

Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2014

Secondary Fiction

Golden Boys

By Sonya Hartnett

Publisher: Hamish Hamilton/Penguin

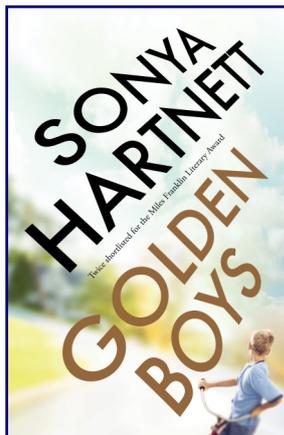
ISBN 9781926428611

\$29.99

**Secondary Book
of the Month**

Blurb

With their father, there's always a catch . . . Colt Jenson and his younger brother Bastian have moved to a new, working-class suburb. The Jensons are different. Their father, Rex, showers them with gifts - toys, bikes, all that glitters most - and makes them the envy of the neighbourhood. To Freya Kiley and the other local kids, the Jensons are a family from a magazine, and Rex a hero - successful, attentive, attractive, always there to lend a hand. But to Colt he's an impossible figure in a different way: unbearable, suffocating. Has Colt got Rex wrong, or has he seen something in his father that will destroy their fragile new lives?



Lamont Review:

Colt and Bastian Jenson have everything boys could wish for. New skateboards, new bikes, train sets and soon a new pool as well.

So why does Colt feel so much unease when his father is around the new neighbourhood kids?

The Kiley family and the Jenson family become entwined as their children deal with issues that no children should ever be faced with – a drunk and abusive father in one family and a pervert in the other.

This story is definitely for your older readers given the themes but, in true Sonya Hartnett style, it is extremely hard to put down. A child's view of an at times harsh and fragile adult life, the main characters come to realise that the choices made when you are younger can have long lasting consequences. It also shows the true strength of character and resilience of the human spirit. As the last sentence of the story says, despite everything, "Life goes on".

Reviewed by Michelle

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Secondary Fiction

The Year It All Ended

By Kirsty Murray

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781743319413

\$16.99

Blurb:

On Tiney Flynn's seventeenth birthday, every church bell tolled as if heralding a new year, a new era. Tiney stood in the garden, purple jacaranda petals fluttering down around her. One by one, her sisters came outside to join her; first Nette, then Minna and lastly Thea. It was 11 November 1918. Armistice Day. For Tiney and her sisters, everything is about to change, but not in the way they might have imagined. Building peace is complicated; so is growing up. From tragedy to undreamt-of joy, from weddings to seances, from masked balls to riots in the streets, Tiney's world will be transformed. At the end of the war and the dawn of the Jazz Age, Tiney Flynn must face her greatest fears and begin a journey that will change her destiny.



Lamont Review:

Another wonderfully written title by award winning author Kirsty Murray. *The Year It All Ended* is an interesting and different view of the end of WWI.

It follows the lives of the Flynn family from Adelaide, who have one son and four daughters, and how the war affected them all, but particularly those left behind.

Mostly the story follows the youngest Flynn daughter, 17 year old Tiney (Martine). Whilst small in stature, this remarkable girl's strength shines through, as she sees and copes with life in the war's aftermath.

In particular, she struggles to cope with the death of her brother on battlefields far away. Ultimately, she travels to the battlefields of France and Austria in an attempt to find some closure.

Will Tiney find hope and love to sustain her and a reason to be happy again?

An emotional book for 15+ girls that takes an insightful but different look at war as, rather than concentrating on the terrible conflict and the soldiers who fought it, it follows the family members of a soldier that have been left behind. An exploration of the far reaching consequences of war - particularly that it is not only those that fought in battle that need to heal, and how this healing can extend well beyond the armistice.

Reviewed by Rob

Lamont Books Standing Order

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Secondary Fiction

Ghost House

By Alexandra Adornetto

Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN 9780732299330

\$19.99

Blurb:

In the spirit of the *Halo* trilogy, this series from international best-selling author Alexandra Adornetto is guaranteed to be another hit from the talented young author who understands her audience like no other.

'Alex is more real than anyone I've ever know. And him being dead ... really doesn't change a thing.'

After the death of her mother, Chloe Kennedy starts seeing ghosts again. Spending time at her grandmother's country estate in the south of England helps Chloe deal with her grief and the spirits that haunt her. Until she meets a mysterious stranger. Alexander Reade is 157 years dead, with a secretive past and an alluring force that draws Chloe more strongly than any ghost she's encountered before. But the bond between them infuriates the vengeful spirit of Alexander's past love, Isobel. And she will stop at nothing to destroy anyone who threatens to take him from her.



Lamont Review:

Chloe is like every other teenager in California. Except for one thing – she can see ghosts.

When her Mum dies unexpectedly, Chloe and her brother Rory go to England with their Grandmother to give their Dad some time to himself.

Chloe finds strange things happening in Grange Hall and the quiet holiday she imagined becomes a nightmare when she upsets a very vengeful ghost. Throw in gorgeous student Joe, who works part time for her Grandmother, and sparks fly.

I thoroughly enjoyed this para-normal mystery, with its drama and romance thrown in. It has interesting and quirky characters and is best suited to girls Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Secondary Fiction

The Jewel

By Amy Ewing

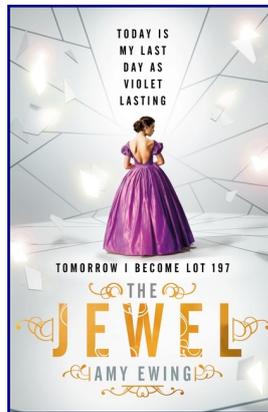
Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781406347494

\$17.95

Blurb:

Violet Lasting is no longer a human being. Tomorrow she becomes Lot 197, auctioned to the highest royal bidder in the Jewel of the Lone City. Tomorrow she becomes the Surrogate of the House of the Lake, her sole purpose to produce a healthy heir for the Duchess. Imprisoned in the opulent cage of the palace, Violet learns the brutal ways of the Jewel, where the royal women compete to secure their bloodline and the surrogates are treated as disposable commodities. Destined to carry the child of a woman she despises, Violet enters a living death of captivity - until she sets eyes on Ash Lockwood, the royal Companion. Compelled towards each other by a reckless, clandestine passion, Violet and Ash dance like puppets in a deadly game of court politics, until they become each other's jeopardy - and salvation.



Lamont Review:

The Jewel is the inner part of the Kingdom, where those from the Royal Houses live. Those from the various outer realms provide the workers and all the requirements for The Jewel to continue.

Once such provision is that of surrogates as the Royal women are unable to produce children. These surrogates are chosen for the Power of their Auguries (a skill which allows them to change the colour, shape and beauty of things they touch), which will also mean that they could produce the most wonderful offspring. They are removed from their families, never to see them again, and are trained in the requirements of Royal Surrogates.

Violet Lasting is one such surrogate, set to be Lot 197 out of 200, where 200 is considered the best to be auctioned tomorrow.

After a spectacular bidding war, Violet, now known as The Surrogate, is purchased by the second most powerful woman in The Jewel, the Duchess of the Lake.

But all is not well in The Kingdom – and surrogates are expendable. A race is on between the houses to have their surrogate produce a beautiful daughter quickly to become betrothed to the next Exetor (The Ruler of The Jewel).

Then Violet falls for Ash, a 'companion' to the niece of her Duchess, but nothing can come of this, surely? Any distraction would lead to their execution.

This is a real page turner, where we can't help but love our main characters. Their plight draws you in and makes you need to keep reading to find out if it can possibly end well for them. Unfortunately, we will need to wait for the answer as this is set to be a trilogy that I'm sure most readers will want to follow. Best suited to female readers, 14 years and up.

Reviewed by Rob

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September 2014

Secondary Fiction

The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl

By Melissa Keil

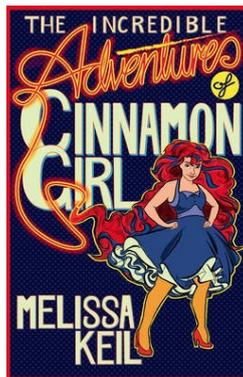
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

ISBN 9781742978307

\$18.95

Blurb

Seventeen-year-old Alba is an aspiring comic-book artist, pastry enthusiast and eternal optimist. She thinks life in her tiny town is awesome (if predictable) and she never wants it to change. Unfortunately Alba's just finished Year 12 - so the only thing she can predict is that everything's going to change. Even so, Alba didn't see the end of the world coming. Apart from a questionable television psychic, no-one did. And for some reason, the world seems to be taking this guy seriously. As the tiny town is besieged by doomsday enthusiasts, Alba's life is thrown into chaos. The childhood friend she thought was gone forever unexpectedly reappears; the boy who has been her best friend forever is determined to leave; and even her latest comic book creation, Cinnamon Girl, is out of control. It could be the very last summer of Alba's life, but impending Armageddon might turn out to be the least of her problems.



Lamont Review:

After the enormous success of Melissa Keil's first novel, *Life In Outer Space*, I was eagerly anticipating reading this novel and it is equally wonderful.

She again gets right inside the character and makes us feel like we are sharing their journey.

In this book, our main character Alba is about to finish high school but she doesn't want her life to change - she enjoys her friends and the small country town that she lives in. She enjoys hanging out with Grady, her best friend from forever who should probably be more than her friend.

Life takes an unexpected turn when a small time, late-night TV personality announces, in Nostradamus fashion, that the end of the world will occur on New Year's Eve but that their small town will be spared. The prediction causes weird and wonderful characters to begin arriving in town and their landscape changes dramatically. One of the arrivals is Daniel, who was Alba and Grady's third wheel until they were ten. Daniel has been living in the city ever since and he even has a regular spot on a poorly produced and low rating TV drama.

Daniel can't believe that nothing has changed and raises questions about their future. But will they even see New Year? And will Alba realise her destiny - both with Grady, and also with her artistic future? Will she get the chance to develop the incredible comic talent that created Cinnamon Girl?

A fantastic story of growth, trust and friendship that 15+ girls will love.

Reviewed by Rob

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Secondary Fiction

The Book of Days

By K.A. Barker

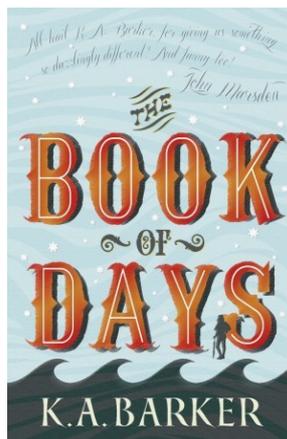
Publisher: Pan Macmillan

ISBN 9781742614175

\$18.99

Blurb

Most people believe the best way to forget someone is to throw them down a well. Or lock them in a room with eight keys, or bury them at a crossroad in the thirteenth hour. But they're wrong. The best way to forget someone is for them never to have existed in the first place. When sixteen-year-old Tuesday wakes from sleep for the first time, she opens her eyes to a world filled with wonder - and peril. Left only with a letter from the person she once was, Tuesday sets out to discover her past with the help of her charming and self-serving guide, Quintalion. Along the way she runs into mercenaries, flying cities, airships, and a blind librarian. But what is her connection with the mysterious Book of Days - a book that holds untold power...



Lamont Review:

What would you do if you woke up and had no idea who you were and the only clue is a letter you have written to yourself? This is what happens to Tuesday. But, not letting this overwhelm her, she harnesses her strong will and sets off with her guide, Quintalion, to find out who she really is.

So begins a journey through an extraordinary world, full of amazing characters - some friend, some foes - and a thoroughly entertaining adventure. And entwined throughout everything is the mysterious Book of Days.

This is a fantastic new story to add to your fantasy collection. Once you get to know Tuesday and her world, you will be unable to put this book down as she battles Daybreakers, visits floating cities and finds allies in the most unexpected places.

I highly recommend this to all lovers of fantasy, but it is probably best suited to girls Year 8 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle