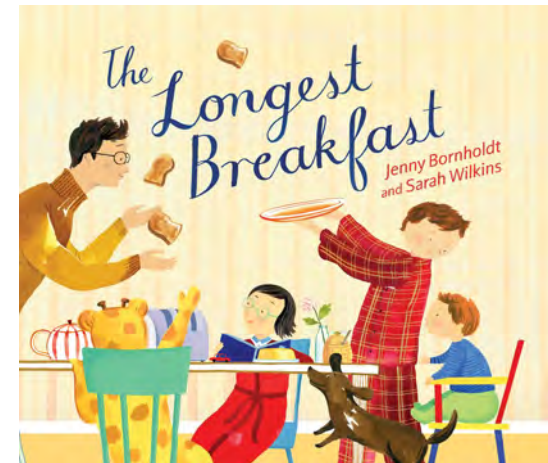
All other rights
available, excl.
World English



A rambunctious book about the best meal of the day

A cumulative story with a twist ending—no one listens to the baby

A contemporary household: diverse cast and Dad in the kitchen



The Longest Breakfast

Jenny Bornholdt / illustrated by Sarah Wilkins

A fun story full of comings and goings with a lovely baby at the centre.

The baby wants breakfast so Malcolm gets out of bed to get started. Then in comes Toby. And Una and Toto, then Alice—they're hungry too. And Conrad from next door and his sister Ruby! Everyone has a request for breakfast. But who is taking notice of the baby?

The story rolls back and forth like a good-natured tug-of-war ...

Ripe for many read-alouds.

MAGPIES MAGAZINE (AUS)



Jenny Bornholdt is an acclaimed poet—the 2005 New Zealand Poet Laureate, recipient of the 2003 Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award and the 2020 Prime Minister's Award for Achievement in Poetry.

[More from Jenny Bornholdt](#)

Sarah Wilkins is an award-winning New Zealand illustrator, whose work is published in books and magazines in France, Italy, United States, Australia and New Zealand.

[More from Sarah Wilkins](#)

Age 3–5

Picture book
210 x 250 mm
36 pages
Published 2017

World rights
available
Excl. World
English



Finalist
New Zealand
Children's Book
Award 2018



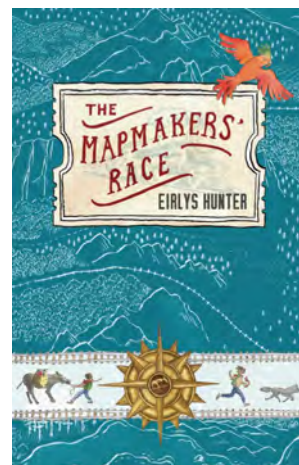
Five children compete against professional route-finders and mapmakers

Fresh, light and effortless story-telling

Chosen by indie booksellers in UK, Australia, New Zealand

Finalist

Premio Strega
Ragazze e Ragazzi
2023



Age 8–12

Novels
248/256 pages
198 x 130 mm

Mapmakers' Race
248 pages
Published 2018

The Uprising
256 pages
Published 2021

Rights sold

Italian
La Nuova
Frontiera

All other rights
available
excluding UK,
Australia and
New Zealand

The Mapmakers' Race

Eirlys Hunter / illustrated by Kirsten Slade

Five children have 28 days to find a route through the wilderness in this exciting mountain-race adventure for middle readers.

Sal, Joe, Francie and Humphrey take part in the Great Race to map a rail route through an uncharted wilderness. Their father didn't return from his last expedition and now their money is gone. This race is their last chance.

Already feels like a timeless adventure ... a thrilling tale full of derring-do and heart.
BOOKTRUST (UK)

The Uprising: The Mapmakers in Cruxcia is a stand-alone novel from the same world. A classic, child-driven adventure with tenacious characters and contemporary themes.

Eirlys Hunter was born in London and lives in Wellington, New Zealand, where she teaches children's writing at the IIML at Victoria University. She has written six previous children's books as well as a novel and short stories for adults.

IBBY Honour Book 2020

Finalist
New Zealand
Children's Book
Awards 2019

Notable Book
Storylines NZ 2019





The Inkberg Enigma

Jonathan King

An exciting graphic-novel mystery adventure with a strong filmic narrative.

Miro and Zia live in Aurora, a fishing town nestled in the shadow of an ancient castle. Miro lives in his books; Zia is never without her camera. The day they meet, they uncover a secret. Something has a powerful hold over the town.

With Zia determined to find out more, Miro finds himself putting aside his books for a real adventure.

Brave young heroes, dark secrets, and a warm heart make this a hugely satisfying adventure for readers of all ages.

DYLAN HORROCKS, AUTHOR OF *HICKSVILLE*

King's dramatic poses and square jaws recall the golden era of pulp action comics but with a modern feel and diverse cast.

BOOKLIST (US)

Jonathan King is a filmmaker who has received international awards and whose comics have featured online and in anthologies.

Age 8–12

Graphic novel
253 x 190 mm
128 pages
Published 2020

Rights sold

Slovenian
Morfeplus
Zaloznistvo

All other rights
available, excl.
World English



White Raven

Selected for 2021
White Raven

Finalist

New Zealand
Children's Book
Awards 2021

PANZ Book Design
Awards 2021

Notable Book

Storylines NZ 2021



Stunning writing, a compelling plot, and a strong female protagonist

Standalone from the same world as Knox's multi-awardwinning *Dreamquake* children's series

CANNY AND HER TEAMMATES stood on platform nine of Castlereagh Station and watched everything they'd seen the night before in Founderston play again in reverse. Passengers from the overnight express were met, kissed, and led away into the concourse—or set off by themselves heads down into the hot wind. Bundles of pillows, sheets, and blankets were removed from the sleeper car, piled into handcarts, and wheeled away by the porters. The only difference was that here, in their hometown, the team's school uniforms were recognized, and several people stepped up to shake their hands. One man even opened his newspaper to their photo and had them sign it, first the three boys, then Canny. The man said that the *Castlereagh Clarion* had finally stopped calling their win an unlikely one.

It was the second year that Castlereagh Tech had carried off the supreme award at the National Mathematics Competition; a contest traditionally won by either

Founderston Collegiate or St. Thomas's—a decades-long rivalry in which the prize simply changed hands between the capital's two best boys' schools. Castlereagh Tech was a coeducational, state-run high school full of "kids of every stripe"—to quote its own principal—and famous for nothing much but disturbances on city buses and the occasional talented rugby player. When, two years before, Castlereagh Tech's junior math team took the prize in their section of the competition, even the *Clarion* reported their win as a surprising result. Last year the same "whiz kids" made the front page in their hometown. This year the *Clarion* was taking their feats a little more for granted.

"Only page two," said one of Canny's teammates, disappointed.

Canny took off her blazer. Mr. Grove, the head of the mathematics department, said, "Agnes Mochrie, you can remove that blazer once you're back in bounds. Until then you must remember you are representing your school."

Canny put her blazer back on. She stared at Mr. Grove, whose favorite pupil she was, and wondered how she could get him to just let her go. Then, because she wanted what she wanted, and was already imagining herself setting off with her suitcase hanging on the backs of her legs, Canny just said the first thing that came into her head, without articulating any of the steps that led up to it. "I don't have to wait till visiting time," she said. "I could go now and they'd let me in."

"Please endeavor to make better sense when you speak, Agnes," said Miss Venn—the history teacher who'd had to travel north with the team because Canny couldn't be

expected to go on a trip with just three male classmates and the male head of the math department. (This was what the newspapers, and everyone else, failed to remark upon—that the coeducational college that won the National Mathematics Competition was the only coeducational college with a *girl* on its team.)

Mr. Grove was pretty good at following Canny's thinking, even when it wasn't mathematical. He said to Miss Venn, "Agnes visits Marli Vaiu after school every day."

There was a pause of a soft sort that Canny knew was sympathy.

"There's a rehearsal for the end-of-year prize-giving this morning that you're all required to attend," said Miss Venn. "But I'm sure they'll let you go after that."

One of the boys said, "Have our reports gone out?"

"They were put into the mail on Monday."

Canny had nothing to fear from the last report of her school career. She was a good student, and her teachers had always encouraged her. And since it was her last report, there'd be no little improvements she'd be expected to make.

Canny forgot about her report and stared off into space. She was wondering how many of her postcards she might find taped to the mirror above Marli's face, a mirror in which Marli could see the window of the ward and the tops of the trees that the hospital board were planning to cut down to make room for another parking lot. Canny thought about the trees, and their fate, till her mind was full of a green haze as if she were a tree among trees and had just given them the bad news.



Mortal Fire

Elizabeth Knox

A mysterious and mysterious and compelling literary fantasy that weaves magic, mathematics, love, family—and riddles within riddles.

Sixteen-year-old Canny Mochrie has always been different; she has a calculating, mathematical mind and she sees something extra. When she begrudgingly joins her stepbrother on a trip to research a 30-year-old coal mine disaster, she meets the alluring Ghislain Zarene, who is held hostage by a powerful spell. Canny starts to untangle the mysteries of the valley—only to find that its secrets are her secrets, too.

Elizabeth Knox (CNZM) has published thirteen novels for adults and children, as well as autobiographical novellas. In 2019 she won the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement—Fiction. Her acclaimed novels include *The Absolute Book* and *The Vintner's Luck* (1998), shortlisted for the Orange Prize in 1999 and made into a feature film in 2009. In 2008, her YA novel *Dreamquake* won an American Library Association's Michael L Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature.

Age 14+

Novel
210 x 140 mm
448 pages
Published 2013

Rights sold

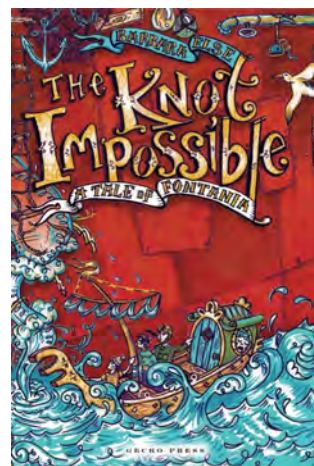
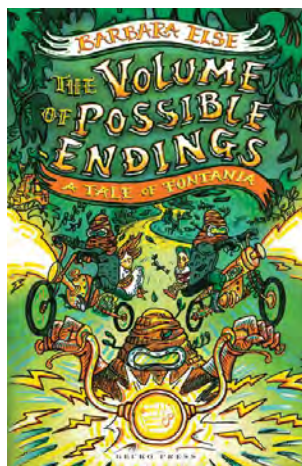
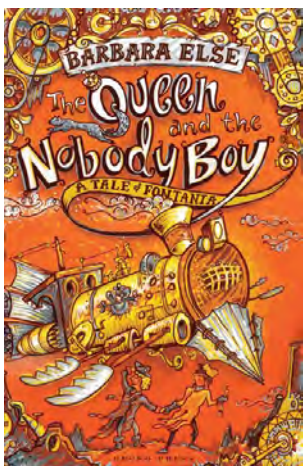
English, USA
Farrar, Straus &
Giroux

All other rights
available
excluding
Australia and
New Zealand.



Winner
NZ Children's
Book Awards
Young Adult fiction
2014

Shortlisted
LA Times Book
Awards



The Tales of Fontania

Barbara Else

The Travelling Restaurant
(2011)

The Queen and the Nobody Boy
(2012)

Rights sold

Turkish (Kirimizi) All other rights available
(excluding World English)

Awards

Storylines Notable Book 2013

Shortlisted NZ Children's Book Award 2013

The Volume of Possible Endings
(2014)

Rights sold

Turkish (Kirimizi) All other rights available
(excluding World English)

Awards

Storylines Notable Book 2015

Shortlisted NZ Children's Book Award 2015

The Knot Impossible
(2015)

Turkish (Kirimizi) All other rights available
(excluding World English)

Awards

Storylines Notable Book 2016



The Travelling Restaurant

Barbara Else

An edge-of-your-seat tale of treachery, courage and magic.

On the mysterious sailing ship the Travelling Restaurant, twelve-year-old Jasper Ludlow, by all accounts an ordinary boy, embarks on an adventure across Old Ocean and Lake Riversea.

A heaping plateful of adventure, spiced to perfection with dangers, deft humor and silly bits.

STARRED REVIEW, KIRKUS REVIEWS (US)

Barbara Else is one of New Zealand's most successful writers. She is a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature. She lives in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Winner

NZ Children's
Book Award
2012

Age 8-12

Novel
198 x 129 mm
304 pages
Published 2011

Rights sold

Dutch, Belgium
Lannoo
Uitgeverij

French
Bayard

Turkish
Kirimizi Kedi
Yayinevi

All other rights
available, excl.
World English

Selected

IBBY Honour Award
2012

White Raven
2012

Honour Award

New Zealand
Children's Book
Awards 2012

Notable Book

Storylines NZ 2012

Award-winning series

Four stand-alone adventures from the land of Fontania



Also available

Picture books exploring the history and culture of Aotearoa New Zealand



Winner,
Best New Zealand Picture Book 2000

Spectrum Print Award for Best Use of
Illustration 2000

Notable Book, New Zealand Children's
Book Foundation 2000

Age 4–11, picture book
245 x 295 mm, 40 pages
published 2012



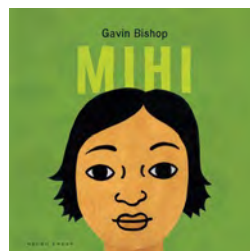
Winner, Best New Zealand
Picture Book 2024

Finalist, PANZ Book Design
Awards 2024

*This is the essential local
kids' book of 2023.* GOOD
BOOKS (NZ)

*A new kind of book for a
new kind of world.* THE
SPINOFF, BEST BOOKS OF
THE YEAR (NZ)

Age 7–13, picture book
253 x 190 mm, 52 pages
published 2023



Best Kids Books of 2020, NZ
Listener

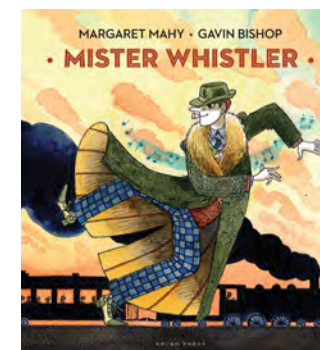
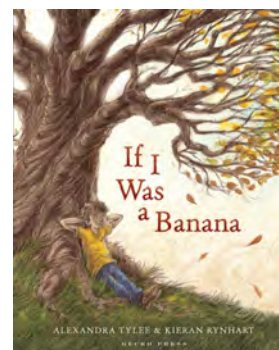
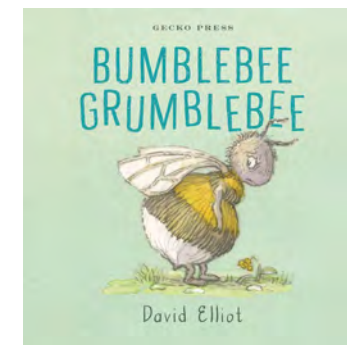
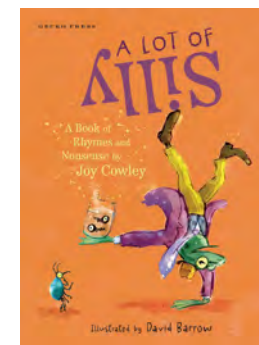
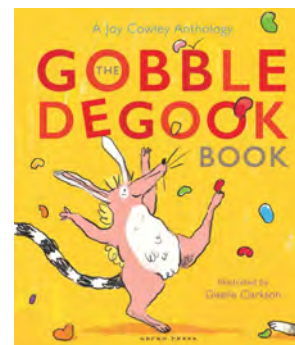
Finalist, NZCYA Book Awards
2021

*Mihi is a taonga, a treasure
for all New Zealand families..*
THE SOURCE (NZ)

Age 0–2, board book
185 x 185 mm, 18 pages,
published 2020

Also available

Wordplay, poetry, and an illustrated cookbook



Contact Details

Lerner Books

Maria Kjoller

mkjoller@lernerbooks.com

Gecko Press

Publisher-at-large

Rachel Lawson

rlawson@lernerbooks.com

geckopress.com

Rights Agents

World

Anja Mundt, Mundt Agency

mundtagency.com

anja@mundtagency.com

China & Taiwan

BK Agency

bookman.com.tw

Shuhuai Tang (China)

shuhuai@bkagency.com.tw

Shin Su (Taiwan)

sushin@bkagency.com.tw

Turkey

Ayşenur Tural, AnatoliaLit

anatolialit.com

aysenur@anatolialit.com



