

Ellidy Pullin's *Heartstrong* wins Booktopia's Favourite Australian Book Award

- *Popular social media personality and podcaster tops public vote with powerful memoir charting the love and loss of her late partner, Alex "Chumpy" Pullin*

Australia, 28 February 2023: Ellidy Pullin, the long-time partner of late world champion snowboarder Alex "Chumpy" Pullin, has been announced as the winning author of Australia's Favourite Australian Book for 2022 with her best-selling memoir, [*Heartstrong*](#).

The book charts Ellidy's journey as she navigated the loss of Alex following his untimely death while on a spearfishing trip in 2020 and follows the subsequent life-changing decision to harvest Chumpy's sperm to attempt to have the baby they had long been trying for. *Heartstrong* features stories of love, joy, grief and resilience even in the darkest of times with the book supporting Ellidy's mission to honour Chumpy and keep his spirit alive, especially for their daughter, Minnie.

Heartstrong received critical acclaim from fans and industry alike and the wave of interest and demand was so strong, that the book was re-printed before its official publication date.

On winning the award, Ellidy said: "Telling this story has been healing and heartbreaking. I'm so happy that it's connected with so many readers – I hope it helps them too. Thank you for loving and voting for *Heartstrong*. And thank you for keeping Chumpy's memory alive."

Joel Naoum, Head of Product Sales, Booktopia, said: "The 2022 FAB Award was hotly contested as ever with a host of fantastic releases across all categories from dozens of brilliant Australian authors so we don't envy fans picking a favourite! *Heartstrong* is a powerful book which captures a whole range of emotions and we're delighted for Ellidy that the book has connected with so many people.

"2023 is shaping up to be another great year for books with more homegrown talent behind some brilliant reads. Selecting a shortlist for the 2023 FAB Award is going to be very difficult to say the least!"

Heartstrong becomes the fourth FAB Award winner after the Awards were established in 2019, crowning Australia's favourite book from an Australian author, based on the results of the public vote with more than 70,000 votes cast from book lovers nationwide.

The book beat off stiff competition from new releases from a number of award-winning literary legends, TV personalities and social media stars. The runners-up include the winner of the previous two FAB Awards, **Nat's What I Reckon** with his book *Life: What Nat To Do*; social media star **Emma Carey's** powerful story of her horror parachute fall in *The Girl Who Fell From The Sky* and actor **Chloe Hayden's** celebration of neurodivergence, *Different, Not Less*.

Popular cooks **Leah Itsines** and **Nagi Maehashi** (aka RecipeTin Eats), literary giants **Jane Harper** and **Lynette Noni**, tennis champion **Ash Barty** and comedian **Jimmy Rees** were the other authors who made the final shortlist from the initial long list of more than 140 of Australia's top books from 2022.

Booktopia's Favourite Australian Book Award 2022 - Top 10

1. [Heartstrong](#) by Ellidy Pullin
2. [Life: What Nat To Do](#) by Nat's What I Reckon
3. [The Girl Who Fell From the Sky](#) by Emma Carey
4. [Different, Not Less](#) by Chloe Hayden
5. [Good Food Made Simple](#) by Leah Itsines
6. [RecipeTin Eats: Dinner](#) by Nagi Maehashi
7. [Exiles](#) by Jane Harper
8. [My Dream Time](#) by Ash Barty
9. [The Guy Who Decides](#) by Jimmy Rees
10. [The Blood Traitor](#) by Lynette Noni

Heartstrong joins previous FAB winners [488 Rules for Life](#) by Kitty Flanagan (2019), [Uncook Yourself: A Ratbag's Guide to Life](#) by Nat's What I Reckon (2020) and [Death to Jar Sauce](#), also by Nat's What I Reckon (2021).

To browse the initial long list of top books featured in the 2022 FAB Award, click [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

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