

# STARBERRIES AND KEE

Cate Whittle

## Book to Screen Pitch

### SUMMARY

**Starberries and Kee** is solarpunk climate-fiction told with positivity and hope. It confirms that in the face of crisis, it is community and compassion that defines us, connecting us to the future we choose to create.

This is an adventure-based story of friendship – set in a climate changed world where beneath the apparent "chaos" of our circumstances, lies meaningful coincidence and connection.

A global story unfolding in an Australian setting (though easily changed), *Starberries and Kee* has easily identifiable characters. For young viewers, the world of the story offers imagined potential pathways that they may see or contribute to in their lifetimes. It's climate fiction, where we fix it – just.

Wren is a Wild Child, brought up on the mountain by Old Man, learning everything he knows from nature, but when Old Man dies, all Wren has is Kee, a black cockatoo which the boy had saved and nurtured, and instructions to go and find someone he doesn't know in a place he has to search for.

Hannah, too, must farewell all that is familiar in her city-based community and sets out with her great-grandmother to live with an uncle far away in a home carved into the side of a hill. With so many adjustments to make, Hannah has an increasing sense of being an outsider, and longs to return to the life she knew.

When their paths collide, they form a secret friendship that brings a family full circle, linking the past to the present and the old with the new.

### *The story resonates with the following films/series:*

#### TITLE

2040 (Documentary)  
The Girl From Tomorrow (TV Series)  
The Commons (TV Series)  
Tomorrowland (Film)

#### WHY

Hoped filled, able to imagine a positive future  
Science-fiction adventure set in the future  
Communities adapting to climate change  
For its positive-future solarpunk vision



## **FIVE KEY STRENGTHS** would make this story a visually appealing and successful screen adaptation including:

- Storyline and setting features current themes of sustainability and climate change: children need narratives like this to inspire them and feel hope and audiences want to watch them (a potential new era in Australian TV children's drama).
- Ultimately a story of hope and empowerment – an opportunity to highlight how people can respond in a positive way to the changes that are already happening; to adapt, and create communities that act together.
- Australian setting: Potential for beautiful camera work – the Australian High Country, city street gardens, the Australian bush, 'green' city spaces, and earth-shelter houses plus CGI enhancements. Placement in a near-future world allows for innovative direction and costuming.
- Active scenes filled with adventure and conflict, excitement and suspense: Will Wren be discovered? Is Old Man a ghost or a memory? Racing to save Wren after he is bitten by a snake.
- Main characters are children with slightly rebellious, self-defined personalities that will appeal to a child audience. Adults are friendly and approachable, but still provide a base against which the children can push.

## **CONTACT**

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