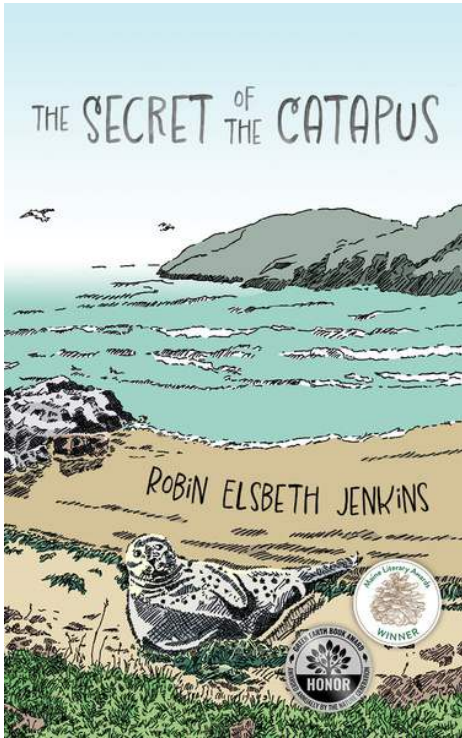


The Secret of the Catapus



Softcover: 978-1-961905-62-7 |

\$14.99 (Ingram)

Consumer price: \$12.95 (Amazon & 12WillowsPress.com)

E-book: 978-1-961905-63-4 | \$5.99

5 x 8 | 202 pages

Age: 10-14 years

September 2025

Categories: Middle-grade animal fiction | Middle-grade ocean fiction | Emotional middle-grade fiction | Coastal fiction middle grade | Middle-grade literary fiction | Middle-grade animal adventure | Marine animals middle grade

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Twelve-year-old Ellie moves to her grandmother's Maine homestead, uncovering extraordinary secrets about her family, community, and nature. In this small coastal town, she finds her voice as a young climate activist, aided by a group of new friends, a mysterious seal, and her grandmother's spirit. Set on the Maine coast, **The Secret of the Catapus** is a coming-of-age tale blending environmental urgency with heartfelt storytelling, humor, and magical realism.

Perfect for readers drawn to stories of friendship, marine life, and environmental activism, **The Secret of the Catapus** blends real-world urgency with wonder and warmth. It's a powerful pick for anyone seeking middle-grade fiction rooted in nature, community, and courage.

Awards & recognition

- 2026 Maine Literary Award for Young People's Literature
- 2026 Green Earth Book Award — Honor Book
- 2026 Lupine Award — Shortlist

“Full of good-hearted humor, compelling issues, lovable characters, friendship, and hope, this book will resonate long after the last page is read.”

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If readers like *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen, *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold, or *Willa of the Wood* by Robert Beatty, then they'll love *The Secret of the Catapus*.

Robin Elsbeth Jenkins grew up in mid-coast Maine, where she spent many hours exploring the coves and tidal inlets, much like the characters in **The Secret of the Catapus**. When she's not writing, she enjoys cooking, reading, doing cross-stitch, and gardening.

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