

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2013

SECONDARY TITLES

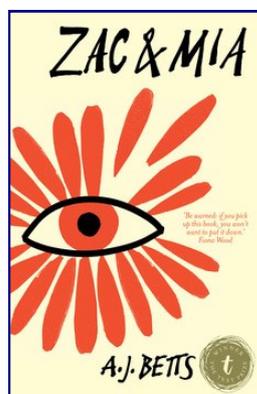
Zac & Mia

By A.J. Betts
ISBN 9781922147257
\$19.99

Secondary Book
of the Month

The last person Zac expects in the room next door is a girl like Mia, angry and feisty with questionable taste in music. In the real world, he wouldn't—couldn't—be friends with her. In hospital different rules apply, and what begins as a knock on the wall leads to a note—then a friendship neither of them sees coming.

You need courage to be in hospital; different courage to be back in the real world. In one of these worlds Zac needs Mia. And in the other Mia needs Zac. Or maybe they both need each other, always. *Publishers Blurb.*



Maybe I am a little too close to this story to judge, but WOW!

My son Paul has twice been scheduled to have a bone marrow transplant, however, both times his condition has changed and he is currently well due to a relatively new life saving drug.

So this story, about two seventeen year olds, - Zac having a bone marrow transplant and Mia with cancer in her lower leg - really struck home.

Zac is more in tune with his health, understands the odds he faces, and is hopeful of his future. Then rebellious Mia moves into the next room. As Zac is in isolation they can only communicate by tapping on walls, passing notes and through the mouths of others.

The book is divided into three parts. First, the world through Zac's eyes, then chapters given to each in turn as their stories overlap, and finally Mia's Story.

This is an incredible story of love, hope and growing up and offers a remarkable insight into such tough circumstances and the different ways that people cope.

Reminiscent of John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*, which I also loved, this novel is an instant Australian young adult classic.

I was fortunate enough to be present to meet the author when she received the Text Publishing award that brought about this book and she deserves loud applause for this work.

Read it—you will be touched.

Teacher notes are available at www.textpublishing.com.au

Reviewed by Rob

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The Sky So Heavy

By Claire Zorn

ISBN 9780702249761

\$19.95

A haunting dystopian novel in the vein of John Marsden from a brand new voice in Australian YA literature.

For Fin, it's just like any other day – racing for the school bus, bluffing his way through class and trying to remain cool in front of the most sophisticated girl in his universe. Only it's not like any other day because, on the other side of the world, nuclear missiles are being detonated.

When Fin wakes up the next morning, it's dark, bitterly cold and snow is falling. There's no internet, no phone, no TV, no power and no parents. Nothing Fin's learnt in school could have prepared him for this.

With his parents missing and dwindling food and water supplies, Fin and his younger brother, Max, must find a way to survive in a nuclear winter ... all on their own.

When things are at their most desperate, where can you go for help? *Publishers Blurb*



This is a dystopian novel set in New South Wales. After a nuclear missile is detonated on the other side of the world, Fin and his little brother Max are left to fend for themselves in a nuclear winter that they are not prepared for.

I found this book raised so many questions about the way we live and what we take for granted.

Fridges, heating, phones, internet, newspapers, ovens, clean water, fresh food - we all assume that everything we use on a daily basis is readily available, but how would we cope if it all stopped?

This story also looks at how people react differently when their survival is threatened. Do you hoard everything for yourself and your family, or do you share and help others survive too?

The Sky So Heavy is suitable for both boys and girls from Year 8 and up.

Teacher notes are available at www.uqp.uq.edu.au

Reviewed by Michelle

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SECONDARY TITLES

Flora's War

By Pamela Rushby

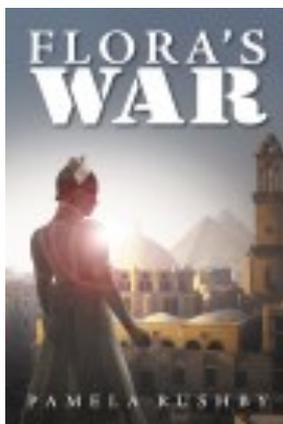
ISBN 9781921665981

\$18.95

It's 1915 and sixteen-year-old Australian, Flora Wentworth, is visiting Cairo with her archaeologist father. She watches with growing alarm as first a trickle and then a flood of wounded soldiers are shipped into the city from Gallipoli.

Flora's comfortable life is turned upside down when a hospital visit thrusts her into the realities of World War I. She is soon transporting injured soldiers and helping out exhausted nurses – managing to fall in love along the way.

As Flora battles to save lives and find her own, a tragic misunderstanding changes everything...*Publishers Blurb*



This book presents a vastly different look at Gallipoli through the eyes of 16 year old Flora.

Flora is an Australian girl whose mother died years earlier and, with her well to do father, she travels to Cairo every year to take part in an archaeological dig that uncovers new burial sites at the pyramids. Here she becomes reacquainted with Gwen, an American girl of the same age whose family also makes this annual trip.

Much of the book sets the backdrop of this amazing place and the dangers that have taken place since Flora's last trip ended six months earlier.

There are now soldiers everywhere, many Australian, and Flora and her companions spend much time getting to know them and the nurses that have also moved in. The soldiers believe they will eventually go to war in France, if indeed the war is not over by then. Then suddenly the soldiers are on the move to Gallipoli...

With the start of the Gallipoli campaign, all the reasonably spacious buildings in Cairo are quickly forcibly occupied as hospitals or recuperation facilities for the many wounded and infirm soldiers.

The girls help by becoming drivers to move those who are not so badly injured to the hospitals and then on to other facilities. They also help with nursing where they can.

The girls are confronted with the hardship of war when many soldiers that the girls had met earlier return wounded or don't return at all as the tally of the dead quickly mounts.

A tremendous story of courage, friendship and the hardship of war set at the site of the ancient Egyptian pyramids make this a wonderful novel for all Australian secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob

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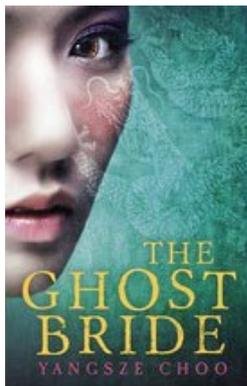
SECONDARY TITLES

The Ghost Bride

By Yangsze Choo
ISBN 9781471401411
\$24.95

Seventeen-year-old Li Lan lives in 1890s Malaya with her quietly-ruined father, who returns one evening with a proposition - the fabulously wealthy Lim family want Li Lan to marry their son. The only problem is, he's dead. After a fateful visit to the Lim mansion, Li Lan finds herself haunted not only by her ghostly would-be suitor, but also her desire for the Lims' handsome new heir. At night she is drawn into the Chinese afterlife - a world of ghost cities, paper funeral offerings, monstrous bureaucracy and vengeful spirits. Enlisting the help of mysterious Er Lang (a dragon turned clerk) Li Lan must uncover the secrets of the ghost world - before she becomes trapped there forever.

Drawing on traditional Malayan folklore and superstition, *The Ghost Bride* is a haunting, exotic and romantic read perfect for fans of *Empress Orchid* and *Memoirs of a Geisha*. *Publishers Blurb*.



An enthralling tale set in the melting pot of cultures in 1890s Malaya.

Li Lan is a 17 year old girl from a well respected, but financially struggling and down on their luck, Chinese family.

When her father is asked by the very wealthy Lim family whether she would be interested in becoming a "Ghost Bride" for their recently deceased son, Lim Tian Ching, Li Lan is not to know that her spiritual troubles are just beginning...

Although her father declines the offer of marriage, the spoilt and demanding ghost of Lim Tian Ching is unimpressed with being rejected and, determined to have her for his bride, proceeds to haunt Li Lan until she is drawn into the spirit world.

Li Lan has one chance to figure out what Lim Tian Ching is up to and rid herself of his ghost before she becomes stuck in the spirit world forever...

The highlights of this title are the numerous engaging, strong and well written characters that draw you into their world, the fascinating setting of colonial Malaya with its mix of cultures and the complex love square (there are too many suitors for it to be a love triangle!) that Li Lan finds herself in.

Overall, I thought this was an intriguing story and a fabulous effort by a debut author. Best suited to upper secondary girls.

Reviewed by Kate

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SECONDARY TITLES

The First Third

By Will Kostakis

ISBN 9780143568179

\$17.99

Life is made up of three parts: in *The First Third*, you're embarrassed by your family; in the second, you make a family of your own; and in the end, you just embarrass the family you've made.

That's how Billy's grandmother explains it, anyway. She's given him her bucket list (cue embarrassment), and now, it's his job to glue their family back together.

No pressure or anything.

Fixing his family's not going to be easy and Billy's not ready for change. But as he soon discovers, the first third has to end some time. And then what?

It's a Greek tragedy waiting to happen. *Publishers Blurb.*



A fantastic look at a Greek family and their relationships in modern Australia.

Billy Tsiolkas is an incredibly likeable seventeen year old experiencing some of life's usual challenges— a missing father, a gay brother and the sudden death of his Yiayia (grandmother) - with remarkable charm.

When Billy's Yiayia first goes to the hospital, she gives Bill a bucket list:

1. Find your mummy husband
2. Have Simon girlfriend in Sydney
3. Fix Peter

Yiayia is the glue that gives the family some sense of purpose so when Billy receives her bucket list he does his best to complete it. He goes to work trying to set his mum up on a blind date. Simon, his brother lives in Brisbane and is gay, so the girlfriend in Sydney gig is set to be hard. But what if Billy could get him to move back to Sydney and be accepted for who he is?

And then there is Billy's final challenge—to "fix" Peter. Peter is Billy's younger brother and all civility between them has evaporated over the last few years - but Billy must find a way to reconnect with him and reform their family for a future without Yiayia.

Full of Greek food, customs, humour and most importantly family, I found this a tremendously entertaining read.

There is nothing in this book to prevent anyone 12 and up from reading and loving this story.

Reviewed by Rob

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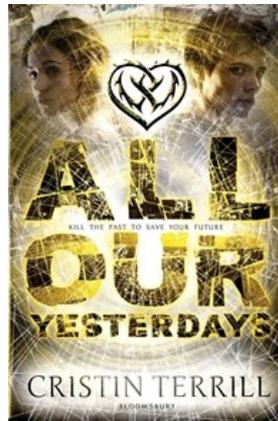
All Our Yesterdays

By Cristin Terrill
ISBN 9781408835197
\$12.99

Marina has everything. She's got money, popularity, and a bright future. Plus, she's best friends with the boy next door, who happens to be a gorgeous prodigy from one of America's most famous families.

Em has nothing. Imprisoned in a small white cell in the heart of a secret military base, all she has is the voice of the boy in the cell next door and the list of instructions she finds taped inside the drain.

But Marina and Em have one big thing in common: they're the same person. Now Em must travel back four years in time in order to avert the terrible future from which she's fled, and there's only one way to do it. She must kill the person who invented the time machine in the first place: someone from her past. A person she loved. But Marina won't let them go without a fight. The Terminator meets The Time Travellers Wife in this page-turningly addictive, brilliantly plotted debut, packed with romance, action, conspiracy and a mind-bendingly clever plot. *Publishers Blurb.*



Cristin Terrill is a brand new author who I think will have a long and exciting future writing books. This is her debut novel and it is a wonderful, mind blowing time travel story.

Em must travel back in time to kill the boy she loves. Marina will do everything she can to stop her. The only problem, Marina and Em are the same person!

I finished this book at midnight as I couldn't put it down. It is a wonderful mixture of adventure, romance, time-travel and conspiracy. Each chapter skips time so you are constantly on edge wondering what will happen next.

It has a great ending and is suited to both boys and girls, Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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The Cinderella Moment

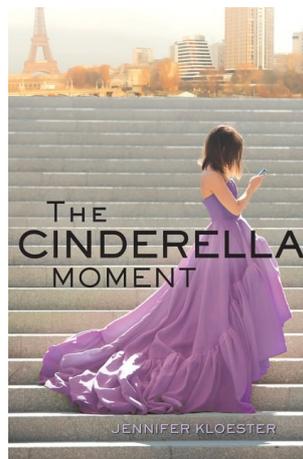
By Jennifer Kloester
ISBN 9780143568216
\$16.99

A love of fashion.
A couture competition.
A once-in-a-lifetime chance . . .

Angel wants to be a fashion designer, but without money or connections, it's going to be a challenge. So when she gets a chance to head to Paris, Angel grabs it – even if it means masquerading as her best friend Lily. That can't be too hard, can it?

But faking things doesn't come easy, and when Angel meets her very own Prince Charming, things start to get complicated. She needs to stop her secrets unravelling if she wants to live happily ever . . .

From exciting talent Jennifer Kloester comes a modern fairytale of high society, mistaken identity, love, betrayal, friendship – and great clothes. *Publishers Blurb*



High fashion, high society, love, friendship, betrayal, and even a wicked stepmother (well, almost-stepmother), this book has it all.

A perfect romantic novel that girls who are into fashion and fashion design will thoroughly enjoy.

Angel Moncoeur gets to live every girls dream of wearing couture clothing made especially for her and falls in love with her own prince charming. The only problem is that while she is doing this Angel is pretending to be her best friend, Lily—living this sort of lie is much too complicated!

A fantastic novel that transports you to Paris and a world of fashion, love and most importantly, friendship.

The wonderful ending is sure to please the most romantic of readers, and any girls Year 7 and up will wish they could be Angel.

Reviewed by Michelle

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By Any Other Name

By Laura Jarratt

ISBN 9781742970240

\$16.95

I picked up the book and thumbed through the pages. Names in alphabetical order, names with meanings, names I knew, names I'd never heard of. How to pick? Nothing that would stand out, nothing that would link me to the past - those were the instructions. The past. As if everything that had gone before this moment was buried already. Holly is fifteen years old, but she's only been "Holly" for a matter of months. Because of what happened, she and her family have entered witness protection and assumed new identities. But Holly can't shake the urge to reconnect with her old life - even when she becomes friends with Joe, the mysterious boy who lives up the road. Will one moment of weakness put Holly and her family's lives in danger? *Publishers Blurb*



When Lou witnesses a savage abduction and gets involved to try and prevent it, she becomes the only witness to the terrible crime.

Lou's whole family—Mum, Dad and eight year old autistic sister Katie, are quickly moved into witness protection.

But this means absolutely no contact with your past life, and Lou, now Holly, is struggling to deal with this.

Establishing new friends and seeing the behaviour of some of the kids at her new school has her questioning who she really is, what sort of person she used to be and who she wants to be in the future.

But then Holly falls for the unlikely emo farm boy, Joe, who she originally despised. They forge a strong bond sharing their hardships— of Joe's close older brother Matt losing his legs in a mine explosion in Afghanistan, the treatment of some locals towards Holly and particularly their treatment of Katie.

When Holly starts to open up to Joe, even though no one is supposed to know her past, will her past catch up with her? Can't Holly just get through her exams and then get this trial over with?

But life is never that easy, is it?

An action filled look at alternative lives, romance and fitting in. Great for 15+ readers.

Reviewed by Rob