

Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2013

SECONDARY TITLES

You Don't Even Know

By Sue Lawson
ISBN 9781922179715
\$18.95

Secondary Book
of the Month

Alex Hudson is a good guy. He plays water polo. He has a part-time job. He's doing okay at school. Then the thing that anchors Alex is ripped away and his life seems pointless. How can he make anyone else understand how he feels, when he doesn't even know?
Publishers Blurb.



This is a fabulous book—but it is very confronting and emotional.

For Alex, it seems the whole world is against him, especially his domineering father and older brother Ethan, who is his clone. All that they seem to care about is the prestigious school that the boys and their father went to and the school's rowing and football teams. But Alex loves water polo. However, his success in and love of water polo is not seen as important in the eyes his Dad or Ethan.

This is a story told in two intertwining parts, as Alex tries to piece together the events that lead to him lying in the Neurosurgery High Dependency Unit of Prince William Hospital. He knows everyone thinks he tried to commit suicide, as his whole world had fallen apart. But surely this can't be true.

The impact that Mackie, the girl who he shares a hospital room with, is pivotal to his recovery, and has a huge impact on how he looks at life.

I felt so sorry for Alex as I read this story, that I just wanted to reach out and hug him. He is a great kid who seems to always get blamed for things that were not his fault. He just wanted to be listened to and respected, and these were two things that his father and older brother seemed incapable of doing.

The relationship that he had with his little sister Mia, who drowned, is extremely touching and, having a little girl the same age myself, I could not help the tears from flowing.

Many students, both boys and girls, may see themselves in Alex and, if they can take the positive out of this wonderful story, then this can only be a good thing.

Given the sensitive nature of this book, it is best suited to those 15+.

Classroom Ideas are available at www.walkerbooks.com.au.

Reviewed by Sam

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The Last Thirteen

By James Phelan
ISBN 9781742831848
\$7.50

Kidnapped from school and finding out his parents aren't who he thinks they are, Sam is suddenly running from danger at every turn. Nothing will ever be the same again. With his life and identity shattered, Sam's salvation is tied to an ancient prophecy. He is in the final battle to save the world, up against an enemy plotting to destroy us all. He alone can find the last 13. 13 books. 13 nightmares. 1 destiny. *Publishers Blurb*



13 Nightmares, 13 Dreamers.

Sam is the first dreamer found and, if the ancient prophecy is to be believed, he must help find the other 12.

A fast paced thriller full of action and intrigue, as Sam has to decide who to trust and what to do when his whole world has been turned upside down.

This book has great characters and a fast paced plot that is obviously left wide open, just waiting for the next instalment.

In the same concept as Conspiracy 365, your students will drive you mad waiting for each new book.

This is a sure fire winner and both boys and girls Year 7 and up will love it.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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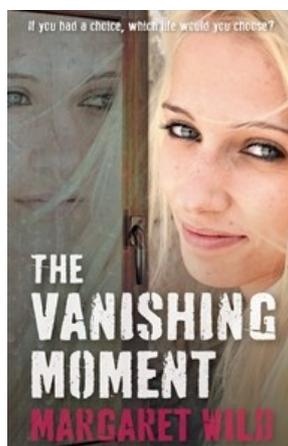
The Vanishing Moment

By Margaret Wild

ISBN 9781743315903

\$17.99

A moment. That's all it takes. A bewildering moment when the world spins upside-down, and then life can never be the same again. Arrow was just a girl when she saw something no child should have to see. And Marika is living a sister's worst nightmare...When Arrow and Marika come together in a small seaside town, they meet a mysterious 'magician' who says he knows how to escape the now and step into a new future. A brilliant and bittersweet story of loss and courage, with a surprising twist. *Publishers Blurb.*



Arrow is only a child when she is confronted with a scene of unimaginable horror. In that moment, she is certain that she hears a voice ask if she wants to "Interchange".

The impact of that night ripples across Arrow's life – her world is shattered, her family moves away, her mother is a changed woman. But something draws Arrow back to the place it all happened...

Marika is a responsible, caring, older sister. But all it takes is an instant, a moment's distraction to shatter her family and to land Marika in the middle of every sister's worst nightmare.

Wracked with guilt, and with her family falling apart, Marika is forced to spend some time away... That's when she meets Arrow and their tragic tales become entwined – with the fate of each other, of those around them, and with one massive question – what if?

What if in a moment of tragedy you could swap lives with another "you" living in another world? What if you had no idea of the consequences and only a second to decide? Would you take the chance?

A haunting tale of tragedy, fate and regret that is as sad as it is intriguing. The bittersweet ending leaves the reader contemplating the enormous consequences that one decision can have on many lives, if only that one decision had been different...

This is a gripping read (I finished the whole book in one go) but the content is incredibly sad and tragic and likely to bring your readers close to tears. The pain felt by the characters is brilliantly captured and expressed by Margaret Wild and draws you into their stories.

Given the content, this book is best suited to middle to upper secondary students. The story is not overly gender specific but both of the main characters are female and the cover lends itself more towards girls.

Reviewed by Kate

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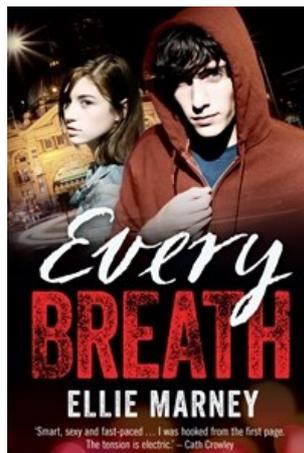
Every Breath

By Ellie Marney

ISBN 9781743316429

\$18.99

Rachel Watts has just moved to Melbourne from the country, but the city is the last place she wants to be. James Mycroft is her neighbour, an intriguingly troubled seventeen-year-old who's also a genius with a passion for forensics. Despite her misgivings, Rachel finds herself unable to resist Mycroft when he wants her help investigating a murder. He's even harder to resist when he's up close and personal - and on the hunt for a cold-blooded killer. When Rachel and Mycroft follow the murderer's trail, they find themselves in the lion's den - literally. A trip to the zoo will never have quite the same meaning again...Sizzling chemistry and urban intrigue combine in this thriller from a fresh, exciting new talent.
Publishers Blurb.



This is a wonderful book for all your students who love Sherlock Holmes and mystery novels.

This time our brilliant detective is only seventeen and his offsider is his female next door neighbour who just moved from the country and really hates the city.

Fantastic characters and a fast paced storyline will keep you turning every page quickly. I really enjoyed this book and I'm quite certain we will see more of Ellie Marney, a great new local talent.

Suits both boys and girls, Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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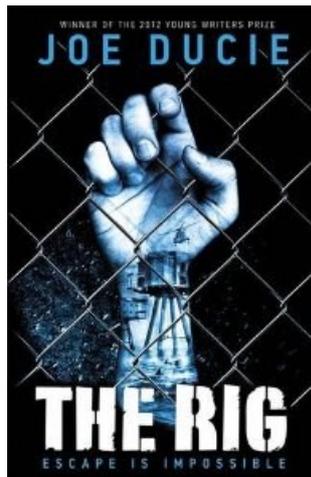
The Rig

By Joe Ducie

ISBN 9781471402197

\$16.95

Fifteen-year-old Will Drake has made a career of breaking out from high-security prisons. His talents have landed him at the Rig, a specialist juvenile holding facility in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. No one can escape from the Rig. No one except for Drake...After making some escape plans and meeting the first real friends of his life, Drake quickly realises that all is not as it seems on the Rig. The Warden is obsessed with the mysterious Crystal-X - a blue, glowing substance that appears to give superpowers to the teens exposed to it. Drake, Tristan and Irene are banking on a bid for freedom - but can they survive long enough to make it? Drake is an action hero to rival Jason Bourne and the Cherub team in this debut author's fantastically imagined sci-fi nightmare. *Publishers Blurb.*



No high security prison has been able to hold fifteen year old Will Drake so he is sent to The Rig in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. No one has ever escaped, but then no one else is Will Drake.

A fast paced action thriller Joe Ducie (an Australian debut author) will have teens eager to read more in this Guardian award winning novel.

Good versus evil, a prison where the youth take on the corrupt establishment, coupled with a power enhancing crystal found under the ocean all provide a fantastic story for a 14+ reader.

Reviewed by Rob

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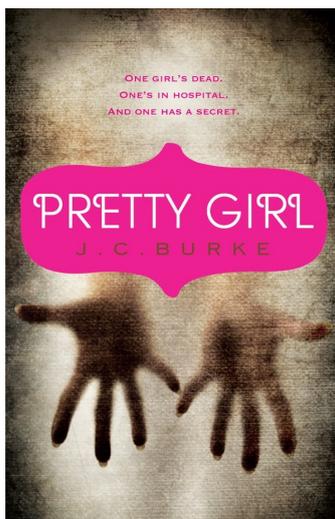
Pretty Girl

By J.C. Burke

ISBN 9781741663136

\$19.95

One girl's dead. One's in hospital. And one has a secret. Paige, Sarah, Jess and Tallulah were best friends at school. Now they've begun university and are living together at college, but it's not turning out like it's meant to. Tallulah's partying too hard, Jess is being secretive, Paige is embarrassing herself with an unrequited crush, and Sarah's struggling to keep up with her wealthier friends. One night, Sarah saves Paige from drowning in the university swimming pool. Paige can't remember why she was there, and Sarah's too afraid to say what she thought she saw. Then Jess's body is found outside the college laundry. It's not until Sarah meets the gorgeous and charming Jonny that she can tell someone her suspicions. But what really did happen that night at the pool? And what connects Paige's accident with Jess's death? As Paige starts to piece together her memories, the most terrifying question becomes clear: could it be happening again? *Publishers Blurb.*



Four friends - Sarah, Jess, Paige & Tullulah - have just started university together. But it's not turning out quite like they expected...

Then things get even worse—one girl is dead, one is in hospital with no memory of what happened to her, and another one is hiding a secret. What if everything is linked?

This is a great psychological thriller that your senior girls will love.

Fantastic characters that you will relate to and a story that twists & turns, J.C. Burke has produced another page turner, perfect for Year 11 & 12 girls.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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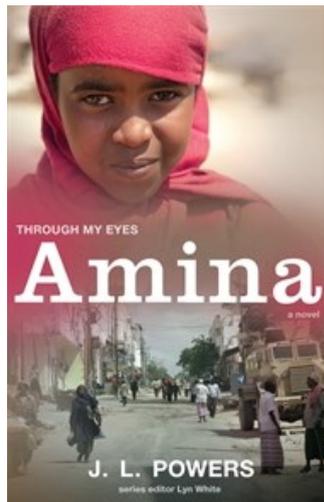
Amina: Through My Eyes

By J.L Powers

ISBN 9781743312490

\$15.99

Amina lives on the edges of Mogadishu. Her family's house has been damaged in Somalia's long civil war, but they continue to live there, reluctant to leave their home. Amina's world is shattered when government forces come to arrest her father because his art has been officially censored, deemed too political. Then rebel forces kidnap Amina's brother, forcing him to become a soldier in Somalia's brutal ongoing war. Although her mother and grandmother are still with her, Amina feels vulnerable and abandoned. Secretly, she begins to create her own artwork in the streets and the derelict buildings to give herself a sense of hope and to let out the burden of her heart. Her artwork explodes into Mogadishu's underground world, providing a voice for people all over the city who hope for a better, more secure future. This touching story brings home vividly the dangers of creating art that seeks to be true - and all the more so during a vicious civil war, interwoven with religious extremism. Thankfully, Amina's teenage curiosity and courage also signal hope. *Publishers Blurb*



This is a very powerful book that shows us the brutality that civil war brings to innocent families, and how their lives are up turned upside down.

Amina is a young girl with great courage, wit and tenacity. She is forced to grow up quicker than she should when she is confronted with the horrors that are now part of every day life in Mogadishu. But she is determined to follow in her father's footsteps and share her art, which is her way of expressing what life is like for her people, to the rest of the world.

She does this at great risk to herself and to her family, who have already been through so much heartache.

It is the second story in the *Through My Eyes* series and gives your students a wonderful insight into a way of life that, thankfully, is very foreign to most of us, but is very real to those living and enduring it on a daily basis.

Suited to all junior to middle secondary students.

Reviewed by Sam

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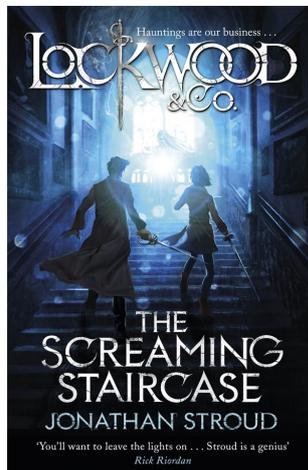
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Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase

By Jonathan Stroud
ISBN 9780857532022
\$24.95

The book sensation of the year from global bestselling author, Jonathan Stroud. Hauntings are our business . . . Ghosts crowd the streets and houses of London. Anthony Lockwood, with his slightly grumpy deputy George, and his junior field operative Lucy, make up LOCKWOOD & CO, the small, shabby yet talented ghost-hunting agency. After a series of calamitous investigations into the supernatural go awry, the team are desperate to prove themselves. Their opportunity comes in the form of a terrifying ghost, the Red Duke. But little do they know what perils lie in store for them at the haunted Bliss Hall . . . *Publishers Blurb*



I don't generally enjoy ghost books but this was a truly engrossing read - the intensity just kept rising.

Enter a world where ghostly activity has become the norm, with The Problem increasing around 50 years earlier. Two young researchers discovered its source and it has since been established that younger children, certainly those under 15, have much more sensitivity to paranormal activity - meaning they are the ones who tackle The Problem. This mostly happens at night and under the supervision of an adult.

Not so with Lockwood & Co - a small investigative agency consisting of Anthony Lockwood who can see the Visitors, investigator and Anthony's long term friend George, and new member Lucy, who has recently moved to London.

Lucy has the terrific skill of hearing the Visitors speak and being able to feel their suffering and fate through touch. But when our investigators come across a 50 year old skeleton and a murder mystery, their world and their agency are suddenly faced with a life or death situation— the perpetrator is now rich and powerful and wants to keep her secret hidden.

A marvellous first instalment of a series that will be a huge hit with those old enough to read it and cope with the HAUNTINGS!!!

Reviewed by Rob

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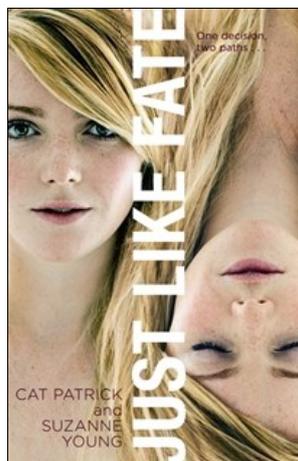
Just Like Fate

By Cat Patrick & Suzanne Young

ISBN 9781742977133

\$22.95

Her grandmother is sick, maybe dying. Like the rest of her family, Caroline's been at Gram's bedside since her stroke. With the pressure building, all Caroline wants to do is escape - both her family and the reality of Gram's failing health. So when Caroline's best friend offers to take her to a party one fateful Friday night, she must choose: stay by Gram's side, or go to the party and live her life. The consequence of this one decision will split Caroline's fate into two separate paths - and she's about to live them both. Though there are two distinct ways for her fate to unfold, there is only one happy ending...
Publishers Blurb



Caroline's world is at a crossroads. Her best friend Simone wants to party, but her Gram, her favourite person in the world, is in hospital, possibly dying. Go or stay?

So begins a novel of parallel stories in alternating chapters. First a chapter where Caroline stays at the hospital and then the alternative one where Caroline leaves.

A few seconds are required at the beginning of each chapter to place yourself in Caroline's current situation, where an intriguing story evolves.

One with first love, loss, friendship and struggles, but mostly one of self discovery and empowerment over your own journey.

Fate may play a fairly strong part in this journey as each story begins to be intertwined at the end.

A particularly enticing read for Year 9 and up girls.

Reviewed by Rob