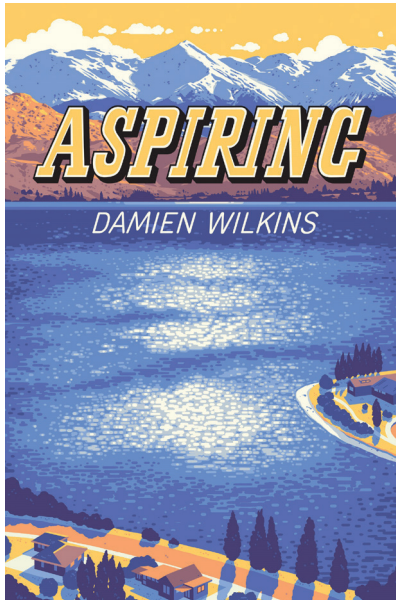




Aspiring

DAMIEN WILKINS



\$22

CATEGORY: Young-adult fiction

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AUTHOR RESIDENCE: Wellington,
New Zealand

AN ENGAGING FUNNY, MOVING NOVEL ABOUT A BOY TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL

Fifteen-year-old Ricky lives in Aspiring, a town that's growing at an alarming rate. Ricky's growing, too — 6'7", and taller every day. But he's stuck in a loop: student, uncommitted basketballer, and puzzled son, burdened by his family's sadness. And who's the weird guy in town with a chauffeur and half a Cadillac? What about the bits of story that invade his head? Uncertain what's real — and who he is — Ricky can't stop sifting for clues. He has no idea how things will end up . . .

With sunlight, verve and humour, award-winning writer Damien Wilkins brings us a beguiling boy who's trying to make sense of it all.

'Described as a "hymn to the internal lives of boys today", *Aspiring* is a must-read for any boy who is in need of such an anthem.' — *New Zealand Herald*

'The story is one you want to stick with, an elaborate yarn told with honesty and hope, mixed with just enough Kiwi quirkiness to smile about in each chapter.' — Dave Tucker, *The Sapling*

'Full of fun, dressed inappropriately and leaping lightly from the highest branch. Forget YA — this is a book for all of us.' — Breton Dukes, *Landfall*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Damien Wilkins has published novels, collections of short stories and a book of poems. He has written for television and theatre. He also writes and records his own songs as The Close Readers. His work has won several awards, including, for *The Miserables* (1993), the New Zealand Book Award. He lives in Wellington, where he is the Director of the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University.

SALES POINTS

- The first ever YA novel by one of New Zealand's most gifted writers
- Excellent classroom/teaching potential. Teacher notes available
- Funny, relatable and endearing
- The novel deals superbly with grief, adolescence, young love
- A unique and fresh narrative
- Set in the New Zealand of our times

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