

Lamont Books Standing Order

October 2012

SECONDARY TITLES

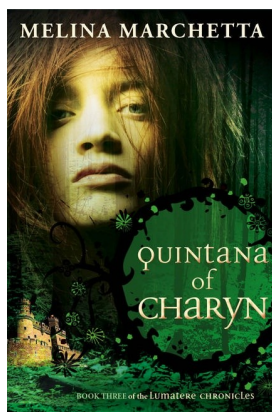
Quintana of Charyn

By Melina Marchetta
ISBN 9780670076246
\$24.99

There's a babe in my belly that whispers the valley, Froi. I follow the whispers and come to the road . . .

Separated from the girl he loves and has sworn to protect, Froi must travel through Charyn to search for Quintana, the mother of Charyn's unborn king, and protect her against those who will do anything to gain power. But what happens when loyalty to family and country conflict? When the forces marshalled in Charyn's war gather and threaten to involve the whole of the land, including Lumatere, only Froi can set things right, with the help of those he loves.

Publishers Blurb.



I must start by saying that as a rule I don't read fantasy. But then I always read Melina Marchetta. A quandary? Not really.

This series is awesome and inspiring. Melina's characters are so well formed that we feel so close to many of them—particularly our main characters, Finnikin, Froi and now Quintana.

A spectacular plot filled with the bonds of friendship, suspense and romance that crosses kingdoms.

Will Quintana give birth to her little king? If so, will his birth finally break the Charyn curse that has seen no child born for 18 years? And can Froi and Quintana join as one to unite their kingdom?

A brilliant final book in the Lumatere Chronicles that is best suited to those 15+.

Reviewed by Rob.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Orphan of the Flames: Secret Breakers

By H.L. Dennis

ISBN 9780340999622

\$14.99

The team of code-crackers face a new code that has never been solved. Brodie, Hunter and Tusia are back at Station X, the secret code-cracking station at Bletchley Park. And they are still wrestling with the great unanswered question: what secret lies behind the ancient, coded Voynich Manuscript?

Their first adventure left them with a musical box that plays a tune by the composer, Elgar. Elgar loved codes. At once they are off on a new search which takes them to the stories behind Elgar's famous music and a coded letter he wrote to a young friend, Dorabella. The 'Dorabella Cipher' has never, ever been solved. Now our team of code-breakers are on a twisting trail via medieval book burnings in Florence, a mysterious boy known as the Orphan of the Flames, and a one-time famous prisoner in London's Newgate Prison who wrote about King Arthur.

Where is it all leading and will they survive, when hot on their trail is a secret organisation that has always thwarted the search for Truth and is prepared to kill to stop them ...

The second story in this highly original puzzle-solving series - a Da Vinci Code for kids.

Publishers Blurb.



We have never had two books from the same series on our Standing Order in one year, however, this could not be left off!

It follows on from the *Power of Three* with all the same characters again racing to search for clues to help them read the mysterious Voynich Manuscript.

It is full of action and adventure and the clues will make your students think hard as they try to solve the mystery themselves. It is such a great read and a fantastic way to get your students interested in some historical facts and people.

Perfect for your Year 7-9's, both boys and girls.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

The Convent

By Maureen McCarthy

ISBN 9781742375045

\$22.99

'I woke up with a feeling about today,' Stella says dreamily. 'Something truly amazing is going to happen.' 'To us or to the world?' I say. 'To you.' 'To me?' I laugh. 'Nothing ever happens to me, Stella.' 'But today it will.' 'Will it be good?' She looks thoughtful and then frowns. 'I ... I don't know.'

Peach is nineteen and pretty happy with the way things are. She has her university work, two wildly different best friends, her sister, Stella, to look after and a broken heart to mend. But when she takes a summer job at a cafe in the old convent, her idea of who she is takes a sharp turn into the past.

Where once there were nuns, young girls and women who had fallen on hard times, Peach discovers secrets from three generations of her family. As their stories are revealed, Peach is jolted out of her comfort zone. But does she really want to know who she is?

Publishers Blurb.



An epic novel spanning four generations of daughters set between 1915 and the present, entwining their bonds to the Abbotsford Convent in Melbourne.

The convent has strong characters with emotional issues of family, adoption and religion being closely scrutinized.

The central characters are Peach (Perpetua), whose chapters are set in the present and Cecilia (Sister Annunciata as she was known in the convent), whose chapters are written from 1964 when she entered the convent as a postulant until the present, where their stories merge. We follow the harsh realities of convent life that saw Cecilia leave the convent and later have a child (Peach), whom she felt unable to keep and the culmination of their reunion.

It is a remarkable work that will best suit older female students and teachers.

Reviewed by Rob.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Creepy & Maud

By Dianne Touchell
ISBN 9781921888953
\$19.99

Hilarious and heartbreaking, *Creepy & Maud* charts the relationship between two social misfits, played out in the space between their windows.

Creepy is a boy who watches from the shadows keenly observing and caustically commenting on human folly.

Maud is less certain. A confused girl with a condition that embarrasses her parents and assures her isolation.

Together Creepy and Maud discover something outside their own vulnerability — each other's. But life is arbitrary; and loving someone doesn't mean you can save them. *Creepy & Maud* is a blackly funny and moving first novel that says; 'You're ok to be as screwed up as you think you are and you're not alone in that.'

Publishers Blurb.



Begin with an infatuation. Bedroom windows facing each other. Creepy (and that he is) is a quite brilliant, deep thinking social misfit.

Maud lives in the bedroom opposite. She has self-harm issues mainly involving the pulling out of her own hair.

Their relationship develops slowly, communicating mainly through notes taped to their windows. Although attending the same private school, they never communicate there.

We see their idiosyncratic family existence through their somewhat disturbed eyes as we gain an insight into their particular uniqueness.

While at times somewhat creepy and blackly funny. It also says its OK to be different, even weird.

Not my favourite book this year, but one that is certainly staying in my mind long after reading it. It will be an eye-opener for many and can lead to many open discussions in reading groups for those probably 16 and older.

Reviewed by Rob.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Every Day

By David Levithan
ISBN 9781921922954
\$19.99

Every day a different body.

Every day a different life.

Every day in love with the same girl.

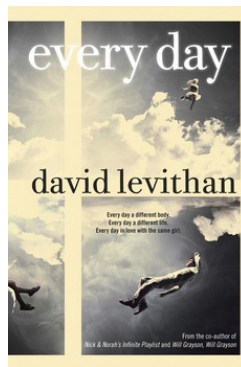
Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, a different person's life. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere.

And then A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

Can you love someone who is destined to change each day? Young adult superstar author David Levithan brings all his trademark insight to a novel that is edgy, romantic and page-turning.

Every Day has a touch of the paranormal and a grounding in the real world.

Publishers Blurb.



'Genius concept and brilliantly written'. I quote this from another but it sums up my thoughts on this incredible book.

'A' wakes up in a different body everyday and for one day only he is that person, always his approximate age. They could be male or female and with every other possibility in personality and situation.

This book throws up so many ideas, discussion points and questions of who we really are. What do you do with somebody else's life? How much of a difference can your actions make to, for example; a junkie or an extremely overweight boy or a girl contemplating suicide? Do you try to make their life better? 'A' handles all of these and many other lives that he lives for one day.

It is ultimately also a classic love story that cannot hope to have a fairytale ending. Although the ending is quite wonderful.

I loved it and I'm sure kids about A's age of 16 will also.

Reviewed by Rob.

Teacher notes available at www.textpublishing.com.au

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SECONDARY TITLES

Irina the Wolf Queen: Book 1 of the Ragnor Trilogy

By Leah Swann

ISBN 9781922057112

\$19.99

'This child,' said Raizel, 'will be the greatest ruler this kingdom has ever known.'

Kidnapped at birth, raised by a she-wolf, then taken in by a kind farmer and his wife, Irina is no ordinary foundling. With her long hair and bright eyes, she is beautiful, but she can see in the dark, hunt better than any farmhand and communicate with the creatures of the forest. One day in the woods, Irina meets the ancient wise-woman Raizel, who reveals the truth: Irina is a princess, the long-lost daughter of King Harmon and Queen Chloe of Ragnor. Unsure of her place, Irina returns home, only to find her kingdom threatened by a wicked magician intent on revenge. Yet in the coming days of battle, could it be that a princess with the courage of a warrior and the instincts of a wolf is exactly what Ragnor needs?

Publishers Blurb.



After the brilliant *Into That Forest* last month where our characters were raised by Tasmanian Tigers, we now have our heroine being brought up by wolves.

Irina, as a baby princess was stolen from her crib by the evil magician Vilmos who sought revenge after his marriage proposal had been rejected by her mother who had now become Queen Chloe of Ragnor.

Irina's early years with the wolves provided her with a cunning and daring nature. When she is later taken in by a farmer and his childless wife, she learns understanding and intelligence. These, together with her beauty, mean Irina is destined for greatness. This is revealed when she finally returns to the castle and enters the battlefield where she tames the attacking monstrous wolves who are under the control of Vilmos.

Will the kingdom survive and can Irina reclaim her rightful position in the castle? All will be ultimately revealed in parts 2 & 3 of this wonderful fantasy trilogy.

Younger secondary students who enjoy fantasy will enjoy this series.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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Eve & Adam

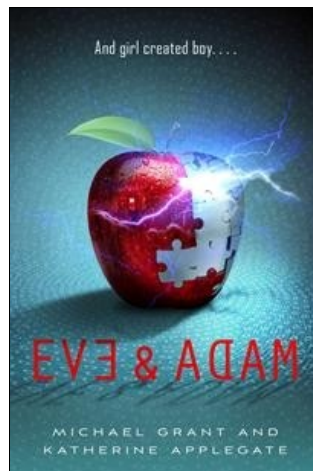
By Michael Grant & Katherine Applegate

ISBN 9781405265263

\$22.95

Evening Spiker is recuperating from a freak accident in her mum's medical facility. She is healing at a remarkable rate, faster than physically possible. As she grows closer to the hot lab assistant Solo, who seems to be hanging around a lot, she realises that things at Spiker Biotech are not quite as they seem. Joining forces, Solo and Eve uncover a secret so huge it could change the world completely. Spiker Biotech is about more than just saving lives. It's about creating them.

Publishers Blurb.



A wonderful new mystery thriller from the brilliant Michael Grant and his wife Katherine Applegate, originally of *Animorph* fame.

In a world of genetic science, we are posed with the question of genetic modification and the cost that it brings to our society.

When our main character Evening (Eve) realises that she has been modified and now has the opportunity to create her perfect human, Adam, questions of right and wrong cannot be ignored, especially when we see the rejected unsuccessful specimen room.

This is set against the backdrop of an action packed story involving Eve's powerful mother, Terra Spiker, owner of the hugely successful Spiker Biopharmaceutical Company. Eve forms a bond with orphan Solo Plissken, who lives at the company headquarters after his parents, who were partners in the business, died in an horrific car accident that also killed Eve's father.

He is seeking revenge until Eve arrives and information leads him to question his parents role in things that he is sure are wrong.

How far would you go to create a better world?

With male and female lead characters this story has huge cross-gender appeal and is suitable for all secondary students, particularly those 14+.

Reviewed by Rob.

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SECONDARY TITLES

The Paladin Prophecy: Book 1

By Mark Frost
ISBN 9780857531209
\$21.95

An action-packed, mysterious thriller from Mark Frost, the co-creator of cult television show *Twin Peaks*. This is *The Da Vinci Code* meets *I Am Number Four*.

Will has, as instructed by his parents, spent his entire life trying to avoid attention. But when, by sheer accident, he scores off the charts on a nationwide exam, Will is recruited by an exclusive and mysterious prep school. The best school no one's ever heard of, with technology the likes of which no one's ever seen.

At the same time, coincidentally - or not so - Will realizes he's being followed by men in dark hats, driving black sedans who pose a terrifying threat to his family. What follows is a series of events and revelations that places Will smack in the middle of a millennia old struggle between titanic forces . . .

Publishers Blurb.



This is an epic novel full of action and adventure as Will, the main character, battles the age old enemies of good versus evil.

The story moves at a great pace and the five main characters—3 boys and 2 girls, all find they have been enrolled at an exclusive school. However, all is not as it appears, and Will needs all his friends help if he is to survive and find out the truth about himself and his family.

A thoroughly enjoyable book that will be great for your Year 9's and up who like adventure, technology and supernatural rolled into a fantastic story.

I especially loved Will's dad's list of rules to live by. Particularly rule # 82, 'Without a life of the mind, you'll live a mindless life' and you can't leave out rule # 84, "When nothing else works try chocolate'!!!

Reviewed by Michelle.