

The Giant

AUTHOR

SOPHIE MASSON

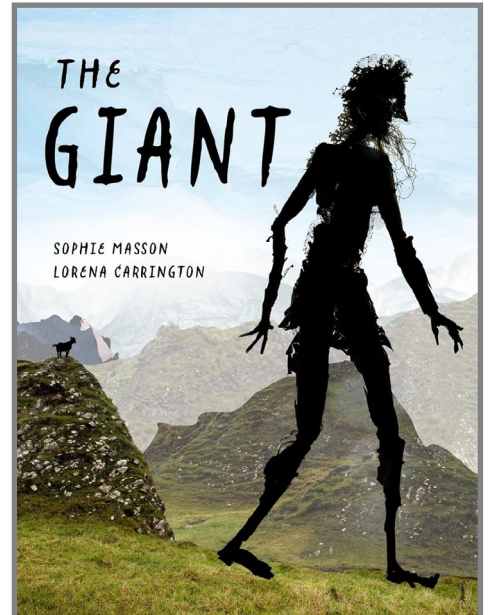
ILLUSTRATOR

LORENA CARRINGTON

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

On the day the giant wakes from a long sleep, he's filled with joy at the thought of seeing his friends in the town again. But he's slept so long that nobody remembers him, everyone hides from him, and his joy turns to a sadness that might engulf the whole town—

Until he hears the voices, calling to him . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sophie Masson AM was born in Indonesia of French parents, brought up in France and Australia and now lives in regional NSW. She is the multi-award-winning author of many books, for children, young adults and adults, and in 2019, received an AM award in the Order of Australia honours list for her significant service to literature. Her most recent titles for children include *Sabina and the Cats of Rome*, illustrated by Laura Wood, Christmas Press 2024, and *Satin*, illustrated by Lorena Carrington, MidnightSun Publishing 2023, which received a Notable Books citation in the 2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Forthcoming is *Bold Ben Hall*, Walker Books, 2025, and *The Giant*, illustrated by Lorena Carrington, MidnightSun 2025.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lorena Carrington is an acclaimed illustrator and writer based in regional Victoria, known for her intricate photographic montage illustrations. Some of her recent books include *The Grown-Up's Guide to Picture Books* with Lara Cain Gray (author) and Timothy Ide (co-illustrator), *Leaf Letters*, *Kate Forsyth's Long Lost Fairy Tales*, and *Satin* with Sophie Masson. Her work has earned her numerous accolades, including Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable Book of the Year awards for *Satin* and *Long-Lost Fairy Tales*.

STUDY NOTES

- The author mentions that as a child she read old stories where great heroes slept in caves for centuries. Try and find out something about one of those stories.
- Why do you think the giant woke up from his long sleep?
- The two children are the first to understand the giant is not a threat, but a friend. Write a short paragraph describing how they felt before they came out of their house to speak to him.
- Make your own paper boats. Maybe you could decorate them, or hide a secret message inside. (Search for 'origami boat instructions' online.)

- Collect leaves, flowers, twigs and other interesting things, and make you own collage Giant. Either make small versions individually, or the class might like to make one very giant Giant together!
- Send a postcard to someone you haven't seen for a long time. It might be a grandparent, a friend who moved away, or the postie who delivers letters to your house while you're at school! (And you can choose what a 'long time' is. It might be a year or three days!)