

## Nims Island Wendy Orr

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*Swallow's Dance* Allen & Unwin

An ugly dumpling is ignored and sad until an encouraging cockroach sees the dumpling's inner beauty and helps it discover its true identity and realize being different is beautiful after all.

**Terror at the Zoo** Mighty Media, Inc.

Mona's uncle Matthew works in a circus, and he always gives pretty great birthday presents. But when Mona turns eight, he gives her something better than juggling balls or stilts—a baby lion cub! His note says that the cub's mother couldn't care for it properly, and he knows Mona and her grandparents can help. Mona names the lion Kiki, and at first Kiki is like any other kitten. As she grows bigger and bigger, though, Mona realizes that Kiki needs a home which will allow her to be the wild animal she was born to be. Fans of the Rainbow Street Shelter books will love reading about how the shelter started and how its owner, Mona, has always loved animals—starting with an adorable baby lion.

Ever-Living Tree Annick Press ; North York, Ont. : Distributed in Canada and the USA by Firefly Books

An epistolary novel set on a fictional island off the South Carolina coastline, 'Ella Minnow Pea' brings readers to the hometown of Nevin Nollop, inventor of the pangram 'The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog'. Deified for his achievement in life, Nevin has been honored in death with a monument featuring his famous phrase. One day, however, the letter 'Z' falls from the monument, and some of the islanders interpret the missing tile as a message from beyond the grave. The letter 'Z' is banned from use. On an island where the residents pride them-selves on their love of language, this is seen as a tragedy. They are still reeling from the shock when another tile falls. And then another... In his charming debut, first published in 2001, Mark Dunn took readers on a journey through the eyes of Ella Minnow Pea, a young woman forced to create another clever turn of phrase in order to save the islanders' beloved language.

**The Penderwicks** National Museum of Australia Press

The breath-taking adventures of Mokie and Bik - eccentric twins who live on a houseboat. A highly illustrated storybook for reading aloud, and for readers 6-8.

**STOLEN! A Pony Called Pebbles** Harpercollins Australia

Tells the story of how the ever-living sequoia, also known as the coast redwood, came to be, and compares its longevity to the history of the world.

**The Nim Stories** Pajama Press Inc.

In a palm tree, on an island, in the middle of the wide blue sea, was a girl. Nim's hair was wild, her eyes were bright, and around her neck she wore three cords. One was for a spyglass, one for a whorly, whistling shell, and one for a fat red pocketknife in a sheath. Nim lives on an island in the middle of the wide blue sea, with her father, Jack, as well as a marine iguana called Fred, a sea lion called Selkie, a turtle called Chica and a satellite dish for her email. No one else lives quite like Nim, and she wouldn't swap places with anyone. In Nim's Island, when Jack disappears in his sailing boat and disaster threatens her home, Nim must be braver than she's ever been before. And she needs help from her friends old and new. This book was adapted as a major motion picture starring Jodie Foster and Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine). In Nim at Sea, Nim's new friend Alex Rover flies away without saying goodbye, and Selkie the sea lion is captured by villains from a cruise ship. Nim must risk everything to bring them back. A second major motion picture was inspired by this story, and screened as Return to Nim's Island, starring Bindi Irwin. In Rescue on Nim's Island, Nim unearths an amazing fossil, but this discovery puts her island in terrible danger. Nim must choose between saving a natural treasure and saving someone's life. Happy 21st Birthday Nim! **Mokie & Bik** Allen & Unwin

Sam is almost 11 when he discovers a locked box in the attic above his grandfather Mack's room, and a piece of paper that says he was kidnapped. There are lots of other words, but Sam has always had trouble reading. He's desperate to find out who he is, and if his beloved Mack is really his grandfather. At night he's haunted by dreams of a big castle and a terrifying escape on a boat. Who can he trust to help him read the documents that could unravel the mystery? Then he and the new girl, Caroline, are paired up to work on a school project, building a castle in Mack's woodworking shop. Caroline loves to read, and she can help. But she's moving soon, and the two must hurry to discover the truth about Sam.

**Nim's Friends** Penguin

When Andrew encounters a space alien in a tiny spaceship, he thinks that Ysdran will be his own personal space pet, especially when she teaches him to move things with his mind, but Ysdran thinks she is training a new slave who will help her people mine the Earth.

Allen & Unwin

This was her last chance. Her hand twisted high in the air. When fifteen-year-old Esme Silver objects at her father's wedding, her protest is dismissed as the action of a stubborn, selfish teenager. Everyone else has accepted the loss of Esme's mother, Ariane—so why can't she? But Esme is suspicious. She is sure that others are covering up the real reason for her mother's disappearance—that 'lost at sea' is code for something more terrible, something she has a right to know. After Esme is accidentally swept into the enchanted world of Aeolia, the truth begins to unfold. With her newfound friends, Daniel and Lillian, Esme retraces her mother's steps in the glittering canal city of Esperance, untangling the threads of Ariane's double life. But the more Esme discovers about her mother, the more she questions whether she really knew her at all.

**Nim at Sea** Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

Ellen Streater received the perfect birthday present—an overnight camp-out at the zoo. Too bad she had to invite her little brother Corey along. But as night falls in the zoo, her brother becomes the least of her worries, as they discover they're locked in the zoo with an escaped convict who's stalking their every move. Unable to run, and with no help in sight, their last chance for survival is Ellen's crazy science project on animal communication. But can they get the animals to help them in time, or will it be too late? "A compelling and fast-paced mystery with characters that are believable and well drawn." —The Horn Book "Plausible incidents and believable characters combine in a fast-moving and well-constructed tale." —Booklist

**The Tin Can Puppy** Nim's Island

Nim lives on an island with her father, Jack, a marine iguana called Fred, a sea lion called Selkie, and their friend Alex Rover, the adventure writer. Nim's island is the most beautiful place in the world, and she wouldn't swap live anywhere else. When Jack invites a group of scientists to visit, they bring their children as well. But two of the scientists have plans other than studying algae... By the time Nim discovers what they really want, and what they will do to get it, the children are in grave danger. And so is the island! Nim must choose between saving a natural treasure and saving someone's life.

**Peeling the Onion** Scholastic Canada

For two rambunctious twins, living on a boat means always being underfoot or overboard.

**MISSING! A Cat Called Buster** Allen & Unwin Australia

When Megan gets sick and cannot go to day care, no one can stay home with her, and she has to go to the office with her mother.

**A Light in Space** Allen & Unwin

A girl. An iguana. An island. And e-mail. Meet Nim—a modern-day Robinson Crusoe! She can chop down bananas with a machete, climb tall palm trees, and start a fire with a piece of glass. So she's not afraid when her scientist dad sails off to study plankton for three days, leaving her alone on their island. Besides, it's not as if no one's looking after her—she's got a sea lion to mother her and an iguana for comic relief. She also has an interesting new e-mail pal. But when her father's cell-phone calls stop coming and disaster seems near, Nim has to be stronger and braver than she's ever been before. And she'll need all her friends to help her.

**Evan almighty** Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

The girl has had many selves in her short life. The first she remembers is Aissa, the daughter of Mama and Dada, sister to Zufi who watched the goats. Then the Bull King's raiders came, and Mama said, "Don't make a sound till I come back." And when the villagers found her she was silent as stone, because Mama never came back again. So the villagers cursed her as back luck and made her No-Name, lowest of the servants to the Lady, the island's priestess. But there were whispers, as she grew, of another self: of the Lady's rejected first daughter, born

imperfect with two extra thumbs. The silent girl looks at the scars on her wrists and wonders, but she has more pressing concerns. The villagers blame her bad luck for the tribute the Bull King now demands of them: two youths given each spring to dance with his bulls and die for his god's glory. And the servants hate and fear the unnatural way the animals all come to her. For Aissa, though, this bond with creatures of fur and scale is the first clue in finding the true self that no one else can give to her, or take away. Wendy Orr, the author of Nim's Island, introduces a resourceful and resilient heroine for slightly older readers. Inspired by an archeological trip to the island of Crete, where frescoes show figures leaping over the backs of bulls, Orr weaves an intriguing mythological portrayal of the Bronze Age Minoan civilization. Lyrically written and refreshingly unpredictable, Dragonfly Song suggests a fascinating origin for the legend of the Minotaur and his dark tribute.

**Mokie and Bik Go to Sea** Picador

A gripping adventure of wilderness survival from the author of Nim's Island. Raven is over the moon when she is the first to get to the mountaintop on a trek with her sister and new stepfather. Reaching the summit is like standing on top of the world: exhilarating and breath-taking. But her triumph is short-lived when the earth starts shaking and she takes a terrible tumble down the side of the mountain. Terrified and injured, she stumbles around looking for her family, only to realize they are alive, but trapped in a cave, impossible to reach. Raven sets out alone to find help. But with no food, and danger lurking at every turn, how will she find her way back to civilization? In the tradition of Hatchet, Facing the Mountain is the captivating story of a young girl's incredible journey through unpredictable wilderness. Readers will be left breathless as Raven struggles to keep her wits about her and find the courage it takes to go on.

**Rainbow Street Pets** Wendy Lamb Books

When her parents take her to visit a very special pet store in the park across from her apartment, both Sophie and Mr. and Mrs. Noah, the pet store owners, have their secret wishes fulfilled.

**DISCOVERED! A Beagle Called Bella** Simon and Schuster

Nim's Island Yearling

**LOST! A Dog Called Bear** Turtleback

This series takes readers on a fictional journey through some fascinating Australian stories, inspired by objects from the National Museum of Australia's collection. Ages 7+.

**Eleven** Macmillan

An honest, unsentimental story of pain and change and love. A powerful novel about a girl re-making her life after a car accident. For teenagers and young adults.