



# LOPINI THE LEGEND

Feana Tu'akoi



What if a perfectionist tries to get better at failing?

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Age	8+
Rights	World, excl ANZ

When Lopini is replaced as kapa haka leader at school, he starts to spiral. It doesn't matter that he thinks it's a good idea, or that he agreed to the change in the first place. He's a hard-out perfectionist and this feels like a public failure.

Lopini's best mate, Fi, thinks he's overreacting. After all, he's so successful that everyone at school calls him Lopini the Legend. But Lopini still freaks out whenever something goes wrong – and he HATES it. He decides to practise failing, so he won't feel like that anymore. Can Lopini still be a legend, if everyone knows he isn't perfect?

**Feana Tu'akoi** is a Kirikiriroa-based writer, with a strong background in educational publishing. Much of her work centres around Tongan–Pālangi families like her own. Eight of her books for children have been recognised in the junior fiction, non-fiction or picture book categories of various awards, and her work has been translated into several languages. Her other books for Scholastic NZ include *Jonah's First Day*, *Lest We Forget*, and the *What is a...?* series of non-fiction science books about mammals, amphibians, birds, reptiles and fish.

Feana was the 2022 Massey University Writer in Residence and is a judge for the 2023 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

**Story Hemi-Morehouse** (Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Toa Rangitira) began her picture-book - illustrating journey during Covid. And since she grew up obsessed with cartoons and superheroes, Story was the perfect fit to illustrate our 'superhero' Lopini. Originally from Aotearoa-New Zealand, Story grew up in Australia and currently resides in Queensland's Gold Coast.

- Winner of the 2022 Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award
- Feana Tu'akoi's fun, energetic characters enliven the pages of this heartwarming, funny story, exploring fear of failure in a light-hearted manner
- Demonstrates how doing good deeds for others can enrich your own life
- Includes cover and some internal illustrations by the talented up-and-coming artist, Story Hemi-Morehouse

## Praise for other books by Feana Tu'akoi

"Told with great tact and compassion, author Feana Tu'akoi expertly walks the line between respect for those who have fought for New Zealand and understanding a generation which has never known the hardship of wartime [...] this is a moving and poignant school-age storybook."

— *Marlborough Express*, about *Lest We Forget*

"This picture book is a simple yet effective exposition of fears and overcoming fears as young Jonah faces his first day at school. It is an ideal text to bring out into the open such emotions and collectively articulate how tran

— *Reading Time*, about *Jonah's*

