

# Little Ash #1: Perfect Match!

AUTHORS

**ASH BARTY AND JASMIN MCGAUGHEY**

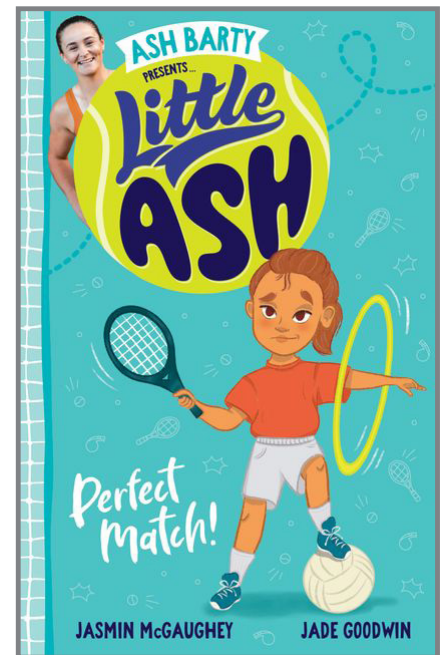
ILLUSTRATOR

**JADE GOODWIN**

SCIS: 5412847

ISBN: 9781460762769

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Ash loves to play sport. She's tried karate, softball, netball and gymnastics. But none of those sports give her that tingly feeling, the one where you know it's something you'll absolutely love to do. How will Ash ever choose?

Australian tennis superstar Ash Barty teams up with Jasmin McGaughey and Jade Goodwin to bring young readers this fun and exciting new illustrated series about school, sport, friendship and family.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Australian Ashleigh Barty was a professional tennis player on the Women's Tennis Association tour, 2011–22. Remarkably naturally talented, Ash's game style and varied shots set her apart. Off court, her humility and commitment to being a good person endeared her further to the tennis community and fans. Retiring in March 2022 as world number 1 and reigning ladies singles champion at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, she departed as one of the most accomplished players ever. Her achievements include 3 Grand Slam singles titles, 1 Grand Slam doubles title, 12 WTA singles titles, 11 WTA doubles titles and a mixed doubles Olympic bronze. Ash was WTA world number 1 for 114 consecutive weeks, the fourth-longest streak ever, and 121 weeks in all, the 7th most in WTA history. Proudly Indigenous, Ash is committed to creating sport and education opportunities for Australian youth. Ash's next chapter will involve new goals, community work, quality family time, and enjoying sports as a fan.

Jasmin McGaughey is a Torres Strait Islander and African American writer and editor. In 2019 she was lucky enough to be a black&write! editor intern and a Wheeler Centre Next Chapter recipient. She has been able to write for *Overland*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *SBS Voices* and *Griffith Review*. Jasmin's always loved storytelling, and she is proud to be able to work and learn in this field.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jade Goodwin is an illustrator, letterer and arts worker. Having spent a lot of time in her grandparents' screen-printing studio growing up, Jade always felt she would end up working in the creative industry. Jade's passion for creating colourful work aimed at a younger audience is shown through her unique style that she creates in both traditional and digital mediums. Jade's illustrations are exciting and fun. Over the last few years Jade has used lettering projects to explore new ways to convey her connection to her Gamilaraay heritage. Jade has worked on commissions, created and designed original characters and products, and is a published illustrator.

**STUDY NOTES**

- Before reading the book examine the outside of the book, then answer these questions:
  - The cover of the book can tell us a lot about what the story will be about. How many sports can you identify on the cover?
  - What might the title 'Perfect Match' mean?
  - Based on these elements, what do you think the book might be about?
  - Now read the blurb on the back cover. How close was your prediction to what you thought the book was about?
- Ash's best friend James is really helpful in helping her choose a sport to do for the rest of the year. What are some of the things you and your friends do to help each other?
- Think about a friend that might need help with something (for example, tidying their room, writing a story or baking a cake). What can you do to help them?
- Ash and James try out lots of different sports, and Ash has already tried some out last year. List all of the activities that Ash has given a go.
- What is a sport you would like to try? Research the rules of the sport, and compose a short comic strip which explains the rules to other people.
- Ash will know that she has found a sport she loves when she gets a tingling feeling in her hands and feet. How do you know when you're doing something you really enjoy? (Try thinking about how you feel when you do something you love; how does it make you feel?)
- Write the story of discovering your favourite activity and how you knew it was the thing you loved to do most in the world (if you don't remember, maybe ask an adult who was there, or you could make up a story that you think might be something like what happened).