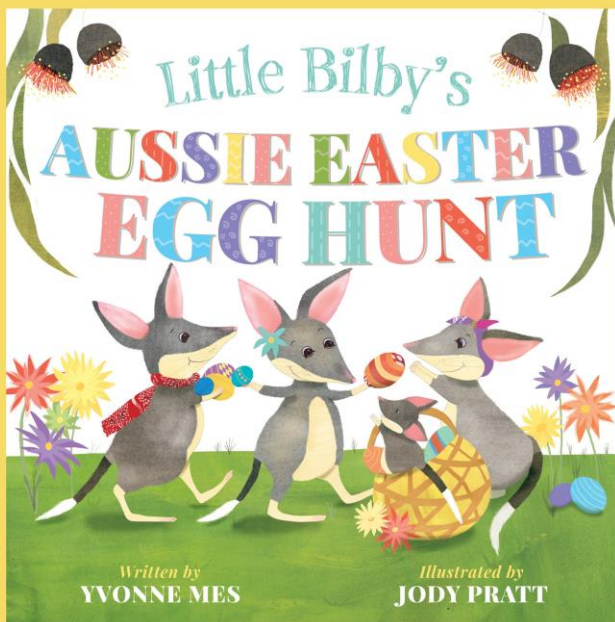




## Author Spotlight — Yvonne Mes



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Author: **Yvonne Mes**

### ***When did you know you wanted to be a writer?***

As a child, I loved reading and coming up with stories, but I never understood that being a writer was an option for me as a future grown-up. I thought writers and illustrators were rare and magical beings like unicorns, wonderful, but not something I could aspire to. It wasn't until what seems like a few lifetimes later that I realised becoming a writer was an option for me.

### ***Where do you write? Do you like to be by yourself in the quiet, or do you like to write in a noisy space?***

I like the creative white noise of a cafe, or silence at home.

### ***What do you use to write – pencil and paper or computer?***

A bit of both. I have many notebooks, but I also write notes on my mobile phone, use brainstorming apps on my tablet and use these to write first drafts and rough plots. But from that point on, most of it happens on the computer.

### ***When do you write?***

Mostly when the kids are in school! So, between 9am and 2pm.

***When do you get your ideas?***

All the time! From reading fiction and non-fiction, books, magazines, making art, listening to kids, watching the news, driving around, dreaming and more!

***Do you think of the story in your head before you write it?***

I do a lot of ruminating and coming up with ideas during times where I am forced to slow down, such as when driving, or having a massage, having a shower or a walk. After that, I write those thoughts down, then go back to crystallising my thoughts during those slow-down times ... and rinse and repeat.

***What gave you the idea for Little Bilby's Aussie Easter Egg Hunt?***

I had been working for a while on a story about young children and their discoveries of and wonder about different eggs and what native Australian animals they belong to. It lived as a rough draft for over a year on my computer until Hachette wondered if I had an Easter themed story and that question was the catalyst to change it into the story it is today.

***What do you like best about Little Bilby's Aussie Easter Egg Hunt?***

It is so pretty, the illustrations are gorgeous, AND there is glitter!

***Do you like the way Jody Pratt has illustrated your story?***

Love, love, love the illustrations! Jody has done a fantastic job at making the characters look cute and full of life, while still recognisable as native animals.

***How did you feel when you wrote Little Bilby's Aussie Easter Egg Hunt?***

Ha! I was inspired by how excited children are when they spot an egg in the wild as well as the excitement of contemplating what might be in there and how it will look, so that was a lovely feeling, I remember those thoughts when I was a child. BUT, there was plenty of feelings of frustration as I tried to fit it in iambic meter, writing a simple story is never as simple as it seems!

***How do you hope readers will feel?***

Inquisitive and curious and wanting to read it again and again.

***How would you like teachers to present Little Bilby's Aussie Easter Egg Hunt to children?***

With my background as an early childhood professional, I deliberately packed in lots for early childhood teachers to work with. I added a sprinkling of adjectives to describe the eggs, included positional language such as high/low near/far over/under, onomatopoeia, Australian native animals and of course the science aspect of matching animals with their eggs.

Jody has also designed a couple of colour in sheets, which are free to download [here](#).