

# Lamont Books Standing Order

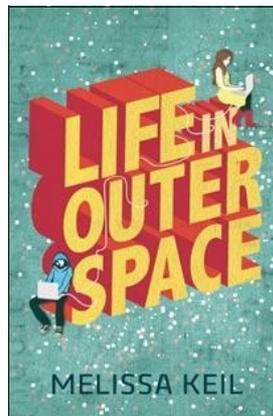
February 2013

SECONDARY TITLES

<p><b>Life in Outer Space</b> By Melissa Keil ISBN 9781742973951 \$18.95</p>	<p><b>Secondary Book of the Month</b></p>
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Sam Kinnison is a geek, and he's totally fine with that. He has his horror movies, his nerdy friends, World of Warcraft - and until Princess Leia turns up in his bedroom, worry about girls he won't. Then Camilla Carter arrives on the scene. She's beautiful, friendly and completely irrelevant to his plan. Sam is determined to ignore her, except that Camilla has a plan of her own - and he seems to be a part of it! Sam believes that everything he needs to know he can learn from the movies. But perhaps he's been watching the wrong ones.

Life in Outer Space is Melissa Keil's brilliantly sweet and funny YA debut. It's also the first book to be signed up through the Ampersand Project, Hardie Grant Egmont's initiative for emerging YA writers. *Publishers Blurb.*



We were rapt when we learned that the smaller, but rapidly growing Australian publisher, Hardie Grant Egmont, announced a new award for emerging Australian authors - the 'Ampersand Project'. Authors could submit scripts with the winning author not only getting their book published, but gaining an ongoing writers contract.

*Life in Outer Space* and Melissa Keil won the inaugural award—and it's easy to see why.

This is a true romantic comedy with all of the necessary ingredients. Geek boy, horror movie buff Sam meets new, hot and cool music chick Camilla. She has everyone noticing her and has the power to change the image of Sam and his whole geeky group.

Sam doesn't even notice the emerging love, thinking that his growing obsession with Camilla needs to be stopped before he makes a complete jerk of himself.

With lots of great moments and an issues based contemporary plot, these characters will endear themselves to your readers.

Suitable for middle secondary students, particularly your girls, even though our main character is a male.

Reviewed by Rob.

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## **The Midnight Dress**

By Karen Foxlee

ISBN 9780702249648

\$29.95

When a teenage girl disappears, a small town is awash with rumours: everyone is talking about the dress she wore, a midnight-blue dress made from the remnants of other dresses, a dress of stories...

For her whole life, Rose Lovell has moved from town to town with her alcoholic father. When they wash up in a coastal sugarcane town, Rose wonders if this time it will be different.

At the local high school, Rose meets Pearl Kelly, who is popular, pretty and intent on tracking down her Russian father. When she convinces Rose to be part of the annual Harvest Parade, Rose must find a special dress for the occasion. She seeks the help of the eccentric Edie Baker, who knows all the town's secrets and whose own family has a rich tapestry of stories. When Rose agrees to let Edie teach her to sew, she doesn't realise that nothing will ever be the same again.

*The Midnight Dress* weaves an intriguing story of loss and longing to the very last page. *Publishers Blurb.*



A fantastically whimsical murder mystery where we learn parts of the ending at the start. More information is provided at the beginning of each chapter until the past and present collide in a finale that is somewhat unexpected.

*The Midnight Dress* has wonderfully different, strong independent characters that blend to produce a tight and well developed storyline, covering issues of fitting in, single families and alcoholism in a small town woven throughout. In this small coastal town the annual highlight is the Harvest Parade, and the beautiful dresses that the young girls have made are of utmost importance. So it is that our main character, Rosie, is drawn to a local dressmaker, or as some believe, a witch. They soon form a strong affinity and it is around their bond and the stories they share that we uncover much of the intricacies of our storyline.

All in all, a delightful read that sneaks up on you and lingers well after putting it down. Best suited to your senior literary girls.

Reviewed by Rob.

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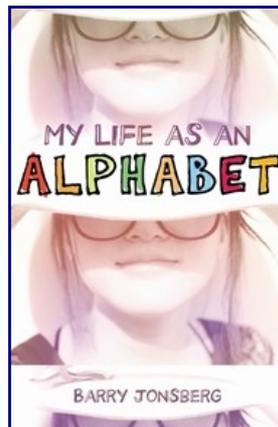
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SECONDARY TITLES

## My Life as an Alphabet

By Barry Jonsberg  
ISBN 9781743310977  
\$14.99

This isn't just about me. It's also about the other people in my life - my mother, my father, my dead sister Sky, my penpal Denille, Rich Uncle Brian, Earth-Pig Fish and Douglas Benson From Another Dimension. These are people (with the exception of Earth-Pig Fish, who is a fish) who have shaped me, made me what I am. I cannot recount my life without recounting elements of theirs. This is a big task, but I am confident I am up to it. *Publishers Blurb.*



Candice Phee is a twelve year old girl who is particularly odd. Certainly living somewhere within the Asperger's spectrum she has only the best intentions as she writes her English project as an A-Z of her life and embarks on her quest to understand the world and make it better.

She is intent on helping her Dad who is in a rut after a family split with his brother, 'Rich Uncle Brian'. Brian stole his computer programming idea that made him rich and left Dad with too much pride and not enough money. Candice's quest is to reunite the family no matter what.

Particularly well written, this entertaining novel with hilarious moments will delight younger secondary students, particularly girls.

Reviewed by Rob.

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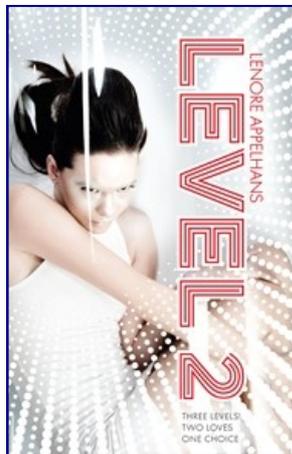
## Level 2

By Lenore Appelhans  
ISBN 9781743312155  
\$16.99

'I pause to look around the hive - all the podlike chambers are lit up as the drones shoot up on memories ... I've wanted to get out of here before, but now the tight quarters start to choke me. There has to be more to death than this!'

Felicia Ward is dead. Trapped in a stark white afterlife limbo, she spends endless days re-playing memories, of her family, friends, boyfriend ... and of the guy who broke her heart. The guy who has just broken into Level 2 to find her.

Felicia learns that a rebellion is brewing, and it seems she is the key. Suspended between heaven and earth, she must make a choice. Between two worlds, two lives and two loves. A gripping debut! This utterly unique take on the afterlife poses fascinating questions about how our memories shape who we are - and who we love. *Publishers Blurb.*



A very different look at the afterlife.

Felicia is dead, but is stuck on level 2, in limbo reliving her memories. Does she have the courage to change and trust her instincts? She'll never know if she stays where she is.

A really enjoyable book that is fast paced and exciting. Intriguing and interesting characters with a good plot makes this a great read.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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## Joshua Dread: The Handbook for Gyfted Children

By Lee Bacon

ISBN 9781742974118

\$16.95

When your parents are supervillains, it's hard to have a normal life. In the past two days, Joshua's parents have tried to destroy the world, the house plant has threatened to kill him and he's discovered something weird is happening to him. Super weird. Pencils explode in his hand. He leaves scorched butt marks on the carpet. And he can send bullies crashing into lockers. Turns out Joshua has a superpower. But he doesn't have to use it for evil, right? *Publishers Blurb.*



Everyone wants to be a superhero, but how do you cope when your parents are supervillains?

Joshua is trying to avoid trouble at his school and keep a low profile so no one suspects his parents are trying to destroy the world. This proves a little difficult when he discovers that he too has superpowers - he just can't always control them.

Then Sophie Justice, the daughter of his parents arch enemy, Captain Justice, starts at his school and poor Joshua doesn't know whether they should be friends or enemies.

This is a fun to read book that both boys and girls will love. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and your Year 7 & 8's will too.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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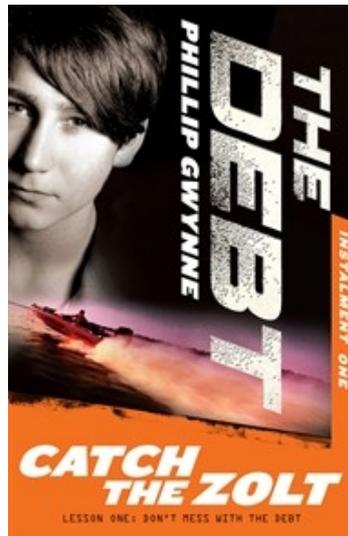
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SECONDARY TITLES

## Catch The Zolt: The Debt Instalment One

By Phillip Gwynne  
ISBN 9781742378442  
\$14.99

It's a beautiful day in paradise. The sun is shining. The birds are chirping. And Dom Silvagni, eldest brother, indifferent student and elite middle distance runner, is turning fifteen. But instead of cake and candles, Dom receives the most unlikely gift. An ancient family debt from an organisation so secretive and powerful, they are only known as The Debt. And The Debt have made it clear—Dom must perform six Herculean tasks or lose a pound of flesh.  
*Publishers Blurb.*



Dom Silvagni lives an ideal life with his mega rich family and his talent for middle distance running.

But his 15th birthday arrives and he learns of his families debt to the 'Ndrangheta' (the most powerful and active wing of the Mafia).

He is branded by his father and grandfather and given his first of six tasks to complete to repay his debt or lose a pound of flesh. Is this why his grandfather has a foot missing? - Dom thought that was from a shark attack.

His first task is to catch the Zolt. The Zolt is a seventeen year old local modern day Robin Hood. Catching him cannot be easy and will surely not make Dom popular!

What follows is an intriguing action packed adventure that secondary boys will find compelling.

Reviewed by Rob.

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SECONDARY TITLES

## When We Wake

By Karen Healey

ISBN 9781742378084

\$16.99

Sixteen-year-old Tegan is just like every other girl living in 2027 - she's happiest when playing the guitar, she's falling in love for the first time, and she's joining her friends to protest the wrongs of the world: environmental collapse, social discrimination and political injustice. But on what should have been the best day of Tegan's life, she dies - and wakes up a hundred years in the future, locked in a government facility with no idea what happened.

Tegan is the first person to be cryonically frozen and successfully revived, which makes her an instant celebrity - though all she wants is to rebuild some semblance of a normal life ... including spending as much time as possible with musically gifted Abdi, even if he does seem to hate the sight of her. But the future isn't all she hoped it would be, and when appalling secrets come to light, Tegan must make a choice: Does she keep her head down and survive, or fight for a better future? *Publishers Blurb.*



Tegan Oglietti's life is finally coming together and at sixteen years of age, she is finally really happy. Then everything changes! Tegan finds herself reborn in a world one hundred years in the future, the first cryonically frozen person to be brought back to life. But this raises many questions.

A fantastic novel, tackling important subjects of cryogenics and a future world struggling with climate change and a global food shortage.

When should medicine involve itself in world change and is this for the better?

Should people be reintroduced into a world that cannot feed the people currently alive?

Fast paced, and exciting with a love-hate romance, 14-18 year olds of both sexes will love the story.

Reviewed by Rob.

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## **Big Thursday**

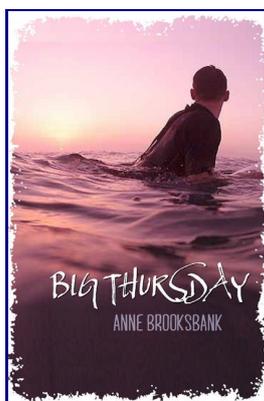
By Anne Brooksbank  
ISBN 9780143567165  
\$17.99

**A moving family drama about change and loss, and having the courage and strength to surf the big breaks. By the acclaimed author of *Father's Day* and *Mother's Day*.**

*His dad had often spoken of these rare and special days: the days when some change far out in the sea brought great waves rearing up and crashing in a tumult of white water against the land. The last one was called Big Monday.*

Nat loves the surf – a love he shares with his dad, a former surfing champion. But his dad's business has collapsed, meaning that his family will lose the house near the lake and surf beach. Nat finds that life is unpredictable and, like the waves, you have to ride what comes as best you can.

Will Nat be able to hold his family together? He doesn't have much time. Will another huge surf on Big Thursday make or break him? *Publishers Blurb.*



This is a story of one family's struggle when change is forced upon them. Nat and his dad share a special love of the surf and Nat quickly realises that life is as unpredictable as the surf.

It is an absorbing story of change, depression (Nat finds his Dad sitting on the rocks contemplating suicide), courage, resourcefulness, friendship and most of all, a son's love for his dad.

A truly wonderful book for all of your Year 9's and above, that both boys and girls will enjoy. It would make a great English class novel.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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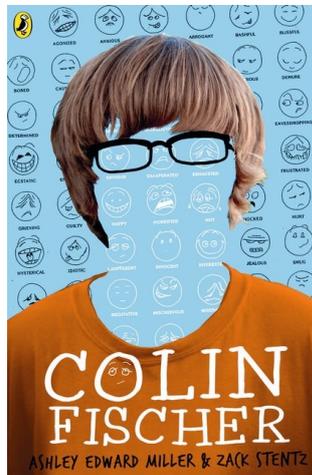
## Colin Fischer

By Ashley Edward Miller & Zack Stentz

ISBN 9780141343990

\$14.99

Colin Fischer doesn't like to be touched. Or the colour blue. He avoids eye contact unless *absolutely necessary*. Sherlock Holmes has a place of honour on his wall. His room is a shrine to clear-headed logic. When a phone rings loudly in class, Colin can't cope. *So he barks like a dog*. But when a gun goes off in the school cafeteria he isn't scared. He's curious . . . Colin Fischer is determined to discover who fired that gun. *Publishers Blurb*.



Colin keeps a notebook to record everything, doesn't like loud noises or the colour blue and avoids all contact, including eye contact.

He is fascinated by facts and uncovering the truth, hence Sherlock Holmes is his idol.

When a gun goes off in the school canteen he is not afraid, only curious and intent on finding out who is responsible.

The book contains explanations and questions regarding different theories, such as behavioural and mathematical theories, and footnotes providing additional information at the bottom of many pages. I found these amusing and enlightening, as I am sure some of your students will, but others may simply skim over them as an unnecessary addition to the actual story.

The story itself is excellent and engrossing, and draws the reader into wanting the best outcome for the unlikely hero. It will open many discussions about Asperger's Syndrome and many other conditions that require understanding and empathy by all in society.

A fantastic read that is best suited to lower to middle secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob.