

ELASTIC ISLAND ADVENTURES

Elastic Island Adventures: Rainbow Cove

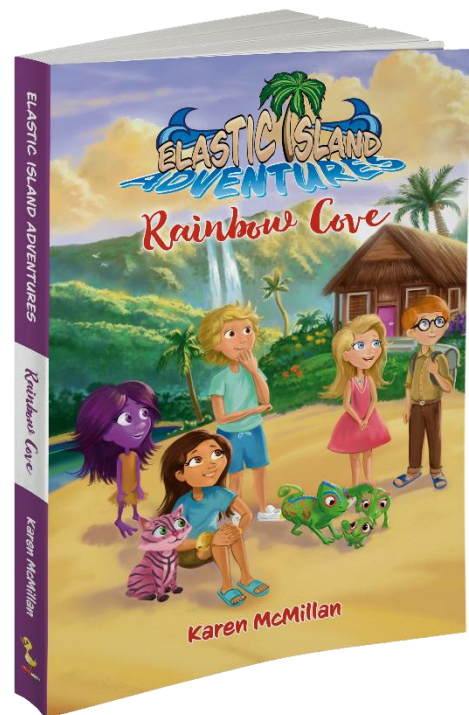
By Karen McMillan

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About the Book

Elastic Island Adventures: Rainbow Cove is the third 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.

When they visit Rainbow Cove, they discover creatures called frivals who are responsible for maintaining the colours of the island. But the frivals have gone on strike after the local people didn't like them changing all the colours around – and now the island is slowly fading to grey. Because of this, the chameleons are in danger of dying, so the children set out to find the frivals missing leader in the hope of saving them. But will they succeed before it is too late?



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 *Rainbow Cove*, the children must climb a palm tree.

In each book, there is always a different parrot helping Mr Jollybowler, who runs the Elastic Island service. In this book, it is Lockie the Lorikeet.

Each book also features one unusual real-life creature, in *Rainbow Cove*, it is a family of chameleons.

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

Rainbow Cove is an action-adventure story full of nail-biting drama, but also with lots of humour. Themes include building resilience and confidence, problem-solving, looking out for others, making friends, being yourself and developing your talents, kindness and caring for others, anti-ageing, and combating depression. 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. *Rainbow Cove* 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, Jed, and Blong the Cat's personalities?
- In the first chapter, we meet a new parrot, Lockie the Lorikeet, a rainbow lorikeet from Australia. Find out what you can about the real-life bird.
- The children take two rides on the Elastic Island before they finally get to Rainbow Cove. What would it feel like riding Elastic Island, even if you have used this service before?
- On page 29, the children and Blong are given flower leis to wear. What tropical flowers would probably be used to make these leis?
- Rainbow Cove is incredibly beautiful and extra colourful. Can you draw the village?
- In Chapter 3, Emma has a book, *All You Need to Know about Colour*. What is your favourite colour? Name six things you can discover about this colour that you didn't know before.
- On page 37, Blong says his favourite colour is the colour of fish. What colour do you think this would really be?
- In Chapter 4, we meet Lucy Mangrove, who runs the local library. She has arranged it by colour. What do you think of this idea? If you were going to arrange a library this way, where would different categories of books fit?
- In Chapter 5, the children meet the Chameleon Family. What do you know about this unusual real-life creature? In what ways is the Chameleon Family like real-life chameleons, and what are some of the differences?
- On page 57, everyone discovers how naughty the frivals have been, painting everything the wrong colour. Devise your own unusual colour scheme for this scene.



- On page 63, Charley the Chameleon's describes the frivals as 'very intelligent but highly frivolous creatures.' The author named the frivals based on the word 'frivolous'. What does this word mean? And what is your impression of the frivals at this point, from what you have read so far?
- On pages 68 and 69, the frivals have a party, and they sing several songs. What are two of your favourite songs you'd like to sing at a party?
- On page 70, even Jed is taken aback by the strange food, and the different colours. Think of your favourite food. Would you still eat it if it was a different colour? Experiment with drawing food with different colours from usual.
- On page 71, Blong is sad when the frival party comes to a sudden stop. Charlotte reminds Blong there is a time and a place for things. What do you think of this idea? Do you agree with her, and why or why not?
- In Chapter 8, we find out about the Grey Zone. The children decide to journey there even though it will be dangerous. Do you think they are doing the right thing? What would you do?

- On page 87, they go to the famous frival storage shed, with 'every hue of every colour imaginable.' Create a list of ten colours with unusual names.
- In Chapter 10, the children wake to find themselves painted in different colours. If you were with them, what colours do you think you would be now? Blong has been painted pink and black zebra stripes by the frivals. If you were a frival, what is another option of what you would have painted him?
- By page 99, we discover that Jed has a phobia – he doesn't like mushrooms. Although this is a made-up phobia, what are some real phobias that people might have?
- On page 101, we learn about frival purple, the most regal colour in the world. When was the colour purple more expensive than gold?
- In Chapter 11, they journey through The Mountain of Doom to the Grey Zone. What would it be like to be in a place so devoid of colour? Do you think you would feel happy or sad being there?
- On page 120-121, Charley the Chameleon takes charge and, with first aid, revives the sick chameleons. What do you think of Charley's character, and what this reveals about him. What do you think of Charlotte the Chameleon now you have been reading the book for a while?
- In Chapter 13, we meet Belly Monster. What is your initial impression of him?
- On pages 140-141, Ethan registers Kiri in the local talent contest. What do you think of him doing this? Do you think he has good intentions?
- After reading Chapters 15 and 16, what do you think of Belly Monster now? What do you think caused him to change so dramatically?
- After reading Chapter 16, do you think the frivals are better off with their leader or are they better just doing their own thing and partying? What do you think of the frivals now?
- In Chapter 17, Kiri and Blong perform. What would you do in the talent contest if you were to enter? You might sing, or dance, or play an instrument, or do a comedy routine; use your imagination to come up with a routine, including costumes!



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