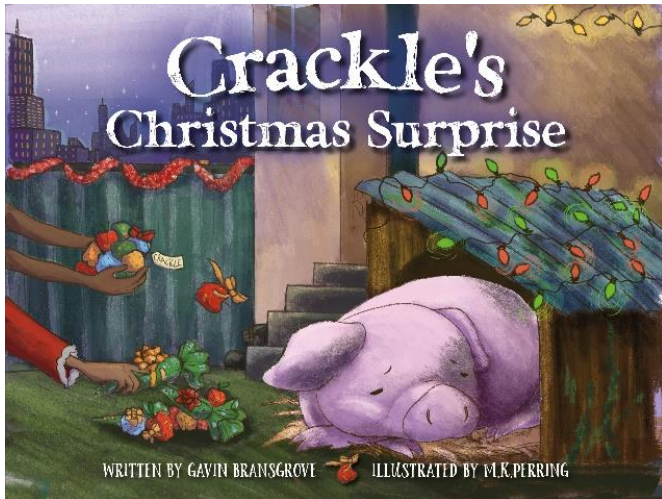


# Crackle's Christmas Surprise

WRITTEN BY GAVIN BRANSGROVE - ILLUSTRATED BY M.K. PERRING



**CRACKLE IS A PET PIG WHO PREFERS LIVING INSIDE THE HOUSE RATHER THAN IN HER PEN OUTSIDE.**

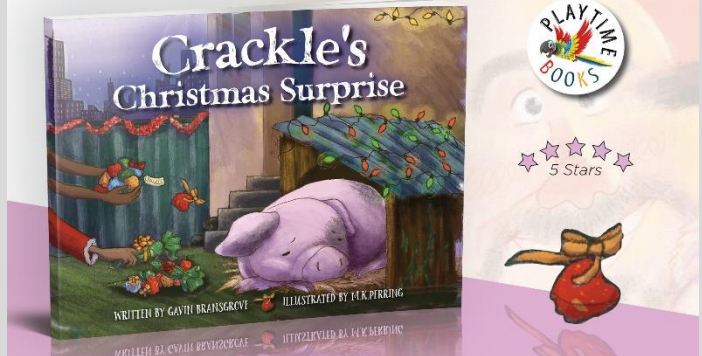
That is until one Christmas, she does something terrible. Immediately she is banished outside to her pig pen with the threat of *NO* Christmas presents from Santa.

Then two little boys organise a clever surprise for Crackle.

**Will she be forgiven?**

**"A sweet story of forgiveness during Christmas and what being loved is all about."**

Amanda, Indiebook reviewer



## AUTHOR BIO

Gavin grew up on a dairy farm in Gippsland, Victoria. After completing Year 12 at Warragul High School he went on to train as a teacher and spent over forty years in education both as a teacher and principal. Now happily retired, he has time to devote to one of his passions - writing for children and young adults. *Crackle's Christmas Surprise* emanated from these experiences and his observations of his own children and grandchildren.

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Format	Paperback
Audience	Children
For Ages	3 - 8
Location	Melbourne, VIC

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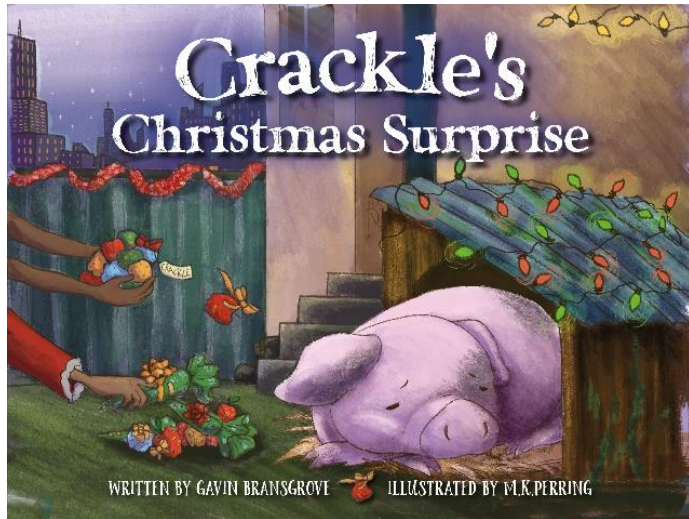
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## A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

### WHY DID YOU WRITE 'CRACKLE'S CHRISTMAS SURPRISE? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

*Primarily I wrote this book for my grandchildren, Henry & Jack. They were my inspiration. However, the inspiration to include a pig as the main character came from firsthand experience. Every Saturday morning, I took my grandchildren swimming, and next door to the pool lived a man who owned a pig - a rare pet to have in suburban Melbourne! The pig had the run of the backyard and was even allowed inside the house! My imagination embellished this a little to include being taken for walks, riding in his car and so on. Henry and Jack just love Christmas and its traditions, so I decided to incorporate these into the story too. The "gorgeous Christmas carousel" which Crackle knocks off the table is a family heirloom. Henry and Jack are both very familiar with it.*

### HOW DO YOU CREATE OR MODEL YOUR CHARACTERS TO FIT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STORY AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE READERS?

*I try to shape the characters so the intended audience (young children) can easily relate to them. For example, describing a Christmas scene and including Christmas traditions that are readily identified and provide global appeal. This culminates in the two boys in the story taking on the role of Santa Claus!*

### WHAT WAS AN EARLY EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU LEARNED THAT LANGUAGE HAD POWER?

*As a primary school class teacher, I always read a serial to my students each day. For example, Charlotte's Web, Charlie and the Chocolate Family, The Silver Sword, Emil and the Detectives and many, many more. These stories mesmerised the students - you could hear a pin drop while reading to them. And more often than not, as we ended a chapter, they begged for more! Often this was used as a reward to complete their other learning in time for an extra chapter just before home time!*

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

*Both. I want to create my own story, but I also like to keep in mind the reader's perspective. Will they relate to my work? If not, I'm failing them.*

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