

# **IF I COULD EAT THE STARS**

**AND OTHER POEMS**

CHOSEN BY  
**REBECCA M. NEWMAN  
& SALLY MURPHY**

ILLUSTRATED BY  
**BRIONY STEWART**



**FREMANTLE PRESS**

# CONTENTS

## LIVEWIRES

<b>Caution: Poem Ahead</b>	REBECCA M. NEWMAN	12
<b>A Herd of Haiku</b>	CATHERINE CARVELL	14
<b>Tricky Creatures</b>	BARBARA TEMPERTON	16
<b>Manners</b>	REBECCA M. NEWMAN	17
<b>Space Whales</b>	CRISTY BURNE	18
<b>The (not-feeling-so-great) White Shark</b>	YANN TOUSSAINT	20
<b>ASCII Go-bot</b>	J. P. NEWMAN	22
<b>Radioactivity: The True Story of Marie Curie</b>	CRISTY BURNE	24
<b>Terse Verse: Food Edition</b>	JAMES FOLEY	26
<b>Who's for Dinner?</b>	SIAN TURNER	27
<b>Socks!</b>	JEVITA NILSON	29
<b>Double Trouble</b>	REBECCA GRANT	30
<b>The Ink-credible Mess</b>	CINDY LANE	32
<b>Photo Day</b>	RENAE HAYWARD	33
<b>Ello-Mellow-Pee</b>	BRIONY STEWART	34
<b>Knees!</b>	ALISON A. FERGUSON	36

<b>Bananas</b>	RENAE HAYWARD	38
<b>A Different Way of Seeing Things</b>	LOUISE BURLINSON	41

## **IN FULL SWING**

<b>Stingers</b>	JANINE BEACHAM	45
<b>I Can't Say No</b>	A. J. BETTS	47
<b>Having a Blast!</b>	REBECCA M. NEWMAN	48
<b>Perfectly Purple</b>	REBECCA GRANT	49
<b>My Recorder</b>	CAMILLA CARRON	50
<b>Dew on Spinifex</b>	SHARRON HOUGH	53
<b>Counting Cricket</b>	LAURA MOTHERWAY	54
<b>Colour Senses: Red</b>	HELEN MILROY	55
<b>Hairy Jeremy</b>	BREN MACDIBBLE	56
<b>Kitty's Symphony No. 9</b>	EMILY SMITH	58
<b>Helpful Honker</b>	SALLY MURPHY	60
<b>Avril Likes Ants</b>	CRISTY BURNE	61
<b>Barnstorming</b>	FRANÉ LESSAC	62
<b>All Alone</b>	SALLY MURPHY	64
<b>The Twilight Tree</b>	LAURA KEENAN	66
<b>Slug Song</b>	CAROLYN DOWLEY	69
<b>Spiders Build Your Webs at Night</b>	CASS LYNCH	70

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

<b>Knights' Warning</b>	BRIONY STEWART	74
<b>The Solitary Crow</b>	JULIE WATTS	76
<b>sweat</b>	MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM GRAY	78
<b>Wish</b>	AMBER MOFFAT	79
<b>Lessons From Trees</b>	MEG MCKINLAY	80
<b>Treasure</b>	SAMANTHA HUGHES	82
<b>The Song of the Dugong</b>	YANN TOUSSAINT	84
<b>Only the Octopus</b>	FIONA BURROWS	86
<b>Fed</b>	FIONNA COSGROVE	88
<b>blind cat</b>	JOSEPHINE CLARKE	90
<b>Who Is Watching?</b>	JODIE DAVIDSON	92
<b>Lost</b>	NAOMI FOGARTY	94
<b>Barlay Koolungka</b>	CHERYL KICKETT-TUCKER	96
<b>Shoo (F)lies!</b>	JEN BANYARD	98
<b>How To See</b>	RAEWYN CAISLEY	99
<b>Saved</b>	KATIE AARON	100
<b>Little Light</b>	SCOTT-PATRICK MITCHELL	102
<b>If I Could Eat the Stars</b>	AMBER MOFFAT	104

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Will You?	BRIONY STEWART	109
Eye Wish	TESS ALLEN	110
North and South	DIANNE WOLFER	111
Breeze on the Djarlgarro Beelieer	JAKE DENNIS	112
Moonrise	SALLY MURPHY	115
Stargazing	NADIA L. KING	116
finding crabs for bait	EMMA CROOK	118
Spring Orbit	RENEÉ PETTITT-SCHIPP	119
The Seagull	KATIE STEWART	120
Bewitched	SUZETTE TEIXEIRA	122
Sourgrass Showtime	TEENA RAFFA-MULLIGAN	125
The Mulberry Tree	LAURA HOLLOWAY	126
Paati's Garden	MELANIE HOBBS	128
That Sunday Feeling	KAZ CAMPBELL	130
Big Cuz	CHERYL KICKETT-TUCKER	132
Kelpie and Me	DEB FITZPATRICK	134
Morning Snorkel	MEG MCKINLAY	136
<b>Poets</b>		139
<b>Editors &amp; Illustrator</b>		147
<b>Acknowledgements</b>		149

# LIVEWIRES



## Caution: Poem Ahead

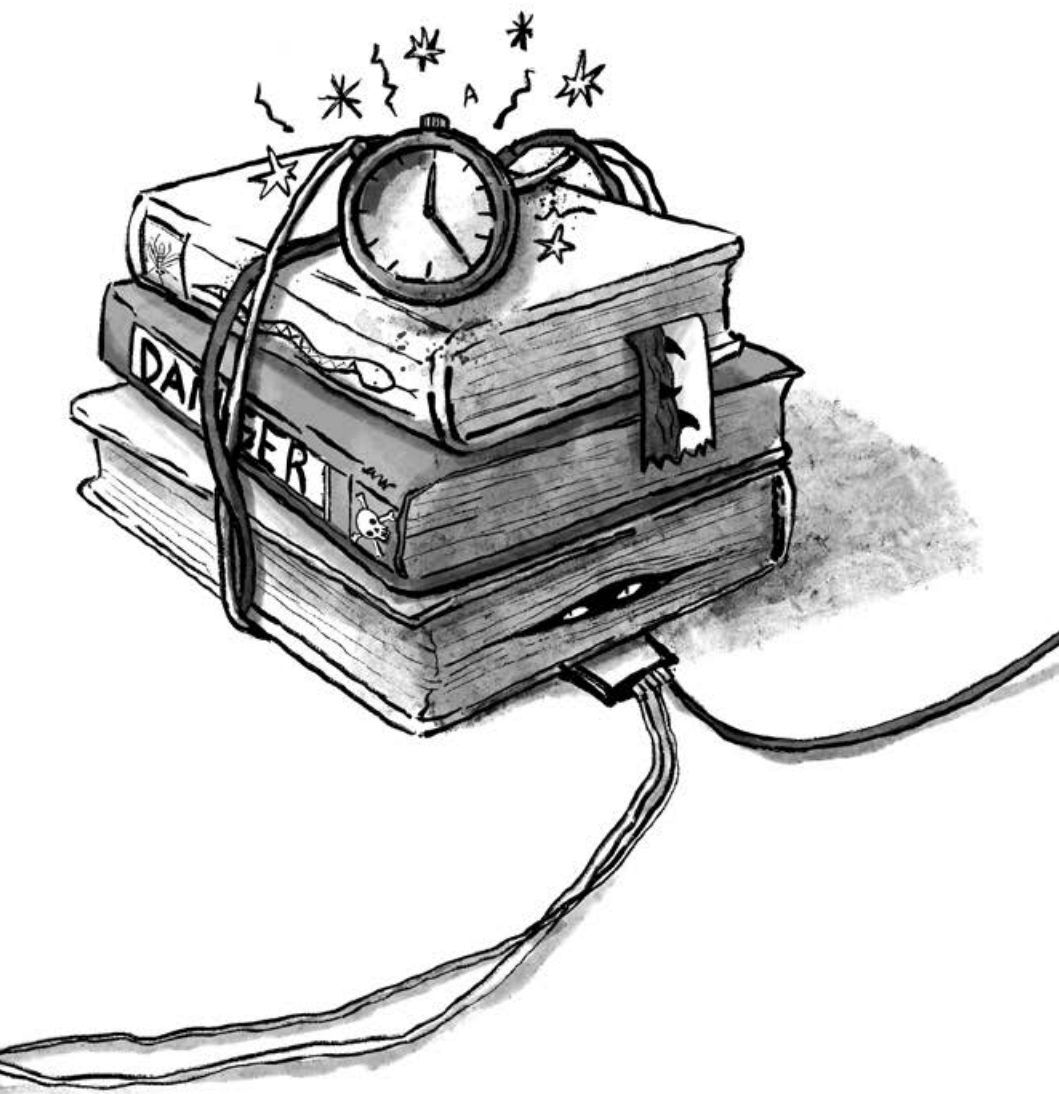
Reading this poem will be risky –  
alliteration will torment you with tongue twisters,  
similes will surround you like sharks,  
occasional rhyme will take up your time  
and *KA-BLAM!* onomatopoeia will shock you.  
Do not read this poem.

Reading this poem, you will have  
an uphill battle against idioms.  
Adverbs will suddenly (successfully!) steal your attention.  
Personification in the previous line is a bonus  
but repetition will annoy you – it will! It will! It will!  
Do not read this poem.

Reading this poem will force you to  
hiss, with its unnecessary use of sibilance.  
Its metaphor will keep you up all night:  
this poem is a mosquito.  
Buzz off! Back away! Turn the page!  
Do not read this poem.

REBECCA M. NEWMAN





## A Herd of Haiku

A lounge of lizards  
lie in the sun catching rays.  
Lazy ectotherms.

A gulp of magpies  
swallow grasshoppers and frogs.  
Bouncing bellyache.

A stare of barn owls  
focus on fairness and law.  
Parliamentary.

A pack of dingoes  
cram into a Cadillac.  
Canine car caper.

A shiver of sharks  
shake their fins at a disco.  
Boogie with a bite.

CATHERINE CARVELL

## Tricky Creatures

My dog is not a dog,  
he's a lone wolf roaming,  
wolf to the full moon moaning all night long.

My worm is not a worm,  
it's a snake sliding,  
snake in the grass gliding with a sss sss sss

My moth is not a moth,  
she's an eagle flying,  
wedgetail eagle spying from high up in the sky.

My frog is not a frog,  
he's a lizard lurking,  
blue-tongue lizard working on his next free meal.

My flea is not a flea,  
it's a cricket jumping,  
cricket thumping and galumphing through the bush.

My bat is not a bat,  
she's a possum squealing,  
a possum trampolining in the ceiling!

BARBARA TEMPERTON