

The Schoolmaster's Daughter

By Jackie French

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishing

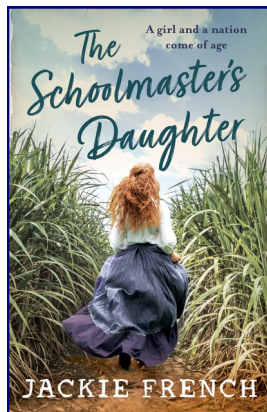
ISBN 9781460757710 SCIS: 1969139

\$17.99

**SECONDARY BOOK
OF THE MONTH**

Blurb:

Drawing on her own family history, this is a story from Jackie French about education in Colonial Australia - and how women once had to fight for their right to it. January 1901 - Sharks circle a stranded ship as a young girl and her family stagger from the waves... Rescued by a Pacific Islander boy named Jamie, Hannah's family begin a new life in Port Harris, which at first seems a paradise for the schoolmaster's daughter. But local fortunes are built on slavery and the whip. As the new Federal Parliament passes the law that will force Pacific Islanders from their homes, Hannah and her mother risk everything to run a secret school, while Hannah and Jamie must fight for their rights to education and equality. Can friendship and love win against prejudice and power? Inspired by real events, this powerful new novel brings to life the bravery and battles of the past, and gives us courage for the challenges of today.



Lamont Review:

The Schoomaster's Daughter is historical fiction and is Jackie French at her very best.

Hannah and her family arrive at Port Harris in much danger after their ship becomes stranded and they are forced to flee to the closest beach. Saved by Pacific Islander Jamie, they make their way to Mr Harris's plantation where Hannah's father will be the new Schoolmaster.

Life in 1901 is difficult for the women, who must do everything their husband or father says, and the Islanders are treated as if they don't even exist and must never be seen in white company.

How will Hannah and Jamie keep their friendship a secret and can they ever expect to receive the education they both so desperately crave?

This book is based on the lives of Jackie's great-grandparents and grandmothers, and shows the amazing courage and compassion that these brave women had in fighting equal rights for all people.

A truly wonderful story that shows us how much has changed since federation, and what a debt of gratitude we owe to our forebears who fought so hard for change.

Highlighting how far we have come, but also how important it is to always have the courage to stand up for equality and fairness for all no matter the challenges you face, a theme that still rings true today.

This book should be read by all teenagers, but will probably appeal most to girls in Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

The End of the World is Bigger Than Love

By Davina Bell

Publisher: Text Publishing

ISBN 9781922268822 SCIS:1963752

\$19.99

Blurb:

She said we didn't know what the world out there had become. We had been alone there so long on that tiny island, in that tiny church. But in the night, I couldn't bear it. My chest beat like wings.

Identical twin sisters Summer and Winter live alone on a remote island, sheltered from a destroyed world. They survive on rations stockpiled by their father and spend their days deep in their mother's collection of classic literature—until a mysterious stranger upends their carefully constructed reality.

At first, Edward is a welcome distraction. But who is he really, and why has he come? As love blooms and the world stops spinning, the secrets of the girls' past begin to unravel and escape is the only option.

A sumptuously written novel of love and grief; of sisterly affection and the ultimate sacrifice; of technological progress and climate catastrophe; of an enigmatic bear and a talking whale - *The End of the World Is Bigger than Love* is unlike anything you've read before.



Lamont Review:

Set in a post-apocalyptic world and told by teenage identical twins Summer and Winter, in alternating chapters, the reader slowly unravels their story so far.

The world had relied on their mother for stories, as she was an incredible news reader and interviewer, and their father was a technological genius, whose inventions had changed the world. Their family was certainly in the spotlight...

But when their mother was publicly murdered and the images sent around the globe, Summer and Winter were secreted to their small island to live off the supplies that their father had hoarded.

Sometimes you don't know what is real... but ultimately the voices of these girls in the face of such adversity, change and 'The End of The World' was truly uplifting. To tell you any more would give too much away, but the one thing I will say is you simply must read this!

Davina beautifully weaves metaphors and symbols into this story, as well as references to many amazing books which a book nerd like me absolutely revelled in.

With themes of love, grief, truth, hope and climate catastrophe in a post-apocalyptic world, this beautiful novel will be loved by many, but will particularly appeal to girls aged 15 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available for this title on our website

The Dark Tide

By Alicia Jasinska

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN 9781760894726 SCIS: 1963779

\$19.99

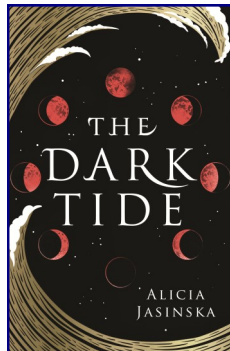
Blurb:

Every year on St. Walpurga's Eve, Caldella's Witch Queen lures a boy back to her palace. An innocent life to be sacrificed on the full moon to keep the island city from sinking.

Convinced her handsome brother is going to be taken this year, Lina Kirk enlists the help of the mysterious Thomas Lin, her secret crush, and the only boy to ever escape from the palace after winning the love of a queen. Working together they protect her brother but draw the queen's attention.

Queen Eva cast away her heart when her sister died to save the boy she loved. Now as queen, she won't make the same mistake. With the tide rising higher than ever before and the islander's whispering that Eva's magic is failing, she's willing to sacrifice anyone if it means saving herself and her city.

When Thomas is chosen as sacrifice, Lina takes his place and the two girls are forced to spend time together as they wait for the full moon. But Lina is not at all what Eva expected, and the queen is nothing like Lina envisioned. Against their will, the two girls find themselves falling for each other. As water floods Caldella's streets and the dark tide demands its sacrifice, they must choose who to save - themselves, each other, or the island city relying on them both.



Lamont Review:

Caldella is a world that is slowly being taken by the ever lurking Dark Tide. To prevent this, the witch Queen must choose a sacrifice, and whoever she chooses as sacrifice must be someone whose loss causes pain, so that the tears shed for their loss might help keep the Dark Tide at bay.

Two years ago, Queen Natalia chose Thomas Lin as sacrifice but he charmed her and she gave herself instead. Now her sister, Queen Eva, has the throne and she chooses Thomas again to avenge her sister.

When Lina, who has always adored Thomas, offers herself in his place, the outcome could not have been anticipated. Can they quell the ever threatening Dark Tide?

This is a love story with a bit of a 'Beauty and the Beast' vibe. There is magic and fantasy, good and evil, and a plot that I loved. The characters could have been slightly more developed, but it still a great read by a new YA fantasy author.

With themes of goodness overcoming evil, family, sacrifice, and love in many forms (including the developing feelings between the Queen and Lina, and that kiss!), it will most appeal to female readers aged 14 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

Again Again

By E. Lockhart

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760295943 SCIS: 1969136

\$19.99

Blurb:

If you could live your life again and again, what would you do differently? After a near-fatal family catastrophe and an unexpected romantic upheaval, Adelaide Buchwald finds herself catapulted into a summer of wild possibility, during which she will fall in and out of love a thousand times - while finally confronting the secrets she keeps, her ideas about love, and the weird grandiosity of the human mind. A raw, funny novel that will surprise you over and over, *Again Again* gives us an indelible heroine grappling with the terrible and wonderful problem of loving other people.



Lamont Review:

When Adelaide's younger brother Toby suffers a near fatal overdose, her family's life is turned upside down. Adelaide and her Dad move away to a new school to help with the family finances, and Adelaide finds herself with a summer of love and discovery - which path will she choose?

This is a multiverse book where Adelaide relives major moments in her life again and again, each time with different outcomes.

The first chapter or two this causes a little bit of confusion, but as the story evolves you will love Adelaide with her strengths and insecurities as well as her imaginative way of looking at the world. There is also a strong family theme as she struggles to get to know her brother again, as he tries to overcome his drug habit.

It is at times funny, incredibly sad, and extremely thought-provoking. Ultimately though it is filled with romance and with all the possibilities that the world can offer.

Again Again is a great story, and will most appeal to girls in Year 9 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle