

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## Kelpies Prize 2014 Shortlist Revealed

### Superpowers and secrets make the grade in 10th anniversary of Scottish middle-grade prize

Independent Edinburgh publisher Floris Books today revealed the shortlist for the Kelpies Prize 2014. The Kelpies Prize, which is supported by Creative Scotland and celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, recognises the finest new children's writing for readers aged 8–11.

The shortlisted titles (alphabetically by author) are:

- **The Superpower Project** by Paul J. Bristow
- **The Mixed-Up Summer of Lily McLean** by Lindsay Littleton
- **My Fake Brother** by Joan Pratt

The prize will be announced at Edinburgh International Book Festival on 14th August, where the winning author will receive a £2,000 cash prize and a publishing deal with Floris Books' Kelpies imprint. Hosting this year's ceremony is YA sensation Claire McFall, author of *Ferryman* and winner of a 2013 Scottish Children's Book Award.

The three shortlisted books represent the very best of Scottish children's writing. *The Superpower Project* is a comic adventure set in Glasgow's Clydeside, as best friends Megan and Cam follow a mysterious map left behind by Megan's gran. It's holiday time in *The Mixed-Up Summer of Lily McLean*, but a strange voice seems to be telling Lily not to go in this story of family love and how mixed-up it can be. Kamryn has a new foster brother in *My Fake Brother*, but she doesn't need a new brother and certainly not 'crazy' Ross, with his secrets and ominous warnings.

Eleanor Collins, Senior Commissioning Editor for Floris Books and chair of the judging panel, praised the list of "accomplished children's debuts." She said: "We were thrilled to receive so many outstanding entries this year. This year's shortlist were all fun and insightful, which made the judging process a real pleasure. The Kelpies Prize is an amazing opportunity to discover gifted new voices and many of our authors have come to us through the prize. I'm sure that this year's winner, whoever that may be, will be just as successful."

Floris Books launched the Kelpies Prize in 2004 with support from the Scottish Arts Council, now Creative Scotland, to encourage and reward Scottish writing for children. Submissions must be set wholly, or mainly, in Scotland and be suitable for children aged 8 to 11. The annual award recognising the finest new children's writing talent is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. Previous winners include Scottish Children's Book Award winner Janis Mackay and youngest-ever winner Alex McCall, and the prize also launched the writing careers of Kindle bestseller Daniela Sacerdoti and the multi-award-winning Lari Don.

**Further information on this year's shortlisted titles (including author press images) is available overleaf.**

#### Notes for Editors

1. To arrange a feature or for more information, please contact Nuria Ruiz, Marketing Executive on 0131 337 2372 or [nuria@florisbooks.co.uk](mailto:nuria@florisbooks.co.uk).
2. Awarded the Commendation at the Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year 2013, Floris Books is an independent publisher based in Edinburgh and the largest children's publisher in Scotland.
3. The Kelpies imprint has been published by Floris since 2002 and features quality novels for 8–11 year olds set in Scotland or with strong Scottish themes.

## Further Information

### More about Paul J. Bristow and *The Superpower Project*



When Megan's gran dies (she exploded while waterskiing, since you ask, but this is not important), she leaves her a mysterious map of Greenock with five big red circles on it. Megan and her best pal Cam think the map might help them work out what IS important. Like the superpowers they've suddenly developed...

Megan and Cam visit each place but can the map explain their new, rather unusual powers? And can it help them save their hometown from strange and sinister forces?

**Paul Bristow** has written folktales, comics and ghost stories which celebrate the more unusual history of the West of Scotland and beyond as part of heritage group Magic Torch. By day, Paul lives in Greenock and is a passionate advocate for local heritage, managing The Dutch Gable House for Inverclyde Community Development Trust.

### More about Lindsay Littleson and *The Mixed-Up Summer of Lily McLean*



At home in Largs, Lily's stuck in the middle. Stuck in the middle of her big sister's teenage tantrums with mum. Stuck in the middle of her younger brothers fighting all day for the TV remote. Only her baby sister Summer seems to like spending time with her. So it's a big relief when Gran offers to take Lily on a holiday to Millport, just the two of them.

But it's the weirdest thing. Lily keeps hearing a strange voice telling her not to go. It tells her that Millport – safe, small Millport – is *dangerous*. Just what could be dangerous about a summer holiday with Gran?

**Lindsay Littleson** dreamed of being a writer when she was little but found that real life kept getting in the way. Now a primary school teacher in Renfrewshire, Lindsay finally found the time to start writing in January this year and has already published a short story with Walker Books, in addition to being shortlisted for the Kelpies Prize.

### More about Joan Pratt and *My Fake Brother*



Kamryn's new foster brother, Ross, is looking very nervous. Maybe it's her Bride of Frankenstein hallowe'en make-up. Maybe not. Kamryn has bigger things to worry about than that.

She's already annoyed about her mum's new boyfriend, Matt. Like it wasn't enough that he's always around the house, he's also *everyone's* favourite teacher. Urgh! She doesn't need a fake brother on top of that. Especially one who "does crazy things." And then there's the weird texts Kamryn's been getting. They're crazy too. Maybe Ross' "crazy things" and Kamryn's crazy messages are all connected, part of a bigger, crazier secret.

**Joan Pratt** was born and brought up in Fife. After training as a primary school teacher, she moved to Glasgow and taught in Drumchapel for a number of years. Joan's time in Glasgow's East End inspired her real-life plots and brave, feisty characters. She has also worked as a freelance writer, contributing to CBBC's *Playdays* magazine.

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