

Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2014

Secondary Fiction

Machine Wars

By Michael Pryor

Publisher: Random House

ISBN 9780857982766

\$17.99

**Secondary Book
of the Month**

Blurb:

The Bourne Identity meets *The Terminator* in this fast-paced technothriller for boys aged 10 to 14.

It was only a matter of time until one escaped. Bram just wasn't expecting it to be today. In the sky, drones are hunting him. On every corner, machines are waiting to kill him. But Bram has a plan. First, scatter and hide. Then, with his best friend and wise-cracking roboduck, help to save the world.



Lamont Review:

When Bram Argent arrives home, and a light near the path is on, he knows it is time to scatter and hide.

This is the plan his world leading techno Mum devised should her artificially intelligent (AI) inventions turn on her. These AI can use any technical device to form other Robots to take over the world.

Bram knows that his Mum just needs time to devise a way to stop the threat. But will she make it?

In the meantime, Bram, his new friend Stella, and their super intelligent AI stuffed duck Bob, must try to survive while a world full of 'Bots' try to capture or kill them to get to his Mother.

With plenty of action, this technothriller will appeal to 10-14 year olds, particularly boys.

Reviewed by Rob

Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2014

Secondary Fiction

The Forbidden Library

By Django Wexler

Publisher: Random House

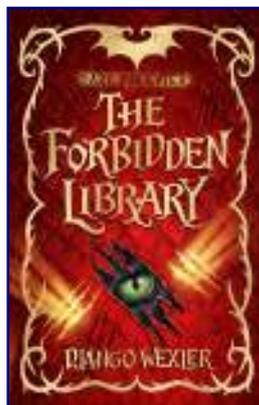
ISBN 9780552572286

\$17.99

Blurb:

Do you remember the first time you climbed into the wardrobe with Lucy and emerged in Narnia? Flew on the back of Falkor the Luck Dragon with Bastian? Followed Alice down the rabbit hole? Welcome to your new favourite adventure...

Late one night Alice Creighton hears her father having an argument with a fairy- a snarling, bald beast with warts and needle-like teeth. It is threatening her father, insisting he accept a mysterious offer, or else... When Alice's father goes down in a shipwreck, she is sent away to live with distant relative Mr Geryon, owner of a huge, dark library that is off limits to Alice. After meeting a talking cat who is willing to sneak her in, Alice opens a book and suddenly finds herself inside it - and the only way out is by conquering the dangerous creatures within. Alice has stumbled into a world where all of magic is controlled by Readers through books - she must open more books, face increasingly powerful foes, be the lead character in the quest to find a happy ending...



Lamont Review:

A first class fantasy novel that is compelling reading.

When Alice's father goes missing in a shipwreck, she is sent to live with Geryon and his strange household. His huge library is off limits to Alice, but what do you say to a talking cat who knows how to get you access?

We follow Alice's adventures as she falls into books, battles fairies, tree sprites, swarms and a dragon.

A wonderful adventure that your students who enjoy fantasy will really love. Fast paced, funny and with great characters, it is a perfect book for boys and girls Year 7 & up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Secondary Fiction

The Ratcatcher's Daughter

By: Pamela Rushby

Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN 9780732297138

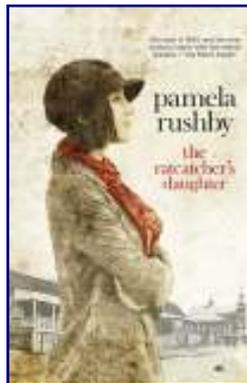
\$16.99

Blurb:

'A brilliant and richly evocative insight into a fascinating and little-known aspect of our past.'

Jackie French, Australian Children's Laureate

It's 1900. Thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school and starts her first job - very reluctantly - as a maid in an undertaking establishment. She thinks this is about as low as you can go. But there's worse to come. Issy becomes an unwilling rat-catcher when the plague - the Black Death - arrives in Australia. Issy loathes both rats and her father's four yappy, snappy, hyperactive rat-killing terriers. But when her father becomes ill it's up to Issy to join the battle to rid the city of the plague-carrying rats.



Lamont Review:

The Bubonic plague in Brisbane in 1900? I didn't think so and neither did Pamela Rushby, but a chance look at a photo in a museum of piles of rats made Pamela look more closely.

Indeed, Brisbane and other Australian cities did suffer from the plague in the early 1900's. Hundreds died, but the story is not well known. This is a wonderful tale of life in this period, told through the eyes of thirteen year old Issy.

Issy is facing the hardships of living near the wharves in a poor household - her Dad is a rat-catcher with sporadic employment. So Issy is sent off to work as a housemaid for an undertaker - something she is altogether not keen on.

Unfortunately for Issy, this is the way for thirteen year old girls during this time, even though she would much rather stay at school. Her sister Kate has to perform similar duties at a doctors' house.

But then the plague arrives and Albert, their next door neighbour, becomes the first victim of the disease. This is the start of a period of quarantine and sickness, and an intriguing depiction of the impact that a plague of this size can have on an entire community.

We experience love, death, racism, women's rights (or a lack of), but also hope - through Issy's actions and dreams of a better future.

A fantastic account of a little known period in Australia's history that Year 7-9 students who enjoy this genre will really appreciate.

Reviewed by Rob

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Secondary Fiction

Midnight Burial

By Pauline Deeves

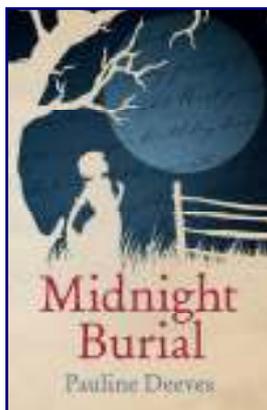
Publisher: National Library of Australia

ISBN 9780642278500

\$14.99

Blurb:

Florence is confused. Her family says her older sister Lizzie died of fever and should be buried immediately. No doctor is called, no clergyman is present and no neighbours are asked to come. The burial happens at night. In 1860s Australia, on a remote sheep station, the staff do not ask questions. Life has been good for young Florence. She has her pony and her birds, her older sisters spoil her and even her very strict father often gives way to her. But after Lizzie's burial, the atmosphere in her home changes. People are grieving, but there is much gossip. Family and staff members whisper in corners and no one will answer Florence's questions. No one visits Lizzie's grave. The arrival of her new governess, Susannah, a friend of Lizzie, adds to the tension. Susannah does not believe that Lizzie died of fever. With Susannah, Florence sets out to discover the true story of what has happened to her sister.



Lamont Review:

This is a fascinating insight into early Australia. Set in remote NSW in the 1860's on a sheep station, the story is written in diary and letter format.

This is a little confusing for the first couple of pages, but becomes thoroughly enjoyable as the book progresses. The personalities of all the characters are well developed and the story is very well researched, with a surprising twist in the end.

A great novel for all your girls in Year 7—9, who enjoy historical fiction.

Reviewed by Michelle

Lamont Books Standing Order

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Secondary Fiction

Never Ending

By Martyn Bedford

Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781406329926

\$16.95

Blurb:

How can she live with what she did?

Shiv's best mate, her younger brother, Declan, died while their family were on holiday in Greece. Shiv doesn't know how to live any more - she can only feel self hatred; she is tormented by guilt. Now she finds herself at the Korsakoff Clinic, with five other teens and young adults who are undergoing a most unorthodox therapy, which is often painful. But this is Shiv's last chance - the clinic must help her find a way to live again. But first, their methods will make her face what really happened to her brother.



Lamont Review:

Told in alternating chapters dealing with life for Siobhan (Shiv) now, in an unconventional therapy unit of the Korsakoff Clinic, where she is confronting her younger brother's death during a family holiday on the Greek Island of Kyritos, and then, on the family holiday.

We come to the culmination of the story, slowly learning of the events that lead to his death through harrowing after thoughts in one chapter and an idyllic family holiday in the next.

The reader is constantly look for clues but the truth about the how her brother died and the ultimate end of story both hold unexpected twists.

This is a fantastic novel with wonderful characters that middle to upper secondary students will both love and learn from.

Reviewed by Rob

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Secondary Fiction

Enmity

By E.J Andrews

Publisher: Harlequin

ISBN 9781743566213

\$16.99

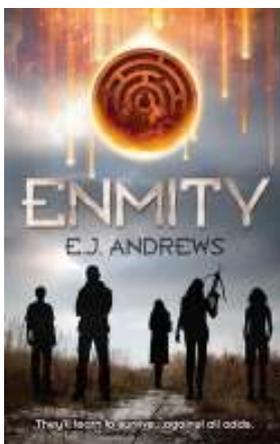
Blurb:

Love vs Life. Good vs Evil. War vs Warfare. Which would you choose?

After a solar flare wipes out most of the world's inhabitants, it leaves behind nothing but a desolate earth and a desperate population. Existence is no longer a certainty. And with factions now fighting for the power to rule, people start to become reckless with their lives. The world has become a dangerous place.

Amongst the ensuing chaos, Nate and Hermia — two victims of the new world order — are taken against their will to The Compound. Joined by eight other teenagers all chosen for a specific reason, Nate and Hermia are forced to train as assassins to overthrow the current president and make way for a new leader of the free world. Here, they learn to plan, fight, and most importantly... to survive.

Despite the casual cruelty of their new existence, both Nate and Hermia — two very strong but very different people — begin to form fragile bonds within the group. But they soon realize their happiness is short lived...because their training is just the beginning.



Lamont Review:

A fast paced, action packed thriller set sometime in the future.

The world is a very dangerous place and Nate & Hermia are thrown together with eight other teenagers to train to fight against their will. They quickly learn each others strengths and weaknesses and more about themselves than they realised.

In some sections the story is quite brutal with a high level of violence, although it does fit within the context of the story. A great read for your more senior students in Year 10 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Secondary Fiction

How To Get To Rio: Choose Your Own Ever After

By Julie Fison

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

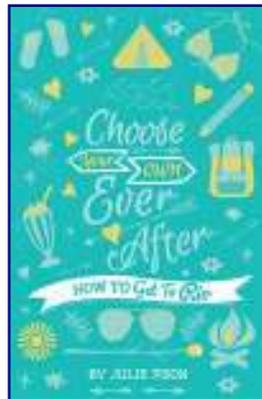
ISBN 9781742977744

\$14.95

Blurb:

For months Kitty MacLean has been crushing on Rio Sanchez - who is probably the cutest boy in the world. But it looks like she might never get a chance to hang out with him until ...

1. Kitty goes camping with her best friends like she promised them, and finds out Rio just happens to be staying not too far away. But should she meet up with him? Or is a grubby camping holiday not the best time to meet up with your mega crush?
2. Kitty breaks her promise to go camping with her besties and goes to Paradise Point with popular-girl Persephone instead. The offer is sweetened with a promise they'll definitely get to hang out with Rio. But would Kitty really ditch her friends to hang out with a cool girl? And will Rio even like Kitty? Follow your heart right to the end, or go back and choose all over again.



Lamont Review:

This is a perfect girls novel, where the reader gets to make Kitty's decisions.

Full of friends, family, school and first love, this book is fun, sensitive and has great characters that the girls will recognise and relate to (especially the annoying little brothers!).

Best of all, you can read this book lots of times with lots of different stories.

Perfect for Year 7 & 8 girls.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Secondary Fiction

To See The World

By Elaine Forrestal

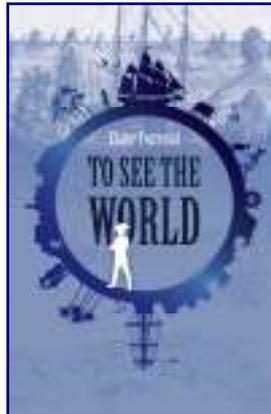
Publisher: National Library of Australia

ISBN 9780642278494

\$17.99

Blurb:

All his life, José has seen the tall ships sailing into Port Louis on the island of Mauritius, where he was born. As he watches them leave again, disappearing below the horizon, he dreams of one day sailing away with them to see the world. He thinks about all the adventures he would have, the ships he would capture and the buried treasure he would find on faraway islands. But, when the young and beautiful Rose de Freycinet arrives on board the Uranie in 1817, José's life changes in ways that he had never imagined. Pirates, cannibals, storms and shipwrecks become harsh realities and José is forced to muster all his courage and intelligence to survive the dangers of shipboard life. This is a story of adventure on the high seas at a time in history when ships sailed the vast oceans of the world with only the wind to power them.



Lamont Review:

This is a wonderful adventure story about life on a sailing ship in the early 1800's.

Told through the eyes of José, the story follows the dangers and hardships suffered by all who relied on only the power of the wind to discover the world.

Beautifully told, this story has great characters and fantastic descriptions of life on board a ship, as well as vivid descriptions of the exciting places they visit.

The story is based on the true voyage of the Uranie, so it would be the perfect starting point for some historical research.

Perfectly suited to both boys and girls, Year 7 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

Lamont Books Standing Order

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Side Effects May Vary

By Julie Murphy

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN 9780143571711

\$17.99

Blurb:

What if you'd been living your life as if you were dying - only to find out that you had your whole future ahead of you? When Alice is diagnosed with leukaemia and time is suddenly not a luxury, she convinces her friend Harvey to help her with a crazy bucket list. It's as much about revenge as redemption and, warped or not, it gives Alice the focus she needs when everything else seems pointless. Then she goes into remission. Now faced with the consequences of her actions, can Alice repair the damage she's caused to those around her? And maybe, just maybe, show the one who loves her most how much she loves him in return?



Lamont Review:

I have read many books in recent years facing the difficult subject of teen cancer and this one does it really well, although somewhat differently.

When Alice is diagnosed with leukaemia and the prognosis is not good, she turns to Harvey, her life long family friend (but never boyfriend), to help her complete her often nasty bucket list.

Harvey would do anything for Alice as he is an amazing person who has always had a huge crush on her. With an end date in sight, they are both happy to squeeze as much as they can out of life.

But when the word 'remission' unexpectedly comes into play, Alice's plans are thrown into turmoil.

Was she only using Harvey? Is she ready to spend her life - which might now be long and normal - with him?

Interesting questions, posed in dramatic style, this is a wonderful book that will have all fans of *The Fault In Our Stars* in raptures.

Reviewed by Rob