



## Episode 55 - New Kids on the Block



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#### James Layton - Publisher, Larrikin House

As the owner of Learning Discovery, one of Australia's largest booksellers to the education market, James Layton has been buying and selling children's books for close to 30 years. James is excited to share what he's learnt from his experience working directly with young readers and believes this gives our new imprint a clear direction and focus to ensure we're creating books that 'Little Larrikins' will love. The name Larrikin is the perfect fit because it fully encapsulates the heartbeat of what he loves most about children's books; stories with humour & heart.

So far Larrikin House has been described by others as 'left of centre', 'cheeky', 'naughty' & 'quirky'. – Exactly what James had hoped for! In 2020 Larrikin House published their first fourteen picture books, with another twenty in production for 2021. With new submissions coming in daily, watch this space for some great emerging Aussie talent. Over 80% of Larrikin House books are from first-time published authors & illustrators too!

Find out more about **Larrikin House** here:

Website: [larrikinhouse.com](http://larrikinhouse.com)

Facebook: [@larrikinhouse](https://www.facebook.com/larrikinhouse)

Instagram: [@larrikinhouse](https://www.instagram.com/larrikinhouse)



### **Mary Anastasiou - Creative Director, Larrikin House**

Mary Anastasiou has been telling stories her whole life. From the outlandish and silly tales she told as a child growing up in Melbourne, Australia, to the response-driven marketing campaigns she delivers in her career as Creative Director at Imagine Creative.

The arrival of her son Luke in 2008 inspired Mary to fulfil a lifelong dream of writing fun, inspiring, and motivating stories that make kids “giggle ‘til their bellies hurt.” Having originally self-published, Mary’s first picture book *‘I want to be a Rock Star’* was signed and reprinted by indie publishers Larrikin House. *‘Rock Star’* has now become the first in a series of *‘I want to be...’* books with *‘I want to be a Movie Star’* released in 2020 and soon to be followed by *‘I want to be a Sport Star.’*

With 30 years of design and marketing experience under her belt, Mary’s new role as Creative Director for Larrikin House sees her responsible for the development, design and production of all new Larrikin titles. She works exclusively with authors and illustrators to create books that (she hopes) will one day become classics.

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## **Kids Capers - Chat with Nathan Luff & Chris Kennett**

**Nathan Luff** grew up on a farm in rural NSW as one of five boys. His colourful upbringing is often the inspiration for the stories he tells. As well as the *Nerd Herd* series, Nathan is the author of Middle Grade novels *Chicken Stu* and *Bad Grammar*. Nathan is also a playwright, having most recently penned the theatrical adaptation of Oliver Phommavanh’s novel *Thai-riffic!* When not writing, Nathan teaches creative and performing arts to primary school students.

**Chris Kennett** has been drawing silly pictures ever since he was a kid, but didn’t start professionally until he was in mid-twenties. Working on everything from greetings cards to lolly catalogues, Chris slowly worked his way into the world of TV animation and eventually children’s publishing. Through his work, he’s been lucky enough to travel to galaxies far far away, spooky schools and now the world’s craziest petting zoo!



**Find out more about Nathan at:**

Website: [nathanluff.com.au](http://nathanluff.com.au)

Facebook: [@nathanluffauthor](https://www.facebook.com/@nathanluffauthor)

Twitter: [@LuffNathan](https://twitter.com/@LuffNathan)

Instagram: [@nathanluffauthor](https://www.instagram.com/@nathanluffauthor)



**Find out more about Chris at:**

Website: [chriskennett.com](http://chriskennett.com)

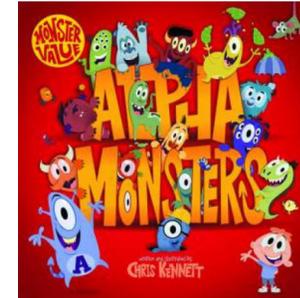
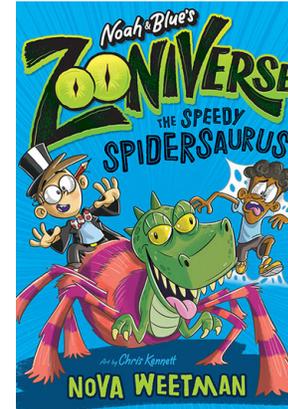
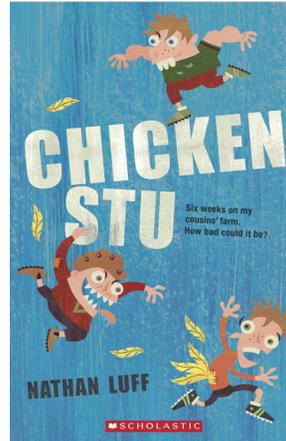
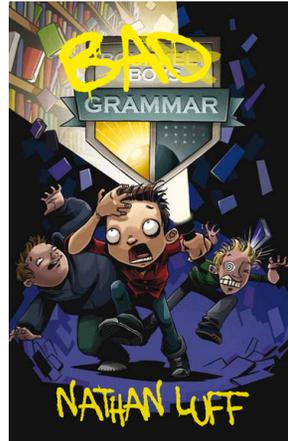
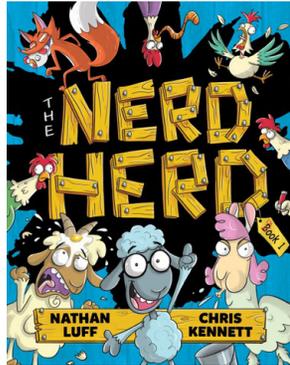
Facebook:

[@ChrisKennettIllustration](https://www.facebook.com/@ChrisKennettIllustration)

Twitter: [@crikeyboy](https://twitter.com/@crikeyboy)

Instagram: [@crikeyboy](https://www.instagram.com/@crikeyboy)

#### BOOKS BY THE BOYS:



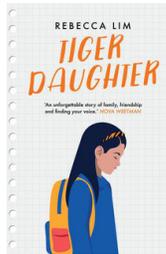
#### ABOUT BEN:

**Ben** is a 9-year-old who loves reading stories, hearing stories and - most of all - telling stories. He's read the entire *Wimpy Kid* several times, and is now working his way through *Harry Potter*. He also enjoys comics, podcasts, riding his mountain bike and fishing with his dad.

Ben is not only a big inspiration for his dad Mike's *Action Tank* graphic novels, he's also a big supporter of them, having made more than a few sales at in the playground.



## Whatcha Readin'?



Kate recommends **Tiger Daughter** by Rebecca Lim, published by Allen & Unwin.

[allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/Tiger-Daughter-Rebecca-Lim-9781760877644](https://allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/Tiger-Daughter-Rebecca-Lim-9781760877644)

Liz recommends **The Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel** by Nicki Greenberg, published by Affirm Press.

[affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-detectives-guide-to-ocean-travel](https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-detectives-guide-to-ocean-travel)

and

**My Bird Bertie** written by Amelia McInerney and illustrated by Shane McGowan, published by Omnibus at Scholastic.

[booktopia.com.au/my-bird-bertie-amelia-mcinerney/book/9781743835111.html](https://booktopia.com.au/my-bird-bertie-amelia-mcinerney/book/9781743835111.html)

## Shout-out

This episode, Kate gives a shout-out to **Writing NSW**, who not only brought us together via a picture book writers group many years ago, but who also doubled as our recording studio for the first two years of the podcast.

At the moment, the future of Writing NSW is under threat due to the loss of its multi-year funding from Create NSW. This is in the context of only 5% of long-term arts funding being granted to the literature sector. While Writing NSW secured short-term funding late last year that will allow it to survive through 2021, its long-term future is still uncertain. If you value Australian writing by Australian authors and you would like to support Writing NSW, you can write to your NSW state MP or to the Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Don Harwin ([office@harwin.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@harwin.minister.nsw.gov.au)) and tell them why you think we should #SaveWritingNSW.

Find out more about the current situation and how you can help at <https://writingnsw.org.au/create-nsw-funding-decision/>.



Nat recommends **Stand Up! Speak Up!** by Andrew Joyner, published by Random House.  
[penguin.com.au/books/stand-up-speak-up-9780593301586](https://penguin.com.au/books/stand-up-speak-up-9780593301586)

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## On Our Radar

On everyone's radar is a big welcome to our brand new member of the OMP family, our new illustrator, Ramona Davey. We thank Marianne Khoo for her amazing work over the last 3 years and are super excited to have Ramona on board for 2021.

Check out Ramona's amazing work at:

Instagram: [@ramonaofjersey](https://www.instagram.com/ramonaofjersey)

Website: [ramonadavey.com](https://ramonadavey.com)

Redbubble store: [redbubble.com/people/JerseyMo](https://www.redbubble.com/people/JerseyMo)



## Competition Details



This episode's special guests, publisher Larrikin House have a manuscript assessment to give away for anyone penning picture books AND a picture book pack with four hardcover new releases – Liz's new book **Walking Your Human** illustrated by Gabriella Petruso, **Ham** by Dhana Fox and Anna Demchenko, **Reggie Red** by Josie Layton and Rebecca Timmis, and **Hugo's Runaway Legs** by Alys Jackson and Leigh Brown.

Head to our [WIN](#) page and simply tell us *what makes YOU a larrikin!*

Enter your answer (or ask a parent to) by 5pm Tuesday 16th March to be in the running.

## Thanks

To illustrators Ramona Davey and Marianne Khoo for all our wonderful One More Page images.

And to our sound editor Adam Orłowski for his wonderful audio genius - check out his other work at [www.aosd.tk](http://www.aosd.tk)

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You can also tag us on social media with: [#onemorepageAU](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/onemorepageAU)

Do you have any feedback or suggestions for future episodes? Want to share with us what you're reading? Email us at [onemorepagepodcast@gmail.com](mailto:onemorepagepodcast@gmail.com) or send us a message through our [CONTACT](#) page.

*all illustrations have been done by Marianne Khoo who we love & appreciate more than she can ever imagine!*

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