

New Australian Author Children Book Release

# Murray and the Seagull

Written by Will Braíd

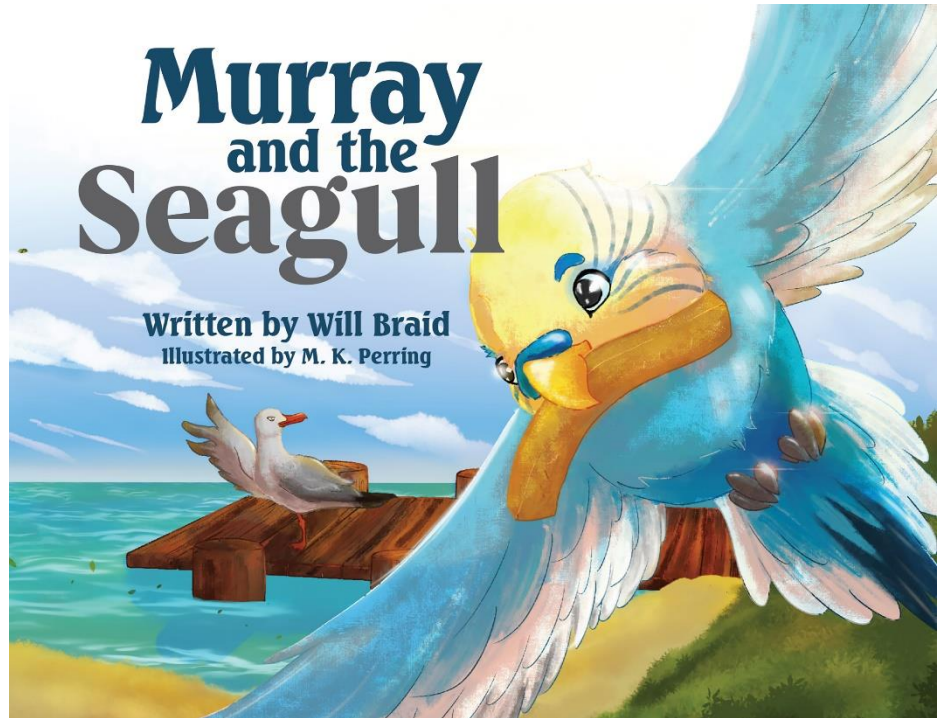
Illustrated by M.K. Perring

*Jenson, the sneaky seagull, was desperate for a delicious hot chip but with only one leg he could not outrun the other seagulls in the fight for food.*

Luckily, Murray the Budgie was there to help!

The brave and noble budgie took the challenge of doing his best and helping a friend in need.

*But then one wonders, is Jenson really telling Murray the truth?*



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Visit [shawlinepublishing.com.au](http://shawlinepublishing.com.au) for more details on the author, Bill Braíd.

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# A Conversation with Bill

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

These books came from the loss of our budgie named Murray. He flew out an open door and into the big, wide world. The kids were devastated and to try and make things better for them, I wrote a series of books about what Murray is doing now. In the first book, Murray helps a seagull find food and in subsequent books he will help a lyrebird overcome shyness, an owl get over a tummy ache and even teach an emu to run!

## What were your inspirations for writing 'Murray and the Seagull'?

My kids were the inspiration. I'm a huge believer in doing the best you can with the tools at your disposal and the tools I had were a manic mind and a computer to try and make my kids happy after an upsetting loss. Secondary inspiration was from a conservation point of view. I've always loved birds and find them relaxing. When one is in trouble, it's not good in my world. I'm a closet lefty as the books will illustrate.

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

Family is life for me. With three kids, one in high school now and two in primary school, it's pretty busy. Outside that I coach an underage hockey team with two of my kids in it, love umpiring cricket, playing hockey, fishing, camping, and listening to music.

## What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?

In these books, all the characters are named after people important to me, but I guess that's not unusual. My quirk as a writer comes from the ability to sit down and bash out a story, book, or article in a short space of time. Once the flow happens, it's hard to stop.

## How long does it take you to write a book?

These books, all nine, were written in an incredibly short space of time. There are several reasons for this but one is an overwhelming amount of manic energy caused by bipolar disorder. It can be a curse but sometimes, on the rare occasion, it can be a great tool.

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

I've been writing for about 20 years in different forms from media to uni and social media. I've always wanted to write a great book, but it has taken this long to happen across the inspiration.

## What does your family think of your writing?

They love it. Sarah, my wife, is the June Carter to my Johnny and supports me in all facets of my writing. The kids think it's really cool that my books might wind up in the school library.

## How many books have you written? Which is your favourite?

By the time all the first "season" Murray books are published there will be nine. As for a favourite, that's like asking to pick your favourite child but I reckon if I had to choose, it would be the three that carry my kids' names: Murray and the Seagull, Murray and the Lyrebird and Murray and the Owl.

## What are your plans for your future books?

I have eight more in the pipeline and another silly little book that will come out at some stage not related to the Murray series. I would love to work on a "season two" as there are many birds with many problems our gold and blue friend could help.



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