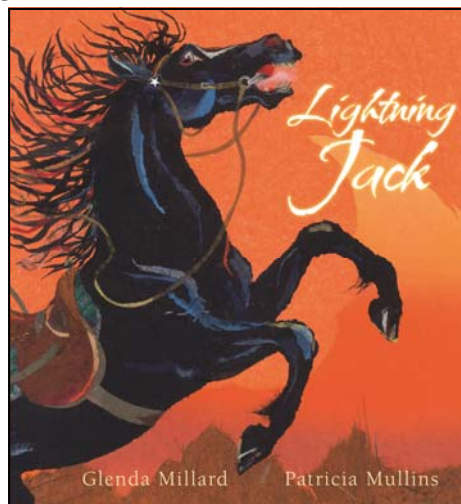




Born: Patricia was born in Melbourne in a leafy suburb and had a dog who she treated more as a horse, with a park nearby.

Illustrator of: *Lightning Jack, Hattie and the Fox, Crocodile Beat, Dream of the Dusky Dolphin, The Magic Saddle* and more!

What was your favourite book growing up? I can still see in my mind the glimmering of silver hair of flowing manes and tails of the silver brumbies, described so vividly by Elyne Mitchell. It was Mitchell's books that encouraged me to read and to enjoy reading; I think I will always blame her for instilling in me a love of horses, something that has remained with me all my life. My favourite children's author was Elyne Mitchell, famous for her silver brumby books, which I read as a child in the early 1960s. Her words brought those horses to magical life... the sound of their calls, the quivering nostrils, the hoof beats and heart beats of those brumbies, all set in the Australian bush and among ghost gums of the NSW high country.



What were you like in school? In school I was always drawing and would get into trouble for drawing in class. Even a report said 'Could do better if she wasn't drawing so much'.

Who inspired you to illustrate? Initially my mother, who provided paper, pencils and paint, plus buckets of encouragement, from the day I could hold a pencil. I was making pictures from kindergarten age. It was my grandmother who entranced my sister and I with her stories — ones from her times in the bush and riding horses.

What would you have chosen to be if you were not an illustrator? If not an illustrator I may have chosen to be a toy maker, wooden horse maker or maybe fine artist.

What do you do when you are not illustrating? When not illustrating I am restoring carousel and rocking horses, which has been my other occupation for many years. Luna Park Melbourne and the Melbourne Zoo have carousel horses that I have painted and restored.

What is the best thing about being an illustrator? The best thing about being an illustrator is seeing the face of a child, also an adult, enjoying your book(s). It's an occupation that takes you to all kinds of places, too.

Which famous person from the past would you like to talk to? Lots! But I'd really like a time machine to take me back to the workshops of the makers of rocking horses in the nineteenth century, although I guess not too many women would have been employed there!

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I'm looking forward to the near future when my husband and I will be living in central Victoria at our vineyard in a new house, new workshop and a cellar door... maybe a gallery too. Watch the website...

You can learn more about Patricia and the books she has illustrated at
www.patriciamullins.com.au