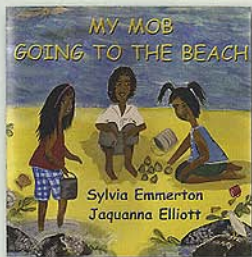


June 2005



My Mob Going to the Beach.

Written by Sylvia Emmerton
Illustrated by Jaquanna Elliott

There's a wonderful, joyful energy to this story of a family going to the beach; a journey that involves a longish walk and an overnight stay. The story of the journey is narrated by the three youngest children telling us what the group did at various stages in the journey and ending each description with the phrase 'But not us'. We then turn the page to see what these three young children did instead. None of what they did is predictable, so there is genuine anticipation and delight following each 'But not us'.



This is a terrific story to share, and to inspire other stories with a 'but not us' theme. Jaquanna Elliott's gouache paintings are rich in detail and full of life. It all looks and sounds like everyone is having such a good time you'll wish you were there! An outstanding debut from this talented duo.

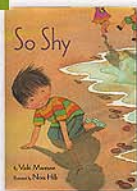
★★★★★ Black Ink Press \$15.00
Age guide 3+

So Shy

Written by Vicki Morrison
Illustrated by Nora Hilb

Shyness is quite common in children, many grow out of it, but equally many do not and it can have enormous consequences in adulthood. Vicki Morrison wrote this story in an effort to get the issue discussed and make children aware of the condition. It's a book shy children will appreciate and will help the non-shy understand those children who don't interact easily, those who seem standoffish and distant.

Jake is shy, his only friend his shadow who is his constant companion in everything he does. Jake loves his shadow – he just wishes he could talk. There is no real



reason for Jake to be alone, he is surrounded by other children but doesn't know how to make friends, how to talk to them, how to ask to be part of their games.

When he meets a young girl whose cat is stuck in a tree, it's the start of a new friendship and perhaps the start of Jake learning how to be friends.

Nola Hilb's watercoloured illustrations portray Jake's world simply and realistically; but the absence of other children on each page highlights the loneliness of Jake's life.

★★★★ North-South Books \$24.95
Age guide 3+



Run, Hare, Run!
The Story of a Drawing

Written & illustrated by John Winch

This sumptuous picture book was inspired by a drawing: Dürer's *The Hare*. John Winch has long been fascinated by the drawing and this book is his attempt to understand it, particularly, what inspired it and was the hare drawn from life or a museum specimen?

But we only learn this information once we've finished the book. Before then, we're taken on a journey as we follow a young hare eluding capture by a hunter and his dog. It's a tale of near misses and one charged with anxiety for the hare and for us. When he is caught, we and the hare fear the worst, but the 'hunter' merely wants to draw him and then set him free.

Winch's rich oil paintings brilliantly recreate the period and the feel of Austria in the late 15th, early 16th centuries. On its own it's an exciting read, the added bonus is that it will provoke interest in the inspiration for other works of art.

★★★★ Little Hare \$24.95
Age guide 3+



The Bilbies of Bliss

Written by Margaret Wild
Illustrated by Noela Young

Biba Bilby has saved all her life so that in retirement she could move into the beautiful Home for Old Bilbies. And when she does, she is so pleased to be there that she overlooks the fact that Matron is a tyrant. But then Nina arrives, and suddenly Biba can no longer turn a blind eye.

A triumphant story, that has resonances for all ages and one that is sympathetically illustrated by Noela Young. I particularly loved the detail in the beautiful clothes of the residents, and the cosy and comfortable rooms of the Home, all a sharp contrast to the more austere clothes and countenance of Matron.

★★★★ ABC Books \$27.95
Age guide 4+

The Bilbies of Bliss

