



Festive Edition
ISSUE 2

The Huddle

A magazine about books for kids and young adults



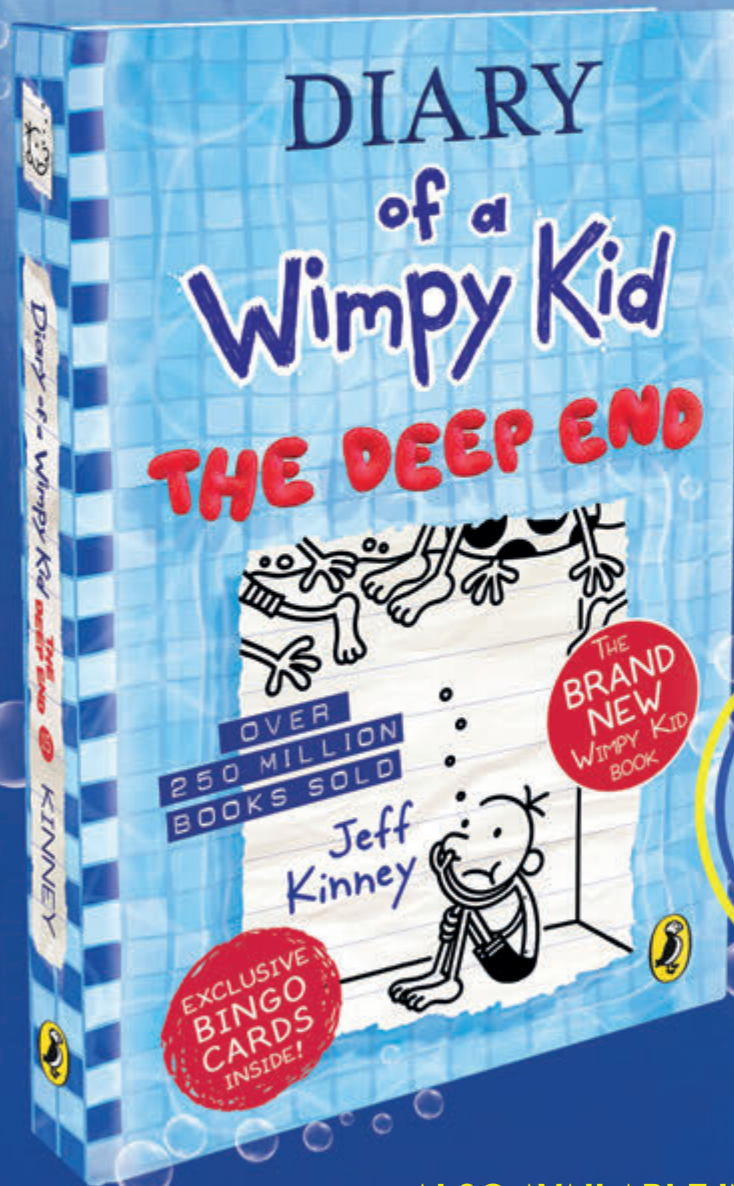
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DIVE INTO THE DEEP END

The BRAND-NEW Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book!

**OUT
NOW!**



ALSO AVAILABLE IN AFRIKAANS



NEW!

Now available at leading bookstores nationwide and online

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Letter from: the editor



Hello Readers

Well, we've officially made it to November in a year of challenges and hardships that no one could have anticipated. As we slowly move on, let's show the world what South Africans are made of and let's come together in the best possible ways. If you are in a position to support those less fortunate, then I encourage you to do that. Remember too that lending a hand can also go a long way – be there to help, be there to listen, and be there to love.

We are so excited to see in the summer season! And with summer, comes our brand new festive edition of *The Huddle* – a magazine for everyone who loves books (and penguins) as much as we do! One of the strong themes coming out of this issue is taking time... I can't emphasise enough how important it is to find time to do the things you love. It is in these moments, that we are truly alive.

One of the highlights of this issue, is introducing you to local authors Benjamin G. Hewett and Paddy Muldoon, who have written the most extraordinary book during lockdown, called *The Amazing Lockdown Adventure*.

We also have an exclusive extract from *The Castle of Tangled Magic* by Sophie Anderson, an enchanting fairy-tale adventure about the power of love and courage. And if you're looking to serve up a delicious breakfast, turn to page 14, where you'll find the recipe for Gluten-free Bear-face Flapjacks by Siba Mtongana, fresh from her new cookbook, *Let's Cook*.

Our next issue will be out in February so be sure to check out page 20 to see what exciting publishing we have lined up for 2021! We can't wait, either! In the meantime, if there's anything you'd like to know, please contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

Here's wishing you all the very best for the festive season. Remember, we only get to live this life once! Be kind to yourself. Be grateful for the little things. And love those around you.

Happy Reading!

Kim

Kim Peters

Get in touch

For any queries, or for more information, contact us at thehuddle@penguinrandomhouse.co.za



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To play. To adventure. To dream. To learn.



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Exciting publishing coming in 2021

Johannesburg • Rosebank Office Park, Block D, 181 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parktown North, 2193 • 011 327 3550

Cape Town • Estuaries No 4, Oxbow Crescent, Century Avenue, Century City, 7441 • 021 460 5400

Lapa Uitgewers: Bosmanstraat 380, Pretoria, 0002 • 012 401 0700

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... for OLD FRIENDS

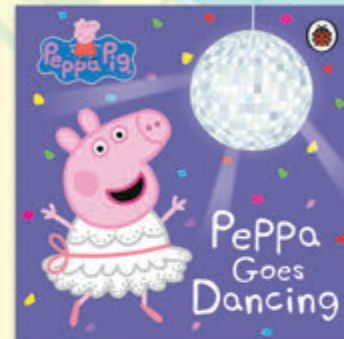


... to PLAY



Ed says:
'A finger puppet book that really bites!'

... for LITTLE ONES



Ed says:
'The perfect bedtime book to calm your own sleepy unicorn!'

... to ADVENTURE



Ed says:
'Sequel to the bestselling Frostheart.'

TAKE TIME...

... to LISTEN



Coming Dec



... to DREAM



... to be INSPIRED



... to LEARN



Exclusive extract

The new fairy tale from Sophie Anderson, is out now! Here is a taste of what's to come.



So dense the forest no light gleams
Where I, aglow with youthful dreams,
With rapturous hope and expectation,
Summon up with invocation
The spirits...

From *Ruslan & Ludmila*
by Alexander Pushkin,
translated by D.M. Thomas



PROLOGUE

Castle Mila rises from the shore of a lapping lake, as vast and bright as a sunrise. Built entirely from wood, and being five hundred years old, the castle is a little crooked with age. But the pine-log walls gleam like gold and the endless roof domes, which curve higher and higher into the sky, shimmer and sparkle like silver.

The topmost, and biggest, of the roof domes is as dazzling as the sun itself and the thin spire on top of it reaches all the way to the

stars. I call this dome Sun Dome, and I've often wondered what lies inside it. Castle Mila is full of secrets. There are hidden doors, passageways behind walls and long-forgotten chambers. Though I've lived in the castle all my life, I can still get lost and, with a thrill of delight, discover untouched rooms.

One of my favourite things to do is explore the castle, looking for ways into the roof domes. Each one contains a small, round

attic, but the staircases that lead to them are all concealed. So far, I've found my way into fourteen of the thirty-three domes. Most have been empty, aside from dust and spiderwebs and a warm, tingling feeling that I always get in Castle Mila's hidden spaces. But a few have contained treasures: rolled-up maps and gilt-edged books; fine art brushes and half-full pots of coloured inks; carved wooden boxes filled with hand-blown glass beads, and other trinkets

Who is Sophie Anderson?

Sophie Anderson grew up with stories in her blood, from her mother, who is a writer, to her Prussian grandmother, whose own storytelling inspired *The House with Chicken Legs*. Now living in the Lake District with her family, Sophie loves walking, canoeing and daydreaming. She spends every spare minute reading, and loves to talk about books online, offline and to anyone else who will listen. Sophie's dream is to create stories that help children to explore the world and fall in love with its beautiful diversity.



The Castle of Tangled Magic

Magic awaits, all you have to do is believe...

When thirteen-year-old Olia, steps through a magical doorway, she discovers another land. A land tangled by magic, where hope is lost, and a scheming wizard holds all the power.

Soon Olia learns that she is destined to save this land, but with time running out and her new friends and family in danger, she must search for the magic within herself – to save everything and everyone she loves.

The new fairy tale from Sophie Anderson, illustrated by Saara Söderlund.

An enchanting fairy-tale adventure about the power of love and courage, from the bestselling author of *The House with Chicken Legs* and *The Girl who Speaks Bear*.

that must have belonged to my onceroyal ancestors.

My family aren't royal any more, but Castle Mila is still our home. I was born in the warm and cosy kitchen on the ground floor, and learned to walk along the castle's long and winding corridors. Mama has sung me to sleep in my third-floor bedroom that overlooks the lake, and Papa has shown me where I can climb onto the roof safely, to watch hawks hunting over the meadows and cranes dancing in the marshes.

Both my parents are carpenters, and they use one of the old ballrooms as a workshop. The floor and walls are covered with enormous pictures I've been drawing in there since I was old enough to hold a piece of chalk. Some of the other big rooms in the castle are used by the villagers who live nearby. My school puts on a show in the old theatre once a year. And the biggest room, the Great Hall, is used for almost every birthday, wedding and wake.

At these gatherings, I hear stories about the castle's history that are seasoned with myth and legend. There is a tale that Castle Mila was built by a lone carpenter, using one perfect axe. No nails were used, because the wooden pieces were cut to fit precisely together. And when the carpenter finished, the axe was thrown into the lake, which is why no other

castle like it has ever been built. In the summer, I've spent whole days diving into the lake with my friends, looking for the axe. The search is fun, but I'm always slightly relieved when we don't find it, because there is another tale that I'd rather believe instead.

My grandmother, Babusya, says Castle Mila was built from magic, and that to understand why, I should talk to the spirits who live in and around our home. I've memorized her descriptions of house spirits, water spirits and tree spirits, and searched for them all my life. A few times I think I might have seen or felt something. But after thirteen years, I still have no proof these spirits exist.

I keep on exploring though. There is nothing like the excitement of finding hidden spaces and forgotten treasures. I'm determined to find my way into every inch of the castle and discover all of its secrets. Now more than ever, because I have a new baby sister.

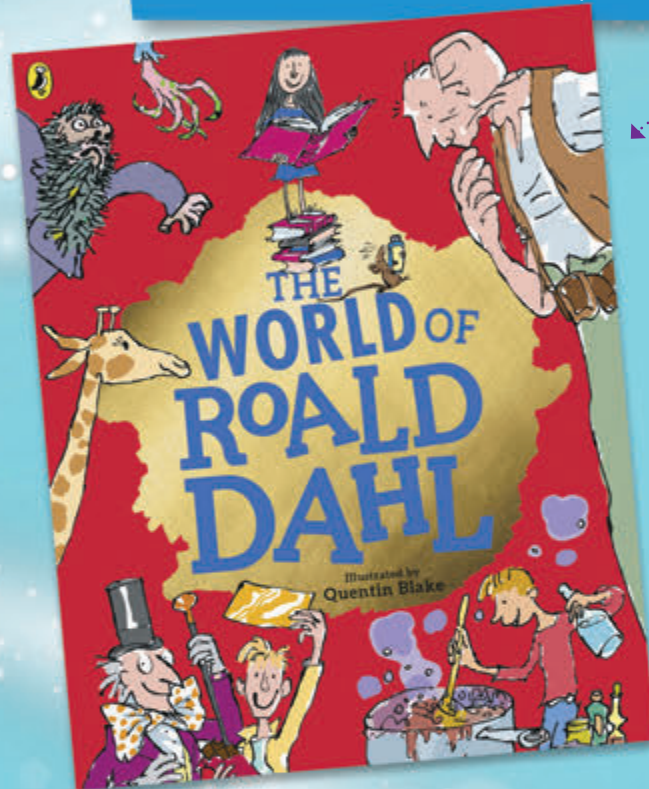
Rosa is three weeks old and makes my heart swell with love every time I look at her. I haven't figured out how to be the best big sister for her yet, but I want to be strong and brave and good, and show her all the wonders in the world. So, if there is magic hiding somewhere in our home, then I'm going to find it, and share it with my sister. 'Name it ... Egbert.'

Also available



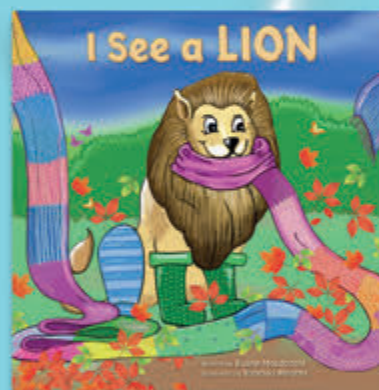
New on the shelf

With new worlds to discover and intriguing characters to meet, there's lots of reading to do!



Ed says:

'Welcome to the wondercrump world of all things Roald Dahl, filled with fantastic facts, exciting extras, quirky quizzes and much more.'



Also in Afrikaans



Gifting made easy

Here are some great gift ideas for those children on the 'Nice List'



Ages 0-3

Ed says:

'A soft-and-squishy, buzzy cloth book that wiggles and jiggles.'

With adorable illustrations, soft cloth pages and jitter mechanism, this book is perfect to introduce babies to the classic world of Peter Rabbit.



Ages 3-6

Join NIBBLES the book monster as he causes chaos, meets a dragon and makes a brand new friend...



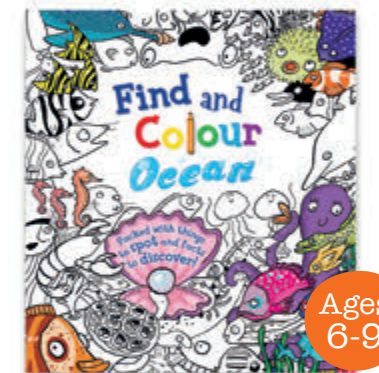
Ages 3-6

From slippery snails to bushy beards, this book is full of the most REVOLTING things to touch and feel!



Ages 3-6

An engaging storybook and toy in one activity kit!



Ages 6-9

Featuring colourful octopuses and electrifying eels!



Ages 6-9

This beautiful treasury has 365 Disney stories for you to enjoy throughout the year.



Ages 9-12

Build yourself an exciting dinosaur adventure with more than 50 ideas to inspire your own LEGO® Jurassic World™ models.



Ages 9-12

Step-by-step builds. 3D crafting ideas. Quiz questions, tips and loads more!



The Amazing Lockdown Adventure

This month we spoke with local authors Ben Hewett and Paddy Muldoon about their newly released children's book, *The Amazing Lockdown Adventure*



The world is in lockdown, and Jack has been stuck at home for what feels like an eternity. When he discovers a mysterious tunnel under his bed, an amazing adventure unfolds for Jack and his little sister, Lily. Together, they discover a magical forest, stop a powerful crystal from falling into the wrong hands, travel to the ends of the galaxy, and fight a gang of mutant hyenas.

How did you come up with the concept for this book?

BEN: It was a rainy weekend in April, the world was in lockdown, and my 7-year old son, Jack, was moping around the house loudly informing everyone how bored he was. He loves sending voice notes to my parents in the UK, so I suggested he record one minute of made-up story and send it to them to record the next few paragraphs and send back. Within a few minutes the phone beeped and Jack had another piece of story. That's when I suddenly realised that we should try and get as many people as possible involved over the weekend - in the back of my head I thought

how funny it would be if we actually made an audiobook out of this. So, we sent the recording to his best friend (Paddy's son), Odinn and after that it went to my sister in New York and then to an old school friend in Melbourne and so on and so on...

PADDY: We would receive, check and log each recording before sending it off to the next person. Each person only received the previous minute of story so they had no idea of the overall theme or characters, which made the story completely unique and gave us the opportunity to take the book in



any direction. Everyone really got into it and started to let their imaginations run wild - people were even sending sound effects, music, putting on funny voices and getting the whole family involved. Over that weekend we had around 50 recordings from friends and family all over the world - the first draft of the story was complete.

As collaborative writers, what was your writing process like?

BEN: The foundation of the story naturally evolved as each recording was passed on to the next person. The hardest part was keeping track of who was recording what and trying to get the recordings back quickly enough so that we could keep the momentum going. After the recordings were finished and everything was transcribed, our biggest job was to fit all the jigsaw pieces together and create a free-flowing timeline that actually made sense. We then began elaborating scenes, connecting characters and running themes throughout the main story arc. Some of the recordings didn't make sense

or were so crazy they made the story too obscure and fragmented, so often we'd have to fill in large gaps - especially the last two chapters.

PADDY: With multiple contributions - the collaboration process yielded so many great ideas and characters, our role was to keep the process on track, and ensure that the content stayed within the same narrative. Only Ben and I had visibility to all the content so the biggest challenge through this process wasn't the amount of ideas, rather editing and making the story flow within the context of the previous few ideas a really inspirational and transformative process.

How long did it take you, from concept to finished product, to complete this book?

BEN & PADDY: The first draft only took 48-hours but then we spent about two weeks developing and refining the story. Once Anja, the illustrator, came on board the story really started to take shape. Her illustrations took about a month to finalise and they are stunning. Her style of drawing perfectly suited our style of storytelling. She is super creative and really understood what we were trying to achieve. It was a really comfortable space where all three of us would share ideas and thoughts via Zoom or WhatsApp and continue to develop both the story and the illustrations. She pushed us and we pushed her to create the best product we could.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Anja Stoeckigt



Do you have any advice for aspiring children's authors?

BEN & PADDY: Just go for it. This all started out as a bit of fun between friends and family. Our only goal was to create a fun and unique story for our children that they could put on their bookshelf and say, "We made that. That's our story." We never for one minute thought we'd get published by Penguin! It's all a little surreal really. Our advice would be to take it one step at a time, don't get ahead of yourself and always be willing to evolve and adapt your story. Children love books for the fun fantasy and potential absurdity of the story - have fun and don't forget who the audience is.

What was one of the most surprising things you learned during the writing process?

BEN: I produce wildlife documentaries and writing scripts for TV is very different. It's my job to let the pictures tell the story and the narrative provides informative facts - one rule in TV script writing is, "never say what you see", so the first thing my wife said to me after reading the second draft was, "it reads like a movie script - you need to elaborate the scenes more". So, I broke old habits and changed my style of writing for the book. I had to be more descriptive and "say what you wanted the kids to see" - after all, that's the fun of reading - you create this fantasy world in your mind.

PADDY: Great ideas and content truly is everywhere... sometimes being an aspirational author

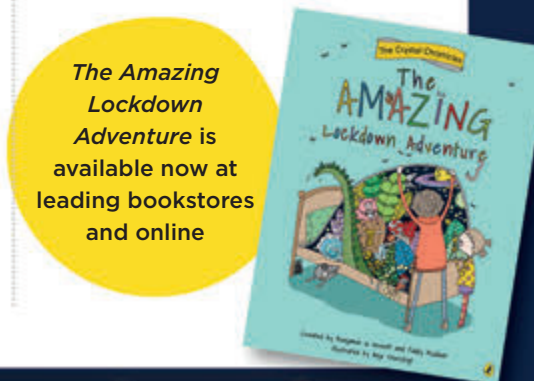
we're told to let the creative process happen and not to force it, through this process and with the time parameters we put on the content being developed we found that ideas flowed, irrespective of how they pieced together - there wasn't a shortage of creativity.

Do you think there will be more books in the series?

BEN & PADDY: Absolutely, we're already recording and writing the second adventure. This time the kids are free from lockdown and begin an entirely new chronicle. Trying to write a book in-between our current jobs isn't always easy but we're hoping to produce at least two books a year.

Will you try the same writing process or something different this time?

BEN & PADDY: Yes, we love this style of collaborating ideas and imaginations, it really is the power of the multiplier, plus, the results are endless. We've already started the second book and received 12 recordings to date. This time, however, we've told people that they can send more than a minute if they feel like it - who knows where the story will go and where the journey will lead the kids!



The Amazing Lockdown Adventure is available now at leading bookstores and online

J.K. ROWLING DIE ICKABOG



**Binnkort
beskikbaar!**

Beskikbaar by alle goeie boekwinkels of
www.lapa.co.za

WAT'S LEKKER BY LAPA?



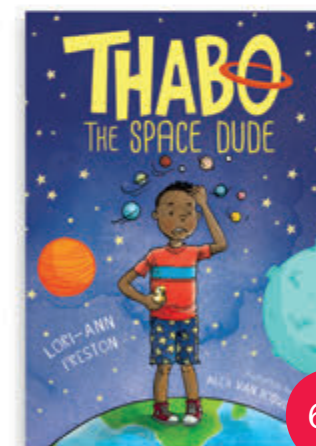
Pumpkin Pie has a secret...
She doesn't like her hair at all!
But she soon discovers that her
curly hair makes her unique.



Hierdie bundel stories is 'n karos
waarmee jy jou kind opnuut
kan koester.



A collection of 15 highly
original and very entertaining
animal stories.



Poor Thabo is horrified when his
so-called "loving" parents inform
him that his family is moving
to Mars!



Dit is a voorwaar 'n trots Suid-
Afrikaanse boek wat elke leser sal
inspireer en motiveer om vrae te
vra, te ontdek en te skep.



Die roman handel oor 'n meisie
wat met allerlei grootword-
probleme worstel.



“BE THE CHANGE you wish to see IN THE WORLD”

– Mahatma Gandhi

We are living in an ever-changing world where children often meet others from different backgrounds and cultures. Teaching kids about the importance of embracing diversity will help bring about tolerance and respect. And hopefully above all, KINDNESS.

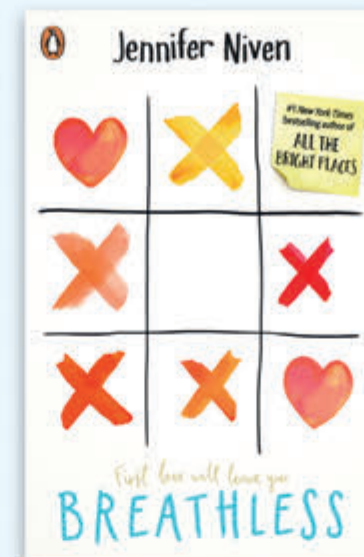


Ed says:

‘Learn how to say “Hello” in South Africa’s official 11 languages. Now also available as a colouring-in book – the perfect book to keep the kids busy this festive season.’



ILLUSTRATIONS: Anja Stockigt



An unforgettable new novel about a sensitive girl ready to live her bravest life – sex, heartbreak, family dramas, and all.

Ed says:

‘I could NOT put this one down! My pick of YA for 2020.’



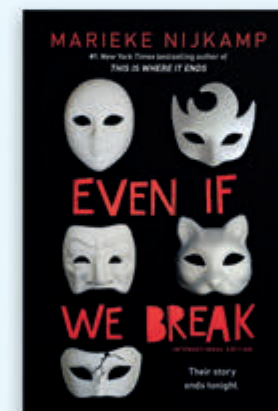
The apocalypse is over. Welcome to the new world.



A Cinderella story with deadly stakes and thrilling twists.

SHELF GOALS

Summer reading for our Young Adults



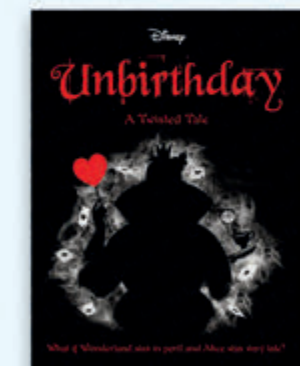
A heart-stopping new thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Marieke Nijkamp.



She thought being stranded was the worst thing that could happen. She was wrong. She never should have accepted that ride...



A tantalising combination of clique rivalry, murder mystery and secret-society intrigue.



What if Wonderland was in peril and Alice was very, very late?



A story in the Arctic from the world of His Dark Materials and The Book of Dust by master storyteller, Philip Pullman.

Let's cook with Siba

Siba is back with a brand new cookbook.
For kids, by kids with a little help from
Ms Sibalicious!

recipe
extract



BEAR-FACE FLAPJACKS

Since pancakes and flapjacks are weekend treats, I like to have various options, using different flours. (To be honest, the kids can't tell the difference, which is great.) I have worked and reworked this gluten-free recipe to perfection. And you know what, this is probably my favourite flapjack at the moment. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Resting time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 2 minutes
Serves: 4

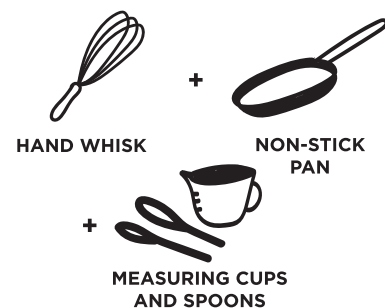
WHAT YOU NEED

180 ml (¾ cup) coconut flour
5 ml (1 teaspoon) baking powder
2.5 ml (½ teaspoon) flaked sea salt
3 large free-range eggs
125 ml (½ cup) full-cream milk
60 ml (4 tablespoons) maple syrup
or honey
30 ml (2 tablespoons) canola oil plus
an extra 30 ml (2 tablespoons)
5 ml (1 teaspoon) vanilla extract

Serve with

60 ml (4 tablespoons) fresh
blueberries
15 ml (1 tablespoon) sliced
strawberries
honey to drizzle

KITCHEN TOOLS



HOW TO DO IT

1. In a large mixing bowl, mix the coconut flour, baking powder and salt together, then make a well in the centre.
2. Whisk the eggs, milk, maple syrup and vanilla extract and 2 tablespoons of oil together in a jug and pour into the well in the dry mix. Whisk well to combine until the batter is smooth, then leave it to rest for 10 minutes.
3. Heat a small amount of the extra oil in a non-stick pan over a low-medium heat. Scoop ¼ cup of the batter for the face, and pour it into the pan, swirling until it forms a circle.
4. Now scoop 2 separate tablespoons (1 for each ear) of the batter and cook for 1 minute, until the edges start to crisp. Gently flip and cook them for a further minute. Transfer the cooked flapjacks onto a cooling rack.
5. Brush a little more oil into the pan and repeat the process of cooking faces and ears with the remaining batter.
6. Assemble each bear-face and serve with some blueberries, strawberries, then drizzle with honey.

SIBA'S SECRETS

You can double the batch to make even more flapjacks.
• When making a bigger batch, save time by making all the bear faces first, followed by the smaller flapjacks for the ears, so that you can cook many in one go.



Binge-worthy books

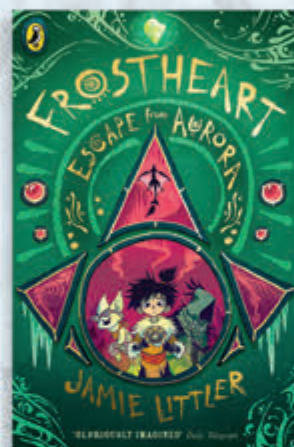
Tried and tested binge-worthy books

Ed says:
'The perfect company for poolside (or indoor!) lounging.'

For kids



Max and her friends are back and ready to take on their biggest problem yet: world hunger.



YA + Adults



Ed says:
'This is the perfect stocking-filler and will be available from 17 November.'



Jo Nesbo is back with a tense and atmospheric thriller about two brothers bound together by dark secrets.

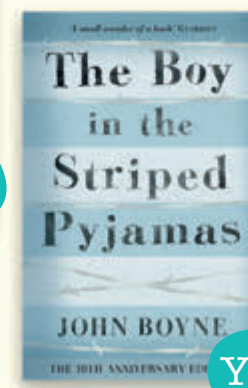


THE BEST BOOKS TO READ

before

YOU'RE A GROWN-UP

We all have that *one* book. The *one* that stays with us for a while, long after we've turned the last page. Here is our selection of *those* books.



Ed says:
'In our opinion anyway!'

READER REVIEWS

This month, we asked bloggers, Lisa Trollip and Meredith Mara what they're reading...



Review by Lisa Trollip

Forts and Fairies
(www.fortsandfairies.com)
 @lisatrollip

Ten Minutes to Bed: Little Dinosaur ★★★★★
Rhiannon Fielding

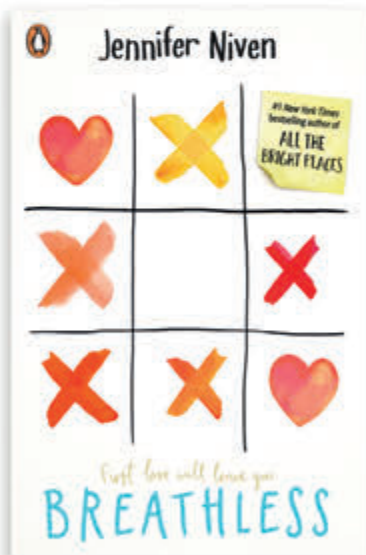
This delightful story tells the tale of Rumble the little dinosaur as his mom prepares him for bed by informing him that there are "Ten minutes to bed." But as is often the case with little ones, Rumble has other ideas and would rather have fun than get ready for bed.

The little triceratops heads off into the jungle looking for an adventure, but gets a bit more than he bargained for when a volcano erupts and he finds himself lost. Luckily his mom finds him, reassures him that he's never alone and they set off back home.

With just one minute to go to bed all that's left is for him to get a kiss goodnight, but after all his exploring Rumble is already fast asleep.

The rhyming story and beautiful colour illustrations make this a wonderful choice for bedtime. It's a lovely way to help send your children off to dreamland, an exciting adventure but also a gentle reminder that you're always there for them too.

My children love The Land of Nod map, and we also had fun finding the dragonfly, ladybird and chameleon who join Rumble on his adventure.



Review by Meredith Mara

@meredith.mara



Breathless ★★★★★
Jennifer Niven

Claudia and Jeremiah meet, promise each other they won't fall in love, and fall in love during Claudia's summer exile to a remote Georgia island.

In the wake of her parents' impending divorce, Claudia is not getting the road trip she had planned with best friend Saz before parting ways to separate colleges in the fall. Instead, Claudia's dreams of the open road and wind-tossed hair and losing her virginity to secret-crush Wyatt are shattered when her Dad announces he is leaving the family. Only it is Claudia and her heartbroken mom who end up exiled to a WiFi-untouched, mosquito-infested island off the coast of Georgia. To Claudia, island

boy Jeremiah seems like an escape from her sadness. But Jeremiah understands what it's like to lose the floor beneath your feet too, and while Claudia finds distraction (and first love), she also discovers her ability to face the changes waiting for her. Claudia's reflections on the girl she was "before this summer, the girl who didn't know that people go away and love can change its mind" are relatable and deeply moving, and Niven tackles the ambiguous space between adolescence and adulthood with keen insights and sensitivity while illustrating the meaningfulness of romantic and non-romantic relationships.

Poignant, exciting and altogether relevant.

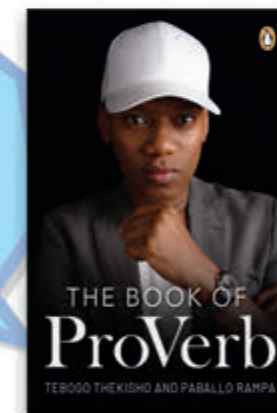
Find the time to do the things you

love

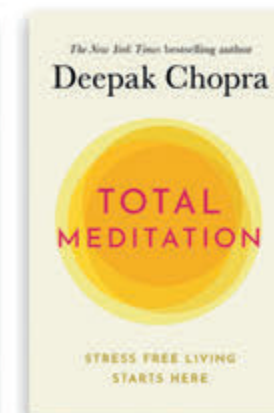


I am constantly reminded that we need to find the time to do the things we love. It is, quite simply, good for the soul. Whether that is finding the time to escape to faraway lands between the pages of a good book, to achieve new dimensions of stress-free living, to learn, or to cook, we have a great selection of titles to choose from!

A memoir, a hustle manifesto, and a wholesome guide to life from one of South Africa's brightest stars.

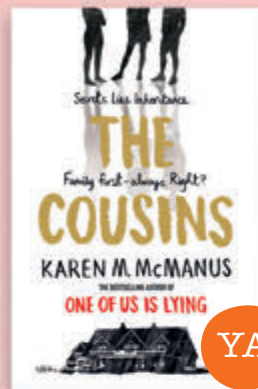


Also available in Afrikaans



Ed says:
'7 Ways gives you new ideas for the ingredients you already know and love.'

CREAM OF THE CROP COMING 2021



YA

January



9-12

February



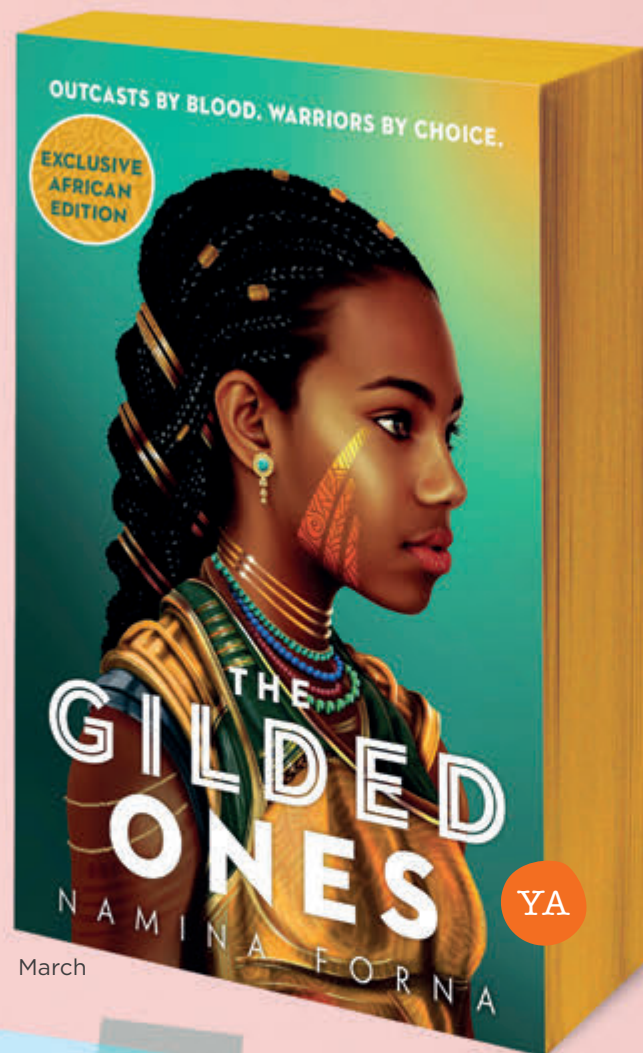
9-12

March



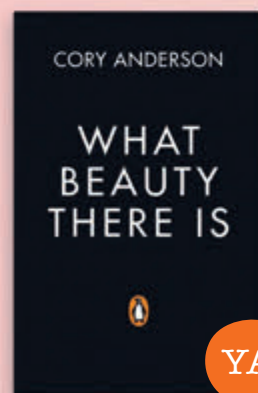
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April



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May



9-12

July

Ed says:

'The spooky Gothic humour of Lemony Snickett meets the warmth and adventure of *The Explorer* in this glorious second book from a hugely exciting new voice in children's fiction.'

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