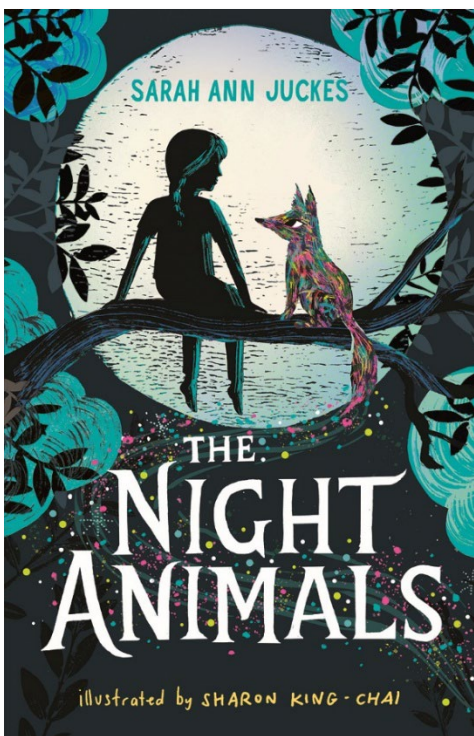


# THE NIGHT ANIMALS

Sarah Ann Juckes \* Sharon King-Chai

Fiction | 978-1-68464-948-8 | Ages 9+ | Paperback | 5 x 7.75 | 288 pp | \$8.99 | LOC: 2023951611

Nora says she and her mum are just *fine* on their own. But when she's visited by mysterious rainbow-edged ghost animals, she's led on a journey to find and accept the help she needs.



- Compassionate portrayal of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Explores themes of bullying, friendship, courage, accepting help from others.
- Relatable, authentic characters of all ages.
- Well-paced action with sufficient tension to engage readers.
- Encourages empathy, discussion of attitudes toward mental illness.

## Review Praise

"A compassionate, message-driven story about mental health." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"... leaves you with a feeling that it is always okay to ask for help. Hope and healing is something attainable. A creative and memorable story."

– *Always in the Middle*

"Juckes does a good job of addressing PTSD through the eyes of a child ..." – *Youth Services Book Review*

**An Activity Page is available for download under Resources on the Kane Miller website.**

He squints at me and I try not to look at him.  
"If you're being bullied too, we can stick togeth—"   
"Look," I say, quickly. "It's nice of you to invite me into your hideout. But I'm *fine* on my own."

Kwame grins suddenly, huge dimples appearing in each of his cheeks like moon craters. And I notice that his eyes are the same kind of swirled-up brown as the tree trunk behind him. "Me too! Hey – maybe we can be fine on our own together? I know some games we can play, or you can choose if you want."

I sigh loudly, scrunching up my eyes. Outside, I hear the whistle from the cafeteria ladies again.

"Just – just leave me alone, please," I say.  
I pull back the curtain of branches, and I run.



I know as soon as I burst from the bicycle path onto my road after school, that the Good Morning has turned into a Bad Afternoon.

The row houses on my street curve down the hill into the distance. All the front doors are brown or white or gray – except ours. Ours is bright red – the same color as my bike. Mum and I painted it last year and it's wonderful, but it also makes it clear all the way from the corner when there's a white note pinned to the front of it waiting for me to get back from school.

## Additional Information

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### KEY ELEMENTS

- PTSD affects approximately 3.5 percent of U.S. adults every year. In families, the roles of parent and children may become reversed resulting in stress and trauma to the child.
- Validates asking for help in challenging situations of any kind.
- Depicts examples of genuine friendship, courage, and support.
- Hopeful, imaginative, empowering.
- Vivid, descriptive writing.

### Related Kane Miller Books titles

- ***The Hunt for the Nightingale***  
*Sarah Ann Jukes \* Sharon King-Chai \* 64-947-1*
- ***Epic Historic Adventures: A Great Escape***  
*Felice Arena \* 64-539-8*
- ***How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life***  
*Fiona Hardy \* 64-631-9*

### Comp titles from other publishers

- ***Nest***  
*Esther Ehrlich*
- ***The Science of Breakable Things***  
*Tae Keller*
- ***All the Greys on Greene Street***  
*Laura Tucker*

### Springboard for homeschool/classroom discussion and activities

- Discuss the night animals: why they've appeared, what each symbolizes
- Look into symbolism of animals in other cultures
- Explore PTSD and other mental illness: what it is, the effect on families, personal experiences
- Examine how the book treats bullying
- Assess the credibility of the characters and their actions and reactions

### More Review Praise

"This **comforting**, bighearted read presents its lessons directly and without ambiguity. ... Nora is a **believable and compelling** character. Her prickliness and stubbornness at the beginning of the story leave room for emotional growth ..." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"A **creative and memorable** story."

– *Always in the Middle*



**Kane Miller**  
EDC PUBLISHING

[www.kanemiller.com](http://www.kanemiller.com)