

Lamont Books Standing Order

July 2013

SECONDARY TITLES

Chasing The Valley

By Skye Melki-Wegner
ISBN 9781742759548
\$17.95

Secondary Book
of the Month

Set in a land where magic can be terrifying, *Chasing the Valley* combines the friendship and camaraderie of Ranger's Apprentice with the hardship and survival of The Hunger Games – with spectacular results.

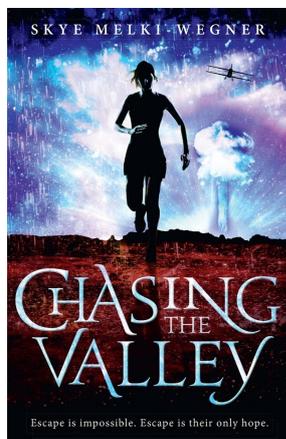
Danika is used to struggling for survival. But when the tyrannous king launches an attack to punish her city – echoing the alchemy bombs that killed Danika's family – she risks her life in a daring escape over the city's walls.

Danika joins a crew of desperate refugees who seek the Magnetic Valley, a legendary safe haven. But when she accidentally destroys a palace biplane, Danika Glynn becomes the most wanted fugitive in Taladia.

Pursued by the king's vicious hunters and betrayed by false allies, Danika also grapples with her burgeoning magical abilities. And when she meets the mysterious Lukas, she must balance her feelings against her crew's safety.

Chasing the Valley is the first book in an epic trilogy of magic, treachery and survival.

Publishers Blurb.



This is a wonderful fantasy story by a first time author.

The story moves at a fast pace and is action packed. It has a great plot and wonderful characters including strong-willed and determined Danika, the heroine of the story, cheeky and ever optimistic Teddy and the mysterious Lukas.

Those who love the fantasy genre will love this book. It is the first of a trilogy so I'm looking forward to books 2 and 3 but this title can be read as a stand-alone story.

Suits both boys and girls from Year 7 up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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SECONDARY TITLES

The Accident

By Kate Hendrick
ISBN 9781921922855
\$19.99

A rainy night. A car crash.

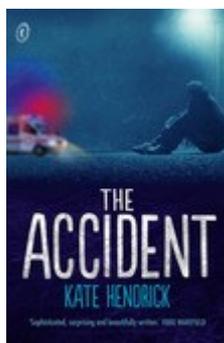
After the accident Sarah moves to a new school. A new place where no one knows what happened to her or her brother—where she doesn't have to deal with the history that's pulling the rest of her family apart.

Will is keeping his head down at home, just trying to get by. Then his sister Lauren comes back—as caustic as always but somehow changed. Will doesn't know what upheaval brought her home. But it's sparking some serious change in his life too.

Eliat's got no mother of her own, and she's way too young to be one. Looking after a two-year-old, trying to finish school—sometimes all that keeps her sane is partying as hard and fast as she can. Now the pressure's building and Eliat just wants to get away.

Just get into a car and drive.

In this impressive and beautifully written debut, Kate Hendrick sets the butterfly effect in motion. The moving stories of three teenagers going through crucial changes—before, after and around the accident—show how random actions acquire significance. How one pivotal moment could transform your life and you might never know; how what you do matters. *Publishers Blurb*



This is really three stories in one—the stories of Sarah, Will and Eliat, their struggles and those of their families. Sarah, Will and Eliat all have very different problems and very different ways of dealing with them. It is a story of the butterfly effect and how one moment can change so many lives.

The story switches between characters, with each chapter focusing on either Sarah, Will or Eliat's story. As the book draws to its conclusion, the relationship between the three characters and their stories becomes clear.

The ending gives us a fantastic reminder that there is always hope and that nobody is every really alone.

The book is beautifully written and, given the wonderful themes and topics covered, it would not surprise me to see it win awards.

Suited to Year 8 and up. Teaching notes are available at www.textpublishing.com.au.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Jamie Reign: The Last Spirit Warrior

By P.J. Tierney

ISBN 9780732295196

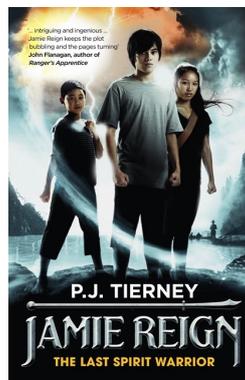
\$16.99

Jamie Reign was born twelve years ago, on the first day of the Chinese Year of the Dragon. This supposedly auspicious start in life hasn't been much use to him, living a loveless existence with his abusive father, Hector, on a salvage boat. Jamie's mother Mayling died on the day he was born.

When Jamie inadvertently summons some fiery orbs from the air to tackle some local bullies, he doesn't understand that he has tapped into The Way, the universal energy source, and in doing so he sets off a chain of events with unforeseen consequences.

Whisked away by the mysterious Mr Fan to the Chia Wu, a school for students with special abilities, Jamie is taken under the wing of the legendary Kung Fu Master Wu. It is believed by Master Wu and his staff that Jamie is the Last Spirit Warrior, and as such his life's purpose is to right the dreadful wrongs (climatic and political) taking place in the world. But not everyone believes so - and Jamie himself has doubts. What use is a Spirit Warrior who is hopeless at Kung Fu?

Publishers Blurb.



Jamie Reign is half English and half Chinese and being born on the first day of the Chinese year of the Dragon is supposedly a good omen. Jamie has a really hard life but his natural instinct is to help others where he can. When he unexpectedly summons fiery orbs when he loses his temper, his life is about to change forever.

This is an adventure story that keeps you intrigued until the final page. A wonderful plot with a wide variety of interesting characters all interwoven with the Chinese zodiac and the "way of the warrior".

I found it very hard to put down and would recommend it for all students Year 7 and up.

Really suited for both boys and girls, as, although the main character Jamie is male there are very strong female leads as well.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

The Big Dry

By Tony Davis

ISBN 9780732297633

\$15.99

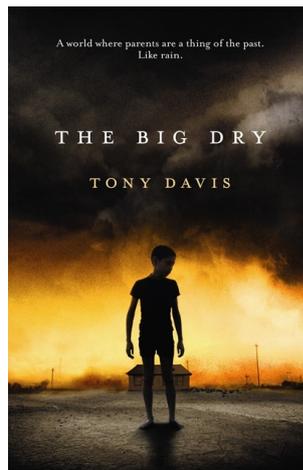
Heat. Drought. Dust storms.

More people missing every day.

The city turning into a ghost town.

These are not the only dangers for George and his little brother, Beeper. There's also Emily, a girl who moves like a shadow, slides through locked doors, and seems determined to push two stranded boys ever closer to disaster.

Publishers Blurb.



An intense look into a world without water.

Two boys are surviving on their own in a house that is slowly falling apart, suffering from the severe and constant dust storms.

Who can you trust when all around you are stealing to survive?

With themes of climate change and interpersonal relationships in a harsh environment this book is an ideal discussion starter for lower to middle secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob

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SECONDARY TITLES

A Long Way Home

By Saroo Brierley
ISBN 9780670077045
\$29.99

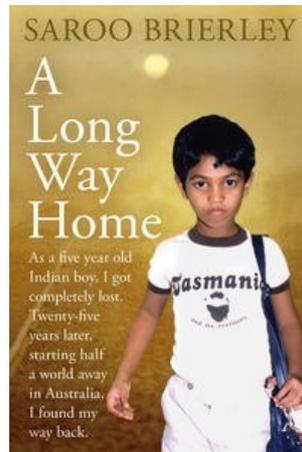
When Saroo Brierley used Google Earth to find his long-lost home town half a world away, he made global headlines.

Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia.

Despite being happy in his new family, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. When he was a young man the advent of Google Earth led him to pour over satellite images of the country for landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for.

Then he set off on a journey to find his mother.

A Long Way Home is a moving and inspirational true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds. It celebrates the importance of never letting go of what drives the human spirit – hope.
Publishers Blurb.



There has been much publicity surrounding the story of Saroo, including a story on 60 minutes on Sunday 22nd June. It is clearly evident from reading his story that he never gave a thought to the fact that his remarkable story would capture the worlds imagination. But it truly is a remarkable story of hope.

The journey that Saroo found himself on when he got lost at the age of 5, to his life with his adoptive parents in Tasmania, is one that you can only imagine. How did he survive? And how did all involved never give up hope?

The book not only gives the reader an insight into the harsh and unforgiving life for poor Indian families, but it also reminds us that there are wonderful people in the world too. The amazing compassion and love of Saroo's adoptive parents really shone through to me.

Saroo comes across in this story as a remarkable young man. I am sure he will deal well with the challenges that now face him as he successfully combines his life around two different families on opposite sides of the world.

Reviewed by Sam

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SECONDARY TITLES

Kill The Music

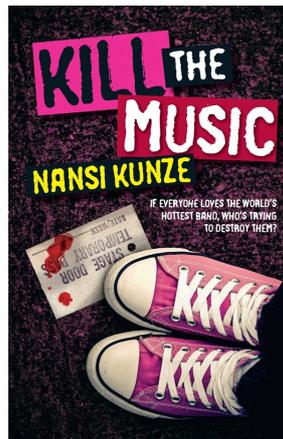
By Nansi Kunze

ISBN 9780857980151

\$17.95

If everyone loves the world's hottest band, who's trying to destroy them? Most people would love to be Lorna Powell, travelling the globe with her brother and his mega-famous band. Then again, most people don't realise just how annoying four handsome rock stars can be. A new home and a new school seem like the start of a normal life - until Lorna overhears a chilling plot to silence the band forever. Soon Lorna is drawn into a frantic attempt to identify the killer before they strike. But it's not easy to track suspects around the world when she's got homework to do and secrets to protect. And when gorgeous lead singer Marius starts to act strangely, Lorna wonders if she's had the wrong idea all along . . .

Publishers Blurb.



Lorna's life might just be able to be normal.

After her famous musician parents died in a car accident two years earlier, Lorna was placed in the care of her brother Flint. This entailed travelling the world with his band Turmoil, the hottest band on the planet.

Lorna finally gets a break from travelling when Turmoil decide to stop the constant touring and return to Australia to let Lorna finish her last years of high school. But when Lorna uncovers a bomb threat to the band she is thrown into a race against time to discover the culprits.

Combine this with the gorgeous lead singer, Marius, showing more than a casual interest in Lorna, and the stage is set for an intriguing finale.

Reviewed by Rob

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SECONDARY TITLES

The Distance Between Us

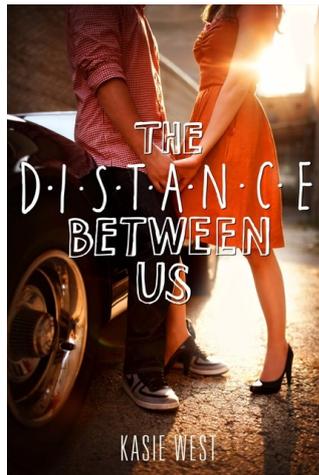
By Kasie West

ISBN 9780062235657

\$14.99

Seventeen-year-old Caymen Meyers learned early that the rich are not to be trusted. And after years of studying them from behind the cash register of her moms porcelain doll shop, she has seen nothing to prove otherwise. Enter Xander Spence - he's tall, handsome, and oozing rich. Despite his charming ways and the fact he seems to be one of the first people who actually gets her, she's smart enough to know his interest wont last. Because if there's one thing she's learned from her mother's warnings, its that the rich have a short attention span. But just when Xander's attention and loyalty are about to convince Caymen that being rich isn't a character flaw, she finds out that money is a much bigger part of their relationship than she'd ever realised. With so many obstacles standing in their way, can they close the distance to each other? A perfect mixture of bittersweet and charming, this new paperback original from Kasie West is an endearing romantic comedy that will steal your heart.

Publishers Blurb



Caymen is the daughter of a single mum who cut off all contact with her family after they condemned her pregnancy, and a father who quickly left when he found out about the pregnancy.

Living in a small beach town, there are two types of people - the rich and those that sell to the rich. Caymen and her Mum are struggling to make ends meet and living in a pokey apartment above her Mum's doll shop, when in walks Xander Spencer, an obviously wealthy gorgeous guy.

But what could he see in Caymen? Surely she's better off with Mason, the grumpy musician mate of her brother? Especially after that kiss! But is she really?

A classic love story with a wonderful feel good ending, best suited to girls fourteen and older.

Reviewed by Rob