



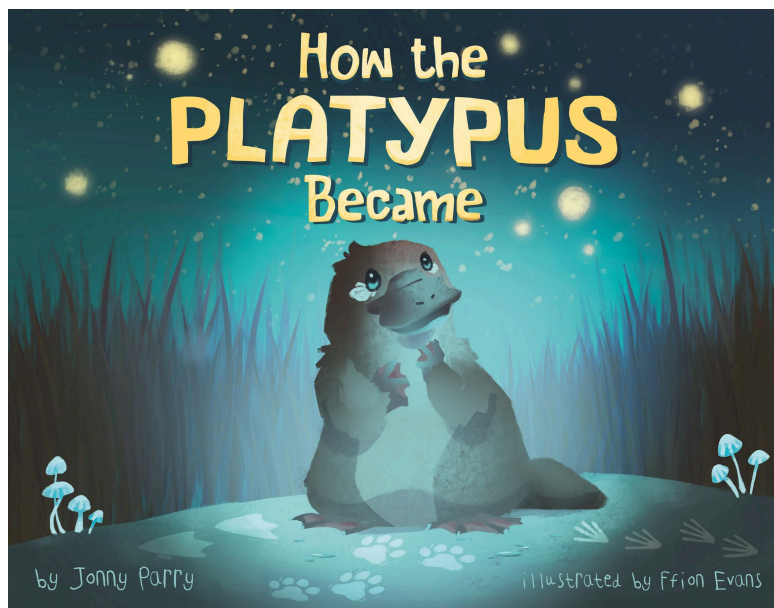
How the Platypus Became

A story of transformation, friendship and finding your place in the world.

What began as a hand-written school project over two decades ago has grown into a fully illustrated picture book - a childhood story reimagined and brought to life.

"How the Platypus Became" is a charming and visually stunning children's picture book that blends fantastical storytelling with real wildlife that is often more sensational than fantasy! Perfect for sparking curiosity and empathy in kids aged 4 to 8 or as an entertaining bedtime read for little ones and parents alike.

About the Book



Long ago, when the world was new, a cat, a fish, a duck and a frog each wished for the gifts the others had. Instead of letting jealousy get the better of them, they came together and set off to the Spark of Life, the place where every living thing began.

What they found changed everything. From its shining bill to its webbed feet, a brand-new animal emerged - one that was a little bit of everyone, and entirely itself.

Book Details

- Title: *How the Platypus Became*
- Author: Jonny Parry
- Illustrator: Ffion Evans
- **Publication Date:** December 12 2025
- Target Age: 4-8 years
- Trim Size: 8.5" x 11"
- Formats: [Paperback](#)/ [eBook](#)
- Distribution: IngramSpark Global Distribution / Amazon
- Publisher: River & Sky Books
- ISBNs:
 - English paperback 978-1-0682329-0-9
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- Pricing:
 - UK: £9.99/ £4.99 (eBook)
 - US: \$12.99/ \$4.99 (eBook)
 - EU: €11.99/ €4.99 (eBook)
 - Canada: \$18.99/ \$6.99 (eBook)
 - Australia: 20.99 AUD/ 7.99 AUD (eBook)

About the Author

Jonny Parry is a British children's author and communications professional living in Basel, Switzerland. His debut picture book, *How the Platypus Became*, began as a hand-written story for his younger sister when he was just ten years old. Reimagined as a beautifully illustrated book for today's readers, it celebrates self-acceptance, emotional growth and the joy of being "a little bit of everything."

Having grown up in Devon, UK, Jonny spent his childhood adventuring across the moors with his dad and being told stories by grandfathers. Jonny now lives in Basel, Switzerland, where he continues to write stories that spark curiosity, encourage self-belief and celebrate the joy of being different.

Visit Jonny at www.jonnyparry.com

About the Illustrator

Ffion Evans is a freelance illustrator and artist based in Hamburg Germany. She creates vibrant, fun and playful images filled with love, warmth and connection, particularly centered around mythical creatures and characters, animals and nature.

Website: <https://www.ffionevans.com/>

Key Themes

- Self-acceptance and emotional growth
 - Celebrating individuality
 - Magical realism and animal 'evolution'
 - Gentle introducing complex emotions (like jealousy) to young readers
 - Nature and animals
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Why It Matters

Children today face a constant pressure to compare themselves to others. This story gently reframes jealousy as a natural feeling and shows that true happiness comes from embracing who you are, even if that is more than one thing. Parents and educators can use this book to talk about emotions, self-esteem and the beauty of being different.

The book is also a reminder that nature can be even more fantastical than our own imagination.

Press Contact

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Review Copies & Media Requests

Advance review copies available upon request. Please contact Jonny Parry at jonathanmtparry@gmail.com for digital or print copies, interviews, event inquiries or additional materials.

Visual Assets Available (upon request)

- High-resolution cover image
 - Author and illustrator headshots
 - Sample interior pages
 - Character illustrations (for media use only)
 - Logo for River & Sky Books imprint
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Suggested Interview Topics

- Turning a childhood story into a real book
- Writing emotional themes for young readers
- What the platypus teaches us about identity and self-worth
- From communications to kids' books: a creative career pivot
- The message behind being “a little bit of everything” in today’s world

Author quote

“Revisiting this book reminded me of the creativity we often leave behind as adults, even though our love of animals tends to stay with us. I hope this story encourages children to unlock their imaginations and discover that the natural world is often more extraordinary than fantasy.”

For more information, visit www.jonnyparry.com or contact Jonny directly (jonathanmtparry@gmail.com)

The Story Behind *How the Platypus Became*

The origins of *How the Platypus Became* stretch back more than two decades. At the age of ten, author Jonny Parry wrote and illustrated his first version of the story as part of a school project. That early draft was bound by hand and gifted to his younger sister.

Jonathan’s fascination with the platypus had begun even earlier. His Australian aunt once brought him a Yowie chocolate, with a small toy inside - his was a platypus. From that moment, he was hooked. Long before the internet was at his fingertips, Jonny relied on library books, second-hand knowledge, and his imagination to fill in the gaps about this extraordinary animal.

The childhood ‘manuscript’ sat in a box for years until Jonny’s father rediscovered it and encouraged him to revisit the idea. While rereading it on a family holiday, Jonny realised there

was a story worth re-telling - one that could grow into a fully realised picture book for today's readers.

Reworked and refined, and brought vividly to life through the illustrations of Ffion Evans, *How the Platypus Became* is both a debut publication and the fulfilment of a childhood dream: a story first imagined in felt-tip pens, now ready to inspire new generations of curious readers.