**Tin Heart**  
By Shivaun Plozza  
Publisher: Penguin  
ISBN 9780143786276 SCIS: 1848523  
$19.99

*Blurb:*

When Marlowe gets a heart transplant and a second chance at life, all she wants is to thank her donor’s family. Maybe then she can move on. Maybe then she’ll discover who she is if she’s no longer The Dying Girl.

But with a little brother who dresses like every day is Halloween, a vegan warrior for a mother and an all-out war with the hot butcher’s apprentice next door, Marlowe’s life is already pretty complicated. And her second chance is about to take an unexpected turn...

*Lamont Review:*

Marlowe is a teenager who has been through far more than most girls her age!

Not only has she endured a heart transplant, and all the complications that go along with that, she is dealing with family issues and trying to fit back in. Having missed so much school, she is out of the loop when it comes to friends. She may no longer be the ‘dying girl’, but she is now looked upon as a bit of a freak, and struggling with who she really is. After all, she now has someone else’s heart!

Marlowe is sure that if she can find out about the person who lost their life in order for her to live, then she might be able to piece her life back together. But when things start to spiral out of control and her plan looks like backfiring, she must re-assess what she has done and the consequences of it.

This story is a real eye-opener to the emotional turmoil that comes from organ donation. Not only for the donor’s family, but for the recipient themselves and their own family.

It is full of interesting and engaging characters, some you will absolutely love and some are very frustrating! It will certainly be a discussion starter for many of the topics that are raised.

Whilst I think it does lend itself to more of a female audience, it is such an engaging story that all students in Year 9 and up will be able to take something from the story.

*Reviewed by Sam*
Missing
By Sue Whiting
Publisher: Walker Books
ISBN 9781760650032  SCIS: 1848584
$17.99

Blurb:

What do you hope for when there is no hope? In search of this answer, award-winning Australian author Sue Whiting delivers a confronting mystery for younger readers.

Mackenzie da Luca’s mother is missing – she’s vanished without a trace in the jungles of Panama. Now, 116 days later, Mackenzie and her dad are in those same jungles. Her dad is desperate to find out what’s happened to his wife. And Mackenzie is desperate to make sure he doesn’t ...

Lamont Review:

This is an intense mystery based around 16-year-old Mackenzie Da Luca’s and the disappearance of her mother Maggie, a renowned wildlife photographer. When Maggie doesn’t return from her trip to the jungle of Panama on time Mackenzie and her Dad weren’t too worried. But as the days ticked by, they started to fear the worst.

Eventually her Dad, who by now is a total mess, suddenly packs Mackenzie and very little else off to Panama to find Maggie. When Mackenzie’s dad becomes sick, this daunting task falls on Mackenzie’s shoulders, with the help of a local boy called Carlo.

I found it intriguing to see Mackenzie compartmentalize the problem to seek an answer that her mind would understand. It is amazing how people react in difficult circumstances, but more so how a person’s true gift can be discovered in trying times.

I will not divulge any more of the plot, for fear of spoiling the experience, but I assure you that ‘Missing’ is a book worth reading. With 38,000 people reported missing each year I can understand why Sue felt that is was a story worth writing.

This is a fantastic story, that is ideal for readers 12 and up.

Reviewed by Rob
Lyla: Through My Eyes
By Fleur Beale and Edited by Lyn White
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781760113780  SCIS: 1848591
$16.99

Lamont Review:

Lyla and her family live in Christchurch. It’s 2011, and just as school is starting Christchurch is struck by a massive earthquake. Her city is devastated and Lyla is not sure if her mum, dad and brother are ok. Putting on a brave face, she rallies her neighbours and helps where she can. She soon finds out that it’s not only familiar buildings and landscapes that have vanished - it’s friends and acquaintances too. As the earth keeps shaking day after day, can Lyla find a way to cope with her new reality?

This book is an uplifting tribute to the amazing strength of the human spirit and the innate goodness people have towards helping each other. If you ever need a book to showcase compassion and resilience, then this is it. Lyla really struggles after the earthquake, but with love and friendship, she learns to cope.

Beautifully written, this story will help you understand the fear and difficulties of life after a natural disaster.

Reviewed by Michelle
White Night
By Ellie Marney
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781760293550  SCIS: 1848593
$19.99

Blurb:

In Bo Mitchell's country town, a 'White Night' light-show event has the potential to raise vital funds to save the skate park. And out of town, a girl from a secretive off-the-grid community called Garden of Eden has the potential to change the way Bo sees the world. But are there too many secrets in Eden? As Bo is drawn away from his friends and towards Rory, he gradually comes to believe that Eden may not be utopia after all, and that their group leader's goal to go off the grid may be more permanent - and more dangerous - than anyone could have predicted.

Lamont Review:

This is a fantastic, topical Australian young adult novel that handles lots of issues and will start a lot of school based discussion. It covers growing up in a rural setting and finding your place in the world. In this case, our main character Bo decides to forget the footy scouts and concentrate on something he thinks he might love, cooking.

Then Bo is suddenly confronted with a step-brother that no one besides Bo’s Dad knew existed. The step-brother himself is not the problem, it’s that his Dad was keeping such a massive secret. Can Bo and his heavily pregnant mother trust his Dad after this?

Bo also falls for the new hippie girl, Rory, who has decided to break free from her home schooling Garden of Eden cult group, but this also raises many complex issues.

Finally, we see a community come together through an unlikely hero, Bo's mate Sprog, taking on the council’s recent decision to close the skate park when there is nothing else to do in town. Lot’s of issues, a great storyline and wonderful teenage characters, just the type of book we love!

A great read best suited to teenagers 14 and older.

Reviewed by Rob
Lucy’s Dawn
By Juliet Blair
Publisher: National Library of Australia
ISBN 9780642279170  SCIS: 1848589
$17.99

Blurb:
Today has been the most important day of my life. I still don’t know whether to laugh or cry. This is how it all began ...

Fourteen-year-old Lucy’s life changes when she starts a job working in Louisa Lawson’s printery, where only girls and women are employed. But it’s the late 1880s and the male printers elsewhere think that this work should be for men only. So they decide to make the girls’ lives difficult!

Lucy has many battles ahead but, in the process, she realises who her real friends are — and finds her first love.

In this story, today’s young women can also find out about the early feminist struggles that were fought over rights that they now take for granted, and about the amazing women who fought so hard to achieve them.

Lamont Review:
Lucy’s Dawn takes us on a fascinating journey through an exciting and historically important time in early Australia.

It begins in 1889, following the life of 14-year-old Lucy. Her father is a printer and Lucy has spent years helping him. She is, at first, unhappy when he arranges a job for her at Louisa Lawson’s Printworks, as she expected to become her father’s apprentice, but this was to be offered to Tom, her lazy younger brother.

Louisa Lawson was an important woman in early Australia, as she ran a woman’s only business and printed ‘The Dawn’, a monthly women’s paper, and she was instrumental in the suffragette movement in New South Wales that ultimately got Australian women the right to vote. Imagine such a thing!

Henry Lawson was Louisa’s son, and appears in and out of the story, spending time as the only male at the business, doing the actual manual printing run. Lucy’s early infatuation with Henry is charming.

Lucy’s career develops, as does a burgeoning relationship with Charlie, who has always had eyes for Lucy.

The story is set perfectly for the time. A time when what people thought of you was of the upmost importance. Where a man’s world, though still dominant, was just starting to show cracks. And an Australia that was just beginning to mature as a nation. The pressures placed on Louisa’s business to close by unionists who blockaded, threatened and undermined her, claiming that women shouldn’t be performing a man’s job was enlightening.

This is an ideal novel for learning and introducing discussion of Australia at the turn of the century. Perfect for all younger secondary students, but girls will enjoy Lucy’s story the most.

Reviewed by Rob.

Teacher notes provided by the publisher are available from our website.
P is for Pearl
By Eliza Henry Jones
Publisher: Harper Collins
ISBN 9781460754931  SCIS: 1848595
$19.99

Lamont Review:

Gwendolyn Pearl Pearson has had a traumatic life, and at 17 she is become used to people looking at her with pity, and avoiding the topic of her mum. Well everyone except her best friends Loretta and Gordon, and maybe the cute looking new boy who moved in down the road.

And it's easy not to think about awful things when there are wild beaches to run along, best friends Loretta and Gordon to hang out with - and a stepbrother to take revenge on.

But following a strange disturbance at the cafe where she works, Gwen is forced to confront what happened to her family all those years ago. And she slowly comes to realise that people aren't as they first appear and that, like her, everyone has a story to tell.

Blurb:

Seventeen-year-old Gwendolyn P. Pearson has become very good at not thinking about the awful things that have happened to her family.

She has also become used to people talking about her dead mum. Or not talking about her and just looking at Gwen sympathetically.

But following a strange disturbance at the cafe where she works, Gwen is forced to confront what happened to her family all those years ago. And she slowly comes to realise that people aren't as they first appear and that, like her, everyone has a story to tell.

Lamont Review:

Gwendolyn Pearl Pearson has had a traumatic life, and at 17 she is become used to people looking at her with pity, and avoiding the topic of her mum. Well everyone except her best friends Loretta and Gordon, and maybe the cute looking new boy who moved in down the road.

This is a truly exceptional story of friendship, grief, growing up, family ties, love and the reverberations faced by the whole family when one member has a mental illness.

The characters will captivate you, and the difficult subject matter is handled with such sensitivity that it will appeal to a wide audience.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and hope it makes readers realise everyone has a story to tell and that although some may be more difficult than others, it can be worth taking the time to listen so we don’t miss out on someone special.

Best suited girls in Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle
If I Tell You
By Alicia Tuckerman
Publisher: Bloomsbury
ISBN 9780646961255  SCIS: 1855395
$19.99

Blurb:
What if the secret is more damaging than the lie?
I never planned on falling in love in Two Creeks, but since when has life ever followed a plan?
The day I fell for Phoenix Stone, there was no warning. She shattered the world I knew.
This is a story about being seventeen and growing up in rural Australia. Falling in love for the first time, following your dreams and disappointing your parents. Being brave enough to live your life, even when life is terrifying.
In fear there is bravery - you can either cling to the edge or have the courage to jump. But what do you do when you’re left spiralling through the freefall?
Be proud. Be seen. Live life fearlessly.

Lamont Review:
This is a brilliant coming of age novel from a debut Australian author. I am sure that she has drawn from her own life experiences and this will help other adolescents who are finding their way dealing with discovering their own sexuality in what can often be a cruel world, even in 2018.

Alex is 17, and has always been expected to get together with her close friend Justin from the next farm, but her feelings for him have never been like that. In walks Phoenix and for Alex the sparks fly. But in this small community, many of the locals are soon giving Phoenix a hard time for being a lesbian. Is this the sort of life that Alex can handle?

There are many other community and relationship issues tackled in this book, but mostly it is a wonderful love story.

There is a tragic twist at the end, but sometimes tragedy can inspire change, and it really adds to the feeling of hope that the story leaves you with.

The themes of sexuality and being true to yourself make this a book targeted at readers 15 and older, and the story will most appeal to a female audience.

Reviewed by Rob