

New Australian Author Children Book Release

Hand in Hand

Luke Styles



A boy named Paul struggles to find peace with his parents arguing and other kids bullying him at school...his only solitude is the bushland where he walks...

A black cockatoo will become Paul's spiritual guide and catches his attention as it flies into a mystical, dark tunnel. One day, the black cockatoo becomes something more to Paul and someone he can truly trust and share with...a young indigenous boy who will reward Paul with the education of the ancient land and wisdoms of a great people, who live as one with the vast lands of this country.

Through knowledge and awareness, Paul will find the solutions to his life challenges and grow to become more than he had thought possible...and love his family, and his country as one homeland.

RRP: \$16.95
ISBN: 9781922444707
Audience: Children
Format: Paperback
For Ages: 3 - 7 years old
Location: Northcote



About the Author: Luke Styles



Luke Styles is an Australian actor who has worked in television, film and theatre. Luke developed a passion for creative writing when he worked with Artistic Director Elizabeth Kemp in 2015 from the Actors Studio in New York.

Luke was drawn to write **Hand In Hand** during the Black Lives Matter Movement.

“A cultural and ethical milestone for children and communities alike...a story of being respectful to self and all around in this small world we share. Wonderful...” **Dale, Indie Book Reviewer**

The author and publisher acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay respects to the Elders, past, present and future.

Thank you for supporting a new young children book author from the local community of Northcote. If you require any further communication or information, please contact us directly to organise and confirm as requested and within reasonable timing to help you meet your goals also.

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A Conversation with Luke

Who inspires you?

Joseph Campbell's paradigm had a huge impact in my life. The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, The Odyssey by Homer and John Patrick Shanley have allowed me to drink deeply in their writing.

When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

I've always been creative. As a child I would write short stories, I never thought of publishing a book though. I wrote a few short films and I'm currently working on a screenplay. I always have ideas; I'm beginning to take action. It's very therapeutic to be honest.

How long does it take you to write a book?

Depends on if the idea is percolating. I have flashes of ideas and then I write them down on my phone or on paper.

What is your work schedule like when you're writing?

I always make time, I journal unconsciously as soon as I wake up, I've been doing that for 5 years now.

Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?

I could be driving, and ideas just start flowing. Also, when I'm going for a long walk or as soon as I wake up or I recall it in a dream.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?

My passion is acting, I absolutely love it, I love theatre, it's a great training ground to work with brilliant writers.

As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?

This is interesting, I was always fascinated with movies, I wanted to be an actor, It took a while for me to take the leap, but I'm so glad I did. I was a tradie for a while, but I followed the call and it's changed my life.

Did you have any interesting experiences whilst writing this book?

I was in flow once I started writing this book, all the pieces came together, editor, indigenous liaison

officer, my friend Fallon who recommended Mundanara from BlackCard. Once Mundanara gave me the all clear, I was certain that I needed to get this published.

Do you have any suggestions to help others become a better writer?

The best way is not to overthink it, when an idea pops write it down so you won't forget it. Also journal as soon as you wake up, you'll be surprised what comes up. And write down your dreams, they're the whispers that are sent to you.

How did you decide on the characters for the book?

I wanted to use children to convey this message, I think a child's presence speaks volumes. I saw a black cockatoo fly over me three weeks before I wrote this story. I already had the idea of the two boys, the black cockatoo represents a strong spiritual symbol using my imagination I came up with the idea that the bird will turn into a boy. Little did I know that Indigenous people are assigned to animals when they're born. And they cannot eat or hunt these animals. The child troubled at home and school is Paul, Paul encounters a source of enlightenment which will change his life's tapestry.

Why did you write this book? What were your inspirations?

During covid I witnessed racial injustice scenes. The world was on fire, and I felt I needed to say something. As I saw social media blow up with anger and hate. I wanted to write a poem or be able to contribute. As I pondered in my thoughts, I began to think how can we coalesce. What could I do to contribute to this fascinating culture and land? How could I pass on the torch of courage to our younger generation? You could say this is what motivated me, to ignite a spark of togetherness.

What are your plans for your future book/s?

I will continue to write, I do have a continuation from this book. But, I may be compelled to change the story if this character becomes a beacon for our younger generation.

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