

## Press Release

# “Where Do Odd Socks Go?”

Have you ever wondered where do odd socks go? I have for most of my life! I love kids, their imagination, their endless curiosity, especially 6 to 10-year olds. My home has always been an open, revolving door for kids to stay for weekends, months and in some cases years until they found their feet.

I wrote the book because on the surface I wanted to create characters that were fun and relatable, concurrently showing a story it is okay to be different.

I purposefully picked the twins as a girl and boy because I wanted them to both equally have the same strength and intelligence.

I created the animals as indigenous to the countries they came from. I also wanted to upend conventional bias but at the same time weave in true fun facts about the animals. For instance, cats don't like poeey smells. There are 17 fun facts hidden throughout the book. I wanted to stretch children's imaginations. Most of the kids I have come in contact with are curious and say, "I didn't know that" then go looking for the six-fingered panda.



Creating the socks and their personalities was a labour of love. I talked to my cohort of kids and asked them how they felt about school, the playground and a myriad of things. It blew my mind. I came to realise that although they felt different they didn't want to be different. My socks are a metaphor for what kids perceive life to be like; a sporty kid, a skinny kid, a gay kid, a kid that is bullied, a poor kid, a smelly kid and a disabled kid. The socks are lost in all the usual places; back of the couch, in a gum boot. etc...

From a political standpoint my “Odd Socks” also represent my passion to see justice and kindness for refugees and people seeking asylum. (The number around the world has now topped 65 million). I wanted to tease out the threads of caring, cultural difference and belonging, challenging the realities of abandonment and dogmatism by “... or so she thought”.

I take kids on the journey to the place where socks began (Egypt) and perhaps who knows there could be a series as the next place is to find the naughty sock in Peru ... but that is a thread for another day.

I want kids to read **Where Do Odd Socks Go?** and embrace their weird!

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