

Emily Rodda

Short-listed for 2009

CBCA Book of the Year:
Younger Readers



Photography © Michael Small

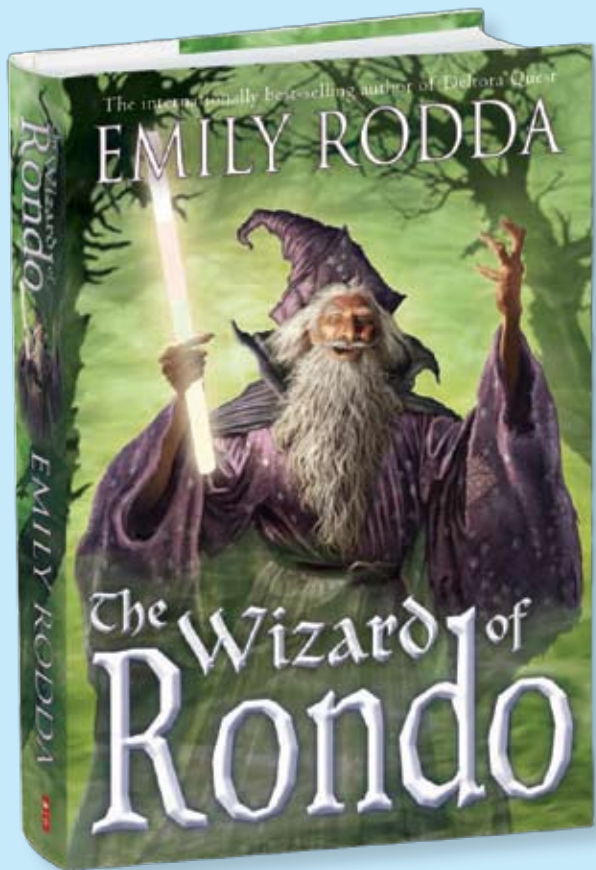
Emily Rodda was born in Sydney. She completed an MA (Hons) in English Literature at Sydney University in 1973. For many years Emily worked as an editor and publisher.

Always a keen reader and writer, Emily Rodda began writing children's stories in her spare time to entertain her young daughter Kate. She has been writing full-time since 1992 and has published over ninety books.

She submitted her first manuscript using a pseudonym — her grandmother's name, Emily Rodda — to make sure that she got an honest opinion of her work from her colleagues. That book, *Something Special*, won the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year: Younger Readers Award in 1985, as did four more of her books in subsequent years: *Pigs Might Fly*, *The Best-Kept Secret*, *Finders Keepers* and *Rowan of Rin*.

The Wizard of Rondo is the sequel to *The Key to Rondo*. The third book, *The Battle for Rondo*, is due for release at the end of 2009.

Turn the key three times only.
Never turn the key while the
music is playing.
Never close the lid until
the music has stopped.



EMILY TALKS TO BOOK CLUB ...

What happens in *The Key to Rondo*?

Sensible Leo Langlander and his prickly cousin Mimi discover that a seemingly innocent family music box contains a whole other world — Rondo. It is a world full of fascinating characters, many of whom bear a strange resemblance to the fairytale characters of Leo and Mimi's world. Thanks to Leo, Mimi and their new Rondo friends, the evil Blue Queen who once ruled the land has recently suffered a humiliating defeat.

Many of the characters in the world of Rondo are based on well-known fairytale characters. What were your favourite fairytales as a child?

Though all fairytales fascinate me, 'Little Red Riding Hood' is probably my favourite. It has all the story elements I love—suspense, excitement, an interesting heroine, a crafty villain, a trick, and (at least in the version I read as a child!) a happy ending.

What can your readers look forward to in the final book of this trilogy?

The power-hungry Blue Queen has a new, secret plan and an enchanted dragon to help her carry it out. Leo and Mimi go back into the world of the music box to join the final battle against the tyrant, risking everything to stop her before Rondo falls under her spell forever.



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