

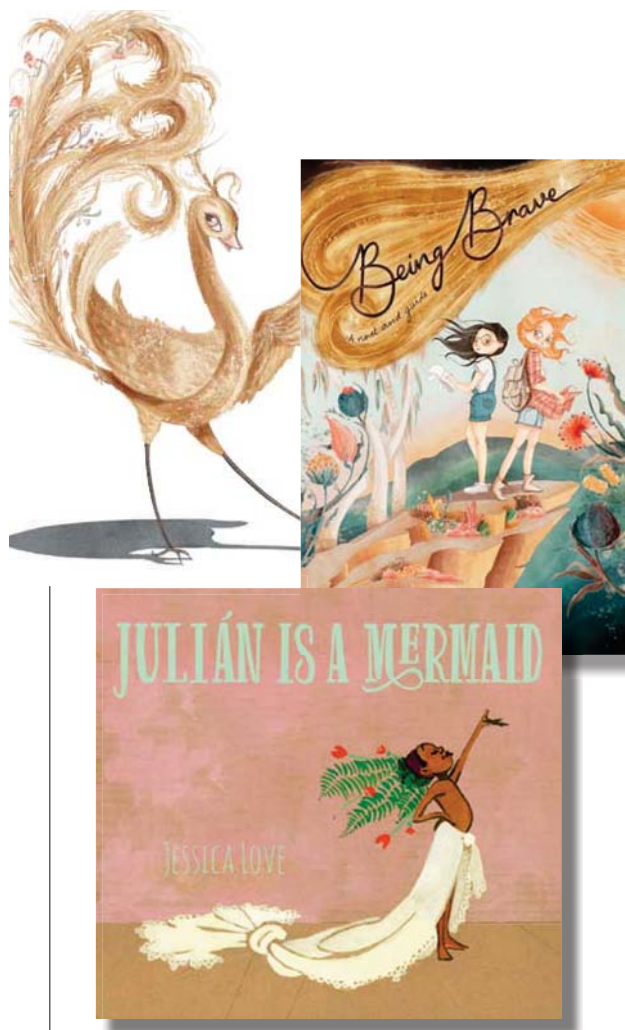


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On both sides of the Pacific Ocean, children's books that empower the next generation are booming. *Being Brave* (MH Publishing), by Sydney women Hester Leung and Sema Musson, is an ode to female friendship and resilience, while *Julián Is A Mermaid* (Walker Books Australia), by Jessica Love, tells the touching tale of a transgender boy in New York City. The pictures are pretty, the stories are simple, but what really sets apart these page-turning tomes? They're not just for kids.