

BOOKS

CHICK LIT

The Godmothers
By Monica McInerney,
Penguin/Random House, \$37

Eliza has no idea who her father is. Her mum promised to tell her on her 18th birthday but a tragic event prevented this from happening.

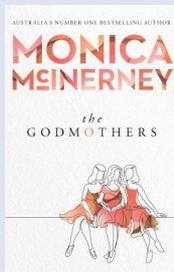
She does have two godmothers who have been a constant in her life, supporting her through difficult times.

Thirteen years after the tragic event in her life, Eliza decides it's time to stop hiding and find out the truth about her father; the only ones who can tell her are her godmothers.

However, there's something they don't want Eliza to know.

Set in Australia, Scotland, Ireland, and England, *The Godmothers* is a story of love, betrayal, family, and new beginnings. Entertaining read.

— Linda Hall



JUST FOR KIDS

Which? What? Who?
New Zealand Seashore
Wildlife and New Zealand
Garden Wildlife
By Dave Gunson, Bateman
Books, \$19.99 each

These books are fantastic learning tools for children. Author Dave Gunson answers some tricky questions with simple answers.

Questions such as where does the water go when the tide goes out and are slugs just snails without shells?

If you are heading to the beach this summer or simply staying in your own back yard these books will help answer all the curly questions about the seashore and the garden wildlife.

Did you know that most birds fly at a cruising speed of between 20 and 45mph and change between flapping their wings and gliding as they go? And did you know that fish were the very first animals to evolve internal skeletons more than 50 million years ago?

Perfect for curious minds. — Linda Hall



Fruit-loving dog a lively kids' tale

This bouncy page turner will have children guessing what type of fruit Boo gets his teeth into next. With a catchy rhythm and rhyme, this delightful book will have everyone joining in... with a fun surprise ending.

Rachel Weston was inspired to write this story because her dog had an avocado addiction. Every night under the cover of darkness he would sneak over to the neighbours' property and steal an avocado (or three!) from their tree.

Scott Tulloch's bright and humorous illustrations pop off the page bringing Boo and characters to life.

What a great, fun title for a book, where did this idea come from?

The idea comes from Boo going crazy for fruit! Home alone and hungry, Boo spies the fruit bowl. He tries each fruit variety until one fruit tickles his tastebuds, sending him crazy for more!

You feature lots of delicious New Zealand fruit including kiwifruit, plums and avocado's is this because you live on a kiwifruit orchard?

Yes. We currently live on a kiwifruit orchard and have previously owned an avocado orchard. I couldn't go past New Zealand's iconic kiwifruit, along with avocados and other fruits that children love to eat!

Is the main character in the book the dog Boo inspired by a dog you owned?

Yes. Our dog was a 65kg leonberger! Boo is pint-sized corgi, who makes up for his small size with his larger than life personality!

Is this your first collaboration with Scott Tulloch and why did you choose to work with him?

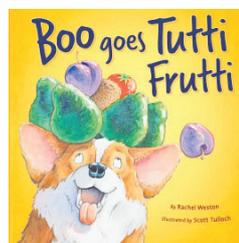
Yes. I saw Scott's illustration work in other New Zealand children's books and loved his humorous style.

You have three children. Do you test your books out on them first?

Yes, although they are all teenagers now — and brutally honest!

How long does it take you to think up the storyline for a book?

Sometimes a storyline thread pops into my head,



Boo Goes Tutti Frutti
By Rachel Weston,
illustrated by Scott Tulloch,
Weston Books, \$19.99

complete from start to finish, which then requires building and developing. At other times, like *Boo goes Tutti Frutti*, it is a single event or experience.

Do you think children relate more to rhyming books?

I think rhyming words are easy for children to remember and anticipate. Rhyming words

help children notice sounds and teaches them about language, which helps to prepare them for reading and writing.

Do you think reading will help children through this strange time of Covid?

Reading helps us to understand the world around us and also escape from the world around us. So yes, I do think it can help during this strange time of Covid. Reading with children is a precious time of togetherness in a busy world. I heard on the radio the other day, relating to Covid, for parents to lend children their calm. By reading books to children you are sharing your time, love, laughter, joy, closeness and your calm.

Is there another book in the pipeline?

Yes! A gorgeous picture book, currently being illustrated by Deborah Hinde, called *Bumblebee*. The story shows simply, yet beautifully, the magic of pollination and synergy between flowers and bees. You'll follow Bumblebee through the seasons of the year, but when Bumblebee awakens from hibernation, there are no flowers.

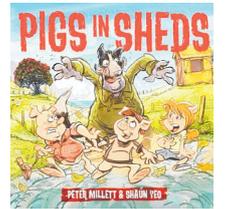
JUST FOR KIDS

Pigs in Sheds
By Peter Millett, Illustrated by
Shaun Yeo, Bateman Books,
\$19.99

This book is hilarious. I laughed all the way through it. Especially when the 'big bad sheepdog' growled

'Little pig little pig, let me come in' and the little pig replied 'get off the grass mate, you're not coming in'. Brilliant Kiwi humour all the way through this book based on the classic children's story of The Three Little Pigs.

Eye-popping colourful illustrations from Shaun Yeo finish off this tale of three perky porkers in a pen in Pokeno. Fantastic.



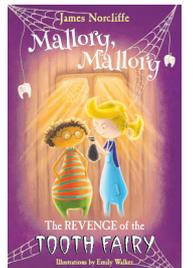
Mallory, Mallory: The Revenge of the Tooth Fairy
By James Norcliffe, Penguin/
Random House, \$17.99

In the words of the author Mallory is a bullying, self-centred, greedy, untrustworthy, awful person.

Readers will love to hate her as she plots to kidnap and blackmail the tooth fairy, so children are deprived of their dental rights.

However, Mallory and her sidekick Arthur get rather more than they bargain for.

This magical fantasy novel is full of suspense and loads of laughs.

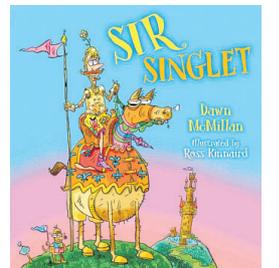


Sir Singlet
By Dawn McMillan, Illustrated
by Ross Kinnaird, Oratia Books,
\$19.99

This is funny. The rhyming narrative along with the delightful illustrations will have the little ones laughing within seconds.

Sir Singlet is introduced to readers by his nephew, who tells the tale of how his uncle was knighted and it's all to do with underwear or should I say Knightwear. Love it.

— Linda Hall



Crime thriller is straight class

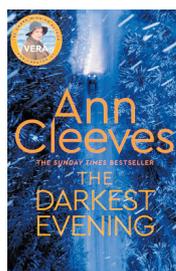
The Darkest Evening
by Ann Cleeves, MacMillan,
\$32.99

Ann Cleeves creates whodunnits the old-school way, no whizz bangs or contemporary tricks, just solid storytelling, layer by layer, working towards a grand finale. *The Darkest Evening* is the ninth crime thriller featuring Vera Stanhope. She's a bit of a slob, very clever but down to earth. It's no wonder the TV series has been every bit as successful as Cleeves' Vera novels have been.

Once again we are drawn to the countryside near a small village which is a mere blip on the UK's geography.

No one is getting rich in this neighbourhood, even though the manor house has been the centre of attention for decades.

Now it's somewhat worse for wear, and the new master of the house has ambitions to revive



the place back to its glory days.

The area is gripped by a truly brutal winter which doesn't make it any easier when Vera and her trusty team set out to find the killer of a young woman whose battered body is found in the grounds of the

great house. In *The Darkest Evening* there's a limited number of characters for Vera to focus on, not that it makes it any easier.

And then there's a second murder with the body discovered by luck in a clearing in the nearby woods.

If you like straight-up, well written crime stories this is definitely one for you.

Ann Cleeves has nailed her own genre.

— Tony Nielsen

Top tips to land freshwater fish

Fly-Fishing in New Zealand – What You NEED to Know
By Derek Grzelewski,
Bateman Books, \$39.99

There's a lot more to fly fishing than standing thigh deep in freezing cold rivers praying luck will be with you as you cast out to hook the big one.

Rather, it's an art form but where to start? There's no better place than ace professional guide cum author Derek Grzelewski's latest publication with its reassuring sub title *What You NEED To Know*.

In his introductions, the man who divides his time between Wanaka (he lives in a Clutha River cabin) and Colorado emphasises there's no leaving this fishing business to chance.

He reassures rod and reel novices God or the devil is in the detail.



Just how complex and challenging that detail is, Grzelewski's set out to overcome by sharing his years of experience in some of the world's wildest fishing waterways.

He doesn't profess to have brought readers all the answers, but he does

give the reassurance fly fishing's an evolving process.

Follow the road map of tips this how-to book contains, many from fellow guides and experienced freshwater fishers and that elusive rainbow or brown's more likely to be on the dinner table than mocking the angler as the one that got away.

— Jill Nicholas