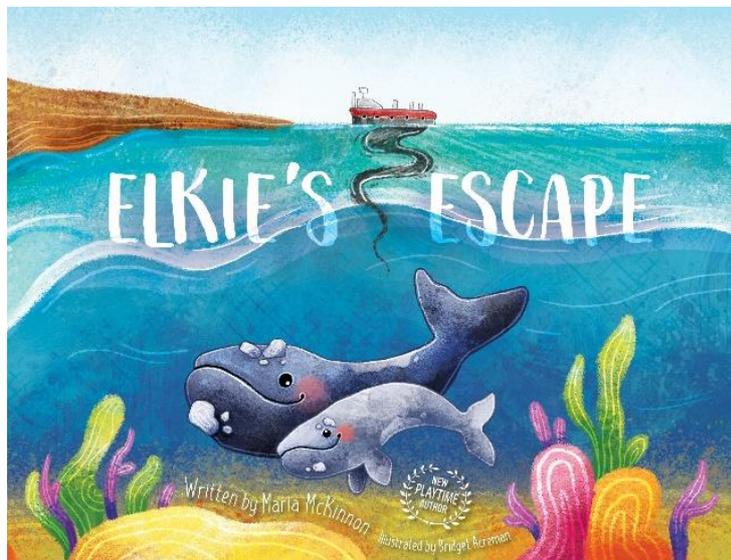


ELKIE'S ESCAPE

Written by Maria McKinnon – Illustrated by Bridget Acreman



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES HAVE SEASONALLY MIGRATED TO THE SOUTHERN OCEANS OF AUSTRALIA TO GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR YOUNG.

It is in the waters of the Great Australian Bight where towering rock cliffs look over the ocean and the life that swells within it that Elkie was born.

Early one morning when the mist is still rising above the great ocean, Elkie sees something in the distance that she hasn't seen before.

What is it? And what does its presence mean for Elkie and her family?

It isn't a living thing. It groans as it moves closer to Elkie and her family, threatening in its mysterious presence.

"In the simple world of ocean survival this book puts into pictures the delicate beauty and serenity of ocean life and the hope of the creatures beneath so beautifully... A treasure of a book to be loved for many generations to come..." Daphne, Indie Book reviewer.

ISBN	9781922751690
Publication Date	MAY 23 2022
Format	Paperback
Audience	Children
For Ages	3 - 7
Location	Windang, NSW

Price available on our site.

AUTHOR BIO



Maria started her career as a children's nurse. She then went on to study a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Aboriginal Studies and Communication Studies. Children's Literature soon became a new and engaging area of interest for her during this time; one that continues today.

This is Maria's first publication as an emerging author, and she is currently in the process of writing her next picture book for children.

She feels lucky to be the mother of her four adult children and three grandchildren who live close by on the NSW south coast.

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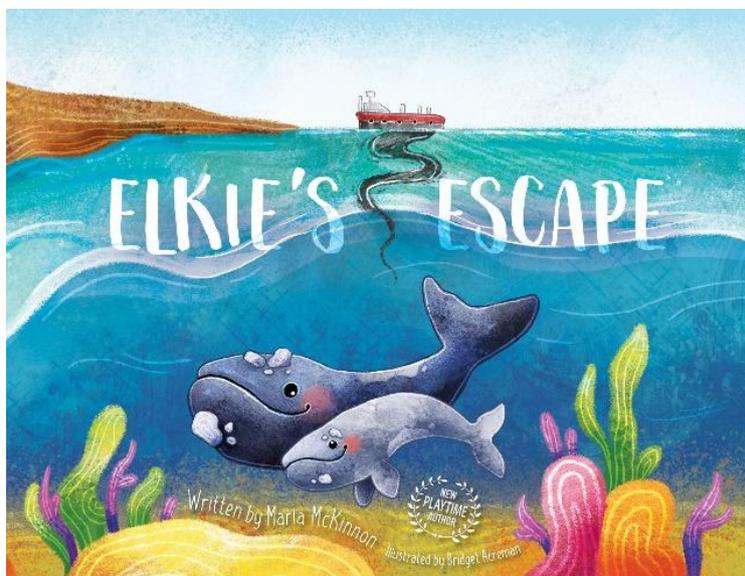
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'ELKIE'S ESCAPE'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

The inspiration for this book came from visiting the head of the Great Australian Bight some eighteen years ago. I kept a journal at this time whilst driving from NSW to Western Australia. It was the firsthand experience of witnessing such majestic beauty though that stayed with me. When I was there it was spring when the southern right whales migrate to warmer waters to breed. At this time, there was also a threat to these waters due to a proposed oil drilling project, which has since been banned. Since then, I've wanted to share the majesty of the ocean and its life forms in this story. I also want to speak about environmental threats in the fictional account of the oil spill; one that is readily seen by young children through both the text and illustrations.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE BOOKS?

I will continue with the second story that I'm currently working on. In addition, I will collect ideas as they come to me, and work on them as writing exercises, and from there, create more stories for children.

DO YOU WANT EACH BOOK TO STAND ON ITS OWN, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO BUILD A BODY OF WORK WITH CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EACH BOOK?

I am open to the possibility of building a body of fictional work but am currently pursuing stand-alone stories for children.

DO YOU TRY TO BE ORIGINAL OR TO DELIVER TO READERS WHAT THEY WANT?

I largely write from an imaginative space. Having said that, some of my stories emerge from my own experience, such as my experience of the Great Australian Bight in this story but are shaped in a fictional narrative.

WHAT LITERARY PILGRIMAGES HAVE YOU GONE ON?

I have studied children's literature at university. I have also undertaken freelance writing and am currently studying a course in creative non-fiction writing through the Australian Writers Centre. I also regularly attend author talks hosted at my local library.

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