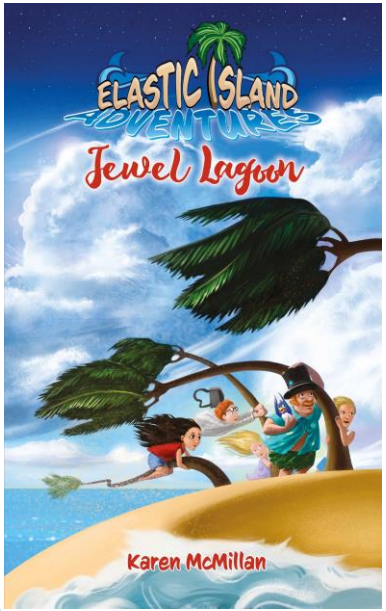
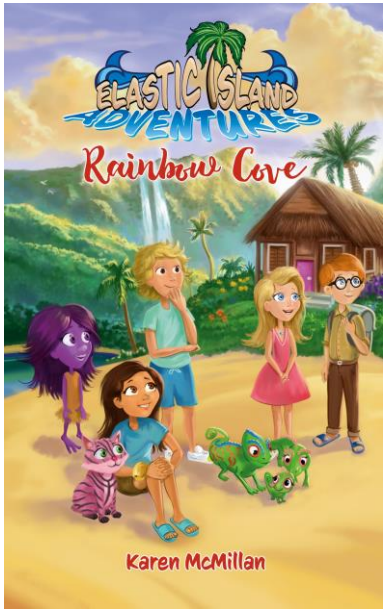
Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020





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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Karen McMillan is the author of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, published in nine countries.

Fiction works include the novels *Brushstrokes of Memory, Watching Over Me, The Paris of the East, The Paris of the West,* and the delightful collection of short stories *Shaggy Dog and Fishy Cat Tales.*

Her non-fiction titles include *Everyday Strength, Unbreakable Spirit, Love Bytes, Unleash Your Inner Seductress*, and *From the Blitz to the Burmese Jungle and Beyond.*

Karen is also the author of the junior fiction children's book series, *Elastic Island Adventures,* that have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media to be made into a series of movies. The first movie is in initial development, and a theme song written by Murray Grindlay has already been recorded. A film script has been written, adapted from book one. Fuzzy Duckling Media are in discussions currently with key studios. Karen is also working on a range of stand- alone *Elastic Island Adventures* picture books for younger readers, the first, *Blong the Cat's Costume Caper.*

For more information about Karen and her writing visit www.karenm.co.nz.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

An action-adventure series for children 8 – 12 years! Four children, Kiri, Emma, Ethan and Jed discover an 'elastic island' that can send them pinging across the ocean to a variety of tropical destinations. In each book of the series to survive the children must work together, strengthen friendships and trust, learn resilience, confidence and new skills.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

The Elastic Island service is a scheduled service, run by Mr Jollybowler. In each book there is a different assistant parrot, as well as a different challenge for the children to pay for their fare.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

In each book of the *Elastic Island Adventures* series there is one real life unusual creature. Book one features a platypus, book two a family of quokkas, book three chameleons, book four a wombat, book five a bilby, and book six a blue-footed booby.

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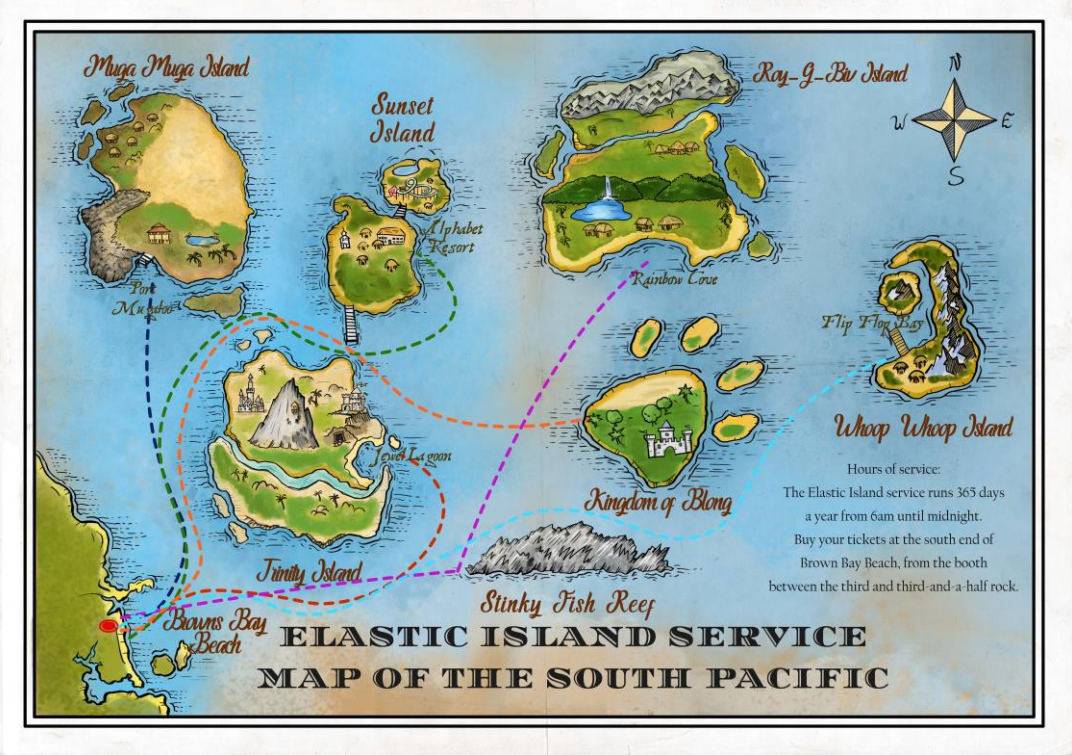

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Jewel Lagoon is the first in an exciting series of books for children, a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific!

Four children, Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan, discover an 'elastic' island that can send them pinging across the ocean to a variety of tropical island destinations. Landing at Jewel Lagoon on Trinity Island, the children quickly find themselves in trouble. But even with help from the colourful creatures they meet – Pangali the Platypus, Olaf the Giant, and Big Wig and Wee Wig Knockulous – will they be able to return home safely?

The series has been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media who are in the initial stages of developing it into a feature film, and a film script has now been written.

Movie rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Port Mugaloo is the second in an exciting series of books for children, a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific!

Four children, Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan, discover an 'elastic' island that can send them pinging across the ocean to a variety of tropical island destinations. Their last destination spelt trouble, so this time the children are determined to have a relaxed and safe time when they visit Port Mugaloo on MugaMuga Island. But Ethan falls into a pond and becomes invisible – and the only one who can help them is King Shiny. But King Shiny has gone missing looking for the long-lost royal treasure, so they enlist the help of Mrs Quokka and travel across the desert on a seven-humped camel into very dangerous territory to find him. But have the children made a mistake in trusting Mrs Quokka? They soon learn that quokkas might be famous for their 'quokka logic' but mostly it doesn't make any sense!

Movie rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.

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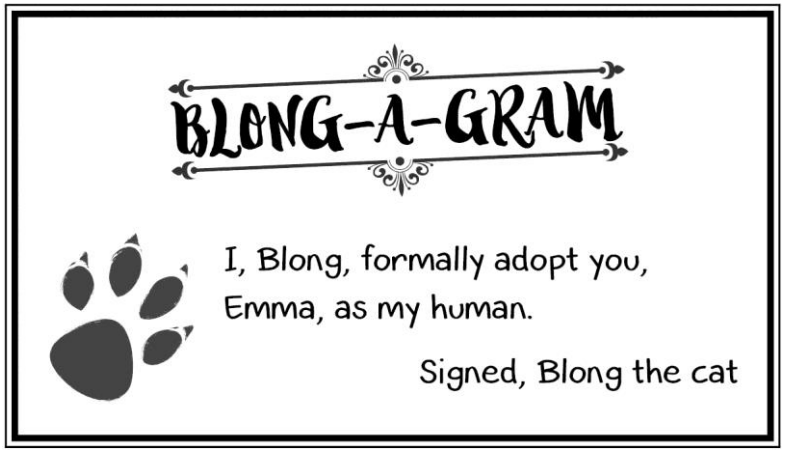
Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Introducing Blong the Cat, a recurring character from book two onwards – a special cat who can create Blong-a-Grams when he wants to make something formal. He also features in the picture book Blong the Cat's Costume Caper.



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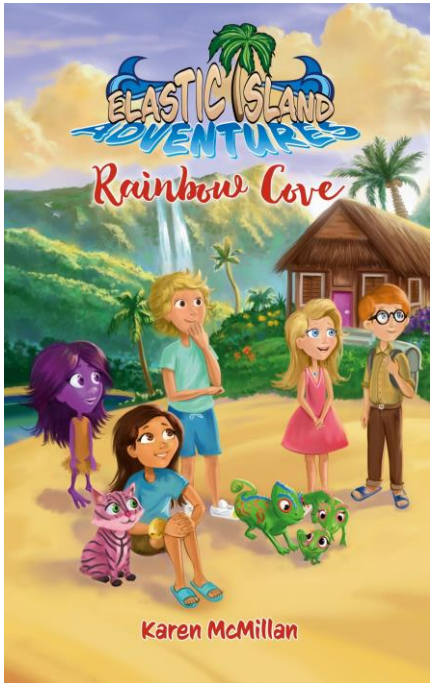

Rainbow Cove is the third in an exciting series of books for children, a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific!

Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan, discover an 'elastic' island that sends them pinging across the ocean to a variety of destinations. When they visit Rainbow Cove, they discover creatures called frivals who are responsible for maintaining the colours of the island. But the frivals have gone on strike after the local people didn't like them changing all the colours around – and now the island is slowly fading to grey. Because of this the chameleons are in danger of dying, so the children set out to find the frivals missing leader in the hope of saving them. But will they succeed before it is too late?

Movie rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Alphabet Resort is the fourth in an exciting series of books for children, a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific!

Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan, discover an 'elastic' island that sends them pinging across the ocean to a variety of destinations. The children are excited to be going to the wedding of King Shiny and Princess Topaz and are delighted to see many other characters from their previous adventures at Alphabet Resort. Love is in the air, especially when they encounter Wombo the Wombat, a bachelor looking for love, who they decide to help. But then Princess Topaz is kidnapped, and everyone begins a frantic hunt to find her. Will they find her in time for the wedding, and will Wombo the Wombat succeed in finding love?

Will be publishing April 2020. Movie rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Kingdom of Blong is the fifth in an exciting series of books for children, a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific!

Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan, discover an 'elastic' island that sends them pinging across the ocean to a variety of destinations. When they arrive at the Kingdom of Blong, they discover that Blong the Cat is the island's missing king. Blong is greeted with a great deal of fanfare, but it looks like fame might be the ruin of him. Will Blong's relationship with Emma survive? And why did Baxter the Bilby decide to bring his fellow bilbies to a dangerous island ruled by cats? Will they end up on the dinner menu, or will they survive?

Publishing date tbc. Movie rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Flip Flop Bay is the sixth in a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific.

Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan discover an 'elastic' island that sends them pinging across the ocean to a variety of destinations. Bob the Blue-Footed Booby is running a flying school, which sounded like fun until the children discovered that this means dressing in weird costumes and launching themselves off the end of the wharf. It's the latest silly idea in a series of doomed ventures from Bob the Blue-Footed Booby, who is trying to save their small fishing village from closure. But before anyone else gets hurt, can the children come up with an idea that will save the island and its kooky inhabitants? And even if they do come up with a great solution, will the Boobies be smart enough to make it happen?

Publishing date tbc. Movie rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.

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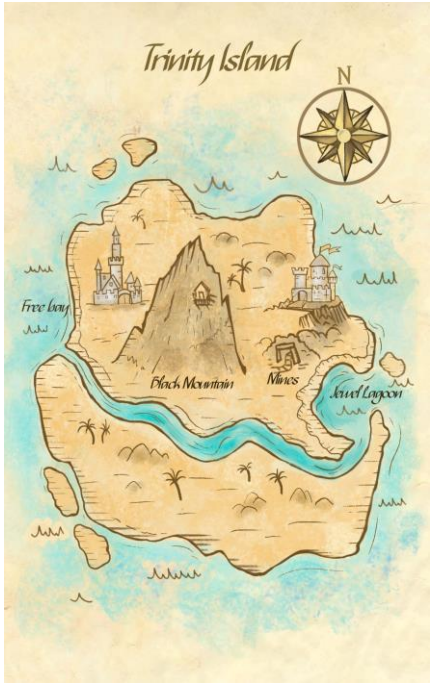

More information about Elastic Island Adventures

Karen wrote *Elastic Island Adventures* purely for fun, and some of the characters are inspired by stories she wrote as a child that was serialized in the children's pages of a nationwide New Zealand Sunday newspaper. The manuscript had been forgotten while working on other book projects – but wanting to do a book that she could enjoy with her husband's granddaughter, Milla, prompted her to dig out the manuscript. She is now working on book numbers five and six with input from Milla, and has more ideas for an ongoing series.

Karen was awarded a Creative NZ Grant to enable her to do a book tour in Brisbane Australia in August 2018, visiting schools and doing media interviews. She has also been invited to go to the Tauranga Arts Festival in October 2019.

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Karen McMillan Children's Catalogue 2020

Praise for the Elastic Island Adventure Series:

'A fast-paced, original story aimed at readers eight to 12.' ***North & South Magazine***

'It's an action-packed and fast-paced read. *Jewel Lagoon* will inspire the next generation of Kiwi writers, while also appealing to those readers who start to lose momentum around that age, the so called 'reluctant' reader. It's a fast paced, exciting, and original story that keeps you entertained from the beginning to the very end.' ***NZ Booklovers***

'An enjoyable and entertaining runaway adventure for children with a cast of colourful characters, including four children transported by an elastic island to a kingdom in trouble. I was hooked from the beginning.' ***Radio Southland.***

'The story is wildly creative and populated with an array of vibrant characters, including adaptations of animals many children will recognise. The four main characters: Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma, and Ethan, have distinct personalities and varying skill sets which help them navigate through the challenges they face on their adventure. Children will identify with particular characters as they find common denominators with their own lives.' ***Flaxflower***

'From Karen McMillan comes *Port Mugaloo*, the second in her *Elastic Island Adventure* series aimed at kids aged 8-12. Her stories about four children going off on holiday on their own and having adventures are reminiscent of the *Famous Five* but these are more fantastical and told with a quirky sense of humour.' ***Grownups.co.nz***

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Just a little of the feedback from children:

'My favourite character from Jewel Lagoon is Emma, because she is a lot like me. She is also very nice and dreamy, and she likes school, which is good and different from most other characters from books I've read in the past! I also like Kiri because she can say what she thinks, she's crazy and reminds me of my sister!' Maisie

'My favourite character from Jewel lagoon is Mr Jollybower because he just seems like he is one of those people you love to hang out with. I love his personality and features, I love the way he dresses and his moustache and sideburns.' Lexie

'I like Emma because just like me she likes to read. I also like Ethan because he is funny and likes to build knew things and thinks outside the box! In elastic island I honestly enjoy everything Karen McMillan!' Emily

'You are probably my favourite author that writes fiction books. Bye Elastic Island GO! GO! GO!' Elsa

'Kiri is my favourite because she loves singing as much as I do and she just has a great personality like me! we kind of look the same too 😂 (by the way your books are soooo good written Karen)' Hannah

'I really enjoyed Port Mugaloo. I loved the children's adventures, and didn't want to stop reading! My favourite characters were Blong the Cat, (his Blong-a-grams were very funny), and Mrs Quokka. I will get Mum to make the Quokka Lemon Cake.' Cole

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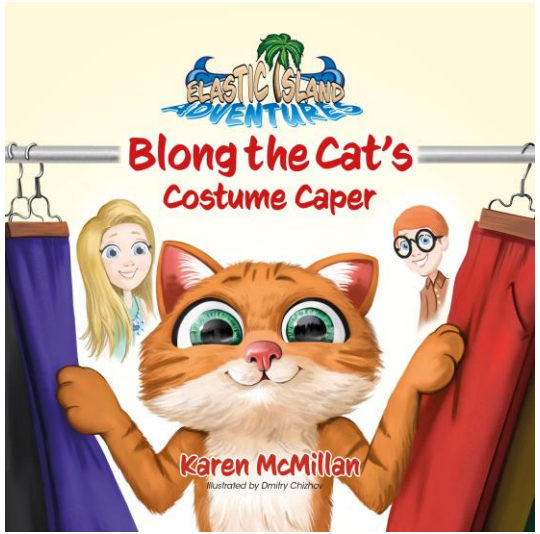


A new spin-off series of picture books for younger readers, to complement the main series! For ages 3+

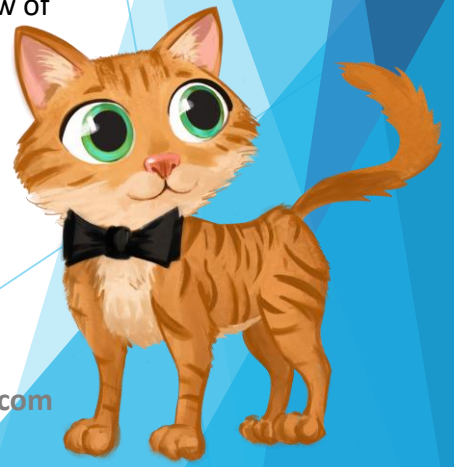
First in the series: Blong the Cat's Costume Caper
From the bestselling *Elastic Island Adventures* series comes a delightful stand-alone book featuring one of its favourite characters, Blong the Cat.

Blong goes shopping to buy a special outfit to wear to a wedding, but not everyone likes his choices!

A story of costumes, numbers and dancing, all wrapped up in a bow of kindness.

More titles are planned, featuring Blong the Cat.

TV rights have been optioned by Fuzzy Duckling Media.



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Blong the Cat Goes Shopping

The third thing that caught Blong's eye was a floral lei that he put on.

Blong did a hula dance in front of the mirror.

'You look attractive,' said Emma.

'Oh, Blong, you Ding-Dong,' said Ethan. 'It's too flowery.'

'Oh,' said Blong, sounding glum. 'I liked this floral lei. I thought it was special. But I will look for something else.'

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