

Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2012

SECONDARY TITLES

The Way We Fell

By Megan Crewe

ISBN 9781742668253

\$19.99

'If you feel a cold coming on, do the responsible thing and take a sick day,' the reporters are saying. As if skipping work is going to do any good. Our virus is a lot smarter than the ones you see in zombie movies. It doesn't make its victims stagger around slobbering and moaning so anyone in their right mind would run the other way. It gets you cozying up to people so you can cough and sneeze it right into their faces.



When a mystery virus besets a small island community and people start dying, the government quickly quarantines the island. The story is told by 16 year old Kaelyn, sometimes through memoirs written to her friend Leo, who she was separated from without having the chance to say goodbye.

In their cut off community, with bodies piling up, the book picks up pace as we discover how people might behave given these extra-ordinary set of circumstances.

Kaelyn meets Gav, who has taken the islands food to distribute evenly and regularly to the survivors. While Gav is a true hero, another group are taking what they can steal and when things get dire, they begin shooting people who have symptoms, instead of taking them to hospital. Kaelyn's Mum dies from the virus, and when Kaelyn herself gets it, we fear the worst. But she becomes one of the six who have recovered and she wants to know why. Can she, with the help of her scientist Dad, discover a cure?

A superb read. It is a teenage psychological thriller, with wonderfully defined characters that show us the many ways people handle tough situations.

Best suited to middle secondary students, but with no content to offend those younger, and at 48, I still found it terrific.

Reviewed by Rob.

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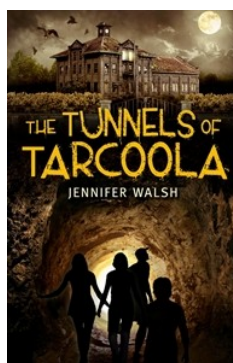
The Tunnels of Tarcoola

By Jennifer Walsh

ISBN 9781742376752

\$14.99

'Come round here!' called David. 'We've found something. I'm showing them.' Andrea pushed him aside. 'It's my cave!' She lowered herself into the hole. Her head disappeared, and a moment later they heard her voice, faint and slightly hollow. 'Come on!' A network of tunnels leading under the park, a secret exit to an abandoned mansion, a hidden box of documents...all very mysterious, but it's just a game, right? Wrong. When shadowy figures start watching every move they make, Kitty, David, Andrea and Martin know they've stumbled onto more than a forgotten piece of history. They need to find all the answers fast, before someone beats them to it.



When four friends, Kitty, Martin, David and Andrea, discover secret tunnels linking the beach, the old haunted mansion and the park, they begin a quest not only to explore them, but also to trace their origins and purpose. The old mansion has a proposed redevelopment by the mega rich and mega dodgy Mr Buckingham, which the people of the town are totally against.

When Kitty's school project involves talking to an old person at the retirement village, she meets Miss Gordon, whose stories unlock the historical secrets about the mansion, the tunnels and the Tarcoola girls. Miss Gordon, who has the signs of dementia, finally provides vital information about documents hidden in the caves that can reveal all.

Martin is befriended by the lovely Samantha Buckingham to find out what the kids know, and when the girls get abducted and questioned by thugs working for Mr Buckingham, the pace hots up to discover the truth behind the mansions mystery. But can the children retrieve the mysterious documents before Mr Buckingham and his thugs, who are hot on their tail, discover them? And who is the real owner of the mansion?

A fabulous piece of historical fiction in the tradition of the *The Famous Five*, inspired by the abandoned coalmines that really do exist under Balmain in Sydney.

Ideal for younger secondary students, both boys and girls, who love an easy, but pacy adventure.

Reviewed by Rob.

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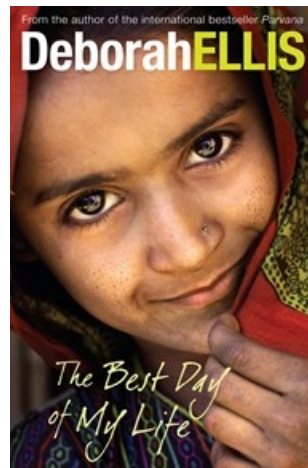
The Best Day of My Life

By Deborah Ellis

ISBN 9781742379142

\$15.99

'The best day of my life was the day I found out I was all alone in the world.' Even though Valli spends her days picking coal and fighting with her cousins, life in the coal town of Jharia, India, is the only life she knows. The only sight that fills her with terror is the monsters who live on the other side of the train tracks - the lepers. When Valli discovers that that her 'aunt' is a stranger who was paid money to take Valli off her own family's hands, she leaves Jharia and begins a series of adventures that takes her to Kolkata, the city of the gods. Valli finds that she really doesn't need much to live and is very resourceful. But a chance encounter with a doctor reveals that she has leprosy. Unable to bear the thought that she is one of the monsters she has always feared, Valli rejects help and begins an uncertain life on the street.



Valli is a young girl living in the poorest part of India in the coal mining town of Jharia. She lived with her Aunt, Uncle and cousins in a tiny space where she was treated badly, particularly by her Uncle and cousins.

When she discovers that her Grandparents paid this family money to keep her she escapes, alone in the world, to the larger town of Kolkata. Here she lives on the streets and learns the ways of survival. But her life changes when she meets Dr Indra who realises that she has leprosy developing in her feet and wants to treat her in hospital.

At first she is reluctant to believe that anybody could be offering her so much help and not want anything in return. Eventually, with her dream to become like the intelligent and vibrant young lady Doctor, she returns to the hospital, realising that people around the world donate money to the hospital, just so that people can get better and go on and do something wonderful with their lives.

A great thought provoking story for all younger secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Cinder: The Lunar Chronicles

By Marissa Meyer

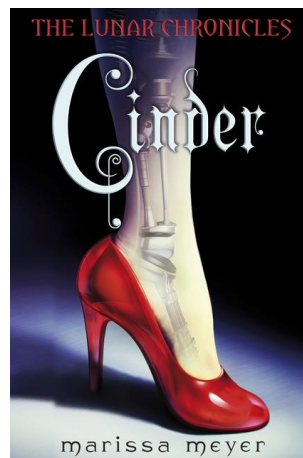
ISBN 9780141340135

\$16.95

**A forbidden romance.
A deadly plague.
Earth's fate hinges on one girl . . .**

CINDER, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. She's reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen - and a dangerous temptation.

Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future.



This is the first book in the Lunar Chronicles and it is an action adventure series based around our favourite fairy tale, but not the fairy tales as we remember them.

Cinder has all the elements of the original Cinderella - wicked stepmother, 2 stepsisters, a handsome prince and a ball to get ready for.

Cinder is not your ordinary heroine, as she is a cyborg - part human, part machine. She must face a contagious diseases and an evil queen, whilst trying to help the prince with his android, because Cinder is also the best mechanic in town.

Set in a futuristic earth, trying to avoid a war with the evil queen Levana from Lunar. This story will appeal to girls Year 7 and up who like adventure and romance, with a twist of science fiction.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Cold Hands, Warm Heart

By Jill Wolfson

ISBN 9781406325416

\$16.95

Two lives. Two hearts - but only one is working.

Fourteen-year-old Amanda is a competitive gymnast, sleek-muscled and in perfect health. Fifteen-year-old Dani was born with her heart on the wrong side of her body; she's been in and out of hospital all her life. The two girls don't know each other – and never will. Yet their lives are about to collide. Amanda suffers a haematoma – a blood clot – during a gymnastics competition, and dies. The donation of her heart means renewed life for Dani and several other donor recipients. A fascinating and unputdownable story on an important and topical issue.



Amanda is a superb gymnast about to win another championship when she collapses mid routine.

Dani's heart is on the wrong side and has had so many problems since birth that she has just gone to 'top priority' if a donor becomes available.

And so follows a tragic but inspirational story of the lives touched by such a unique situation.

We get a glimpse of the emotional rollercoaster that must eventuate, particularly through the eyes of Amanda's sixteen-year-old brother, Tyler.

Except for the occasional emotionally charged language, this book is ideal for all secondary students, and should be used as a great introduction to the idea of organ donation.

Reviewed by Rob.

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Outpost

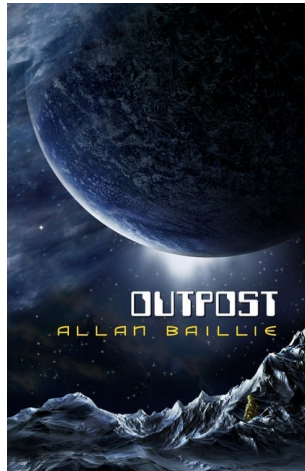
By Allan Baillie
ISBN 9780143305927
\$16.95

Something was in the rings that shouldn't have been there.

Life on the remote moon Ord is dangerous. Random eruptions in the ice, extreme cold, loneliness and loss: it's all Dece knows.

Until one day he sees a mysterious object caught in the rings of the nearby gas planet, Cotal.

With no choice but to investigate, what he will find is so extraordinary that it is almost beyond understanding.



This is a true Sci-Fi adventure, set on a remote outpost where everything is difficult and possibly deadly. We are slowly introduced to Dece's family throughout the story and their different relationships.

This is a fantastic read with an unexpected twist in the end that your Junior and middle school readers will love.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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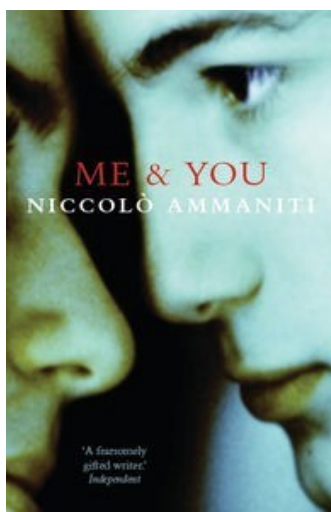
Me and You

By Niccolò Ammaniti

ISBN 9781921758775

\$17.95

Lorenzo has a few issues. They include the fact that he doesn't have, or want, any friends. Because this is making his parents unhappy, he tells them he has been invited on a skiing holiday with a group from school. In fact, he is planning to spend the week happily ensconced in the cellar of their apartment building with a supply of canned tuna.



This is the story of his week in the cellar, which he has planned with great care, including plenty of food and his favourite computer games.

Nothing goes to plan when his junkie half-sister Olivia arrives and needs his help. How he deals with her problems makes a huge change in his life.

This is a confronting and challenging story that your senior students will thoroughly enjoy.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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The Fault in our Stars

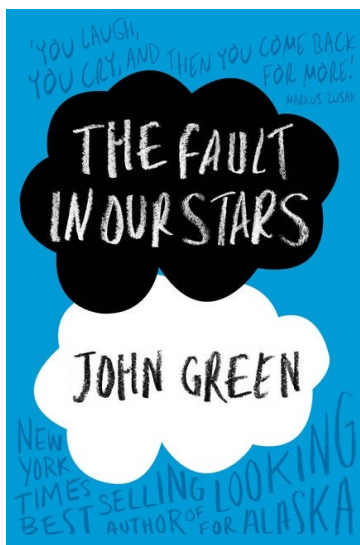
By John Green

ISBN 9780143567592

\$19.95

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* is award-winning author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.



Not much happened in Hazel's or her carer Mum's lives, until Mum forces Hazel to attend a Cancer Kids Support Group. In waltzes Augustus Waters, a survivor who is there mostly to support his friend Isaac whose cancer is leading to blindness.

Hazel and Augustus share a remarkable journey of love and friendship. Ultimately Augustus uses his unused 'Make a Wish' for them to visit Amsterdam. Upon their return, Augustus' cancer has returned and a rollercoaster of emotions and life's truths are discovered and debated.

A remarkable portrait of young people who live life with one foot in the grave. Filled with incredible humour and tragedy, it leaves us asking 'Will I be remembered? Will I make my mark on the world?'

Fantastically written, it will best suit your thoughtful teenagers at probably 15+.

Reviewed by Rob.