

Satin

AUTHOR

SOPHIE MASSON

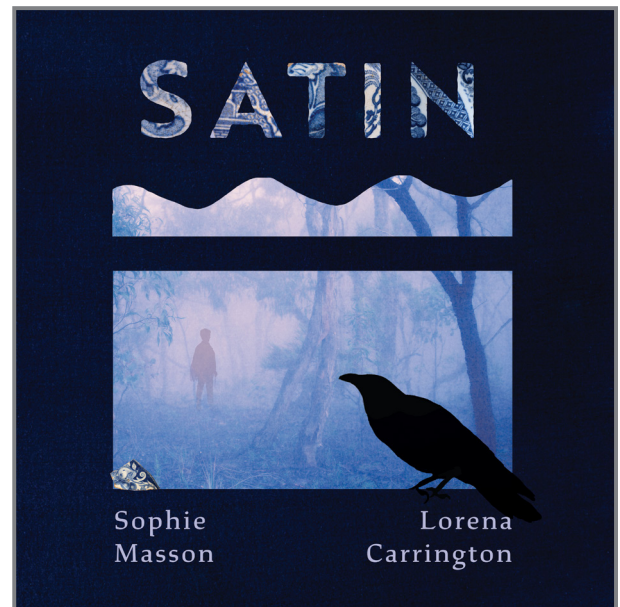
ILLUSTRATOR

LORENA CARRINGTON

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SYNOPSIS

Every morning early, when no-one's about, Satin slips out of the forest and walks along the sleepy sunrise streets, looking for blue . . .

He's collected all kinds of blues, from all kinds of places. He's making something beautiful, with all those blues. But something's missing, and he doesn't know what it is. And then, one day, he comes to a street he's never been in before. And what he finds there will change his lonely life forever.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Indonesia of French parents, who are themselves of mixed ethnicity: Basque, Spanish, Portuguese and French-Canadian as well as French, Sophie Masson AM was brought up in France and Australia and now lives in regional NSW. Sophie is the multi-award-winning author of over 70 books, for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. Her previous book *The Ghost Squad*, was published in 2021. Sophie holds a PhD in Creative Practice from the University of New England and in 2019 she received an AM award in the Order of Australia honours list for her significant service to literature. Her author website is at www.sophiemasson.org and she blogs at www.firebirdfeathers.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lorena Carrington is a photographic artist and illustrator based in regional Victoria. Her work is created through photographic montage: working with found objects, and the people and world around her. She has worked with publishers to create illustrated books and covers in Australia, USA, Ireland and Poland. She also exhibits regularly in art galleries around Australia, presents at literary and arts festivals, and visits schools and libraries to give talks and hold workshops on illustration, books and story. In 2022, Lorena established Pardalote Press with Sophie Masson, where they publish small surprising things.

She is the recipient of the 2020 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her 'outstanding contribution to the field of Australian Fairy Tales' and a May Gibbs Creative Time Fellowship for 2023. Find more about at her website www.lorenacarrington.com.

STUDY NOTES

- Author Sophie Masson says that the first idea for *Satin* came when she unexpectedly glimpsed a satin bower bird by the side of the road. Find out more about these amazing birds: where they live, what they eat, and why they like blue!
- In the book, Satin goes around collecting lots of blue things: see if you can spot them all. And look up all the different shades of blues he could find. How many can you discover?
- What do you think Satin was making with all the things he was collecting? And what happened to it at the end? (Clue: look at the endpapers).
- We are never told why Satin loves blue so much. Why do you think he does?
- Colour can be very important to show hidden meanings in a story. Blue can show sadness, red can show anger, yellow can feel happy and black can feel threatening. Can you find other illustrated books that use colour to help tell a story?
- What do you think happens next? Write a short story about what Satin creates now he's no longer alone.
- Satin goes all over the town to look for blue, and some of the things he finds are from broken plates with blue patterns. Imagine you are a reporter from the local newspaper, interviewing Satin about what he does, and write a short article about where he found the plates and why they were broken.
- The illustrations start out being all blue, then colour starts to appear as Satin reaches out and finds friends. Draw the same picture twice, then use different colours in each. For example, mostly blues and greens in one and red and yellows in the other. Do they show a different mood? Tell a different story?
- Make a comic strip without words. Can you tell the story with just drawn lines and colour? How will you show what your character is feeling?
- Satin makes his beautiful thing out of objects he collects. Can you make something wonderful out of found objects? Collect leaves and twigs and even bits of rubbish, and make a montage picture. It could be an animal, an imaginary creature, a landscape scene or even a self-portrait!