

Red Day

By Sandy Fussell

Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781760651886 SCIS: 1948668

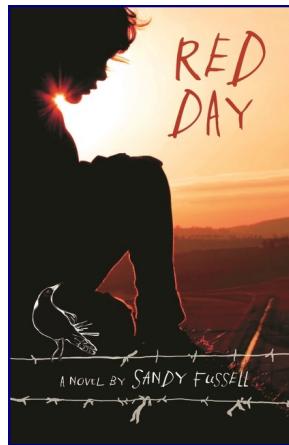
\$17.99

**SECONDARY BOOK
OF THE MONTH**

Blurb:

Set in a modern-day small town among the remnants of a Japanese POW camp, this is the story of Charlie. Charlie has synesthesia and hence sees and hears differently: people have auras; days of the week are coloured; numbers and letters have attitudes. But when Charlie meets Japanese exchange student Kenichi, her senses intensify and she experiences flashbacks, nausea, and hears unfamiliar voices in her head pulling her back to the town's violent past.

This is heartfelt contemporary storytelling at its best.



Lamont Review:

Charlie lives in Cowra and has always heard stories about the prisoner of war camp that was located in the town in 1944. Charlie has synesthesia, which means that she hears and sees things differently. Everything has a colour, Fridays are yellow and her best friend Lucy has a pink aura.

When a Japanese exchange student called Kenichi comes to stay at her house, her senses are intensified, and when she touches a photo of a Japanese POW, she can suddenly see and hear the past. Can Charlie and Kenichi solve the puzzle from the past?

This is a wonderful story that is set in contemporary Australia, but takes the reader back to Australia during the time of World War II, through Charlie's flashbacks. It is a fantastic and enthralling story that keeps you turning the pages, with very lovable characters.

This is a great read for all those in Year 8 and up, especially for fans of stories with a bit of history mixed in.

Reviewed by Michelle

Haywire

By Claire Saxby

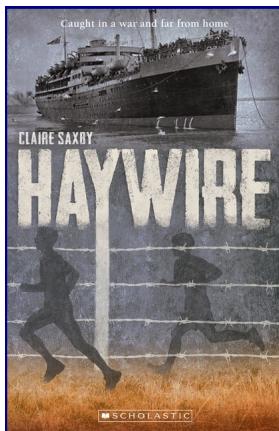
Publisher: Omnibus / Scholastic

ISBN 9781742769196 SCIS: 1948663

\$16.99

Blurb:

In 1939, 14-year-old Tom lives in Hay where his family runs the local bakery. Max Gruber is nearly fourteen-years-old. He is sent to his Uncle Ferdy in London, but is then interred and shipped to Australia aboard the Dunera. He arrives in Hay and meets Tom. The two boys become friends and find their lives and their friendship influenced by a far-away conflict in Europe.



Lamont Review:

We catch an extraordinary insight into the lives of real people and how their lives are impacted by WWII, through the eyes of two teenagers.

Max used to live in Germany with his parents, but his parents were against Adolf Hitler and his policies, so it was not safe for Max to stay any longer. Max was sent off to live with his Uncle in London.

But things go from bad to worse as the war intensifies, and suddenly both Max and his Uncle are no longer welcome in London and instead are interred and shipped off to Australia as a result of their German heritage.

Tom lives in rural Australia in a town called Hay, but when his two older brothers leave to join the war effort, Tom's dreams of a university scholarship are shattered, as he must help in the family bakery.

The town is divided by the imminent arrival of the interns at the recently built camp. Some believe they are the enemy and can only cause trouble, but others believing they are just unfortunate, displaced people whose arrival is bringing work to the town.

When the boys meet, they form an instant bond and Tom goes to great lengths to assist his new friend Max in his quest to return home.

With themes of empathy, friendship, family and the impact of war, this is an ideal classroom novel aimed at 10 - 14 year old readers.

Reviewed by Rob

The Republic of Birds

By Jessica Miller

Publisher: Text Publishing

ISBN 9781922268044 SCIS: 1948643

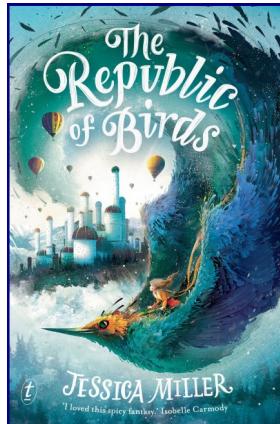
\$16.99

Blurb:

Olga loves the stories of the old cartographers and pores over their ancient books and maps, trying to unlock their secrets. Sometimes, she thinks she can even feel through the maps - almost see into them - as if by magic.

But magic is banned in Tsaretsvo, ever since the war with the birds that divided the kingdom, and the powerful magic-wielding lagas have long been banished. Now, any young girl who shows signs of being an laga is whisked away to Bleak Steppe - to a life, so the story goes, of unspeakable punishment.

When the bird army kidnaps Olga's sister in a surprise attack on the human kingdom, Olga realises she has to venture into the Republic of Birds to bring her back. But first, she must learn to unlock her magical ability. As her journey takes her into the hidden world of the lagas and the wilds of the Unmappable Blank, Olga discovers the truth about the war with the birds - and learns just how much is at stake.



Lamont Review:

Humans and birds lived happily together for centuries, until someone discovered a firebird's egg, starting the War of the Skies and then nothing was ever the same again.

Olga is a normal girl with no special talents, but when the bird army kidnaps her sister, she discovers she has a magic talent to put herself in maps. So she ventures on a perilous journey into the Republic of Birds to get her sister back.

This is a great fantasy book. Beautifully written, with a cast of interesting characters and a storyline that will keep you enthralled. Lots of mystery and adventure, and a brave heroine who will do anything to save her sister.

This will most appeal to girls in Year 7 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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

The Vanishing Deep

By Astrid Scholte

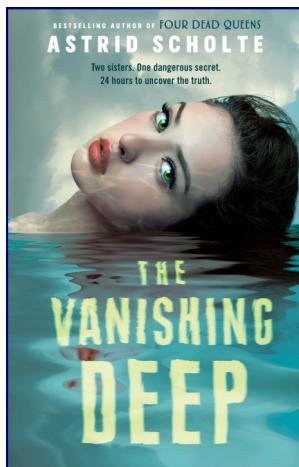
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760525576 SCIS: 1948655

\$19.99

Blurb:

Two sisters. One dangerous secret. Twenty-four hours to uncover the truth. Seventeen-year-old Tempest was born into a world of water. The most skilled diver on the Equinox Reef, she searches drowned cities with her older sister Elysea, seeking out old world treasures to trade for Notes. After Elysea mysteriously drowns, Tempest scavenges the ruins alone, driven to collect enough Notes to buy her sister's life for 24 hours, and to finally learn the secret she had kept until her last breath. However, once revived, Elysea convinces Tempest to break her out of the Palindromena research facility and they embark on a dangerous journey to discover the truth about their parents' death. But they're pursued by two Palindromena employees desperate to find them before Elysea's time is up, and to prevent them from uncovering the secrets behind the revival process and the true cost of restored lives. Dead or living, everyone must pay the price.



Lamont Review:

Set in a world where the Great Waves have left most of the planet underwater, and land is now used only for crops. Rickety, raft-like, floating cities are put together for the few people left to live on.

After her sister Elysea had a diving accident two years earlier, Tempest spends all her time collecting treasure. She hopes to get enough notes to bring Elysea back to life for 24 hours, to find out what really happened to their parents.

But nothing comes for free, and is the real cost of the process of revival potentially even more than first thought?

What happens during the 24 hours of Elysea's revival takes us on a rollercoaster journey, with many wonderful twists and turns.

Exploring the value of life, family, and values in a diminished and demanding environment I loved the characters and the way they handled tough problems, both physical and emotional.

This book will appeal most to female readers, 15 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

E-Boy: E-Boy 1

By Anh Do & Illustrated by Chris Wahl
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781760877521 SCIS: 1958457
\$14.99

Blurb:

Ethan is supposed to be doing regular teenage things - like playing sports and hanging out with friends. He is not supposed to be in hospital getting a brain tumour removed by Gemini, a high-tech android doctor. But just as the operation begins, the medical facility is hit by an unusual bolt of lightning... When Ethan wakes up he discovers that things are different. He's always been good with computers, but now his skills are next-level. Ethan almost feels like he's... part of the machine. And what about the android Gemini? If Ethan is now part robot, does that make the robot part human? Ethan will need all his new skills just to stay alive. An electrifying new adventure series from the bestselling author Anh Do.



Lamont Review:

Teenager Ethan is sick of hospitals - and it's no wonder given he is about to have his fourteenth operation in the last eighteen months. But with the brilliant android Gemini performing the operation on his brain tumour, what could possibly go wrong? Lightning, that's what!

A huge jolt makes Ethan able to telepathically control anything electronic. I mean, Ethan was great on computers before, but this is totally next level. But trouble is brewing and Ethan is going to need all his new found skills...

E-Boy is a fantastic read and will appeal to both primary aged readers, as well as more reluctant secondary readers, who will all be eagerly awaiting Book 2.

It is fast-paced, action-packed, and is such a great 'good versus evil' novel full of courage and adventure and technology.

Reviewed by Rob

A Trio of Sophies

By Eileen Merriman

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN 9780143774082 SCIS: 1958459

\$17.99

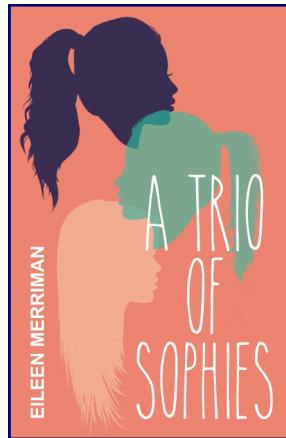
Blurb:

A missing girl, a secret diary and unsettling revelations . . .

Today is the first of September, the first day of spring, and it's been sixty-four days since I last saw Sophie Abercrombie. It's been sixty-four days since anyone saw Sophie Abercrombie. The prettiest Sophie. The missing Sophie.

As Sophie MacKenzie - Mac - confides to her diary, she last saw Sophie Abercrombie kissing James Bacon, their English teacher. Mac has passed this on to the police, but there is plenty she knows about James Bacon that she has kept to herself. She hasn't even told Twiggy, the third Sophie in their once tightknit threesome.

The Trio of Sophies is no more.



Lamont Review:

The trio of Sophies have been friends since they were at primary school. But now one of them is missing...

Told from the point of view of our main character, Sophie Mac, in rambling diary entries that start 64 days after Sophie A disappeared. The entries slowly contain information about what might have happened. But this is Mac's diary - so this is her story and her point of view. But is Mac telling the truth about what really what happened?

This is a thrilling mystery, that is also at times confronting - a story of friendships, lies, obsession, and inappropriate student-teacher relationships, that will have you enthralled until the end.

This book does contain mature themes (including sexual references and underage drinking) so it is certainly aimed at more senior teen readers 16+, and will mostly appeal to a female audience.

Reviewed by Sam

Given

By Nandi Taylor

Publisher: Puffin/Penguin

ISBN 9780241455753 SCIS: 1956341

\$16.99

Blurb:

Yenni is a fierce warrior princess, but her father is sick with a wasting illness - and she must find the cure. Should she fail, she faces losing her father and exile from her home in the kingdom of Yirba.

With only her wits, strength and sacred runelore to protect her she must travel the strange, magical and unwelcoming Empire of Cresh. And no one warned her about the dragons. Especially not about Weysh.

Weysh is a shape-shifter, sometimes a man, at other times a dragon. When he claims Yenni as his Given - his destined partner - they are tied together by the bonds of fate.

Yenni is no man's - or dragon's - plaything. But other magic must be at work, because despite everything that she thought she knew, Weysh might just be her best hope to save her father and her home in the kingdom . . .



Lamont Review:

Yenni is a warrior princess who must leave her island home to try and find a cure for her father's mysterious illness.

She arrives in Cresh to learn more of their magical ways, and she must spend at least a year there to ensure that she does not offend the Gods of her island. Yenni must rely on all her wits and her knowledge of runelore to help her in her journey. But who will help her deal with Weysh - the dragon who has fallen in love with her?

I thoroughly enjoyed this story with the great descriptions of the worlds lived in by Yenni, both her home and Cresh. Full of magic and mystery, with intriguing characters, I found this book really hard to put down. The burgeoning relationship between Yenni and Weysh as the story progresses from their first meeting (when she cannot stand him!) just adds to the mystery.

Yenni is a strong character with very definitive views of what is right and wrong, and she struggles with some of the actions she is confronted with.

Highly entertaining, and best suited to students in Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle