

# Lamont Books Standing Order

May 2013

SECONDARY TITLES

## House of Secrets

By Chris Columbus and Ned Vizzini

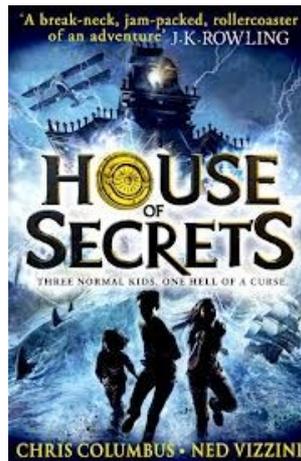
ISBN 9780007490141

\$19.99

Secondary Book  
of the Month

When Brendan, Cordelia and Nell move to Kristoff House they have no idea that they are about to unleash the dark magic locked within. For the house once belonged to a crazed writer, whose stories have come to life. Literally. Now the Walker kids must battle against deadly pirates, bloodthirsty warriors and a bone-crunching giant. If they fail they will never see their parents again and a power-mad Witch will take over the world. No pressure then . . .

House of Secrets is the first book in a major new series. It's going to be epic. *Publishers Blurb.*



This is an adventure story in every sense of the word!

When the Walker's buy the house of famous author Denver Kristoff little do they know they are going to be plunged into his novels. Chased by savage warriors, giants, vicious pirates and his evil daughter who wants only the dark magic book of Doom and Desire, the three children must use all their intelligence and wits to outsmart them and stay alive.

Great for both boys and girls Year 7 and up, this is one of those books that is really hard to put down and leaves you hoping that book 2 is not far away.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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## Cry Blue Murder

By Kim Kane & Marion Roberts

ISBN 9780702239267

\$19.95

Celia and Alice share everything - their secrets, hopes and the increasing horror that a killer is on the loose and abducting schoolgirls just like them. Three bodies have been found, each shrouded in hand-woven fabric. From within the depths of a police investigation, clues are starting to emerge. But as Alice and Celia discover the truth, danger is closer than anyone knows. Who can you trust at a time like this? Cry Blue Murder is a haunting and poignant psychological thriller that pushes the boundaries of trust and betrayal, life and death, from two exciting new voices in Australian young adult fiction. *Publishers Blurb.*



This is a murder mystery with a difference! The entire story is told via emails between two friends, newspaper reports of the crime and records of police interviews with two suspects and a victim who survived.

It is well written and keeps you interested to the end. If your students like crime novels, they will enjoy this, but it is probably best suited to Year 9 girls and up.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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## Steal My Sunshine

By Emily Gale

ISBN 9781742758497

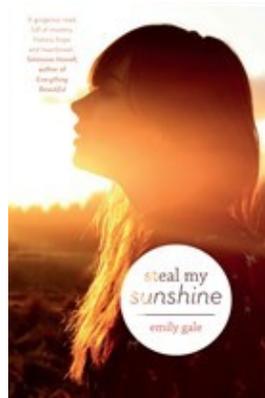
\$18.95

During a Melbourne heatwave, Hannah's family life begins to distort beyond her deepest fears. It's going to take more than a cool change to fix it, but how can a girl who lives in the shadows take on the task alone?

Feeling powerless and invisible, Hannah seeks refuge in the two anarchists of her life: her wild best friend, Chloe, and her eccentric grandmother, Essie, who look like they know how life really works.

But Hannah's loyalty to both is tested, first by her attraction to Chloe's older brother, and then by Essie's devastating secret that sheds new light on how the family has lost its way.

Even if Hannah doesn't know what to believe in, she'd better start believing in herself.  
*Publishers Blurb.*



This book takes the reader on a journey of discovery into the seemingly powerless life of Hannah.

Her life is controlled by her friend Chloe, her humourless mother and eccentric grandmother, Essie.

Dad, who Hannah best relates to, has just packed his bags and moved into a local hotel. Her relationship with her older brother Sam has never been good.

We delve into Essie's past and find out why her mother and Essie don't speak.

Hannah experiences her first real love in Chloe's older brother Evan, who she has had a crush on for years.

But mostly we learn of the effects of adoption and the forced removal of children from the 'fallen' mothers in the fifties. In a familiar struggle to find their way after the secrets have been revealed, the book leaves you with a hope for the future.

Full of mystery, history and hope, this novel will be adored by a 15+ female readership.

Reviewed by Rob.

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## Monument 14

By Emmy Laybourne

ISBN 9781444914702

\$16.99

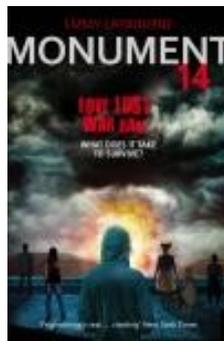
### Fourteen kids. One superstore. A million things that go wrong ...

Fourteen kids stranded inside a superstore. Inside they have everything they could ever need. There's junk food and clothes, computer games and books, drugs and alcohol ... and without adult supervision they can do whatever they want.

Sounds like fun.

But outside the world is being ripped apart by violent storms and chemicals leaking into the atmosphere that, depending on blood type, leave victims paranoid, violent or dead.

The kids must remain inside, forced to create their own community, unsure if they'll ever be able to leave. Can they stop the world they've created inside from self-destructing too?  
*Publishers Blurb.*



Six teenagers. Eight young kids.

What happens when they get locked up in a gigantic department store as the world outside falls apart?

When a mega Tsunami hits the United States, chaos follows, and you do whatever it takes to survive.

This was really hard to put down, as it was so easy to relate to the vast array of characters in this book and to imagine all the problems they faced trying to survive.

It is best suited to Year 9 and up, but both boys and girls will love this story. Unfortunately we have to wait to book 2 to find out the ending, but I'm really looking forward to it.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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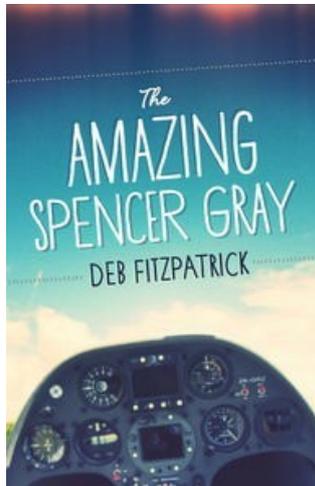
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## **The Amazing Spencer Gray**

By Deb Fitzpatrick  
ISBN 9781922089328  
\$14.99

Spencer Gray is twelve – finally old enough to join Dad in his glider. His mates are going to be so jealous! Going up is awesome – but when disaster strikes, Spencer will need to be nothing short of amazing. *Publishers Blurb.*



Spencer's family takes a sea change to Skippers Cove where his Dad Rory is the local GP.

Dad now has more time with his passion for gliding in his aircraft, Drifter.

At twelve, Spencer is finally old enough to join him. They have tremendous flights and share the passion until one day a storm appears out of nowhere and flips their small glider, sending them crashing into the side of a mountain.

Spencer is OK, but his Dad is seriously injured.

What can Spencer do to save his Dad? Will he run out of time?

What he does is 'amazing', with a fantastic conclusion that leaves us enjoying this action filled adventure till the last page.

A terrific Australian story for upper primary and junior secondary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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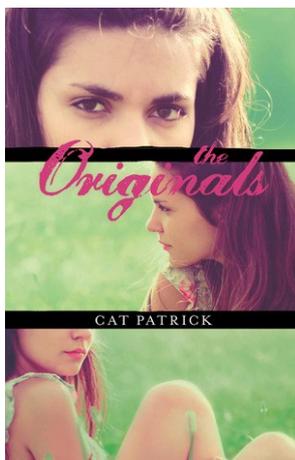
## The Originals

By Cat Patrick

ISBN 9781742973579

\$22.95

To the outside world, Elizabeth Best is a model student. She's a cheerleader, gets straight As and holds down an after-school job. But what the outside world doesn't know is that Elizabeth Best is actually three girls. Lizzie, Betsey and Ella are no ordinary triplets. Born as part of an illegal cloning program, the girls were forced into hiding when the program was uncovered. To avoid being taken away, the girls have lived as one girl ever since. Living a third of a life can suck. Imagine having to consult your sisters before choosing your clothes, hairstyle, or boyfriend. So when Lizzie is forbidden from seeing Sean, the amazing guy from her English class, she and her sisters decide they've had enough. But for a chance at a full life, they'll have to risk everything they know. *Publishers Blurb.*



I finished this book at 12.30am, as I just could not put it down!

It's a wonderful mix of mum versus daughter, romance and a bit of mystery as well. Elizabeth Best is the perfect student, but Elizabeth is really three girls—Lizzi, Betsey and Ella, and they all only get to have a third of a life each.

Their Mum is a genetic researcher who cloned them illegally and then had to hide them to avoid going to jail. For years the girls accepted this as normal, but this all changes when two of the girls fall in love with different boys.

This story has confrontation, love, humour and mystery, but most of all it is about sisters - the bond they have, the love they share and the friendship between them.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and, as I have two sisters of my own, I could relate to the family love they share. I also enjoyed Lizzie's romance with Sean as I married my high school sweetheart who I met when I was sixteen.

Year 8 girls and up will love this book.

Reviewed by Michelle.

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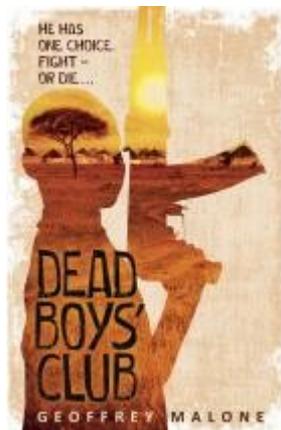
## **Dead Boys' Club**

By Geoffrey Malone  
ISBN 9780340999608  
\$14.99

The powerful story of a young boy's capture, training, and struggle for survival in an African boy soldier army and his eventual escape.

'If they ever come here,' his father had warned, 'drop everything. Just run and hide!' And now they were here. God's Freedom Army or whatever their name was. Bringers of blood and suffering. Rebels! Killers! Every one of them.

Hundreds of thousands of children are abducted from their homes and used as boy soldiers. This is the story of one them. 12-year-old Sam is ripped from his village in Uganda and forced to march with rebel soldiers to their training camp in southern Sudan. A weapon is thrust into his innocent young hands and his life becomes that of enemies and battles, violence and death, as he's turned into a soldier. With no escape, danger is around every corner, the threat of death is everywhere. But there are ways to survive. Sam becomes friends with a fellow boy soldier and together their dreams of escape become a strength. Together, they are ready to fight. *Publishers Blurb*



This title is highly appropriate for this book as it is the story of Sam, a child soldier in Africa. It is quite a confronting story of the boys' difficulties in surviving when living and working with despots whose only mission in life is to make money at whatever the cost to human life.

It's a world in which I hope and pray no child would ever have to live in or learn about, but unfortunately with the ease of communication today, our children are forced to confront many issues.

Sam is brave, honest, loyal and remains hopeful that one day his father will find him. In this case, he does and the evil Colonel Dada is killed.

More suited to boys Year 8/9 and up, as it is a bit descriptive in places, but a thoroughly compelling read.

Reviewed by Michelle.