

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Release date:  
Thursday 25th February 2021  
Edinburgh, UK

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## Shortlist Announced for Kelpies Prizes for Writing and Illustration 2020

Almost a year later than anticipated due to Covid, Edinburgh-based publisher Floris Books today announces the shortlists for the delayed Kelpies Prizes for Writing and Illustration 2020. The prizes aim to recognise new Scottish writing and illustration for children.

The largest children's publisher in Scotland revamped the prizes in 2018 with a new focus on developing and nurturing talent in Scotland. Entrants to the 2020 prizes were asked to provide a selection of writing samples or illustrations suitable for a children's book, which showcased their range and creativity.

The Kelpies Prize for Writing Shortlist	The Kelpies Prize for Illustration Shortlist
Finola Burke (Dundee)	Leanne Goodall (Aberdeen)
A. E. Daly (Edinburgh)	Abi Pate (Edinburgh)
Fiona McKeracher (Glasgow)	Sandra Simons (Glasgow)
Jude Reid (Glasgow)	Evonne Summers (Edinburgh)

See overleaf for more details

Editorial Director Eleanor Collins said, "The quality of entries was extremely high, making the task of judging difficult but enjoyable! Our shortlisters showed a lot of skill and creativity in their writing, and we are excited to see what their futures have in store."

Art and Production Director Leah McDowell said, "It was great to see such a wide and varied interpretation of the brief of "My Scotland", with a range of illustration styles and approaches on display. Choosing only four shortlisters was a challenge, but we encourage anyone who didn't make it this time to try again in 2022."

The winners of the Kelpies Prizes for Writing and Illustration will be announced for the first time at a virtual award ceremony on Thursday 13th May. Winners will each receive 9 months of mentoring with Floris Books and £500 cash.

### About the Prizes

**The Kelpies Prize for Writing** was first awarded in 2005 with support from the Scottish Arts Council, now Creative Scotland, and seeks to encourage and reward Scottish writing for children. Previous winners include Scottish Children's Book Award winners Janis Mackay and Alex McCall, and the prize also launched the careers of Kindle bestseller Daniela Sacerdoti and multi-award-winning Lari Don.

**The Kelpies Prize for Illustration** was launched in 2014 as the Kelpies Design & Illustration Prize, with the aim of discovering new Scottish talent in cover design. Kelpies Illustration Prize entrants have gone on to work with Floris Books on projects including [A Secret Diary of the First World War](#) (Darren Gate, 2016 winner) and [The Treasure of the Loch Ness Monster](#) (Nataša Ilinčić, 2017 shortlist).

### Notes for Editors

1. Floris Books is an independent publisher based in Edinburgh. Established over 40 years ago, it is the largest children's publisher in Scotland and winner of the Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year 2016.
2. The Kelpies imprint has been published by Floris Books since 2002 and features quality Scottish books for tots to teens.
3. The winners of the Kelpies Prizes for Writing and Illustration 2020 will be announced on Thursday 13th May 2021. We hope to open entries for 2022 in the autumn.

### More Information

More information from Kirsten Graham, Marketing Campaigns Executive, Floris Books  
✉ [kirsten@florisbooks.co.uk](mailto:kirsten@florisbooks.co.uk) 🌐 [www.discoverkelpies.co.uk/kelpies-prizes](http://www.discoverkelpies.co.uk/kelpies-prizes)

Shortlists in brief overleaf ⇒

# SHORTLIST DETAILS



**Finola Burke** is a primary school teacher who lives in an old, spooky house in Dundee with her husband and two sons. Reading stories is the favourite part of her day and she loves nothing more than putting on a silly voice or two to really make the story come alive.

**Judges comment:** Laugh-out-loud humour and cast of likeable characters, with an impressive ability to write in a range of genres.

**A. E. Daly** grew up in York, studied in Glasgow and Newcastle, and now lives and works in Edinburgh. She has a background in art history and computer science and a lifelong love for science fiction, comic books and ghost stories. She received a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award in 2018.

**Judges comment:** Imaginative, atmospheric and wholly unique with compelling characters and an engaging voice.

**Fiona McKeracher** grew up in Glasgow and Argyll, spending her childhood sailing the Scottish lochs and dreaming of pirates. She has worked as a lawyer and is currently concentrating on her writing. She was shortlisted for the Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award in 2016, and won in 2018.

**Judges comment:** Vividly written, with a pacy plot and a concept that captures both dramatic adventure and real emotional depth.

**Jude Reid** is a surgeon living in Glasgow with her two children and a border collie. She enjoys tabletop roleplaying games, is a keen student of ITF Tae Kwon Do and probably drinks more coffee than she should. She does her best writing at night, which is just as well, as that's the only chance she gets!

**Judges comment:** Assured and engaging characterisation, involving plot, and perfectly pitched tone for middle grade readers.



**Leanne Goodall** grew up in Argyll and is now a student at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. She works with a variety of materials, but likes to specialise in digital painting with a drawing tablet, which allows her to really capture the magic while she explores new places.

**Judges comment:** Beautiful renderings of Scottish landscapes with a sense of magic and wonder, and dynamic compositions

**Abi Pate** lives in Edinburgh, and has recently completed an HND in illustration. With a background in archaeology and palaeontology, she is inspired by the natural world and ancient history. Abi usually works digitally, but likes to incorporate textures and brush strokes made with traditional media.

**Judges comment:** Excellent use of texture and colour, well-balanced compositions, and skilled application of hand lettering.

**Sandra Simons** is a graphic designer and illustrator who grew up in the Netherlands and now lives in Glasgow. She creates illustrated products for her eco-friendly online shop, Little Trinkets Studio. She is inspired by nature, and works in a range of traditional and digital media.

**Judges comment:** Humour and charming character designs used to communicate an important environmental message to young readers.

**Evonne Summers** is based in Edinburgh and recently made the leap into illustration after working as a graphic designer for almost a decade. Looking to capture a sense of fun in her work, Evonne likes to mix graphic design with inky textures and pencil drawings to create lively, engaging illustrations.

**Judges comment:** Engaging material for young readers, with effective use of colour palette and awareness of contemporary design trends.

## BOOKS BY PREVIOUS WINNERS

