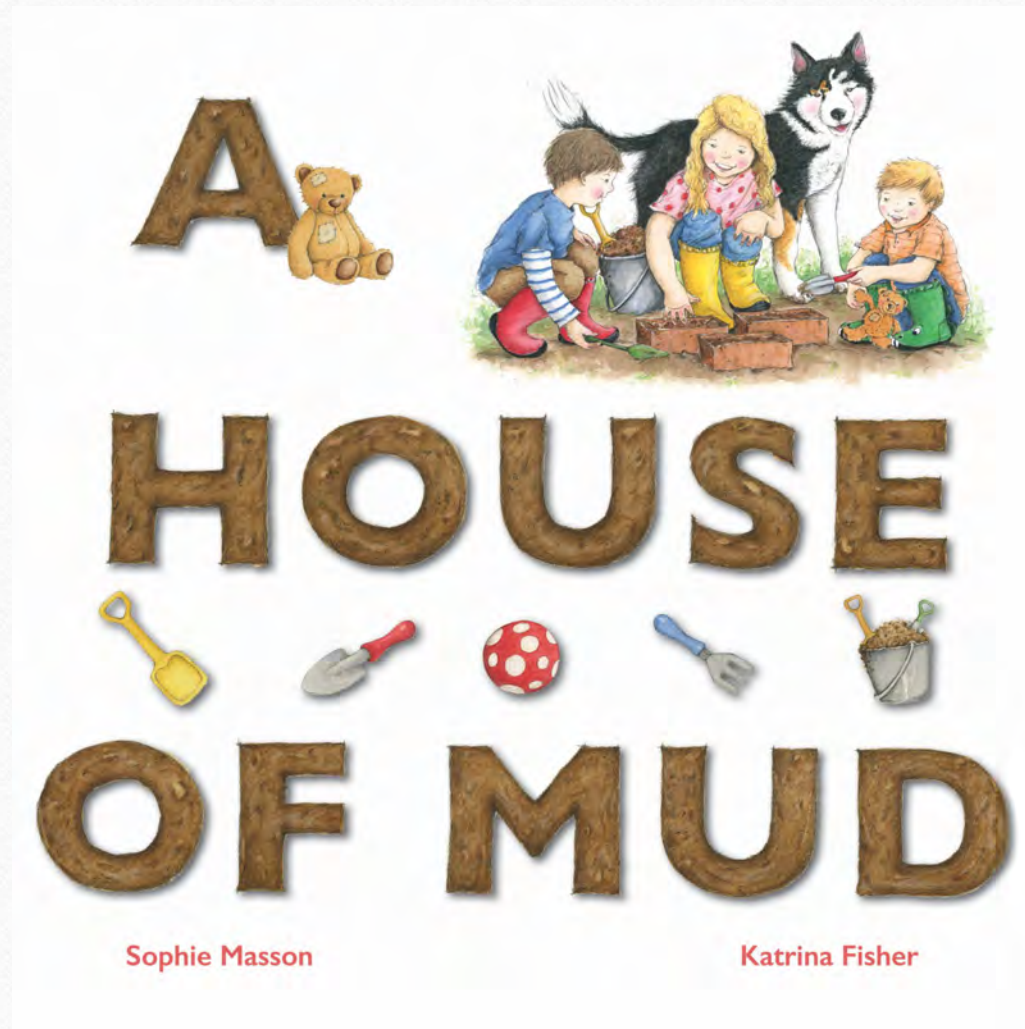


The story behind the
story of
A House of Mud

A presentation by
Sophie Masson



It was just before Christmas many years ago
And our three children, 9 year old Pippa, 2 year old
Bevis and 4 year old Xavier were very excited!

And so were we, because...

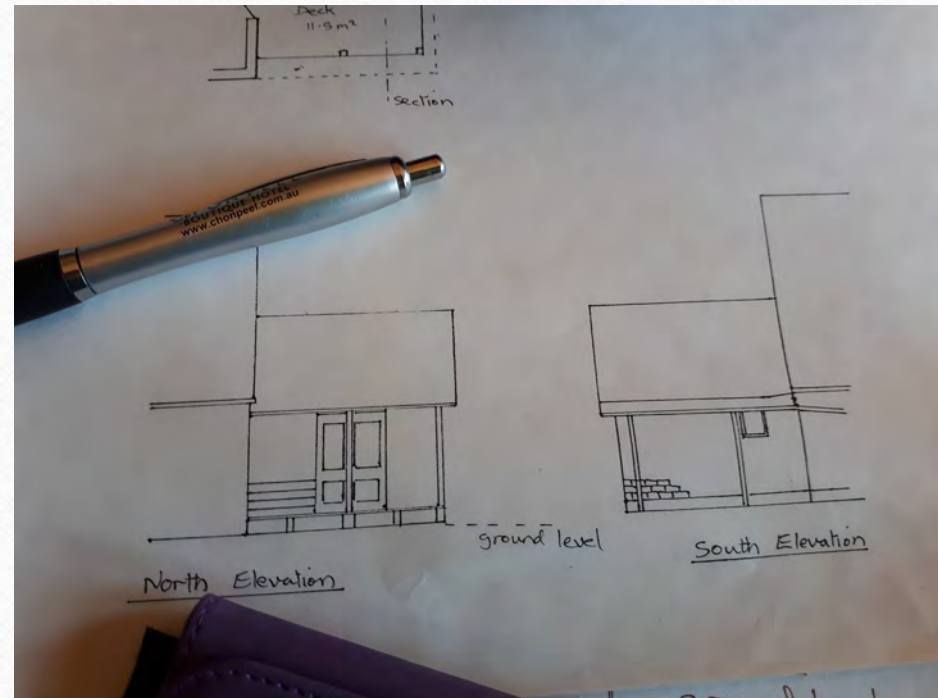
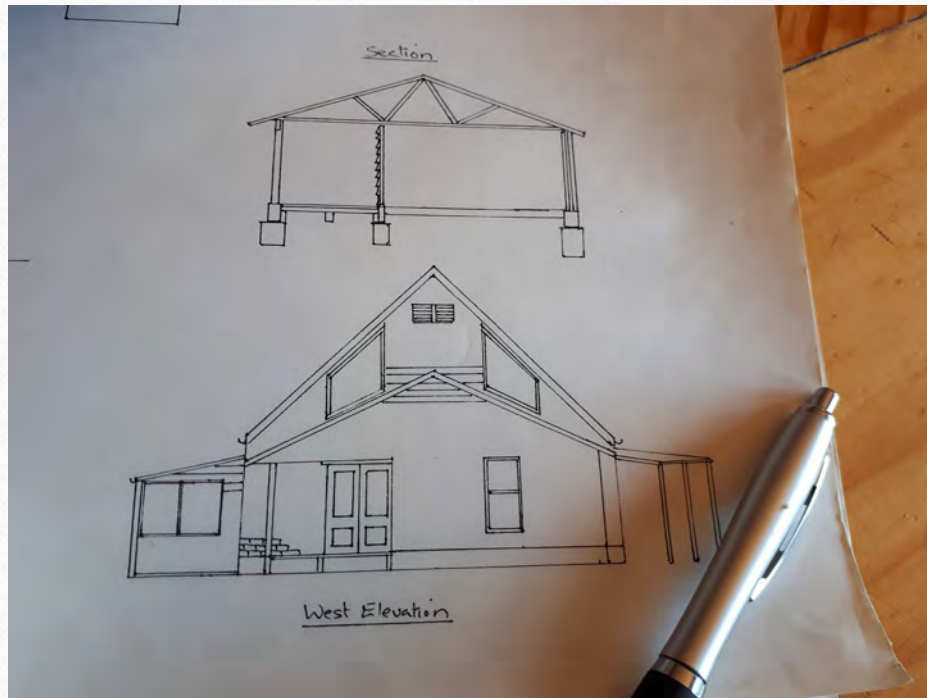


We had just bought a
beautiful block of land

And we'd decided to
build a house,
A special house,
A mudbrick house!



We drew plans



And had a dam dug near the
house site

All the clay that the
machine dug out was
piled to one side—that
would be used to make
mudbricks



We started work, by hand, from scratch



Making bricks and bricks and bricks and bricks



Then packing them on pallets to dry slowly, for months and months



From the start, the children really wanted to help but it wasn't easy, the work was hard, the mud was heavy, and it got boring for them



So after a time we had an idea: they could make small bricks, special bricks



Bricks they could make by themselves



Bricks they could be proud of



Bricks for a very special
reason

Made for a very special
new member of the
family: a puppy called
Tess!



Tess was a lovely dog and she loved being part of things



Especially when it came to
playing

Who wouldn't like
jumping on the
trampoline with your
people?



Time passed. The house grew and grew



And grew...



And grew...





Until finally...
It was a house!

A special house
outside..

And in!



A house that's become even more beautiful as
the years pass





And what about Tess? Well, she never got her mudbrick kennel in the end
But she got all the love in the world, all her long and happy life.

And now, in Katrina Fisher's beautiful illustrations,





Like making a cake!



fat and glistening in the sun.



There she is, a part of things again

I started writing *A House of Mud* a few years
ago

First I wrote the text as straight description

Then I rewrote it a few times to turn it more into a story, focussing on the children and their dog Tess.

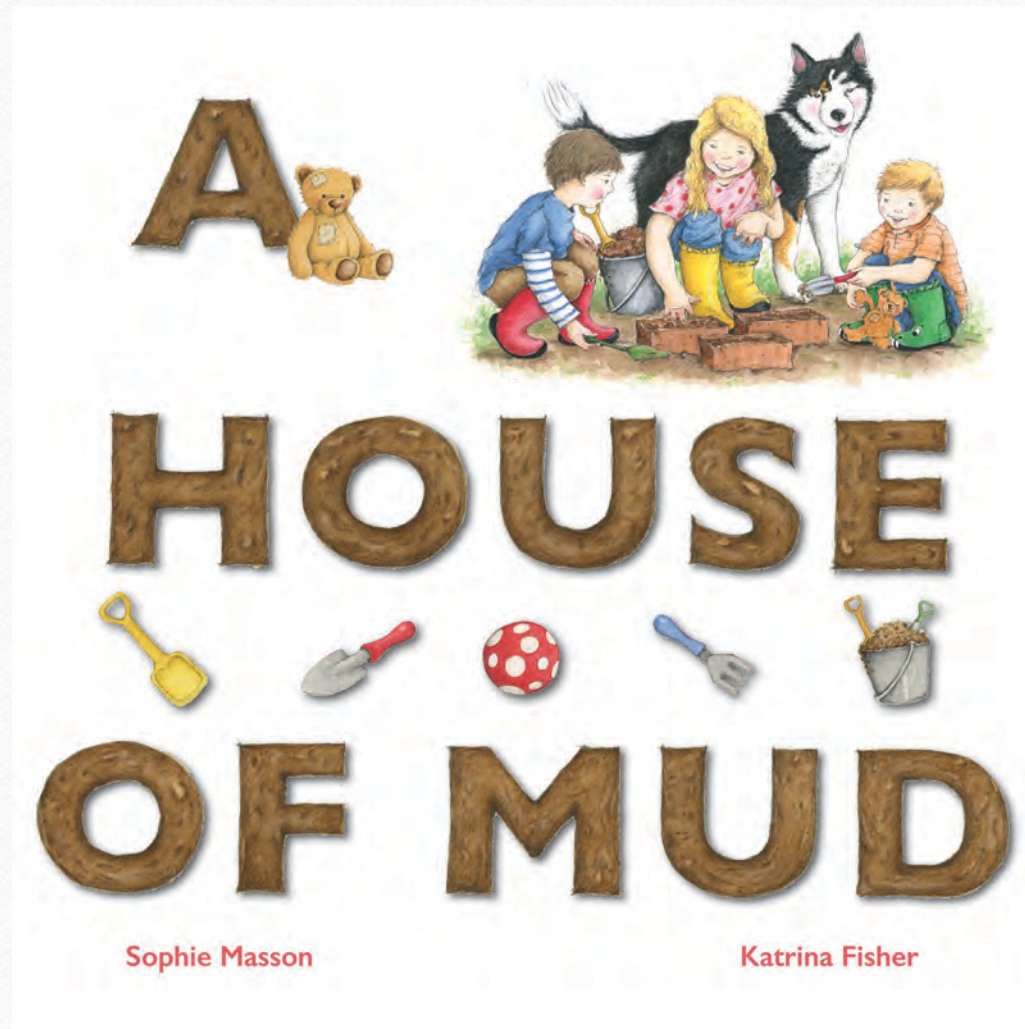
I loved writing it,

And I love even more the beautiful book it's become, a joint creation with the wonderful illustrator Katrina Fisher

And our wonderful publishers, Peter and Kathy of Little Pink Dog Books!

So—what happens with
those little bricks in the
book?

Well, you'll just have to
read the book to find
out!



A House of Mud,
written by Sophie Masson,
illustrated by Katrina Fisher

Published by Little Pink
Dog Books

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Find out more [here](#)



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