

Sylvia and the Birds

How the Bird Lady saved thousands of birds, and how you can too

JOHANNA EMENEY & SARAH LAING



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AUTHORS' RESIDENCE: Wellington
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INSPIRING YOUNG READERS TO HELP AND PROTECT OUR NATIVE BIRDS

Part graphic biography, part practical guide to protecting our bird wildlife, this remarkable book for young readers and their families is fully committed to detailing the wonders of our native birds, the threats they face and how we can help them. Based on the life of 'The Bird Lady', Sylvia Durrant, who helped over 140,000 sick, injured and lost birds during her lifetime, it inspires a reverence for the natural world and is a call to action to all young ecologists and environmentalists.

With charming illustrations by Sarah Laing, an engrossing text, mātauranga Māori insights, activities and how-tos, it offers hours of enchantment and engagement.

Whimsical, loving and layered, *Sylvia and the Birds* makes a unique contribution to children's knowledge of the natural world.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Johanna Emenev teaches creative writing at Massey University, where she gained her PhD. She has published three books of poetry: *Apple & Tree* (2011), *Family History* (2017), and *Felt* (2021), and an academic book, *The Rise of Autobiographical Medical Poetry and the Medical Humanities* (2018). Johanna lives on a lifestyle block in North Auckland with her husband and a menagerie of animals.

Sarah Laing is a writer, illustrator, and cartoonist. Her books are *Coming up Roses* (2007), *Dead People's Music* (2009), *The Fall of Light* (2013), *Mansfield and Me: A Graphic Memoir* (2016) and *Let Me Be Frank* (2019), and she co-edited *Three Words: An Anthology of Aotearoa NZ Women's Comics*. In 2010, she was the Sargeson Fellow and in 2013 the University of Auckland/Michael King Writers Centre Fellow. She lives in Wellington with her children.

SALES POINTS

- Driven by two visionary authors — a highly-skilled poet and creative writing teacher, and one of this country's best-known illustrators and graphic novelists
- Elevates the children's book through rich layering and the cartoon sections, which will tempt even reluctant readers to engage and explore
- Activities in the back of the book add another participatory element

