

Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2014

Secondary Fiction

Coming of Age: Growing Up Muslim in Australia

Edited by Amra Pajalic & Demet Divaroren

ISBN 9781743312926

\$18.99

**Secondary Book
of the Month**

Blurb:

In this refreshing and fascinating collection, twelve Muslim-Australians - some well known, some not - reveal their candid, funny and touching stories of growing up with a dual identity.

Muslim people in Australia come from over seventy countries and represent a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and experiences. Yet we are constantly bombarded by media stories feeding one negative stereotype. What is it really like to grow up Muslim in Australia? In this book, famous and not-so-famous Muslim-Australians tell their stories in their own voices.



Lamont Review:

Coming of Age presents an incredibly diverse array of experiences of what it is like to grow up a Muslim in Australia.

With stories from the well known, like Rugby star Hazem El Masri and Miss World Australia Sabrina Houssami, to others of lesser fame, all have an important message to deliver.

This book surprised me and I learned of my misinformation where I saw all Muslims as devout believers. Like all faiths, there are the fervent and those who have become either non practising or atheist.

With varied accounts and displays of religiousness, these short stories will help many Muslims and non-Muslims alike to gain a wider understanding of different experiences of assimilation and acceptance occurring in Australia and indeed, the world today.

This will be a fantastic addition to all school libraries and will be used similarly to 'Growing Up Asian in Australia' as a great classroom discussion initiator.

Best suited to about the Year 9 age.

Reviewed by Rob

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Secondary Fiction

Pirouette

By Robyn Bavati

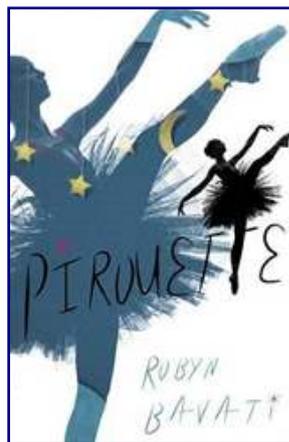
ISBN 9780143569374

\$17.99

Blurb:

Adopted as babies by two different families, Simone and Hannah have never known they are identical twins. Simone has been raised as a dancer, but she hates performing. Hannah loves nothing more than dance, but her parents see it as just a hobby. When the two girls pirouette into each other's lives, they decide to swap places and make their dreams come true.

But for how long can Simone and Hannah keep pretending? What will happen when the truth is revealed?



Lamont Review:

Fate or coincidence? A nurse in an orphanage in Brazil exchanges babies to ensure identical twins, Hannah and Simone, are both sent to Melbourne, Australia to increase their chances of meeting.

Fifteen years later at a dance academy in Canberra held over the summer holidays the girls finally meet. The two girls both dance. Simone attends the Victorian College of the Arts and has always been a star, but is tired of the constant pushing by her mother and the stress involved. Hannah, on the other hand, loves dance, but has only ever done it for fun and dreams of going further. Could they swap places?

What follows is a delightful story of growing up and finding your true identity. Young love, intrigue and real characters make this a fabulous read for 12+ girls.

Who wouldn't want to experience life in someone else's shoes if given the opportunity?

Reviewed by Rob.

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Secondary Fiction

Jumping Fences

By Karen Wood

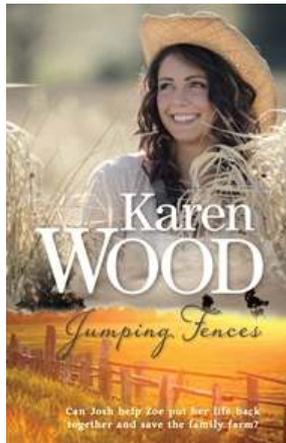
ISBN 9781743316399

\$15.99

Blurb:

'You deserve someone who would jump fences to be with you, Zoe.'

Zoe wakes up in hospital after a mustering accident and can't remember a thing. When she gets home, everything has changed. Why aren't her boyfriend Scotty and best friend Caitlin answering her texts? Who stole her dad's cattle and put the farm at risk? Can the mysterious Josh help put the pieces of Zoe's life together again?



Australian rural female literature is really selling globally in the adult market and now we finally have a title aimed at the YA market.

The characters are wonderfully developed and we cheer our hero Zoe on as she tackles many rural and teenage issues.

Horses, love, cattle rustlers, divorce and the outback weather troubles that cause much hardship are all handled beautifully.

In the end, Karen Wood has produced an easy to read, believable, and heartfelt novel that ties together wonderfully. I highly recommend it, mostly for girls 13 and older.

Reviewed by Rob.

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The Impossible Knife of Memory

By Laurie Halse Anderson

ISBN 9781922182227

\$19.99

Blurb:

For the past five years Hayley Kincaid and her father, Andy, have been on the road, never staying long in one place as he struggles to escape the demons that have tortured him since his return from Iraq.

Now they are back in town where he grew up so Hayley can go to a proper school. Perhaps, for the first time, Hayley can have a normal life, put aside her own painful memories, even have a relationship with Finn, the hot guy who obviously likes her but is hiding secrets of his own. Will being back home help Andy's PTSD, or will his terrible memories drag him to the edge of hell, and drugs push him over?



Lamont Review:

This is one of those books that is very hard to put down. It is a wonderful story of friendship, falling in love and most importantly, relationships.

The main character Hayley has had a pretty tough life after her Dad was injured in the war in Iraq. So her family returns to his hometown in the hope that they can settle down and Hayley can go to school every day. However, Hayley's struggle with her Dad's emotional problems as well as her new friends, especially gorgeous Finn, make for compelling reading.

It is an insight into a world most teenagers will never have to deal with and Hayley is a feisty and courageous person that your students will love.

Probably best suited to Year 9 and up, and it will appeal to both boys and girls.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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Secondary Fiction

Quincy Jordan: Crystal Bay Girls Book 1

By Jen Storer

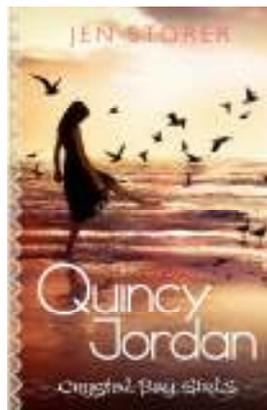
ISBN 9780143307594

\$16.99

Blurb:

Quincy Jordan doesn't want to meet her hippie cousins and go to school in Crystal Bay. Her life in Sydney is perfect. She's going to save her parents' marriage, score perfect marks at school and become a surgeon. Her only regret is that she'll never be a fashion designer. But sacrifices must be made!

There's no way that Quincy is going to be 'Crystallised' – that is until her cousin Esme, the school musical and a cute boy called Harris change everything . . .



Lamont Review:

This is a thoroughly entertaining story about family, friends, love and starting over.

Quincy finds it impossible to believe that her perfect world in Sydney is all a fake. When her surgeon father walks out with her Mum's best friend, Quincy thinks her world is over.

In steps Quincy's long lost Aunt and all her kids, and a very cute boy called Harris, who all happen to live in Crystal Bay, Quincy's new home.

Your Year 7-9 girls will love Quincy and her new found family and friends. She is courageous, grumpy, unpredictable and busy trying to work out who she really is - just like every other teenage girl on the planet!

The first of a great new series.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Tigerfish

By David Metzenthen

ISBN 9780143568421

\$17.99

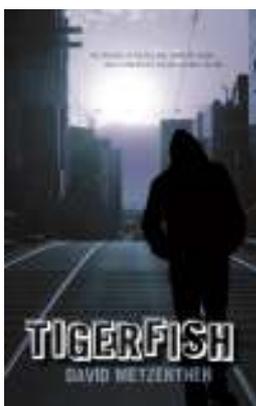
Blurb:

From best-selling and award-winning author David Metzenthen comes a powerful new novel.

Better in here, they think. Safe and sound. No shocks and no surprises. Twenty-one degrees Celsius all year round. But outside Sky Point Mall, no one is safe.

Ryan Lanyon lives in a tough suburb. His brother's a bouncer. His best mate owns weapons. Ariel works in a surf shop and has never seen the sea. And the year that lies ahead is a minefield for them all.

A novel of confrontation, loyalty and love from David Metzenthen, the award-winning and bestselling author of *Jarvis 24*, *Boys of Blood and Bone* and *Black Water*.



Lamont Review:

David Metzenthen is at his finest as he weaves this finely crafted coming of age novel.

Ryan lives in the western suburbs where things can be pretty tough. But his resilient nature allows him to deal with adversity like:

- an older brother risking life and limb as a bouncer
- a psychotic extremely violent school bully
- a quiet best friend who thinks that they should be on the front foot and not wait to be victims; and
- a wonderful ex-country girl whose family, or what's left of it, have suffered much, seeing her living in a derelict house down the road, caring for her half-sister and mixed up step-mother.

But then there is love and hope, and this book is filled with examples and people who accept their lot and try to make the world a better place.

A great read for those 15+.

Reviewed by Rob

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Tank Boys

By Stephen Dando-Collins

ISBN 9780857981301

\$17.99

Blurb:

A gripping story that brings to life one of Australia's World War I military victories.

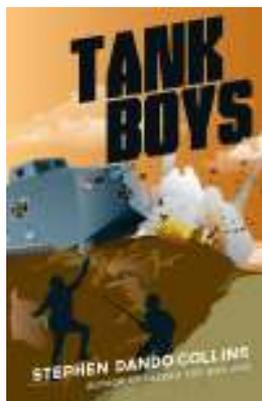
Frankie and Taz didn't think about killing, or dying, when they lied about their age to join the Australian army. They thought the war was going to be a big adventure. Now they're marching to the front.

Richard is another sixteen-year-old heading to war. He's inside the massive German tank *Mephisto* as it powers towards the battle lines at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

The other side have their tanks ready too. War is about to change forever . . .

Based on true stories of the world's first tank-versus-tank battle and what it was like to be an underage soldier in World War I, *Tank Boys* follows Frankie, Taz and Richard's footsteps as they take part in what will become one of the decisive battles of the war.

What will happen when the boys meet as enemies on the battlefield?



Lamont Review:

A ripping adventure or a cold hard truth?

In *Tank Boys* we see the First World War at the Somme through the eyes of two sixteen year old Australian boys, Taz and Frankie, who lied about their age to be able to enlist.

The first tank versus tank encounter takes place where the huge German A7V tanks face the smaller British tanks, the Mark IV and Whippet's.

On board the German tank *Mephisto* is sixteen year old Richard Rix, and when his platoon is wiped out, he pleads for his life - to our two young Aussie soldiers.

Together they hatch a plan to have Richard pretend to be a Dutch immigrant Australian.

With many historical facts interwoven in the story, this is a tremendous close encounter story of such an important time in Australian, and indeed world history.

A great read for 13+ boys.

Reviewed by Rob

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Nymph: The Love Oracles Book 1

By Tonya Alexandra

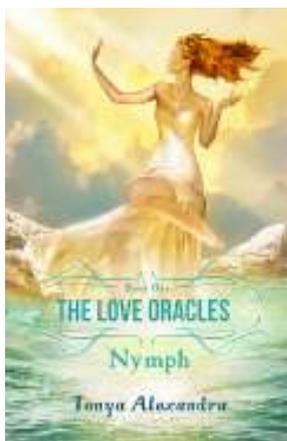
ISBN 9781922077240

\$19.95

Blurb:

Nymph is the first book in an exciting trilogy, *The Love Oracles*, by newcomer Tonya Alexandra.

An idyllic Greek island. Obsessed demigods. A fallen nymph. A mortal boy. Merope, a beautiful but faded star nymph, is banished to Earth for displeasing the gods. She tries to fit in, go to school and live a normal "human" life. And then she meets Lukas - but relationships between men and goddesses are forbidden. Will their love grow? Or will Merope and Lukas feel the wrath of the gods?



Lamont Review:

We are proud to introduce this debut Australian author, Tonya Alexandra.

She is an exciting new talent who has intertwined ancient Greek mythology and modern romance marvellously well.

Our main character, Merope, descends from the Gods to take her place in a small town, probably in modern day Greece. But she is still being pursued by Orion and other Gods to become one of their many concubines. Merope has other plans and is quickly falling for the gorgeous earthling, Lukas.

Will the Gods allow such treachery?

This is a highly readable modern day Romeo and Juliet story that is ideally pitched to the middle teen market.

Reviewed by Rob

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Nine Open Arms

By Benny Lindelauf

ISBN 9781743315859

\$16.99

Blurb:

An intriguing novel with a classic feel, featuring three vividly alive young sisters, an eccentric family struggling against the odds, and the slowly revealed story of a house with a past.

At the end of the world, near the border with Germany, stands a house as long as nine open arms. Half hidden behind trees and shrubs rises a wide brick wall, topped with two attic windows, each no bigger than a dishcloth. The walls have been whitewashed and the wooden floor is bare, as if the house is waiting. Waiting for someone to move in.



Lamont Review:

This is one of those novels that is very hard to put down but very hard to describe.

Set mostly in 1937, but with a flashback to the 1860's, it has an intriguing storyline, wonderful characters and a sense of belonging and family that is rarely found in stories.

If you have a brother or a sister you will relate to the sibling squabbles, laughter and loyalty which is in abundance throughout the book.

And all entwined with the story of the house which the family call 'Nine Open Arms'.

A fantastic book for your Year 7-9's and although the three main characters are girls, there are four brothers that balance out the story well.

A really memorable book.

Reviewed by Michelle.