

47 Degrees

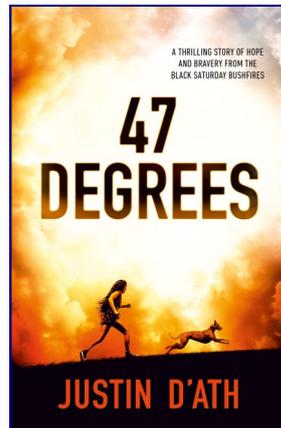
By Justin D'Ath
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin
ISBN 9780143789079 SCIS: 1901949
\$16.99

**SECONDARY
BOOK OF THE
MONTH**

Blurb:

Zeelie wonders if they're in danger. When temperatures soar to 47 degrees one hot summer day, 12-year-old Zeelie hopes the nearby bushfires everyone's talking about aren't heading towards her family's new home. What will they do if the wind changes direction? What about their belongings and their beloved pets? And why hasn't her mum and brother returned from Melbourne? Nothing can prepare Zeelie for what's to come.

A fast-paced and poignant novel of survival by Justin D'Ath that draws on his own experience of escaping the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.



Lamont Review:

47 Degrees, by award winning author Justin D'Ath, is timed to coincide with the 10th Anniversary of the horrific Black Saturday bushfires.

Our main character is 12 year old Zeelie, from the small Victorian town of Flowerdale. Her Dad is a plumber and is bushfire prepared. But nothing could prepare them for the soaring heat and roaring flames as they are forced to flee their home, leaving her precious horse, Rimu, behind.

Their journey to safety to the refuge centre set up in Yea, shows the generosity of spirit of so many people. The forming of friendships, through a comradeship built around such a tragedy, can steel a community.

One hundred and seventy three lives, and an estimated 1 million wild and domesticated animals were lost, and Justin D'Ath tells this story so well, based on his own first hand experience.

This is a fantastically well written adventure that will sit tremendously well in classrooms for group reading and discussion. Best suited to readers aged 10—14.

Reviewed by Rob

The Haven

By Simon Lelic

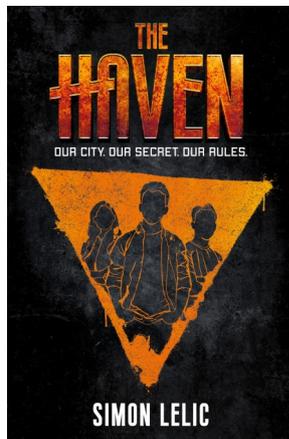
Publisher: Hodder/Hachette

ISBN 9781444947601 SCIS: 1901966

\$16.99

Blurb:

An adrenaline-fuelled adventure in a new series by top thriller writer Simon Lelic. Ollie Turner isn't sure he's ready to be a hero... Our city. Our secret. Our rules. Alone. On the run. Ollie Turner has nowhere to hide. But he gets a second chance. Underneath the city there's a secret organisation, far from adult eyes. It's called The Haven. Soon Ollie is caught up in their battle: to stop Maddy Sikes destroying the city. Time is running out for Ollie and his new friends, and millions of lives are at stake...



Lamont Review:

The Haven is a dream come true for many! No adults in a safe place where kids make all the rules.

To remain, you must maintain good study results and respect the others. The Haven takes in kids that need help. They can stay until they turn 18, at which point most enter University.

This introductory novel takes our protagonist Ollie to The Haven, after the murder of his guardian Nancy, a police officer. Nancy had been his guardian since his parents died in a terrorist attack on a bus. Ollie wants to avenge Nancy's death, and he soon realises that the group from the Haven could help.

But Ollie could help the Haven too, as their members are shrinking and the place is in need of repairs.

What follows is an action packed adventure in pursuit of a mad woman who wants to own and rule London. She is a criminal mastermind who has somehow made all of the gangs in London wage war on each other. But this is only a diversion - her main plan is to release poisonous gas bombs that will kill millions. Can a group of kids from the Haven stop her?

The clock is ticking!

This is an action thriller and is a great and exciting read for those aged 12—16.

Reviewed by Rob

The Dog Runner

By Bren MacDibble

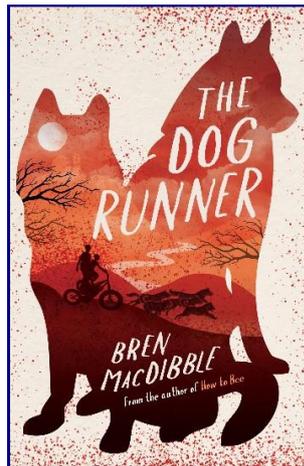
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760523572 SCIS:1893091

\$16.99

Blurb:

'We're gonna starve if we stay here,' Emery said. 'If we're gonna go, best go now.' And he said it like going was something easy. Like all we have to do is walk away. Ella and her brother Emery are alone in a city that's starving to death. If they are going to survive, they must get away, upcountry, to find Emery's mum. But how can two kids travel such big distances across a dry, barren, and dangerous landscape? Well, when you've got five big doggos and a dry-land dogsled, the answer is you go mushing. But when Emery is injured, Ella must find a way to navigate them through rough terrain, and even rougher encounters with desperate people...



Lamont Review:

This is a wonderful dystopian thriller set in a world where fungus has killed all the grass. No grass, no grains, no livestock, no bread, no rice...you get the picture!

Food is running out and people are turning on each other. Ella and Emery decide that to survive after both of their parents have disappeared, they must travel north across the country to Emery's Mum's farm.

With five malamutes at home, they decide to rig up a dry-land dog sled and go mushing. But this trip is dangerous and long. How will they survive in these desperate times?

Full of adventure and excitement, you will love the characters, particularly the feisty and determined Ella, as they journey through peril to try to find hope in a dangerous world.

With themes of survival, family and environmental disaster, this book is best suited to readers aged 10–14.

Reviewed by Rob

Tilly Maguire and the Royal Wedding Mess

By Emma Grey

Publisher: Harper Collins

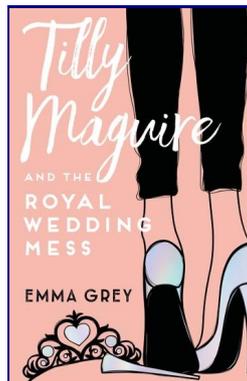
ISBN 9781460755051 SCIS: 1901988

\$19.99

Blurb:

ROYAL WEDDING; ROYAL MESS! WHAT HAS 18-YEAR-OLD PR INTERN TILLY MAGUIRE LANDED HERSELF IN?

Aspiring writer, 18-year-old Tilly Maguire, is a totally reformed ex-superfan of British boyband singer, Reuben Vaughan. Yeah, she was going to marry him when she was thirteen, but that fangirl phase is way in her past now, along with an unfortunate side ponytail and a weird obsession with galaxy leggings - ugh. Cringe! When her writing wins Tilly a six-week internship at a top London PR firm, she doesn't expect to stumble from a long-haul flight straight into an A-list debacle of her own making, but these things happen. She proves to the entire world that jet lag and social media definitely don't mix. Obviously, Tilly didn't intend to get tangled in a ridiculous scandal involving the British royal family. She's not the attention-seeking type! She's just a socially awkward introvert, with a galloping case of anxiety made even worse after a high-profile run-in with the very last person she ever imagined she'd meet for real. Not on her gap year, anyway. And not like this!



Lamont Review:

Tilly arrives in London to do a six week internship at a large PR firm. And although being exhausted is no excuse, she sets the world humming with a post on the company's official site that mega star boy band member Reuben Vaughan, who is represented by her firm, and Princess Isabella (Belle) are really close, as in maybe an engagement is on the cards kind of close... Unfortunately for Tilly this is a total faux pas!

Tilly seemed to miss the fact that Reuben only had eyes for her at the ball, but this quickly changes when he takes her to the band's secret country retreat to hide.

We then have a roller coaster of emotions and interactions between Reuben, Tilly, Belle and Reuben's PA Angie, who grew up with Reuben and Belle.

I don't want to reveal too much - but the story involves chivalry, a Royal Family scandal, a Royal wedding—nearly—and a clear message to stay real and be the person you are meant to be in this world.

It is easy to get taken along with this novel, as it is full of twists and turns and has enough romance and positive messages that I would definitely recommend it to girls aged 13-16.

Reviewed by Rob

The Girl King

By Mimi Yu

Publisher: Gollancz - Orion/Hachette

ISBN 9781473223110 SCIS: 1901998

\$19.99

Blurb:

Two sisters become unwitting rivals in a war to claim the title of Emperor in this sweeping tale of ambition, sacrifice and betrayal for readers of Tomi Adeyemi, Kendare Blake and Samantha Shannon. All hail the Girl King. Sisters Lu and Min have always known their places as princesses of the empire. Lu is destined to become the first female emperor, while Min is resigned to a life in her shadow. When their father declares their male cousin heir instead, his betrayal throws both their lives into chaos. Determined to reclaim her birthright, Lu must flee the court in search of an ally. Her quest leads her to Nokhai, the last surviving wolf shapeshifter. After years in hiding, Nok is forced into an uneasy alliance with the girl whose family killed everyone he ever loved. Now they need an army to take back the throne. Left alone in the volatile court, Min's hidden power awakens. It's a forbidden, deadly magic that could secure Set's reign... or allow Min to claim the throne herself. But there can only be one emperor, and the sisters' greatest enemy could turn out to be each other...



Lamont Review:

Lu and Min are Princesses of the Empire. Lu expects to be named the first female emperor and Min expects to live a quiet life in the court of her sister.

When their father names a male cousin as his heir, everyone's life is thrown into chaos. Can strong-willed Lu really win back the throne and why is Min acting so strangely? And who is Nokhai - friend or foe?

The first couple of chapters are a bit slow-paced, as all the characters are established, but once you've sorted out where everyone fits, this is a wonderful story. It is full of adventure, mystery, and long-lost magic.

It has great characters and an intriguing plot and will have you eagerly awaiting the next instalment.

It is a perfect fantasy novel for readers in Year 8 and up.

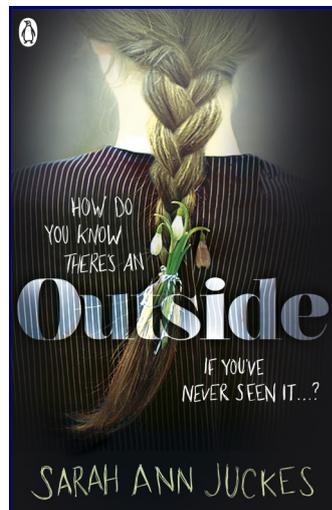
Reviewed by Michelle

Outside

By Sarah Ann Jukes
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin
ISBN 9780241330753 SCIS: 1902001
\$16.99

Blurb:

Here's the thing about being Inside. Ain't no one believes that they are. Ele is kept captive in a small room by a man known as 'Him'. She has never been Outside but she knows it's there and she's determined to prove it. When Ele eventually escapes, she is forced to question everything she has ever known. An extraordinary and powerful debut in the style of ROOM by Emma Donoghue.



Lamont Review:

Ele has always lived inside with her fairy tales and imaginings, but she is sure that there is more - there must be an 'Outside'.

'He' comes through the door once a week when the light above it goes from red to green. He does awful but undescribed things and then leaves. Ele must escape!

This book is a psychological horror story, as Ele suffers both mental and physical abuse (although not graphically depicted), that will have a profound impact on the reader.

The plot is enticing and the character development is brilliant, and the story is insightful and well-written.

Ele's character is uplifting, and although it has a dark subject matter, will be thoroughly enjoyed by readers 14 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

Two Can Keep A Secret

By Karen M McManus

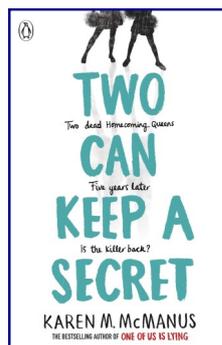
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin

ISBN 9780141375656 SCIS: 1893334

\$17.99

Blurb:

Ellery's never been to Echo Ridge, but she's heard all about it. It's where her aunt went missing at age sixteen, never to return. Where a Homecoming Queen's murder five years ago made national news. And where Ellery now has to live with a grandmother she barely knows, after her failed-actress mother lands in rehab. No one knows what happened to either girl, and Ellery's family is still haunted by their loss. Malcolm grew up in the shadow of the Homecoming Queen's death. His older brother was the prime suspect and left Echo Ridge in disgrace. His mother's remarriage vaulted her and Malcolm into Echo Ridge's upper crust, but their new status grows shaky when mysterious threats around town hint that a killer plans to strike again. No one has forgotten Malcolm's brother-and nobody trusts him when he suddenly returns to town. Ellery and Malcolm both know it's hard to let go when you don't have closure. Then another girl disappears, and Ellery and Malcolm were the last people to see her alive. As they race to unravel what happened, they realize every secret has layers in Echo Ridge. The truth might be closer to home than either of them want to believe. And somebody would kill to keep it hidden.



Lamont Review:

This is a murder mystery thriller that will keep you enthralled!

Set in Echo Ridge, a small and affluent American town where a high school senior disappeared 20 years ago and the homecoming queen was found murdered 5 years ago.

Twins Ellery and Ezra have been sent back to Echo Ridge to stay with their grandmother, as their mother Sadie has been placed in rehab. Sadie's life has not been easy, beginning with the first disappearance - Sadie's twin sister, Sarah.

But now graffitied and grotesque threats towards this year's homecoming queen are suddenly appearing at school and around town. To make matters worse, somebody has rigged the votes to get Ellery nominated as one of the three possible winners.

There are a marvellous amount of clues and twists and turns in a brilliantly written plot that has you looking at every character as a potential murderer.

The characters are fabulous, especially Ellery and Malcolm (whose older brother is still the main suspect for the murder five years ago).

It is a real edge of your seat, page turner that certainly is not easy to put down as it reaches the climactic ending.

Best suited to readers 14 +.

Reviewed by Rob