

# ELASTIC ISLAND ADVENTURES

## Elastic Island Adventures: Port Mugaloo

By Karen McMillan

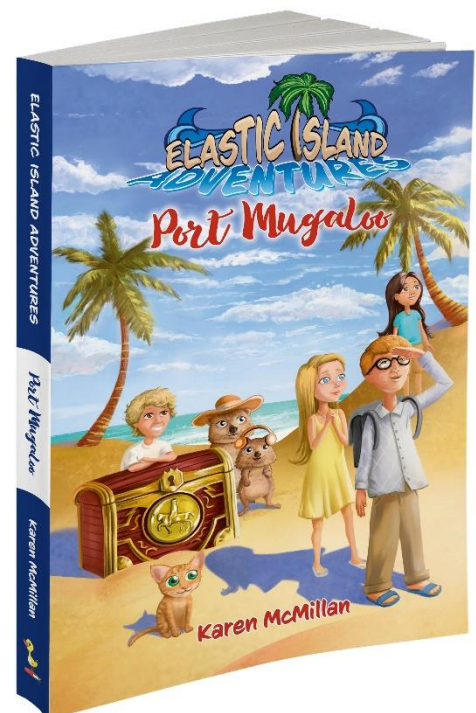
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### About the Book

*Elastic Island Adventures: Port Mugaloo* is the second in an exciting series, a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific. Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan discover an 'elastic' island that sends them pinging across the ocean to a variety of destinations.

Their last destination spelt trouble, so this time the children are determined to have a relaxed and safe time when they visit Port Mugaloo on MugaMuga Island. But Ethan falls into a pond and becomes invisible – and the only one who can help them is King Shiny. But King Shiny has gone missing looking for the long-lost royal treasure, so they enlist the help of Mrs Quokka and travel across the desert on a seven-humped camel into dangerous territory to find him.

But have the children made a mistake in trusting Mrs Quokka? They soon learn that quokkas might be famous for their 'quokka logic,' but mostly it doesn't make any sense!



In each book of *Elastic Island Adventures*, four children travel via the Elastic Island service to different tropical destinations. In each book, they face different problems, and they must work together with the help of local creatures to make it home safely.

Every time the children ride Elastic Island, they must do a challenge to pay for their passage. In *Port Mugaloo*, the children have to take a test. In each book, there is always a different parrot helping Mr Jollybowler, who runs the Elastic Island service. In this book, it is George the Parrot.

Each book also features one unusual real-life creature, in *Port Mugaloo*, it is a family of quokkas.

## About the Author

Karen McMillan lives in New Zealand and is the author of 17 books, published in nine countries, a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

Her non-fiction titles include *Everyday Strength* with co-author chef Sam Mannering, *Unbreakable Spirit*, *Love Bytes* and *Feast or Famine*. Karen has ghost-written *From the Blitz to the Burmese Jungle and Beyond*. Her fiction titles include the bestselling novels *The Paris of the East*, *The Paris of the West* and *Brushstrokes of Memory*. Karen is also the author of the popular *Elastic Island Adventure* series for children, which is in early development to be made into a series of animated movies. Karen wrote *Elastic Island Adventures* purely as a fun family project, and some of the characters are inspired by stories she wrote as a child that were serialized in the children's pages of a nationwide New Zealand Sunday newspaper. She is also working on two spin-off series, one featuring Blong the Cat, the other the very naughty frivals.

Karen is the resident book reviewer on The Cafe TV3 and appears regularly in the media. She has been a speaker at many festivals and events, including the Going West Festival, the Devonport Arts Festival, the Tauranga Arts Festival, and Brisbane Book Week in Australia (thanks to Creative NZ Funding).



## Writing Style

*Port Mugaloo* is an action-adventure story full of nail-biting drama, but also with lots of humour. Building resilience and confidence, problem-solving, looking out for others, dealing with anxiety, making friends, being yourself and developing your talents, kindness and caring for others. The *Elastic Island Adventures* series encourages creativity, where children can enjoy the theatre of their minds!

Four engaging and relatable children feature in each story. Feisty, outspoken Kiri, who often acts before she thinks. Emma, her best friend, shy, bookish and dreamy. Ethan, Emma's twin brother, who loves gadgets and inventing things and who is ever-so-annoying. Jed, the new boy in town, a born leader and athlete.

The text is in third person past tense. *Port Mugaloo* is written for the 8 –12-year-old age group, but younger or older audiences will also enjoy this action-packed story.

## Shared Learning and Discussion Points

### ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- Look at the cover. What do you think the tone of the story might be?
- How has the author set the scene in the first few pages?
- In the first chapter, what do you learn about Kiri, Emma, Ethan and Jed's personalities?
- In the latter half of the first chapter, the children must answer questions as a test. Come up with six questions you would ask if you were George the Parrot.
- Mr Jollybowler asks which is tastier – chocolate or ice cream? Which would you say and why?
- In Chapter 2, the children arrive at Port Mugaloo. How would you describe this place?
- On pages 28 – 33, Jed barter away his ball so that Emma can have *The Unputdownable Book of Mugaloo*. What do you think of the system of bartering, instead of paying money? And would you like to have a book that you couldn't put down?
- In Chapter 3, Ethan falls into a pond and he becomes invisible. List all the positives and negatives of being invisible. Based on your list, would you want to become invisible?
- In Chapter 4, you meet a gang of invisible children called the Shadows. They also have a cat called Puddles. How hard would it be to catch fish that turns invisible to give to an invisible cat? Are there other options for how you might feed Puddles?
- In Chapter 5, the children meet the Quokka Family. What do you know about this unusual real-life creature? In what ways is the Quokka Family like real-life quokkas, and what are some of the differences?
- On pages 59 and 60, Mrs Quokka says three quokka logics to pay for a camel. Can you make up three of your own quokka logics, taking well-known sayings and changing them?
- Can you draw a seven-humped camel? Would you like to ride on a seven-humped camel, and what do you think the experience would be like?
- In Chapter 7, there is a sandstorm. What causes real-life sand or dust storms? What should you do in a storm like this?
- On page 68, everyone is amused by cute baby joey. What do you know about the real quokka joeys? It's a big surprise when Mrs Quokka pulls Jase the teenager quokka from her pouch. Is this element of the story possible or fictional?
- By the end of Chapter 7, you will have noticed the Mrs Quokka has a lot of unusual things in her pouch, including a phone and shovels. What do you think of her logic of her keeping perfume in her handbag, as it's too dangerous to have in her pouch with baby joey? Is this another example of quokka logic?
  - On page 79, there is some conga line dancing. Where did this type of dancing come from originally?
  - On page 93, we discover that the invisible cat called Puddles is really a cat called Blong. What does the name Blong mean? What real-life language does this word come from?
  - On page 95, instead of coughing up furballs like a regular cat, we discover that Blong can cough up a certificate called a Blong-a-gram. If there was something formal you wanted to say to another person, what would you put in your own certificate to someone? What would you call your certificate?



- In Chapter 10, we discover the golden bracelet that Kiri wears is really a living creature but is in hibernation. How does hibernation work, and what are some creatures in the real world that hibernate?
- On pages 108-109, we learn about the royal treasure and what King Shiny wants to do with it when he finds it. What things would you do in your school or community if you suddenly found some treasure? Make a list of five key things you'd like to achieve that would help other people.
- On pages 118-120, we see a different side to Chief Montegrow. He is no longer the fierce warrior, but someone who just wants to be loved for who he is. What was your opinion of Chief Montegrow before this scene, and does his vulnerability change your opinion of him in any way?
- In Chapter 14, the invisible children are made visible again. Can you describe what that would look and feel like?
- In Chapter 15, we discover that Salmon the Sea Dragon is very different from the children's first impressions of him. How important is it not to judge others when we first see them? How accurate is the first impression of someone anyway?
- Salmon has lost a lot of confidence, we learn, in Chapter 15, but Kiri teaches him to swim again. How important is it to try something, even if you are scared, and think you can't do it? How important is it to have someone to help you in this situation?
- On page 155, Chief Montegrow is captured, and he is now partially invisible. If you were King Shiny, what justice would you like to be seen done?
- In Chapter 17, we discover that the quokka family had the missing treasure all along – but was it a surprise when they opened the treasure to find Grandma Quokka? There is a list of the treasure in this chest – but make your own list of what you would like if you had a treasure chest? Be creative, you can put anything you like in your treasure chest!
- At the end of the book, the children decide to go on another adventure. Would you go to Stinky Fish Reef, or would you insist on going somewhere else?
- At the end of the book, there is Mrs Quokka's Lemon Cake Recipe, which is really a recipe of the author's mother. Feel free to bake this lemon cake!



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