

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate publication

Friday 15 August 2014
Edinburgh, UK

Contact: Nuria Ruiz
nuria@florisbooks.co.uk

Kelpies Prize 2014 announced at Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut Renfrewshire novelist Lindsay Littleton wins publishing deal with Floris Books for children's summer adventure novel

Independent Edinburgh publisher Floris Books last night revealed first-time children's novelist Lindsay Littleton as the winner of the Kelpies Prize 2014. The Kelpies Prize, which is supported by Creative Scotland and celebrates the tenth anniversary of its launch this year, recognises the finest new Scottish children's writing for readers aged 8–11.

The prize was announced at Edinburgh International Book Festival on Thursday evening, where Lindsay received a £2,000 cash prize and a publishing deal. Hosting this year's ceremony was YA sensation Claire McFall, author of *Ferryman* and *Bombmaker*, and winner of a 2013 Scottish Children's Book Award.

Lindsay's winning entry, *The Mixed-Up Summer of Lily McLean*, will be published by Floris Books' Kelpies imprint during Spring 2015. In this story of family love and how mixed-up it can be, a strange voice seems to be telling Lily not to go on holiday...

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?

Eleanor Collins, Senior Commissioning Editor for Floris Books and chair of the judging panel, praised all three books: "This year's shortlist were all fun and insightful – we were extremely impressed. However, *The Mixed-Up Summer of Lily McLean* stood out for the way it blended humour, believable family relationships and a touching plot; it had us completely absorbed. Congratulations to Lindsay Littleton for writing such a tender and engaging novel for children."

Lindsay Littleton 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 winning the Kelpies Prize.

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 the tenth anniversary of its launch. Previous winners include Scottish Children's Book Award winner Janis Mackay, and the prize also launched the writing careers of Kindle bestseller Daniela Sacerdoti and the multi-award-winning Lari Don.

Notes for Editors

1. For event photos, to arrange a feature or for more information, please contact Nuria Ruiz on 0131 337 2372 or 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.
4. The Kelpies Prize is supported by Creative Scotland.