

IN THE DARK SPACES

WINNER OF THE AMPERSAND PRIZE

***In The Dark Spaces* is a thrilling and complex hostage drama about Tamara, a teenager who's kidnapped away from her family in the midst of an attack – and must fight not only to survive, but to retain her last shred of humanity.**

But survival always comes at a price, and there's no handbook for this hostage crisis. For Tamara has been living on a star freighter in deep space, and her kidnapers are terrifying Crowpeople – the only aliens humanity has ever encountered. No-one has ever survived a Crowpeople attack, until now – and Tamara must use everything she has just to stay alive.

Yet as Tamara comes to know the Crowpeople's way of life, and the threats they face from humanity's exploration into deep space, she realises she has an impossible choice to make.

Should she stay as the only human among the Crows, knowing she'll never see her family again... or inevitably betray her new community if she wants to escape?

This groundbreaking thriller is the latest young-adult novel to win the Ampersand Prize, a stand-out entry with a blindingly original voice: raw, strange and deeply sympathetic. With its vivid and immersive world-building, this electrifying debut is *The Knife of Never Letting Go* meets *Homeland*, for the next generation of sci-fi readers.



INDICATIVE COVER ONLY



ABOUT CALLY BLACK

AMPERSAND PRIZE-WINNER

When Cally Black isn't writing wild, dark stories for young adults, she writes pleasant and educational stories for children. To protect her much younger readers from her darker books, Cally uses a pseudonym to keep her two identities separate.

She's been working on writing for a long time and now her hard work is paying off. Since winning the **Ampersand Prize** and a publishing deal with Hardie Grant Egmont for *In the Dark Spaces*, Cally has gone on to write a middle-grade novel called *How to Bee* (May 2017, Allen & Unwin) under the name Bren MacDibble.

Cally lives in Melbourne with her family and a slightly nutty dog. She could share many stories about her own adventures – of hill country sheep stations, thrilling backpacking journeys and motorbike rides across the USA – but it's stories set in future worlds that fascinate her the most. And while she loves science and technology and the way they shape our future, what really grabs her is people, especially those left on the fringes of society.



INDICATIVE COVER ONLY

A CHAT WITH CALLY BLACK

AMPERSAND PRIZE-WINNER

Is *In the Dark Spaces* your first published book?

Technically, yes. I won the Ampersand Prize and a contract with Hardie Grant Egmont in 2015 for *In The Dark Spaces*, a young-adult science-fiction thriller. Shortly after that I signed a children's book deal with Allen & Unwin, under the name Bren MacDibble. Different names help separate the readerships and *In The Dark Spaces* is a little wild and dark for primary school readers. The younger book slipped past *In The Dark Spaces* in the final months of production and hit the shelves first. Both are out in 2017 within months of each other, so it's a rush of excitement.

Did you receive many, if any, rejections prior?

Only about a gazillion! At the time I entered Ampersand I'd stopped sending work out and turned inwards to focus on my writing to try to understand why it got attention but never an offer, and to try to improve.

What inspired the first idea for *In the Dark Spaces*?

I'd read *Hunger Games* and *5th Wave* and I thought, you know what? These authors are having fun and letting go and not censoring themselves. Gloves off! I'm going to go into a novel swinging and punching.

What parts of writing do you find easiest? And hardest?

I find being the character and writing the openings the easiest. I love writing dialogue. Finding a voice. I love setting the character free to tell her story. Endings are hard. Being bound by word counts and pacing is also hard. Not letting the dark parts of the stories overwhelm the light, because my darkometer is a bit stuffed.

What's the highlight of winning the Ampersand Prize so far?

During my first visit to Hardie Grant Egmont, a woman from marketing came to meet me. I was nervous I was being assessed for marketability but she said she adored the book so much she had to meet the person who wrote it! My first fan



HOW FAR
WOULD YOU GO
to
GET
HOME?



INDICATIVE COVER ONLY



Hardie Grant Egmont

Publication: August 2017
Imprint: Hardie Grant Egmont
Author: Cally Black

In The Dark Spaces

ISBN: 9781760128647
Binding: Paperback
RRP: A\$19.99/NZ\$22.99
Extent: 320 pages
Format: 210 x 135 mm
Age: 12+

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LAUNCH PUBLICITY

We have extensive blogger and review coverage planned for this thrilling, Ampersand-winning YA debut, focussed in particular on the #LoveOzYA community, so come August *In the Dark Spaces* will be the YA title everybody is talking about.

As well as an official launch of *In the Dark Spaces* at the start of August, Cally Black will appear as part of the Melbourne Writers Festival Schools Program at the end of August alongside *Illuminae* author Aimee Kaufman at Federation Square in an exciting festival debut.

Sales Points

- 2015 Ampersand Prize-winning young-adult novel from blindingly original new voice, Cally Black.
- A groundbreaking thriller for the next generation of sci-fi readers.
- Vivid and immersive world-building, combining Patrick Ness's *The Knife of Never Letting Go* with the television series *Homeland*.
- Cally will debut on the festival scene with a Melbourne Writers Festival appearance in August 2017!