

New Australian Author Children's Book Release

When You Found Us

the story of Chance and Ardie

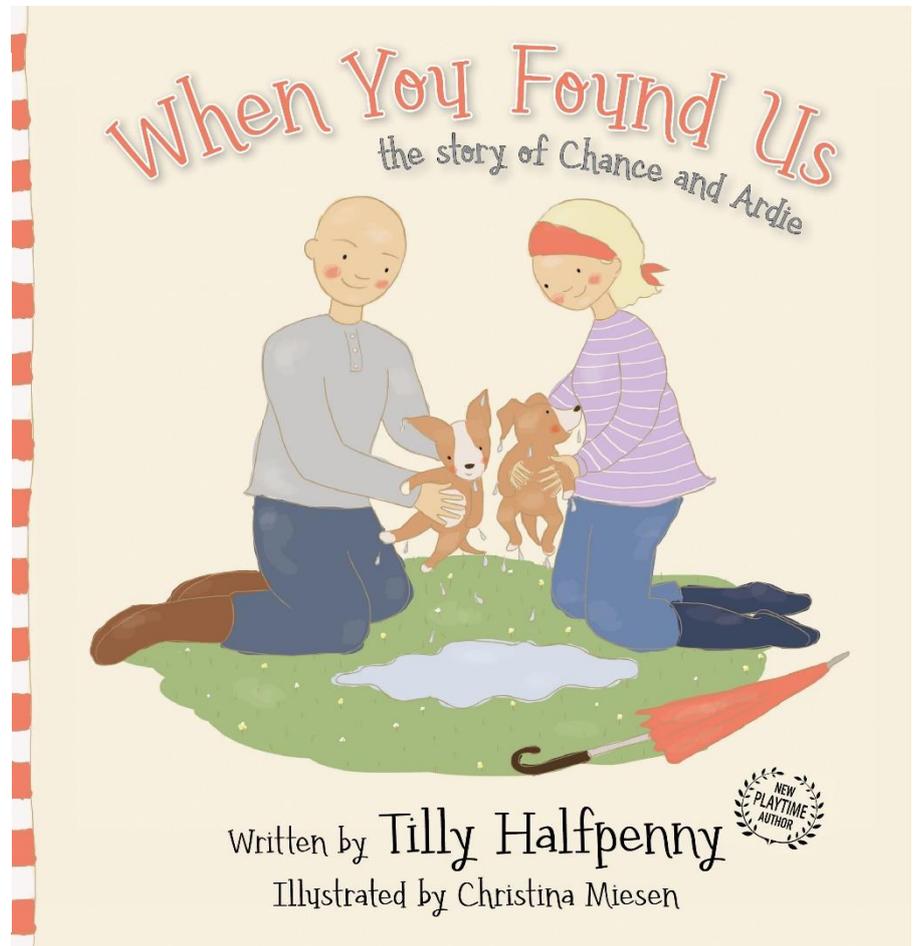
Written by Tilly Halfpenny

Illustrated by Christina Miesen

A larger than life and very true story of two brother puppies named Chance and Ardie, who reside in a strange place wishing for anywhere else to call home.

What do you suppose will happen when their wishes come true?

When all the hugs they dreamed of arrive... and all the yummy food they craved for is devoured and the big, fluffy beds of cushions are worn into like a well snuggled bag of marshmallows... what will life be like for these wonderous brothers who seek what all creatures desire...*happiness!*



RRP: \$16.95

Trade Price: \$9.48

ISBN: 9781922701930

Audience: Children

Format: Paperback

For Ages: 3 - 7 years old

Location: Mardan VIC

Visit shawlinepublishing.com.au for more details on the author, Tilly Halfpenny.

Thank you for supporting a new young children book author from the local community of Mardan. If you require any further communication or information, please contact us directly to organise and confirm as requested and within reasonable timing to help you meet your goals also.

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A Conversation with Tilly

Why did you write 'When You Found Us: The Story of Chance and Ardie'? What were your inspirations?

I wrote this book because of my love for my dogs and I hoped that children would be inspired to read more through their enjoyment of my book about my dogs.

What drew you to the subject matter or the characters?

My dogs are just so funny and loving, it's a subject matter that's so easy to write about. There are so many hilarious antics and heart-warming moments that they create every day that it lends itself so well to a children's book. Many children love animals and will be able to relate to this book, this will get them talking and thinking about their animals and experiences, which will hopefully, in turn help them with their literacy skills.

What are your plans for your future book/s?

My plans are to continue to create books about my dogs and to introduce different topics to my readers that inspire them, challenge their thinking and entertain.

What do you think makes a good story?

A good story is engaging and relatable. It should take you somewhere you've never been, hope to go or remind you of a time or place you enjoyed. A good story should also give you the opportunity to reflect on your life and inspire you for the future. A good story should make you laugh, cry and feel... and cause goosebumps at least once.

Do you like to create books for adults, kids or a cause? Why?

I like to create books for children because as a teacher, I know how important it is for children to be introduced to books and reading as early as possible and for kids to read every day. Many subjects can be explored through good children's literature and reading is a lifelong gift that adults should give to their children.

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

If you want something in life, just give it a go. Creating books and writing has taught me that it's better to have tried and failed than to have done nothing at all.

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

I absolutely love to travel. I am constantly planning trips. When one ends, I start planning another one, which by now my husband just shakes his head because he knows I can't help it. The world is so remarkable and the people are so incredible I just don't want to miss a thing.

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

The people, animals and the environment around me are a constant source of ideas. So too are my students, reading to them every week and talking about what they've read is so interesting and inspiring. Exploring a variety of books and genres helps to support what I create from their feedback and enthusiasm.

How long does it take you to write a book?

The process is a few weeks or months of visualising and drafting the story in my head before putting anything to paper, literally. During this time, I might right down dot points of key ideas, words or characters that I don't want to forget. Then once I feel the storyline is ready, I'll handwrite or type the first draft, sometimes in one sitting or over a few days. Then I'll come back to it for weeks, editing page by page. I never really feel like a book is truly 'finished', there are always so many possibilities or variations, but I do try to get to a point where I feel the heart of the story is complete.

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

I have always enjoyed writing, in my early teens I used to write a lot; short stories and long sagas. I had always dreamed of being a writer once I had established a career that would support my writing dreams. After a few years of teaching, I realised it was the right time to start exploring the option of writing children's books.

Who inspires you?

Animals and nature inspire me. Particularly dogs and their love for their humans. I've always cared for dogs; I got my first dog when I was three. To this day, no matter what country I'm in, I can't walk past a dog in the street without saying hello. My three rescue dogs are my children, my life and the greatest thing I've achieved so far. Living life to the fullest is also a constant inspiration to me. If I'm getting out there, having adventures, trying new things and visiting new places, then I can't help but be inspired.

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