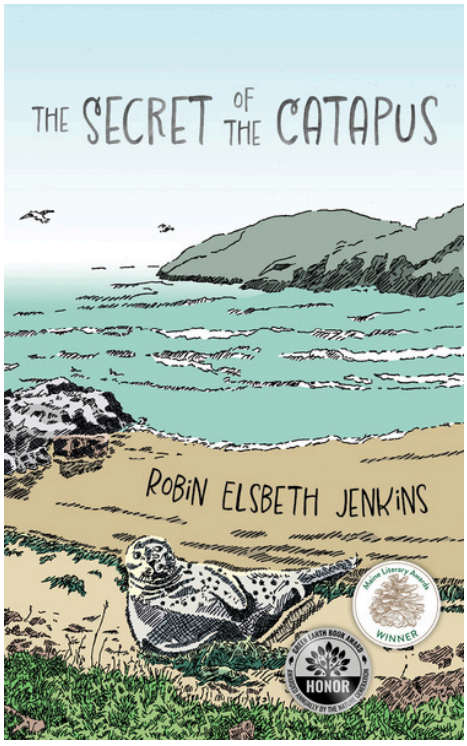
The Secret of the Catapus



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: Nature: Environment | Social Activism & Volunteering | Marine Life: Fiction
Order directly from **12 Willows Press** or through major wholesalers and retailers

A SEAL. A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. A SPECIAL KIND OF MAGIC.

2026 MAINE LITERARY AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE
2026 GREEN EARTH BOOK AWARD, HONOR BOOK
2026 LUPINE AWARD, SHORTLIST

Twelve-year-old Ellie Andrews didn't plan on spending seventh grade in a tiny Maine fishing village. But when her parents' marriage falls apart, she finds herself at her late grandmother's coastal homestead in Whitneyport, where the lobster boats run at dawn, the tides tell time, and a mysterious harbor seal keeps turning up wherever she goes.

Gram was the town's beloved teacher, a fierce environmentalist, and a woman with a few secrets. As Ellie finds her footing with a misfit circle of friends, navigates a teacher who refuses to believe in climate change, and tries to keep a promise to a grandmother she can still feel watching over her, she begins to understand what Gram was protecting, and why it matters more than ever.

The Secret of the Catapus is a coming-of-age story about grief, courage, and carrying someone's legacy forward. It's also about a seal named Catapus, who has his own ideas about where Ellie belongs.

"Full of good-hearted humor, compelling issues, lovable characters, friendship, and hope, this book will resonate long after the last page is read."
—Kristine Bondeson, *Echoes Magazine*, columnist

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.

Publisher:
information@12willowspress.com
https://12willowspress.com

Author:
robin@robinelsbeth.com
https://robinelsbeth.com