

## SPOTLIGHT ON: FAVOURITE CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK SERIES



# ALPACAS IN SPACE

From best-selling Australian author/illustrator, **MATT COSGROVE**, comes the twelfth instalment in the Macca and Dharma picture book series, *Alpacas in Space*.

*Join the countdown as intrepid astronauts, Macca the Alpaca and his best pal, Al, blast off into outer space.*

*It's an epic, cosmic adventure where anything is possible ... because they're using their imaginations!*

We had the pleasure of chatting with author/illustrator, Matt, about his latest book. Here's what he said.

### Q&A with MATT COSGROVE

**Tell us in your own words about your new book, *Alpacas in Space*.**

*Alpacas in Space* is the brand-new Macca the Alpaca book. In it, Macca and his best pal, Al, launch into space on an out-of-this-world adventure, using the power of their imaginations.

**With over 1.5 million Macca and Dharma books in print, why do you think the series has been so successful?**

Macca is cute and kind, the illustrations are bright and colourful, and the stories all have a sweet message, but are also (hopefully!) tonnes of fun to read. Plus, the series serendipitously started just as the whole world seemed to collectively realise alpacas are awesome!

**What was the most rewarding aspect of illustrating this book? And do you have a favourite spread?**

Illustrating traditionally is slow going, but the process of creating the pictures by hand is artistically fulfilling and very soothing—if you can ignore the deadlines!

Creating the double-page spread of Macca and Al's rocket blasting off into the stars was definitely my favourite. It's such a cool subject and was also technically challenging so it was genuinely a blast to create. And I love to imagine that when kids reading the book get to that spread, they'll need to rotate the book to point the rocket into space, so it will be an exciting moment and actually transform the book from a static object into a truly interactive one.



See the back cover for this and other fun new picture books!

**What medium and what process did you use to create the illustrations?**

All the illustrations are created old-school style, by hand. After I lay down a wash of watercolour paint to block out the areas of colour, I then spend hours drawing over the top, creating the texture and details through layers and layers of coloured pencil, with a few finishing touches of gouache paint.



**If you could have one superpower, what would it be?**

Super speed! I am slow at everything—writing, drawing, thinking, reading, running, housework, everything! Being fast would be a wonderful novelty for me and would certainly come in handy with all my deadlines!

**What do you like to do when you are not creating books?**

When I'm not making books myself, I'm hanging out in libraries reading other people's books or browsing in bookstores buying other people's books. I'm a book tragic. My TBR pile is a toppling tower!



**MATT COSGROVE** is a best-selling, award-winning author and illustrator who lives in Sydney with his wife and two children. He spends his days writing and drawing and loves making kids laugh. His series with his wife Eva Amores, *Worst Week Ever*, has sold into over 50 countries, making it a worldwide smash hit!

He likes chocolate, avoiding social interactions and more chocolate.

