

Lamont Books Standing Order

May 2014

Secondary Fiction

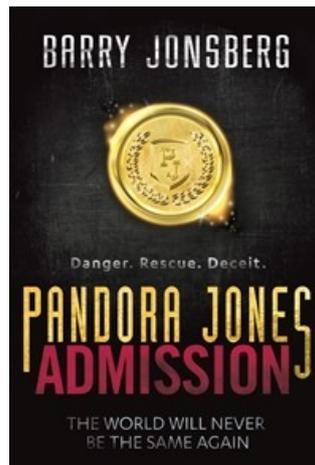
Pandora Jones - Admission

By Barry Jonsberg
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781743318119
\$17.99

**Secondary Book
of the Month**

Blurb:

Pandora Jones wakes in an infirmary - her body weak, her memory providing only flashes of horrific scenes of death. She soon discovers that her family has succumbed to a plague pandemic which almost wiped out humanity. Pan is one of the survivors who have been admitted to The School - a quarantined, heavily guarded, survival-skills facility - to recover their strength, hone their skills and prepare for whatever comes next. Pandora's skill is intuition, but how useful will it be outside the secure walls of The School? And what if it leads her to question where the truth lies...Plague. Pandemic. Intuition. Secrets. Truth. Courage. Action. Survival.



Lamont Review:

This is an intriguing and electrifying story. It's full of interesting characters, and a great plot full of action, mystery and conspiracy.

Pandora wakes in a hospital, only to find the whole world has almost been wiped out by a plague like virus. She is one of the lucky ones who has survived.

She finds herself amongst other young survivors at "The School". They are all desperate to survive against the odds, but who can they trust?

This is a really addictive story and the only thing that disappointed me is that I have to wait until October for the second book.

A wonderful story that will suit both boys and girls, Year 9 and up, especially those who love adventure combined with suspense and mystery.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Dead Dog in the Still of the Night

By Archimede Fusillo

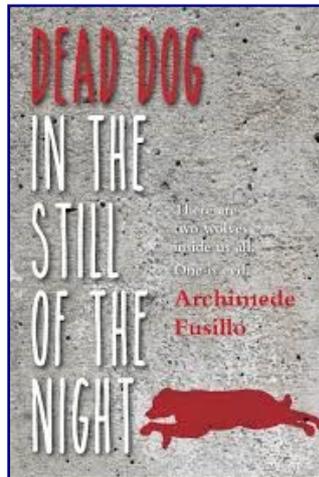
Publisher: Ford Street

ISBN 9781925000344

\$18.95

Blurb:

In the garage at the back of the family home sits Primo's father's pride and joy; a red Fiat 500 Classic. Bambino. It waits amongst the dust mites for Primo's father to recover, to come out of his paranoia and delusions. It waits and teases, like nothing else can - least of all the demands of everyday life, for things to return to normal. And that isn't going to happen any time soon...



Lamont Review:

In a style sure to resonate with older teen boys, Archimede Fusillo depicts a Melbourne inner suburban family with all of the cracks exposed.

Primo, our main character, is having family and relationship issues. He makes mistakes. He is at times raw and on edge. He is growing up. Sound familiar lads? I think so!

Well written and with a genuine feel for the characters and subject matter, it is mostly suited to older secondary students, Year 10 and up.

Reviewed by Rob

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Riot

By Sarah Mussi

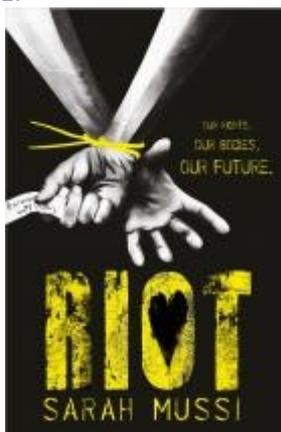
Publisher: Hachette Australia

ISBN 9781444910100

\$14.99

Blurb:

It is 2018. England has been struggling under a recession that has shown no sign of abating. Years of cuts has devastated Britain: banks are going under, businesses closing, prices soaring, unemployment rising, prisons overflowing. The authorities cannot cope. And the population has maxed out. The police are snowed under. Something has to give. Drastic measures need taking. The solution: forced sterilisation of all school leavers without secure further education plans or guaranteed employment. The country is aghast. Families are distraught, teenagers are in revolt, but the politicians are unshakeable: the population explosion must be curbed. No more free housing for single parents, no more child benefit, no more free school meals, no more children in need. Less means more. But it is all so blatantly unfair - the Teen Haves will procreate, the Teen Havenots won't. It's time for the young to take to the streets. It's time for them to RIOT: OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE, OUR BODIES, OUR FUTURE.



Lamont Review:

Tia Thompson (known on the net as Eve), daughter of the most powerful minister in the British Government, starts a movement of disenfranchised youth against the shocking new bill proposed by the Government to have those deemed to have no worthwhile future prospect of adding to society to be sterilised.

This provides an interesting and huge moral question on which the story is built and which continues to build in the readers psyche throughout the story. As the story gathers pace, Eve and her accomplice, Cobain Reilly, a gorgeous but convicted 'juvenile criminal', face mounting pressure to surrender to the authorities.

Rioting, or even gathering is illegal, a 'shoot to kill' approval has been granted and their country is teetering on the verge of self destruction. Can Eve and Cobain stop this treachery?

Can they prove that the whole thing was planned and manipulated by a corrupt government, which is mainly her father's doing?

An intense and thought provoking story that will be loved by many 14+ students.

Reviewed by Rob

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Alexander Altmann A10567

By Suzy Zail

Publisher: Black Dog Books

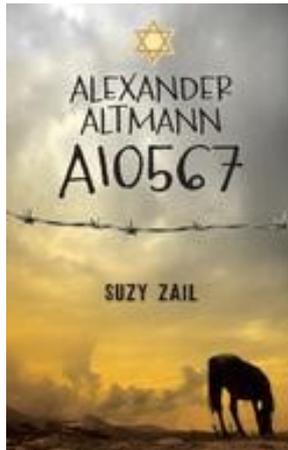
ISBN 9781922179999

\$18.95

Blurb:

The story of a young Jewish boy who must learn to trust others to survive. Based on a true story.

Fourteen-year-old Alexander Altmann doesn't need to look at the number tattooed on his arm. A10567: he knows it by heart. He also knows that to survive Auschwitz, he has to toughen up. When he is given the job of breaking in the commander's new horse, their survival becomes intertwined. Alexander knows the animal is scared and damaged, but he must win its trust. If



Lamont Review:

Suzy Zail's first novel, *The Wrong Boy*, was on our Standing Order in 2012 and was then nominated for the CBCA shortlist for Older Readers in 2013. *The Wrong Boy* looked at the life of a Jewish musician boy in a concentration camp during WWII, who was then lucky enough to avoid death.

Alexander Altmann A10567 is somewhat similar in that our lead character is a young horseman who is taken out of camp each day to tend to the commander's horses and give the officer's children rides.

While this genre is rather prevalent, the fact that Suzy places the reader in a situation where the lead character has another interest makes the outcome much more plausible.

Another wonderfully written story with a well crafted plot that will appeal to all secondary school students.

Reviewed by Rob

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No Stars To Wish On

By Zana Fraillon

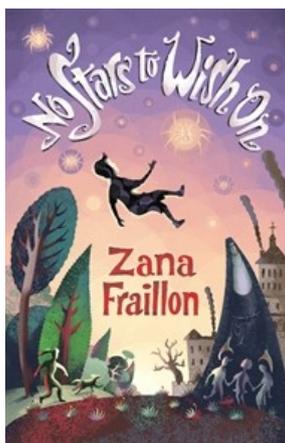
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781743315149

\$15.99

Blurb:

Each kid only has one pair of shoes here. Number 49's shoes are a pretty good fit for me and I know they're new because they still have that plastic smell. But the real Number 49 is quite a bit bigger than I am, because his pants keep falling down on me. I wish he would come back, so that I could go home. Jack loves telling jokes, but not many people laugh at them in the orphanage. Will he ever be reunited with his mother and sister, his great-aunts and great-grandmother, back at home? A haunting, fable-like story.



Lamont Review:

This is a really sensitive look at the Stolen Generation.

Told through the eyes of Jack, a small boy who is taken from his family and left at the orphanage. Jack knows his family love him dearly and he is sure there has been a mistake and he will soon be home.

He decides to try and make people happy by telling jokes to keep his morale up, but it's hard to smile when everyone is sad.

Jack has a remarkable personality and a resilience far beyond his years. This will be a perfect starting point for classroom discussion and will suit both boys and girls, Year 7 & up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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The Strays

By Emily Bitto

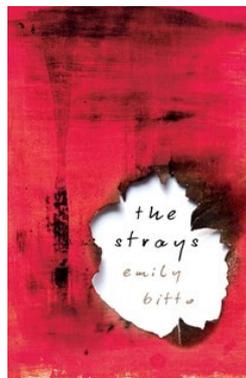
Publisher: Affirm Press

ISBN 9781922213211

\$24.99

Blurb:

In *The Strays*, Evan Trentham is the wild child of the Melbourne art world of the 1930s. He and his captivating wife, Helena, attempt to carve out their own small niche, to escape the stifling conservatism they see around them, by gathering together other like-minded artists. They create a utopian circle within their family home, offering these young artists a place to live and work, and the mixed benefits of being associated with the infamous Evan. At the periphery of this circle is Lily Struthers, the best friend of Evan and Helena's daughter Eva. Lily is infatuated by the world she bears witness to, and longs to be part of this enthralling makeshift family. As Lily observes years later, looking back on events that she still carries painfully within her, the story of this ground breaking circle involved the same themes as Evan Trentham's art: Faustian bargains and terrible recompense; spectacular fortunes and falls from grace. Yet it was not Evan, nor the other artists he gathered around him, but his own daughters, who paid the debt that was owing.



Lamont Review:

The Strays is a modern classic work of fiction that transports the reader to the conservative 1930's, with a group of artists who establish a colony where they work together, cultivating their ideals and craft.

We see this through the eyes of the young Lily, who on her first day at school meets Eva, the middle daughter of the infamous avant-garde artist Evan Trentham. Lily becomes infatuated with their lifestyle and the growing number of people living in their artists' colony.

When the depression hits and Lily's father is injured in a workplace accident, she moves in with the Trentham family and her life is forever changed.

Without giving too much away, I must tell you that you will experience great tragedy and turmoil as Lily, now a grandmother, looks back over her early years and the many wasted years in between.

Emily Bitto is a superb new author who places us firmly into the 1930's art world and makes us feel as though we have truly experienced this first hand, with a brilliant storyline and flawless character development.

It is certainly best suited to your senior readers, but might I suggest some teachers would thoroughly enjoy it as well!

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The Other Side of Nowhere

By Stephen Johnston

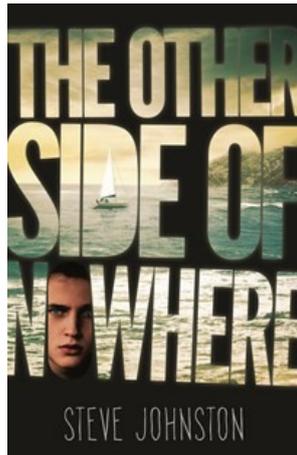
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

ISBN 9781742976907

\$16.95

Blurb:

When Johnno and his friends survive the freak storm that rips apart their yacht, they're just glad to be alive. That is, until reality hits: they've washed up on an uninhabited island with few supplies, no phone and no way to get home. The situation becomes even more desperate when the four teenagers discover they are not alone on the island. There's a hideout where men with guns are covering up a dark secret that they will protect at any cost. With nowhere to run, Johnno and his friends are forced into a dangerous game with the criminals as they fight to save one of their own. *The Other Side of Nowhere* is a dangerous place to be when you're hungry, trapped, and being hunted.



Lamont Review:

This is a fast paced action adventure with soft edges.

Johnno heads off on a camping adventure with his best mate, Nick, his little brother, Matt, and his female cousin George. First, they have to take Nick's yacht to a local island but when a storm hits, our adventure begins.

There is non-stop action with people smugglers uncovered, loads of cash, gun shots and daring rescues.

Throughout all of this though there is an undercurrent of emotions as they discover much about themselves, their relationships and courage.

Best suited for your middle readers, aged 10—14.

Reviewed by Rob

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Maybe One Day

By Melissa Kantor

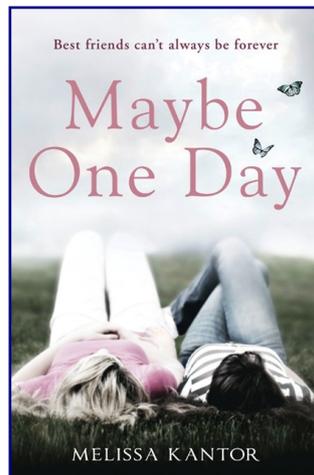
Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN 9780007544240

\$17.99

Blurb:

Zoe and Olivia have always been best friends. And becoming professional ballerinas has always been their goal. But when they turn sixteen the unthinkable happens as Olivia is diagnosed with leukaemia. Falling in love, coping with school and falling out with each other - everything is thrown into a whole new light. A heartbreakingly bittersweet tragedy that reveals profound truths about loss, love and the friends who mean the world to you.



Lamont Review:

This is a beautifully told story of two best friends and the love and heartache they go through when one of them is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Overnight, sixteen year olds Olivia and Zoe have to face a very different life from the one that they had planned.

Hospital and medical tests quickly become their new habits, as dancing and boyfriends are forgotten. Zoe's life becomes frozen as she struggles to cope with Olivia's illness.

This book made me cry and it made me smile. A perfect book for your Year 9 girls and up, who are looking for more depth in their characters, as their story will stay with you long after you stop reading.

Reviewed by Michelle