

Jacinta di Mase
Management

EVERY VERSION OF YOU

Grace Chan

Every Version of You Grace Chan

Film and TV Comparisons

Black Mirror (2019), *Upload* (2020),
Made for Love (2022), *Severance*
(2022), *Ready Player One* (2018)

Book comparisons

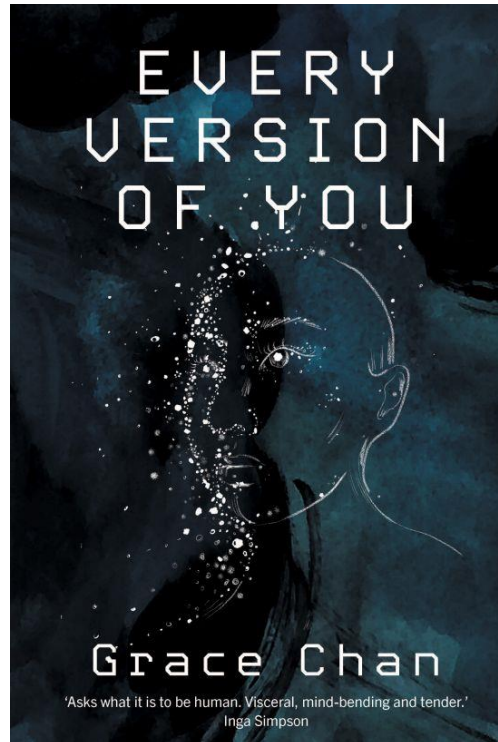
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro,
with a dash of Murakami's everyday
surrealism

Published

ANZ July 2022, Affirm Press

Target Audience/ Genre

Contemporary, Speculative, Sci-Fi



*In a perfect,
deathless
world, what
does it mean
to love and
let go?*

Synopsis

In late twenty-first century Australia, Tao-Yi and her partner Navin spend most of their time inside a hyper-immersive, hyper-consumerist virtual reality called Gaia. They log on, go to work, socialise, and even eat in this digital utopia. Meanwhile their aging bodies lie suspended in pods inside cramped apartments. Across the city, in the abandoned 'real' world, Tao-Yi's mother remains stubbornly offline, preferring instead to indulge in memories of her life in Malaysia.

When a new technology is developed to permanently upload a human brain to Gaia, Tao-Yi must decide what is most important: a digital future, or an authentic past.

Author

Grace Chan is an Aurealis and Norma K Hemming Award-nominated speculative fiction writer. She can't seem to stop scribbling about brains, minds, space, technology, and identity.

Her short fiction can be found in *Clarkesworld*, *Lightspeed*, *Fireside*, *Aurealis*. She is an active member of the Australian and International speculative fiction writing communities.

Grace was born in Malaysia and lives in Melbourne, Australia. In her other life, she works as a psychiatrist.

You can find Grace online at www.gracechanwrites.com and on Twitter as @gracechanwrites

Why adapt to screen

Topical – concepts of AI, 'consciousness' and virtual reality in pop-culture are incredibly hot right now, channelling the moral and philosophical quandaries presented in *Upload*, *Made for Love*, and *Severance*.

Flexible Adaptation – *Every Version of You* has scope to be Animated or Live Action, cutting-edge of filmic technology.

Opportunity for Multigenerational Diversity- this story offers the chance to tell multicultural stories, with a cast of multi-generational and diverse characters.

Bestselling genre- science-fiction has been among the bestselling genres across all pop-culture platforms, from the box-office hit *Dune*, to many sci-fi book-sales.

Family Matters

Ellie O'Neill

Film and TV Comparisons

The Matchmaker (1997), Leap Year (2010), Circle of Friends (1995)

Book comparisons

Works by Monica McInerney, Cecelia Ahern and Josephine Moon

Published

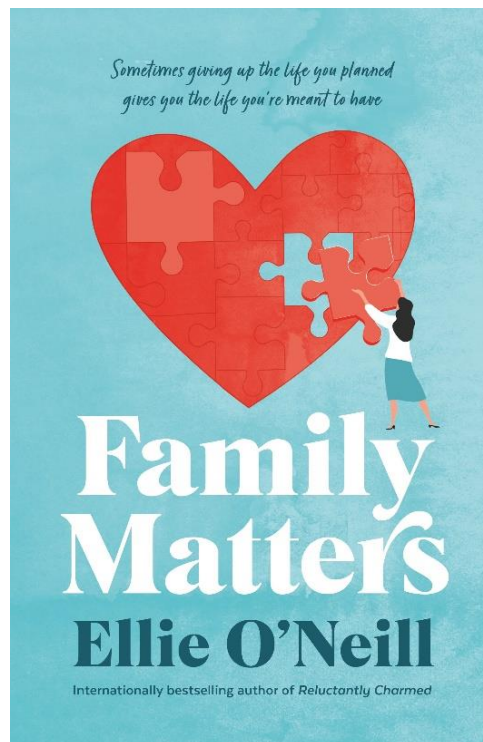
ANZ June 2022, Allen & Unwin

Target Audience

Contemporary fiction

Genre

Family, rom-com



*Sometimes
giving up the
life you planned
gives you the
life you're
meant to have*

Synopsis

Evie McCarthy is blessed with the gift of second sight. It's served her and her pocket well for her 79 years as the Ballyhay village matchmaker in the west of Ireland. But with death knocking, does she have enough time to solve the problems facing the women in her family? Her granddaughter Rosie is in love again. Unbeknownst to Rosie, her new love is a romance scammer who has roped her and her bank account into his online matchmaking business. When the ill-fated business collapses and the boyfriend goes on the run, Evie believes she may be able to match some of the online subscribers. Rosie, capitalising on her Grans ability to see the spark between couples, decides to host a matchmaking festival in her mum's pub. Her sister, escaping marital infidelities, also steps in to help.

Between the jigs and the reels, they pull one another up and realise that sometimes life is entirely different to what you dreamed it would be and sometimes it works out better that way.

Author

Ellie is an Irish Australian bestselling author. She writes commercial fiction and is the author of four books. Her new novel, *Family Matters* published with Allen and Unwin will be released in June 2022. Her writing has been described as charming, whimsical, funny and touching. To date all of her books have been set in Ireland and she's not entirely sure why. Australia has been home for over ten-years but her storytelling blooms from the streets of Dublin.

Why adapt to screen

Trending Now – Irish fiction and adaptations are extremely hot with streaming services right now. From Sally Rooney's *Normal People* and *Conversations with Friends*, to *Derry Girls*, Ellie's book is the perfect accompaniment for people who want more Paul Mescal, Connell and Daisy Edgar-Jones type actors in their life.

Relatability– Modern dating is a universal nightmare, and Ellie's book is sure to soothe Tinder-weary souls. Fiona Lowe praised *Family Matters* saying "Ellie O'Neill is back and this time her magical realism is matchmaking. Look out Tinder!"

Retro-romance comedy– *Family Matters* is a new addition to the ever-popular 'retro-romance comedy cool' genre with the likes of *The Matchmaker* (1997 film), *Leap Year* (2010 film), and overtures of Maeve Binchy's *Circle of Friends* (1995 film).

Completely Normal (and other lies)

Biffy James

Film and TV Comparisons

Everything I Know About Love (2022),
Normal People (2020)

Book comparisons

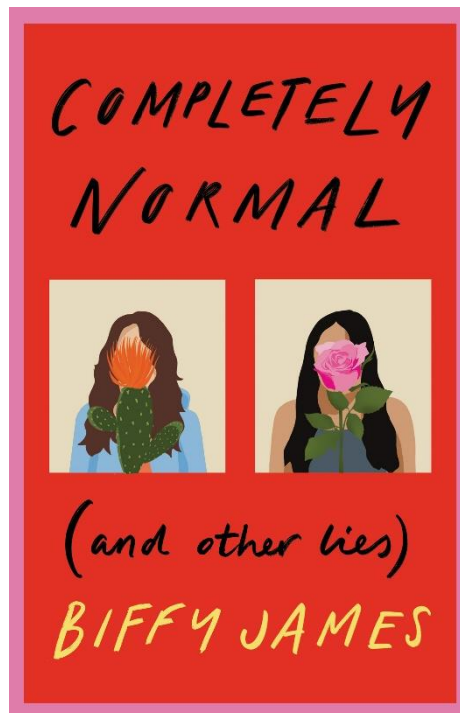
Books by Sally Rooney, John Green
and Krystal Sutherland, *Everything I
Know About Love* by Dolly Alderton,
I Kissed Shara Wheeler by
Casey McQuinston

Published

ANZ July 2022, Hardie Grant

Target Audience/ Genre

Contemporary Young Adult



*Love has rules.
So does grief.
And Stella
Wilde's about
to break them
all.*

Synopsis

Stella Wilde is secretly in love with the hottest guy in school, Isaac Calder. He seems to love her back, but there's a problem – he already has a girlfriend, the gorgeous Grace Reyes.

When Isaac is killed in a car accident, the entire school is turned upside down with grief. And while Grace can mourn publicly, Stella has to hide her feelings to stop people from finding out about her and Isaac being more than friends.

But how long can Stella keep lying – to herself and everyone else? And when the truth finally comes out, how will it affect her newfound friendship with Grace?

Author

Elizabeth 'Biffy' James has been an avid fan of Young Adult fiction ever since she picked up her first 'Sweet Valley High' book at the local second-hand bookshop. Now, over twenty years later, she has come to terms with the fact that if she hasn't grown out of reading about teenagers experiencing the ups and downs of adolescence by now, she probably never will.

Biffy holds a Masters degree in Creative Writing from RMIT and her past experience working as a house mother at a local boarding school has provided her with a unique and authentic voice. She is dedicated to writing realistic and contemporary fiction that captures the heartbreaking and hilarious day-to-day life of the modern teenager.

Why adapt to screen

Trending Now – streaming services have had huge success with this genre of female-targeted YA adaptations such as *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han on Amazon Prime, and *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman on Netflix.

Low Budget Potential – with its contemporary setting, this could be a low budget production, with the location adjustable to anywhere in Australia or overseas.

Instant connections – the author Biffy James has previously worked in film production and casting, meaning there are opportunities for industry connections. James would also be a very agreeable author to work with- open to collaboration and working with all sides of a production.

Hot Property – there has been great success with harder-hitting teen-oriented episodic television from *Euphoria* to *Sex Education*, and films such as *The Sky is Everywhere*, *Hello Goodbye* and *Everything in Between*, and *Along for the Ride*. This title also presents opportunities to showcase a new generation of young Hollywood talent in diverse casting.

The Competition

Katherine Collette

Film and TV Comparisons

Best in Show, Little Miss Sunshine, Spelling the Dream, The Office.

Book comparisons

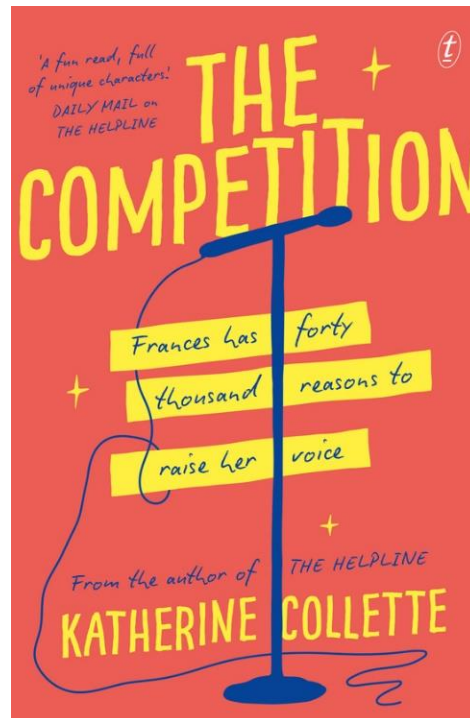
Starter for Ten by David Nicholls,
The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion.

Published

ANZ February 2022 Text Publishing

Target Audience/ Genre

General adult, Comedy,
Rom-com



Frances has forty thousand reasons to raise her voice.

Why adapt to screen

Funny – The Competition is set around SpeechMakers, a fictitious public speaking club modelled on the real world ‘Toastmasters’. SpeechMakers is ripe for satire; it’s earnest, self-helpy and joyful but also, very awkward.

Unusual but relatable world –

Though an odd setting, the story showcases community group dynamics, obsessions and bureaucracies in a familiar way. It’s set around the public speaking championship, which provides a narrative arc. However, the world of SpeechMakers has sufficient substance that a TV version with episodic content could occur within a particular club or clubs and take place across the year.

Scope for diversity – The setting, a public speaking club, involves characters ‘finding their voice’ and telling their stories. Though the focus of the book is Frances, Keith, Judy and Neil there are other characters whose stories could be expanded upon. These include the transgender head judge Edith, plus rival competitors Ahmed (a recent migrant), Indian-born Anika, and Claudia, who has a disability.

Synopsis

Frances, a former high school debater, joins SpeechMakers and enters its annual public speaking competition in order to win the \$40,000 prize. If she had that much money, she’d be able to quit working at the supermarket and move out of home.

Recently retired Keith enters the competition to impress his wife, Linda. Ex-wife technically. But if he wins, he’s sure she’ll come back.

Judy has just set up a life coaching business but after three years, she only has one client: her son, Neil. It’s just a shame he’s hopeless.

The Competition takes place across four days, following Frances, Keith, Judy and Neil as they compete in the national SpeechMakers championship semi and grand finals. None of them end up winning but they do learn life lessons along the way.

Frances learns to tell the truth, admitting she wasn’t bullied in high school, she was the bully.

Keith realises it’s over with Linda and starts to fall for Judy.

Neil finds his voice and stands up to his overbearing mother.

Author

Katherine Collette is an engineer and author based in Melbourne. Her first novel *The Helpline* was published in Australia, the UK, North America, Italy and Germany, and was longlisted for the Australian Indie book awards for debut fiction (2019). Her second novel *The Competition* will be published in February 2022. Katherine co-hosts *The First Time*, a podcast about writing that has 1,200-1,600 listeners per week and more than 120K downloads in total.

The Mother

Jane Caro

Film and TV Comparisons

Eye for an Eye (1996), *Let Him Go* (2020), *Pieces of Her* (2022)

Book comparisons

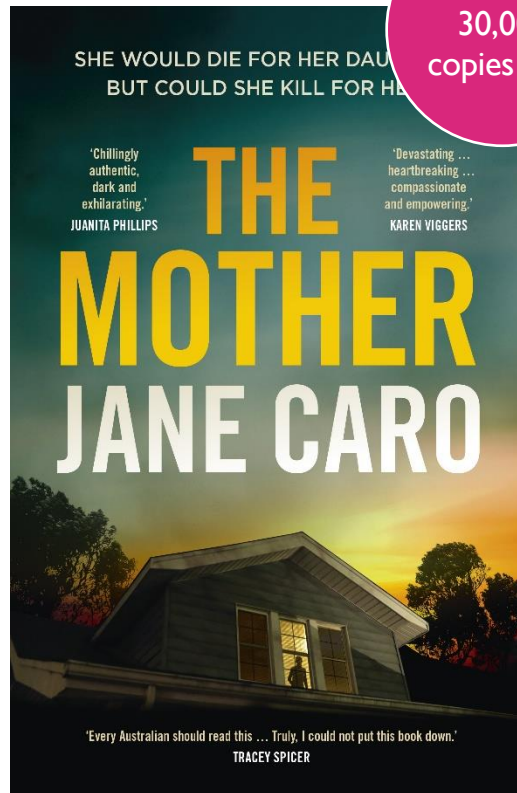
Pieces of Her by Karun Slaughter, *Let Him Go* by Larry Watson

Published

ANZ March 2022, Allen & Unwin

Target Audience/ Genre

General adult, Thriller, Crime



Over
30,000
copies sold

*She would die for
her daughter.
But could she kill
for her?*

Synopsis

From the Walkley Award winning journalist, social commentator and author comes a gripping domestic thriller with a moral dilemma at its core.

Recently widowed, Miriam Duffy is a respectable North Shore real estate agent and devoted mother and grandmother. She was thrilled when her younger daughter Ally married her true love, but as time goes by Miriam wonders whether all is well with Ally, as she moves to the country and gradually withdraws, finding excuses every time Miriam offers to visit. Their relationship has always had its ups and downs, and Miriam tries to give her daughter the distance she so clearly wants. But is all as it seems?

When the truth of her daughter's situation is revealed, Miriam watches in disbelief as

Ally and her children find themselves increasingly vulnerable and cut off from the world. As the situation escalates and the law proves incapable of protecting them, Miriam is faced with an unthinkable decision. But she will do anything for the people she loves most in the world. Wouldn't you?

Author

Jane Caro is an author, columnist, broadcaster, advertising writer, documentary maker and social commentator. She has published ten books, including a memoir, *Plain-Speaking Jane*, as well as *Just a Girl* and *Just a Queen*, the first two novels in the Elizabeth Tudor trilogy. *Just Flesh & Blood* is the third and final book in the series. In 2018, Jane won the Walkley Award – Walkley Foundation's Women's Leadership in Media Award for a Non-Fiction Book Editing for her bestseller, *Unbreakable: Women Share Stories of Resilience and Hope*.

Why adapt to screen

Famous Author- Jane Caro is a Walkley Award-winning journalist, and social commentator (153.8K Followers on Twitter and growing daily!) who frequently appears on current-affairs TV. She is a known-entity, writing a topical book that draws upon the recurrent themes of her work; feminism, violence against women, questioning and dismantling the patriarchy.

Topical- a post-#MeToo, post-Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins, and post-Trump thriller that centers women and women's stories of violence; the dark-underbelly of our society to ask the ultimate "what would you do?" of its audience.

Location Opportunity- *The Mother* offers a unique opportunity to be set anywhere in Australia or overseas, for production-budget ease and local town business boon.

Australian Thrillers on the Rise- from Jane Harper's box-office smashing *The Dry*, to Peter Temple's long-running Jack Irish and 2022 adaptation of Candice Fox's *Crimson Lake* (TV show, *Troppo*) local and overseas audiences crave Australia's unique-spin on the crime-thriller genre, and *The Mother* will give them our distinctly Aussie-take on the form in spades.

Someone Else's Child

Kylie Orr

Film and TV Comparisons

The Act (2019), *Mommy Dead*
and *Dearest* (2017), *Run* (2020)

Book comparisons

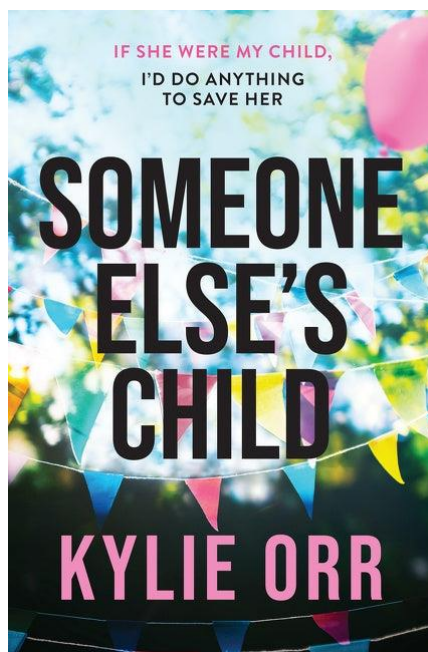
The Family Doctor by Debra
Oswald, *Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn

Published

ANZ June 2022, HQ Fiction

Target Audience/ Genre

General adult, Thriller,
Domestic-noir



*If she were my
child, I'd do
anything to save
her.*

Synopsis

A gripping contemporary novel from a magnificent new talent that tackles the almost unbreakable loyalty of female friendships, the generosity of community and the lengths we will go to save a child.

Ren will do anything for her best friend, Anna. The news that Anna's daughter Charlotte has terminal brain cancer sends them on a desperate hunt for a cure and their only hope lies in an expensive European drug trial. Ren jumps on board Anna's fundraising efforts, willing to put everything on the line - her reputation in their close-knit community and all the money she can beg or borrow - to secure Charlotte's place. When the local charity drive quickly becomes a nationwide campaign, townspeople start asking questions about the trial. And Anna's past. Questions Ren can't answer. The more she uncovers, the more Ren realises the truth is darker than she could ever imagine. Are there any lines that won't be crossed in their fight for Charlotte?

Author

Kylie Orr (she/her) is a Melbourne-based writer who once kicked a winning goal in a charity football match and has never let her family hear the end of it. Over the past fifteen years, her feature articles have been published in *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Life* and across *News Ltd*. Kylie's novels explore the darker side of humanity and question what we understand about ourselves.

Her debut novel *Someone Else's Child* was longlisted in the Richell Prize, the MsLexia International Novel Competition and awarded the Dymocks & Fiona McIntosh Commercial Fiction Masterclass scholarship.

She lives cliffside on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. She shares the space with her four children, just the one husband and a cat called Alfie who has surprised everyone by taking up space in her camera roll and on her reading chair.

Why adapt to screen

Thriller Forever- The crime-thriller genre is never not in demand by audiences, always hungry to feed their insatiable hunger for the macabre 'whodunit' puzzle pieces of crime-thriller across books, films, TV, true-crime, podcasts ... *Someone Else's Child* could be the next big thriller fix.

Whydunit & Whodunit- a tricky mystery and domestic-noir thriller that's as much a 'whydunit' as a 'whodunit' - getting to the ticking psychological underbelly of *Munchausen By Proxy*; a syndrome everybody *thinks* they know the background to, but that *Someone Else's Child* peels away the layers for new and in-depth exploration that puts readers front and centre as spectators and witnesses to ask; "what would you do?"

Local Production- this story has the ability to be set and filmed anywhere in Australia (or overseas). A small-town, close-knit community in any location is all that's needed.

Series or Film potential- Given that there is a tightknit local community at the heart of *Someone Else's Child* - there is potential to expand its world and create an episodic television drama using the cast of community characters to draw out the mystery. Or; it could be a tight 2-hour movie drama. The possibilities are endless!

The Monster of Her Age

Danielle Binks

Film and TV Comparisons

Mank (2020), *Somewhere* (2010),
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (2019)

Book comparisons

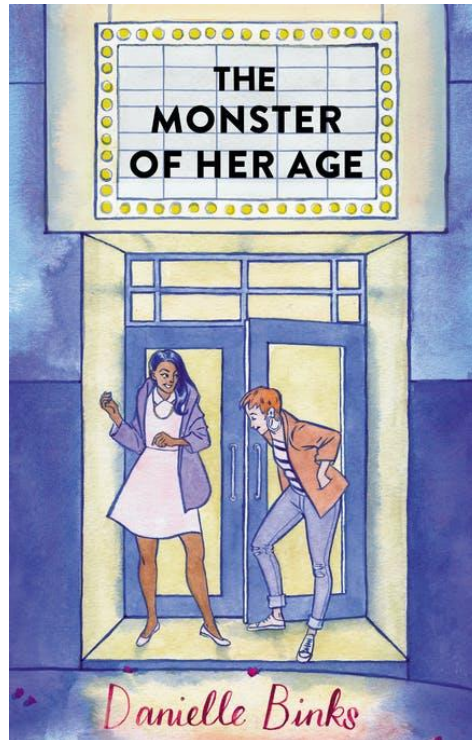
The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo
by Taylor Jenkins Reid, *Everything*
Leads to You by Nina LaCour, *Actress*
by Anne Enright, *The Princess Diarist*
& *Wishful Drinking* by Carrie Fisher

Published

ANZ July 2021, Hachette

Target Audience/ Genre

Young Adult, General Fiction,
Contemporary Fiction



Synopsis

Ellie was born into the infamous Lovinger acting dynasty - granddaughter to infamous Lottie Lovinger, with whom she once shared the screen, playing the child monster in an indie horror film.

Now seventeen, Ellie has returned home for the first time in years; to be with Lottie and to try and heal the rifts that her iconic film role wrought.

But forgiveness feels like playing make-believe, and memories are like ghosts. Until, she meets a girl called Riya at a horror film club and might finally find a way to take off her monster mask.

A novel about the power of art, family, forgiveness - and embracing the things that scare us, in order to be a little bit braver. It's *Everything Leads to You* by Nina LaCour, with a dash of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, for the YA set.

Author

Danielle Binks is a Melbourne-based writer, reviewer, agent, book blogger and Youth Literature Advocate. In 2017, she edited and contributed to *Begin, End, Begin*, an anthology of new Australian young adult writing inspired by the #LoveOzYA movement, which won the ABIA Book of the Year for Older Children (Ages 13+) and was shortlisted in the 2018 Gold Inky Awards. *The Year the Maps Changed* is Danielle's debut middle-grade novel coming out with Hachette Australia in 2020.

How do you ruin someone's childhood? You let them make-believe that they are a monster.

Why adapt to screen

Topical - A decidedly topical post-#MeToo story that uses the horror genre in a meta-contemporary way and is a perfect YA companion for fans of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, with its own unique alternative Australian film history and fictional famous family.

Local locations - Potential filming locations in and around Hobart, Tasmania for a local tourism-boom - that could also be adapted and tweaked to any Australian or overseas-destination, since it relies on a made-up history and can take advantage of any historic and art-deco location scouting.

Opportunity for Multigenerational Diversity - a queer lesbian romance at its center, with an Australian-Indian love interest and secondary characters that include older-generations, Deaf representation; there's so much opportunity in here to showcase a real breadth of diverse storytelling.

A film about films - A truly meta opportunity to celebrate great film and cinema, in an almost Wes Anderson, *La La Land* and *Mank*-esque compulsion to discussing the purpose of art and storytelling. A strong focus on the beauty of film and the story behind cinematic stories.

Social Queue

Kay Kerr

Film and TV Comparisons

Never Been Kissed (1999), *High Fidelity* (2020), *The Broken Hearts Gallery* (2020), *Insecure* (2016-2021)

Book comparisons

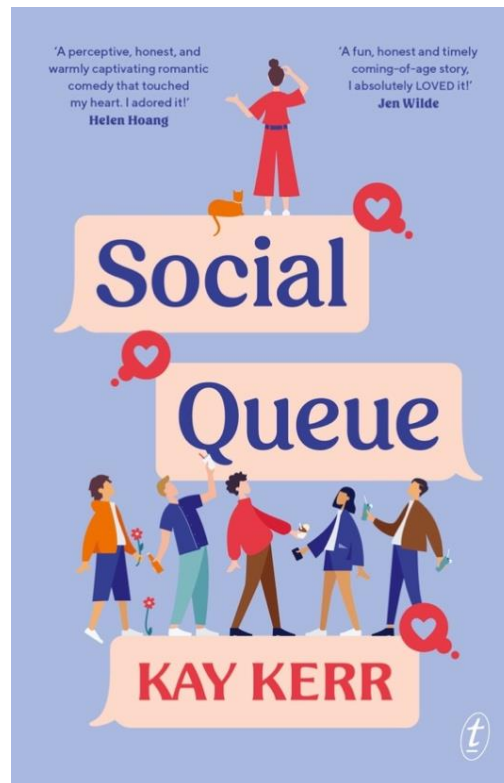
High Fidelity by Nick Hornby, *Ghosts* by Dolly Alderton, *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han

Published

ANZ September 2021, Text

Target Audience/ Genre

Young Adult, General Fiction,
Contemporary Romance



'I thought I was nobody's teen crush, but turns out I was just missing the signs.'

Synopsis

I thought I was nobody's teen crush, but turns out I was just missing the signs.

Zoe Kelly is starting a new phase of her life. High school was a mess of bullying and autistic masking that left her burnt out and shut down. Now, with an internship at an online media company—the first step on the road to her dream writing career—she is ready to reinvent herself. But she didn't count on returning to her awkward and all-too-recent high-school experiences for her first writing assignment.

When her piece, about her non-existent dating life, goes viral, eighteen-year-old Zoe is overwhelmed and more than a little surprised by the response. But, with a deadline and a list of romantic contenders from the past to reconnect with for her piece on dating, she is hoping one of her old sparks will turn into a new flame.

Social Queue is a funny and heart-warming autistic story about deciphering the confusing signals of attraction and navigating a path to love.

Author

Kay Kerr is a former journalist and community newspaper editor from Brisbane, now living on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and daughter and working as a freelance writer. Kay was writing *Please Don't Hug Me*, her debut novel, when she received her own autism- spectrum diagnosis.

Why adapt to screen

'Own Voices'- Social Queue is an authentic autistic teen rom-com that celebrates neurodiversity, while not shying away from the challenges faced by young autistic people, written by an author on the spectrum.

Newsworthy- It looks at bullying, ableism, disability representation in the media, consent, and online dating, all through the lens of a young person trying to find love. 1 in 100 Australians are autistic, and 85% have a personal connection with an autistic person, yet there is such minimal representation of autism on our screens, and what there is often leans into stereotypes, presents caricatures, or takes on the 'autism as tragedy' narrative, which is harmful and outdated.

Romance as a gateway- As doco TV show *Love on the Spectrum* has proven, the romance genre is a wonderful way to relate to human stories and show connection to under-represented individuals in society. Social Queue is *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, meets *High Fidelity* and a perfect romantic gateway to big-hearted and inclusive storytelling!

The Deep End

Jenna Guillaume

Film and TV Comparisons

Never Have I Ever (2020), *The Cutting Edge* (1992), *Feel the Beat* (2020)

Book comparisons

Writing similar to Jenny Han's YA romances

Published

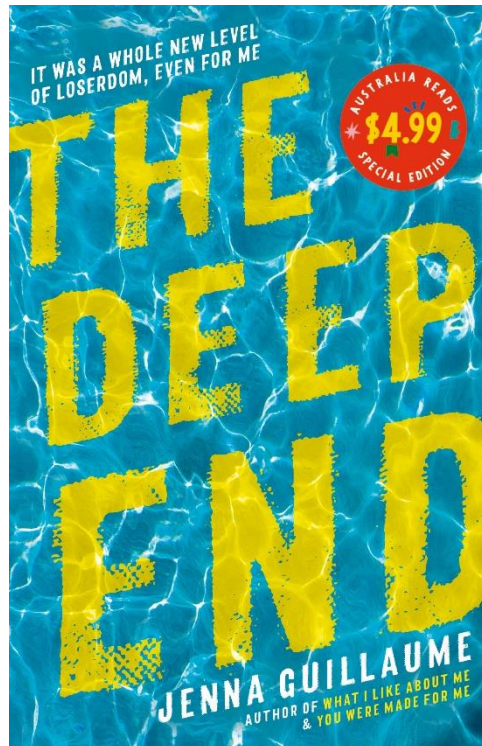
ANZ August 2021, Pan Macmillan

Target Audience

Young Adult

Genre

Comedy, rom-com



Synopsis

It was a new level of loserdom, even for me.

When Rosie humiliates herself in front of the whole school at the swimming carnival, she vows she'll never step foot in the water again.

Well, until Jake Tran, the best swimmer (and hottest boy) in her year, says he will give her swimming lessons.

Against all the voices in her head screaming that it's a bad idea, she takes him up on his offer.

As the pair bond over failed freestyles and parental pressures, they learn more from each other than they ever could have anticipated.

Author

Jenna Guillaume is a journalist and author who grew up in Wollongong and now lives in Sydney. By day, Jenna writes for publications such as BuzzFeed, Junkee, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Guardian about very important things like pop culture, identity, feminism, social media, and her fave OTPs. By night she writes young adult fiction, binges Netflix, and spends far too much time on Twitter.

Previously, Jenna was editor-at-large for BuzzFeed Australia and features editor at Girlfriend magazine. She has published two YA novels: *What I Like About Me* and *You Were Made for Me*.

If high-school is a pool, it never hurts to dive into the deep end once in a while.

Why adapt to screen

Trending Now – Streaming services like Netflix have had huge success with this genre in titles such as *The Kissing Booth* and *To All The Boys I've Loved Before*, and this is an opportunity for an Australian story to make an impact alongside these titles.

Low Budget Potential – With its contemporary setting, this could be a low budget movie, with the fictional town easily adaptable to suit any number of locations around Australia.

Room to Expand – Because of its novella-length needing to be filled out, there's plenty of room to expand the story in all directions, and author Jenna Guillaume is more than happy to invite collaboration with herself to see *The Deep End* as a jumping-off point for any number of plot-points and themes.

Hot Property – Both of Jenna Guillaume's novels have now been optioned by Australian production companies, and *The Deep End* is the last remaining of her currently-published books that's up for grabs! Jenna is a rising-star in Australian youth-literature, and has recently been published in France and North America too. *The Deep End* is potentially a last opportunity right now to join Jenna's juggernaut!

You Were Made For Me Jenna Guillaume

Film and TV Comparisons

Weird Science (1985), *Life-Size* (2000),
She's All That (1999), *He's All That* (2021)

Book comparisons

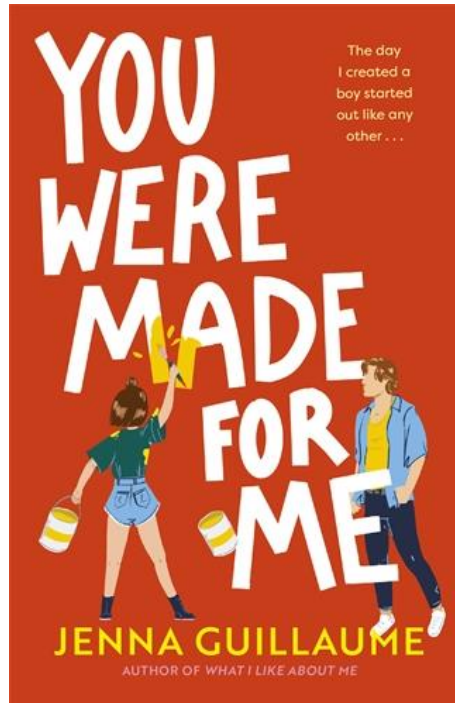
Pygmalion by Bernard Shaw, *Paper Towns* by John Green, *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell

Published

ANZ August 2020, Pan MacMillan
North America April 2021, Peach Tree

Target Audience/ Genre

Teenage, General Fiction,
Contemporary, Romance,
Comedy



What happens when the boy of your dreams comes to life? For dreams and life don't mix. Do they?

Synopsis

Weird Science meets Jenny Han in a young adult book that examines first love, friendship and the fear of not fitting in.

The day I created a boy started out like any other...

When best friends Katie and Libby decide to cook up the perfect guy in the kitchen one stormy afternoon, they don't expect him to literally pop up out of nowhere, exactly as they designed him. He's tall, handsome, sweet – and completely in love with Katie.

At last, Katie might actually get the perfect first kiss she's been dreaming of – the only trouble is, dealing with a full-grown newborn who also happens to be Katie's instant boyfriend isn't exactly an easy task. Soon, Libby and Katie's friendship is under pressure, and things begin to unravel. Perfect, it turns out, might not actually exist.

Author

Jenna Guillaume is a journalist and author who grew up in Wollongong and now lives in Sydney. By day, Jenna writes for publications such as BuzzFeed, Junkee, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Guardian about very important things like pop culture, identity, feminism, social media, and her fave OTPs. By night she writes young adult fiction, binges Netflix, and spends far too much time on Twitter.

Why adapt to screen

Topical- *You Were Made For Me* opens up opportunities to discussing big and important topics; like how its role-reversal of the dating “ideal” allows the subject of body dysmorphia in teenage boys to be examined, and the social-constructs we all grow up with around “beauty” and “attractiveness” ... the very notion of “romance” and what a truly respectful and fulfilling relationship looks like, and how it should feel. All especially important topics for teens to be engaging with.

YA Continues to Grow- Streaming services like Netflix have had huge success with adapting YA romance titles, and there's still more to come – like the hotly anticipated UK adaptation of Alice Oseman's *Heartstopper* series. It's high time Australia offered their own teenagers a slice of relatable and romantic teenagerdom on the small screen.

Low Budget Potential- With its contemporary small-town suburbia setting, this could be a low budget movie, with the fictional town easily adaptable to suit any number of locations around Australia, or overseas for that matter.

What I Like About Me

Jenna Guillaume

Film and TV Comparisons

Dirty Dancing (1987), *Work It* (2020),
The Kissing Booth (2018)

Book comparisons

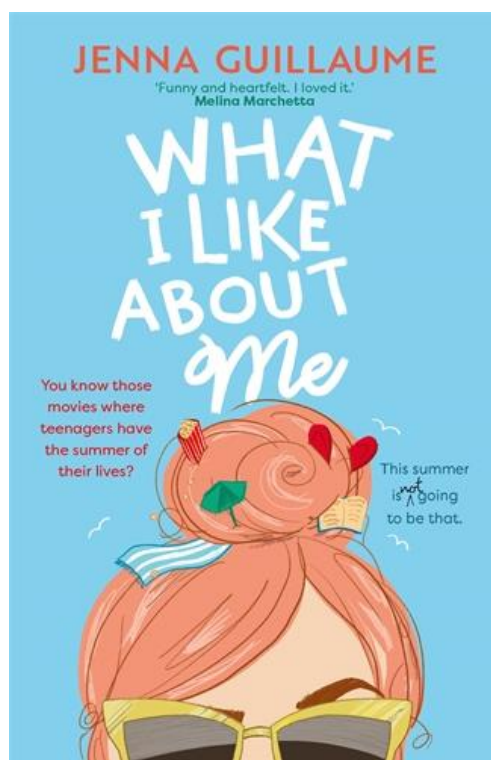
The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han, *It Sounded Better in My Head* by Nina Kenwood

Published

ANZ 2019, Pan MacMillan
North America 2020, Peach Tree

Target Audience/ Genre

Teenage, General Fiction,
Contemporary, Romance,
Comedy, Coming of Age



You know those movies where teenager have the summer of their lives?

This summer is probably not going to be that.

Synopsis

The last thing sixteen-year-old Maisie Martin thought she'd be doing on her vacation is entering a beauty pageant. Not when she's spent most of her life hiding her body from everyone. Not when her Dad is AWOL and her gorgeous older sister has returned to rock Maisie's already shaky confidence. And especially not when her best friend starts flirting with the boy she's always loved. But Maisie's got something to prove. As she writes down all the ways this vacation is going from bad to worse in her school-assignment journal, what starts as a homework torture-device might just end up being an account of how Maisie didn't let anything, or anyone, hold her back.

Author

Jenna Guillaume is a journalist and author who grew up in Wollongong and now lives in Sydney. By day, Jenna writes for publications such as BuzzFeed, Junkee, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Guardian about very important things like pop culture, identity, feminism, social media, and her fave OTPs. By night she writes young adult fiction, binges Netflix, and spends far too much time on Twitter.

Why adapt to screen

Distinctly Australian- What I Like About Me takes a genre that is dominated by American stories — and adds a distinctly Australian flavour. The summer beach holiday at a daggy caravan park, celebrating Christmas and New Year's with family friends, is a quintessentially Australian experience that is also highly marketable internationally.

Trending Now- Streaming services like Netflix have had huge success with this genre in titles such as *The Kissing Booth* and *To All The Boys I've Loved Before*, and this is an opportunity for an Australian story to make an impact alongside these titles.

Low Budget Potential- With its contemporary small-town coastal setting, this could be a low budget movie, with the fictional town easily adaptable to suit any number of locations around Australia.

How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life

Fiona Hardy

Film and TV Comparisons

School of Rock, The Inbestigators, Sing, The Peanuts Movie

Book comparisons

Sick Bay by Nova Weetman,
The Right Way to Rock by Nat Amooore, *Aster's Goof Right Things* by Kate Gordon

Published

ANZ August 2020, Affirm Press

Target Audience

Middle Grade

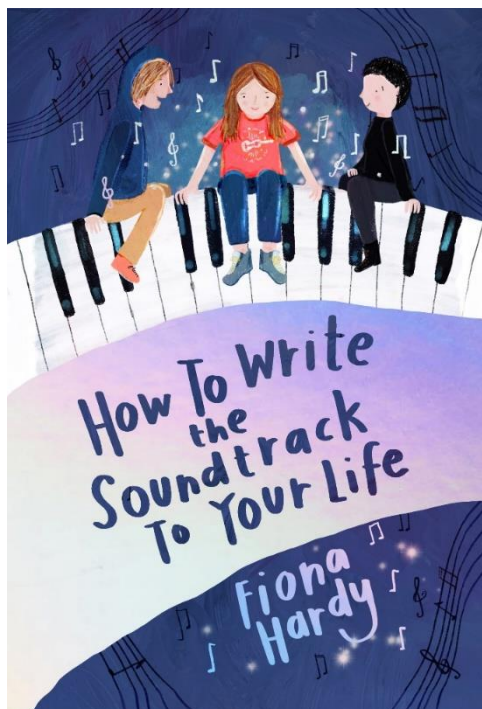
Genre

Comedy, mystery

Synopsis

Murphy Parker is going to be a songwriter – if she can ever find the courage to let anyone hear her music. When Murphy dares to play one of her songs in a music class, she's shocked by how much her classmates love it. And her. That is, until the next day, when they hear a suspiciously similar tune and accuse Murphy of stealing.

Someone is playing Murphy's music and claiming it as their own. But who? And why? Desperate to clear her name and reclaim her songs, Murphy makes an unlikely alliance. But it turns out that friendship might be even more complicated than tracking down a song thief...



From the brilliant new talent behind *How to Make a Movie in 12 Days* comes a funny, moving and unforgettable mystery about finding your voice.

Author

Hardy is a kids-book writer, crime-book reviewer, and all-books bookseller. From the wide-eyed work experience days at her local bookshop, she has stayed in the industry for nearly twenty years, and now works as one of the managers at Readings. Since a much-praised four-sentence retelling of *Alice in Wonderland* in grade one lit her writing flame, she has written for publications such as *The Big Issue*, *Books+Publishing*, *Verity La*, and *Gargouille*. She joined the Australian Crime Writers Association, the team behind the Ned Kelly Awards, in 2013, and in 2016 she was shortlisted for the Text Prize. Fiona lives in Melbourne with her partner and daughter.

*Sometimes
you need
some help to
get heard.*

Why adapt to screen

Changing friends – A lot of kids find they're hanging out with the same kids their whole lives- and that maybe there's better friends out there for them if they opened their eyes (and hearts) a little to the people around them.

Music and online culture –

When the songs Murphy says she wrote are discovered online and her classmates think she's stolen them, it can spark thoughts about what the truth is- and whether kids should believe everything they see online.

Soundtrack Potential – Kids love a musical movie- and one like this, that is all about music, could be a vibrant audio experience as kids sing and play their way through the book.

Positive representation of mental health issues in media–

Murphy's family life- living with her aunt and uncle while her father works on being stable enough to look after her again – is shown in a loving and happy environment, where her father is always involved and present in her life, and Murphy and he love each other unconditionally.

How to Tackle Your Dreams

Fiona Hardy

Film and TV Comparisons

Australian Rules, Luca, Little Lunch, Inside Out

Book comparisons

Specky Magee series by Felice Arena,
As Fast as I Can by Penny Tangey,
Kicking Goals series by Sam Kerr

Published

ANZ April 2022, Affirm Press

Target Audience

Middle Grade

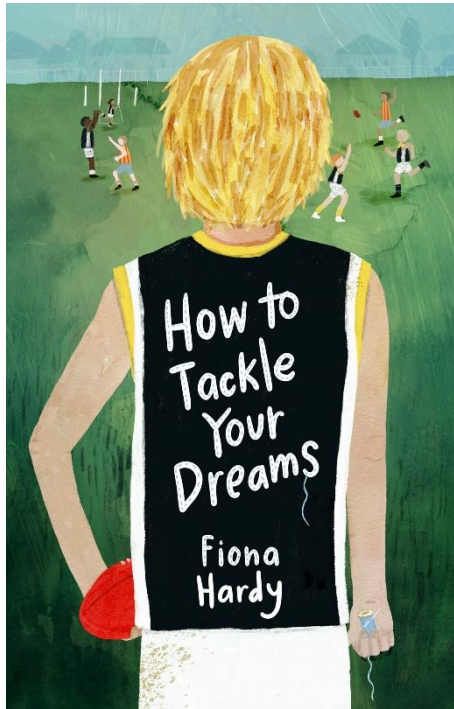
Genre

Comedy, family

Synopsis

Everyone knows that Homer loves Australian Rules football. But ever since his dad moved away and his mum was drafted in the women's league, something has changed. He's spending more time fixing clothes with his grandfather than kicking goals with his friends. When Homer's upgraded school shirt becomes the talk of the playground, he sees a business opportunity that could make him enough money to visit his dad.

But the more stitches Homer makes, the more that everything else in his life begins to unravel. His friends don't understand him, his dad feels further away than ever, and even playing football doesn't feel like the escape it used to. Can Homer find a way to get back to how things used to be? And what does it mean if he can't?



From the award-winning author behind *How to Make a Movie in 12 Days* and *How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life* comes a warm and funny celebration of following your dreams, wherever they lead.

Author

Hardy is a kids-book writer, crime-book reviewer, and all-books bookseller. From the wide-eyed work experience days at her local bookshop, she has stayed in the industry for nearly twenty years, and now works as one of the managers at Readings. Since a much-praised four-sentence retelling of *Alice in Wonderland* in grade one lit her writing flame, she has written for publications such as *The Big Issue*, *Books+Publishing*, *Verity La*, and *Gargouille*. She joined the Australian Crime Writers Association, the team behind the Ned Kelly Awards, in 2013, and in 2016 she was shortlisted for the Text Prize. Fiona lives in Melbourne with her partner and daughter.

There are some problems you can't kick your way out of

Why adapt to screen

Much-loved Sport – As AFLW increases the nation's interest in AFL and the game takes off overseas with leagues like the USAFL, a movie about a popular sport both at the high level Homer's mother plays and the training level Homer plays is a fun, visually engaging sport to watch on screen.

High-energy character – Homer is a hilarious, chaotic character who almost never stops moving or getting into trouble, and would be a vibrant onscreen presence as he causes chaos in sports grounds, classrooms and playgrounds wherever he goes.

Local environment – With deliberately non-specific suburban locations like football ovals and primary school playgrounds, this can be filmed anywhere in Australia.

Changing expectations – a lot of people feel they're pigeonholed, including kids who show interest in one thing and are shoved into doing only that from then on. Homer has to show everyone he's not just a footy kid but has other interests and skills, something many viewers can understand.

Zadie Ma and the Dog who Chased the Moon

Gabrielle Wang

Film and TV Comparisons

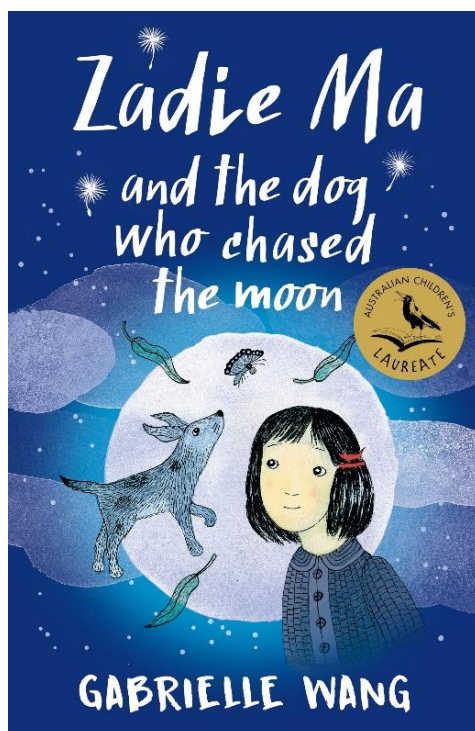
Luca (Disney, 2021), Robin Robin (2021), Encanto (2021)

Published

ANZ May 2022, Puffin (Penguin)

Target Audience/ Genre

Middle Grade, friendship, magic



Meet Zadie Ma, a girl who writes magical stories that sometimes come true.

Why adapt to screen

Theatre success – in 2019

Gabrielle Wang's children's book *A Ghost in my Suitcase* was successfully adapted in a children's theatreworks play by Barking Gecko Theatre – her works have a wonderful history of translating across multiple mediums

Adaptation opportunities – *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* could take multiple adaptation routes across; stop-motion, cartoon, video-short, children's scripted television or movie. The possibilities are endless.

Scope for diversity – a cast of diverse characters, and a setting that can be transported anywhere in Australia or overseas.

Children's Laureate– Gabrielle Wang's many titles over the years have won extensive awards, and Gabrielle herself has recently been named the Australian Children's Laureate. The Children's Laureate is a recognised organisation across the UK, North America, Sweden, Netherlands and Australia, meaning her work has global reach and backing by the Foundation.

Synopsis

Zadie Ma has a special talent for telling stories . . . and it seems that some of Zadie's stories come true. Zadie's dearest wish is to have a dog of her own and so she starts to write the story of a poor unwanted dog called Jupiter, who's just waiting to be rescued by a loving girl like Zadie. One morning when she's supposed to be minding the family shop for her mother, Zadie sets off to look for Jupiter. The scene that unfolds isn't quite the same as in her story but she does find a real dog, and his name is Jupiter. Once Zadie has rescued him, she realises she can't just take Jupiter home because her mother won't let her keep a dog. Luckily her bold new friend Sparrow lets Zadie keep Jupiter at her house till Zadie can work things out.

But a series of unlucky events means that Zadie can't write the happy ending she dreams of for her story, and now she may lose her beloved Jupiter forever.

Can Zadie's most important story of all finally come true?

Author

Gabrielle Wang is an author and illustrator, and the Australian Children's Laureate for 2022 to 2023. Born in Melbourne of Chinese heritage, her maternal great-grandfather came to Victoria during the Gold Rush and her father was from Shanghai. Her stories are a blend of Chinese and Western culture with a touch of fantasy.