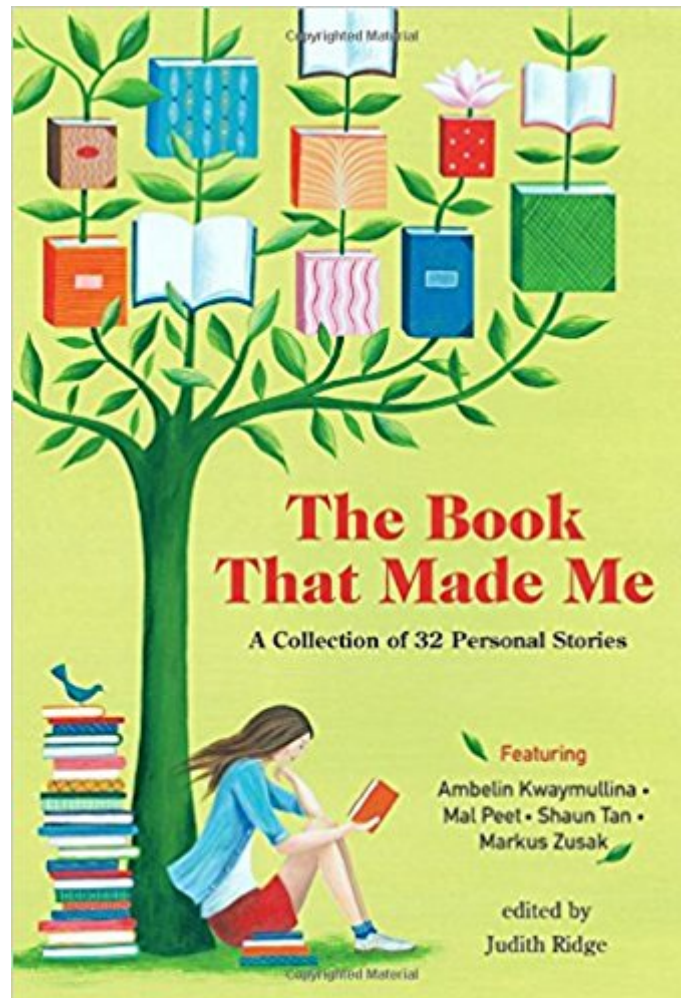


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# The Book That Made Me: A Collection Of 32 Personal Stories.



## Synopsis

Just as authors create books, books create authors. And these essays by thirty-one writers for young people offer a fascinating glimpse at the books that inspired them the most. What if you could look inside your favorite authors' heads and see the book that led them to become who they are today? What was the book that made them fall in love, or made them understand something for the first time? What was the book that made them feel challenged in ways they never knew they could be, emotionally, intellectually, or politically? What book made them readers, or made them writers, or made them laugh, think, or cry? Join thirty-one top children's and young adult authors as they explore the books, stories, and experiences that changed them as readers for good. Some of the contributors include: Ambelin Kwaymullina, Mal Peet, Shaun Tan, Markus Zusak, Randa Abdel-Fattah, Alison Croggon, Ursula Dubosarsky, Simon French, Jaclyn Moriarty.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pencil drawings by Shaun Tan as well as photographs of the authors when they were young are visually engaging...this will likely be a favorite for those wanting a glimpse into the secret world of writers as well as a handy resource for book reports. Candid and inspirational. Kirkus Reviews A good discussion starter among readers, this volume will intrigue many fans of children's and young-adult books. Booklist Ridge asked thirty-two authors (mostly from Australia and New Zealand) about the books that influenced them, and the responses are engagingly varied...Cartoons by Shaun Tan punctuate the collection with answers (often characteristically bizarre) to the question "Why do you read?" from imaginary people and creatures

drawn by Tan. •The Horn BookImpassioned and intimate, these essays create an eloquent ode to the power of story. •Publishers WeeklyMany of the selections would work well as a classroom read-aloud...Inspirational and handy. Consider for narrative nonfiction high school collections. •School Library JournalThe book's best audience is potential writers curious about other cultures. •VOYA

Judith Ridge is internationally recognized as one of Australia's leading experts on literature for children and young adults. In a career spanning more than twenty years, she has worked as a teacher, writer, critic, and editor. Judith Ridge has taught children's literature at several universities and is currently working toward a PhD in Australian children's and young adult fantasy fiction. She lives in South Windsor, Australia.

Although I am not generally a huge fan of short stories and these vignettes are surprisingly like many short stories, I am really enjoying reading this. I am about half way through and I can see that there are several new to me authors that I am going to have to explore.

I am loving it!

The Book That Made Me is an anthology by several authors that tells about a book that influenced their life. The Book That Made Me gives us a chance to look inside the authors' mind and how they first became inspired to write. I am not usually big on anthologies. I'm a cover to cover reader and I don't like to skip stories (even if I don't enjoy them). I find that with most anthologies there are stories/essays I love, a few that are ok, and ones I just don't enjoy. This was the case with the Book That Made Me. When I started reading I noticed that I only recognized two authors, Markus Zusak author of The Book Thief and Jaclyn Moriarty (whose sister Liane wrote Big Little Lies). After a couple of essays, I realized why. All the authors are either Australian or New Zealanders. Because of this I didn't recognize most of the books that inspired the authors. This left me disconnected from many of the stories. There were several stories that were inspirational and that I really did love. For example, Cathy Cassidy's story about her love of Watership Down. Will Kostakis' story of how

not liking *Hatchet* inspired him to become a writer. Queenie Chan's discovery of the Manga *Black Jack*, and Jacklyn Moriarty's discovery of the Roald Dahl book *The Magic Finger*. There were a few stories that seemed a little boastful, a few that were a little too simple, and two or three that were entirely off topic. I did love that photo of the authors when they were young. The sketches in the book seemed out-of-place and like they were inserted into stories where a photo was not provided. I loved the idea of *The Book That Made Me*. I also loved that all the royalties will be donated to Australia's Indigenous Literary Fund. I also liked the index at the end. It lists all the books mentioned in the essays. *The Book That Made Me* was a very unique and inspirational read and one I may refer to back to. I would like to see something similar geared to specified markets of readers such as the American market, Canadian market, British market etc.

\*DISCLAIMER: I received an ARC copy of this book from Candlewick Press. I am voluntarily leaving a review of this book with no influence from the publisher. When Candlewick Press contacted me asking me if I was interested in this book I was thrilled. I had thought about a book like this in the back of my mind for many years, and I was so excited to see that someone had the same idea I did and turned it into a reality! This book was such a fun read! You can easily fly through it in a few hours but I really recommend taking your time with this anthology. The way I suggest reading it is to read one story per day. Each story has something you can take away from it and think about later on or throughout your day. I feel like you will get so much more out of it that way. One way I do think this book could be unenjoyable for people is that this book only contains authors from Australia and New Zealand. Most of the authors in this book are not internationally known, so the reader may not feel a connection with them or their story. I think the way to fix this is before you read each story to go to the back of the book and read the authors little biography, maybe look up their books on Goodreads as well. Who knows? You might find some new books to add to your TBR list. I would love to do the same thing here with American and Canadian authors as well. I'm not going to have any spoilers in this review, but there are some stories that I would like to highlight as my favourite. Those are: Alison Croggon, Markus Zusak, Kate Constable, Queenie Chan. Of course I didn't really connect with all of the stories, but they were interesting to read nonetheless. I really loved how this book really didn't put any limits on the stories that these authors could tell. They weren't restricted to one book, they could do multiple books or a series, and there were many mediums used as well;

print books, verbal stories, manga, picture books, etc. I love books so much, that I was constantly absorbed in each story and I couldn't wait to see how reading and which book or books it was that influenced a person and how it changed them. As readers we each have our own stories and books that we connect with and remember nostalgically and this anthology is a treasure trove when it come to that. If you love reading, I recommend that you go out and read this book.

I have never read a book like this before. It was a really wonderful idea to ask authors to name a book that made a big impact on their lives as writers. Several times I found myself nodding in agreement as I read the stories and I found that many of the books that were an influence on me were listed. I also found a few books that I will be looking to pick up and read. Thank you to Netgalley for the opportunity to read this title in exchange for an honest review.

Very good for the price. good seller. good product with high quality. recommend it to my friend. as a gift to Tommy,

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