

The Kelpies Prize is supported by



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## PRESS RELEASE

For urgent release: Friday 19th August 2011

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# Golem Spotted on Corstorphine Hill

## Supernatural Edinburgh Adventure Wins Children's Fiction Prize

Scottish publisher Floris Books yesterday revealed Edinburgh-based author Alette Willis as the winner of their annual Scottish children's fiction prize, the Kelpies Prize. The announcement was made at a packed ceremony at the Edinburgh International Book Festival attended by representatives from all aspects of Scotland's lively literary scene.

The Edinburgh-based publisher re-launched the Kelpies Prize in 2004 with support from the Scottish Arts Council, now Creative Scotland, to encourage and reward Scottish writing for children.

Alette received a cheque for £2,000 on the night (see attached photograph). Her book, *How to Make a Golem (and Terrify People)*, will become the latest release in the Kelpies range published on 17th November 2011.



Scottish children's author Lari Don, whose popular *First Aid for Fairies* children's series is published by Floris Books, presented the award. Lari's speech praised the three shortlisted authors and gave them advice on the qualities they'd need to be a good author including "brass-neck, passion, determination and a cruel streak – because being nice to your characters all the time would just be boring!" She jokingly teased the shortlisted authors by counting down the minutes under she opened the envelope.

A giant cheer erupted from the crowd as the winner was announced. A surprised Alette thanked her friends, family and a dedicated team of readers for helping her to write her novel.

Born in Britain but brought up and educated in Canada, Alette moved to Edinburgh with her husband three years ago. After gaining success writing short stories for adults, she turned to her first love, children's fiction.

"All three shortlisted titles were excellent this year, showcasing some exciting new talent in children's fiction. *How to Make a Golem (and Terrify People)* won the judges' hearts with its quirky storyline, engaging voice, sparkling sense of humour – and giant mud monster! Congratulations to Alette Willis for writing such a wonderful novel for children", commented Sally Polson, Commissioning Editor for Floris Books.

The other shortlisted authors were Daniela Sacerdoti, author of *The Really Weird Removals Company*, following a group of supernatural trouble-shooters, and Roy Gill, author of *The Resurrection Spell*, which explores dark and dangerous Parallel Edinburgh.

### More Information

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[www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize) (includes press materials)

Twitter: @DiscoverKelpies Follow the action of the night by searching Twitter #KelpiesPrize

See over for info on the winning author and photographs

## Winner of the Kelpies Prize 2011

### *How to Make a Golem (and Terrify People)* by Alette Willis

"You think you're a fairy godmother or something?" I asked.

"Or something," Michael agreed.

Edda is tired of her nickname, "Mouse", and wants to be braver. But when her house is burgled on her twelfth birthday, Edda is more afraid than ever. That is until new boy Michael Scot starts school. There's something peculiar – and very annoying – about know-it-all Michael. He claims to be a great alchemist who can help Edda overcome her fears by teaching her to build a golem. But surely they can't bring a giant mud monster to life? Can they?

**Alette Willis** was born in Britain but brought up and educated in Canada. She and her husband moved to Edinburgh three years ago. After gaining success writing short stories for adults, she returned to her first love, children's fiction. For the past two years she has volunteered as a Talking Trees Storyteller at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. She currently works at Edinburgh University as a teaching fellow and researcher.



Lari Don (right) handing Alette Willis (left) her cheque for £2,000

(Photograph can be emailed on demand, in colour or b/w. Other photographs of the award ceremony are also available. Images copyright Gordon Bestow.)

### About the Kelpies Range

The Kelpies range, published by Floris Books since 2002, comprises over 40 children's novels set in Scotland or with Scottish themes, suitable for children from 8 to 12-years-old. Recent Kelpie successes include *First Aid for Fairies and Other Fabled Beasts* by Lari Don and *Chill* by Alex Nye, both winners of the prestigious Royal Mail Award for Younger Readers (8–11 years).

### Kelpies Prize 2012

Manuscripts are now invited for submission to the **Kelpies Prize 2012**. They must be set wholly, or mainly, in Scotland and be suitable for children aged 8 to 12. They may not have been previously commercially published, although the author may have been. The judges are looking primarily for a cracking story with strong characters, believable dialogue and a compelling atmosphere. The deadline is 29 February 2012. For full rules and guidelines, see [www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize)