



The Uppish Hen & other poems

Robin Hyde
illustrated by Dine

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edited by Juanita Deely

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To be released March 2023

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RRP \$25 • 210 x 210 mm

38 pp, hard cover, illustrated poetry

The Uppish Hen

The uppish little bantam hen

May lay an egg just now and then —
She never gives a thought to me,
With only marrow-bones for tea —

Whereas my chocolate-coloured duck,
By sheer good management and pluck,
Lays one or more green eggs a day
And says she likes the good old way.

- A previously unpublished collection by Robin Hyde (1906–1939) one of NZ’s finest authors/journalists, written for her son, Derek Challis
- Edited by Wairarapa film-maker Juanita Deely, illustrations by Glenorchy artist Dine
- Launching alongside a fictional biography of Robin Hyde for young adults: *Iris & Me* by Philippa Werry



In 1934, four-year-old Derek Challis found a homemade book in his Christmas stocking. On the typed pages bound with pink ribbon were poems written for him by his mother, the writer Robin Hyde. Derek, known as Derry, treasured the gift and could recite the poems until his death in 2021. Hyde hoped the collection would be published “one fine day” and that fine day has come.

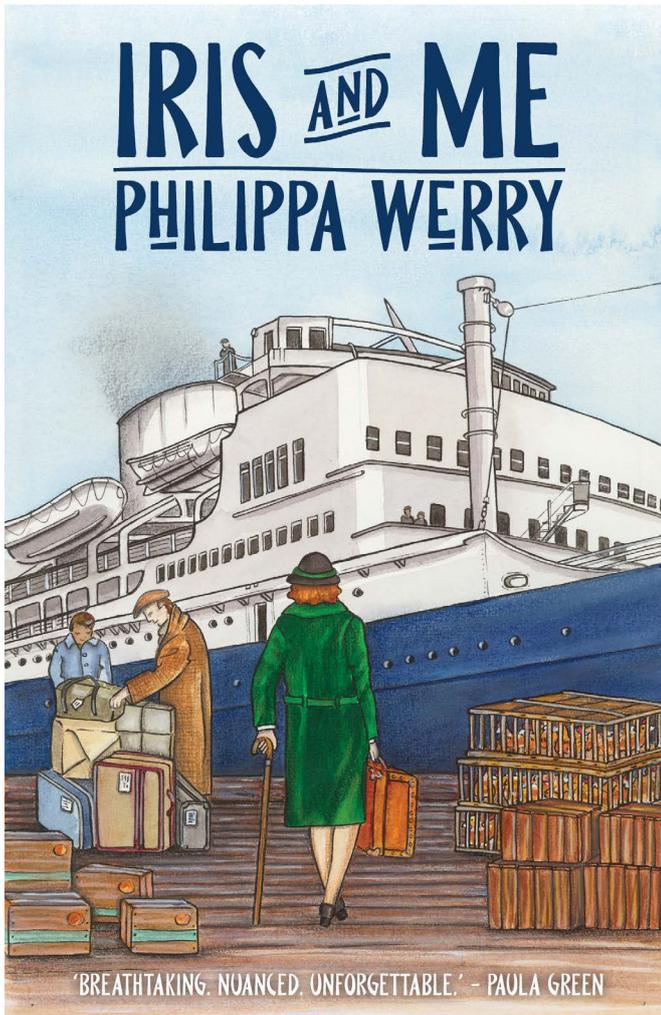


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Another Robin Hyde title launching in March



ISBN 978-1-99-115084-4

ONE WOMAN. ONE JOURNEY. ONE TRUE FRIEND.

*This is the story
of a long journey
and a true friend.*

*It is the story of other things, too:
sisters (three)
ships (many)
secrets (a multitude) ...*

*I don't have a name of my own,
but my friend does.
Her name is Iris.*

So begins the story of Iris Wilkinson, who wrote poetry, novels and journalism under the pen name Robin Hyde. In January 1938, she left New Zealand for England. On the way, intrigued by glimpses of China, she ventured inland despite the war raging there, becoming one of the first women war correspondents – a feat that was all the more remarkable because she struggled with mental health and suffered a disability that meant she had a lifelong limp. Robin Hyde doesn't tell her story – it is narrated by a loyal but mysterious companion who asks the reader to guess the secret.

Iris and Me is an imaginative account of the adventures of one of Aotearoa's most significant writers, presented in a form that Hyde herself would have loved – the verse novel. It was the runner-up for the NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize 2022.

'BREATHKING. NUANCED. UNFORGETTABLE.' - PAULA GREEN

'I RECKON IRIS WOULD'VE APPROVED' - TINA SHAW

