

Into the great beyond

There are many conflicting views on what happens in the afterlife, but the one thing most of us can agree on is that explaining death to children can be challenging.

Enter: *Where Did They Go?* – a picture book written by Cooks Hill clairvoyant Katrina-Jane Bart and beautifully illustrated by Allison Warry.

When a child loses someone they love, whether a relative, friend or pet, it is difficult to put into words what has happened in a way that they understand.

Where Did They Go? aims to explain to children that, although not physically with them anymore, their loved ones are always watching over them.

The book can be personalised with the name of the person who has passed.

Bart drew inspiration for the book from friends of the family.

Four-year-old Archie and two-year-old Stella lost their beloved dad, Alex, to testicular cancer.

When the adults explained to Archie that his dad was journeying into the sky, Archie simply

asked: “Can I catch a plane [to see him]?”

Completely moved by the experience, Bart sprang into action and set about writing the book. She knew she had to use Archie’s exact words.

“His response was so typical of children when we try and explain [death] to them,” she told *Newcastle Weekly*.

“They have such vivid imaginations. [As a clairvoyant] I have so many people ask me how to deal with this, so I wrote the book for them.”

The third title to come from Bart, *Where Did They Go?* was self-published in 2016 and has won three awards: the 5th Annual Beverly Hills International Book Award 2016 (children non-fiction), the Book Excellence Award 2016 (children non-fiction), and the Independent Book Award 2017 (children non-fiction).

Bart hopes the book will become a resource, including in schools, for educating children about death.

Where Did They Go? is available in hardcopy and Kindle form from katrina-jane.com/books

- Georgia Osland



Author Katrina-Jane Bart with a copy of her multi-award-winning children’s book, *Where Did They Go?* Photo: Peter Stoop

Enter to WIN

Newcastle Weekly has three copies of *Where Did They Go?* (RRP \$22) to give away

To enter, email competitions@newcastleweekly.com.au with *Where Did They Go?* in the subject line. Tell us your name, full contact details and to whom you’d like to gift the book. Entries close and winners drawn at 9am on Friday 19 January. One entry per person. Permit No. LTPM-16-00488.



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