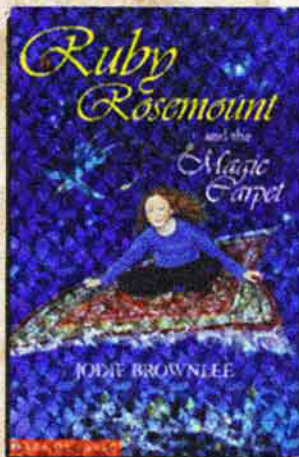


the Ruby Rosemount series

A BRAND-NEW CHILDREN'S
FANTASY SERIES

written by **JODIE BROWNLEE**

- Book One *Ruby Rosemount & the Magic Carpet* - Book Two *Ruby Rosemount & the Travellers Telescope* -
- Book Three *Ruby Rosemount & the Doomsday Curse* -



"Ruby's mouth was open in a silent scream. She gripped the carpet tightly as it climbed higher and higher. Panic rose like a lump in her throat."

Ruby Rosemount is flying! A magic carpet (with attitude) is about to take her on the adventure of her life to a magical oasis. Here genies, wicked villains, sand sprites, spells and dungeons will test all of her powers - including the ones she doesn't know she has."

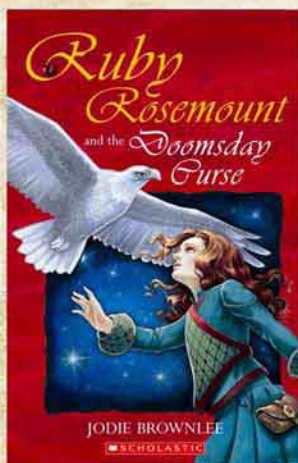


Ruby Rosemount is a new series of fantasy books for children published by Scholastic (the company that publishes Emily Rodda's books). In these exciting stories, a young girl named Ruby must face genies, sprites, dungeons and mazes and more. Of course, she has her friends to help her too. Jodie Brownlee, the author of the series, lives in Australia and early this year she was able to visit *Banjo Books* and talk about her writing. On the next page is a Q&A with Jodie. These books are enjoyable to read and are packed with many ideas - some which will be very familiar (such as sprites and dungeons) but also some eastern mythological creatures that really make the books quite exotic. The third and latest book in the series has just been released. If you like Emily Rodda's books and *HP & the Philosopher's Stone*, these are the books for you. Read them all!!!

- Leon



Jodie signing books at her recent visit to *Banjo Books* in Epping, NSW.



RRP \$17.99, Softcover
Published by Scholastic
Age range: 8 years old +

QUESTION & ANSWER

with JODIE BROWNLEE

WHAT'S YOUR LATEST BOOK ABOUT?

Ruby continues to struggle with basic genie magic at the Academy of Peace but is introduced to a new magic, a magic available to genies, humans and spriggans alike, Mind Magic. She is living in Babylon with her mother and Granny McQuirky after her old house was burnt to the ground by an evil genie called Horas. While the house is being rebuilt a basement is discovered. Ruby learns that it was once used by her dead father as an office. Many of his belongings are still there, untouched by the fire. Mrs Rosemount and Granny McQuirky set off to pack them away but never return. Then a terrible curse is invoked which will destroy the world if certain demands are not met. Who is invoking it? Why have her mother and granny disappeared? Ruby must race to master a more powerful magic – her mind – if she is to avert disaster. Long hidden secrets about her family are about to be uncovered, but they could have disastrous consequences for everyone.

HOW DID YOU BECOME A WRITER?

To be honest I thought writers were sort of special and that being a writer was definitely out of my league so I became a hairdresser instead. Then a bartender, a waitress, a long term backpacker doing odd jobs like painting houses, then a librarian, an exhibiting artist, a photographer, a Greenpeace activist, a web designer and a multimedia teacher before I finally started writing my first book, *Ruby Rosemount and the Magic Carpet*. Writing is a skill that can be learned just like cutting hair, taking photos, or designing a web page. The important thing is to love writing because when you enjoy doing something you do it a lot, and when you do something a lot you become good at it. I did a correspondence course to learn the basics and read a lot of books on the subject. I also read literature and best selling fiction all the time. It informs my own writing.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT WRITING?

The best thing is that you get to use your imagination. Writing is one vocation where daydreaming is not a bad thing, it is absolutely necessary!

I also like the flexibility of working the hours I want (I start early) and working in the location I want. Usually this is my home office but sometimes I like to work in a busy café and on the odd occasion I travel with my husband on business and work in Bangkok, or London, or Amsterdam. It is a job you can take with you wherever you go.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK AS A CHILD?

When I was ten I had a very creative teacher called Mr Sweeney who introduced me to the world of Tolkien. After he read *The Hobbit* in class, we created a goblin cave in the corridor outside our classroom. We made all the main characters, even the big hairy spiders, covering them in real hair swept from the local hairdresser's floor. They looked so creepy that girl's would scream. It's hard to stop at one, though. I also liked *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne's enthusiasm for life inspired me immensely. I loved *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S Lewis, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and Roald Dahl's hilarious story, *Matilda*.

Thankyou Jodie!

Don't miss the next interview!

If you have a question to ask popular Australian author **JACKIE FRENCH**, please email it to me before Sunday, 13 April at leoncoward@hotmail.com