

Lamont Books Standing Order

March 2013

SECONDARY TITLES

New Guinea Moon

By Kate Constable
ISBN 9781743315033
\$16.99

Secondary Book
of the Month

Julie has grown up not knowing her father, with just the occasional Christmas card and the knowledge that he flies planes for a charter company in New Guinea. When she comes to stay with him one long summer, she learns to appreciate not only her long-lost father and his love of flying, but also New Guinea itself and the people she meets. An awkward romance with a young expat contrasts with her growing attraction to the son of a local coffee plantation owner. And, left to her own devices much of the time, Julie learns to rely on herself and gain her own independence. A tragedy and then a mystery leave her reeling, but force her to evaluate what she really wants out of life. *Publishers Blurb.*



Sixteen year old Julie McGinty is sent to New Guinea to meet a father she knows little about.

He is a pilot in the highlands where life is simple, at the time that New Guinea was heading towards independence. It tells a story of racism, with the natives and new comers, mostly Aussies, not really mixing.

Julie finds herself falling for this beautiful land and an equally gorgeous Simon, who is a half-caste, and therefore not really accepted by those around him.

But when her father, who she was just beginning to get to know, dies when his plane goes down in severe weather, Julie discovers a huge secret.

With lots of environmental, racial and relationship issues, this coming of age novel will appeal mostly to 13-17 year old girls.

I found the setting evocative and characters wonderfully developed. A good strong story.

Reviewed by Rob.

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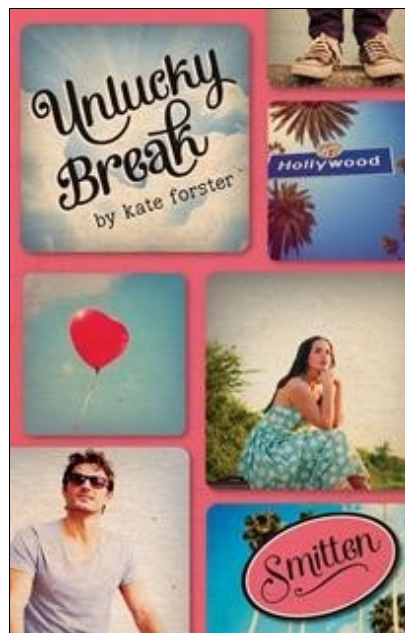
Smitten: Unlucky Break

By Kate Forster

ISBN 9781742972527

\$16.95

She's desperate for a break after her mother's battle with cancer and her boyfriend's pathetic betrayal. Staying with her celebrity aunt Cece in Hollywood seems like the perfect solution. Besides, Cece won't take no for an answer. Suddenly Andie has everything she could possibly need to be happy - a dream mansion, a new best friend, unlimited credit cards and a brand-new BMW. But she can't shake the feeling that this place is fake. It's only after a chance encounter with bad-boy movie star James Hawthorn that she discovers something real. She knows he couldn't possibly feel the same way about her. But when everything around you is one big act, it's hard not to get caught up in the story... *Publishers Blurb.*



When Andie's mum dies, she is left all alone, except for her famous Aunt Cece in Hollywood. When she invites her to come and stay, Andie finds herself in a totally different world.

This is a wonderful story about finding yourself, friendship and true love.

Perfect for your Year 9 girls and up, who love romance with a good storyline

Reviewed by Michelle.

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All This Could End

By Steph Bowe

ISBN 9781921758447

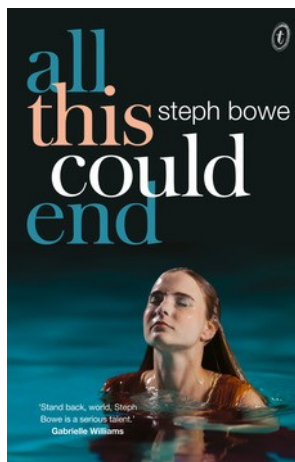
\$19.99

What's the craziest thing your mum has asked you to do?

Nina doesn't have a conventional family. Her family robs banks—even she and her twelve-year-old brother Tom are in on the act now. Sophia, Nina's mother, keeps chasing the thrill: 'Anyway, their money's insured!' she says.

After yet another move and another new school, Nina is fed up and wants things to change. This time she's made a friend she's determined to keep: Spencer loves weird words and will talk to her about almost anything. His mother has just left home with a man who looks like a body-builder vampire, and his father and sister have stopped talking.

Spencer and Nina both need each other as their families fall apart, but Nina is on the run and doesn't know if she will ever see Spencer again. Steph Bowe, author of *Girl Saves Boy*, once again explores the hearts and minds of teenagers in a novel full of drama, laughter and characters with strange and wonderful ways. *Publishers Blurb*.



An intriguing and highly unconventional plot. A family that constantly moves towns around Australia, wherever Dad takes a temporary teaching role. But Mum is the driving force—a bank robber as was her father before her, she makes the decisions and truly believes that they are doing no wrong. 'We don't hurt anyone'.
'The banks steal off everyone anyway.'
'The money's insured'.

But Nina knows what they are doing is wrong. It's just, what can she do about it? She looks forward to the day, not so far away, when she will turn eighteen and leave all of this. But then she meets Spencer. Here blossoms a love born from disjointed families, and a love of weird things, particularly Spencer's love of words.

A quirky, fresh novel, depicting the complications of life and growing up.

This is Steph's second novel and she is still only nineteen. She is a great new talent that gives a voice to young Australian's through her wonderful writing.

A 15+ audience is where this book will be most appreciated.

Teaching notes will be available at the publishers site: www.textpublishing.com.au

Reviewed by Rob

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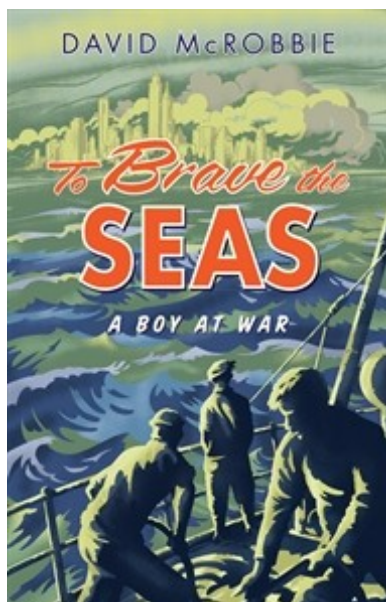
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SECONDARY TITLES

To Brave The Seas

By David McRobbie
ISBN 9781743313077
\$15.99

We had trained for emergencies. Every man knew how to launch a lifeboat. There were life jackets to save us, but no one said, Oh, and this is what an exploding torpedo does, and here's what happens when the ship sinks under you. And the lights will be out, so you'll be in the dark... *Publishers Blurb.*



With the outbreak of the Second World War and the recent death of his mother, Adam Chisholm chooses to join the Merchant Navy as a cabin boy. And so begins a marvellous adventure.

With facts drawn from important events that took place during the war, we learn of life aboard these merchant ships as they cross the Atlantic with vital cargo for the war effort.

The incredible seas, the constant fear of a submarine attack, the mateship that developed and the possibility of death just around the corner, make this a great adventure novel that will be best suited to boys aged 14+.

Reviewed by Rob.

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When My Name Was Keoko

By Linda Sue Park
ISBN 9780702249747
\$16.95

A heartwarming tale of courage, resilience and hope from master storyteller and winner of the prestigious Newbery Medal, Linda Sue Park.

When her name was Keoko, Japan owned Korea, and Japanese soldiers ordered people around, telling them what they could do or say, even what sort of flowers they could grow.

When her name was Keoko, World War II came to Korea, and her friends and relatives had to work and fight for Japan.

When her name was Keoko, she never forgot her name was actually Kim Sun-hee. And no matter what she was called, she was Korean. Not Japanese.

Inspired by true-life events, this amazing story reveals what happens when your culture, country and identity are threatened. *Publishers Blurb.*



I loved this story told through the eyes of a brother and sister, Sun-hee and Tae-yul.

Set in Korea during World War II, when Japan had taken over the country, it tells of the struggle to keep your own identity when everything you believe in and know is being changed—even your name.

It is quite confronting in parts and will make you smile in others, but you will be left with the impression of the courage required to be true to yourself and your heritage when the smallest mistake could cost your life.

A wonderful read for both boys and girls, Year 7-10.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Siege

By Sarah Mussi

ISBN 9781444910087

\$14.99

Leah escapes the siege in her school, but she can't avoid wrestling with impossible choices in this topical, terrifying new novel that's essential reading for teens everywhere.

Leah Jackson - in detention. Then armed Year 9s burst in, shooting. She escapes, just. But the new Lock Down system for keeping intruders out is now locking everyone in. She takes to the ceilings and air vents with another student, Anton, and manages to use her mobile to call out to the world.

First: survive the gang - the so-called 'Eternal Knights'.

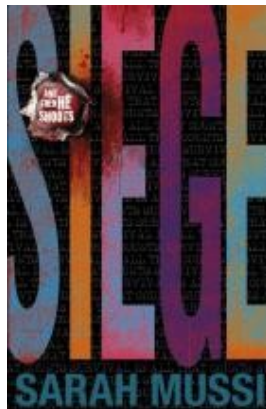
Second: rescue other kids taken hostage, and one urgently needing medical help.

Outside, parents gather, the army want intelligence, television cameras roll, psychologists give opinions, sociologists rationalise, doctors advise - and they all want a piece of Leah. Soon her phone battery is running out; the SAS want her to reconnoitre the hostage area ...

But she is guarding a terrifying conviction. Her brother, Connor, is at the centre of this horror. Is he with the Eternal Knights or just a pawn? She remembers all those times Connor reached out for help ... If she'd listened, voiced her fears about him earlier, would things be different now? Should she give up her brother?

With only Anton for company, surviving by wits alone, Leah wrestles with the terrible choices ...

Publishers Blurb



Siege is a gripping look into the future that we hope never arrives.

When Leah arrives late at school, she is one of a few not to be hoarded into the gym as Year 9 and 10 students take over the school at gunpoint.

It is a special government funded school for the poor and hopeless students called YOUOP78, one of many across the country.

The school is locked down during the siege and when Leah contacts the outside world to be rescued she realises all is not as it should be.

Are the government actually behind the siege? Where could these kids have got all their guns and ammunition?

Action packed and realistic, with strong characters that you can't help but admire. Although written with edgy, incorrectly spelt English, it will appeal to many students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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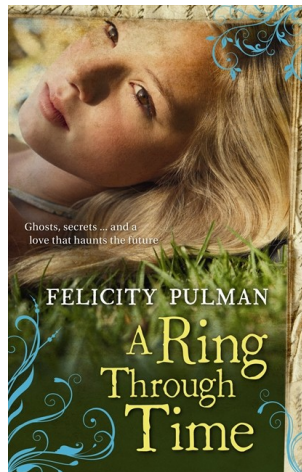
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A Ring Through Time

By Felicity Pulman
ISBN 9780732294885
\$19.99

Allie Bennett has moved to Norfolk Island with her family, and as the texts and phone calls with her friends back in Sydney dwindle, Allie feels increasingly alone. The instant attraction that occurs between Allie and her classmate, Noah O'Brien, is threatened when he keeps reminding her that she is descended from John Bennett, the brutal commandant who oversaw the penal colony 150 years ago and made the lives of the convicts, including Noah's ancestor, a living hell. When the discovery of a hidden diary catapults Allie into the tragic story of two young long-dead lovers, she is appalled at the injustice detailed in the diary and vows to put things right. But digging up the past has the potential to damage reputations and end her relationship with Noah. It will take a token of love - a ring made from hair - to solve the mystery of what really happened so long ago, and lay the past to rest. *Publishers Blurb*



I really enjoyed this book. The author has woven historical facts and real people into this story about Norfolk Island. Allie and Noah have an instant connection when they meet at school, but little do they know that both their ancestors were also connected.

A mystery and a love story make this a really great read and the stark conditions faced by convicts and settlers forces us to think about how much has changed over the years.

Suitable for Year 7's and up, both boys and girls.

Reviewed by Sam.