

## BAKIR AND BI

A symbolic story of destiny – weaving together the threads of Torres Strait Islander language, culture and beliefs

Written by Jillian Boyd and illustrated by Tori-Jay Mordey

*Bakir and Bi* is based on a Torres Strait Islander creation story with illustrations by 18-year-old Tori-Jay Mordey. Bakir (rock) and Mar (storm bird) live on a remote island called Egur with their two young children. While fishing on the beach Bakir comes across a very special pelican (Bakir's totem is a pelican) named Bi. A famine occurs, and life on the island is no longer harmonious. One day Bakir and Bi disappear and Mar and the children are forced to make the journey to another island by canoe ... and so begins the adventure.

**Jillian Boyd** was born on and raised on Thursday Island in the Torres Straits, far north Queensland. She is a budding author, poet and songwriter who is passionate about her people, culture and shaping our future leaders, our children and youth. A single mother of six children, Jillian is a perfect example of how anything is possible if you put your mind to it and it's never too late to go after your dreams and aspirations.

**Tori-Jay Mordey** is Jillian Boyd's niece. She was born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and currently lives in Hervey Bay, Queensland. She grew up with a strong cultural influence from the Torres Strait and her mother is an artist. Tori-Jay has loved drawing from a very young age and is inspired by contemporary artists like Jae Liu Wubao, Russ Mills, James Jean, Aaron Horkey and Banksy. She hopes to be a well-know illustrator one day.



There are supernatural themes, totemic connections and kinship relationships – and the island names are imaginary as are the characters. The moral of the story is that everyone has a destiny and a purpose in life. Despite many storms that may blow you off your course, you must remain focused, true and honest to yourself and you will achieve your goals and fulfill your destiny.

*Bakir and Bi* will be available from April 2013 in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books ([www.magabala.com](http://www.magabala.com)) for \$19.95.

Launched in 1987, Magabala Books is a not-for-profit publishing house based in Broome, that aims to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.



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