

PRESS RELEASE



Cover art and design by Jo Hunt

***The Raven's Song* by Zana Fraillon and Bren MacDibble**

A unique collaboration between two award-winning Australian authors

Publishing October 2022

'MacDibble and Fraillon combine elements of science-fiction, dystopia and fantasy in this exciting eco-adventure.'

Selected as a One to Watch in The Bookseller Children's Previews

The Raven's Song is an immersive and heart-stopping collaboration between **Zana Fraillon** and **Bren MacDibble**, two of Australia's most admired writers of children's fiction.

The Raven's Song alternates between the stories of Phoenix, who lives in a near-future world impacted by climate change and a devastating pandemic; and Shelby, one hundred years in the future in a post-pandemic, post-pollution, post-city world where each community is exactly three hundred and fifty people sustainably subsisting on seven hundred hectares. It is the story of a world that is beginning to fall apart, and a chance to see it all put back together, *The Raven's Song* is a vision of hope for the future, seen through the eyes of the young people who will fight for it.

Bren MacDibble is a leading voice in eco-fiction for children. She writes wild adventures for those curious about the future and hopes her stories give them courage, and the language to talk about the future they'd like to see. She says of collaborating with Zana on *The Raven's Song*: *'Some books begin in the strangest of places. For The Raven's Song, that place was Twitter. Zana had been picking the brains of the Twitter book folk, and my suggestion of a ruined future city, set us both off on a trail of rambling 'what ifs.'*

Empowering young people to find their voice is a feature of all of Zana Fraillon's books and her work with writers of all ages. She says, *'Our writing experiment was a dream run until Covid hit. We looked at the book we had been writing and at the world unfurling in an eerily similar fashion and had to ask ourselves how could we possibly bring a book about a pandemic into a world being thrown horribly off course by a pandemic? But The Raven's Song is a story of finding hope and strength in an impossible situation and of seeing yourself existing in a deep time that extends beyond the life you live.'*

The Raven's Song is a story of hope, optimism and the power of young people. Coming October 2022.

About the Authors

Bren MacDibble is the author of *How to Bee*, *The Dog Runner* and *Across the Risen Sea*. She has twice been nominated for the Carnegie Medal, is a winner and shortlistee for the Australian Children's Book of the year and three time winner of New Zealand Children's Book of the Year.

Twitter: @MacDibble | Instagram: macdibble | macdibble.com

Zana Fraillon is an internationally acclaimed award-winning author of books for young readers, including *The Bone Sparrow*, which was shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Book Prize and Carnegie Medal and won the Amnesty CILIP Honour Award. Her books have been nominated for the Carnegie Medal three times, and have won the Aurelias Award, The ABIA award, and the honour award in the Australian Children's Book of the Year.

Twitter: @ZanaFraillon | Instagram: zanafraillon | zanafraillon.com

About Old Barn Books

Old Barn Books is an independent publisher of picture, gift and novelty books and fiction for ages 9+. We find our inspiration in nature and from all over the globe and seek to publish powerful writing on themes which will resonate with the reader long after they have closed the book, helping to encourage a lifelong love of reading.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

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Praise for Zana Fraillon

On *The Bone Sparrow*:

'Outstanding... This is an important, heartbreaking book with frequent, unexpected humour, that everyone, whether teenager or adult, should read.' The Guardian

*'Moving and memorable, *The Bone Sparrow* deserves to be read by all who care about our common humanity.'*

S.F. Said, for The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize

'So beautiful, so hopeful, so heartbreaking, so special.' BookTrust

On *The Lost Soul Atlas*:

'A wise and profound fable, beautifully told and deeply affecting.' Anthony McGowan Author

Praise for Bren MacDibble

On *How to Bee*:

'Quirky, original and heartfelt, this is an all too plausible dystopian adventure' The Bookseller

'it's hard to put into words how much I loved [How to Bee], I was utterly moved & enthralled such a wonderful read' Jo Clarke, Author

On *Across the Risen Sea*:

'Atwood-esque dystopia for the young!' Sarah Stuffins, FCBG

'utterly gripping environmental thriller' Fiona Noble, The Bookseller