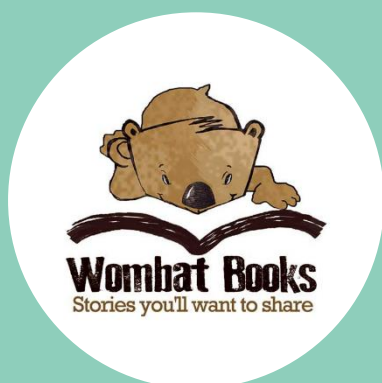




Wombat Books

Title: The First Tackle
Release date: 1st March 2022
Paperback RRP: \$14.99
Middle Fiction
ISBN: 9781761110818

Available from all good
bookstores or online at
www.wombatrhiza.com.au



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MEDIA RELEASE

Building Representation

Tackling Inequality in Our Everyday Spaces

It's sports fiction like never before, as we follow the missions of super-secret spy, Daniella Murphy. What mission is she on? To play rugby league. But the antagonist isn't a normal villain, it's the perception itself of girls playing rugby league. And that perception is: they can't.

Fighting for an equal place on the playing field isn't a unique problem for Dani though, and it's not a problem just in sports. "Daniella Murphy to me represents many people. She represents a little bit of myself and some of the comments I copped as a young girl who loved the Brisbane Broncos and wanted to be a sports journalist," Rikki-Lee says.

There are less than half as many women's teams in rugby league than there are men's, and so it's not a surprise when Dani doesn't even know they exist! But Rikki-Lee has written *The First Tackle* to fill that empty space. She wants to provide "a book for young children that shows they can achieve anything ... for young girls especially, I hope they feel seen, heard and represented."

The First Tackle "is about treating people fairly and not discriminating against someone because of who they are... about standing up for yourself and breaking down those barriers... about believing in people and supporting them, no matter what."

Dani represents a space for the next generation of aspiring NRLW players. "She represents female players – past and present, elite or not – who have had to overcome major hurdles and discrimination to be where they are today," Rikki-Lee adds. And with her hopeful and positive disposition, Dani is ready to conquer the world: and let other girls know that they can too.

Rikki-Lee lives in Brisbane and is a sports journalist and has worked through her decade-long career at *The Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* covering NRL, women's league, tennis, AFLW, cricket and more.

For your review copy of *The First Tackle*, contact publishing and marketing assistant, Sara Muller, at Wombat Books via sara@wombatrhiza.com.au.

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