

Lamont Books Standing Order

May 2012

SECONDARY TITLES

Divine Clementine

By Hayley Smithers-Kirk

ISBN 9781864718997

\$18.95

I blow her a kiss. She catches it and puts it in her pocket for later like she always does. And then it happens.

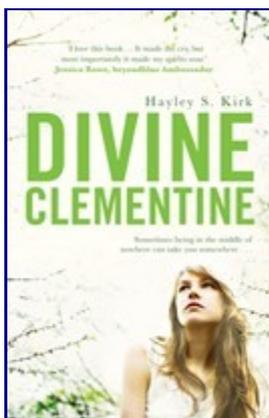
Why doesn't she look? Why doesn't the bus brake? Why is my body frozen?

When 16-and-a-half-year-old Clementine Footner witnesses the tragic death of her eccentric aunt Stella, she feels as though her world will never be the same again.

Clementine idolised her aunt, and their intimate bond was something she treasured deeply. But after finding and reading Stella's diaries, she learns about a very different woman - an unstable, erratic Stella. This Stella suffered from Bipolar . . . and the whole family knew about it.

Feeling betrayed and angry, with her life spiralling even further out of control, Clementine trudges through grief, despair, and the middle of nowhere to discover what truly matters.

Publishers Blurb.



A beautiful, yet tragic insight into the darkness of Bipolar disorder; how it effects those who suffer and the ripple effect of those that are touched by it.

An entire family know a secret. A secret that should be kept from children. Even a child like Clementine, a sixteen-year-old who adores her twenty six-year-old Aunt Stella.

But Stella's death, under a bus while walking away from Clementine, has a profound effect, exacerbated by Clementine reading Stella's diaries which are full of darkness and secrets.

It is a story of grieving and healing. A healing that takes a lot of suffering first, but ultimately aided by a gorgeous and wonderful boy.

Clementine herself was suffering from depression and melancholic thoughts constantly through her dark days of grieving and coming to terms with such a loss. But ultimately we see her regain her hope and belief for a bright future.

When finished, I felt I had lived through a harrowing experience, been enlightened and finally had my spirits lifted.

A wonderful read, best suited to 15+ mature readers, most likely girls because the cover, whilst fabulous, won't encourage boys to read it, and that's a shame.

Reviewed by Rob

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Mountain Wolf

By Rosanne Hawke

ISBN 9780732293871

\$16.99

Razaq Nadeem lives in the tribal area of Kala Dhaka, known as Black Mountain, in Pakistan. When an earthquake strikes the area, and his family is lost, Razaq is told by his dying father to flee to Rawalpindi, where his uncle Javaid lives.

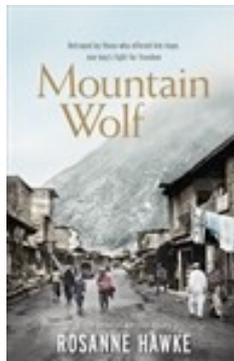
In the aftermath of the quake, all is chaos. Razaq attends a school set up by aid workers for the homeless, learns some English and helps with the younger boys.

But danger is around every corner. Razaq is sold into slavery by a man preying on orphans in the area, and desperate to escape the virtual imprisonment of washing dishes in a teashop for no wages, he heads for the streets, only to be betrayed and returned. Razaq's unusual and exotic looks attract the attention of a customer at the teashop, with disastrous results. Sold once more, he must watch as Tahira, a girl he becomes fond of, is sold to a rich man.

Razaq and Tahira meet again, but despair of their fate as they grow older. A way out is eventually offered by Majeed, a social worker, but only after a hair-raising escape.

From the author of MARRYING AMEERA comes another powerful and confronting book that deals with social justice for disenfranchised young people who have no voice or power as they bartered and sold for sex.

Publishers Blurb.



When a devastating earthquake hits the tribal areas of Kala Dhaka, or the Black Mountain as it is known, fourteen-year-old Razaq Nazeem finds himself the only survivor of his family.

His father's dying words are to go to Rawalpindi and find his uncle Javaid. In the chaos that follows the earthquake, the slave traders quickly arrive and Razaq finds himself sold to work for nothing in a teashop in the city. His exotic good looks soon attract the attention of the sex slave owners, and he is sold once again, with horrible consequences.

Razaq becomes friends with twelve-year-old Tahira, who has also been sold into the sex trade, and together they strive to maintain their dignity in the unbearable world in which they find themselves.

Meanwhile, Uncle Javaid is desperately searching every aid agency for news of his nephew. When a government social worker posing as a customer finds Razaq, he promises to help him escape. However, Razaq won't go without Tahira. Weeks pass before a rescue attempt is made, and when it comes, Razaq must embark on a desperate race through the city to escape.

This is a novel for Year 9 and up, and will confront them with the lifestyle these children are forced to live. Rosanne Hawke has again used her many talents to highlight the plight of orphans in Pakistan and many other countries around the world.

It may make our children appreciate the childhood that every person is entitled to.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Night Beach

By Kirsty Eagar

ISBN 9780143206552

\$19.95

Imagine there is someone you like so much that just thinking about them leaves you desperate and reckless. You crave them in a way that's not rational, not right, and you're becoming somebody you don't recognise, and certainly don't respect, but you don't even care.

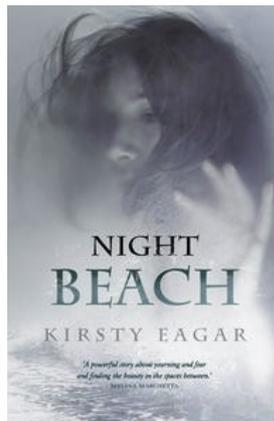
And this person you like is unattainable.

Except for one thing . . .

He lives downstairs.

Abbie has three obsessions. Art. The ocean. And Kane. But since Kane's been back, he's changed. There's a darkness shadowing him that only Abbie can see. And it wants her in its world.

Publishers Blurb.



I started this review five times, never quite getting it right. Now I realise that it is because it is such a hard book to pigeon-hole, so I won't even try.

Let's start with some adjectives to describe it instead. Surreal. Evocative. Obsessive. Haunting. Raw. Emotional. Descriptive.

A thought provoking gothic novel about dark things that fuel creativity. Based in a seaside town where the surf rules, Abbie's obsession with Kane, is all powerful. Problem? He is her step-brother.

Kirsty Eagar has produced an incredible work of art that will be thoroughly enjoyed by your older female readers.

Reviewed by Rob.

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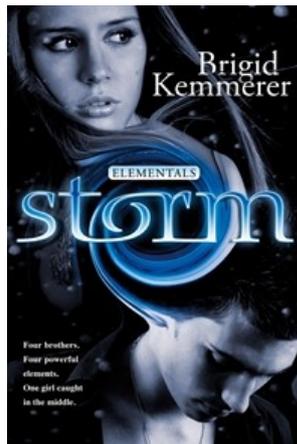
SECONDARY TITLES

Storm: Elements Book 1

By Brigid Kemmerer
ISBN 9781743310663
\$14.99

When Becca Chandler saves Chris Merrick from being beaten up in the school parking lot, she has no idea how dramatically this one action will change her life. Because Chris Merrick is no ordinary guy and neither are his three older brothers. The Merrick boys are Elementals. Hot. Powerful. Dangerous. Marked for death. And now that she knows the truth, so is Becca. With her life at stake, she doesn't know who to trust or whose secrets she should keep. Hunter, the mysterious new kid with a talent for being in the wrong place at the right time, might be the one boy Becca can put her faith in. But with two boys vying for her affections, and pressure rising all around her, will she find out in time who's hiding the most dangerous truth of all? Earth, Fire, Air, Water - the storm is coming...

Publishers Blurb.



Becca Chandler is a normal teenager with a knack for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. When she saves Chris Merrick in the school car park, her life changes because Chris is not a normal teenager. He is an Elemental, and so are his three brothers. All gorgeous, powerful and dangerous.

As for the new kid, Hunter, what is his real motive for befriending Becca? Becca doesn't know who to trust or who to believe, or which boy she is really attracted to.

This is a great read with a bit of everything. Supernatural powers, lots of action, parts that will make you cry and parts that will make you laugh, and a love triangle to round it all off. Best suited to girls in Year 9 and up.

I loved this book and so will anyone who likes supernatural, fast paced stories. I can't wait for Book 2.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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SECONDARY TITLES

Red

By Libby Gleeson

ISBN 9781741758535

\$15.99

Mud. In her mouth, her nose and her eyes. Mud in her hair and caked on her neck and her arms. Mud filling her shoes and seeping through the thin cotton weave of her trousers. She lay sprawled on her side, a garbled, barely distinct sound coming from her: jaymartinjaymartin. Her world was mud and pain.

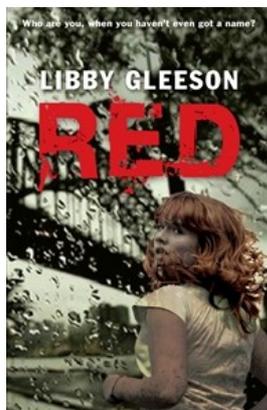
'What's your name?' A boy was sitting on a kitchen table floating in a muddy pool. At his feet was a child's doll, the head lolling to one side.

'jaymartinjaymartin' she repeated mechanically.

He stepped forward and slapped her hard across the face. 'Shut up that stupid talk.'

Red can't remember the cyclone. She can't remember anything - her name, where she lived, who her family might be. Her identity has been ripped away. Then she makes a discovery, and finds she has an important mission to accomplish. But in this chaotic, bewildering world, can she do it on her own? Who can she trust?

Publishers Blurb.



Waking up covered in mud and unable to remember where or who she is, our lead character soon discovers that a cyclone has devastated Sydney. Peri, a boy about her age, discovers her and they form a strong bond as Red (the name Peri has given her) starts recalling things from before the cyclone.

She discovers a USB inside a locket on her necklace. It contains vital evidence that she must get to a Royal Commission into Police corruption in Melbourne. Evidence that her father had been covertly obtaining for years. She must get there without the police uncovering her whereabouts. But it is in many peoples interest to ensure that she never arrives.

Will she make it? Did her father survive the cyclone?

An exciting story with a wonderful plot that I felt should have explored the psychological situation of our character a little more.

In the end, it is a relatively easy read with subject matter that is best suited for lower to middle secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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May 2012

SECONDARY TITLES

The Power of Three: Secret Breakers 1

By H.L. Dennis

ISBN 9780340999615

\$14.99

Introducing an extraordinary series with real codes, real mysteries and real danger.

Imagine the chance to solve the Voynich Manuscript - a puzzle that has truly defeated adults for centuries. It's an ancient manuscript no one has ever been able to decipher. And there are Rules that say it is forbidden to even try to solve it.

A secret hidden for centuries.

But Brodie Bray likes a challenge, and when she receives a coded message through the post her life changes for ever. She's chosen for a secret team working to crack this most complicated code in the world to uncover the secret it hides.

But it's a code that has driven people mad trying to solve it.

Together with her new friends, Brodie must break the rules to break the code, at every turn facing terrible danger. For someone is watching them - and will even kill to stop them.

In this original new series, three children tackle real unsolved mysteries and struggle with real unbroken codes to get to the hidden truth. A Da Vinci Code for kids ...

Publishers Blurb



I read one review of this book after I had finished the story and they described it as Cherub meets the Da Vinci Code. This is a great analogy.

Based around an old manuscript that has defeated adults for centuries, can three children solve the puzzle and decipher the mysterious Voynich Manuscript? The code cracking is fantastic and the characters of both children and adults are great.

Your Year 7-9 students, both boy and girls who love mystery, will definitely enjoy this book.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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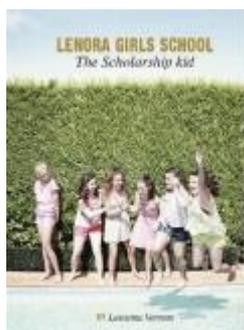
Lenora Girls' School

By Leeanne Vernon
ISBN 9780987261106
\$18.99

Fun. Is that really possible? Not for Mia Ritchie. Mia is a third generation Lenora Girls' School student and that's definitely not fun! Nothing, absolutely nothing, will stop Mia from succeeding. Mother will see to that.

Carli Davis is a scholarship kid. At Lenora Girls' because she is brilliant at Maths, an awesome athlete and busting with potential. But Carli has a fatal flaw—she dares to be different, and that is something that Year 7 IT girl Georgia Opulen will not tolerate. Mia and Carli are drawn together by a 100 metre sprint and a pair of spikes. Through this unlikely and dangerous friendship, Mia discovers that having it all can mean missing out on everything.

Publishers Blurb.



Mia always got along. Top marks, top athlete, nothing less is acceptable in her all too perfect family. Dad is an orthodontist and Mum's a lawyer who expects perfection. As does the ultra private Lenora Girls' School that Mia attends.

Everyone knows their place in a school where pecking order is strictly adhered to.

Then Carli arrives. A scholarship kid from the wrong side of the highway who befriends Mia and challenges her both academically and in athletics. She also dispels the idea that the Year 7 Queen Bee Georgia or 'G' for short, should be able to control all others.

Can Mia and Carli's friendship survive under such peer group pressure? And who will be this years athletics champion, individual and school?

With strong characters and a wonderful story line, this book asks us to challenge long held ideals and not accept second best, unless of course, that is your best.

Best suited to younger secondary girls.

Reviewed by Rob.