

## **Sick Bay**

By Nova Weetman

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

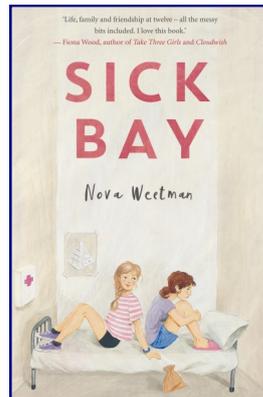
ISBN 9780702260322 SCIS: 1912621

\$16.95

**PRIMARY FICTION**  
**BOOK OF THE**  
**MONTH**

### *Blurb:*

Two very different Grade 6 girls meet in their school sick bay. Meg is a loner. Grieving over the death of her father, and struggling with changes at home, she wears slippers to school and hides out in sick bay to avoid other kids. New girl Riley is a Type 1 diabetic and already popular. She doesn't want to go to sick bay, but sometimes she has to if she's having a high or a low. As Meg and Riley are forced to spend more and more time together in the cramped sick bay room, they start to uncover each other's secrets and find the courage to be who they really are.



### *Lamont Review:*

Who would have thought that sick bay would be a place you want to hang out? But for Meg, it is her refuge. A place she can go and not be picked on. After her Dad dies, Meg's mother does not cope at all, and Meg is basically left to raise herself and try to look after her Mum too. But with money tight, Meg finds herself wearing slippers to school and having little to eat.

Contrast this to Riley. Her mother is the complete opposite to Meg's - she's overprotective and controlling. Riley hasn't been at the school long, and has made friends with all the popular girls - the same ones who torment Meg. But are they really her friends?

Sick bay for Riley is, at times, a necessity. Having to constantly monitor her diabetes is really getting to her, and she just wants to be like everyone else. Can these two girls form a friendship that will help them both?

Told in alternating chapters from each girl's point of view, this is an emotional read that will have you just wanting to reach out and help the girls. It has themes of poverty, bullying, grief and all the issues that can accompany it, compassion, resilience, courage, friendship and finding your inner voice.

It will be thoroughly enjoyed by girls in particular, in Year 5 and up.

*Reviewed by Sam*

## **Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire**

By Nat Amooore

Publisher: Puffin/Penguin

ISBN 9780143796374 SCIS:1918695

\$14.99

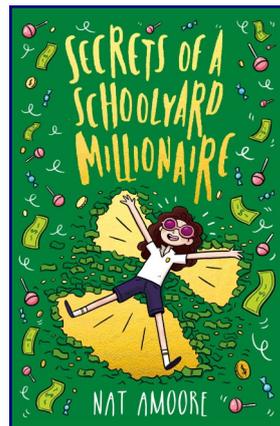
### *Blurb:*

Finding a million dollars in your backyard - every kid's dream, right? That's what me and my best friend Toby thought too.

Jumping castles at school. Lollipops for our adoring fans. Wearing sunglasses indoors ('cos that's what all the millionaires do).

There's a lot you can get with a million dollars... including a whole lot of trouble.

Bonus tips on how to be a schoolyard millionaire inside!



### *Lamont Review:*

Tess lives in a large household where money is always scarce. But this is not the life for her. Not a chance! So Tess and her best friend, and able sidekick, Toby devise plans to make their fortune. Well, mostly Tess devises the plans and Toby figures out the rest.

But when Tess finds a million dollars in her backyard, dumped by her criminal neighbour Scotty, all sorts of problems arise. Now what problems could you have with one million dollars?

Firstly, how to spend it? People don't like taking large amounts of cash from kids and how can you order online without a credit card? And then there is Toby, who was adopted from Bolivia, wanting to donate it to every worthy cause he can find. Is this a bad thing?

Filled with unlikely outcomes, hilarious situations, and lots of good versus bad decisions, this is an entertaining and fun-filled adventure that 8 - 12 year-olds will love.

*Reviewed by Rob*