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## MEDIA KIT



Press Release

Author Bio

Author Interview

Book Excerpt

Contact

### Cloud Conductor

Kellie Byrnes/ Ann-Marie Finn

ISBN: 978-1925563344

Recommended retail: \$24.99

Reading level: Age 5-8





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## PRESS RELEASE

### Head In the Clouds

Debut author, Kellie Byrnes, has written a picture book encouraging kids to have their heads in the clouds—as cloud conductors.

*Cloud Conductor* is heartfelt story about a convalescent child who can escape her hardships through daydreaming.

Kids who have their “heads in the clouds” are often attributed with attention disorders and misbehaviour in schools, but Kellie stresses the importance of a ‘wandering’ mind during childhood.

“Our imagination can be used as a reprieve from real life, to ‘power up’ like avatars in video games do,” said Kellie.

“It’s important for adults to find ways to continually encourage children to explore their imaginations and find inventive ways of seeing the world.”

*Cloud Conductor* follows Frankie through the seasons, as she is taken away from her sickbed on the tales she creates as a cloud conductor.

Children will be enchanted as they learn to become cloud conductors too, no matter where they are or what situation they are in.

“No matter our age, I think we all need escapism in our lives at some points. Sometimes when things are outside our control and affecting us negatively, the best thing to do is just escape for a time and leave our troubles behind,” said Kellie.

The book ultimately addresses how having an imaginative mind can help a child solve problems and perceive the world in a fresh way.

*Cloud Conductor* will be released by Wombat Books on 1 May and will be available at all good bookstores and online at [www.wombatbooks.com.au](http://www.wombatbooks.com.au).

Kellie is a children’s author, full-time freelance writer, and book reviewer. When she’s not busy writing, reading or coming up with new ideas, Kellie can be found walking her two dogs, checking out movies, plays and musicals, or travelling as far and wide as she can for inspiration.

- ENDS -

## About the Author:



Kellie Byrnes is a children's author, full-time freelance writer, and book reviewer. Her debut picture book, *Cloud Conductor*, was released by Wombat Books in 2018 and *Yes! No* will be published in 2019.

Kellie has a BA degree in Literature; over five years of experience copywriting; and has spent time in marketing, PR and publishing roles. She previously worked as a publishing assistant for Pan Macmillan, and as a sales rep for Pan and later Hardie Grant Gift (Taltrade Books at the time).

When she's not busy writing, reading or coming up with new ideas, Kellie can be found walking her two dogs, checking out movies, plays and musicals, or travelling as far and wide as she can for inspiration.

For more information, visit [www.KellieByrnes.com](http://www.KellieByrnes.com).

## About the Illustrator



Ann-Marie Finn is an illustrator and author of children's books. She lives in Brisbane with her two young boys who inspire new stories and ideas every day. She started her career in the UK, but migrated to warmer climates in 2007 and is now a happy Australian and proud owner of The Mad Hatters Bookshop in Manly, Queensland.

She has a growing collection of children's books to her name, including *A Trip to the Moon*, *Captain Kieron* and *I Despair of my Hair*. She is also the illustrator of *Harrison's Song*, *Eric Finds a Way*, *Lulu* and *My Brother Tom* with Wombat Books.



## Author Interview

## 1. Do you conduct stories in the clouds?

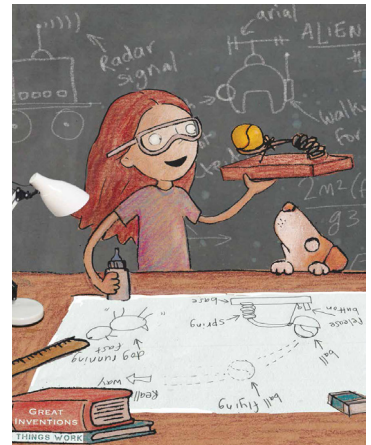
I think a big element of being a writer is having your “head in the clouds” all the time, daydreaming and thinking about “what if?” I’ve always been in my head quite a lot, whether pondering life’s mysteries, or making up stories and thinking about stories I’ve read or seen on the screen and contemplating what the characters might be doing after the story ends. I think daydreaming is a healthy thing to do and that adults and kids should be encouraged to do it every day!

2. The imagination plays a huge part in Cloud Conductor. Why is a child's imagination so important to you personally?

Children have the most amazing imaginations, and it tends to be one of the things adults love most about spending time with them. However, sadly, as people get older, this way of looking at the world with wonder and creative eyes seems to gradually get pushed down. I think it's important for adults to continually encourage children to explore their imaginations and find inventive ways of solving their problems and seeing the world.

### 3. Escapism is very important in Frankie's life. Why is that?

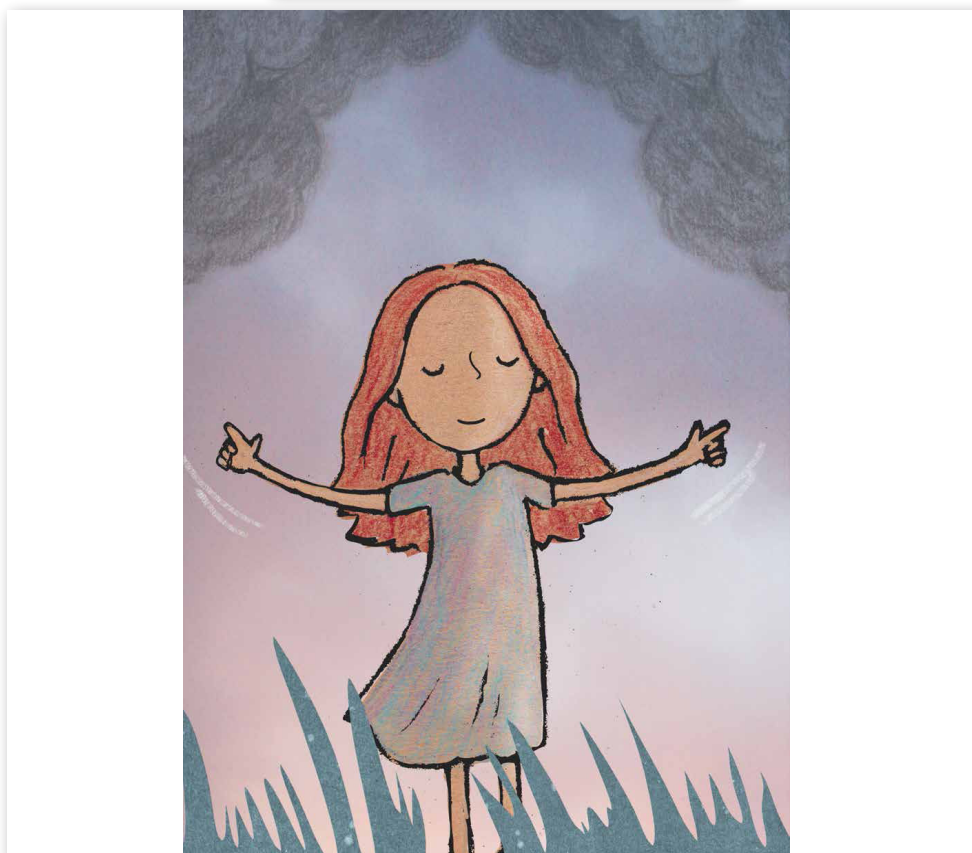
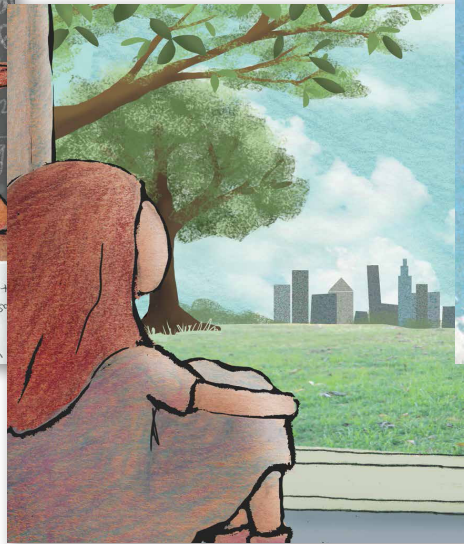
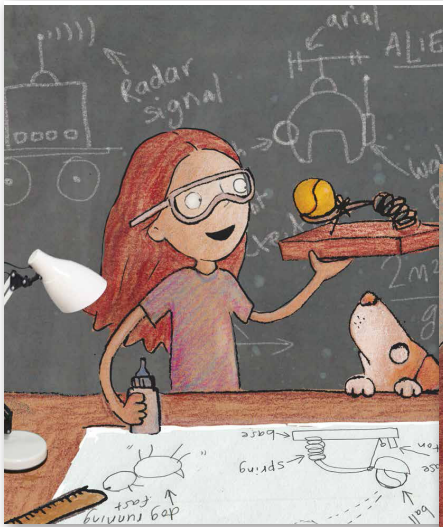
No matter our age, I think we all need escapism in our lives at some points. By escaping through her imagination, Frankie can, for a time, feel more free, happy, and connected. She can also use this reprieve from real life to “power up”, in a way, like avatars in video games do. This renewed strength and extra burst of positivity is then available to help her cope with her pain, both physical and emotional. She can also use it to help others.



#### 4. How does it feel to have your first picture book published?

It feels amazing! This is a life-long dream of mine, and I am so excited and grateful that it has finally been realised. I can't wait to read the book to kids and learn what they see in the clouds. I'm sure I will be amazed by their creativity! I also really hope children who are struggling with illness or any other problem in their life find the book a useful tool to remind them of their own power and strength.

## Book Excerpt





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