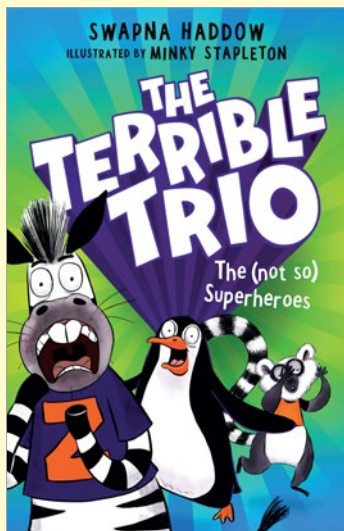


SPOTLIGHT ON: A BRAND-NEW FUN AND ENGAGING MIDDLE GRADE FICTION SERIES!



THE TERRIBLE TRIO: THE (NOT SO) SUPERHEROES

A terrible terrific new series by award-winning children's author, Swapna Haddow. Hilariously illustrated by Minky Stapleton.

In a world where all animals have superpowers, café workers Zeb the zebra, Margarine the penguin and Barry the lemur have been given the WORST powers of all. Watching all the other superheroes save the world, day in and day out, Zeb, Margarine and Barry wonder if they will ever get to be superheroes for a day themselves.

We had the pleasure of chatting with Swapna about her new series!



Q&A with SWAPNA HADDOW

Can you please tell us in your own words all about your brand-new book series – *The Terrible Trio*?

This is a series about fitting in. Zeb, Marge and Barry are 'gifted' with the absolute worst superpowers and need to find their way in a world full of actual superheroes. Zeb really struggles with acknowledging who he is in a superhero world and this first story in the series is all about his journey of acceptance and how crucial his friends are in supporting him.

The Terrible Trio is a funny, quirky graphic novel series full of the trials and tribulations of self-discovery and the joy of finding your tribe—I've had an absolute hoot writing it.

Do you have a favourite spread and why?

Minky's illustrations are HILARIOUS! It's so tough to narrow down just one spread because I adore them all. I especially love every time Zeb completely loses his cool. He's the most overdramatic zebra in all of literature. When he is given his powers, he absolutely crumples and Minky's illustrations of him collapsed like a damsel in distress, with tears and one wee bogey are exceptionally brilliant because I too am a Zeb when things don't go my way, so I relate completely to the dramatics.

What stands out as one of the highlights or most memorable aspects of writing *The Terrible Trio*?

I love writing funny fiction but it's hard when the real world feels a bit like a

dumpster fire. Writing the series was such an escape for me. I found myself laughing out loud at my desk and I love that writing can take me away from reality for a bit. This series has been incredible for that.

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

I would love to control time. There are so many things I want to do, so many books I want to read and so many adventures I want to go on, but it doesn't feel like there is enough time to do everything. (Sadly, I cannot control time. I do have a rubbish superpower though—I can turn my tongue upside down.)

Who did you write this series for? And what do you hope your readers take away from it?

This series is perfect for young readers, newly independent readers, reluctant readers, and readers who love graphic novels or just want a laugh. I hope this is a series that kids really enjoy and share with their families and in their classrooms.

I would love for young readers reading this series to take away that there is only one of them in the world and that makes them very special.

What's next for Zeb, Barry and Marge?

There are more adventures on the way for Zeb, Barry, and Marge! Marge loses her powers in the next book and Barry discovers brand new powers in the third. There are heaps more jokes and fun from this trio so watch this space!

What do you like to do in your own time?

I love to read. It's rare to find me without a book. I also love adventures and travel and discovering new places so you'll often find me in a caravan with my family, heading off on a road trip.



SWAPNA HADDOW

grew up in the UK and wrote her first book at age eight. She wishes she'd kept it, but it seemed like a good idea at the time to trade

it for two stickers and a couple of marbles! Her first published book was the hilarious junior novel *Dave Pigeon*, which grew into a laugh-out-loud, award-winning series. She has since written many funny, colourful and much-loved picture books as well as further junior fiction series. Swapna loves to write stories filled with boisterous animals causing mayhem, with friendship and humour consistently at the heart of her work. Swapna now lives in Dunedin, New Zealand, with her husband, son and their dog. Her first homegrown tall tale with Scholastic New Zealand is *But Then . . . the almost true story of an overdue book*.

See page 16, item #866 for this and other fun chapter books!

