



TEEN TITLES



OUR COVER BOOK
**PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC**

by Robert Muchamore is reviewed
on page 2 by Abdullah Tariq
from Gracemount High

TEEN TITLES 55

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Teen Titles aims to promote reading and literacy in a fun way that appeals to all young people. *Teen Titles* is committed to improving reading within Edinburgh and beyond.

Welcome to *Teen Titles* 55, our third issue of 2012/13. Inside, Tom Becker, author of *The Traitors*, tells us why bad guys get all the best lines. We interview Cassandra Clare about her *Mortal Instruments* and *Infernal Devices* series, and we explore the underworld with Georgina Merry, author of *The Ferryman's Wife*.

Cleo Jones

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Cover image from *CHERUB: People's Republic* by Robert Muchamore, reproduced by kind permission of Hodder Children's Books. Available in paperback at £6.99.

THRILLERS & CHILLERS

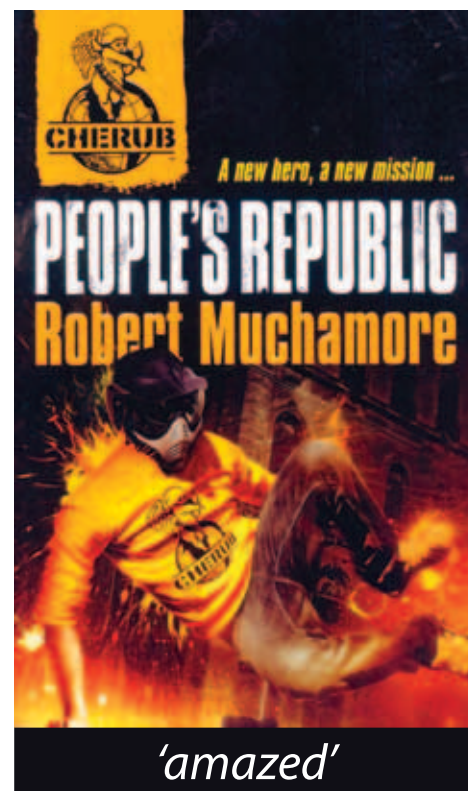
People's Republic

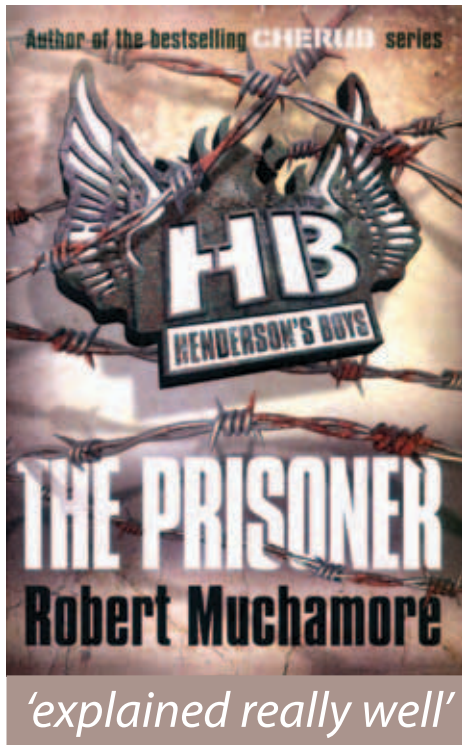
Series: Cherub
Robert Muchamore
Hodder £6.99 ISBN 9780340999202

Ryan is a new agent and has been given his first mission of trying to infiltrate the Aramov Clan, a criminal gang. He eventually meets up with the other new agent, Fu Ning, to investigate the gang's involvement in drug smuggling, illegal immigrants and human trafficking.

Brilliant book! It's really exciting. I am amazed how Ryan comes straight out of basic training to go on such an important mission. I can't believe I have not read any of the *Cherub* series before; I have a lot to catch up with.

ABDULLAH TARIQ
Gracemount High





makes the book look a little bit childish and an easy read, but the storyline is quite good. A strange twist in the book happens when you least expect it, which I think makes it more exciting.

LI-SIAN SONG
James Gillespie's High



The Prisoner

Series: Henderson's Boys
Robert Muchamore
Hodder £6.99 ISBN 9780340999172

Marc Kilgour is 14 years old and is part of the Cherub Organisation. He has been imprisoned by the Gestapo but he knows he has a vital mission to complete and must escape.

This book was really, really good – in fact I'd like to read it again! I wasn't sure if I was going to like it at the start but found I couldn't put it down. I had read *The Recruit* by Robert Muchamore before but I thought this was much better. It didn't matter that I hadn't read the rest of the books in the series as everything is explained really well. These books are probably mainly for boys but I loved this one and so girls should give them a go too.

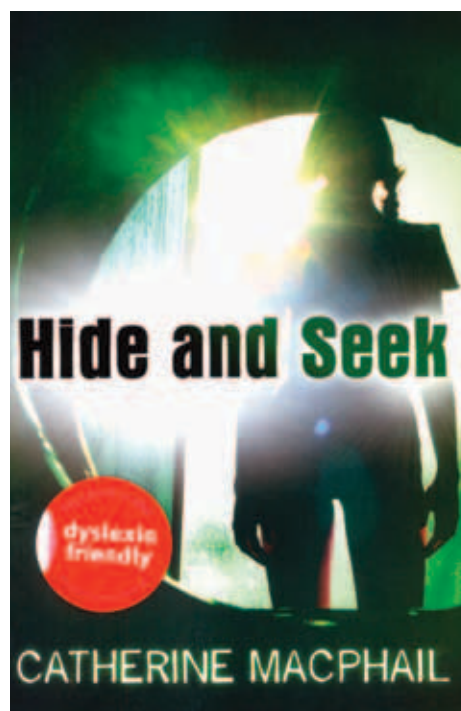
ABBY PETERSON
Craigmount High

School of Fear

Series: School of Fear
Gitty Daneshvari
Atom £5.99 ISBN 9781907411663

Four students with different phobias are sent to the School of Fear boarding school, run by the eccentric Mrs Wellington.

I found this book quite good. The author Gitty Daneshvari describes the story well with a lot of detail. The words she uses for the speech of the characters help the reader to get a better understanding of their personality. The cover



Hide and Seek

Catherine MacPhail
Barrington Stoke £6.99 ISBN 9781781120545

Nicola wants to scare the new girl in school. She tells her the school is haunted and dares

her to spend a night there with a group of friends. But, one by one, Nicola's friends are going missing, and now the game doesn't seem so much fun.

I thought this was a good book because it held the reader's interest and when I started reading it I couldn't put it down.

NICOLE MOFFAT
Castlebrae Community High

I thought this was one of the best books that Catherine MacPhail has written, and I would like to know what happens after the end of the book, because I think the story is going to go on. I didn't like the main character because I thought she was a nasty individual.

COLETTE FULTON
Castlebrae Community High

I thought this was good book because it was action packed right from the start, and I would like to know if there is going to be another book to follow on with the story.

CHARLOTTE PENNYCUICK
Castlebrae Community High

This was an awesome book which was exciting and tense from the first page to the last. There was a great twist in the story which made the book quite scary, with a strong ending leaving you wondering what will happen to the main character Nicola.

CONNOR COLLINS
Castlebrae Community High

Unrest

Michelle Harrison
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857070913



Elliot has survived a terrible car accident but it has changed his life forever. He now has out-of-body experiences and has a strong connection with the spirit world. He is determined to find out the truth behind the disappearance of a young man.

This was a ghost story with a difference. Elliot was

a great character who had to overcome his own problems and then moved on to help others. I liked how the book had a lot of different levels and looked at relationships as well as the possibility of ghosts.

MEGHAN JOYCE
Leith Academy

REVIEWS

Frostfire

Zoe Marriott

Walker Books £7.99 ISBN 9781406318142

Frost is possessed by a wolf demon that brings death everywhere she goes. When she tries to run away from her life, she is captured and falls in love with her captors. But can she keep them safe from herself?

One of my friends got to review this book first, so I was champing at the bit for her to finish it so I could get my hands on it, and I'm glad I did! I loved *Frostfire* from the beginning and I hope there will be a sequel!

JULIET BOURKE
Queensferry High

I must admit, this book wasn't the most interesting at the beginning and I almost gave up on it, but I am so glad I didn't because it just got better and better and I didn't want it to end! It's a great storyline and all the characters are believable, so it's a great read and I would strongly recommend it.

SAMANTHA TULLOCH
Queensferry High



Black Tide

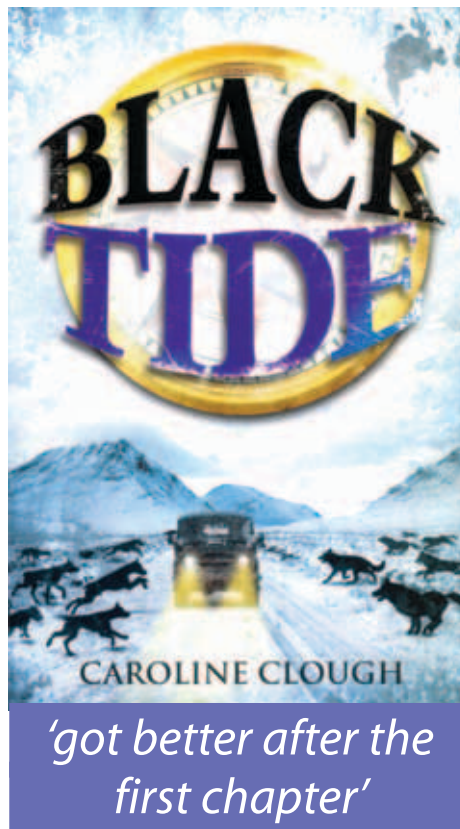
Caroline Clough

Kelpies £5.99 ISBN 9780863158773

Toby and his family are survivors of a terrible red fever epidemic. When his father and sister are kidnapped, Toby sets out to rescue them, battling with the evil general who is keeping them prisoner, as well a freezing cold Scottish winter, tribes of vicious dogs, wolves, and pirates on the rampage.

It was good; I thought it got better after the first chapter, as it started a bit slow. I thought it was going to be more adventurous and exciting, based on the front cover and the blurb. I like how the book was set out and how you met the characters one at a time. Each chapter was told from that character's point of view and it let me get to know them really well. This book wasn't similar to anything I have read before but I would read other things by this author. Some of the story appeared to be based on a real polar expedition.

ROBYN SMITH
Forrester High



City of Swords

Mary Hoffman

Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408800508

Laura is a Stravagante, somebody who can travel in time and space. She is desperately unhappy and has begun to self-harm. When she finds a paperknife in an antique shop it helps her travel to 16th-century Italy where she meets and falls in love with the charming and attractive Ludo. Will their love survive the desperate power struggles in the City of Swords?

I really like how the author wrote this book. While being set in medieval times, Mary Hoffman has given a modern feel to the book which makes you want to keep reading, as it doesn't drone on about facts like some historical books. The female characters are independent

and have more power than they'd actually have at the time this is based, making it a good read for girls. It also includes humour in the arguments between the male and female lead characters, which may suit boys' tastes, so this is a book for both genders – even with the girly cover!

SEVIL ILVES
Queensferry High

This book sounded pretty interesting and I was looking forward to reading it, but when I started I had no clue what was going on. It is the latest book in the series, so I would recommend reading the others first so that it can be understood better. Once you have read the other books it would probably be a great read, but as a stand-alone it just doesn't make sense.

SAMANTHA TULLOCH
Queensferry High



The Night Sky in My Head

Sarah Hammond

OUP £6.99 ISBN 9780192733191

After an accident, 14-year-old Mikey Baxter finds that he has the ability to go back in time. Mikey uses his new gift to try to solve the murder that has led to his dad's wrongful imprisonment, but is horrified when he finds out who the murderer really is.

The cover of this book does not do it justice. However, once I opened it, I didn't want to put it down. It is a very intriguing book. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a book with lots of suspense.

SHANNON PAIGE
Wester Hailes Education Centre

'very intriguing'



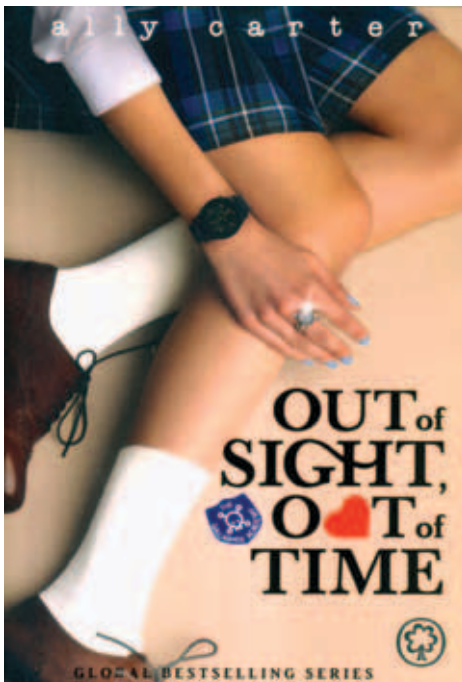
the summer. As she and the Gallagher Girls try to piece together what has happened, they realise that there is a dangerous gang hunting Cammie who will stop at nothing to protect their secrets.

Out of Sight, Out of Time is another perfect example of Ally Carter's series. If you have ever woken up and forgot what you did the night before, you will understand this book. I don't have a favourite part of this book. It's amazing and a must read!

MEAGAN HENLEY
Balerno Community High

I love this book. It is so exciting. I have read the whole series of *Gallagher Girls* now and I can't believe Cammie loses her memory in this one. It's really good how she manages to piece the whole thing back together again. I would definitely advise teenagers to read this series.

CATHERINE MCGUIRE
Balerno Community High



'so exciting'

Out of Sight, Out of Time

Series: Gallagher Girls
Ally Carter
Orchard Books £5.99 ISBN 97814083146746

Cammie wakes up in an Alpine convent with no shoes, no journal and no memory of what has happened to her during the rest of

'plenty of mystery'



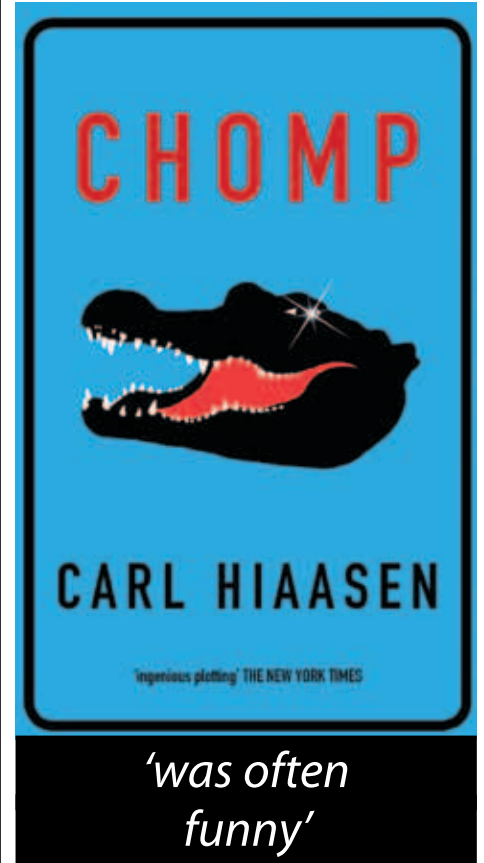
The Fury

Alexander Gordon Smith
Faber and Faber £7.99 ISBN 9780571276165

It is Benny's birthday. He is an ordinary teenager, but people have been acting very strangely towards him. In fact, things get so weird that his mum and sister attack him. Cal, Brick and Daisy also seem to be ordinary teenagers – but now everyone is trying to kill them. Why?

This book was good with plenty of mystery and exciting bits. I read the blurb and decided to choose this one because I like reading thrillers and I really enjoyed it. I'll definitely be recommending this one to my friends.

ANDREW MCINTOSH
Craigmount High



'was often funny'

Chomp

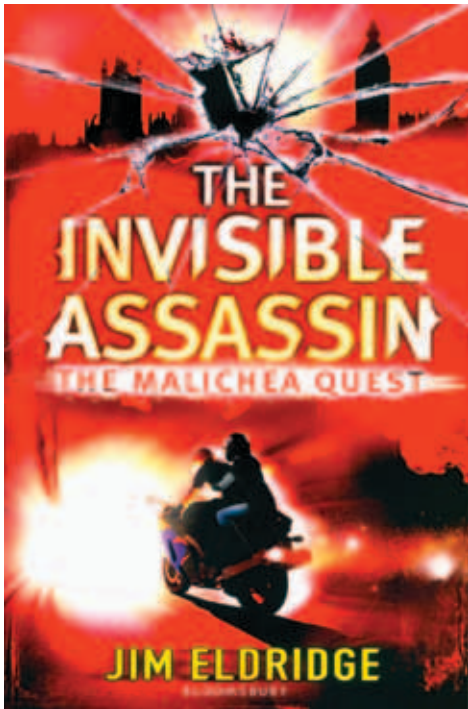
Carl Hiaasen
Orion £9.99 ISBN 9781444005066

Wahoo's dad is knocked on the head by a frozen iguana falling out of a tree and can no longer work as an animal wrangler. His mum goes off to China to teach Mandarin to American companies to make some money, and Wahoo is left to cope with alligators, snakes, an irate father with a gun, and a TV crew trying to shoot a programme in the Everglades!

This is not the sort of book I would normally read and I found it quite strange to start with as I thought it was going to be about a monster, so I was a bit surprised to discover it was about alligators and other animals. Although the story could be quite serious, what the characters said was often funny so that lifted things for me. I usually prefer a more structured story like a diary, but if you like reading books about animals this is one for you!

BRONWYN CHEYNE
Craigmount High

REVIEWS



The Invisible Assassin

Series: The Malichea Quest
Jim Eldridge
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408817193

Jake, a trainee press officer, unearths a cover-up when reporting on building work on supposedly sacred ground. His investigations embroil him in a web of secrets involving MI6 and the mysterious Order of Malichea, and ultimately endanger his life.

This book was amazing. I never knew what would happen; the storyline was full of twists and surprises and things changed very quickly. It kept me really engaged. The characters were strong and I liked the mystery surrounding the 'Watchers'. The plot was believable and there was real tension at times, like when Jake nearly got pushed under the train and realised someone was out to get him. I'd definitely recommend this book; it isn't gender-orientated,

just for anyone who fancies a good read.

OWEN HARVEY
St Thomas of Aquin's High

Eye of the Storm

Series:
The Devil's Triangle
Mark Robson
Simon & Schuster
£6.99
ISBN 9781847389800

When Sam and his best pal Callum disappear, Sam's dad is accused of murdering the boys. But Sam's sister Niamh is sure he is still alive. Meanwhile, Sam and Callum are trapped in a strange parallel world. Can Niamh save them and clear her dad's name?

At first I found this book a bit confusing and hard to follow, but it didn't put me off and I wanted to keep reading. In fact, I think the story actually teased me into reading more

'teased me into reading more'

because it was exciting and I wanted to work out what was happening. I don't normally read fiction, I prefer fact books, but this looked good. Although one of the main characters is a girl I think this is a good book for boys too.

SHANE FINLAYSON
Craigmount High

Dive Bombing

Bernard Ashley
Orchard Books £5.99 ISBN 9781408313923

Teenager Charlie finds himself simultaneously dealing with his mum's breakdown and a group of Neo-Vlach terrorists determined to cause havoc in London and overthrow their own government in Travonia.

I have a mixed opinion of this book. I thought it had a strong plot-line and that the characters were developed well, but it was a bit slow at times. It was a bit of an eye-opener where the religious terrorists were concerned! It was realistic and believable and I think it might be enjoyed more by younger readers.

AUSTIN FLYNN
St Thomas of Aquin's High

I enjoyed this book but found it a bit complicated with the East European factions and the use of different tenses. The storyline was good, and, although I was a bit confused in parts, I wanted to keep reading.

JONATHAN ROBERTSON
St Thomas of Aquin's High

'a bit of an eye-opener'



Charlie's in at the deep end.

BERNARD ASHLEY

THE BIG TEEN TITLES INTERVIEW



BAD GUYS GET "ALL THE BEST" LINES

Photograph: Dominic Turner.

Tom Becker, author of *The Traitors*, spoke to David Harrold, Julia Sanderson and Holly Kesterton from Gracemount High School.

Q Hello Tom! We are three pupils from Gracemount High School in south Edinburgh. As this is an email interview, we thought we had better introduce ourselves. Hi, I'm David and I am 13 years old. I really like reading books, especially fantasy and books about music. I like listening to music while I read, and I am quite sporty, playing football and judo at a competitive level. I love watching football as well, supporting Hibs. Bye!

Greetings! My name is Julia and I am also 13 years old. Although I enjoy reading, I enjoy music even more. My favourite bands are Framing Hanley, My Chemical Romance, Foo Fighters, 30 Seconds to Mars, The Killers, Nirvana and Led Zeppelin. Farewell!

Hi! I am Holly and I have just finished doing my final exams, so have technically left school. I decided to do one more review for *Teen Titles* – I have done a review for almost

every edition of the magazine since I was in S1, six years ago. I love reading fantasy books, and try to write my own stuff. Thanks for taking part in this interview. hopefully one day we will get to see you in school, or at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We are looking forward to reading and reviewing your latest book, *While the Others Sleep*, soon!

A Dear David, Holly and Julia, nice to meet you! I'd better introduce myself in return. I'm Tom, and I'm a 31-year-old author. Like you I'm a big fan of fantasy books and love writers like David Eddings, Guy Gavriel Kay and George R R Martin. When I'm not writing I spend a lot of time listening to mediocre guitar bands from the mid-1990s and complaining about new music. I am also scrupulously polite to anyone who does judo to a competitive level. Just for the record.

Q What gave you the idea for *The Traitors*?

A It all started on a bookshelf in *Darkside* – my previous series. I needed to come up with some suitably gloomy titles for an evil character's study, and the title 'A History of Treachery' popped into my mind. The phrase

stuck with me and I realised I wanted to write something about traitors. I had been a fan of Second World War POW stories such as *Colditz* since I was young, and the two ideas just seemed to fit together in my head. I wanted to tap into that horrible feeling of doing something inexplicably stupid and instantly regretting it, the idea of wanting to turn the clock back. This made me think of a prison shaped like a clock-face, and with that I was away.

Q Did the ideas come easily?

A Ideas are one of those funny things that tend to turn up when you're not looking for them – the trick is recognising them when they do appear and making sure you remember them (notebooks are invaluable in this regard). I started thinking about *The Traitors* years before I was able to actually write the book, so the idea had a long time to get comfortable in my mind and develop until I was ready to get it down on paper.

Q Where did you get the characters from – did you get them from people you know already?

A Almost every character I've written shares traits with people I've met in one form

THE BIG TEEN TITLES INTERVIEW

or another (though perhaps not Mr Pitt – thankfully). No matter how strange or fantastical a story you're trying to tell, if readers can't relate to the characters then they're going to get bored pretty quickly.

Q How long did it take you to write it?

A I think I had to stop halfway through to do some other work, so I wrote *The Traitors* in two chunks, both lasting about three or four months. Writing's an amazing way to spend time, but real life has an annoying habit of getting in the way.

Q Do you always write about the darker side of people's characters?

A I guess I do, but it's not something I set out to do when I sit down to write. You can just do so much more with characters that do things you wouldn't dream of in reality. Let's face it: bad guys get all the best lines. On the other hand, I'd argue that Adam, the hero of *The Traitors*, is a good lad who makes a bad mistake and is pretty severely punished for it. I hope that readers root for him, even if he isn't perfect.

Q Will we ever find out more information about the Commandant?

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The Traitors

Tom Becker
Scholastic £6.99 ISBN 9781407109527

One simple act of betrayal, kissing his best friend's girlfriend, has Adam transported through space and time for never-ending detention at the Dial. The Dial is a harsh prison environment, where Adam is left to face up to the consequences of his actions, and to try to escape from the hell where he finds himself.

What a great book! It was exciting and adventurous. I love reading POW escape stories from the wars, so the similarities were there. Adam never knew who he could trust. I will be reading more of Tom's books.

DAVID HARROLD
Gracemount High

I have read some of Tom's books before and really enjoyed them, and *The Traitors* is no exception. It was intriguing how betraying your best friend could have such dire consequences.

JULIA SANDERSON
Gracemount High

I loved this book! It was quick to read, as it was unputdownable! I liked the way Adam had to pay for his actions. One thing I did wonder was, if the Dial was only for teenagers, and if there was an adult version, there must be more to this story. I want to find out more about the Commandant.

HOLLY KESTERTON
Gracemount High

A I wouldn't completely rule out a return to the Dial but I think any remaining mysteries are going to stay in no-time for now. My next book is a psychological thriller called *While the Others Sleep* – it's set in a Victorian sanatorium for troubled teenagers and will hopefully cause a few sleepless nights for anyone brave enough to read it.

Q Is there a prison for adults?

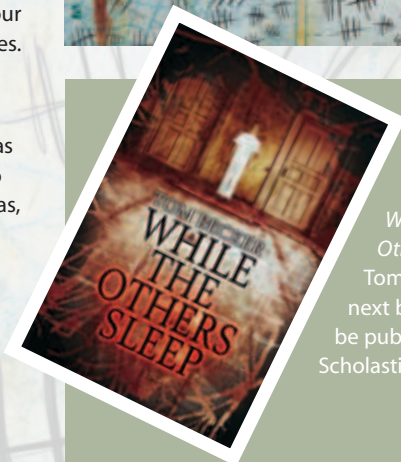
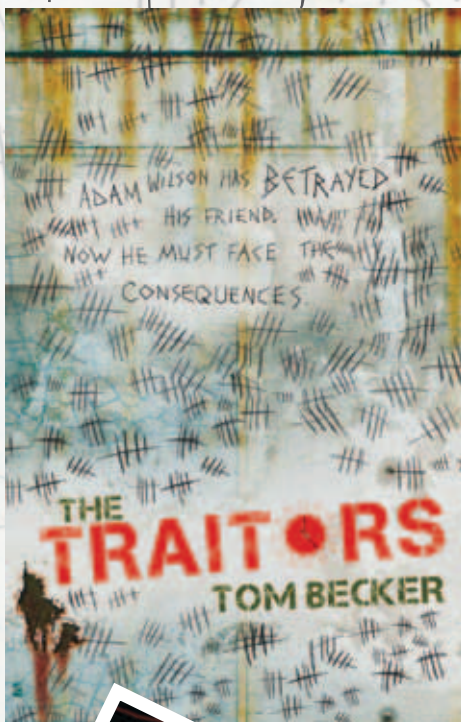
A If there is any fairness in the world there should be, but one of the lessons Adam learns in the Dial is that life isn't always fair ...

Q Do you feel the prison is all in Adam's mind? Is it guilt as opposed to real prison?

A I don't want to say too much because I think it's important that readers are allowed to draw their own conclusions without the author marching up afterwards and telling them what they should be thinking – but let's just say that's a very interesting way of looking at it.

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I think that's just about it – thanks for the great questions! Best wishes, Tom.



While the Others Sleep, Tom Becker's next book, will be published by Scholastic in March.

TEEN ISSUES



The Intern

Dillon Khan
Penguin £6.99 ISBN 9780141338040

Jay Merchant has landed his dream job; admittedly it's only an internship but it's right at the heart of the music industry on the hottest show around, Total BEATS. He gets to meet the right people, drink with the right people, and party with the right people. Surely, this is exactly what he wanted?



The blurb to this book made it come across as entertaining and exciting. However, nothing happens in the first ten chapters: it's ridiculous! By this point, I had lost the will to live and instead I decided I would go into the library and annoy the librarian yet again. On Amazon all the reviewers said it was a thoroughly enjoyable book, but I don't understand how they could say that. It is just too slow a story. Give me the *House of Night* series any day.

HEATHER MAIN
Holly Rood

The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind

Meg Medina
Walker Books £6.99 ISBN 9781406341942

Sonia is feted in her small mining community, as having special powers to protect them, but these fabled powers trap her there. Then, one day, a boy goes missing and, despite her prayers, he is found dead. Sonia now feels like an outcast and moves to the city, and it is only there she can find her true identity.

This is not a book I would usually have chosen to read. I started by skimming the first few pages, but then realised what a good book it was. I really felt for Sonia, when her community was expecting so much from her. I think I would have run away too.

MILLIE WILKINSON
Gracemount High



Bringing the Summer

Julia Green
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408819586

This sequel to *Breathing Underwater* deals with grief and healing. Freya is coming to terms with her brother's death, when a traumatic event leads her to Gabe and his mysterious brother Theo.

I found it a little hard to get into at first, but then I really began to like all the characters; they just seemed so real. I particularly liked Freya

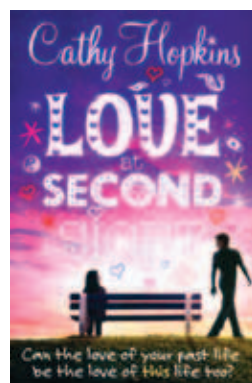
and Gabe. It is so sad how Freya's own family are dealing with the death of Joe, but she is so positive.

ESME PAGE
Gracemount High



Love at Second Sight

Cathy Hopkins
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857075505



'long-winded'

Jo is told by a clairvoyant that there's only one boy for her. The trouble is, the last time she saw him was in a past life, when she worked as a governess to his younger brother. Jo doesn't believe a word of it – but then a series of events begins to change her mind.

When I saw the front cover of this

book I thought it was one that I'd really enjoy, but I thought it was too long-winded. I prefer books with more action and talking like Michael Morpurgo or *Holes*. I found it hard to get through and I don't think I'll be looking for any other books written by Cathy Hopkins.

PAIGE SALTON
Royal High

My Family and Other Freaks

Carol Midgley
Quercus £6.99 ISBN 9780857388940

Read Danielle's observations on friends, family and relationships in this diary-style novel.

This book was good, I enjoyed reading it. However, it didn't always seem to make much sense. Things could have been explained a bit better. It wasn't the best book I've ever read. I hope I'm not like the characters in the book!

CLIONA MCCABE
James Gillespie's High

This book is one big cliché of a 12-year-old girl's day-to-day life. For example, there's the bit where Danielle thinks Damian must like her just because he says hi to her! It's quite an easy read but there are a lot of books out there just like it. I find it strange that one of the girls gets fake tans at 12! Some girls might enjoy reading it but it wasn't for me.

TUESDAY ROSE MCDONOUGH
James Gillespie's High

I found this book quite boring and quite vain. I don't think I'm as vain as the main character. It's not the kind of book I would want to read. I found it strange that one of the characters was called 'Treasure' and got fake tans.

JENNY ANTON
James Gillespie's High



REVIEWS

Emma Hearts LA

Keris Stainton

Orchard Books £6.99 ISBN 9781408319529

What with two boys, unlimited sunshine, and a new life among the stars, maybe LA's not that bad after all?

Emma is cool and believable. All the characters are interesting, from Emma who likes everyone no matter what they look like, to Bex who is a bit jumpy, fun and crazy, through to Oscar who is geeky in a good way and an old friend. The ending was good too – it surprised me!

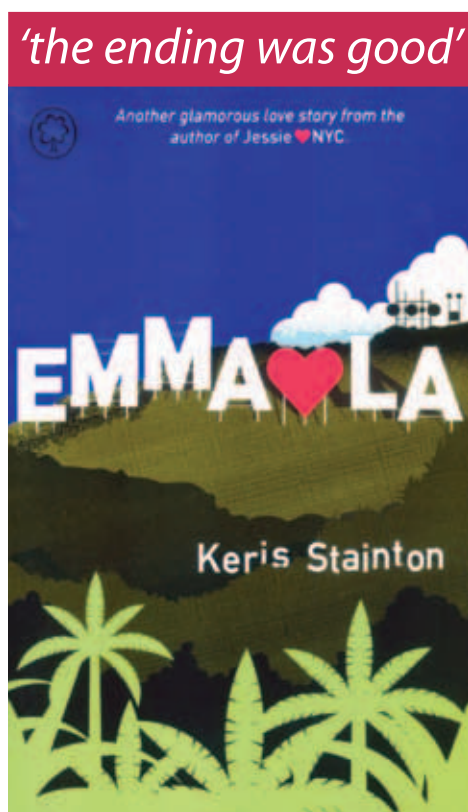
MELLISSA MUKUNDWA

Royal High

I tried the first couple of chapters and found this book to be far too 'girly' for my taste. Moving out to Los Angeles was very clichéd and I found the characters lifeless and boring.

MORGAN MCLEOD

Royal High



Dads, Geeks and Blue Haired Freaks

Ellie Phillips

Electric Monkey £6.99 ISBN 9781405258197

On Sadie's 15th birthday she receives a card from her dad, which is an ordinary enough event except that she doesn't know who her dad is – he was a sperm donor. So she sets out to track him down with the help of her cousin and his friend.

The premise of this book is interesting and tackled a subject that I hadn't really read about before. Sperm donation isn't a topic that you usually see featured but I like the fact that the author wasn't afraid to write about it. I felt that I learnt quite a lot as I read this book.

LIZ MCINTOSH

Royal High



We'll Always Have Summer

Jenny Han

Razorbill £6.99

ISBN 9780141330563

This is the final instalment in the Summer series starring Isobel, Conrad and Jeremiah – which boy will she choose?

It was the same people as in the first two books and I feel that I know them really well. The tension of living in a real family was well described and I found this realistic and easy to follow. It was entertaining as usual – I loved the series!

LAURA MCCRORY-IRVINE

Royal High



The One Dollar Horse

Lauren St John

Orion £9.99

ISBN 9781444002690

This is a thriller, set in the equestrian world, about making the impossible happen – winning a fortune on a one-dollar horse.

I went through lots of emotions when reading this book – happy, sad and angry. Happiness because the horse was rescued, sadness when she fell off during training and started to doubt herself, and anger because of the way that the horse was treated before being rescued. As a rider myself, I really felt that I understood what was going on and felt the same way as the main character – that anyone can find their dream. I liked the way the father wasn't portrayed as being perfect, but does the right thing in the end.

BETH LYNDSEY

Royal High



Whisper

Chrissie Keighery

Templar Publishing £6.99 ISBN 9781848775466

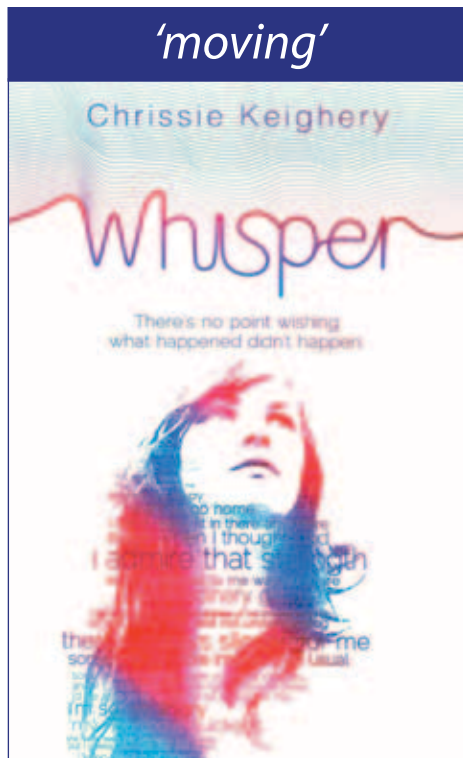
Demi has had meningitis and now she is deaf. She feels that her world has collapsed around her, but when she goes to a new school she finds out that her new friends have a lot to teach her and she realises that she still has a lot to live for. She finds out who are true friends and that not everything is as it first appears.

I really enjoyed this book because it was tied to real life. You could begin to imagine what it would be like to suddenly lose your hearing and have to adapt to a whole new reality. It made me think about all the things I take for granted and what it would be like if they were suddenly taken away.

MEGHAN JOYCE
Leith Academy

This book is a poignant account of Demi's attempts to come to terms with her deafness. It is highly accessible and the character of Demi is strong and believable, filled with quiet determination to better her situation. When I first read it, I wasn't sure what to expect but it proved to be a thought-provoking insight into how courageous people have to be to cope with the stigma and trials of disability. The author provides an accurate and moving portrayal of Demi's experiences as her day-to-day existence is turned on its head. This book was an eye-opener and I realised how much I take my own ability to hear for granted. This is a touching and beautifully written novel about the trials and triumphs of learning to live in the world with a disability.

ANNIE FORBES
Firrhill High



Why We Broke Up

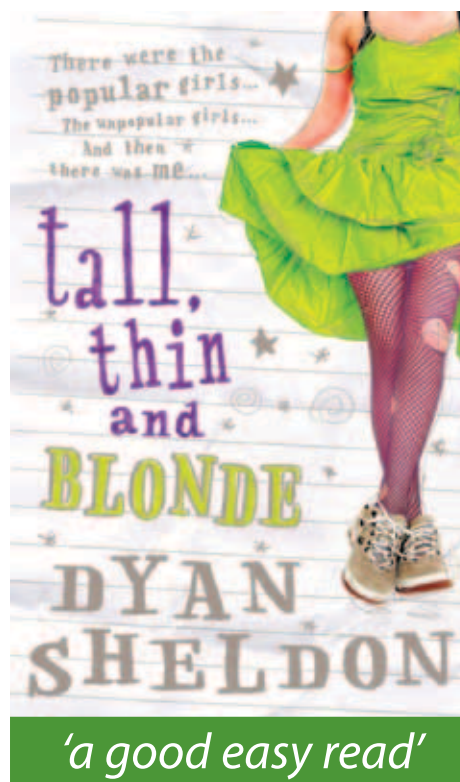
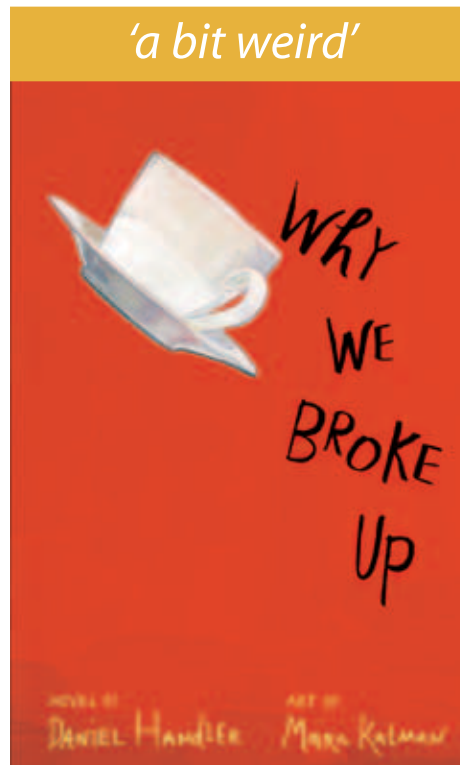
Daniel Handler
Electric Monkey £8.99 ISBN 9781405261357

Young love strikes hard and fast for teenagers Min Green, a young Jewish girl bewitched by old movies, and the captain of her high-school basketball team. This is the

story of two people who just didn't connect the way they should have, and what that meant for one of them.

This book would be best for teenagers who are interested in relationships between boys and girls. I found the box of stuff described a bit weird and found the pictures kind of nice but a bit random (they often didn't relate to the text).

TESIA HONEYWELL
Royal High



Tall, Thin and Blonde

Dyan Sheldon
Walker Books £6.99 ISBN 9781844286348

During her first year in high school, Jenny finds out what true friends are when her best friend deserts her for a clique of pretty and popular girls.

When Jenny and Amy enter high school, Amy discovers she feels out of place; she's lost her best friend due to the horrors of high school popularity, and she sort of likes hanging out with the class freaks and weirdoes. I liked the way that Jenny changes for the better. This was a good easy read.

MELLISSA MUKUNDWA
Royal High

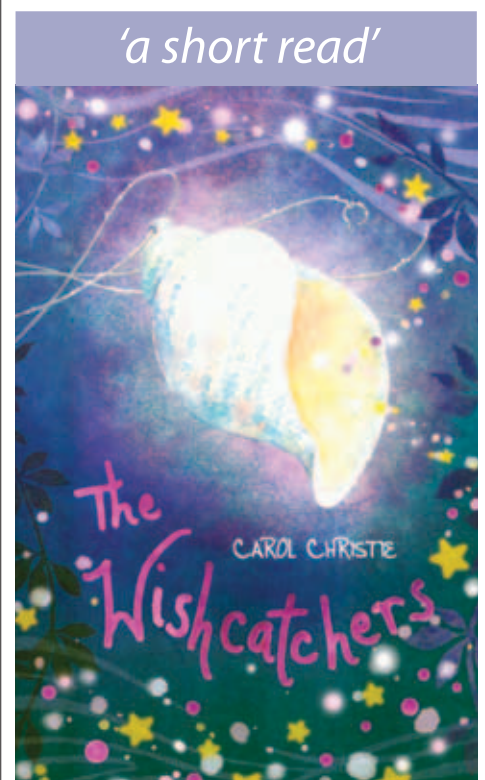
The Wishcatchers

Carol Christie
Kelpies £5.99 ISBN 9780863158018

Ant is sick of being bullied by Rosie, and when a new girl starts at school Ant wishes Rosie would bully her instead. But in Ant's village, wishes really do come true, and maybe Ant should have been more careful about what she wished for.

I really enjoyed this book! However, the plot-line wasn't exactly sophisticated and it would perhaps be better suited to a younger reader. Overall it was a good book if you want a short read.

ISAAC RILEY
Queensferry High



REVIEWS

When You Were Mine

Rebecca Serle

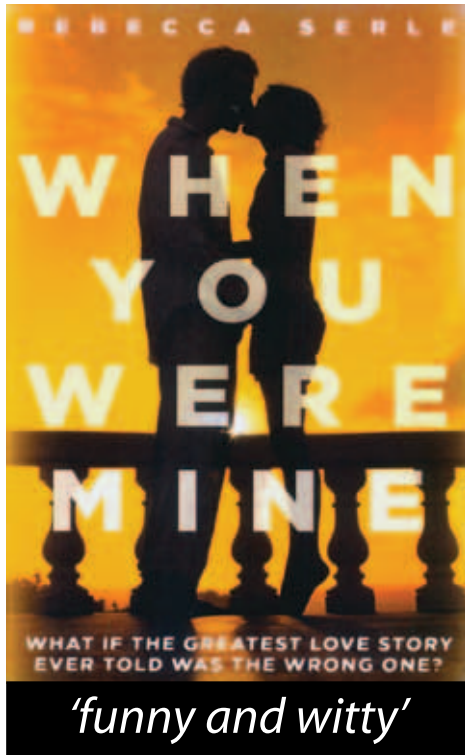
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857075161

This is a 21st-century reworking of *Romeo and Juliet* with a twist. Best friends Rob and Rosaline have recently started going out together. However, when Rosaline's long-lost cousin Juliet starts going to their high school, Rob is immediately smitten and dumps Rosaline for Juliet. Will Rosaline ever be able to get over seeing them together every day?

I liked this book a lot. It was very funny and witty, but also could be true. The characters in it were all very well described and could be people that I know. A wonderful book!

SOPHIE INNES

Trinity Academy



I'll Be There

Holly Goldberg Sloan

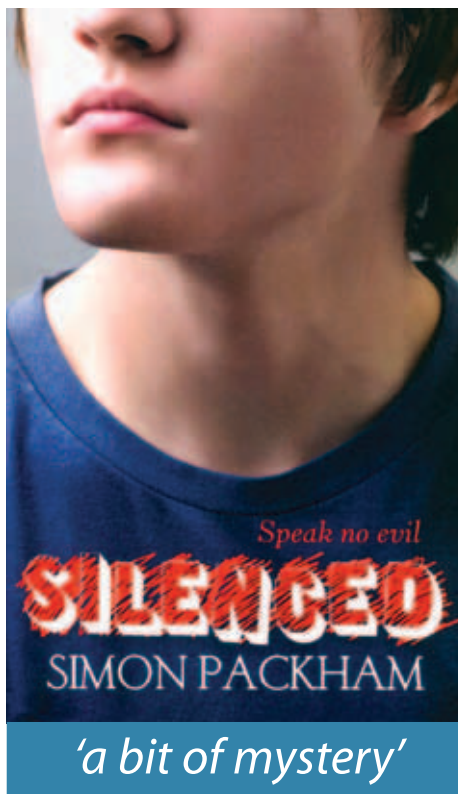
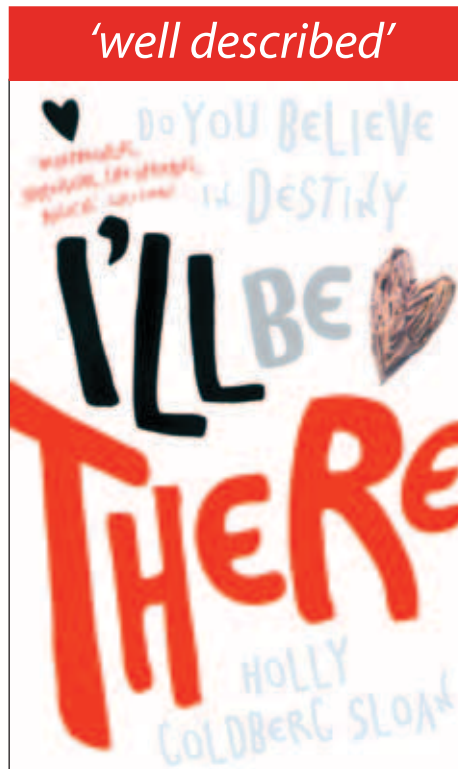
Piccadilly Press £6.99 ISBN 9781848122673

Sam is 17 and has never been to school, as his mentally ill father Clarence moves him and his allergy-suffering and autistic little brother Riddle every few weeks. Then Sam meets Emily and his life starts to change. Will their love be able to survive against such difficult odds?

I really liked the way it was written, and really felt sorry for Sam. It was so well described that I really felt it was true, and that I knew the characters personally. This was a really good book.

ANNA MAXWELL

Trinity Academy



Silenced

Simon Packham

Piccadilly Press £6.99 ISBN 9781848122109

Declan and his mate get a lift home from a party, except they don't make it home because they're involved in a car crash. Declan's mate is killed and Declan loses the ability to speak and is sent to a therapist.

I prefer fantasy, but for someone who's into personal stories it would be good. I thought the story was quite believable and true to life and I sympathised with the boy. I wouldn't say I didn't care, but not enough to be interested in what happened to him. There is a bit of a mystery about who was driving the car. I might read another book by this author but it would depend on what it was about.

STEPHANIE FERGIE

Drummond Community High

A Waste of Good Paper

Sean Taylor

Frances Lincoln £6.99 ISBN 9781847802682

A Waste of Good Paper is the story of Jason Dooley as he writes in his journal. He writes about his home-life struggles, his ex-heroin-addicted mum and her abusive ex, and also tackles the problems at his behaviourally difficult school.

At times I found this book utterly heartbreaking. The things that Jason has to go through are despicable. But I also found myself laughing out loud at the brutal honesty in the journal. Also, the book doesn't have many descriptive words which I felt added to the reality of the book as it was meant to be a teenager writing it. The reality factor was outstanding because the language he uses is similar to the language of the other teenagers. Another reason I loved the book was because there was no moral. This added to the reality because life isn't always a moral and in life there isn't always a happy ending. As the book goes on you find yourself feeling for Jason and egg him and his mum on for a better life.

HAMZA EL HAG

Drummond Community High





Whatever Love Is

Rosie Rushton
Piccadilly Press £7.99 ISBN 9781848121577

This is a modern-day version of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* that has been updated and set in Northampton. Frankie goes to live with her rich cousins and falls hopelessly in love with Ned. Will her feelings remain unrequited?

I found the book so good that I found it hard to put down once I had started reading it. I liked that it was funny but serious and that there was always something unpredictable happening,

but there was still a bit of mystery. I also enjoyed that the book was set in reality not imaginary fake stuff. I think all of the characters had strong personalities and I felt that I could connect really well with some. My favourite parts of the book were when the massive fair took place for all the children, and when Ned finally loved Frankie. I would totally recommend this book to anyone with a romantic, mysterious bone in their body and who loves a good book. Reading this book makes me want to read more books by Rosie Rushton!

HANNAH DICKSON
Boroughmuir High

I thought the idea of setting Jane Austen's classics in the modern day is a great idea, as it allows them to reach more people. So I was surprised when it turned out not to be a very good book. It was very over-the-top and its representation of young people shows that it is written by someone who is much older. I wouldn't recommend this book because it was very boring and I would suggest you read the original book by Jane Austen because it is much better.

FIONA STEWART ROPER
Boroughmuir High

Call Me Drog

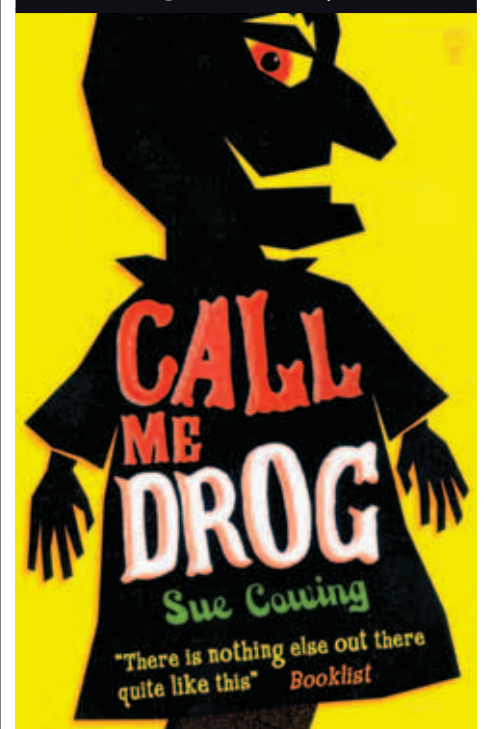
Sue Cowing
Usborne £5.99 ISBN 9781409543992

Parker and his pal Wren find a puppet in the junkyard, but when Parker puts it on his hand it starts talking to him, and he can't get it off no matter what he does. Is Drog there just to cause trouble, or can he help Parker stand up for himself?

This book caught my attention right away – it looked funny and unusual and got me into the story right from the start. I liked the idea of a puppet getting Parker into trouble, but I felt a bit sorry for him too when he couldn't get Drog off his hand and people thought he was just pretending.

THOMAS HARRIS
Craigmount High

'caught my attention right away'



Ishmael and the Return of the Dugongs

Michael Gerard Bauer
Templar Publishing £6.99 ISBN 9781848777125

This is the sequel to *Don't Call Me Ishmael*. Ishmael is back at school and one of his friends is trying to set him up with gorgeous Kelly. However, things don't always go to plan and Ishmael has to endure some very embarrassing episodes. His only hope is his dad's band the Dugongs.

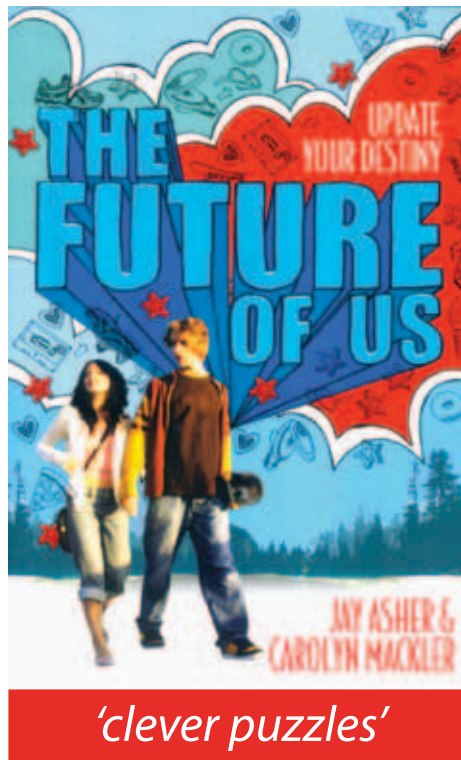
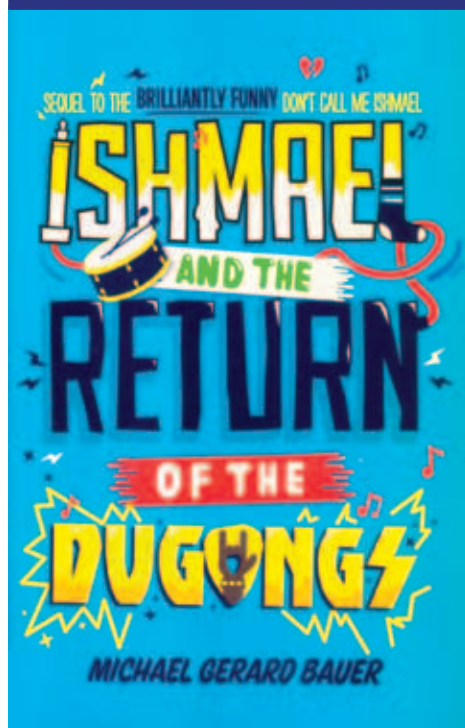
When I glanced at the title of this book I thought it was going to be about dungeons but I was actually pleasantly surprised and found the story interesting and quite touching – I felt it got to me and I was sorry for the characters. It was an unusual and funny story which was realistic when they had to choose whether or not to do the right thing – I felt myself rooting for them! I haven't read the first book about Ishmael and his friends but I'd definitely look out for it now.

SAM ROBINSON
Craigmount High

Unfortunately I really think this is a book for boys. The front cover looked good, but I found it quite confusing and I struggled to understand what was going on. I don't think it appealed to my sense of humour.

JENNIFER HORNE
Craigmount High

'an unusual and funny story'



The Future of Us

Jay Asher and Carolyn Mackler
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857076076

It is 1996, and Emma is logging on to the internet for the first time. So, imagine how confused she is when she stumbles across her own Facebook page from 2012. As she watches her status updates change wildly from day to day, it becomes more and more obvious that the small things she does now have massive implications for the future.

At the start I wasn't sure if I would like it, but when I started reading it I really got into it and I thought it was great. I really enjoyed it. It is the type of book I like to read – I couldn't stop reading it once I started. It was believable – this could happen! When Emma found the Facebook accounts from the future, that's when I really started to enjoy it. It made me think how it would have been quite weird if I found something like that, status updates from my future. It would be quite cool to know what is going to happen in my future. I will definitely re-read this again!

NEVE MAWDSLEY
Broughton High

This is definitely the remedy for any type of boredom. The book is not one with a stressful climax making your head pound, but neither is it one to make you fall asleep in the bath tub while reading it. It is like ice cream on a really hot day – very pleasant and with many flavours. The clever puzzles of time travel keep the pages of this book turning as the reader is hooked by the questions forming in his head, and the answer the reader is demanding. The thread of

friendship and love adds to the friendliness of the novel. It is like a rom-com movie you watch on a gloomy morning or a spirit-boosting song you listen to on a hot day. Even though the story holds fantasy-like elements such as time travel through Facebook, the story holds a stylish sense of realism in the way that the characters behave and how their teenage lives run. In fact this grabs the reader even more because it makes the situations easier to imagine and relate to. I think it's safe to say every teenager will be looking for a book like this at some point in their lives. The ending doesn't go in the direction I expected it to go, however it is well done as it concludes most of the story's elements but leaves the reader on a cliff-hanger at the same time. So if you still don't know what to do tomorrow, get this book now and enjoy switching between Emma and Josh's tangly perspectives of the story!

ALICJA JANKOWSKA
Broughton High

This is an amazing book! The concept of Facebook in the future made me think about all the sort of technology we have now, and that how people from Emma and Josh's era didn't have all that as they were growing up. It's amazing how technology can change in 15 years. I also really loved how Emma kept doing things that changed her future. I liked how Emma and Josh both thought that Facebook was mad, and that why would anyone want to share things about their lives online? Whereas nowadays, we find that completely normal and do it all the time.

LUCIE DUFFY
Broughton High

A Midsummer Tights Dream

Louise Rennison
HarperCollins £10.99 ISBN 9780007156849



This is the sequel to *Withering Tights*, with more crazy boy-fancying adventures of Tallulah Casey, cousin of Georgia Nicolson.

I thought this book was great! It was really interesting for our age group because the main

character Tallulah is just like a real teenager and she gets up to lots of exciting stuff. I chose this book because of the eye-catching cover and it definitely lived up to the hype. This is one book I would recommend to all teenage girls!

CHLOE CRUICKSHANK
Craigmount High

CASSANDRA CLARE'S INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES



The author of the *Mortal Instruments* and *Infernal Devices* series was interviewed by Juliya Afanasjeva, Roksana Barsan and Alexandra Vladescu from Craigroyston Community High School. Alexandra (pictured above) asked the questions.

Q Thank you for making time to speak to me from your busy schedule. I am a huge fan of yours, as are other pupils at Craigroyston Community High School. I have read almost all of your books; I am currently reading *City of Lost Souls* and so far I am enjoying it. Is it okay to start asking you some questions? First of all, did the fact that you travelled a lot in your childhood give you any ideas to include in your books?

A Yes. I wanted my characters (shadow hunters) to be from every country that I had lived in.

Q From all the countries you lived in as a child, which was your favourite and why?

A Actually England was. I loved England because of the history of the country and how beautiful the country is! I was about ten when I was there and I had a lot of free time to myself to read many classic books.

Q Did you want to be, or do, something else, apart from a writer, when you were young?

A Oh yes! I wanted to be a windsurfing instructor and a librarian so I could be surrounded by loads of books!

Q Who was your favourite author when you were a child?

A My favourite authors were J R R Tolkien and C S Lewis.

Q Can you speak any other languages apart from English?

A I know how to speak French and some

Italian and Spanish.

Q How much research and planning do you do before writing each book?

A Five months for *Mortal Instruments* and about six months for *Infernal Devices*, because certain books require a lot of planning and research, as there is a lot of history behind the books. It really depends on the book.

Q Where do you like to do your writing?

A I write in a tea shop near my house where I live in New York. It keeps me focused writing there, and I have my friends keeping me on track for my deadlines!

Q How do you keep track of the story as you are writing it: do you keep a card index, a notebook, computer files, or a big flowchart on a wall?

A Flowchart and note cards. There is a computer programme like a note pad that I use now.

Q Where did the inspiration for the character Jace Wayland come from in the *Mortal Instruments* series?

A I think his type of character is a sarcastic boy and I always wanted someone like him in my books.

Q Do you like anime? Did you watch any of the anime that you mentioned on page 50 of *City of Lost Souls*?

A Yes. I am currently watching *Vampire Night*.

Q I read a dialogue in your book *City of Glass*

FEATURE

that is in Romanian. I am Romanian – have you visited the country? If not, would you like to?

A I hope the translation was okay. I don't speak Romanian but I'd love to visit there some time: it is such a beautiful country and language. The reason I wrote about Romania was because my father was working there for quite some time.

Q I loved the concept of 'parabatai', eg Jace and Alex, and Will and Jem. Where did this word come from?

A Parabatai is a Greek word. It means that the two can't be parted. It relates to when chariots were used in war – the driver of a chariot and the fighter must work together as closely as possible.

Q The idea of parabatai has inspired me to start writing my own story. What advice would you give to young writers?

A Some advice I would give to a young writer is to write about a hundred words per day. This will help you to get into the story and will benefit you when you have days of writer's block; you can look back on what you have written so far.

Q How do you deal with negative comments about your books?

A I really try to ignore negative comments. I realise that not everybody will love all my books and that's okay. But I have not come across many negative comments.

Q Thank you again for according me the time and chance to speak to you. Your answers will inspire me and the pupils of Craigryston to continue our love of your books and for story writing. I hope one day you will read one of my books and we hope to see you in Scotland in the future.

A My pleasure. All the best for your writing and maybe on my next trip to the UK I will visit Scotland.

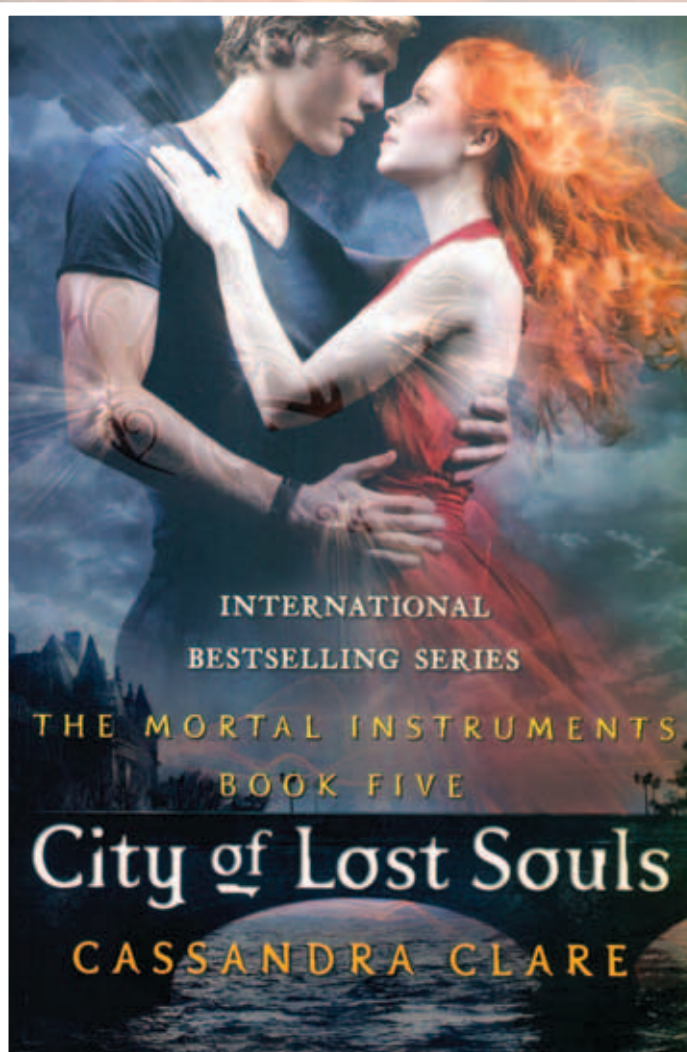
City of Lost Souls

Series: The Mortal Instruments
Cassandra Clare
Walker Books £10.99 ISBN 9781406332940

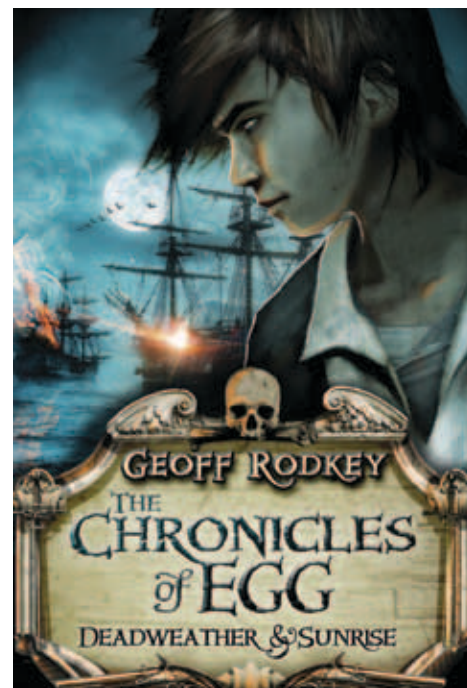
Two weeks have elapsed since *City of Fallen Angels* and Jace is missing. The Clave think that Clary is somehow responsible and prohibit her from searching for him. However, Clary is determined to find out what has happened to him and she discovers that she has to risk everything – even her soul!

Just like the other four books in the series this kept me addicted and I just couldn't stop reading. Cassandra Clare did a brilliant job, describing everything. I felt like I was Clary Fray. Sometimes it had cliff-hangers which kept me wanting to read and read and read. What more could you ask for? I just can't wait to see what happens in the next book. Too many secrets are still to be revealed, too many loves to be restored, too many pasts to be resolved, too many futures to be guessed. If you like a book which is packed with adventure and love then this is the book for you, not only this book but the entire series and the new series *The Infernal Devices*.

**ALEXANDRA
VLADESCU
Craigryston
Community High**



SCI-FI & FANTASY



Deadweather and Sunrise

Series: The Chronicles of Egg
Geoff Rodkey
Penguin £6.99 ISBN 9780141342504

Egg has a pretty miserable life for a 13-year-old. Living on a pirate-infested island with horrible weather and even more horrible siblings things could hardly be worse. Then he moves to Sunrise Island, a far happier place. But someone is trying to kill him: Egg's adventures have only just begun.

Looking at the name of this book I thought that this story would be a little weird and I was right. I enjoyed the creativity of the characters, the stuck-up snobby sister, the bully of a brother and the idiotic father but I felt like the writer didn't really tell you much about the main character. I struggled to imagine how places looked. It annoys me when a writer forgets to describe the looks of a character or their surroundings because I find a story much better when I can

visualise everything that's going on. Don't get me wrong. It's a good book with a smart storyline yet things could have been improved.

LOUISE PIATKOWSKI
Currie Community High

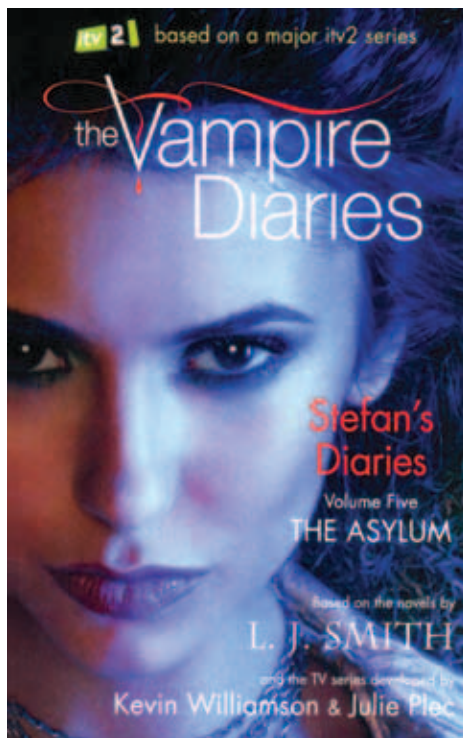
The Asylum

Series: The Vampire Diaries: Stefan's Diaries
L J Smith
Hodder £5.99 ISBN 9781444909999

Samuel, the true enemy of the Salvatore brothers, is framing Damon for the Jack the Ripper murders. The only way to prove one brother's innocence is for them at last to work together.

If you read horror books, this is the book for you! It has vampires and werewolves and witches in it plus it also has romance. I have all of this series at home and reading them makes the television series better.

REBECCA ANDERSON
Holy Rood High



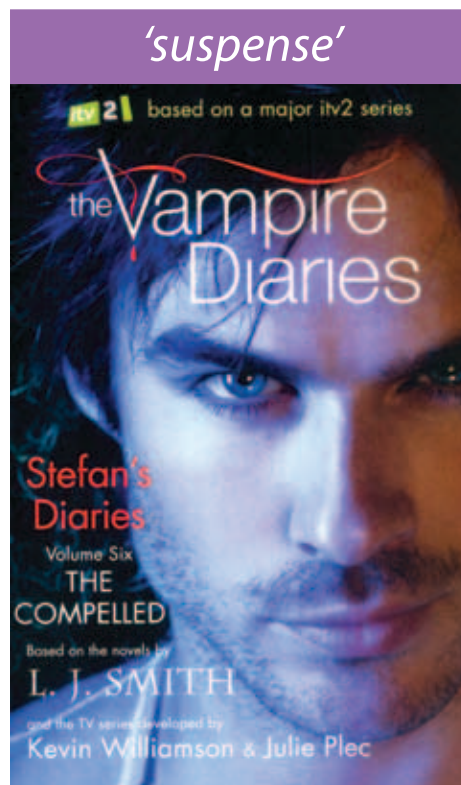
The Compelled

Series: The Vampire Diaries: Stefan's Diaries
L J Smith
Hodder £5.99 ISBN 9781444910001

This book brings the Vampire Diaries series to a dramatic end. With Damon at death's door it seems that Stefan's only chance to save him is to form an unholy alliance with a coven of witches. Samuel's devilish plan to conquer the dark world seems destined to succeed. Will the brothers finally defeat their nemesis?

I would recommend this series and this book particularly to people who like reading anything to do with vampires. The vampires in this book are more human than vampiric so you have a real understanding of them. I hadn't read the other books in the series but that doesn't matter. Best thing about this book was the suspense – it will really appeal to vampire lovers.

MAHNOOR SHAH
Holy Rood High



'it drew me right in'

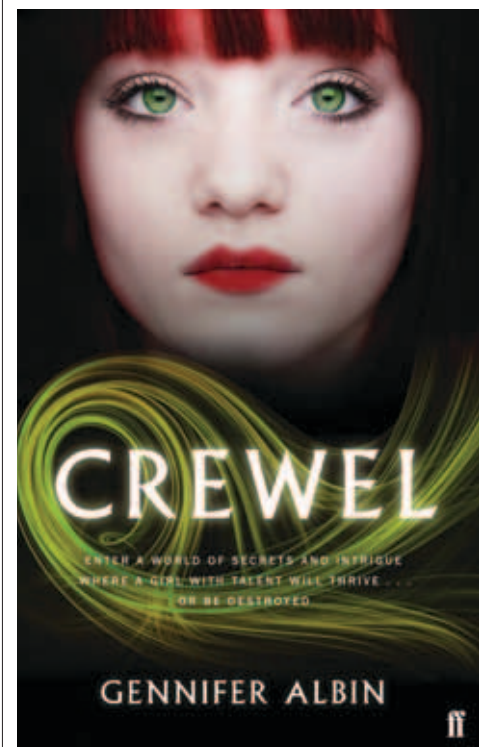
Torn

Series: Trylle
Amanda Hocking
Tor £7.99 ISBN 9781447205708

Wendy realises she has a duty to lead her people, the Trylle, and to hone her special power. She ends up having to make a choice which could ruin her chance of happiness.

This book is excellent, it drew me right in, it is very descriptive. The best part for me was when Wendy was working on her 'persuasive power'. I wish I had that power to get people to do what I wanted. The end was tense and I am desperate to read the next book.

VICKY COLARUSSO
Gracemount High



'sort of like The Hunger Games'

Crewel

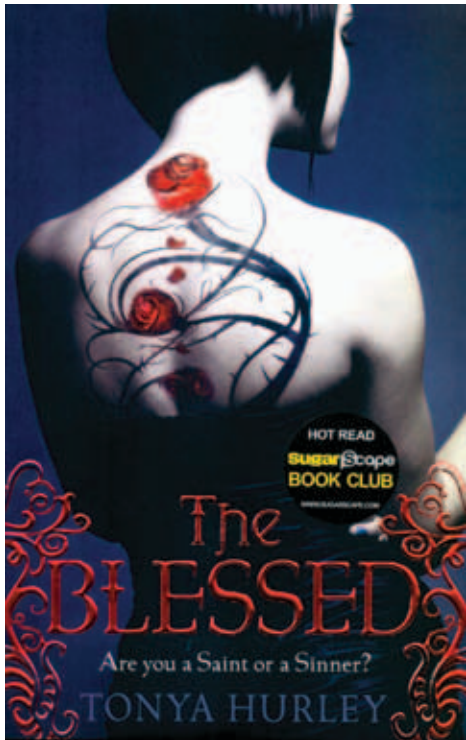
Gennifer Albin
Faber and Faber £7.99 ISBN 9780571282890

Adelice's skill as a weaver of other people's lives could lead to a privileged existence. But Adelice doesn't want to live by The Guild's rules, particularly not when she meets the rebellious and persuasive Jost.

The novel *Crewel* was sort of like *The Hunger Games*, set in the future and one girl and two boys. Apart from that I really enjoyed it.

AOIFE MEIR
Currie Community High

REVIEWS



The Blessed

Series: The Blessed
Tonya Hurley
Simon & Schuster £9.99 ISBN 9781444904758

Three truly messed up girls end up in the A & E department of a busy Brooklyn hospital. They all have different problems but they are all lost. Then the enigmatic Sebastian enters and each one of them sees him as their saviour. But what will they have to sacrifice to be saved?

I thought that this book was really dramatic at the start but it got a tad boring in the middle and then the ending was really good again. My favourite character was Sebastian; I don't know why, there was just something about him. This is a mature read.

IARA NOBREGA
Holy Rood High

I agree with the first reviewer but it was a kind of odd book, particularly Sebastian, who was a very strange character who could fit into everything that each one of the girls wanted. This is a different kind of book from the stuff I normally read and the middle bit WAS boring! I thought it was a bit young for me: I am 16.

KATIE THOMSON
Holy Rood High

This book was quite dark and the characters were well written. I found it a little hard to read at times because of the images it created in my head. I'd recommend this to older readers as younger readers may find this book disturbing. It is definitely a teenage read.

GORDON HORNE
Currie Community High

Endure

Series: Need
Carrie Jones
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408821190

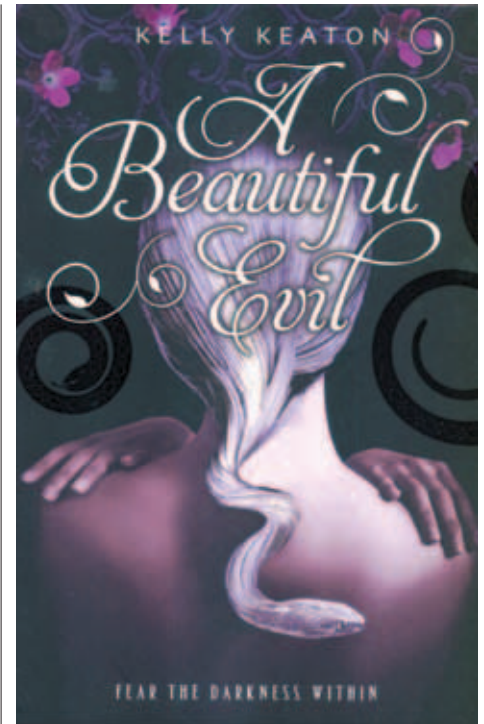
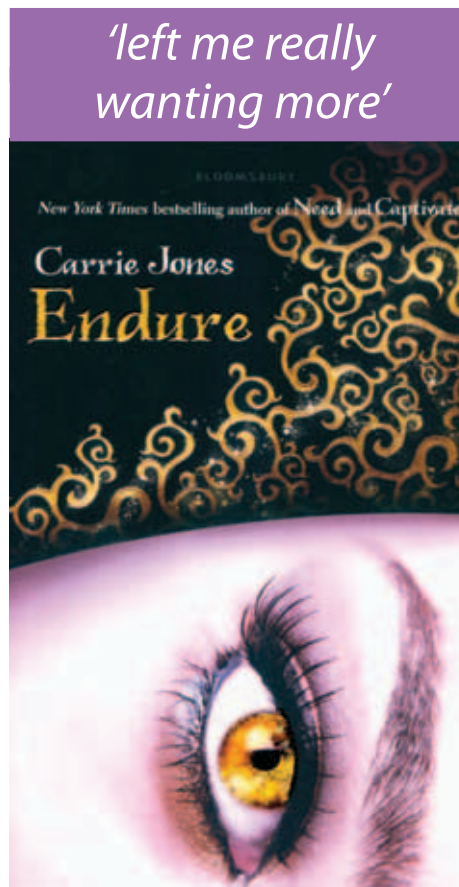
With Nick rescued from Valhalla, surely all of Zara's problems will be over. But she is not the same as when Nick was captured, and neither is he. The Pixie War continues and, this time, Zara's choices could kill.

Another fantastically written instalment of the *Need* series, this book finishes the storylines of all the characters. Like most good fantasy books it contains a love triangle and personally left me rooting for Astley. Although it seems like the last in the series it left me really wanting more.

KATHLEEN MCBRIERTY
Holy Rood High

I hadn't read the first three in the series for quite a while so at first it was quite awkward reading this final book. However, as soon as I had read the first couple of pages everything came crashing back. This is an extremely well written series in comparison to other teenage novels and I would honestly recommend it above most others. The best thing about the series is the ending which I think some people might not like but which I loved. I won't ruin it by giving it away!

KATHRYN RUSSELL
Holy Rood High



A Beautiful Evil

Series: Gods and Monsters
Kelly Keaton
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857074096

Nursing an ancient evil inside you in the shape of the Gorgon is always going to make life difficult, but Ari also has a father and a friend to rescue from her arch nemesis, the Greek Goddess Athena. Help is at hand, but is Sebastian, one of the few male witches still alive, more of a distraction than an aid?

This is a really intriguing book because it deals with something mythical and from the past that has been brought forwards into the present day. This makes the action more real and more alive. I really liked Sebastian's interaction with the energy of the atmosphere. Teenagers who like sorcery will love this book.

STEPHANIE LEE
Holy Rood High

This was quite a good book but I felt it was lacking in detail. Parts of it just weren't explained well enough. The characters were believable but what they did didn't seem to make sense. The storyline was great but the book as a whole could have been better.

ABBIE GREENAN
Holy Rood High

Chime

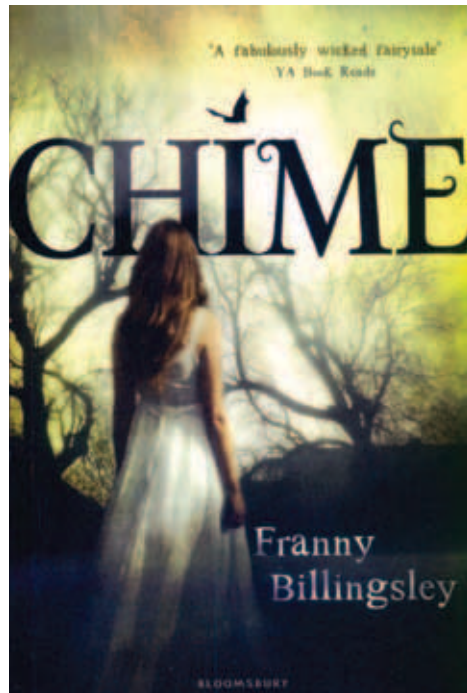
Franny Billingsley
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408803844

Briony is the parson's daughter but she knows that she is a witch. Since her stepmother died she has found her life even

more difficult, with a non-communicative father and a twin sister who needs almost constant care. Then Eldric arrives and the mysteries begin to unravel.

I think that this book was great! At the start I found it a bit boring but it got better as I read on. I was really surprised by the ending and I loved it. The cover doesn't look romantic but it did have romance in it. Overall I enjoyed reading it and would read it again.

FILZA NAWAZ
Currie Community High



The Bonehill Curse

Jon Mayhew
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408803974

An evil Djinn has been unleashed from his bottle after being in prison for three thousand years, and plans to wreak havoc. Only Necessity Bonehill can stop him.

I really enjoyed *The Bonehill Curse*! I just got really stuck into it, I didn't stop reading it till I realised what the time was. My favourite part of the book was when the genie emerged. I would also recommend it to any teenagers. It was a great read.

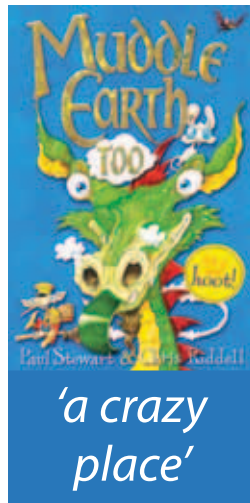
IAIN BLADEN
Tynecastle High



'I didn't stop reading'

Muddle Earth Too

Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell
Macmillan £6.99 ISBN 9780330516822



While Joe is trying to get to grips with a flatpack wardrobe he realises that Ella has disappeared inside. When he follows her he finds himself back in Muddle Earth, where his help is needed to recover the great Goblet of Porridge.

A great story and even though I hadn't read the first

book I still enjoyed it. Muddle Earth must be a crazy place to live in, pity we can't all pay it a visit.

LAURA HOUSTON
Leith Academy

'the storyline is very good'



Million Dollar Gift

Ian Somers
O'Brien Press £6.99 ISBN 9781847173072

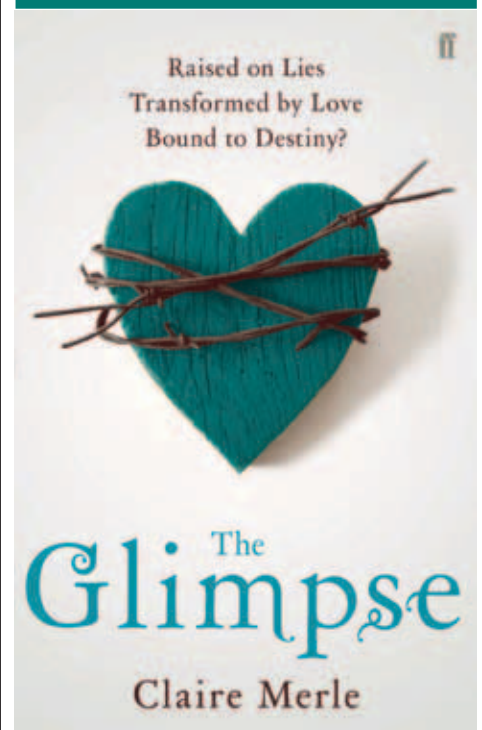
Ross Bentley has always known that he is different – he can move things with his mind. When he hears about a contest offering a million dollars to anyone who can prove they

have superhuman powers, it's too good a chance to miss. But Ross finds himself in a dangerous world with some deadly enemies.

This is a very good book. I would recommend it to older readers because it is a little hard to grasp. The main character, Ross, is a bit of a loner in the real world but in the virtual world he has thousands of friends. The storyline is very good and interesting, plus, there is a twist in it. I would never have picked this book up if I just saw it lying there, but now I would!

AMY SCOTT
Forrester High

'I liked how Ana had to be brave'



The Glimpse

Claire Merle
Faber and Faber £7.99 ISBN 9780571280537

Ana has been brought up as a 'Pure', and as such she lives a sheltered life which will continue on as planned after she has been 'joined' with Jasper. However her world is shattered when the authorities find out that her father falsified her results.

I like all the books at the moment which are set in the future and how the authors are coming up with different ways that society can control its citizens. I liked how Ana had to be brave not just to accept the easy life which she could have had, but to stand up for what she thought was right.

REBECCA WEIR
Leith Academy

REVIEWS

Shine

Jeri Smith-Ready

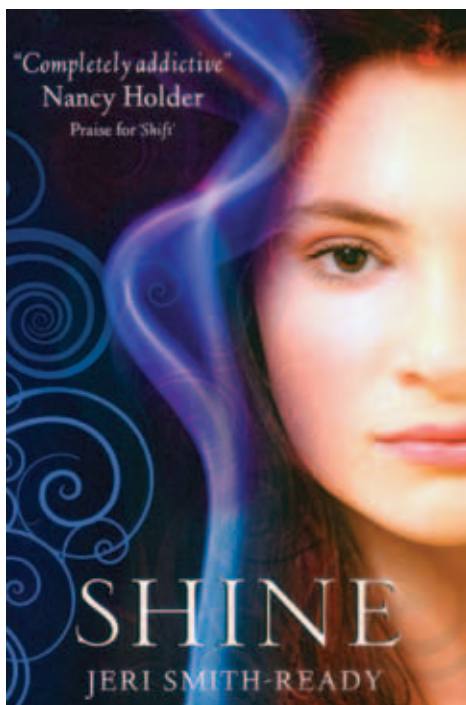
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857074119

Aura can see ghosts and has a boyfriend who is a ghost. But when she is determined to find out the truth about her past, she has to let her boyfriend go and set out to discover some mysterious secrets.

I really enjoyed *Shine*, I liked it how most of the people could speak to ghosts and I also liked how there was lots of action and danger in it, but there were some parts of the story that dragged on a bit. Before you read this book I suggest you read the books in the series before *Shine*, so you understand what's happening.

EILIDH TEDFORD

Forrester High



'lots of action and danger'

Caradoc of the North Wind

Series: Destiny's Path

Allan Frewin Jones

Hodder £5.99

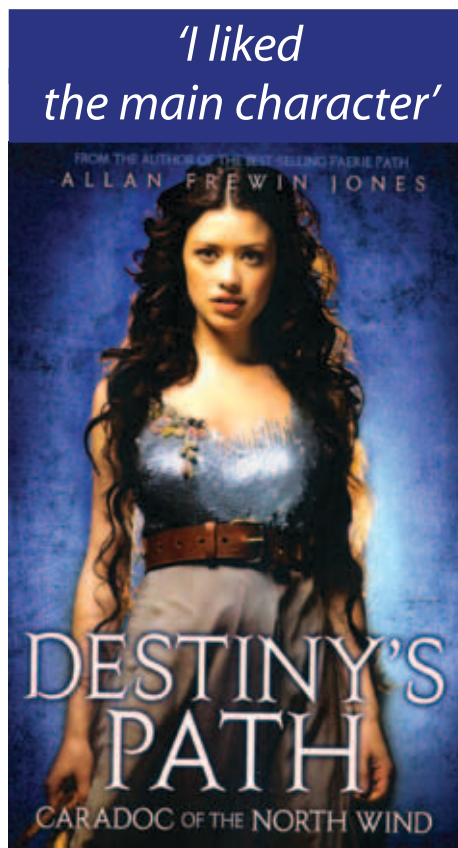
ISBN 9780340999417

Branwen has been given the task of safely escorting the princess Meredith, and her sister, to safety. With her band of loyal warriors she is confident in her abilities and in her destiny. However, her faith in the protection of the Shining Ones is challenged, especially when she is captured by a man who is intent on revenge.

I really liked the book *Caradoc of the North Wind*. I liked it because it was really interesting and not at all boring. I liked the main character and the fact it was set in an earlier time. It was different from anything else I have ever read. I would recommend it to my friends.

JASMIN BEE

Liberton High



Burn Mark

Laura Powell

Bloomsbury £6.99

ISBN 9781408815229

Lucas Stearne is at the end of a long line of witch inquisitors, stretching back to the time of Oliver Cromwell. He should have nothing in common with Gloriana Wilde who comes from a family of witches.



This was a book about a future world but with a difference. It linked the future with things that happened in the past and I found that really interesting. I also liked how the lives of Lucas and Glory became linked together as the story unfolded.

LAURA HOUSTON

Leith Academy

Apocalypse Moon

Series: The Joshua Files

M G Harris

Scholastic £7.99

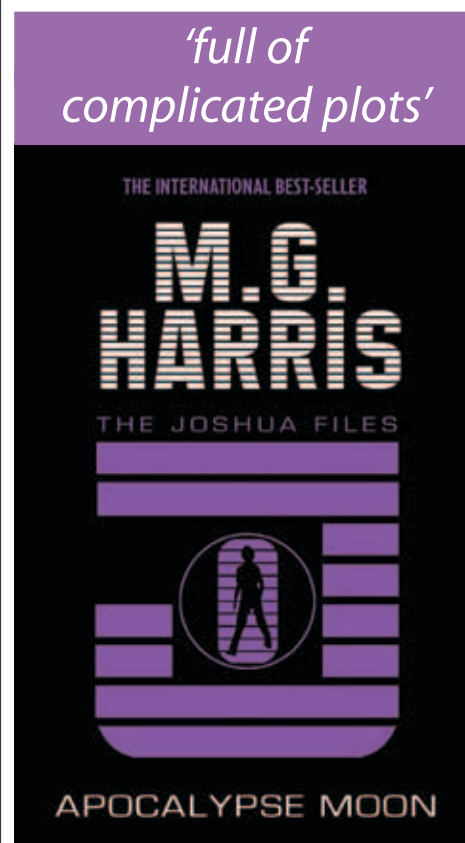
ISBN 9781407111049

Join Josh on an action-packed adventure in the fifth and final instalment of the Joshua Files series.

This is a very good book, I really enjoyed it. The author must have put a huge amount of work into this story as it is full of complicated plots and inventions. I would definitely recommend it to a friend and would give it 8/10.

MAX GARGARO

James Gillespie's High



Cracks

Caroline Green

Piccadilly Press £6.99

ISBN 9781848121683

Cal has woken from a coma to discover that his life is not as ordinary as he thought and the last 12 years of his life have been a lie. Cal sets out to find out the truth and solve the mysteries of his life.

This book definitely needs a sequel, is all I can say! It was left on a major cliff-hanger. I really liked this book. The reader finds stuff out at same time as Cal, the main character, does, which I thought was a cool way to write it. At the start it's kind of confusing, because Cal's just woken up, but it gets

easier to understand as the story goes on. It's a book that keeps you on your toes and I was rooting for Cal all the way. By the time you get to the end it's a bit sad, but it's good – except for that cliff-hanger!

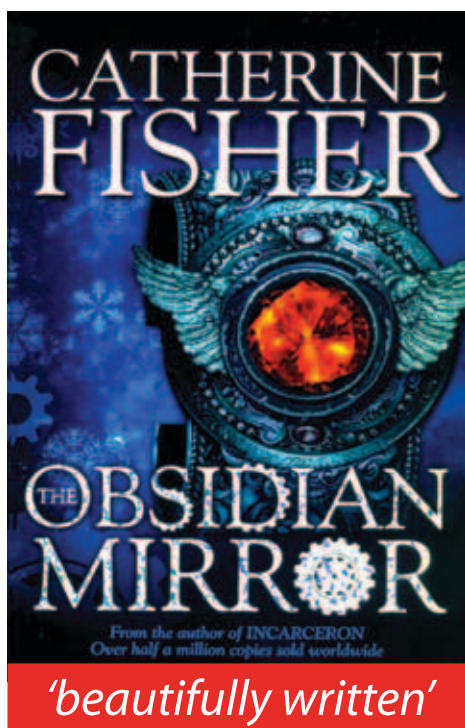
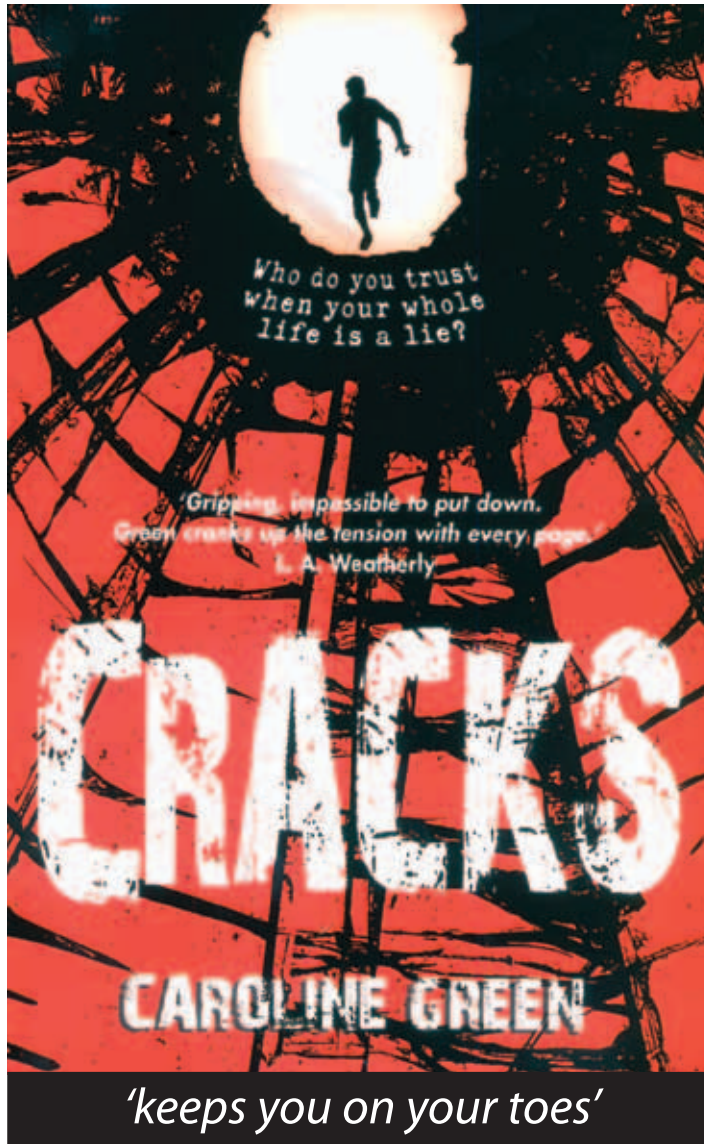
JULIET BOURKE
Queensferry High

I really enjoyed this book, even though it was a bit confusing at first. The character of Cal was really realistic and easy to identify with; in fact all the characters are. This made the book gripping and I would definitely recommend it.

ABI O'BRIEN
Queensferry High

I really didn't enjoy this book. The plot was confusing, the characters were dull and clichéd, the writing slightly hard to understand, and I just didn't get it. Some parts of it were OK, but they were in the minority. So on the whole this book wasn't my cup of tea.

SAM PEARSON
Queensferry High



The Obsidian Mirror

Catherine Fisher
Hodder £6.99 ISBN 9780340970089

Jake's father has disappeared while working on mysterious experiments with a mirror which can transport people into the past or the future. Jake is determined, despite the dangers, to use the mirror to find out what really happened to his father.

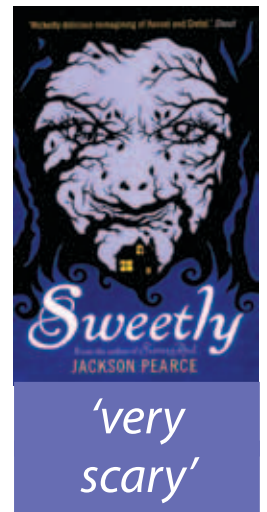
This book is beautifully written and keeps you wanting more. It's fantasy with a thrill of adventure, and is one of those books that you just can't put down. I would say that at the start it is quite confusing because it switches between two people, but about four chapters in it made a lot more sense. I love how the characters all tie in with one another, and really come alive. The end of the book is such a cliff-hanger and leaves you wanting more – the author should definitely write a sequel!

CHARLOTTE DOGA
Queensferry High

Sweetly

Jackson Pearce
Hodder £6.99 ISBN 9781444900613

Twelve years after Gretchen's twin sister was snatched by a witch-like creature in the woods, Gretchen and her brother Ansel have found love and sanctuary in a far away town. Then fate forces them to return to the woods and to face their childhood horrors.



Sweetly has a complicated plot and is hard to follow,

but I enjoy being pushed when I am reading a book and liked that about it. It is also told in the first person and from Gretchen's point of view, and that really helped to build up the tension further during it. This is a very scary book, which keeps you on the edge of your seat. I thought that it was a brilliant novel.

LOTTE LATIMER
Trinity Academy

Tilly's Moonlight Fox

Julia Green
OUP £5.99 ISBN 9780192757913



Tilly has just moved to a new house. One night she is led by a wild fox through a hidden gate in the garden. She finds there another secret, hidden, moonlit garden, and a girl called Helen playing there. Is Helen a real person or is she a ghost?

At one level I enjoyed this book. I thought it had a good plot and it

was nice to read a book with a happy ending. The characters, however, were not particularly well drawn and very anonymous. I also thought that this was a book that would be better suited for people younger than me.

AILSA MAPLEDSEN
Trinity Academy

REVIEWS

'I finished it really quickly'



Vampire Dawn series

Anne Rooney
Ransom Publishing £5.99 each

Die Now or Live Forever ISBN 5781841671404

Dead on Arrival ISBN 5781841673011

Drop Dead, Gorgeous ISBN 5781841671611

Life Sucks ISBN 5781841671604

Bloodsucking for Beginners ISBN 5781841673035

In Cold Blood ISBN 5781841672984

Every Drop of Your Blood ISBN 5781841672991

After stumbling across a dead body with a tent peg staked through it in a Hungarian forest, five teenagers are struck by a mysterious virus and find that they have become vampires. The books in the *Vampire Dawn* series follow these new young vampires as they struggle to cope with immortality and their desire for human blood.

This was fun because it had facts for a change instead of a story, and I finished it really quickly.

DANIELLE ROSIE
Wester Hailes Education Centre

I wasn't too keen on *Die Now or Live Forever*. It was too short and a bit young for me. I think it'd be fine for other people and I'd recommend it, particularly for young teenagers.

REBEKKA MACMILLAN
Wester Hailes Education Centre

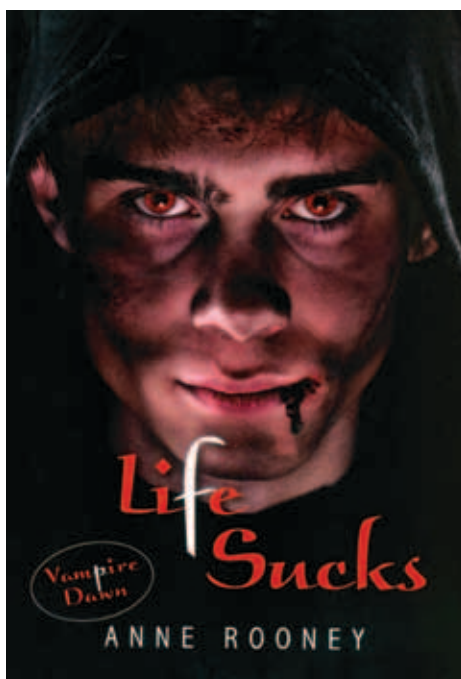


Dead on Arrival was fairly scary but a bit too young for me. I wouldn't read any of the others in the series as it was too short.

MICHAEL SINGH
Wester Hailes Education Centre

Although *Life Sucks* is not that scary, I wanted to keep on reading. Finn's story has lots of blood and gore and even has Elvis Presley in it! It is funny in parts but there is plenty of horror and it can be read as a stand-alone book.

AARON ROSIE
Wester Hailes Education Centre

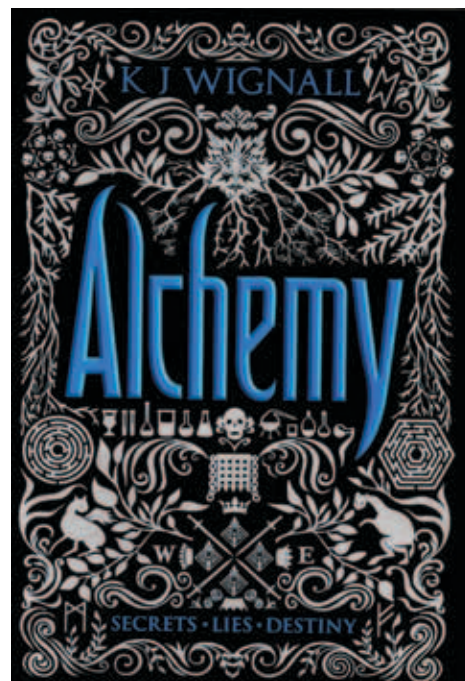
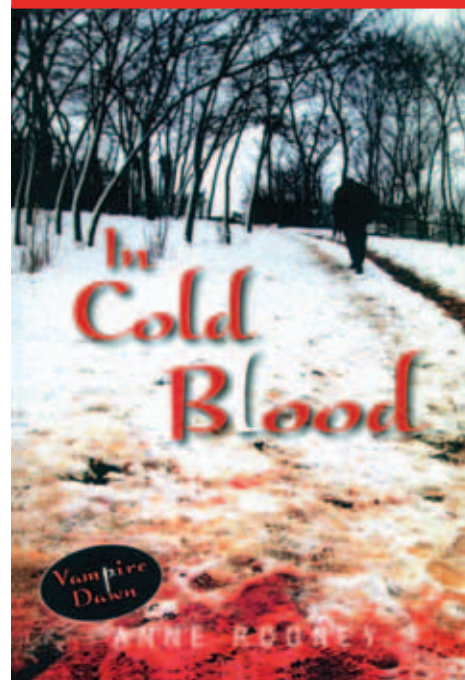


'lots of blood and gore'

I found *In Cold Blood* confusing and weird. You probably need to read the first one ... and it wasn't very scary.

JOHN MONAGHAN
Wester Hailes Education Centre

'confusing and weird'



Alchemy

Series: The Mercian Trilogy
K J Wignall
Electric Monkey £6.99 ISBN 97814052558616

Set in ancient Britain, this book tells the story of William, a young vampire whose destiny is intertwined with his friend Eloise.

This is definitely a book to read as part of a series and I would have enjoyed it more if I'd read book one. However, having said that, if you like mysteries this is a series for you. It took a bit of getting into but it was a good adventure with lots of mystery. The main characters were quite believable because despite being a fantasy they had fears, were sad etc, like real people. I would like to find more about how they got on and would read another book about them. I like *Harry Potter* but this wasn't as good. Yes, I would recommend it to a friend who likes mystery.

PATRYK WITKOWSKI
Drummond Community High



Goliath

Series: Leviathan
Scott Westerfeld
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9781847386809

Alek and Deryn are back on board the Leviathan. Can they work together to restore peace using a secret machine, or will others sabotage their plans?

This book had some classic young adult fantasy elements – girl disguised as a boy, fallen prince, etc. However, it didn't feel like money for old rope, with an interesting steampunk twist on an alternative-reality World War One. It had some rooting in real history, using real figures such as Churchill and Pancho Villa. It is wonderfully illustrated, by someone who clearly really likes drawing old machines but stumbles on animals; all the living creatures look a bit nightmarish.

TEEN TITLES BOOK REVIEW MAGAZINE

But maybe that is the idea when genetically altered animals are at war with fantastical machines. However, the battle scenes get tedious and the use of 'barking' as a swear word is downright irritating.

SINE HARRIS
Boroughmuir High

Monster Matsuri

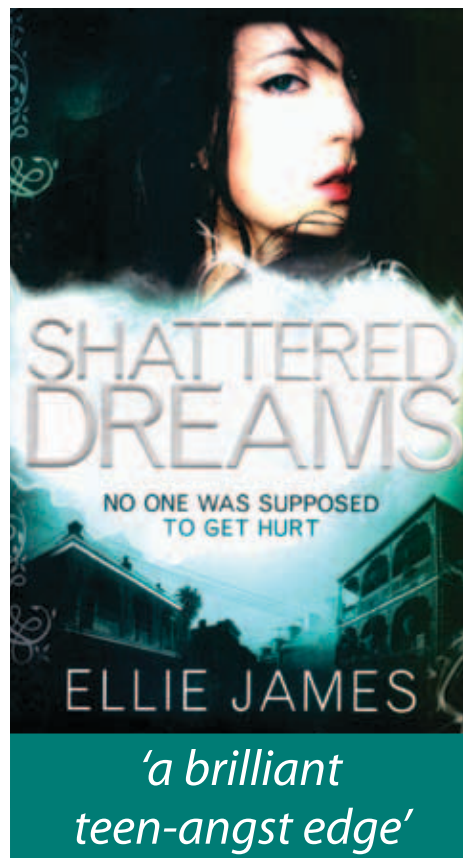
Series: Takeshita Demons
Cristy Burne
Frances Lincoln £5.99 ISBN 9781847801371

A murderous quilt spirit, evil demons, ghoulish women and kidnappings all add up to a complex and dangerous mission for Alex, Cait and Miku.

The good thing about this book was the constant suspense and all of the surprises.

But I wouldn't recommend this book as the characters were a bit boring and sometimes it did go on a bit too long, and when the characters just chatted, it was easy for your mind to drift.

HANNAH MORRISON
Boroughmuir High



Shattered Dreams

Ellie James
Quercus £6.99 ISBN 9780857388223

Trinity Monsour has a strange gift – she has dark dreams which end up really happening to people. When she dreams about a school and then a girl disappears, Trinity knows she is in danger, but can she save Jessica before it is too late?

I really liked this book because it was gripping, and had lots of plot twists with a brilliant teen-angst edge. I also liked that the author uses sweeping metaphors and varies emotion very well, but I didn't like that she used the same phrases over and over and for me was a bit too descriptive sometimes. I found the characters in the book interesting and that Trinity especially was very relatable-to, except the fact that she has a crush on someone, Chase. Chase is the stereotypical jock, which was a good contrast to Trinity's personality. I would recommend this book because it is set for our age group, and is very different from other novels.

SARAH TREADGOLD
Boroughmuir High

Seeking Crystal

Joss Stirling
OUP £8.99 ISBN 9780192793515

Crystal Brooks is the youngest in a family of Savants with paranormal gifts. Finding lost



'full of adventures'

objects seems to be Crystal's only gift, and she is overshadowed by her sister Diamond who is a real star. Diamond is going to marry Trace Benedict in Venice whereas Crystal clashes with his brother Xav. However, they must unite to fight an enemy determined to kill the brothers.

This book was really good and full of adventures. I would say it was a book which girls would enjoy more than boys because characters were falling in love. Obviously it wasn't too realistic because it is a fantasy story, but there were elements in there that were true to real life too. I usually read spy stories but this was quite different and I'd definitely like to read more books by this author.

OLIVIA SUTHERLAND
Craigmount High

REVIEWS



'a poignant and moving book'

Taken by Storm

Series: Raised by Wolves
Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Quercus £6.99 ISBN 9781780872407

Although she was brought up by wolves, Bryn, who is the leader of the Cedar Ridge Pack, is human. When she finds out about a rabid wolf, she realises that it is her friend Maddy and sets out to find her. Other wolves, however, led by the treacherous Shay, want her pack and are determined to kill Bryn.

The plot of *Taken by Storm* goes in many unexpected directions. It is also such a poignant and moving book that I was nearly crying by the end. It is the third book in the *Raised by Wolves* series. I would have liked to have read the other books in the series first, but could understand what was going on without having done this first. I thought that this was a brilliant book.

JULIA DOBIE
Trinity Academy

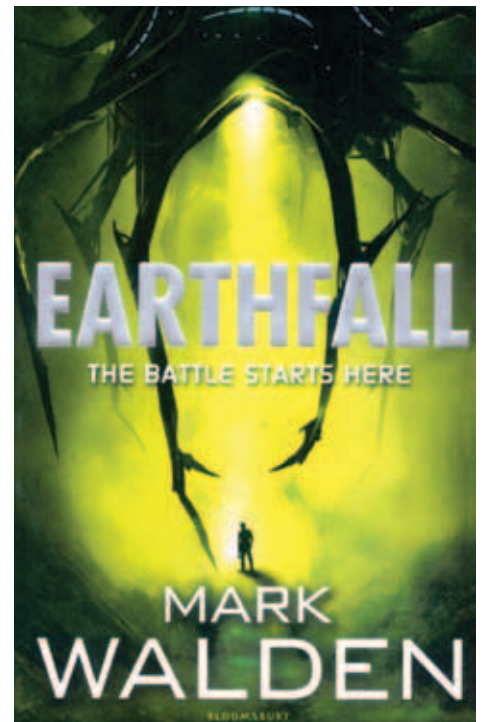
Carnival of Souls

Melissa Marr
HarperCollins £9.99
ISBN 9780007476305

Sarah takes her newborn daughter to the ancient witch Adam for protection, and 17 years later she is living, with him as her father, in the human world. However, Adam stole something from the ruler of the city, and they must keep running. Will they manage to escape?

This was action packed with some excellent twists! It was full of detail and was quite intense at times. It wasn't really scary, but the plot was very full-on with lots going on, so I definitely wasn't disappointed. This is a book for both boys and girls and I'm off to find more books written by this author.

MATHEW VAN KEMPEN
Craigmount High



'This book made my blood rush'

Earthfall

Mark Walden
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN 9781408815663

London has been invaded by aliens, its population zombified and made to disappear. Sam survives, dodging Drones and Walkers, until rescued by a band of guerrilla fighters and their enigmatic leader.

This book made my blood rush! It had lots of suspense and was written in a gripping way which kept my interest. I liked the character of Sam and some of the scary situations he got into. The whole story was exciting and full of action – read it!

AIDAN DOUGAL
St Thomas of Aquin's High

This was witty but slightly tragic at the same time. It was fast paced and despite the complications in the story, it was easy to follow. I couldn't put the book down and I got a few surprises I didn't expect in the storyline. I didn't like the fact that in the book the main character had similarities to a previous character in the other series called HIVE, as both had a device in their brain: it was a bit repetitive. However, the characters were witty and my favourite was Jay because he has a strange sense of humour just like me. I would recommend this book to teenage boys and girls as it is fast paced with a lot of action, but is also science fiction.

CARA MACDONALD
Boroughmuir High

The Masque of the Red Death

Bethany Griffin
Orion £8.99

ISBN 9781780621197

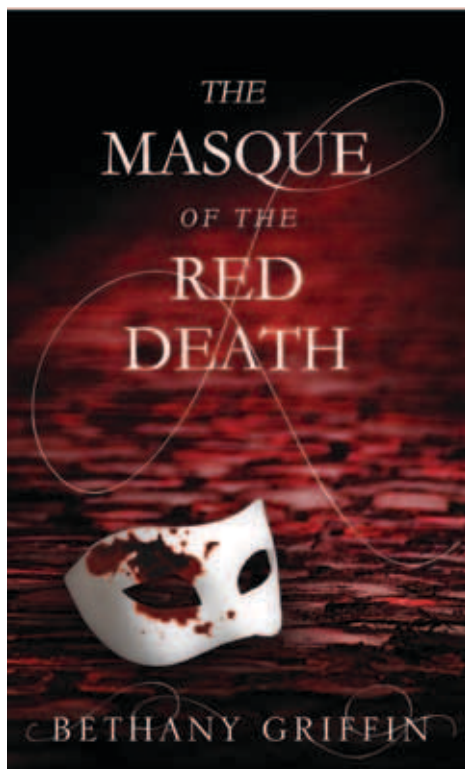
15+

A terrible plague is killing the city's people and everyone is afraid of catching it. Araby and her friend April spend their time at the Debauchery Club, with

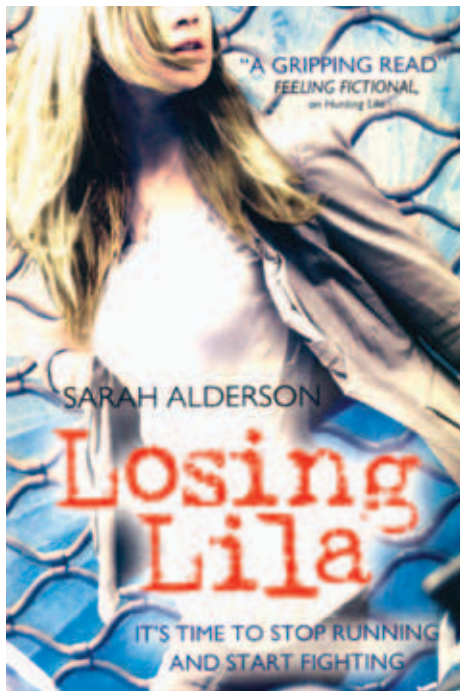
their dresses cut short to show that they don't have the plague's weeping sores. Araby meets Will, the handsome owner of the club, and Elliot, an aristocrat. But what secrets do they have, and what kind of danger is Araby in?

This book was great and the cover and blurb had me hooked immediately! I loved the way it was set in the future, but at first seemed to be set in the olden days because of the carriages and dresses and masks. Then I realised that the horses had all died in the plague and they had invented motorised 'horses' and even robotic 'friends' that looked like normal girls. I think this is a stand-alone book and won't be part of a series, but I would like to read more by this author to see what else she can do.

ROBYN BAKER
Craigmount High



'I would like to read more'



'a romance/thriller'

Losing Lila

Sarah Alderson
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857071972

This is the sequel to *Hunting Lila*. Lila and her boyfriend Alex are on the run from armed men from the Unit – they have been tracked to a hotel by a device embedded in Alex's arm. Will Lila manage to escape and destroy the Unit to save her mum and brother Jack, or will she lose everything, including her own life?

This book really kept me on the edge of my seat and the author made me feel I was actually in the story. I chose this particular book to review because the blurb sounded intriguing and on the cover there was a snappy line which caught my eye. The story certainly didn't disappoint and turned out to be even better than I thought it would be. It is a romance/thriller and I'll definitely be recommending it to my friends, especially those who like *Twilight* or *The Hunger Games*.

LAURA BROWN
Craigmount High

Fated

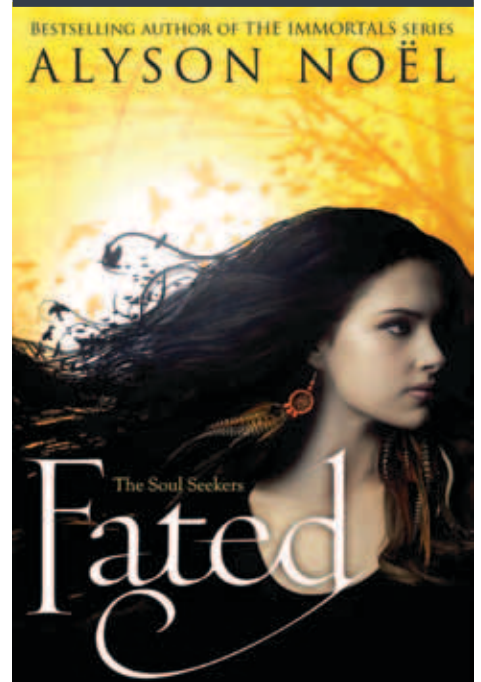
Series: The Soul Seekers
Alyson Noël
Macmillan £6.99 ISBN 9781447206804

Teenager Daire leads an unconventional life, travelling the world with her mother and experiencing strange visions and dreams. When she settles in New Mexico, she has to accept her status as a 'Seeker' and discover the truth about her boyfriend, Dace.

This is definitely a book for fantasy fans, but maybe a bit too far-fetched in places? I got the gist of the story but found it quite hard to understand – it might be easier for an older reader to follow.

MOLLY KEENAN
St Thomas of Aquin's High

'quite hard to understand'



The Wolf Princess

Cathryn Constable
Chicken House £6.99 ISBN 9781908435347



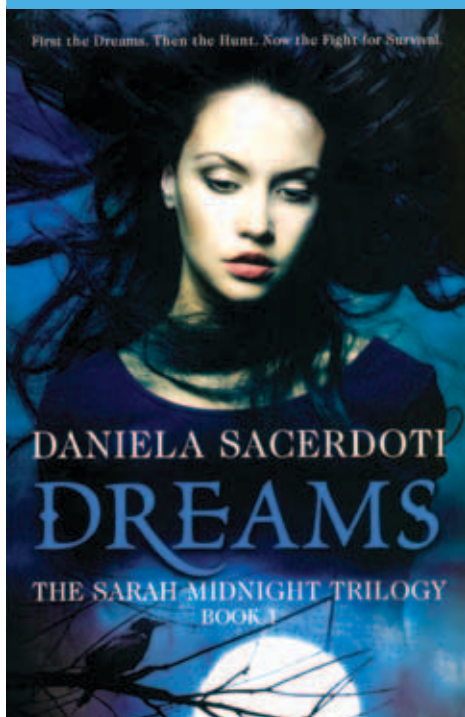
Sophie is sent to St Petersburg to recruit new girls for her London boarding school. While there, she meets a Russian princess, Anna, and slowly unravels secrets of her own past.

This wasn't the best book I've ever read, but I liked learning

about Sophie's relationship with Rosemary and her getting on the wrong train. It was a bit far-fetched for me, because I don't often read fantasy, but the blurb sounded good and I liked the main character's name! It was well written but the chapter endings could have had more suspense.

SOPHIE DRURY
St Thomas of Aquin's High

'quite a dark story'



Dreams

Series:
The Sarah Midnight
Trilogy
Daniela Sacerdoti
Black and White
Publishing £7.99
ISBN 9781845023706

Teenager Sarah Midnight is a demon hunter who has inherited a power called 'blackwater', which she uses to overcome her enemies. Sarah's parents have been killed and she finds herself alone in a very dangerous world.

Unfortunately I didn't like this book very much. It had a very slow start and it could have got to the main story a lot faster if it hadn't repeated things twice. It was also quite a dark story and I like happy stories so I'm sorry, it just wasn't a book for me.

EMILY GRAHAM
Craigmount High

A Face like Glass

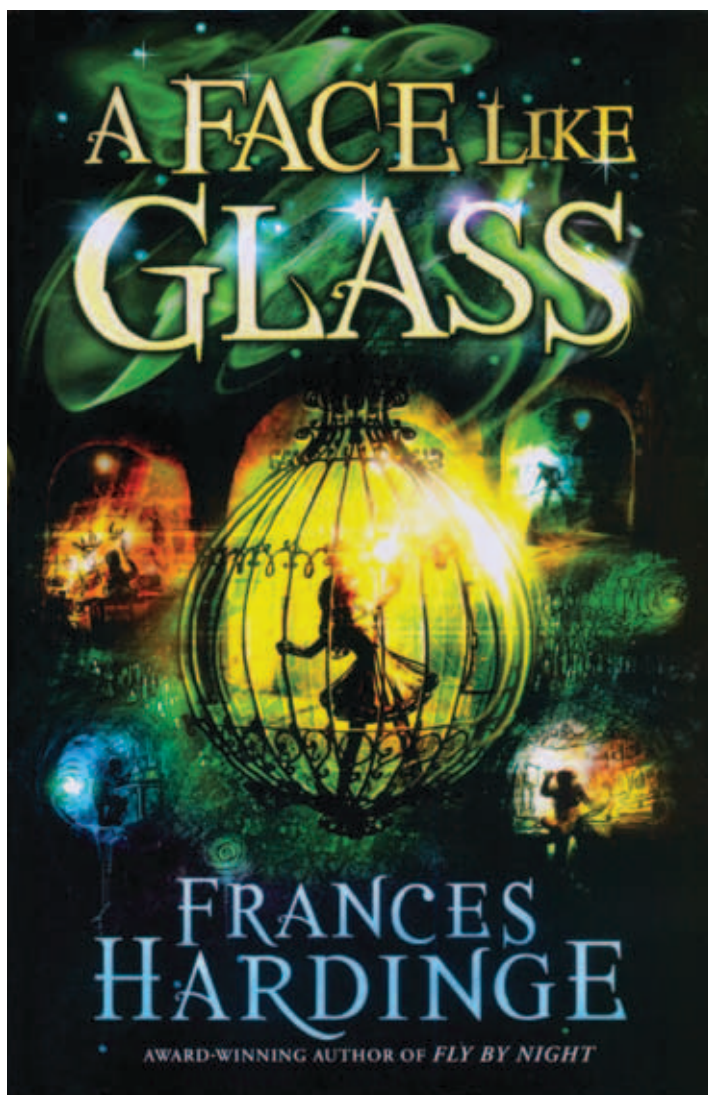
Frances Hardinge
Macmillan £12.99 ISBN 9780230748798

In the underground world of Caverna lives Neverfell, a girl with a dangerous secret behind her masked face. The people of Caverna all have blank faces and have to learn expressions and how to show emotion. Neverfell has a face that shows all her thoughts and feelings, and because of that her life is in danger.

I read a lot of fantasy and this stood out amongst its kind as a very good book. I thought the world of Caverna was intriguing and there were great descriptions of how emotions transfer to your face. Neverfell was not a typical character – she was bubbly, fun and quite naïve, not the 'Little Miss Righteous' you get in some books. I'd recommend this to anyone who likes fantasy; it's a really good book!

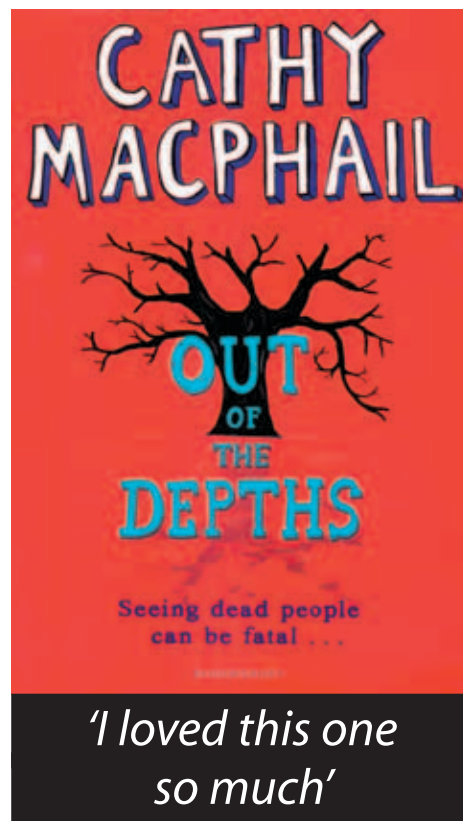
CASSIE DUNCAN
St Thomas of Aquin's High

I thought this story was about not trusting who you think you should trust. I wish sometimes



that I could be like some of the people in this story and wear a mask. It's really hard to lie when your face gives you away all the time; my mum says I'm 'like an open book' which is really annoying as she knows when I'm not telling the truth! This book was really good – exciting, thrilling and unputdownable!

ASHLEY SAMEER
Forrester High



Out of the Depths

Cathy MacPhail
Bloomsbury £5.99 ISBN 9780747599098

Tyler Lawless has to move school because she says she sees dead people. Desperate to make a fresh start, she tries to ignore a 'dead boy' in her classroom ... but she knows she has to work out what he wants.

I hadn't read any of Cathy MacPhail's books before but I loved this one so much I went to a bookshop to try and buy the sequel *Secret of the Shadows*. Unfortunately, they didn't have it, but now I'm hooked! I wouldn't normally choose to read a ghost story because I don't like ghosts and I don't enjoy feeling scared, but this book was really good – full of cliff-hangers which were great. The most brilliant thing was the problem solving – everything linked together and just flowed, like a marble run. I could also relate very well to the characters because the book was set in Scotland and I could really see myself as Tyler. Excellent stuff!

CHRISTINA GORDON
Craigmount High

Setting sail for the yellow underworld

Georgina Merry is a novelist who lives near Edinburgh. A former *Teen Titles* reviewer, she has just published her first novel *The Ferryman's Wife*, which is the first in a trilogy called *The Devil's Light*. On a recent visit to her old school Trinity Academy, she was interviewed by Tom Chaney, James Donaldson, Olivia Fraser, Kirsty Mackenzie and Morgan Ritch.

Q Why did you decide to be a writer?

A I didn't really. Writing is something that I have always done. It is something which I need to do in order to make me feel happy.

Q What made you write *The Ferryman's Wife*?

A The truth is that it was other people. I was advised by a girl who does book marketing that by writing a blog, and putting my work online on a regular basis, that it would build an audience and get me a fan base, and hopefully eventually attract the interest of a publisher, which is exactly what it did. I was really apprehensive about putting myself out there, but decided to put online a chapter a week. What happened was people would read it and they would say, 'Well, what is going to happen next?' If I hadn't had that, I might not have continued. That is what made me write it – encouragement

from other people. If you don't have a good support network, or if you don't get good feedback, then that can be really discouraging.

Q Do you enjoy writing, or are there times when you don't really enjoy it?

A I love writing, but there are times when I have to sit myself down in front of the computer and force myself to do it. I love it once I start. It is the kind of thing that I have to really do for long periods of time if I am to get the most out of it. It is not the sort of thing I can do for fifteen minutes in my lunch break. If I've had a particularly tiring day or I've got a lot on, and only got an hour to write, then I will probably not do so.

Q Is it true that the idea for *The Ferryman's Wife* came to you in a dream?

A Yes, I had this dream, and I saw the characters and creatures that were in it, and the whole yellow world of the underworld. It was all very vivid. I then built up on that in the book.

Q Have you ever based a character on anyone?

A No. The characters in the book are based upon a variety of people that I have encountered during my life, but they are not based on one particular person.

Q Who is your favourite character in the book?

A Madeline, who is the main character, absolutely without doubt. She is very manipulative and self-centred, but at the same time when she is faced with adversity she adapts and tries to do things for herself. It was fun to create a character who is not perfect, and in a lot of ways not very nice. She is pretty, but she is pretty horrible as well and it makes her journey all the more interesting as a result.

Q You have given the book quite a sad ending. Why did you decide to do that?

A I always knew what the end was going to be right from the beginning. With every story that I write, I always have the ending planned out in advance. The reason why I did that, apart from doing something that wasn't predictable, is that Madeline can't have everything and she needs to learn that. That really was the bottom line.

Q *The Ferryman's Wife* is the first book in a trilogy called *The Devil's Light*. You are now working on the sequel, *The Heart Thief*. Will it again be mainly set in the underworld, or will it be set in other worlds?

A It won't mainly be set in one world. There will be three worlds in this one, more than the last book.

Q Would you like to write in any other genres?

A At the moment, no. I like to write stories that I would like to read, and I like to read fantasy stories that also touch upon the paranormal. They provide a lot of potential for different stories. You never know though ... maybe in the future I will write something else in another genre.

FEATURE

The Ferryman's Wife

Series: The Devil's Light
Georgina Merry
Mystic Press £6.99 ISBN 9780615676371

Lady Madeline Farrington is a spoilt 18th-century heiress. When she steals her cousin Celia's new suitor, the mysterious Laurie du Bufort, he pushes her off a cliff and she finds herself in a strange underworld. There Madeline is forced by the sinister Ferryman, whose job it is to ferry souls to the world of the dead, to become his latest wife.

The Ferryman's Wife starts off like a traditional romance, but don't let that put you off. After the first few chapters, the story morphs into a fast-paced and funny fantasy adventure novel.



'fast-paced and funny'

With hints of Greek myths, as well as being partially set in a culture similar to *Downton Abbey*, it is an interesting mix. This is Georgina Merry's first novel, but she has already a very mature writing style. I can't wait for the next book to come out.

KIRSTY MACKENZIE
Trinity Academy

I thought this book was a great

adventure story. I liked the fact that it had an element of time travel, and included characters from both the 18th and the 21st century. All in all a good read!

JAMES DONALDSON
Trinity Academy

I enjoyed reading *The Ferryman's Wife*, especially in the way it connected to Greek myths, which was done especially well. There was not a single flaw in the contents, although occasionally it was a little clichéd for my liking. It was still very exciting and had me turning the pages though. I thoroughly enjoyed it and it was the best novel that I have read for a while.

MORGAN RITCH
Trinity Academy

I thought *The Ferryman's Wife* was a great book for several reasons. I thought that it was very clever in the way in which it merged together three timelines – the underworld, the Georgian era, and a 21st-century council estate – so seamlessly. You also really got into Madeline's head and really were able to understand how she felt. Overall this was a great book which I would recommend totally.

OLIVIA FRASER
Trinity Academy

PAST TIMES

Changeling

Philippa Gregory
Simon & Schuster £12.99 ISBN 9780857077301

It is the middle of the 15th century when witchcraft and sorcery are believable occurrences. Luca Vero believes that, having been accused of heresy, his chances of survival are slim, but then a stranger asks him to investigate strange goings on at an abbey.

I thought that this book was quite good but the language was quite mature, so this book is possibly more suitable for older readers. I liked the plot and the twist in the middle was very smart; I didn't see it coming. The relationship between Luca and Frieze was funny because Luca's all logical, whereas Frieze was a kind of street smart kid. This is more of a boys' book and if you're into detective novels you would love this.

BETHANY BURGESS
Holy Rood High



'powerful images'



Cave of Secrets

Morgan Llywelyn
O'Brien Press £6.99 ISBN 9781847172075

This is 17th-century Ireland when cut-throat interests control everybody and everything, and land-grabbing is the order of the day. Friend turns into foe and loyalty counts for nothing. From his new family, Tom learns all about boats and smuggling and secret treasure. Then Tom discovers the best kept secret of all.

This book is extremely addictive and exciting; there are many twists and turns in the plot, which makes it hard to put down. The writer's use of adjectives also creates very realistic and powerful images, so it feels like you're watching every scene unfold before you. Even though Tom's father is very cruel to his son, we still pity him because his business is almost destroyed and he can't find a good marriage for his daughters. I like Tom especially because he has a kind personality. Tom matures throughout the book and the main theme is about how families should always forgive and forget, no matter the problem. A thrilling read!

EMMA PORTEOUS
Tynecastle High

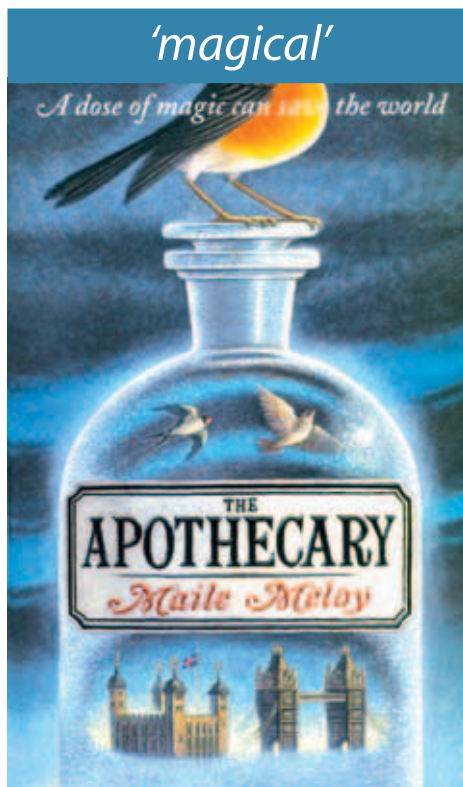
The Apothecary

Maile Meloy
Andersen Press £6.99 ISBN 9781849395069

This book is a blend of 1950s history, magic, and science. The setting is a London still reeling from the effects of World War II.

Every time you put this book down you'll find yourself wondering what's going to happen next. It has such an excellent storyline and so many interesting characters; you can't help but feel you're part of the exciting plot. One of the most loveable characters I encountered is Pip. He is by far one of the most appealing characters with his bad-boy charm and his passion for adventure. The setting is interesting too. It's not too distant, 1952, and gives you a feel for what life would have been like at that time, with Communism looming in the background and Britain just beginning to recover from the impact of the Second World War. This book is magical, with its exciting and intriguing ending: a 'must read' for any reader.

LEONNA FLETT
Tynecastle High



Hitler's Angel

William Osborne
Chicken House £6.99 ISBN 9781908435088

Otto and Leni have fled to Britain to escape from the Nazis, but now the British government wants their help. They need them to go back to Germany and bring out a young girl who could change the outcome of the war.

I like reading about war stories but this had a different slant to it. You had to imagine 'What would have happened if ...?' I also liked that the main characters were teenagers because you could put yourself in their shoes (sort of).

CAMERON FYFFE
Leith Academy



Jane Austen Stole My Boyfriend

Cora Harrison
Macmillan £5.99

ISBN 9780330509541

Jane is 15 and is already a successful matchmaker. Now she decides she wants a boyfriend too. Jenny Cooper is Jane's best friend, and this book is Jenny's diary.



I hadn't read any historical novels before I picked this one but now I would definitely like to read more books set in the past. I really liked the way it was a bit old fashioned and the descriptions of the dresses and so on made me feel as if I was really there. The book is written in a formal diary format which isn't what teenagers would do today, but

that didn't put me off at all. It was a bit of a girly book with love and stuff so I don't think it is one for the boys.

JEMMA METCALFE
Craigmount High



The Great Escape

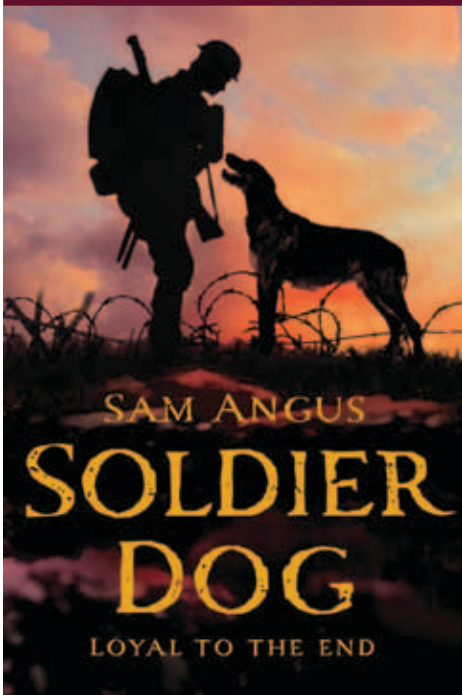
Megan Rix
Puffin £5.99
ISBN 9780141342719

During the Second World War, Buster (a Jack Russell), Rose (a collie) and Tiger (a ginger tom) make a bid for freedom and cheat what seems inevitable death.

Such delightful characters in a novel set in WW2. Both funny and a little creepy, a battle against the odds. A journey with danger at every turn – I would definitely recommend it!

TANYA CHAN
Liberton High

'kept my interest throughout'



Soldier Dog

Sam Angus
Macmillan £5.99 ISBN 9781447220053

Stanley is a teenager living with his dad while his brother is off fighting in the trenches in France during World War I. When his dad drowns his mongrel puppy, Stanley runs off to war and becomes a dog handler. Will Stanley and his dog Soldier be able to save the day?

This book was good and it kept my interest throughout the story. I enjoy reading war stories and picked this one because it is set during World War I. I have a dog too, but he isn't brave like Soldier – my dog is stupid! Before I read this book I didn't realise that they used dogs in the First World War, although I know they use sniffer dogs nowadays. I will recommend this book to my friends.

SCOTT MILLER
Craigmount High

Macbeth: The Graphic Novel

William Shakespeare
Classical Comics £9.99 ISBN 9781906332037

Macbeth's story told in graphic novel format.

I already knew the story of *Macbeth* because we read it in primary school, but I was interested to see what differences there would be in a graphic novel. Some people often don't like

to see illustrations in a book they are reading because it might not fit in with the picture they have in their imagination, but I actually found the graphics helped me understand the story visually. I thought this was a good book and I think boys would enjoy it more than girls.

ADAM CRISFIELD
Craigmount High

'the graphics helped me understand'



'cringingly funny'

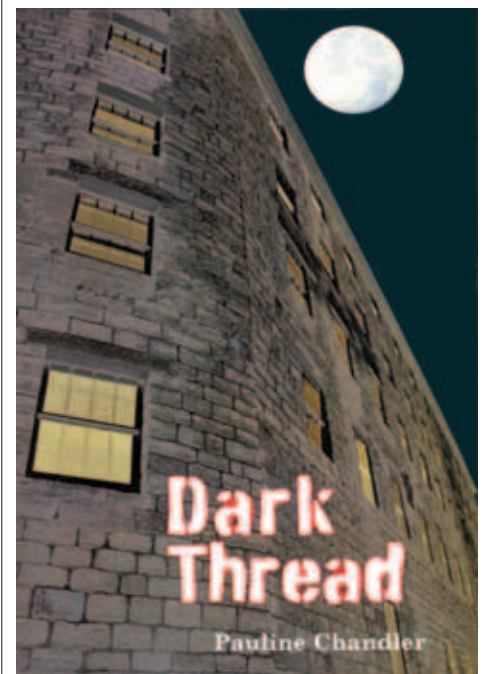
Wentworth Hall

Abby Grahame
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857079169

An Edwardian drama telling of life in a stately home, where neither circumstance nor character are as they appear.

This book had a really, really good storyline and would be enjoyed by people who are not too concerned with reading about life in the present day. It showed different sides to the characters and I thought Maggie was great – really strong, even though she felt quite alone and had nobody to turn to. There were cringingly funny bits too – like when Wesley and Therese were in the garden, and an unexpected twist at the end. This is a book I'd strongly recommend.

EMILY HARKIN
St Thomas of Aquin's High



Dark Thread

Pauline Chandler
Five Leaves £5.99 ISBN 9781907869563

Kate's mum died in an accident with a motorbike, and she believes it was her fault because they had been arguing. Suddenly Kate finds herself back in time outside the old mill where her mother was killed, and ends up working there as a weaver. Can Kate learn to forgive herself?

This book was a bit of a disappointment because I thought it was going to be a scary story but really it was about emotions. It is a good quick read and I liked the way it was set in the past for most of the story. People who like reading about emotions would definitely enjoy this book.

AMNA MIRZA
Craigmount High

FOCUS ON FAMILY

Second Chance Summer

Morgan Matson
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN 9780857072702



When Taylor's dad gets some terrible news, the whole family decides to spend the summer at their old Lake House, where she is forced to confront her past and try hard to have a second chance with family and friends.

This is a captivating 'coming of age' family novel where Taylor and her family have to sort out their relationships. Although the subject matter is at times extremely serious the author explores first love, intense childhood friendships and illness with sensitivity. If you are up for some tears and an outrageously gripping read, then this is the perfect book for you!

OLIVIA BASTIN
Royal High

Jasmine Skies

Sita Brahmachari
Macmillan £5.99 ISBN 9781447205180

After years of no contact between her mother and aunt, Mira is plunged into sweltering India. She takes some letters belonging to her mother before she leaves without telling her. After reading them, she feels she has to find out what happened between them that forced them apart, but what other secrets will she end up uncovering?

Brahmachari created a vivid and striking image of India. She explored differences and similarities between two cultures. I have never especially been interested in India, but this book made me appreciate it. She included lots of detail on the way people lived there, particularly in the refuge. The novel explored many characters, but due to

the large number, they aren't well described. For example, Mira meets someone who knew her family very well before they split up, which is a key point in the novel, but it is barely mentioned later. The author didn't give many characters names, and called them names depending on their actions, for example, Dust Boy and Spitting Boy. I felt this didn't work with the rest of the story. It was very inspiring, in the sense that they showed children living in poverty before and after they were helped. But in some places it was overly clichéd. This is a risky topic for an author because it has been covered many times but I think that Brahmachari wrote about it from a very different angle. I would recommend this book to younger readers because they wouldn't be as familiar with the topic of poverty in India, so they wouldn't feel it was clichéd, and because it has many different topics so will appeal to a wide variety of readers.

ALISA MATYUNINA
Boroughmuir High



'vivid and striking'

The Jungle Warrior

Series: The New Adventures of Tarzan
Andy Briggs
Faber and Faber £6.99 ISBN 9780571273539

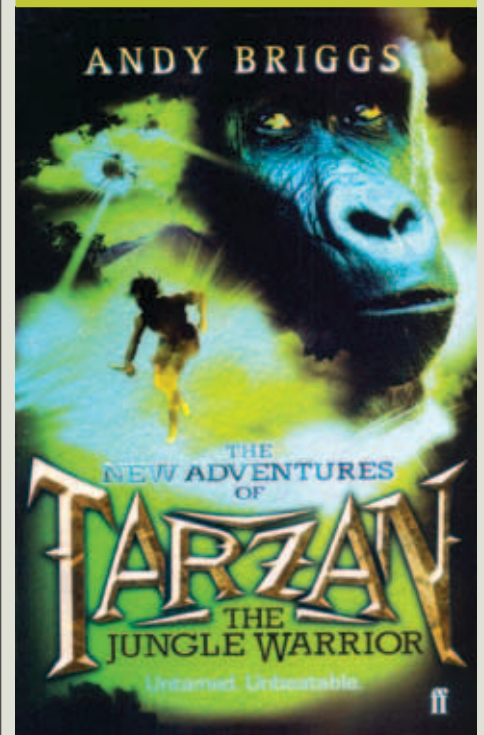
When a baby gorilla is taken from its family by the world's greatest hunter, Tarzan sets out to find him. Jane meanwhile is trying to learn more about Tarzan's past, and has to decide whether reuniting him with his lost Greystoke family is the right thing to do.

I like this book. The writer made it easy to picture the setting in the jungle. The story

did jump from scene to scene – a bit like a film where the action jumps from the hero to somewhere else in the story, but I enjoyed that.

ROBBIE DINSE
Wester Hailes Education Centre

'easy to picture'



White Dolphin

Gill Lewis
OUP £8.99 ISBN 9780192756220

Kara's mum is missing, but when she sees a white dolphin on several occasions she thinks it is a sign everything is going to be OK. Her friend Felix, who has cerebral palsy, joins Kara in her quest to save the dolphin.



This book is an uplifting story. I particularly liked the character Kara because we meet her at a bad time in her life, but she still carries on, which is a really nice feeling. I hated Jake's character because he is a bully and picks on Kara, but that is what makes

this book so gripping. The way the book is written is so graceful yet intense, it's hard to put down. I would recommend this book definitely, it's a lovely thing to read and I enjoyed it very much.

EMMA ROSE GORMAN
Drummond Community High

AUTHOR FACTFILE

Laura Powell

Laura, whose novel *Burn Mark* is reviewed on page 20, is descended from the Physicians of Myddfai, a family of 12th-century herbalists who claimed to be the offspring of the Lady of the Lake. She has a part-time job at the English National Ballet, and loves being surrounded by tutus, sequins and exquisite people in leotards.

Ellie Phillips

Ellie's childhood home was a flat above her parents' bookstore where she spent a lot of time sitting under the shop counter, reading the stock and wishing there were more novels like *Forever* by Judy Blume. See page 10 for a review of her latest book *Dads, Geeks and Blue Haired Freaks*.

Simon Packham

After a short spell as one half of the comedy duo The Amazing Spendinis, Simon Packham trained as an actor, playing among other things a murderous vicar, a dodgy witness on *The Bill*, and a coffin carrier for Dame Judi Dench. *Silenced* is reviewed on page 12.



Laura Powell

Michael Gerard Bauer

Michael, whose novel *Ishmael and the Return of the Dugongs* is reviewed on page 14, spent his schooldays wishing he could be a Samurai warrior, but traded in his dreams of martial arts expertise, became a teacher and began to write.



Michael Gerard Bauer

Rosie Rushton

Rosie Rushton, whose book *Whatever Love Is* is reviewed on page 13, lives in Northamptonshire, where she is a licensed lay minister in a parish church. She enjoys travelling, theatre and cinema, word games and puzzles, being juvenile with her grandchildren, and playing hopscotch when no-one is looking.

Melissa Marr

Although she finished high school with the dubious honour of being voted 'most likely to end up in jail', Melissa Marr went on to be a teacher. She wrote the *Wicked Lovely* series, and her new book *Carnival of Souls* is reviewed on page 24.

M G Harris

The writer behind *The Joshua Files* is Mexico-born M G Harris. She spent her childhood in Frankfurt and Manchester where she based her formative years around *Doctor Who*, *Blake's 7* and the fortunes of Manchester United, spending holidays in Mexico where she was inspired by Mayan ruins. *Apocalypse Moon*, the final novel in the series, is reviewed on page 20.



Rosie Rushton

Gill Lewis

Gill has always had a passion for wild animals – she was discovered force-feeding bread to a sick hedgehog under the rose bushes before she could even walk. After realising her childhood dream of becoming a vet, she moved on to writing, and you can see her book *White Dolphin* reviewed on page 31.



Simon Packham

READERS WRITE



M G Harris



Gill Lewis

Thank you to students of **St Ninian's High School**, Kirkintilloch, **Wadebridge School** and **Bishop Stopford School**, Kettering for sending in reviews. If you'd like to see your reviews of your favourite books in print, email or post them to us – see page 38 for contact details.

Susan Carr, St Ninian's High School rates ...

Between Shades of Gray

Ruta Sepetys

Between Shades of Gray is an emotional story about a girl called Lina and her journey as a prisoner of war. Read about how she meets the man of her dreams and loses him as well.



Melissa Wilton, Wadebridge School rates ...

Lizzie Jordan's Secret Life

Chris Manby

This is a really funny book, about a girl who thinks she is a failure at everything. I really enjoyed this book. It made me laugh and worry and it had me gripped with every chapter.

Brandon Mitchell, Wadebridge School rates ...

The Starter

Scott Sigler

The book is a mixture of *The Godfather* and *Star Wars*. It isn't funny, but it doesn't need to be, because it is a gore-fest, literally! It combines sci-fi and sports, in a brilliant way, completely unique to me.

Niamh Doherty, St Ninian's High School rates ...

Pink

Lili Wilkinson

When I first saw this pink book I thought it was right up my street, but as I got into it I realised that it was about fitting in. At the start I felt that Ava was really dodgy, but, as you read on, you realise that she is just an ordinary teenager with problems.



READERS WRITE

Mark Taylor, St Ninian's High School rates ...

Grass

Cathy MacPhail

Grass is a really entertaining book that keeps you gripped, and the author uses great writing techniques to keep the reader hooked the whole way through. I really enjoyed this book because I could relate to this situation.

Dylan Craft, Wadebridge School rates ...

Legendary Leagues

Michael Coleman

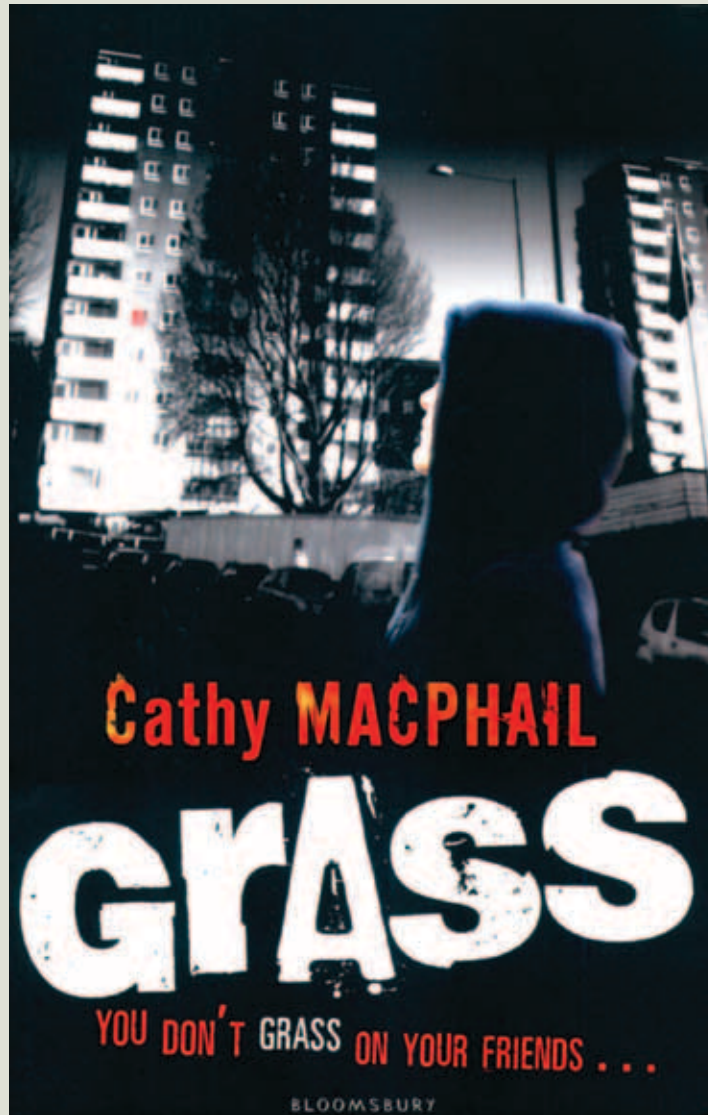
I like this book because it's got loads of football in it and it is really interesting. It is quite funny too. It isn't very long so it doesn't take too long to read. It includes the story of William McGregor which is really interesting because it says how he created the football league.

Amy McDowall, St Ninian's High School rates ...

The Hunger Games

Suzanne Collins

This book is an amazing start to a series. It is the next *Harry Potter* because of its power to pull you in and lose yourself in it.



Harmony Murt, Wadebridge School rates ...

Deadly Dare

Malorie Blackman

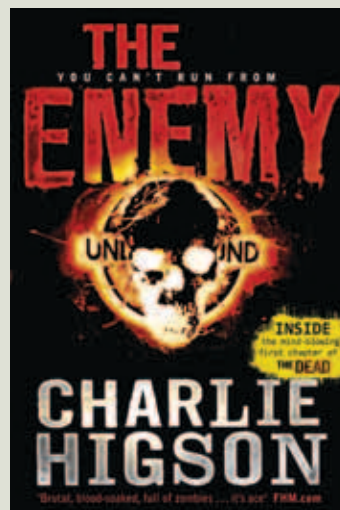
I think it's a very good book and it hooked me in from the first line I read. It's very interesting and each chapter ends on a cliff-hanger. I think it's got a lot of action in it too. You can easily put yourself in their shoes so I think it's a brilliant book!

Lewis Campbell, St Ninian's High School rates ...

The Enemy

Charlie Higson

This book is the first one in a trilogy. All the adults of the world have become zombies and the children have been left to try and survive. These books are amazing and will show you that no-one is safe.



Katy Berry, Wadebridge School rates ...

Seekers series

Erin Hunter

This book is an excellent novel for all ages. This is a very long book

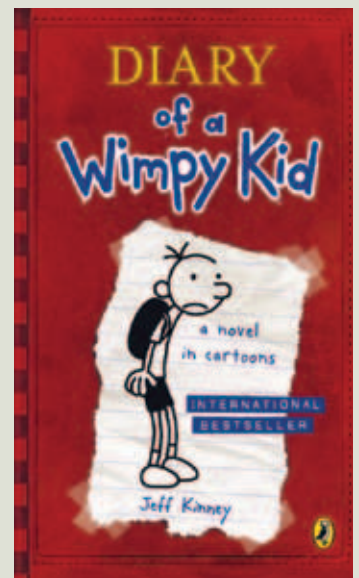
but it's totally worth the read. I enjoyed it because I love bears and because all the storylines are really good and exciting. This book will make you want to read on and find out more about it.

Hannah New, Wadebridge School rates ...

The Diary of the Other Health Freak

Ann McPherson and Aidan Macfarlane

This book was very funny. I loved reading it; it had great advice for teenagers on almost everything. The only thing wrong about it was that it was a bit rude at times and it wasn't long enough!



Carla Byrne, Wadebridge School rates ...

Diary of A Wimpy Kid

Jeff Kinney

It only took me three days to read this book, I couldn't put it down. It is the sort of book that you just have to read all the series.

Tyjana Howard, Wadebridge School rates ...

The Look

Sophie Bennett

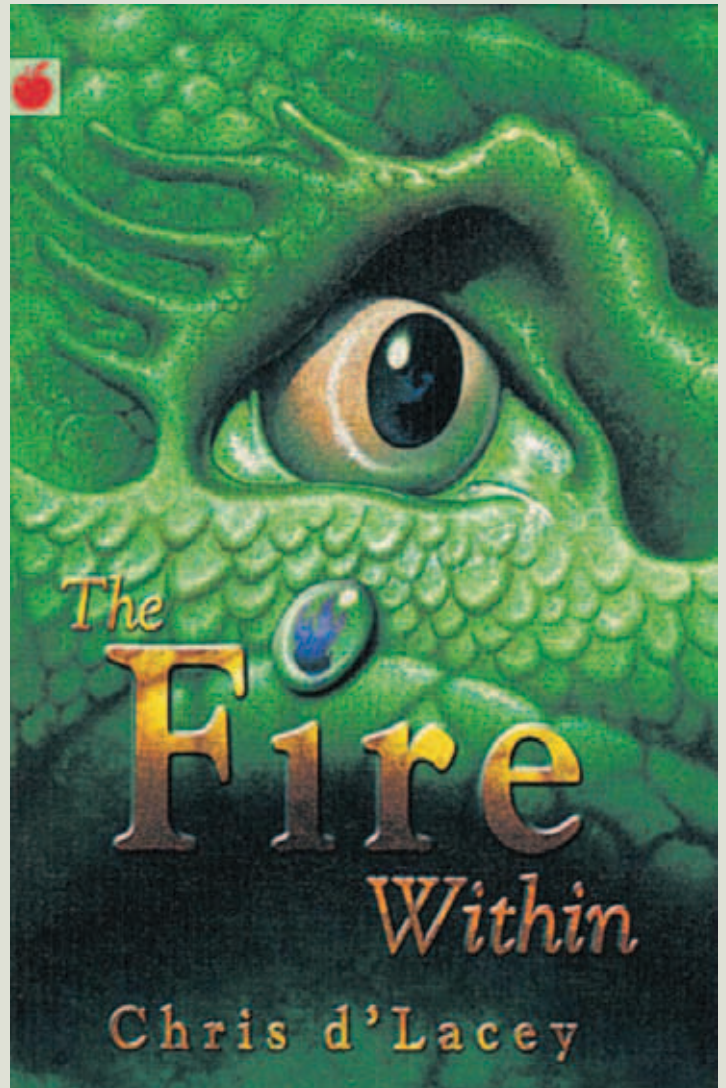
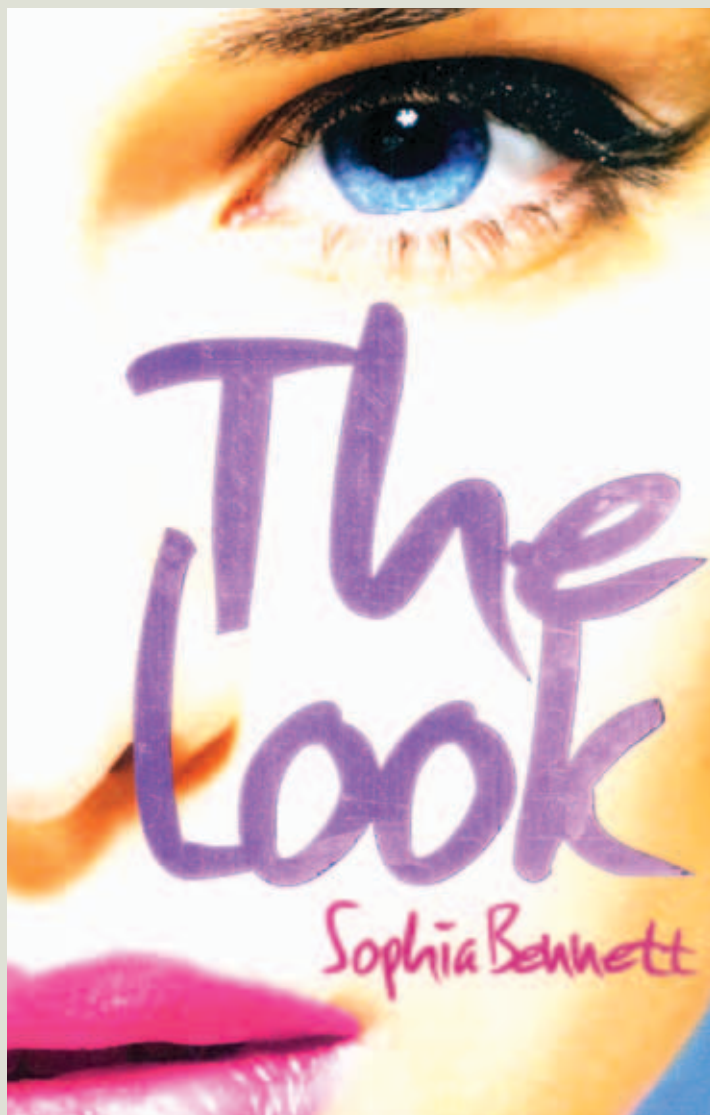
I personally loved this story and I hope you will too. I am not a girly girl but I still cried at Ted's bravery. I couldn't put the book down – it was like Ted came along and read it to me and Ava sat listening, gluing my hands to the book.

Matthew Wilce, Wadebridge School rates ...

The Fire Within

Chris d'Lacey

I would recommend this book to those who like dragons and fantasy, but also aren't afraid of a twist!



Grace Symons, Wadebridge School rates ...

Life on the Refrigerator Door

Alice Kuipers

This book is an excellent novel for teenagers. It is very sad and it could be a real life scenario – that is why it is such a good book. It is very unique and each page is a post-it note – very original.

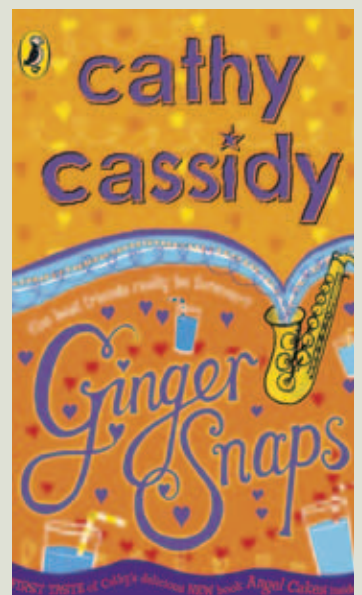
Martha Roose, Wadebridge School rates ...

Ginger Snaps

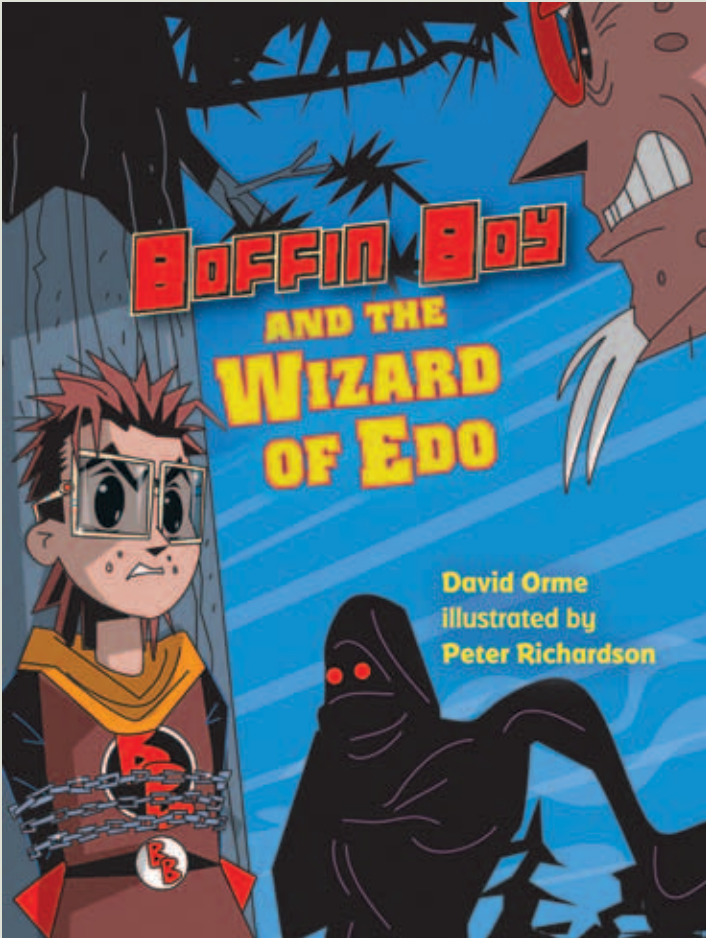
Cathy Cassidy

An amazing book! It is like a puzzle that you piece all together with a good ending. The plot was engaging and very exciting. At

some points I wanted to shout, cry and laugh. I could relate to it so well and felt sympathy for Ginger and Emily. It has a very interesting twist on Ginger's past, but I will let you find that out.



READERS WRITE



Drew Burnard, Wadebridge School rates ...

Boffin Boy series

David Orme

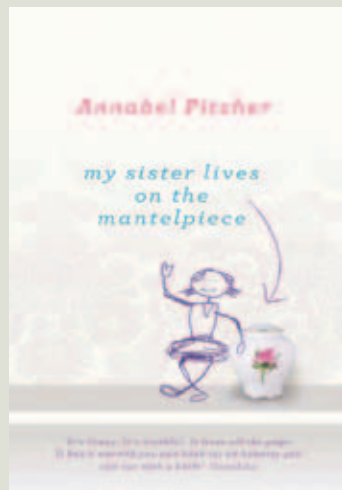
I gave this book a 9/10 because it was easy to read and the illustrations were out of this world – literally. It had a lot of action as the wizard kept stepping in to stop Boffin Boy.

Amelia Collins, Wadebridge School rates ...

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece

Annabel Pitcher

I think this book is a good read for 10 years to 100! The good thing about this book is that it has some upsetting parts but also some funny parts, and is based on a real situation. All in all this book is a must-read.



Rhys Brinklow, Wadebridge School rates ...

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Rick Riordan

I loved the book! I found it really exciting when Percy fought Ares, the god of war. I couldn't put the book down. It is a really adventurous book for all ages.

Oli Matthews, Wadebridge School also rates ...

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Rick Riordan

I like this book because it is full of action and mythical monsters. This is a brilliant book with tons of witty humour. I recommend this to anyone who likes a funny, action-packed adventure novel.

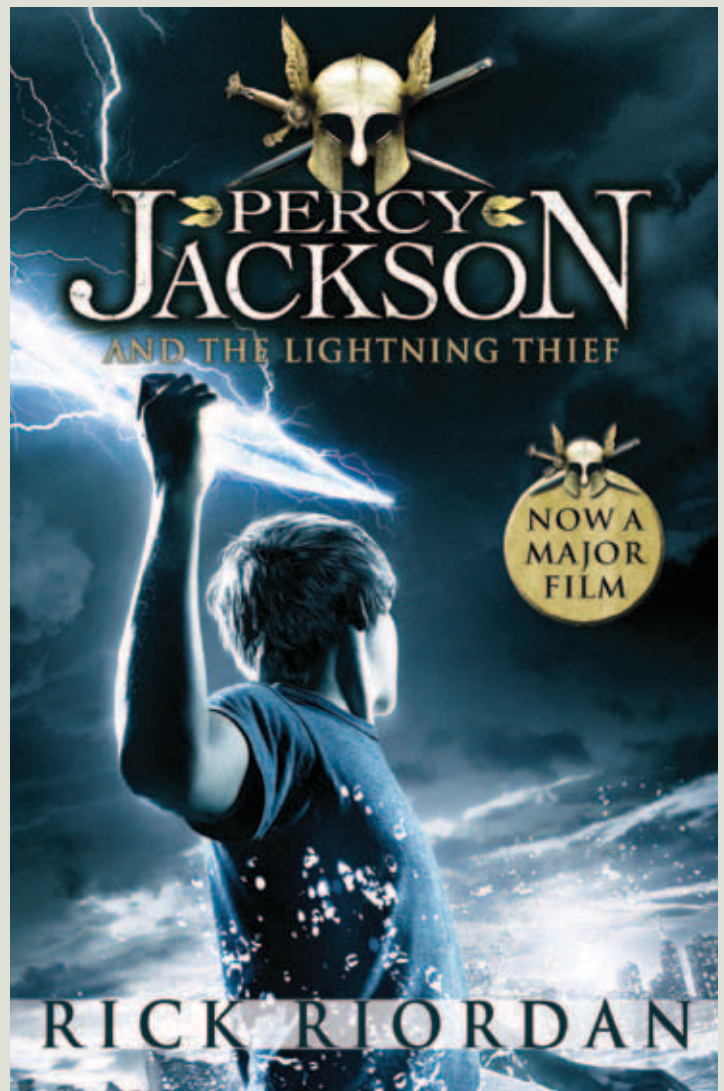
James Grove-White, Wadebridge School rates ...

Skeleton Key

Anthony Horowitz

This book is filled with action and mystery. The storyline is easy to follow and has certain twists that can leave you wondering about

the end result. You may find the occasional humour locked into the story but I don't think that ruins the action. This book is for readers who like tension, excitement and mystery.





Emma Roberts, Bishop Stopford School rates ...

Sara's Face

Melvin Burgess

Sara's Face is a beautifully crafted book that is so realistic it is frightening. One thing I really liked

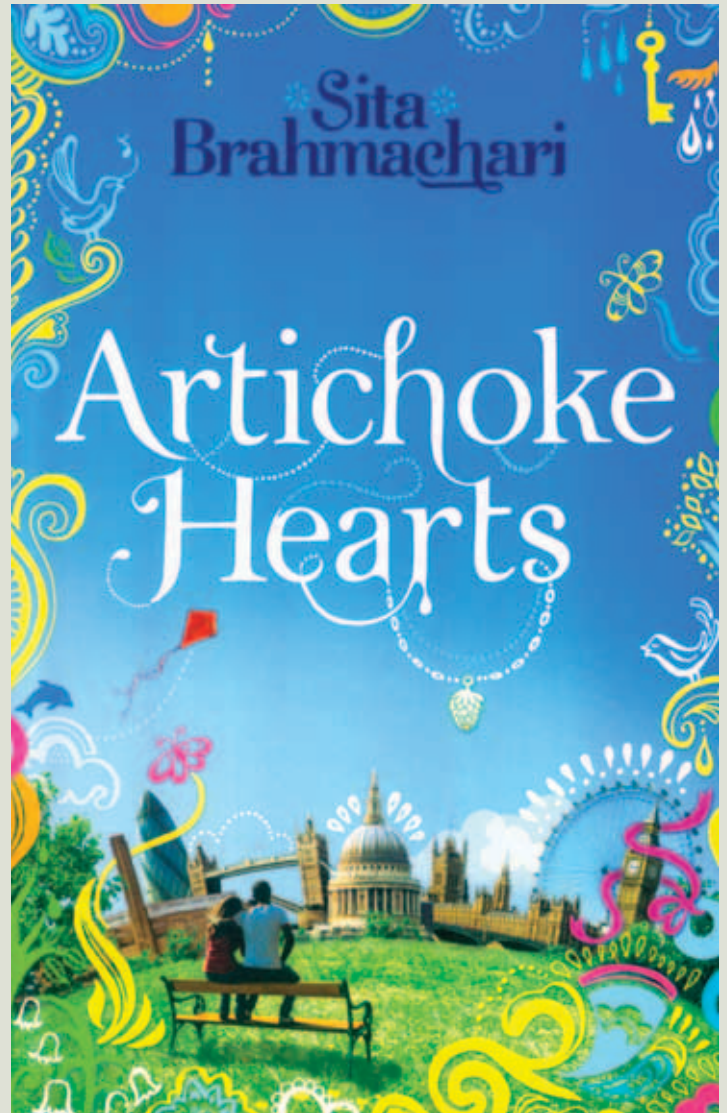
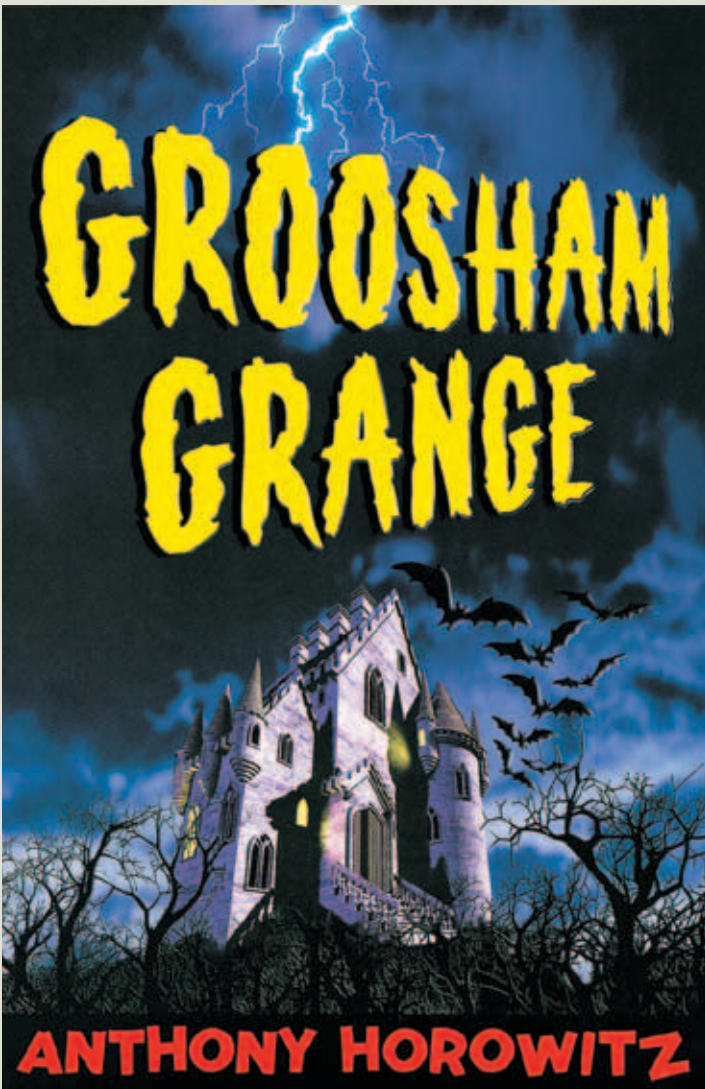
is that the protagonist was not a cookie-cutter character in terms of looks and personality: she had interesting attributes that made her complex and dynamic. This book, overall, was truly brilliant, and so chilling it had me clinging on to every last word.

Megan Howard, Wadebridge School rates ...

Artichoke Hearts

Sita Brahmachari

This book will make you laugh, cry and excite you. I was so glad that I read it and I would definitely read it again. It was a brilliant page-turner and I couldn't put it down. I hope Sita Brahmachari keeps writing more books as good as this one. Lots of my friends have read this book and thoroughly enjoyed it as much as I have. If you read this book you will certainly not be disappointed.



Zennor Hyett Jones, Wadebridge School also rates ...

Artichoke Hearts

Sita Brahmachari

I love this book! I was very moved by it. It is certainly a page-turner and gripping too. It will take you through a journey of emotions. This book is superbly written and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Celtie Murphy, Wadebridge School rates ...

Groosham Grange

Anthony Horowitz

This is an excellent book for all ages. It keeps you really hooked because it is a mystery and you want to keep reading on. It's imaginative, emotional and funny.

Josh Doddrell, Wadebridge School rates ...

Stormbreaker

Anthony Horowitz

This is funny but not crude, and includes action, humour and tragedy. It will leave readers gripped from the beginning till the cliff-hanger ending.

Finn Friel, St Ninian's High School also rates ...

Stormbreaker

Anthony Horowitz

This is a good book which shows you what it is like to be a spy. There are many moments in the book where you get a big surprise. If you like the idea of kids being spies and ruining the plans of criminal masterminds, then you should read this book.

THANK YOU

Teen Titles would like to thank the following students from the **City of Edinburgh Council** high schools who contributed to this issue:

BALERNO

Meagan Henley
Catherine McGuire

BOROUGHMUIR

Hannah Dickson
Sine Harris
Cara MacDonald
Alisa Matyunina
Hannah Morrison
Fiona Stewart Roper
Sarah Treadgold

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2 Peffer Place, Edinburgh, EH16 4BB



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to the members of the tt team for their vital involvement:

Christine Boal, Leith Academy

John Clarkson, Trinity Academy

Sylvia Gorman, Castlebrae Community High

Coral Grant, Chair, Craigmount High

Rachel McCabe, Holy Rood High

Sara Brown, James Gillespie's High

Lindsay Nealon, St Thomas of Aquin's High

Moira Paton, Broughton High

Evelyn Smith, The Royal High

Teen Titles would like to thank the following publishers for supplying all books, photos and biographies of authors: Andersen Press, Atom, Barrington Stoke, Black and White Publishing, Bloomsbury, Chicken House, Classical Comics, Egmont, Faber and Faber, Five Leaves, Floris Books, Frances Lincoln, HarperCollins, Hodder, Macmillan, Mystic Press, O'Brien Press, Orchard Books, Orion, OUP, Penguin, Piccadilly Press, Puffin, Quercus, Ransom Publishing, Razorbill, Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, Templar Publishing, Tor, Walker Books, Usborne.

Teen Titles is produced by the Publications Unit, Schools and Community Services, Children and Families, The City of Edinburgh Council.

Printed by Edinburgh Print Services.

12.077/IAD/DECEMBER 2012

