

## **Catch Me If I Fall**

By Barry Jonsberg  
Publisher: Allen & Unwin  
ISBN 9781760877613 SCIS: 1981945  
\$16.99

**SECONDARY BOOK  
OF THE MONTH**

*Blurb:*

'We've been worried about Aiden too, Ash,' said Mum. 'He's always been such a... predictable child. You're not the only one to have noticed the changes.'

Ash and Aiden Delatour are twins, living a privileged lifestyle with loving parents. In a world that has fallen apart at the seams, they want for nothing. All they have to do is be there for each other, no matter what.

But after Aiden suffers a terrible injury, he isn't the same brother Ash always relied on. Something has changed, and it will lead to a discovery that will turn their whole world upside down.

A brilliant and timely middle-grade novel from the bestselling author of *My Life As An Alphabet* and *A Song Only I Can Hear*.



*Lamont Review:*

Set in Australia after climate change has altered the world as we know it. Ashleigh and Aiden Delatour are twins who have always lived an exceptionally fortunate life. Their scientist mother has her own Artificial Intelligence company, and her success means they lead a very privileged existence.

Aiden has spent his life protecting his sister, and their love and devotion to each other runs deep. But after an accident where Aiden saved Ashleigh, but received severe head injuries in the process, things start to change... Maybe everything is not what it seems?

This is a wonderful look at life in a changing world. With a focus on family, privilege, global warming, artificial intelligence and doing the right thing, these head-strong almost 13-year-old twins journey of discovery leads them to try to make the world a better place.

It is a terrific read, with so many themes and great characters that will make this a popular classroom novel, best suited to upper primary and lower secondary students.

*Reviewed by Rob*

*Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available for this title on our website.*

## **Here The Whole Time**

By Vitor Martins

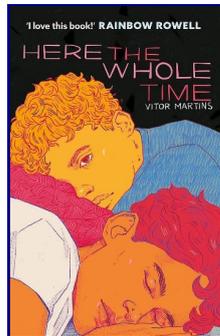
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books / Hachette

ISBN 9781444958492 SCIS: 1988735

\$17.99

### *Blurb:*

Felipe doesn't believe someone like Caio could ever fall for someone like him. But over the next fifteen days, everything will change ... If you love Rainbow Rowell and Heartstopper, you'll fall for this body-positive love story about the assumptions we make about each other, and the bravery we need to be yourself. Felipe is fat. And he doesn't need anyone to remind him, which is, of course, what everyone does. That's why he's been waiting for summer: a break from school and the classmates who tease him incessantly. His plans include catching up on TV, finishing his TBR pile, and watching YouTube tutorials on skills he'll never actually put into practice. But things get a little out of hand when Felipe's mom informs him that Caio, the neighbour kid from apartment 57, will be spending the next fifteen days with them while his parents are on vacation. Felipe is distraught because A) he's had a crush on Caio since, well, for ever, and B) Felipe has a list of body image insecurities and absolutely NO idea how he's going to entertain his neighbor for two full weeks. Suddenly, the days ahead of him that once promised rest and relaxation (not to mention some epic Netflix bingeing) end up bringing a whirlwind of feelings, forcing Felipe to dive head-first into every unresolved issue he has had with himself - but maybe, just maybe, he'll manage to win over Caio, too. A queer love story for anyone who's ever got into a pool with their shirt on.



### *Lamont Review:*

Felipe is one of the most relatable characters I've come across in a book. Told from his perspective as a seventeen-year-old growing up in a small town, he is funny, witty and his story will touch your heart and take you on a roller coaster of emotions. I read this book in one day, as the characters and their story grab your attention. Being told across a span of just 15 days, the story is fast-paced and each day seems to bring a new challenge for Felipe and his mass of insecurities.

The characters each have their own relatable problems to deal with, and the book tackles them in a such a way that it opens the door for conversations about things that often might not get talked about or that may be seen as taboo subjects. It tackles bullying, going to therapy, realising that everyone has their own problems even though they might appear to be happy on the surface, finding your own voice when you couldn't before, and overcoming your fears.

Written by a Brazilian YA author and being released in English for the first time, this book is perfect for anyone who is dealing with or has experienced bullying, self-esteem issues, or is struggling through with things like making friends, overcoming your differences to others and standing up for yourself.

A great story, that is best suited to those 15+.

*Reviewed by Ben*

## **Glassheart**

By Katharine Orton

Publisher: Walker Books

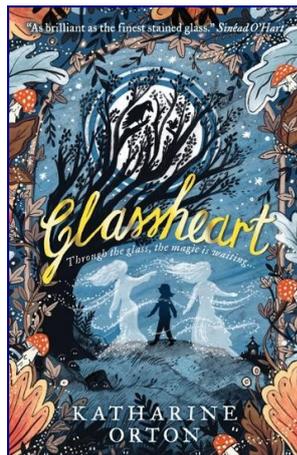
ISBN 9781406385236 SCIS: 1981960

\$16.99

### *Blurb:*

An enchanting magical adventure set in the wild moors of Dartmoor – the second middle-grade novel from the bestselling author of Nevertell. Through the glass, the magic is waiting...

Nona and her uncle travel everywhere together, replacing stained-glass windows in war-torn buildings. When a mysterious commission takes them to the lonely moors of Dartmoor, Nona discovers a wild and powerful magic which threatens everything. Can Nona protect those she loves – even if it means fighting darkness itself? A beautifully imaginative and rich adventure about determination, courage and the power of love, set in the aftermath of World War Two. Perfect for fans of Abi Elphinstone, Sophie Anderson and Catherine Doyle.



### *Lamont Review:*

This is a wonderful fantasy novel, set in England after World War II.

Ever since Nona's mum and brother were killed in a bomb blast during the war she has always carried a small 'glass heart' with her everywhere.

The glass heart is special - it allows Nona to be part of both the human world and the spirit world.

This enchanting novel will be a hit with fantasy lovers. Full of good and evil, the main themes are friendship, love of family, along with courage and a determination to do what is right, regardless of the cost.

Beautifully written, with a wonderful cast of characters, it is perfect for students in Year 8 and up.

*Reviewed by Michelle*

## **The Magpie Society: One for Sorrow**

By Zoe Sugg and Amy McCulloch

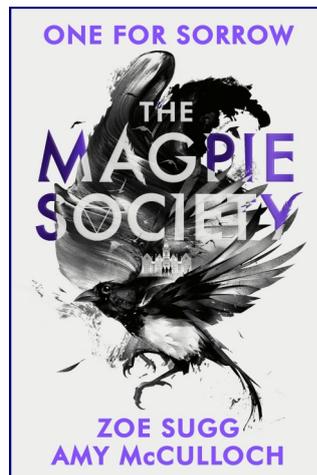
Publisher: Penguin

ISBN 9780241402481 SCIS: 1988750

\$24.99

### *Blurb:*

Illumen Hall is a boarding school of tradition and achievement. But tragedy strikes when the body of a girl, a student, is discovered - on her back is an elaborate tattoo of a magpie. For new student Audrey, it is just another strange and unsettling thing about her new surroundings. And for her roommate Ivy, well, she's just annoyed she has to share with the new girl from America. As an unlikely friendship develops, the two are drawn deeper into the mystery of this strange and terrible murder. They will discover that something dangerous is at the heart of their school. Welcome to The Magpie Society.



### *Lamont Review:*

An elite private boarding school in the English countryside provides the perfect setting for this gripping murder mystery. The school's brightest student has been murdered, just as new student Audrey arrives from America.

Cleverly written from the juxtaposition of the two new roommates, their differing points of view and different experiences add to the air of mystery that surrounds the case and the school.

Something dangerous is in their school, and both Audrey and Ivy must decide when to stand up for themselves, for what is right, for what they believe in and the truth. They must also fight the constant battle between the choices they make and the consequences that these choices may have on their lives and the lives of others.

The story is expertly crafted to leave you guessing the whole way through, and with more books in the series lined up there are a lot of unanswered questions that will leave readers hanging for Book 2! A thrilling read, best suited to readers 16+.

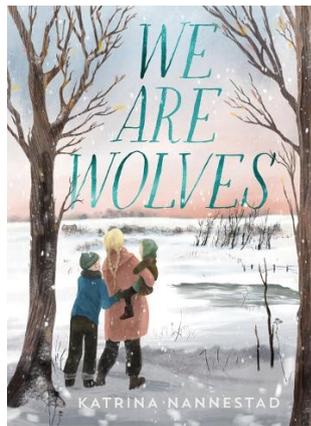
*Reviewed by Ben*

## **We Are Wolves**

By Katrina Nannestad  
Publisher: ABC Books / Harper Collins  
ISBN 9780733340888 SCIS: 1981956  
\$19.99

### *Blurb:*

THE POWERFUL NEW NOVEL FROM AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN WRITER KATRINA NANNESTAD  
Sometimes it's good to be wild. Sometimes you have to be wild. When the Russian Army marches into East Prussia at the end of the war, the Wolf family must flee. Liesl, Otto and their baby sister Mia find themselves lost and alone, in a blizzard, in the middle of a war zone. Liesl has promised Mama that she will keep her brother and sister safe. But sometimes, to survive, you have to do bad things. Dangerous things. Wild things. Sometimes to survive, you must become a wolf. Bestselling author Katrina Nannestad returns with her most masterful novel yet - a book to crack open your heart, a book to light you up inside, a book to love.



### *Lamont Review:*

War is a topic that we are now discussing from so many differing perspectives. This story is based in East Prussia and the three Wolf siblings, told through the eyes of eleven-year-old Liesl.

The Wolf children have been taught that with their great leader, Hitler, they could only win the war and live forever after in glory.

First their father, who has a bad leg, is taken to fight, and then they witness the retreating German soldiers. With the Russian Army almost upon them, Opa, Oma, Mama and the three children, Liesl, seven-year-old Otto and Mia, who is almost two, must flee.

What follows is frightening, captivating and compulsive reading, as Liesl tries to keep her promise to protect her younger brother and sister.

This is a brilliantly written rollercoaster of a story with wonderful characters that will enlighten and enthrall readers from 9 - 90 years. Set to be an Australian classic that would also be a great classroom novel for upper primary or lower secondary levels.

*Reviewed by Rob*