

Lamont Books Standing Order

March 2012

SECONDARY TITLES

Three Summers

By Judith Clarke

ISBN 9781742378275

\$19.99

The path of Ruth's life was shaped in one fateful moment when, as a baby, she was tossed clear from a car wreck. Her grandmother raised her, with a fierce hope that she would one day go to university and see every marvellous place in the world. When Ruth and her best friend Fee finish school, Fee chooses motherhood and marriage. Ruth knows that she must leave town, but that means leaving Tam Finn, the elusive yet entrancing boy so unlike any other she has ever met. An extraordinary story of friendship, longing and the saving grace of love.



An engrossing and deeply moving saga that spans an entire lifetime.

We look in on the life of two girls, Ruth and Fee, who grew up in rural Australia in 1960. But as school finishes, Ruth accepts a full scholarship to Sydney University, whilst Fee gets married and settles into a comfortable rural life of children and community.

In going, Ruth leaves behind the entrancing Tam Finn, a boy so unlike any other she has met. The boy who is heir to Fortuna, the large property around which their small town is based.

In part two, we experience both the search for and culmination of the two women's quest for happiness in their own lives, now in 1985. With Ruth lecturing in London and Fee's children growing up and seeking a life of their own.

Part three sees Ruth, now sixty, returning and fostering Dancey, a troubled teenager with the same haunting eyes as Tam Finn. We see many things falling into place. Could she really be Tam's grand daughter?

Evocative reading for both teenagers and adults. Shall I say mostly female 15+.

Reviewed by Rob.

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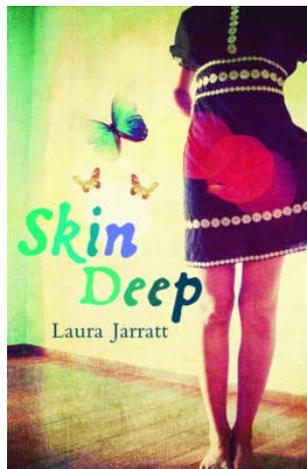
Skin Deep

By Laura Jarratt

ISBN 9781742970233

\$22.95

After the car crash that leaves her best friend dead, Jenna is permanently scarred. She struggles to rebuild her life, but every stare in the street, every time she looks in the mirror, makes her want to retreat further from the world. Until she meets Ryan. Ryan is also an outsider. When he and his mother arrive in town she tells him this time it will be different. He doesn't believe her. Until he meets Jenna. As Jenna and Ryan grow closer, repercussions from the crash continue to reverberate through the community. And then a body is found...



Drinking and excessive speed. A recipe for disaster. With a beginning that is too predictable, we are soon thrown into the real story.

That of Jenna's awful scars resulting from the explosion and the death of her best friend Lindsay in the accident, and her total retreat from society. A society that is too hard on ugly people. Until she meets Ryan.

Ryan travels on the canals on a narrow boat with his bi-polar mother and never settles anywhere. He is an outsider and is happy that way. Until he meets Jenna.

As they grow closer together, the town that is trying to recover from the accident is unforgiving of reminders like Jenna and her Dad's campaign to have local hero Steve's non custodial sentence for drink driving overturned.

But a murder in the community. Who would go that far? The Police question her Dad, but he is put in the clear. Surely not the ruggedly gorgeous Ryan? The truth of their relationship would surely come out with the Police investigation.

Ultimately it is a wonderful beauty and the beast love story. Exploring themes of beauty, prejudice and courage, girls 12+ will love this book.

Reviewed by Rob.

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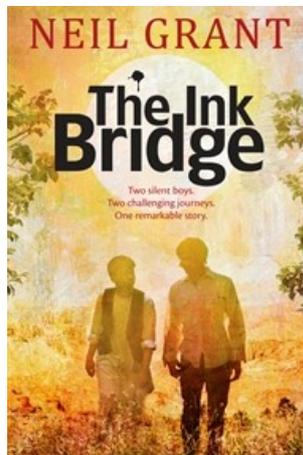
The Ink Bridge

By Neil Grant

ISBN 9781742376691

\$17.99

Each step becomes a heartbeat and I feel the distance between Omed and me closing. I remember when I first met him - when he had showed me what bravery meant. How he had stood up for what he believed. In the end that had been his undoing.



We begin with the horror of life in Afghanistan where Omed flees The Taliban, but not before his tongue has been mutilated. He was his families hope for the future and using a small fortune that an old man in his village gave him, he seeks asylum first through Indonesia, eventually arriving in Australia.

He faces the perils of a refugee camp and ultimate escape, where he meets Hector, a silent grieving Australian boy who has given up on school. They meet at a small candle making factory in Dandenong, and Omed is soon invited to live with Hector and his caring father. Unfortunately they are present when an illegal people smuggling operation is uncovered at their work. This leads to Omed being deported back to Afghanistan.

Finally, we move forward to find Hector freshly graduated from university as a journalist on a quest to be reunited with Omed. After a gruelling and dangerous trek, through a still oppressed Afghanistan, they finally meet and the last stone is laid in the bridge they built between their worlds, a bridge that began on the day they met.

Omed now lives in a small lean to on his own out near a lake. His family is dead or scattered, but he entrusts his journalist friend to go out to the world and tell their story.

Their story grips your heart and refuses to let go.

It is an amazing human story, highly recommended to a 14+ readership.

Reviewed by Rob.

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The Wrong Boy

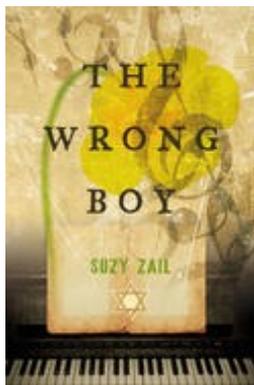
By Suzy Zail

ISBN 9781742031651

\$18.95

The story of a Jewish girl sent to Auschwitz with her family. She falls in love with the wrong boy – the German son of the camp commander.

Hanna is a talented pianist, and the protected second daughter of middle class Hungarian Jews. Relatively late in World War II the Budapest Jews were rounded up and sent to Auschwitz. Hanna and her mother and sister are separated from her father. Her mother becomes increasingly mentally ill until she too is taken away somewhere. Her sister Erika is slowly starving to death. Hanna is quite a naïve 15-year-old but when presented with the opportunity to play piano for the camp commander, she is desperate to be chosen. She goes each day under guard to the commander's house and stands waiting in case the commander should want some music. Also living in the house is the commander's son, Karl. A handsome young man who seems completely disengaged from what is happening around him. Hanna hates him as he sits drawing in the music room. But the longer Hanna goes to the house, the more she realises there are other things going on. Secret things. Karl may not be the person she thinks he is. Before she knows it she has fallen in love with the wrong boy.



Hanna, a fifteen-year-old Hungarian Jewish girl who is a talented pianist, had just been accepted into the prestigious Conservatorium of Music when the decree came to resettle all Jews.

So begins a terrible journey with her sister Erika and Mother and Father that would take them to Auschwitz and the concentration camp of Birkenau.

Through Hanna's eyes we experience the horror of this shocking blight in history. She becomes the commandant's personal pianist, thereby sparing her certain death, as she now had certain luxuries like food. This enabled her and Erika to survive the ordeal, which unfortunately their parents did not.

The Wrong Boy was the commandant's son, Karl, who chose Hannah as their pianist and provided her and others in the camp with extra food and care. He did this secretly, as to be discovered could only result in death. Ultimately Hanna and Karl fall in love, and when the Russians arrive to liberate the camp, Karl accepts his own arrest to assure Hanna's survival.

A touching story. A powerful insight into war. A poignant love story. Ultimately a story of human courage and survival. A fantastic read for all secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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Erebos

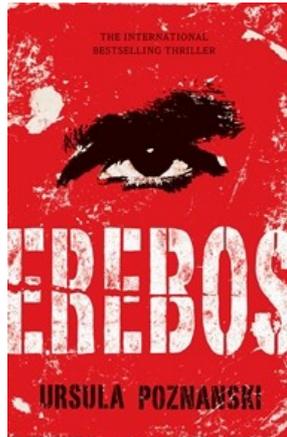
By Ursula Poznanski
ISBN 9781742379531
\$19.99

Are you playing the game - or is the game playing you? A highly addictive thriller about power, manipulation and revenge.

'Enter. Or turn back. This is Erebos.'

Nick is given a sinister but brilliant computer game called Erebos. The game is highly addictive but asks its players to carry out actions in the real world in order to keep playing online, actions which become more and more terrifyingly manipulative. As Nick loses friends and all sense of right and wrong in the real world, he gains power and advances further towards his online goal - to become one of the Inner Circle of Erebos. But what is virtual and what is reality? How far will Nick go to achieve his goal? And what does Erebos really want?

Enter Erebos at your own risk. Exciting, suspenseful and totally unputdownable.



What is everyone passing around at school and being so secretive about?

Finally Nick is asked to join this sinister game. The game of Erebos. Highly addictive, totally life like and with a mind of its own. That's because its been programmed to have artificial intelligence.

Erebos slowly makes the players take more and more action in the real world, and some of these actions have deadly consequences.

Nick proceeds towards the ultimate goal of being one of five to be in the Inner Circle who will be at the final battle. But as the lines between game and reality come closer together, Nick needs to decide how far he is willing to take things.

Those that enter Erebos are warned. They can enter or turn back. They enter at their own risk.

A totally unputdownable, addictive thriller that will be a huge hit, particularly with boys 14+

Reviewed by Rob.

Teacher notes for this title are available at the publishers website:

www.allenandunwin.com/_uploads/BookPdf/TeachersNotes/9781742379531.pdf

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Forget Me Not

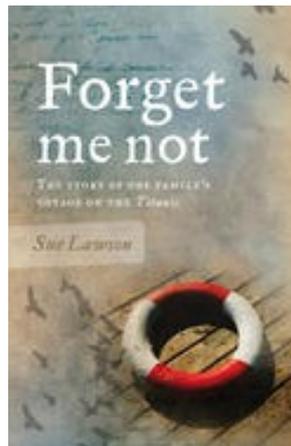
By Sue Lawson

ISBN 9781742032108

\$16.95

The story of one family's voyage on the Titanic.

"I am filled with the worst feeling. Everyone says it is the safest, most luxurious ship in the world, but something about it is extremely unsettling." Evelyn Gilmore does not share her brother Thomas' excitement about travelling on the maiden voyage of the luxurious Titanic. For Evelyn the ship is taking her away from everything she knows and loves. For Thomas it is taking him to his new life. How could they know what the trip would bring?



It's April 1912 and the Gilmores are migrating to America. A stroke of luck sees the coal strike forcing their trip on the Oceania to be cancelled and they are instead placed in the worlds finest ship, the RMS Titanic for her maiden voyage,

Seen mostly through the eyes of their teenage children, Eve, who is nervous about the trip and has a pending feeling of doom, and her adventurous brother Tom.

We experience much of what life would have been like on this incredible ship. We also see its unexpected and underprepared demise as it strikes an iceberg with dire results for many on board, including some of our key characters.

The 100th anniversary of the ships voyage will provide extra appeal to a wonderfully engaging story, that will best suit your younger secondary students.

Reviewed by Samantha.

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Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

ISBN 9780370332291

\$21.95

WONDER is the funny, sweet and incredibly moving story of Auggie Pullman. Born with a terrible facial deformity, this shy, bright ten-year-old has been home-schooled by his parents for his whole life, in an attempt to protect him from the stares and cruelty of the outside world. Now, for the first time, Auggie is being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. The thing is, Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all? Through the voices of Auggie, his big sister Via, and his new friends Jack and Summer, WONDER follows Auggie's journey through his first year at Beecher Prep. Frank, powerful, warm and often heart-breaking, WONDER is a book you'll read in one sitting, pass on to others, and remember long after the final page.



Reminiscent of *The Elephant Man*, a ten-year-old boy August Pullman is born with severe facial disfigurement.

We look at a year in his life, though his eyes mostly, but also as experienced by his sister Via, friends Summer and Jack, Via's boyfriend Justin and her best friend Miranda.

It is an emotion charged ride through his first year at school. The regular shock and horror that people display when they see him. The rejection and bullying that regularly confront both him and those that choose to befriend him. But mostly it is a powerful story of courage and kindness finally triumphing.

It will be used as a teaching tool for acceptance of difference and forcing its readers to look at life through other eyes, even those whose eyes are not where they are supposed to be on their face.

Superb. For all readers 12+.

Reviewed by Rob

You may also like to look at the author's website: www.rjpalacio.com that has been set up for this title.