



THE SUSSEX COAST SCHOOLS AMAZING BOOK AWARDS



What are the Amazing Book Awards?

Founded in 2011, student voice is the cornerstone of our awards. Students choose the Shortlist, and students choose the winners.

We felt that secondary school students, particularly those in years nine and ten, who are so often overlooked by bigger book awards, that frequently aim themselves at students in lower years.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the book awards running! There are big birthday plans in the works for a big book celebration in summer!

The Amazing Book Awards



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

WE WANT TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO VOTE FOR BOOKS THAT YOU THINK ARE AMAZING!

USUALLY, AWARD'S WINNERS ARE CHOSEN BY ADULTS, WE WANTED TO GIVE **YOU** THE CHANCE TO HAVE **YOUR SAY** AS WHAT'S ACTUALLY THE BEST BOOK THIS YEAR FOR STUDENTS YOUR OWN AGE.



THE ABAS

(THE AMAZING BOOK AWARDS)

As we missed out on last year's ABA celebrations, we are celebrating 2 years of fantastic YA publishing this year instead!

That means double the awards and double the fun!

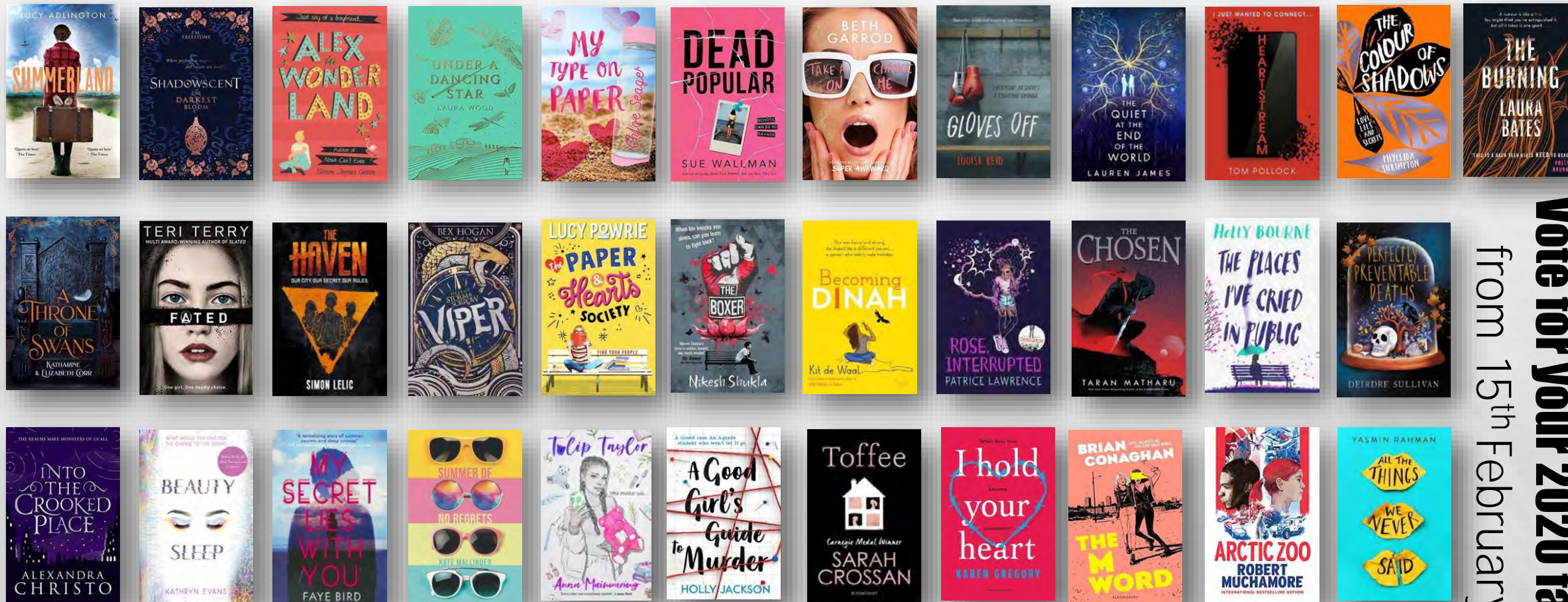
Of course, that does mean that we need your reading skills more than ever to help make sure we are awarding the right books the ABA Awards!

#ABA2020

#ABA2021

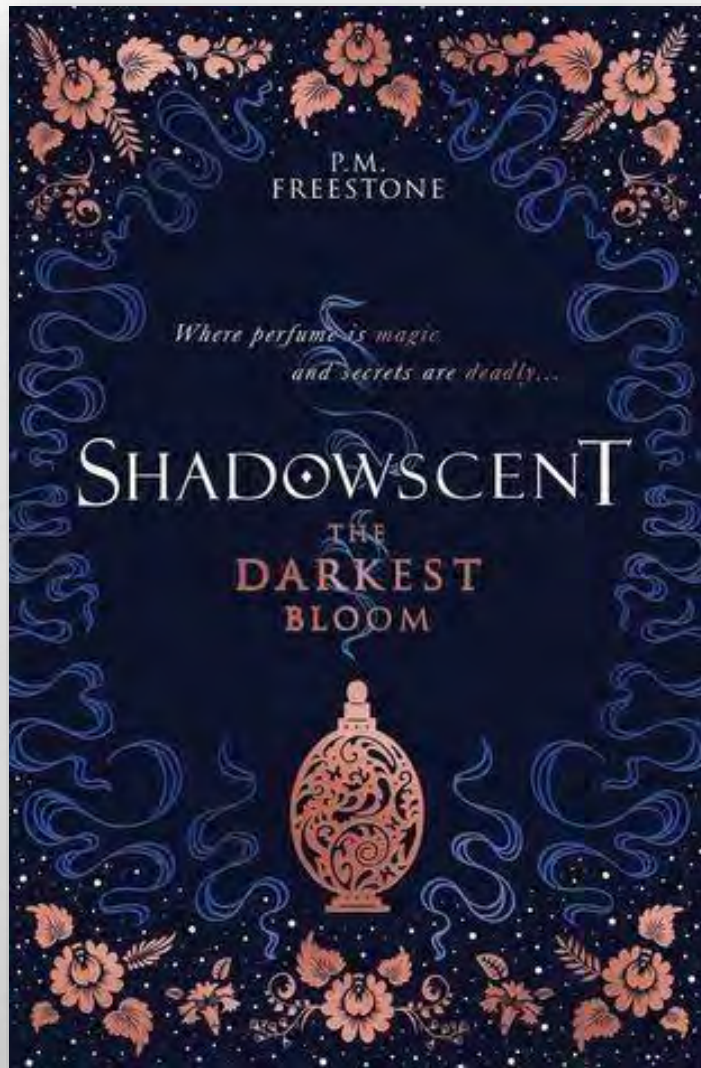
Take a look at the long LONG list!





Note for your 2020 fav's
 from 15th February

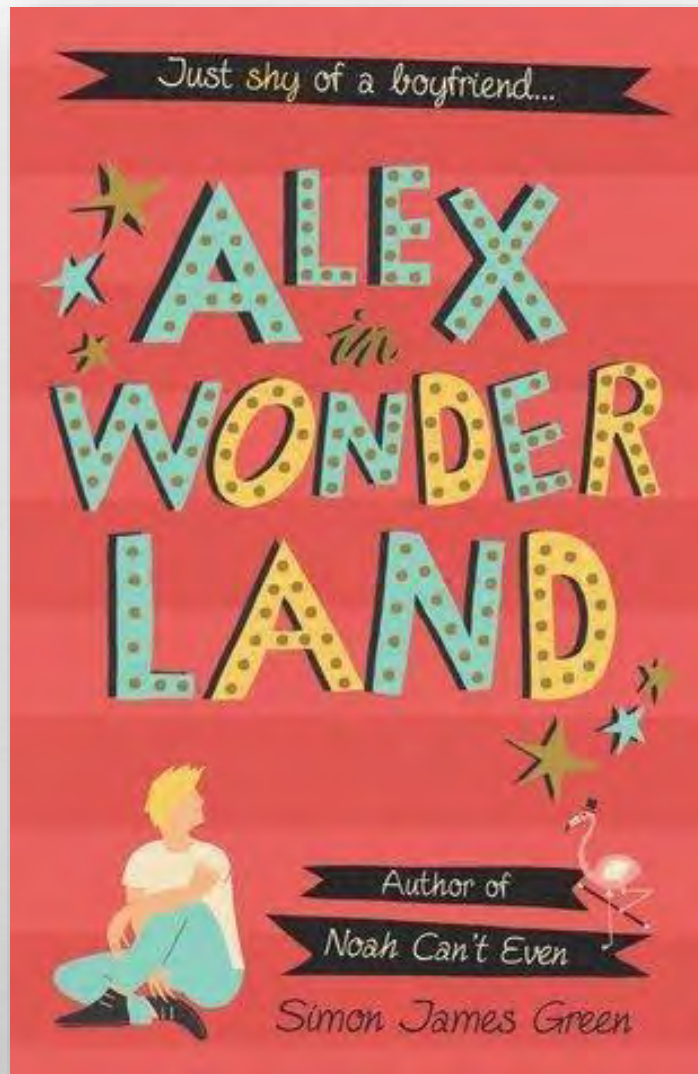
#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



In the empire of Aramtash, scent has power. When disaster strikes and the crown prince lies poisoned, long suppressed rivalries threaten to blow the empire apart. It's up to a poor village girl with a talent for fragrances and the prince's loyal bodyguard to find an antidote.

To succeed, the pair must uncover secrets – cryptic, ancient tales as well as buried truths from their own pasts – in an adventure that will ignite your senses...

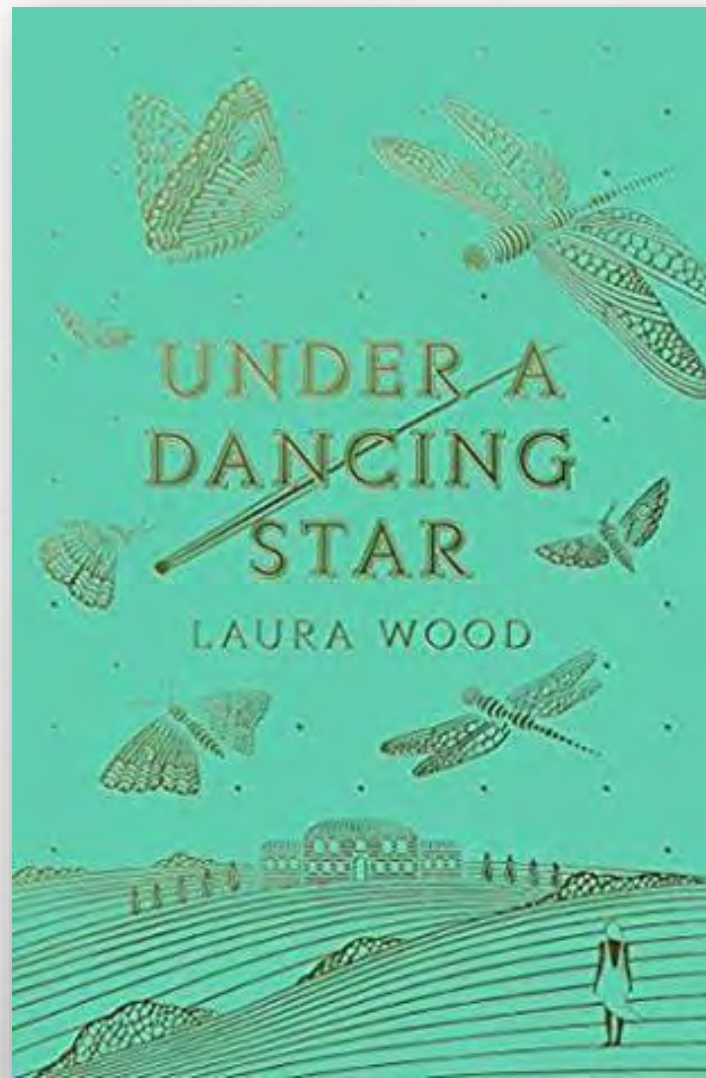
#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



In the town of Newsands, painfully shy Alex is abandoned by his two best friends for the summer. But he unexpectedly lands a part-time job at Wonderland, a run-down amusement arcade on the seafront, where he gets to know the other teen misfits who work there. Alex starts to come out of his shell, and even starts to develop feelings for co-worker Ben... who, as Alex's bad luck would have it, has a girlfriend.

Then as debtors close in on Wonderland and mysterious, threatening notes start to appear, Alex and his new friends take it on themselves to save their declining employer. But, like everything in Wonderland, nothing is quite what it seems...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



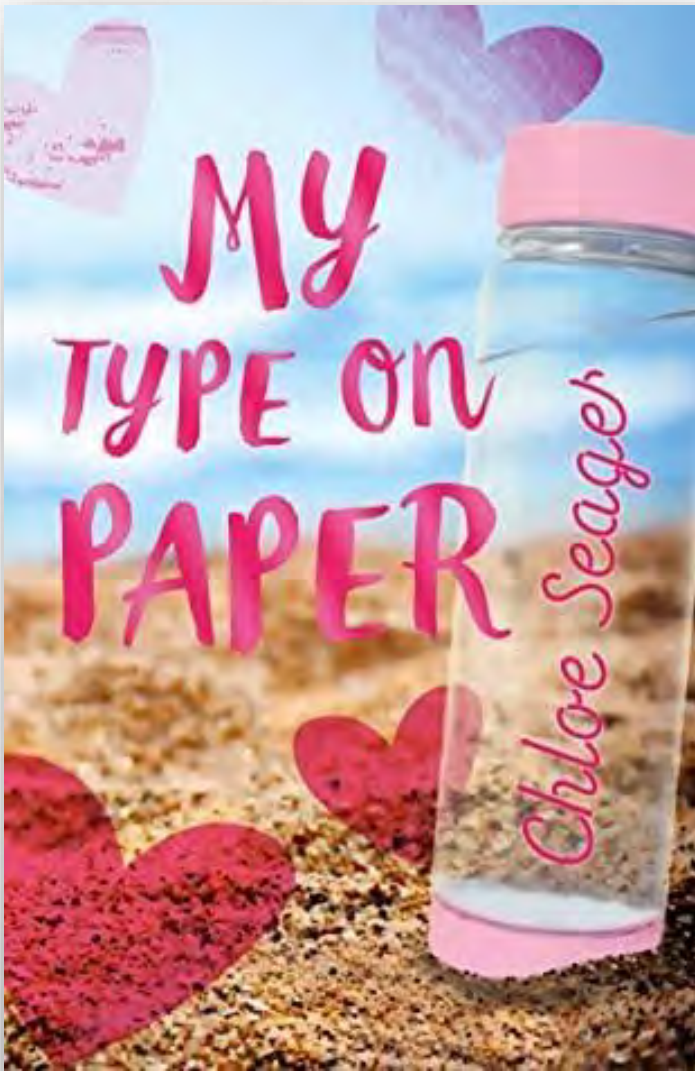
1930s England, Bea has grown up kicking against the conventions of the time, all the while knowing that she will one day have to marry someone her parents choose - someone rich enough to keep the family estate alive. But she longs for so much more - for adventure, excitement, travel, and maybe even romance.

When she spends a summer in Italy with her bohemian Uncle and his fiancée, a whole world opens up to Bea - a world that includes Ben, a cocky young artist who just happens to be infuriatingly handsome too.

Sparks fly between the quick-witted pair but Bea and Ben can agree on one thing at least: they absolutely, positively will not, cannot fall in love...

A long, hot summer of kisses and mischief unfolds - but storm clouds are gathering across Europe, and home is calling. Every summer has to end - but for Bea, this might be just the beginning.

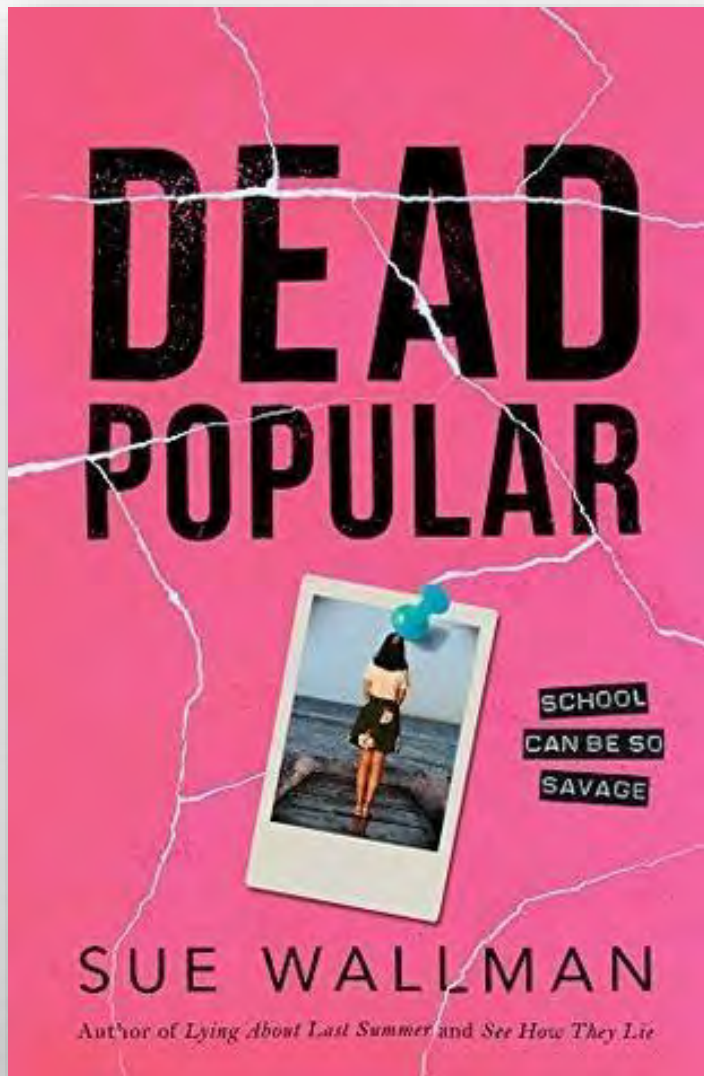
#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Maya is down in the dumps ... quite literally. She's just been pied off by her boyfriend before what was supposed to be their last romantic summer before heading off to Uni.

Luckily help is at hand in the form of her friends, determined to hook her up with a fun summer romance, no strings attached. And with a summer job working at fancy new beach resort in town, how can she fail to meet the guy of her dreams? Hot weather, hot guys, hot summer romance... it's a dead cert. But with three perfect-on-paper guys to choose from, not to mention her snakey ex re-entering the picture, how will she know which guy to go for?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

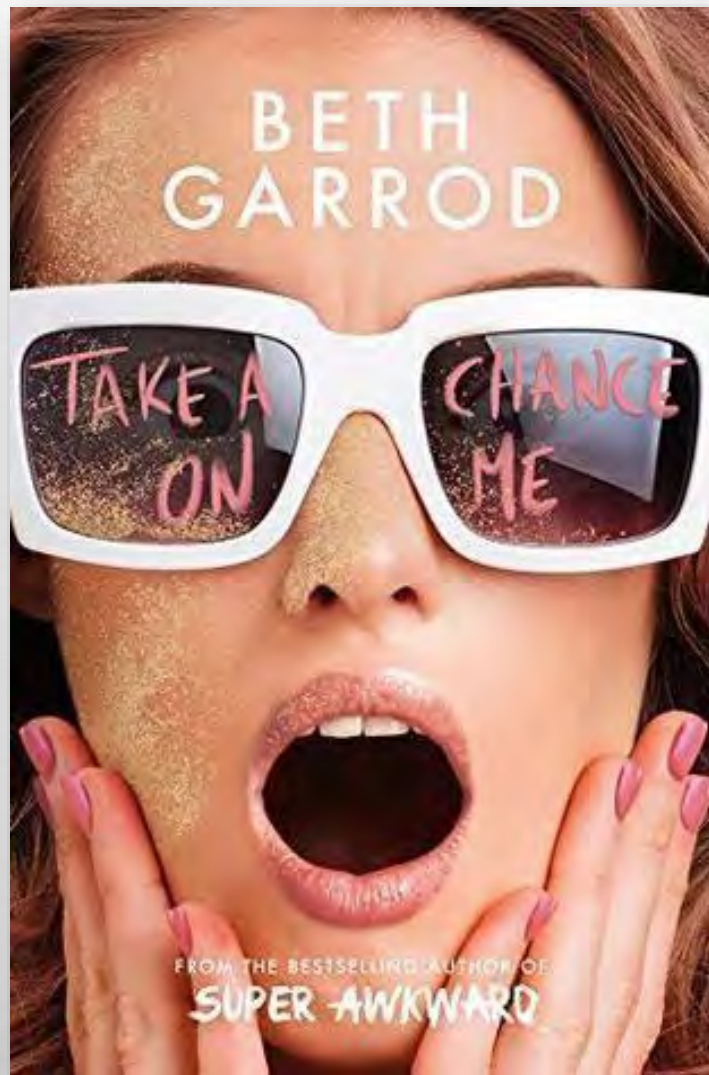


The ultimate queen bee, Kate knows that you don't become the most powerful girl at Mount Vernon by playing nice.

But when strange, chilling messages start appearing all over the school, she realizes someone is playing a much more dangerous game - and they know too much about Kate's past.

If she doesn't figure out who's behind this, her final year at Mount Vernon could be exactly that: her final year...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Meg had a disastrous first kiss she would rather forget, but this is the summer she puts it behind her.

This is the summer she has a perfect, swoony, just-like-in-the-movies kiss with a hot boy - and what better setting than the sun-drenched Greek island she's holidaying on?

But with three very different boys vying for her attention, this mission to reset her first kiss may be more complicated than she bargained for...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



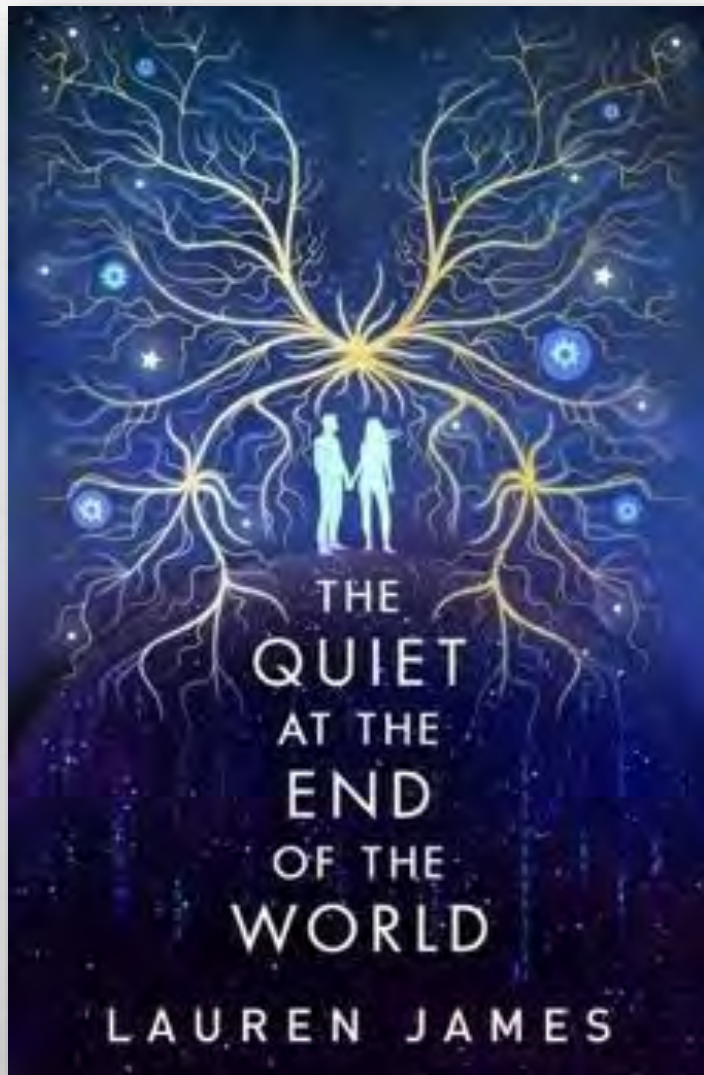
A page-turning and immersive YA novel in verse.

16 year old Lily is mercilessly bullied at school, turns to boxing in an attempt to fight back. This is a story of hope and resilience breaking through even the most difficult situations.

After a particularly terrible bullying incident, Lily's dad determines to give his daughter the tools to fight back. Introducing her to boxing, he encourages Lily to find her own worth. It is both difficult and challenging but in confronting her own fears she finds a way through that illuminates her life and friendships.

Meeting Rose, and seeing that there is another world out there, enables her to live her own life fully and gives her the knowledge that she is both beautiful and worth it.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



How far would you go to save those you love?

Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility.

Closeted in a pocket of London and doted upon by a small, ageing community, the pair spend their days mudlarking for artefacts from history and looking for treasure in their once-opulent mansion.

Their idyllic life is torn apart when a secret is uncovered that threatens not only their family but humanity's entire existence.

Lowrie and Shen face an impossible choice: in the quiet at the end of the world, they must decide who to save and who to sacrifice . . .

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



A taut psychological thriller about obsession, fame and betrayal, for fans of Black Mirror.

Cat is in love. Always the sensible one, she can't believe that she's actually dating, not to mention dating a star. But the fandom can't know. They would eat her alive. And first at the buffet would definitely be her best friend, Evie. Amy uses Heartstream, a social media app that allows others to feel your emotions.

She broadcasted every moment of her mother's degenerative illness, and her grief following her death. It's the realest, rawest reality TV imaginable. But on the day of Amy's mother's funeral, Amy finds a strange woman in her kitchen.

She's rigged herself and the house with explosives - and she's been waiting to talk to Amy for a long time. Who is she? A crazed fan? What does she want? Amy and Cat are about to discover how far true obsession can go.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



I'm just one girl. What can I do?

Sam's cosy life as daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister is about to end. These are turbulent times. Borders have closed and protests are turning violent. The government blames the country's youth, and is cracking down hard. Mobile phones are blocked, gatherings are banned and dissent is brutally crushed.

Sam is torn between family loyalty and doing what is right. when she meets Ava and Lucas her mind is made up.

One girl, one choice. She can make a difference: she must. Even if her life - and her heart - are on the line ...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



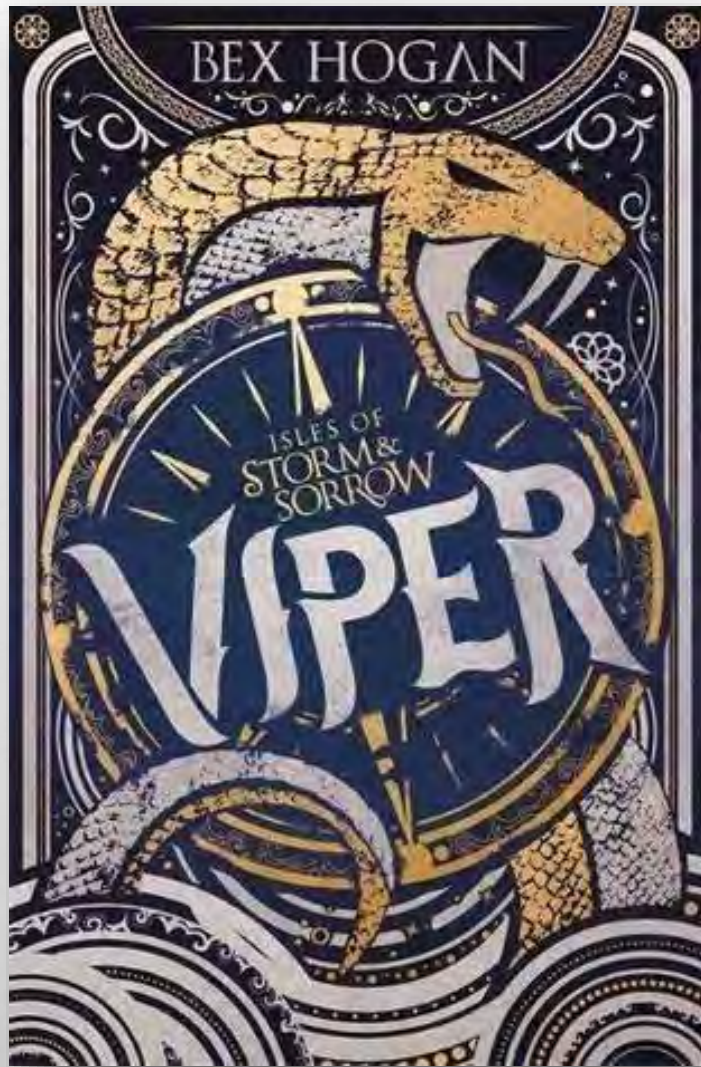
An adrenaline-fuelled adventure in a new series by top thriller writer Simon Lelic. Ollie Turner isn't sure he's ready to be a hero ...

Snatched from his bed in the middle of the night, Ollie Turner is thrust into a world of danger and excitement.

Below the streets of London he discovers a secret city: a network of tunnels that lead him to the Haven, a sanctuary for kids run by kids, and the headquarters of an organisation that fights for justice everywhere.

Soon Ollie is caught up in the Haven's battle: a quest to stop 'Mad Maddy' Sikes from destroying the city. But time is running out for Ollie and his new friends. Will they manage to stop Sikes before it is too late? And who is the traitor in their midst?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



He will make me a killer. Or he will have me killed. That is my destiny.

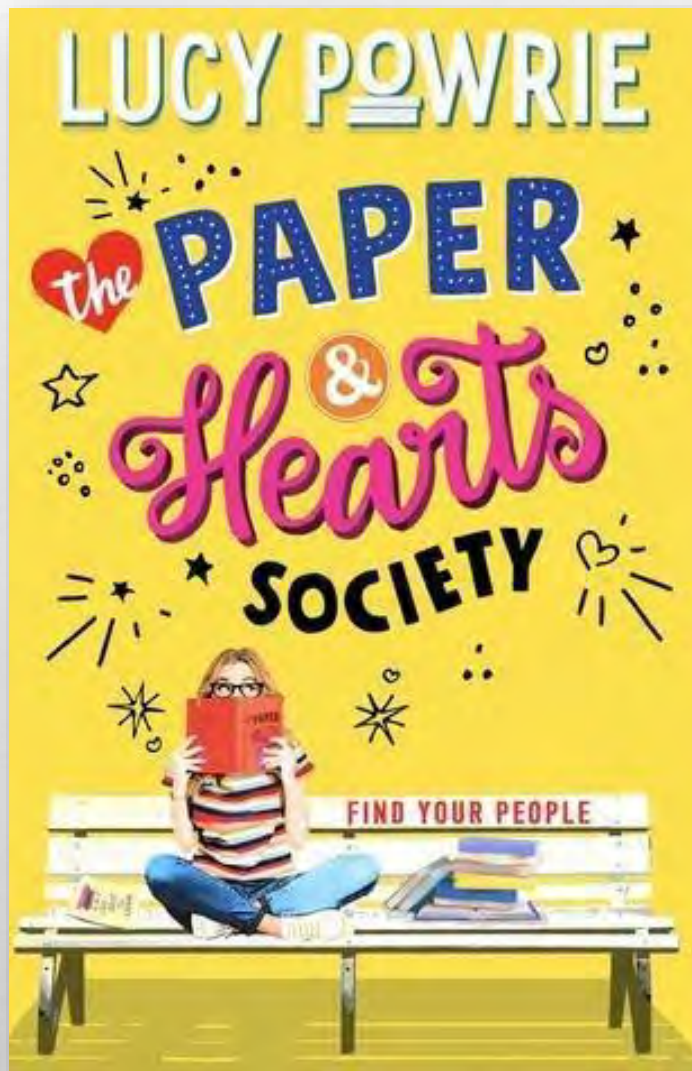
Seventeen-year-old Marianne is fated to one day become the Viper, defender of the Twelve Isles.

But the reigning Viper stands in her way. Corrupt and merciless, he prowls the seas in his warship, killing with impunity, leaving only pain and suffering in his wake.

He's the most dangerous man on the ocean . . . and he is Marianne's father.

She was born to protect the islands. But can she fight for them if it means losing her family, her home, the boy she loves - and perhaps even her life?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



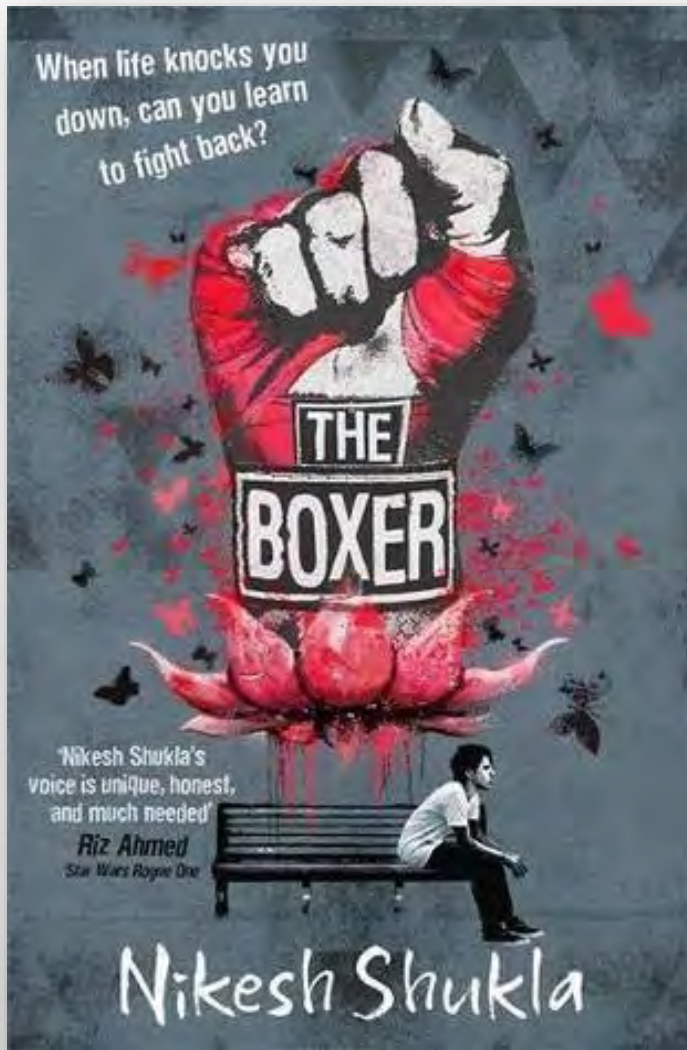
Tabby Brown is tired of trying to fit in. She doesn't want to go to parties - in fact, she would much rather snuggle up on the sofa with her favourite book. It's like she hasn't found her people ...

Then Tabby joins a club that promises to celebrate books. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING - especially when making new friends brings out an AWKWARD BUZZING feeling all over her body.

But Olivia, Cassie, Henry and Ed have something that makes Tabby come back. Maybe it's the Austen-themed fancy-dress parties, or Ed's fluffy cat Mrs Simpkins, or could it be Henry himself ...

Can Tabby let her weird out AND live THE BEST BOOKISH LIFE POSSIBLE?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

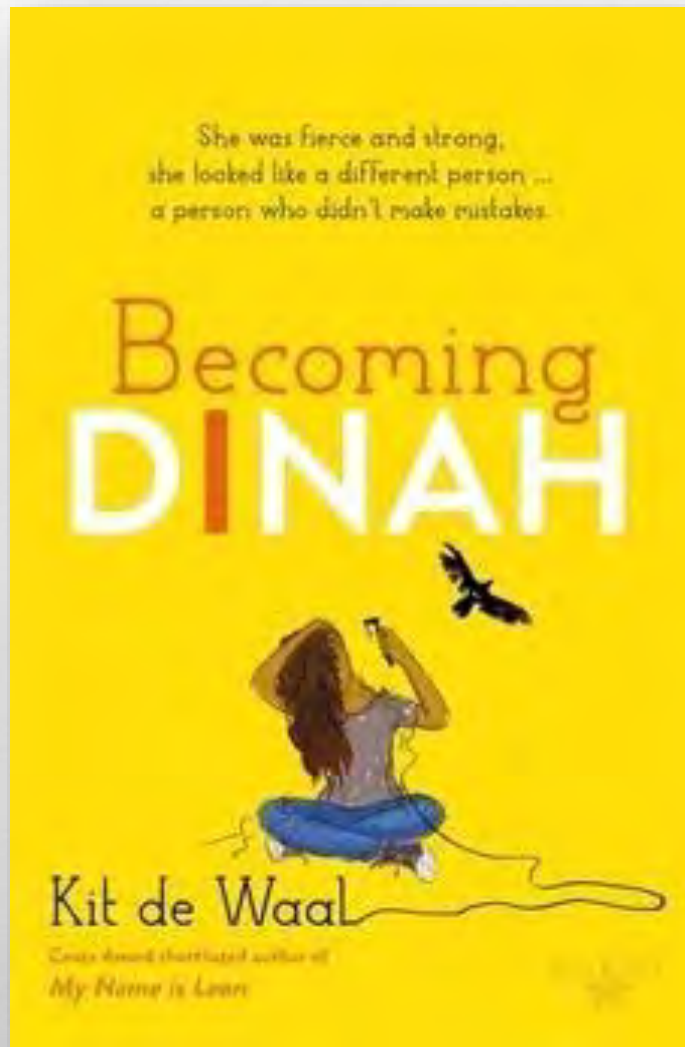


Told over the course of the ten rounds of his first fight. This is the story of amateur boxer Sunny, a seventeen-year-old feeling isolated and disconnected in the city he's just moved to.

Sunny joins a boxing club to learn to protect himself after a racist attack. He finds the community he's been desperately seeking at the club, and a mentor in trainer Shona, who helps him find his place in the world.

But racial tensions are rising in the city, and when a Far Right march through Bristol turns violent, Sunny is faced with losing his new best friend Keir to radicalisation.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

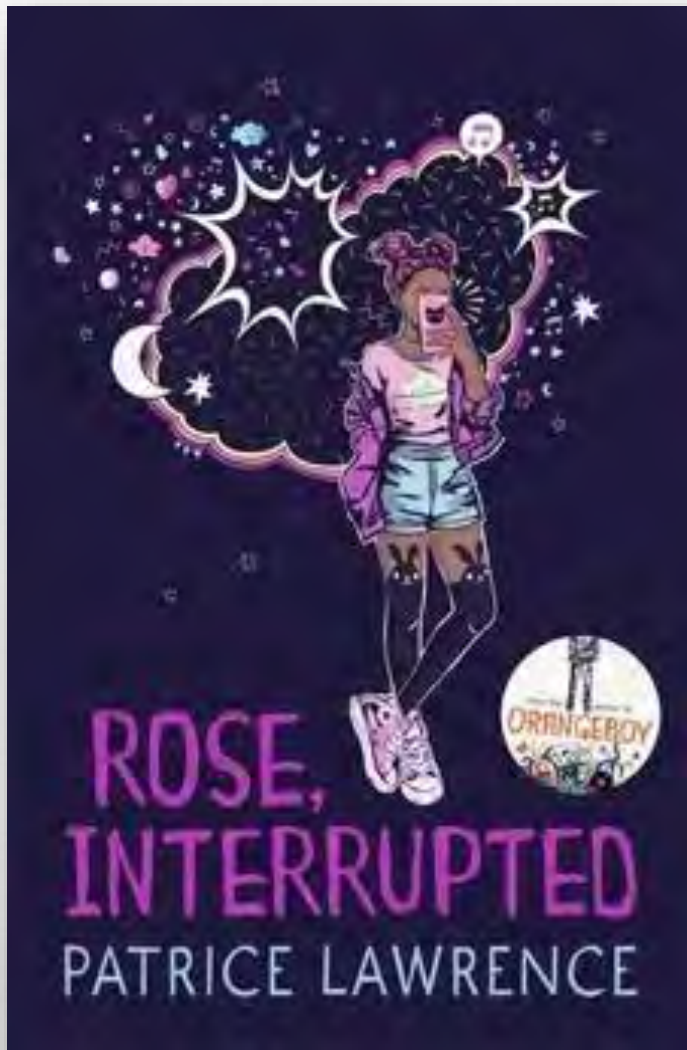


Seventeen-year-old Dinah needs to leave her home, the weird commune where she grew up. She needs a whole new identity, starting with how she looks, starting with shaving off her hair, her 'crowning glory'. She has to do it quickly, because she has to go now.

Dinah was going to go alone and hitch a ride down south. Except, she ends up being persuaded to illegally drive a VW campervan for hundreds of miles, accompanied by a grumpy man with one leg. This wasn't the plan.

But while she's driving, Dinah will be forced to confront everything that led her here, everything that will finally show her which direction to turn...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



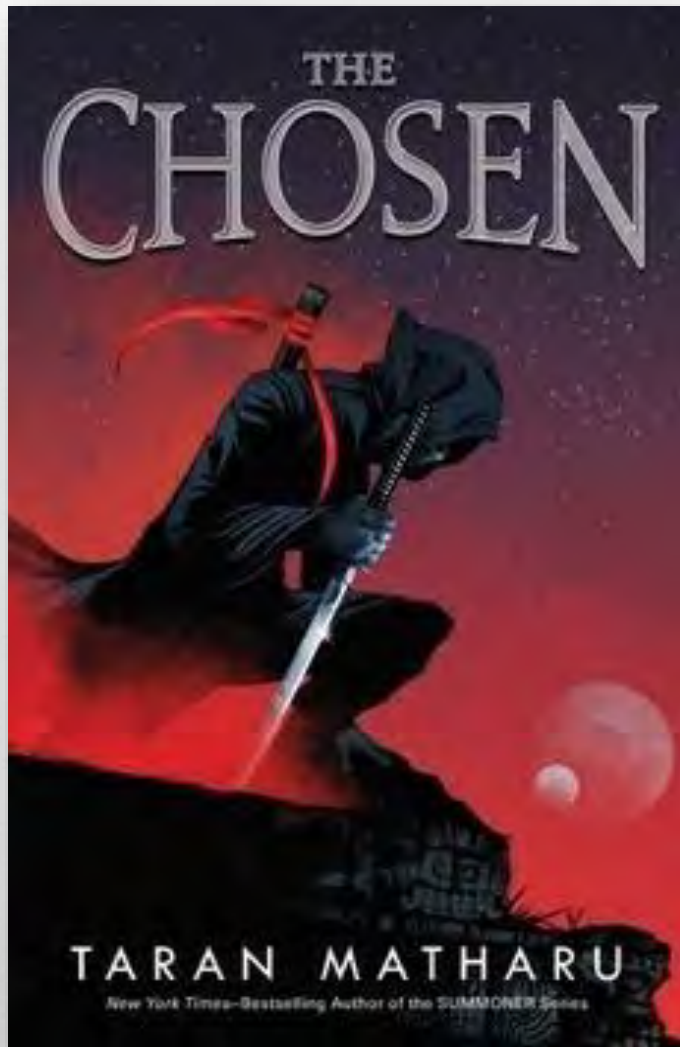
Being a teenager is hard enough, but it's even harder in a world you've never known ...

Eighteen months ago, 17-year-old Rose and 13-year-old Rudder escaped a strict religious sect with their mum. They are still trying to make sense of the world outside - no more rules about clothes and books, films and music, no more technology bans. But also no more friendship with the people they've known all their lives, no community and no certainty. It doesn't help that their mum has to work all hours to pay rent on their cramped, smelly, one-bed flat above a kebab shop in Hackney. They love the new freedoms, all the things they can now do expand their world like never before.

But there's loads of scary stuff about their new life that Rose and Rudder have no idea how to handle - it's normal for girls to let their boyfriends take naked pictures of them, right?

When Rudder accidentally sets a devastating chain of events into action, Rose must decide whether to sacrifice everything and go back to the life she hates, in order to save the people she loves.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

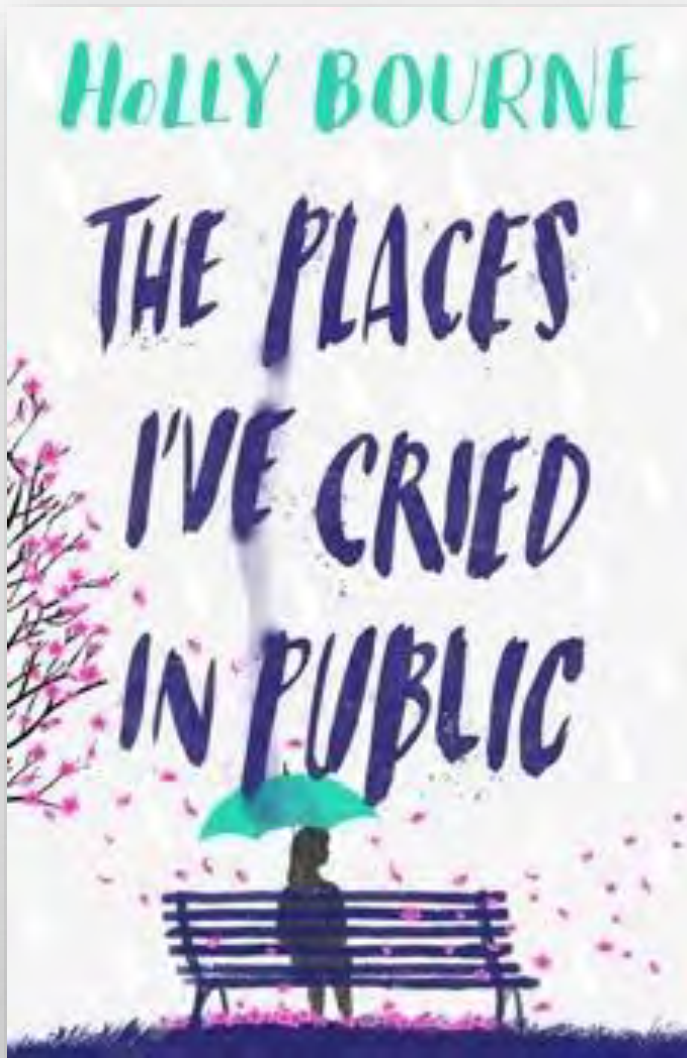


Throughout history, people have vanished with no explanation. A group of teenagers are about to discover why.

Cade is settling into a new boarding school, contemplating his future, when he finds himself transported to another realm. He soon discovers their new world is populated with lost remnants from the past: prehistoric creatures, ancient relics, and stranger still — people. Overwhelmed by his new surroundings, Cade has little time to adjust, for soon he and his fellow classmates are forced to become contenders in a brutal game, controlled by mysterious overlords.

But who are these beings and why did they choose these teens? Cade must prepare for battle . . . because hiding is not an option.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

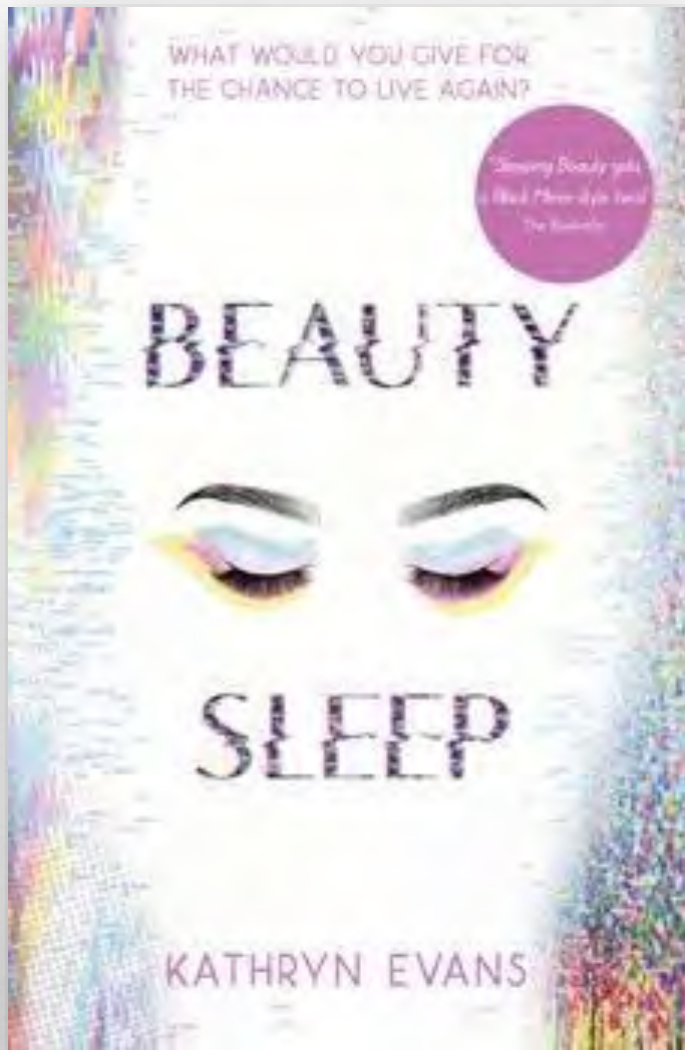


Amelie loved Reese. And she thought he loved her. But she's starting to realise love isn't supposed to hurt like this.

So now she's retracing their story and untangling what happened by revisiting all the places he made her cry.

Because if she works out what went wrong, perhaps she can finally learn to get over him.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Who am I? What am I? When am I?

Laura can't remember who she is. But the rest of the world knows. Because Laura is famous - a dying girl who was frozen until she could be cured. A real-life Sleeping Beauty.

But what happens when you wake up one day and the world has moved on forty years? Could you build a new life - while solving the mystery of what happened to the old one?

A darkly twisted thriller plunging a pre-tech girl into a futuristic world...

Three close friends. Two unforgettable summers. One girl's darkest secret.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Three close friends.
Two unforgettable summers.
One girl's darkest secret.

Alys appeared last summer, and then she
vanished without a trace.

Cait's new in town and she needs to know the
truth: Who is Alys?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Four friends
One summer
No regrets

Four friends pledge to make their summer regret-free but will it be that simple?

After their exams, sixteen-year-old friends Sasha, Hetal, Nell and Cam pledge to live a summer regret-free, taking risks however much it scares them.

As all these choices become difficult, even dangerous, they will need each other for the strength to face the future.

A diverse, feel-good story of friendship, irresistibly escapist.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

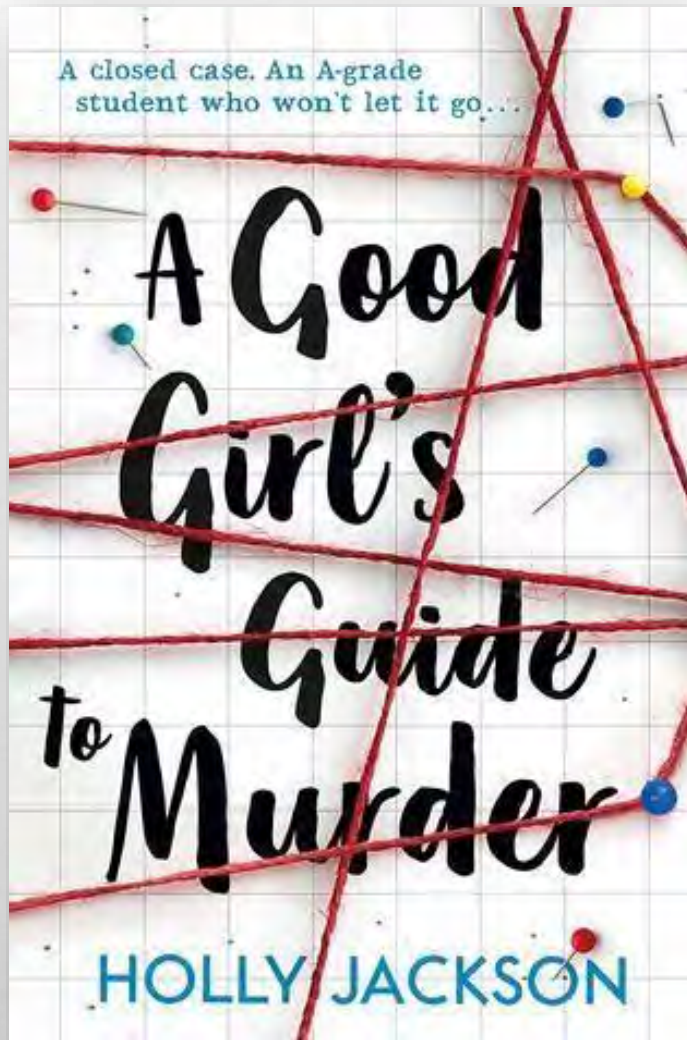


Challenged to go on a 'survival' reality TV show, fifteen-year-old make-up vlogger Tulip only accepts to escape her mother's money-making schemes and protect her younger brother and sister.

Set up to fail, can she prove to the TV show, to Harvey - the cute but annoying boy who got her on there - and most importantly to herself, that she's more than just a pretty face?

As Tulip puts down her phone and heads for the hills, she finds she has both the courage and insight to take on each new challenge. But as 'reality' gets ever more crazy, will either teen escape their families and their time in the spotlight unscathed?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

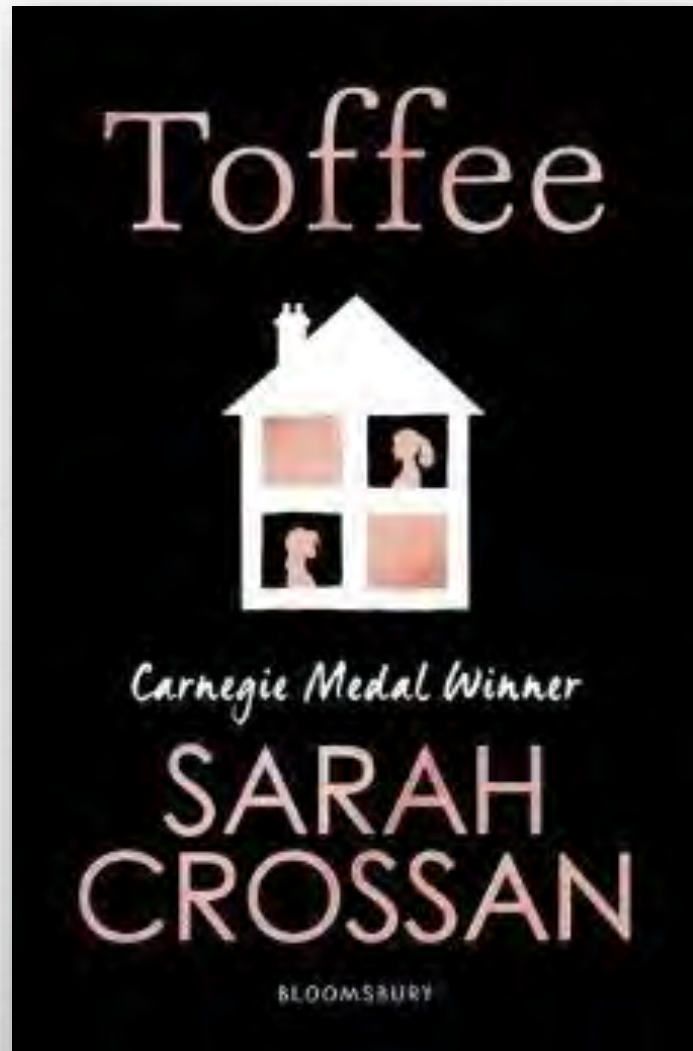


The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it.

But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the murder, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure.

When she chooses the case as the topic for her final year project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth?

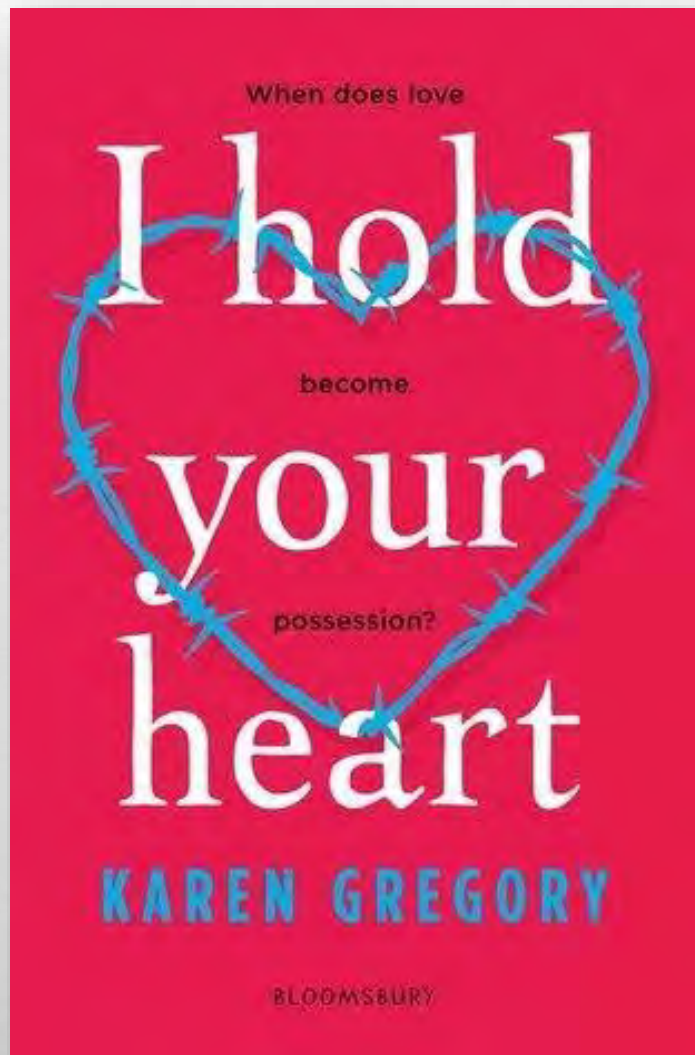
#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Allison has run away from home, and with nowhere to live, finds herself hiding out in the shed of what she thinks is an abandoned house. But the house isn't empty. An elderly woman named Marla, with dementia, lives there – and she mistakes Allison for an old friend from her past called Toffee.

Allison is used to hiding who she really is, and trying to be what other people want her to be. And so, Toffee is who she becomes. After all, it means she has a place to stay. There are worse places she could be. But as their bond grows, and Allison discovers how much Marla needs a real friend, she begins to ask herself – where is home? What is a family? And most importantly, who am I, really?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



'You make me feel like there's something good in the world I can hold on to,' Aaron says. He kisses me again, draws me so close it's almost hard to breathe. 'I love you, Gem. And I promise I'll hold your heart forever.'

When Gemma meets Aaron, she feels truly seen for the first time. Their love story is the intense kind. The written-in-the-stars, excluding-all-others kind. The kind you write songs about.

But little by little their relationship takes over Gemma's life. What happens when being seen becomes being watched, and care becomes control?

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

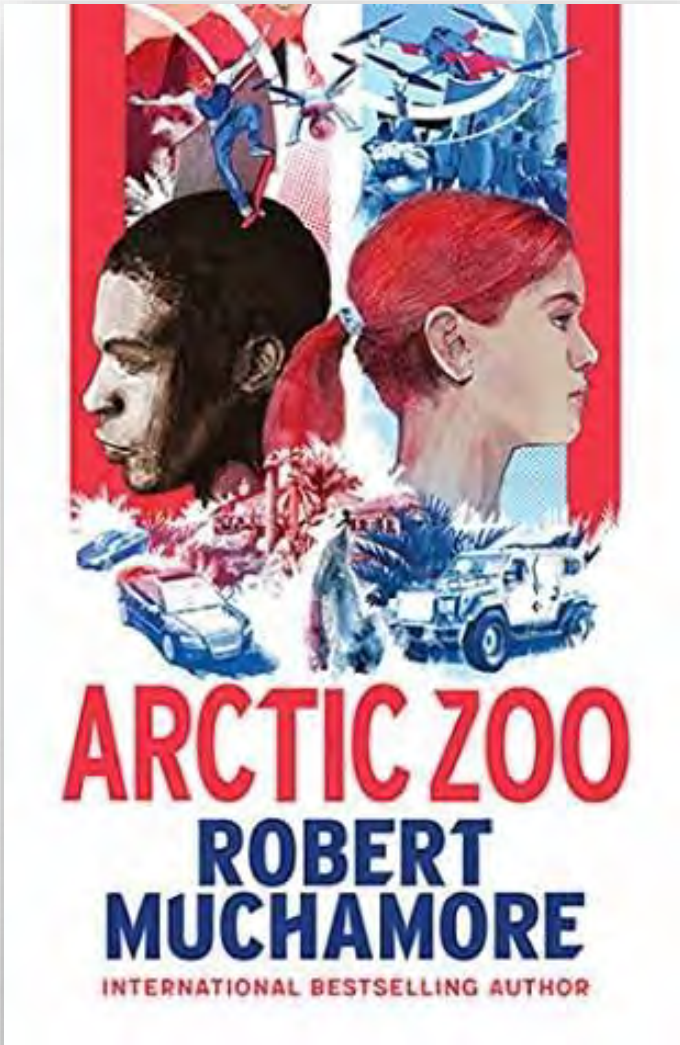


Maggie Yates talks to her best friend Moya every day. She tells her about Maggie's mum losing her job. She tells her that Mum's taken to not opening the curtains and crying in secret. And she tells her about how she plans to cheer Mum up - find her a fella with a bit of cash to splash.

Moya is with her every step of the way. You're surfing a rainbow if you think someone like that exists round here, she smiles. But I'll help.

But at the back of her mind Maggie knows that Mum's crying is more than sadness. That there are no easy fixes. And that Moya's not really there. Because though she talks to her every day, Moya died months ago...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



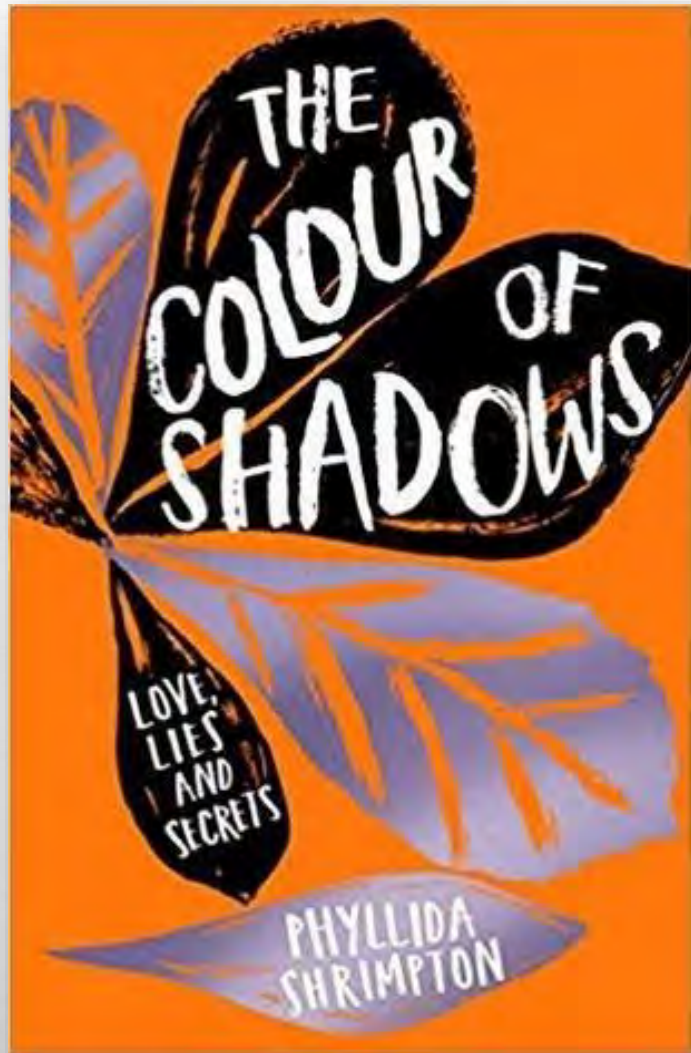
From London . . .

Georgia gets straight As at school, writes essays for fun, has been placed first in twenty-six drone races and has a serious addiction to buying Japanese stationery. She plans to follow her older sister Sophie and become a doctor, but her worldview is shattered when Sophie commits suicide.

To Lagos . . .

Julius lives in Ondo, a Nigerian state where half the population lives on less than a dollar a day. But he isn't one of them. His uncle has been governor of Ondo for more than a decade and his mother is the power behind that throne. He finds refuge in a derelict zoo with best friend Duke, but as the two of them grow close, the world outside becomes more and more hostile.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

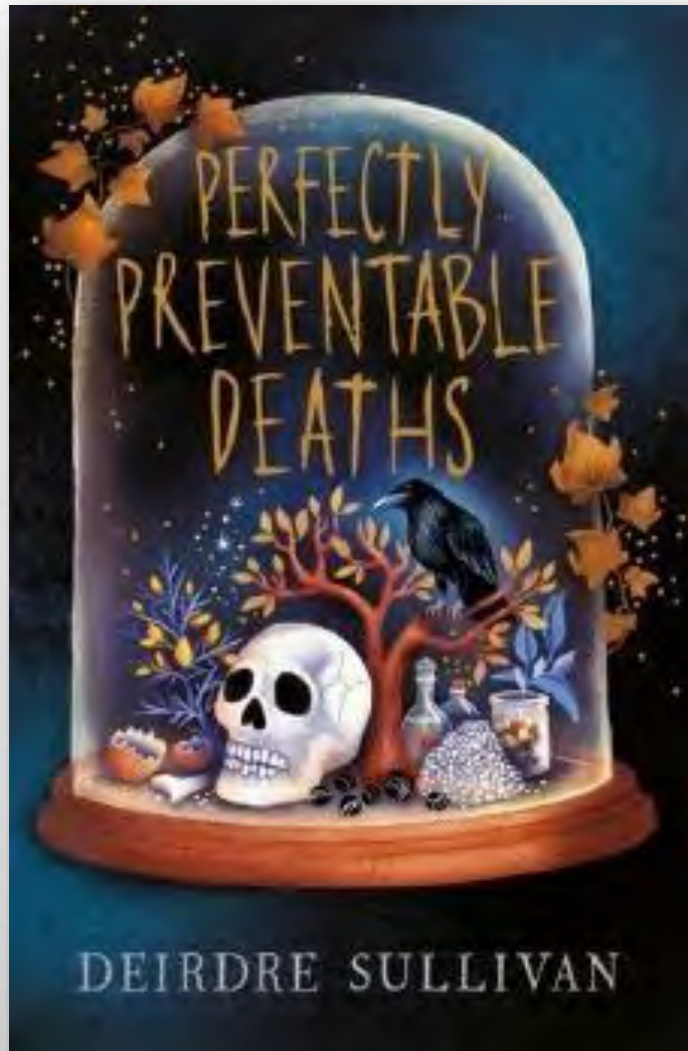


A moving portrayal of a teenager coming to terms with a secret about her mother that her father decided to keep from her... was he right to do so? Saffron must work that out...

Seventeen-year-old Saffron discovers a secret in the attic - a secret that changes both her past and her future...

Having believed ten years ago that her mother had become ill and subsequently died, Saffron learns that her mother is in fact alive and well. Angry at the years of deceit from her father and step mother, she goes in search of the truth about her mother - and leaves home. Homeless and alone, Saffron has to deal with the mental turmoil and anger at her father as she processes the lies she has been told. And then Saffron comes face to face with the dangers of being a homeless teenage girl...

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Everyone in Ballyfran has a secret, and that is what binds them together...

Fifteen-year-old twins Madeline and Catlin move to a new life in Ballyfran, a strange isolated town, a place where, for the last sixty years, teenage girls have gone missing in the surrounding mountains.

Distance grows between the twins - Catlin falls in love, and Madeline begins to understand her own witchcraft - Madeline discovers that Ballyfrann is a place full of predators. Not only foxes, owls and crows, but also supernatural beings who for many generations have congregated here to escape persecution.

When Catlin falls into the gravest danger of all, Madeline must ask herself who she really is, and who she wants to be - or rather, who she might have to become to save her sister.

Dark and otherworldly, this is an enthralling story about the bond between sisters and the sacrifices we make for those we care about the most.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

YASMIN RAHMAN

ALL THE
THINGS

WE
NEVER

SAID

16-year-old Mehreen Miah's anxiety and depression, or 'Chaos', as she calls it, has taken over her life, to the point where she can't bear it any more.

She joins MementoMori, a website that matches people with partners and allocates them a date and method of death, 'the pact'. Mehreen is paired with Cara Saunders and Olivia Castleton, two strangers dealing with their own serious issues. As they secretly meet over the coming days, Mehreen develops a strong bond with Cara and Olivia, the only people who seem to understand what she's going through.

Ironically, the thing that brought them together to commit suicide has also created a mutually supportive friendship that makes them realise that, with the right help, life is worth living. It's not long before all three want out of the pact.

But in a terrifying twist of fate, the website won't let them stop, and an increasingly sinister game begins, with MementoMori playing the girls off against each other.

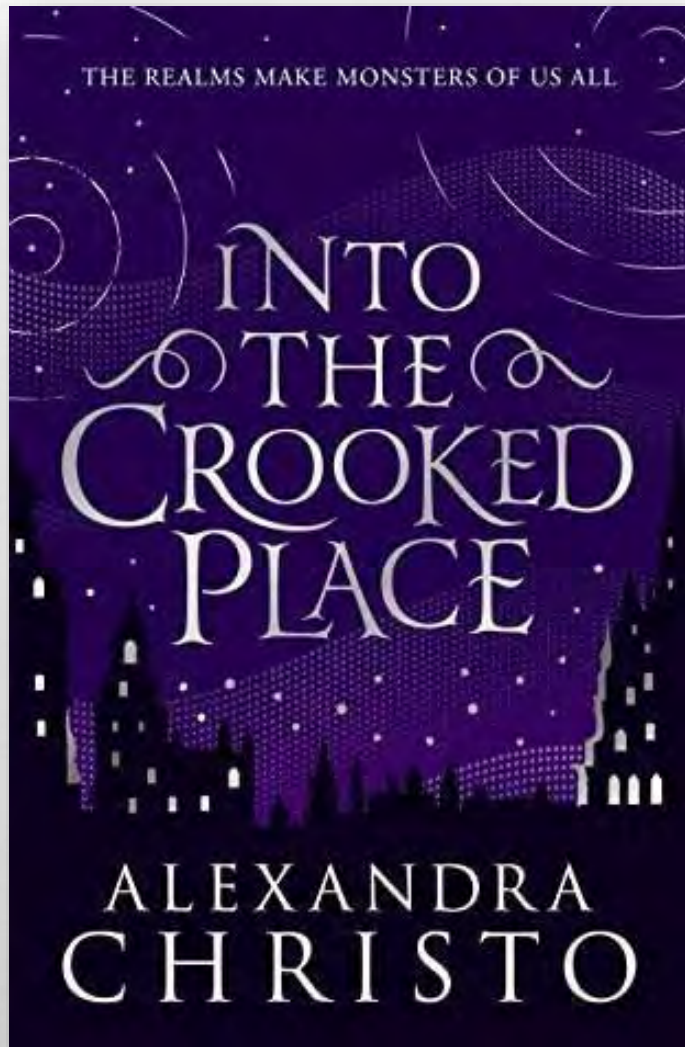
#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Brigid is one of a group of child refugees being escorted to England by the Red Cross in October 1946. She is a serious, silent figure, with worn clothes and shoes and a small cardboard suitcase containing all her belongings. On arrival at Waterloo station however, Brigid breaks from the group and runs . . .

Brigid has a secret which she has buried deep inside her. She also has an ulterior motive: she needs to find a place called Summerland Hall where she hopes she will find the one person left alive who is deeply important to her. An extraordinary tale, with some events inspired by history, that encompasses truth, tolerance, racism and forgiveness.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Magic rules the city of Creije Capital and Tavia Syn knows just how many tricks she needs up her sleeve to survive. Selling dark magic on the streets for her kingpin, she keeps clear of other crooks, counting the days until her debt is paid and she can flee her criminal life.

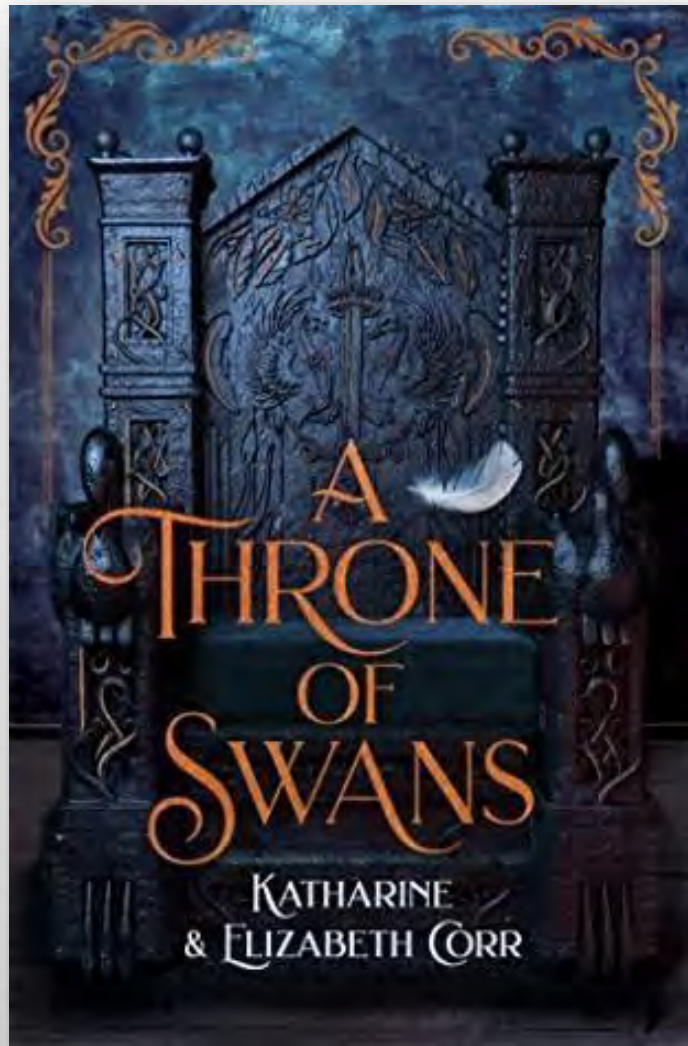
But then, one day, with her freedom in sight, Tavia uncovers a sinister plot that threatens to destroy the realm she calls home. Desperate to put an end to her kingpin's plan, Tavia forms an unlikely alliance with three crooks even more deadly than her: Wesley, the kingpin's prodigy and most renewed criminal in the realm

Karam, an underground fighter with a penchant for killing first and forgetting to ask questions

And Saxony, a Crafter in hiding who will stop at nothing to avenge her family

With the reluctant saviours assembled, they embark on a quest to put an end to the dark magic before it's too late. But even if they can take down the kingpin and save the realm, the one thing they can't do is trust each other.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

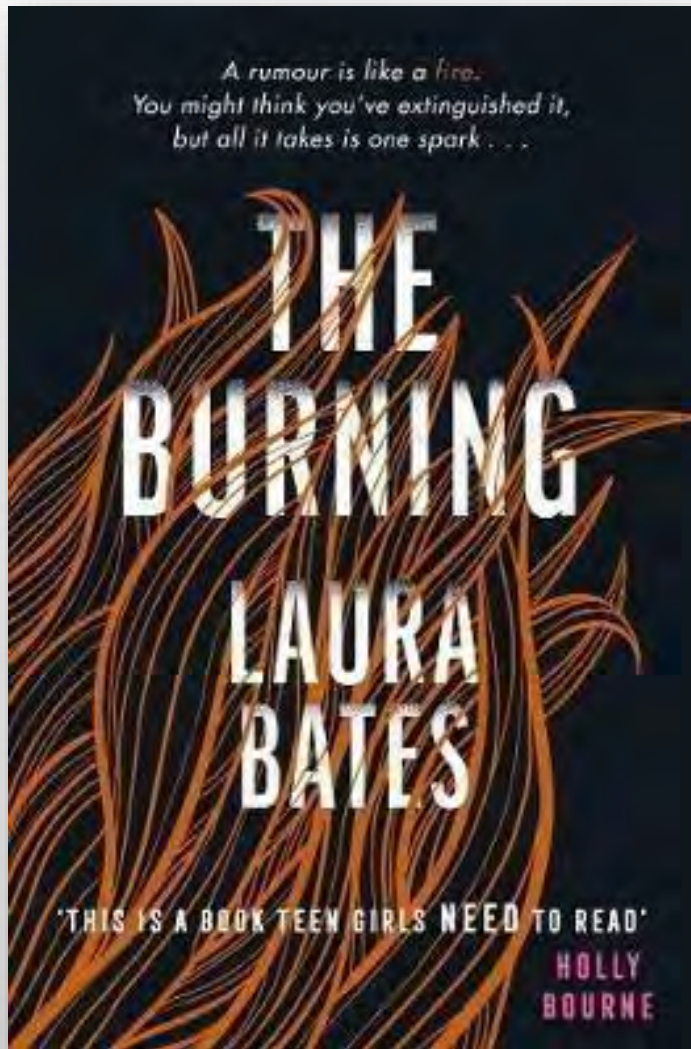


In a world where the flightless are ruled by those who can fly...

When her father dies just before her birthday, seventeen-year-old Aderyn inherits the role of Protector of Atratys, a dominion in a kingdom where nobles are able to transform at will into the bird that represents their family bloodline. Aderyn's ancestral bird is a swan. But she has not transformed for years, not since witnessing the death of her mother - ripped apart by hawks that have supposedly been extinct since the long-ago War of the Raptors.

With the benevolent shelter of her mother and her father now lost, Aderyn is at the mercy of her brutal uncle, the King, and his royal court. Driven by revenge and love, she must venture into the malevolent heart of the Citadel in order to seek the truth about the attack that so nearly destroyed her, to fight for the only home she has ever known and for the land she has vowed to protect.

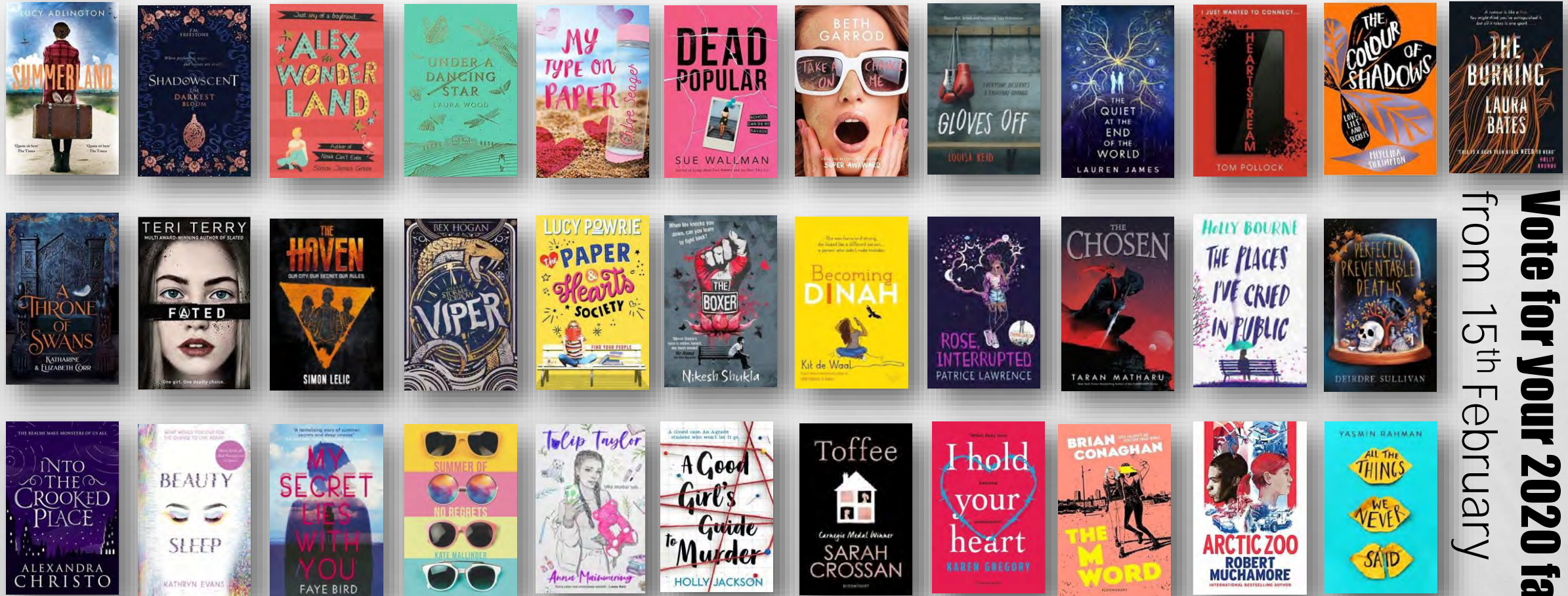
#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Anna and her mother have moved hundreds of miles to put the past behind them. Anna hopes to make a fresh start and escape the harassment she's been subjected to. But then rumors and whispers start, and Anna tries to ignore what is happening by immersing herself in learning about Maggie, a local woman accused of witchcraft in the seventeenth century. A woman who was shamed. Silenced. And whose story has unsettling parallels to Anna's own.

From Laura Bates, internationally renowned feminist and founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, comes a debut novel for the #metoo era. It's a powerful call to action, reminding all readers of the implications of sexism and the role we can each play in ending it.

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!



Note for your 2020 fav's
 from 15th February

#ABA2020 Long LONG list contenders!

WHAT CAUGHT YOUR EYE?

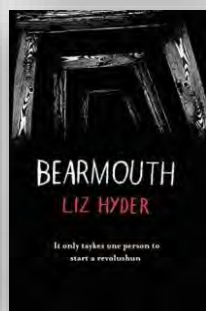
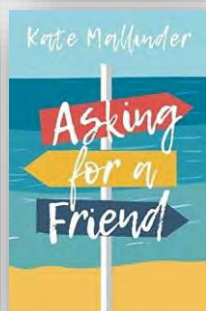
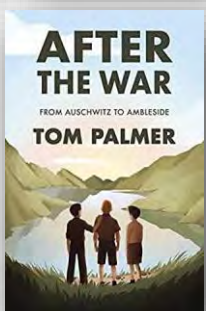
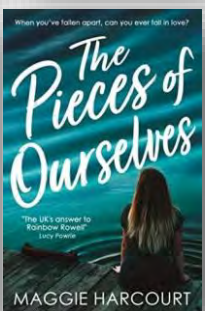
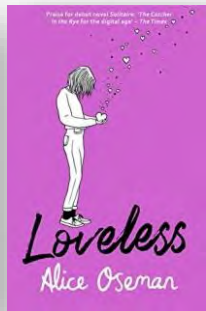
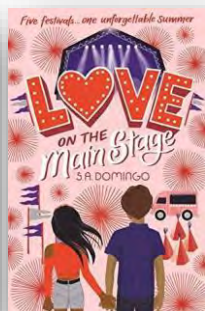
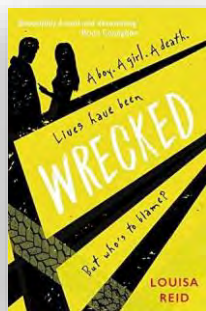
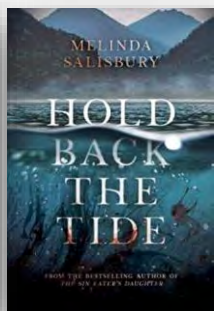
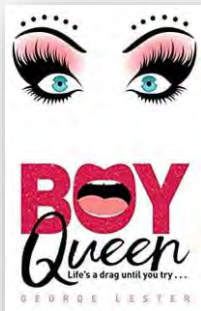
We need **YOUR** votes to help to choose the Official Shortlist that all 30+ schools will read over the next few months.

Watch out for the polls on our Social Media to use your votes from 15th February for #ABA2020 and from 22nd February for #ABA2021

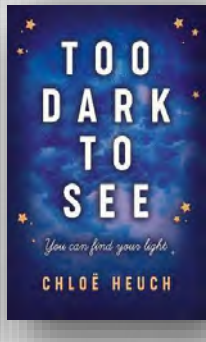
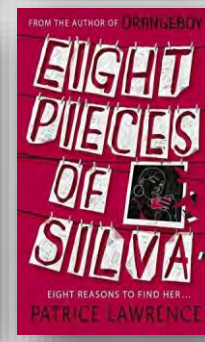
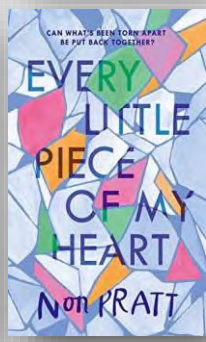
The Shortlist will be will be announced on Thursday 4th March!



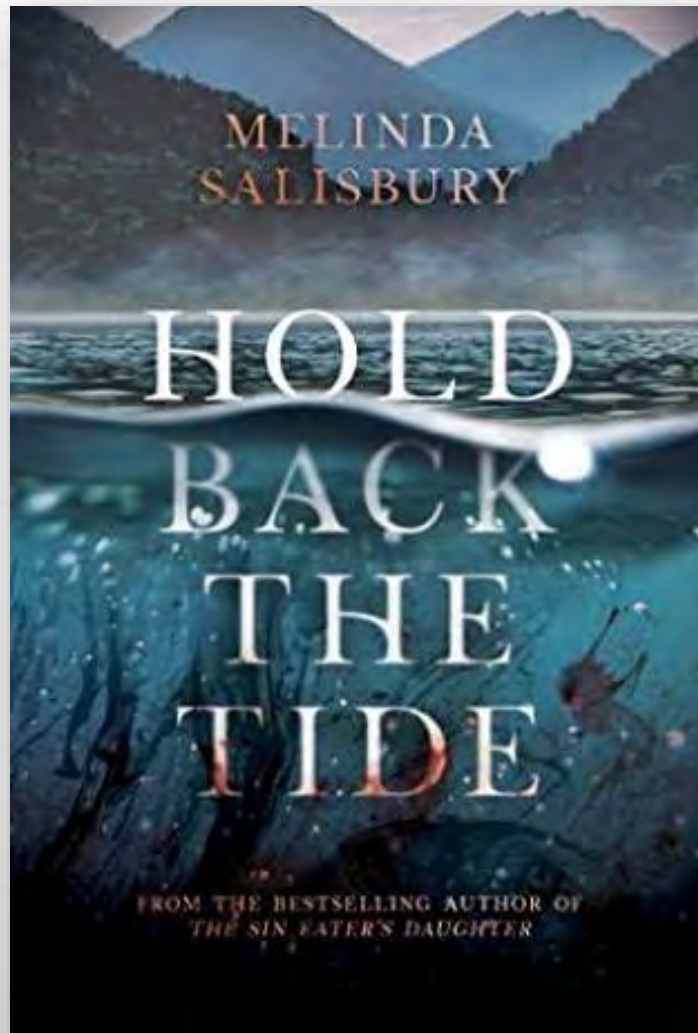
Join us online for the awards event on Friday 18th June!



Vote for your
2021 fav's from
22nd February



#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Everyone knows what happened to Alva's mother, all those years ago.

But when dark forces begin to stir in Ormscaula, Alva has to face a very different future - and question everything she thought she knew about her past...

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



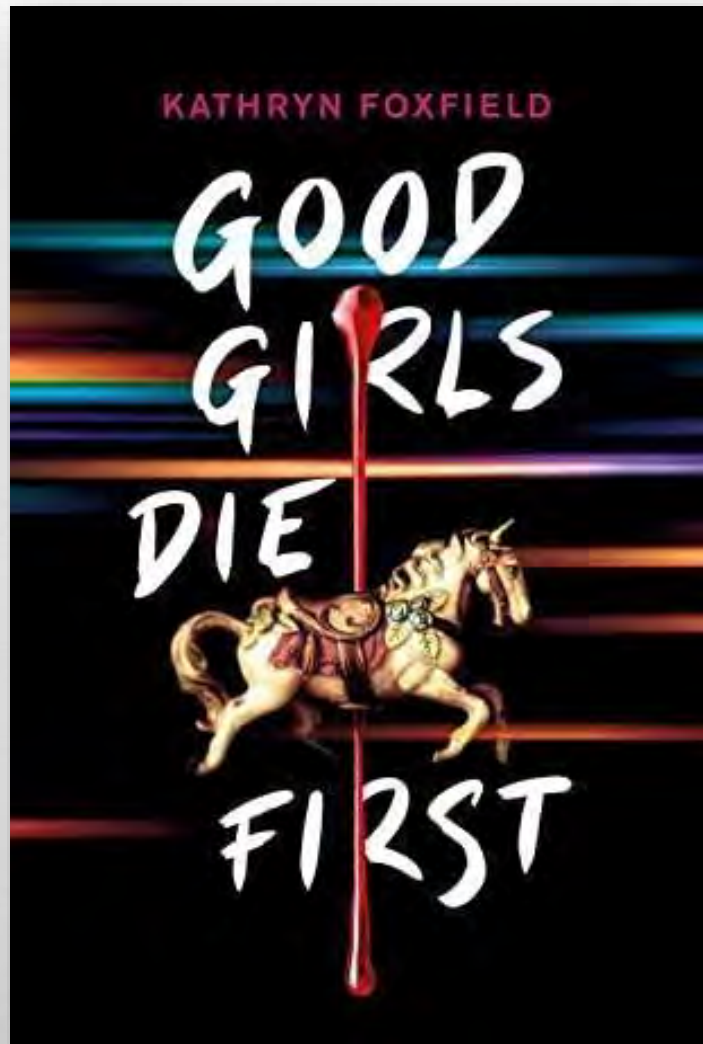
Faking the best summer ever is a lot harder than it looks...

At the start of summer, Jack and Nate find themselves dumped as their respective exes, Dylan and Tariq, start up a new relationship together. Not only that, their exes start posting pics on social media, showing the whole world how fabulous their new life together is!

Jack and Nate are reeling. Not to be outdone, they decide to create their own 'highlights reel' and show their exes that they're having an even better time.

But between the depressing motorway service station motels, damp campsites, and an ultimate showdown with the exes, something epic really is happening: Jack and Nate are learning to get over their heartache and open themselves up to new possibilities for love.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

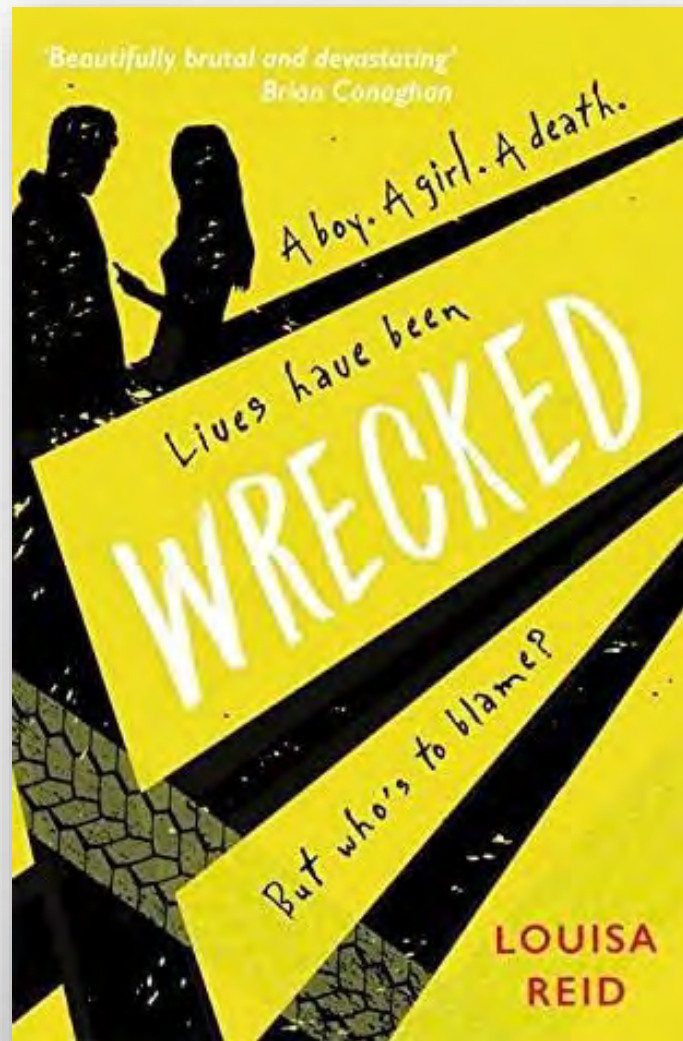


Mind games. Murder. Mayhem. How far would you go to survive the night?

Blackmail lures sixteen-year-old Ava to the derelict carnival on Portgrave Pier. She is one of ten teenagers, all with secrets they intend to protect whatever the cost.

When fog and magic swallow the pier, the group find themselves cut off from the real world and from their morals. As the teenagers turn on each other, Ava will have to face up to the secret that brought her to the pier and decide how far she's willing to go to survive.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Joe and Imogen seem like the perfect couple — they've been in a relationship for years and are the envy of their friends at school.

But after accidentally becoming involved a tragic fatal accident, they become embroiled in a situation out of their control, and Joe and Imogen's relationship becomes slowly unravelled until the truth is out there for all to see...

Structured around a dramatic and tense court case, the reader becomes both judge and jury in a stunning and page-turning novel of uncovering secrets and lies — who can be believed?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Ally arrives from England with her brothers for a holiday in Africa – 4 weeks of running wild on an unspoiled untamed coast amid mangrove creeks, sandy beaches, coral reefs and warm seas.

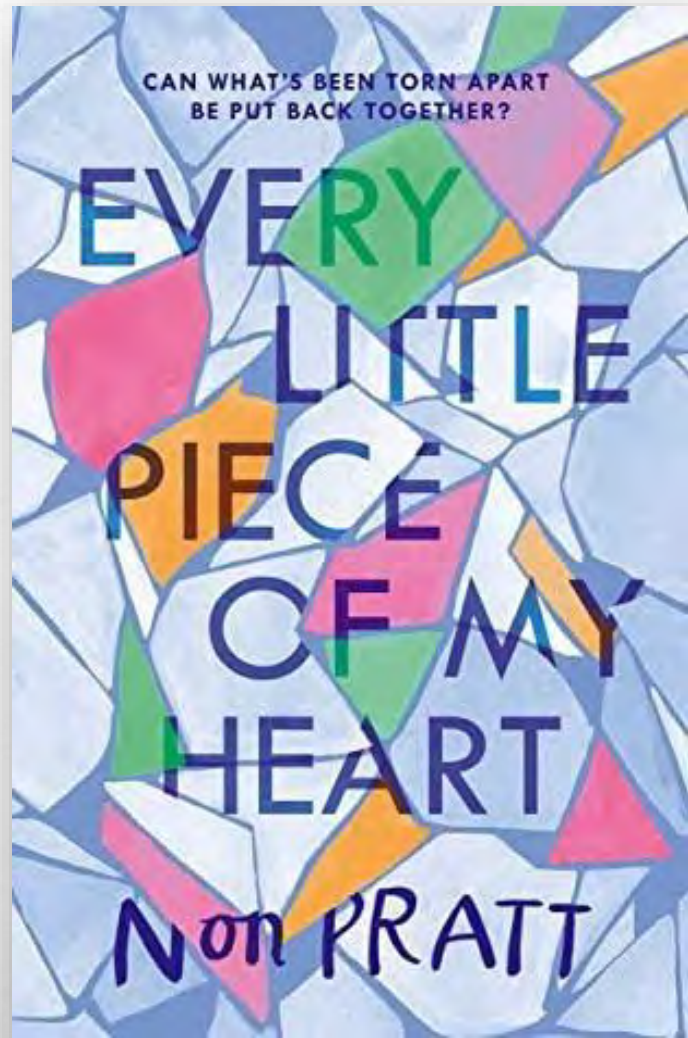
Local teenager, Leli sweeps her into the world of his village and their offshore island, Kisiri – the place of secrets. It's the beginning of a friendship that swiftly becomes an intense, overwhelming bond between them.

Kisiri is a place of local legend, protected and feared: village youngsters dare each other to go there. Village elders forbid it. Ally and Leli feel drawn to it, and land on its shores.

But fear can change things, divide people. The bond between Ally and Leli feels unbreakable. But events will test their friendship.

Only weeks away, she will leave for England, simply walk away, never to return, how can she possibly share, or help?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



When Sophie receives a parcel from her best friend, Freya, she expects it to contain the reason why Freya left town so suddenly, without goodbyes and without explanation.

Instead, she finds a letter addressed to Win, a girl Freya barely knew - or did she?

As more letters arrive for more people on the periphery of Freya's life, Sophie and Win begin to piece together who Freya was and why she left.

Sometimes it's not about who's gone, but about who they leave behind.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

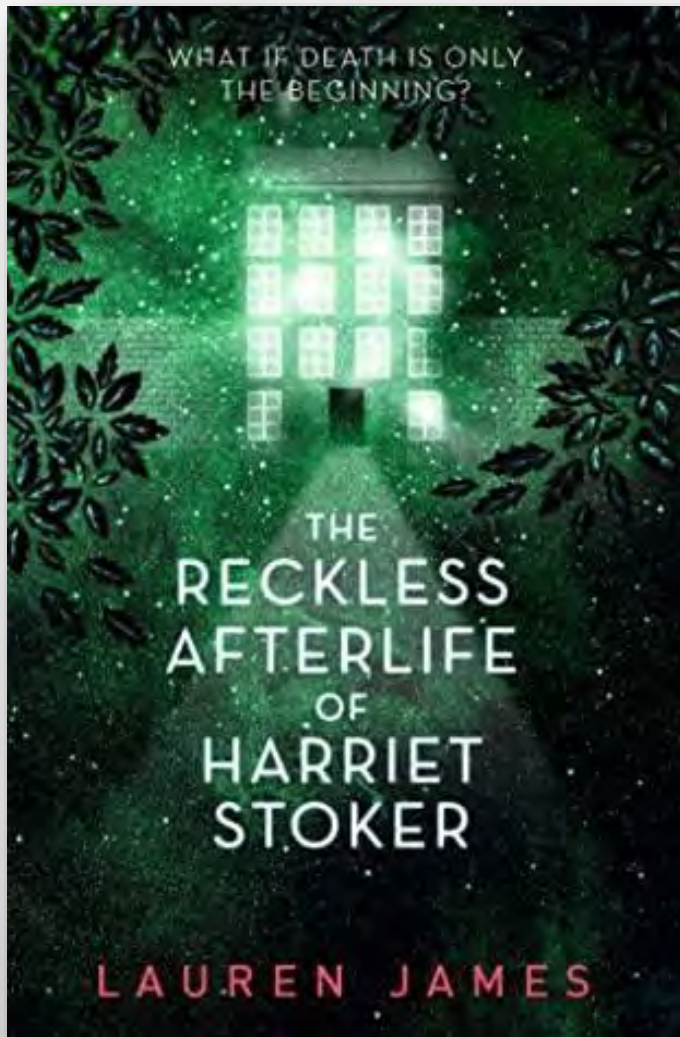


A timely feminist YA novel in verse about periods, sex, shame and going viral for all the wrong reasons.

Blood Moon is a YA novel about the viral shaming of a teenage girl. During her seminal sexual experience with the quiet and lovely Benjamin, physics-lover and astronomy fan Frankie gets her period – but the next day a gruesome meme goes viral, turning an innocent, intimate afternoon into something sordid, mortifying and damaging.

Powerful and important reading for all teenagers.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



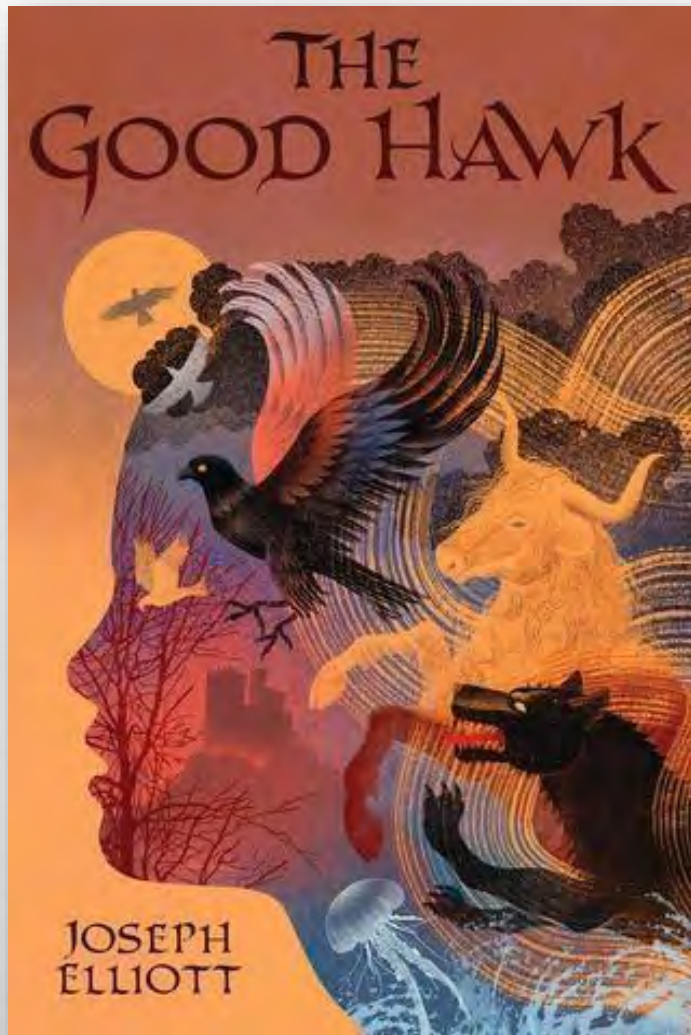
“Congratulations, new kid. Welcome to the afterlife.”

What if death is only the beginning?

When Harriet Stoker dies after falling from a balcony in a long-abandoned building, she discovers a group of ghosts, each with a special power.

Felix, Kasper, Rima and Leah welcome Harriet into their world, eager to make friends with the new arrival after decades alone. Yet Harriet is more interested in unleashing her own power, even if it means destroying everyone around her. But when all of eternity is at stake, the afterlife can be a dangerous place to make an enemy.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



In a mythic Scotland, two unlikely heroes must make a dangerous journey to save their people.

Agatha is a Hawk, brave & fierce. She protects her people by patrolling the high walls of their island home. She is proud of her job, though some in her clan whisper that it is meant to keep her out of the way because of the condition she was born with.

Jaime, thoughtful and anxious, is an Angler, but he hates the sea. Worse, he's been chosen for a duty that the clan hasn't required for generations: to marry. The elders won't say why they have promised him to a girl in a neighbouring clan, but there are rumours of approaching danger.

When disaster strikes and the clan is kidnapped, it is up to Agatha and Jaime to travel across the haunted mainland of Scotia to Norveg, with help along the way from a clan of nomadic Highland bull riders and the many animals who are drawn to Agatha's extraordinary gift of communication.

Thrilling and dark yet rich with humour and compassion, this is the first book in the Shadow Skye trilogy, written by a wonderful new voice in fantasy and introducing a welcome new kind of hero.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Kat wants to do GOOD FEMINISM, although she's not always sure what that means. She also wants to be a writer, get together with Hot Josh (is this a feminist ambition?), win at her coursework and not make a TOTAL EMBARRASSMENT of herself at all times.

But the path to true feminism is filled with mortifying incidents and when everything at school starts to get a bit too much, Kat knows she's lost her way, and the only way forward is to ask for help . . .

Join Kat AKA the Confused Feminist as she navigates EVERYTHING from menstrual cups and mental health to Instagram likes and #TimesUp in her HILARIOUS, OUTRAGEOUS and VERY EMBARRASSING diary.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



They say the thirst of blood is like a madness - they must sate it. Even with their own kin.

On the eve of her divining, the day she'll discover her fate, seventeen-year-old Lil and her twin sister Kizzy are captured and enslaved by the cruel Boyar Valcar, taken far away from their beloved traveller community.

Forced to work in the harsh and unwelcoming castle kitchens, Lil is comforted when she meets Mira, a fellow slave who she feels drawn to in a way she doesn't understand. But she also learns about the Dragon, a mysterious and terrifying figure of myth and legend who takes girls as gifts.

They may not have had their divining day, but the girls will still discover their fate...

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

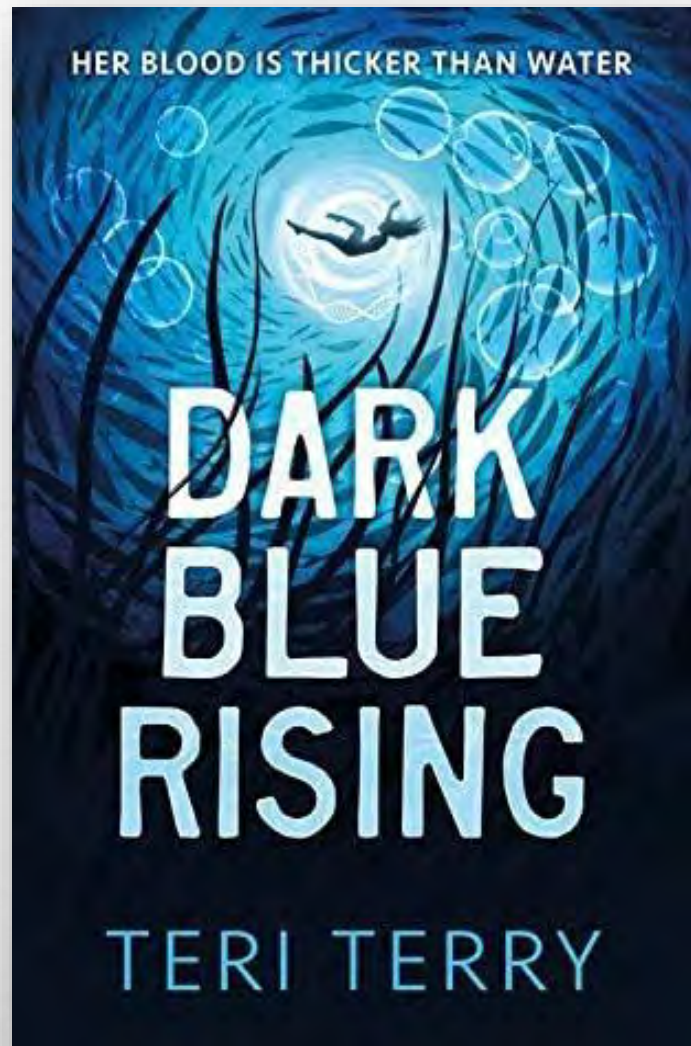


Five music festivals . . . One unforgettable summer! A new clean teen romance from the author of *Love, Secret Santa*.

16-year-old songwriter Nova is having the best summer of her life. Helping out with her parents' food truck, she gets to attend not one, but FIVE different music festivals! Things get even better when she meets cute American boy, Sam, an aspiring musician like her. After sharing a magical evening dancing under the stars, Nova never expects to see Sam again. But to her surprise they keep meeting up at music festivals . . .

Nova begins to hope that their romance could become more than just a festival fling. So why is Sam so reluctant to talk about himself? And why does he have access to the VIP backstage area . . .?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

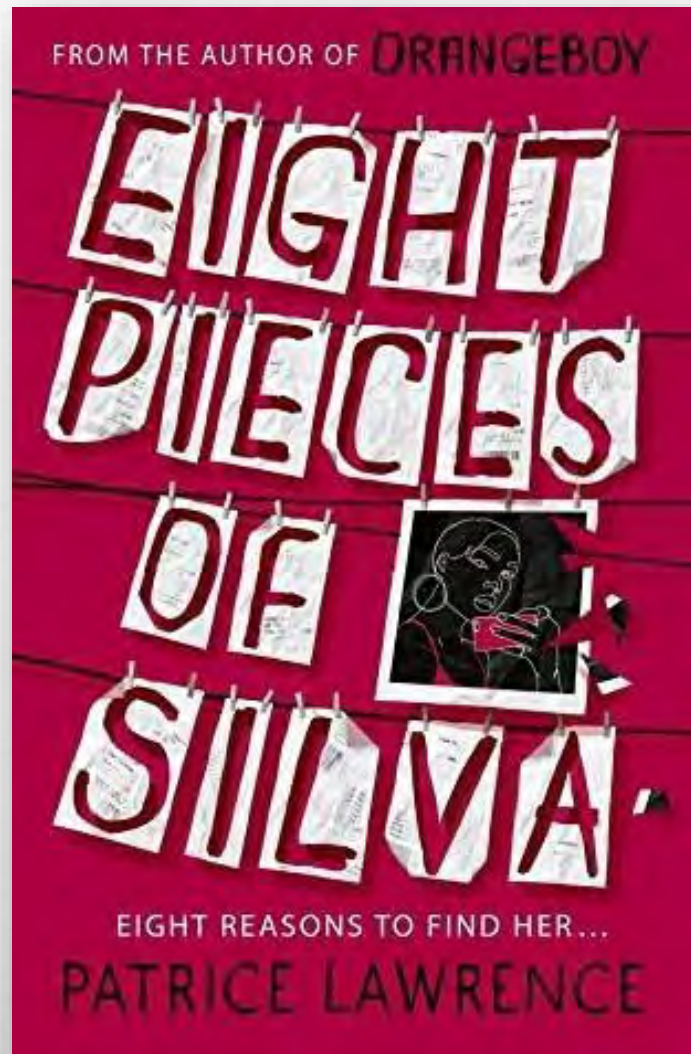


Tabby lives a transient life with her mum Cate, never sticking in one place long enough to make friends. Until one day, an accident changes everything. Cate is arrested and Tabby realises her life has been a lie: Cate is not her mother.

As she adjusts to her new life, Tabby finds herself drawn to the ocean - the only place she feels happy - and enrolls at a swimming summer school to help her heal.

But all is not as it seems. She and her new friends are cut off from the outside world and she's plagued by a repeating symbol of interlocking circles that follows her everywhere. As Tabby begins to learn the truth about what the circles mean, and uncovers the terrible lies she's been told about her past, a final twist awaits her - a secret hidden in her DNA...

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Becks is into girls but didn't come out because she was never in.

She lives with her mum, stepdad and eighteen-year-old Silva, her stepdad's daughter.

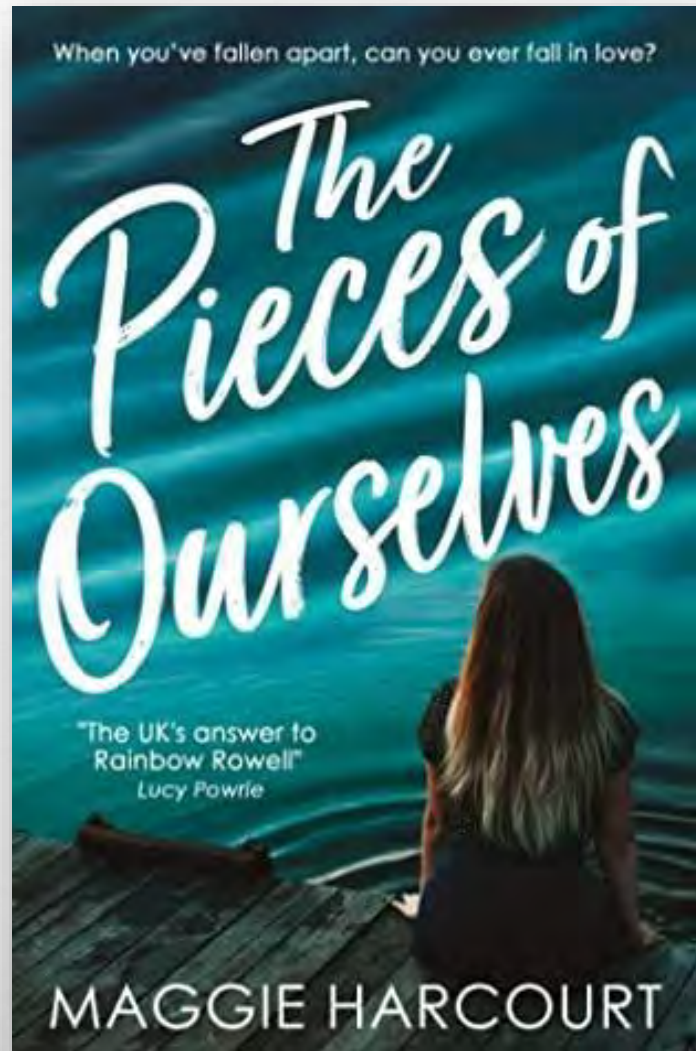
Becks and Silva are opposites, but bond over their mutual obsession with K-pop.

When Becks' mum and stepdad go on honeymoon to Japan, Becks and Silva are left alone.

Except, Silva disappears.

Becks ventures into the forbidden territory of Silva's room and finds the first of eight clues that help her discover her sister's secret life.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

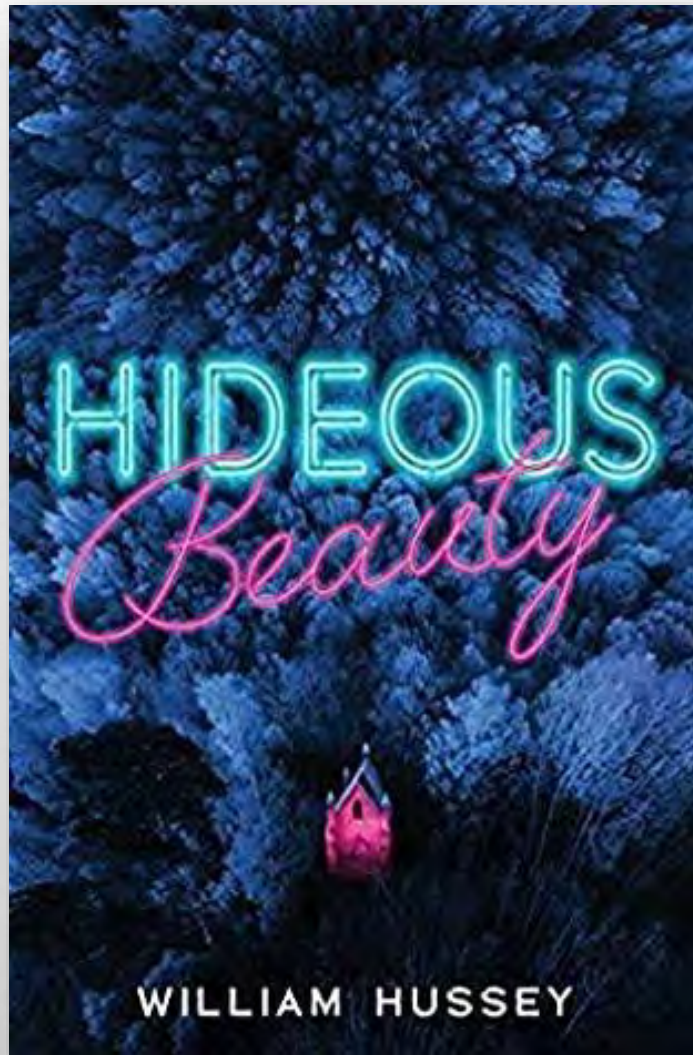


Flora doesn't do people", not since the Incident that led to her leaving school midway through her GCSEs. The Incident that led to her being diagnosed with bipolar II. The Incident that left her in pieces.

Until Hal arrives. He's researching a story about a missing World War I soldier, and he wants Flora's help. Flora used to love history before the Incident, but spending so much time with Hal is her worst nightmare.

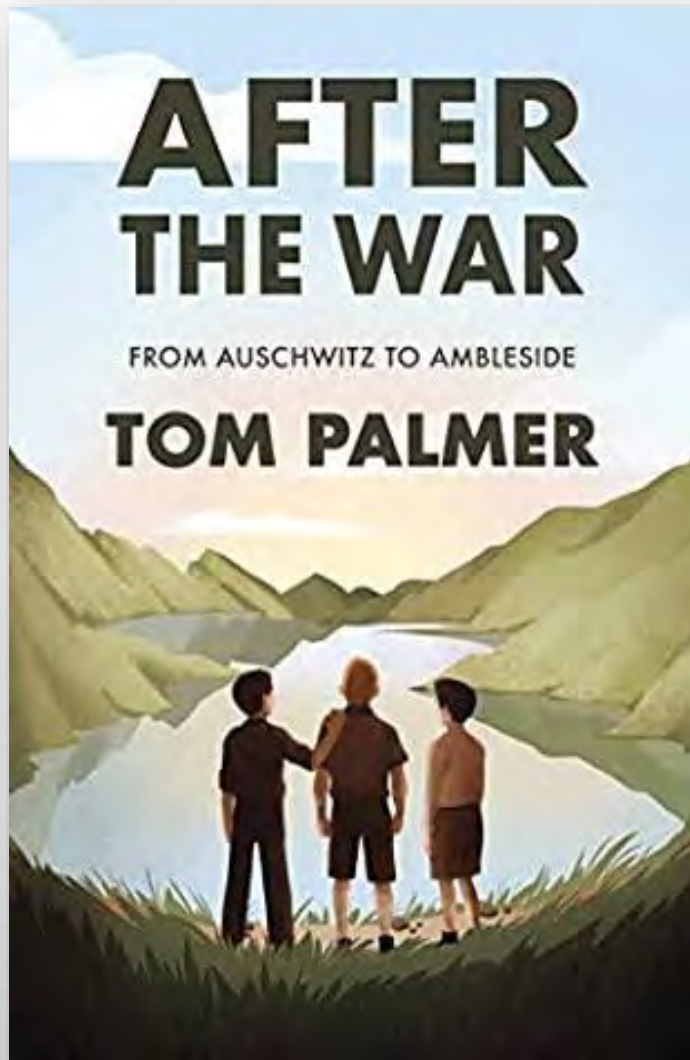
Yet as they begin to piece together the life of the missing soldier, a life of lost love, secrets and lies, Flora finds a piece of herself falling for Hal.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



When Dylan and Ellis's secret relationship is exposed on social media, Dylan is forced to come out. To Dylan's surprise they are met with support and congratulations, and an amazing reception at their highschool dance. Perhaps people aren't as narrow-minded as he thought? But Dylan's happiness is short-lived. Ellis suddenly becomes angry, withdrawn, and as they drive home from the dance, he loses control of the car, sending it plunging into Hunter's Lake. Barely conscious, Dylan is pulled free of the wreck, while Ellis is left to drown. Grief-stricken, Dylan vows to discover what happened to Ellis that night and piece together the last months of his boyfriend's life – and realises just how little he knew about the boy he loved.

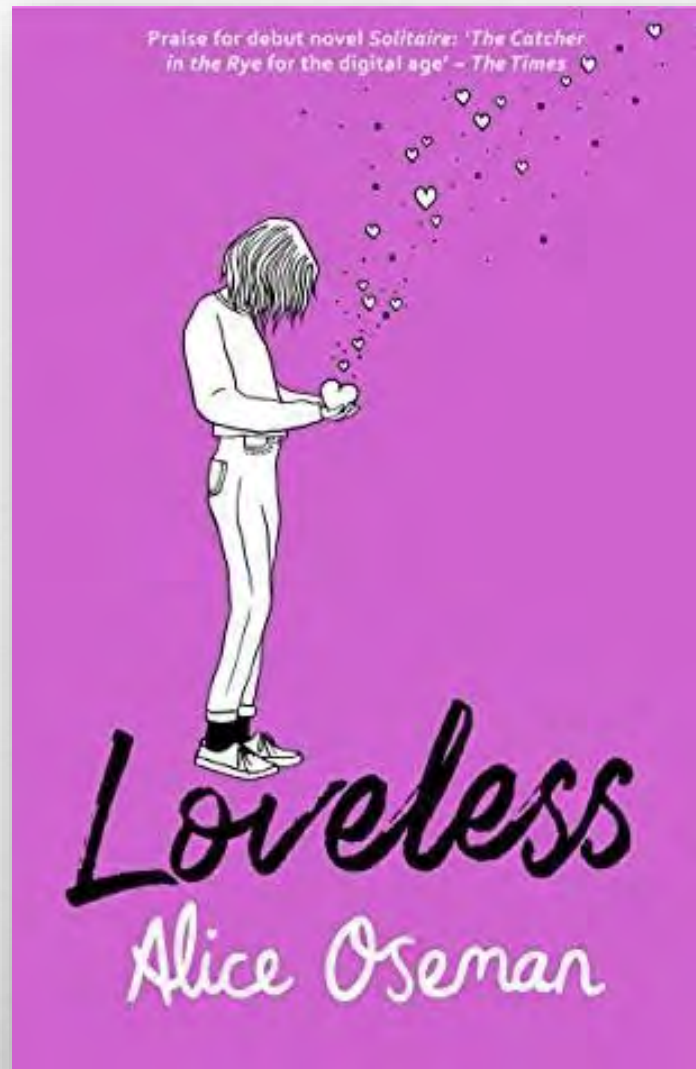
#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Summer 1945. The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Leo and Mordecai are among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District. Having survived the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps, they've finally reached a place of safety and peace, where they can hopefully begin to recover.

But Yossi is haunted by thoughts of his missing father and disturbed by terrible nightmares. As he waits desperately for news from home, he fears that Mordecai and Leo - the closest thing to family he has left - will move on without him. Will life by the beautiful Lake Windermere be enough to bring hope back into all their lives?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



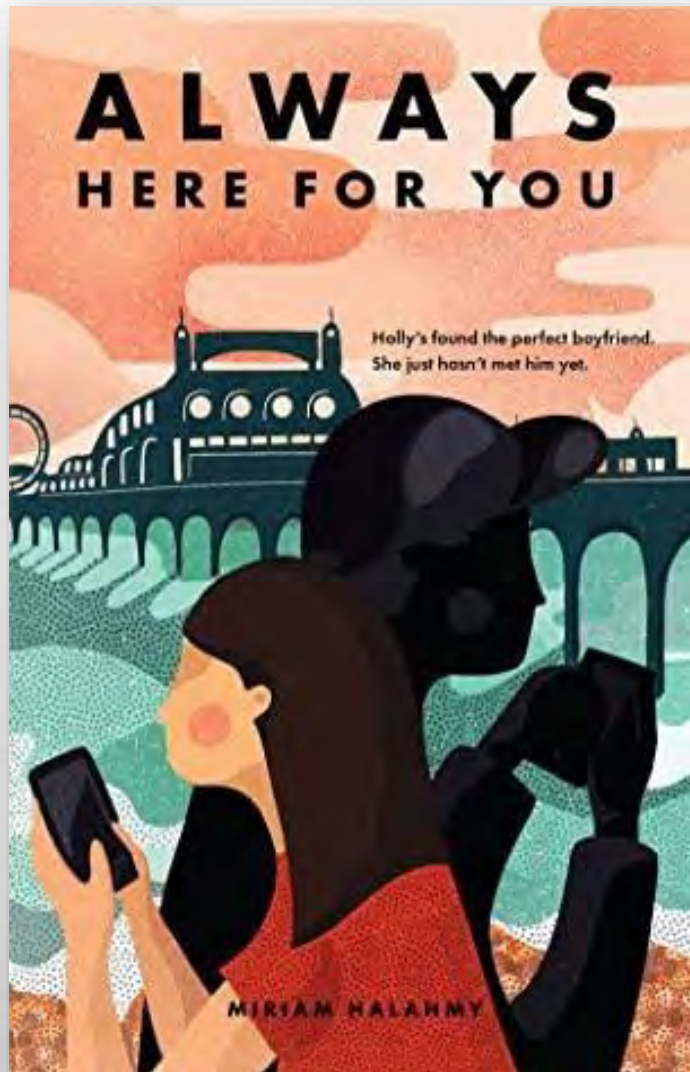
Georgia has never been in love, never kissed anyone, never even had a crush – but as a fanfic-obsessed romantic she's sure she'll find her person one day.

As she starts university with her best friends, Pip and Jason, in a whole new town far from home, Georgia's ready to find romance, and with her outgoing roommate on her side and a place in the Shakespeare Society, her 'teenage dream' is in sight.

But when her romance plan wreaks havoc amongst her friends, Georgia ends up in her own comedy of errors, and she starts to question why love seems so easy for other people but not for her. With new terms thrown at her – asexual, aromantic – Georgia is more uncertain about her feelings than ever.

Is she destined to remain loveless? Or has she been looking for the wrong thing all along?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

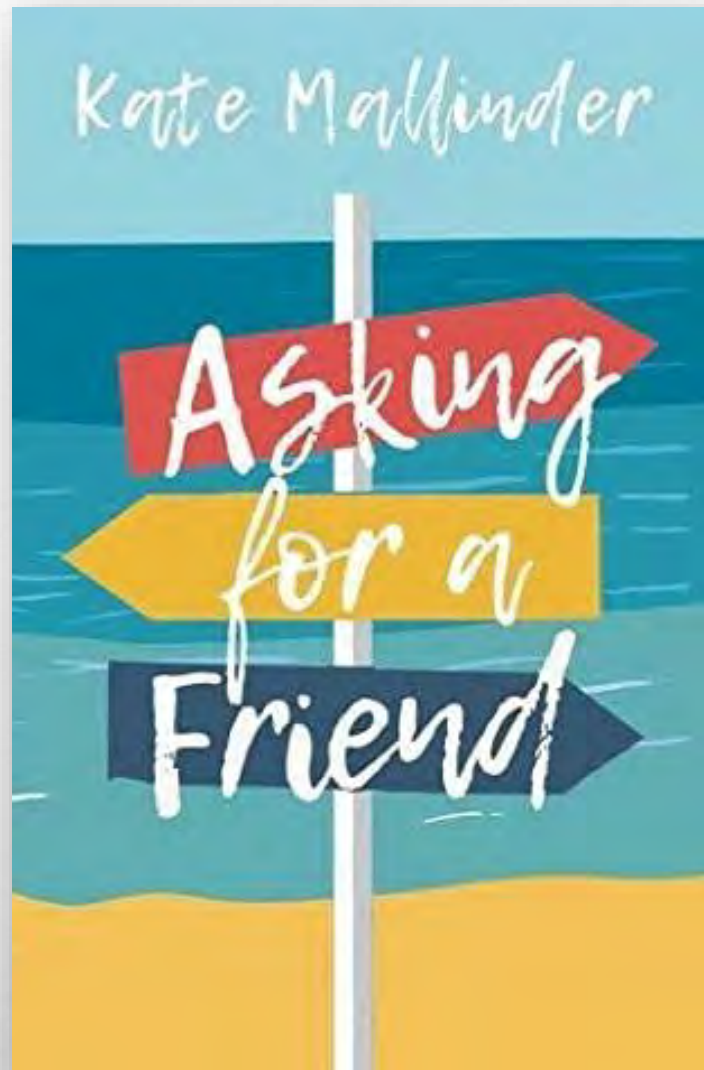


14-year-old Holly is lonely. Her parents are never around after Gran's Crisis and best friend Amy to Canada, loved-up with her new boyfriend, Gabe. Holly has no-one to hang out with at school apart from moody Ellen and misfit Tim.

Home alone in Brighton with no-one to talk to, Holly is at rock bottom. That is, until she finds Jay. Caring, funny and with so much in common, Jay is the perfect guy. They chat online, but Holly knows to be careful, she's heard the horror stories. As they grow closer and closer, chatting with Jay is all that makes Holly happy.

Mum and Dad's rows get more intense and Amy's radio silence continues; the only one who understands is Jay. As Holly lets her guard down, is Jay all he seems? Is Holly in too deep? And is it too late?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



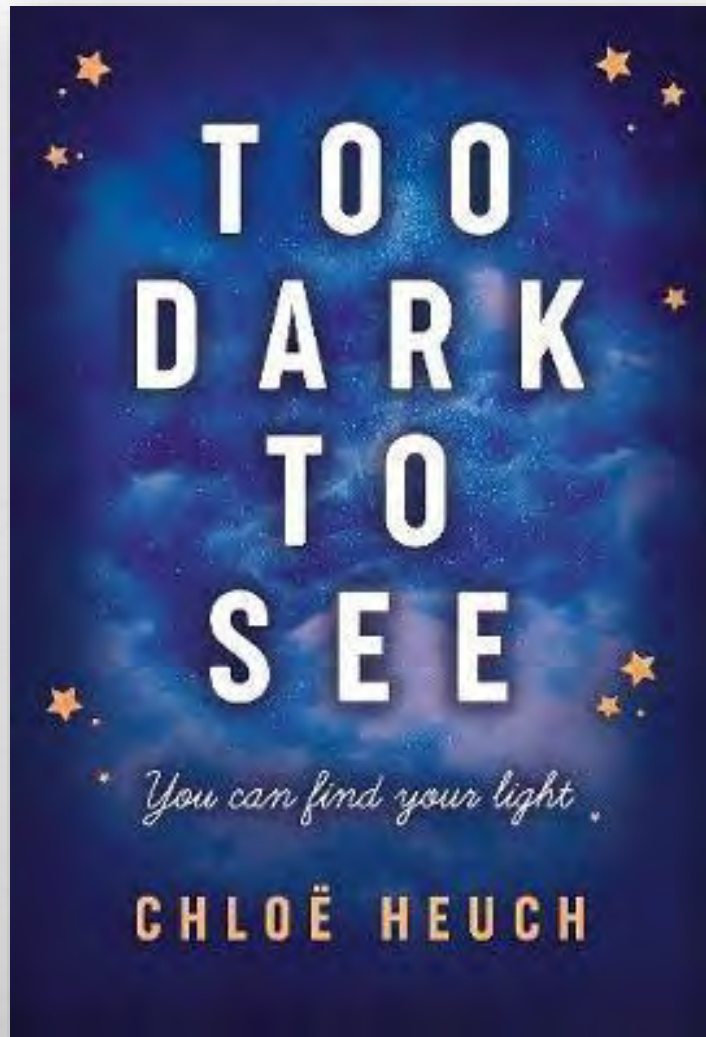
A feel-good YA story from the author of *Summer of No Regrets* about valuing the friends that value you. Agnes, Hattie and Jake travel on the school bus together but don't know each other well.

They plan a week in Weston as a 'study break' before exams but none of them admit the real reasons they need to get away.

Agnes must find her sister. Hattie can't bear being home now all her friends have ghosted her. And Jake is afraid he's ill and has absolutely no idea how to tell anyone.

Thrown together, what will happen when the secrets start to spill out?

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



After the death of her mother, 16-year-old Kay is on a mission to self-destruct.

Unhappy at home and school, she only finds peace with the semi-wild ponies on the moors.

She meets Sion up there, also looking to escape. They are drawn into a secret, intense love, but they cannot hide from their lives for long.

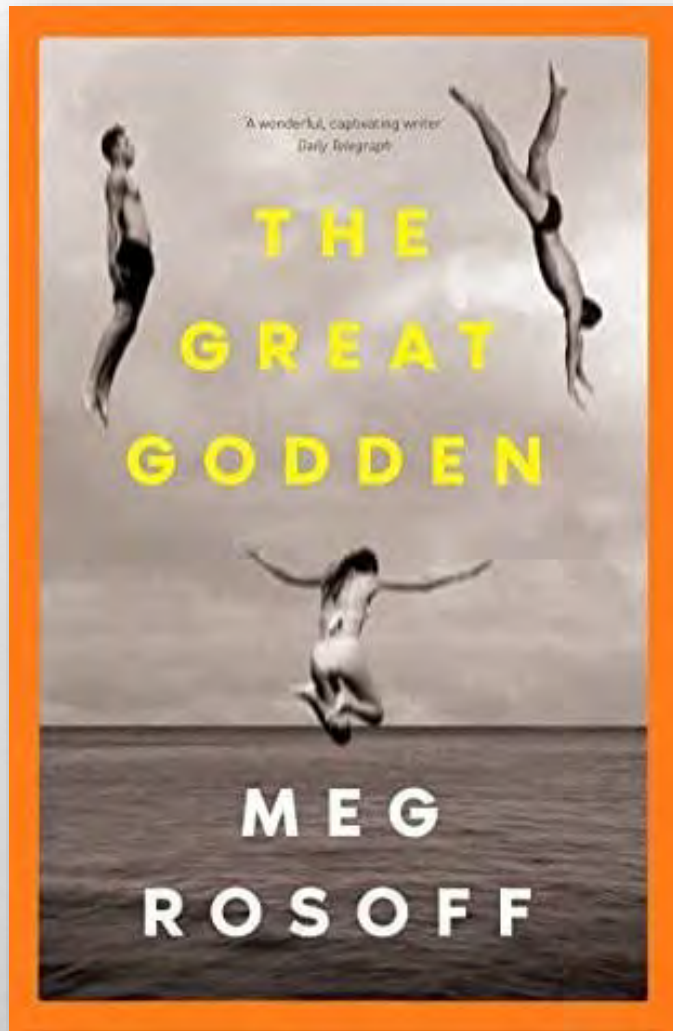
An evocative, debut YA novel about a grieving teenage girl who finds hope in a wild landscape.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



In a sealed-off city, it begins with a hunt. A young woman, Lena, running for her life, convicted of being a mage and sentenced to death. Her only way to survive is to trust those she has been brought up to fear - those with magic. On the other side of the locked gates is a masked lady, Constance, determined to find a way back in. She knows only too well how the people of Duke's Forest loathe magic. Years ago she escaped before her powers were discovered. But now she won't hide who she is any longer. A powerful and terrifying storm cloud unites them. It descends over the dukedom and devastates much in its wake. But this is more than a thunderstorm. This is a spell, and the truth behind why it has been cast is more sinister than anyone can imagine ... Only Lena and Constance hold the key to destroying the spell. Though neither of them realise it, they need each other. They are the blood and they have the thunder within.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Everyone talks about falling in love like it's the most miraculous, life-changing thing in the world. Something happens, they say, and you know ...

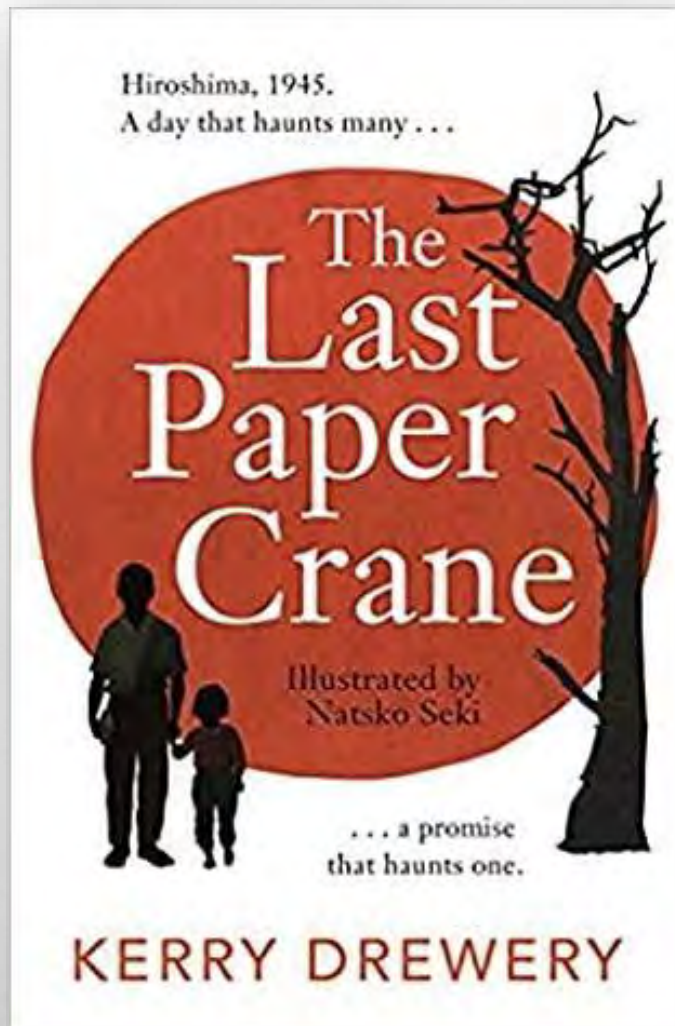
That's what happened when I met Kit Godden.

I looked into his eyes and I knew.

Only everyone else knew too. Everyone else felt exactly the same way.

This is the story of one family, one dreamy summer – the summer when everything changes. In a holiday house by the sea, our watchful narrator sees everything, including many things they shouldn't, as their brother and sisters, parents and older cousins fill hot days with wine and games and planning a wedding. Enter two brothers – irresistible, charming, languidly sexy Kit and surly, silent Hugo. Suddenly there's a serpent in this paradise – and the consequences will be devastating.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



1945, Hiroshima: Ichiro is a teenage boy relaxing at home with his friend Hiro. Moments later there is a blinding flash as the horrific nuclear bomb is dropped. With great bravery the two boys find Hiro's five year old sister Keiko in the devastated and blasted landscape. With Hiro succumbing to his wounds, Ichiro is now the only one who can take care of Keiko. But in the chaos Ichiro loses her when he sets off to find help.

Seventy years later, the loss of Keiko and his broken promise to his dying friend are haunting the old man's fading years. Mizuki, his granddaughter, is determined to help him. As the Japanese legend goes, if you have the patience to fold 1,000 paper cranes, you will find your heart's desire; and it turns out her grandfather has only one more origami crane to fold...

Narrated in a compelling mix of straight narrative, free verse and haiku poems, this is a haunting and powerful novel of courage and survival, with full-page illustrations by Natsko Seki.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

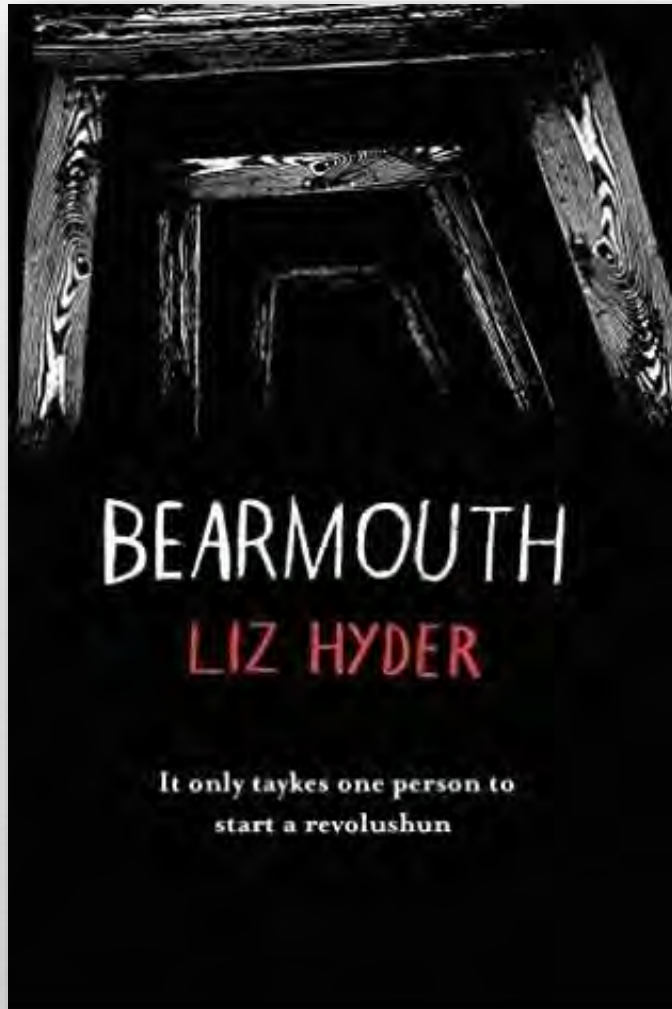


15 year old Londoner Fern is about to uncover a place that she could not have imagined in all her wildest dreams. Annwn is the dream mirror of our world, a place where Dreamers walk in their slumber, their dreams playing out all around them. A mysterious place that feeds our own world - as without dreams, what kind of humans would we be?

But Annwn is also a place where dreams can kill you. Annwn and its Dreamers are protected by an ancient order known as the Knights - and when Fern's hated twin Ollie is chosen to join their ranks, Fern will have to do whatever she can to prove she is one of them too.

But something dark is jeopardising the peace and stability of Annwn, something that must be rooted out at all costs. And gradually, Fern realises that the danger lurking inside our sleep is more insidious and terrifying than any nightmare. Because if you can influence someone's dreams, you can control their thoughts ...

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

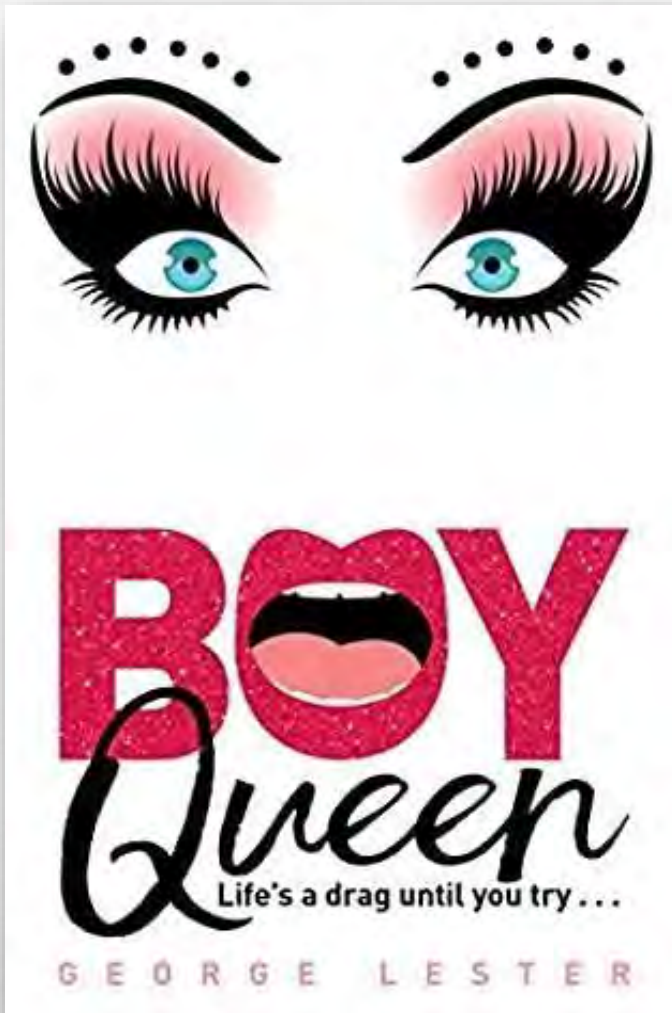


Life in Bearmouth is one of hard labour, the sunlit world above the mine a distant memory. Reward will come in the next life with the benevolence of the Mayker.

Newt accepts everything - that is, until the mysterious Devlin arrives. Suddenly, Newt starts to look at Bearmouth with a fresh perspective, questioning the system, and setting in motion a chain of events that could destroy their entire world.

In this powerful and brilliantly original debut novel, friendship creates strength, courage is hard-won and hope is the path to freedom.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



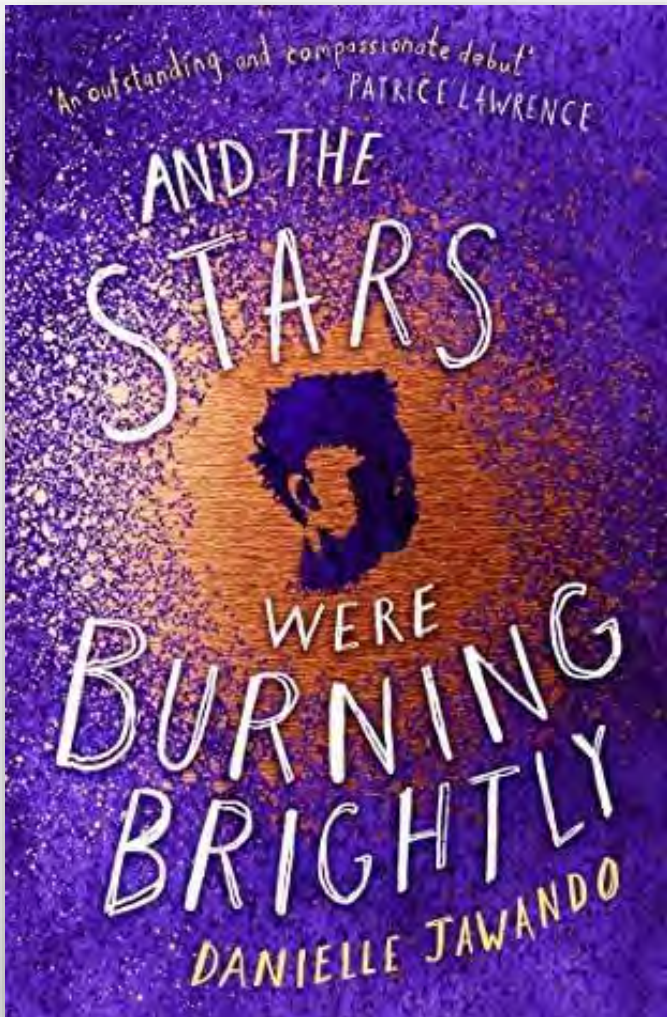
Robin Cooper's life is falling apart.

While his friends prepare to head off to university, Robin is looking at a pile of rejection letters from drama schools up and down the country, and facing a future without the people he loves the most. Everything seems like it's ending, and Robin is scrabbling to find his feet.

Unsure about what to do next and whether he has the talent to follow his dreams, he and his best friends go and drown their sorrows at a local drag show, where Robin realises there might be a different, more sequined path for him . . .

With a mother who won't stop talking, a boyfriend who won't acknowledge him and a best friend who is dying to cover him in glitter make up, there's only one thing for Robin to do: bring it to the runway.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



When fifteen-year-old Nathan discovers that his older brother Al has taken his own life, his whole world is torn apart.

Al was special.

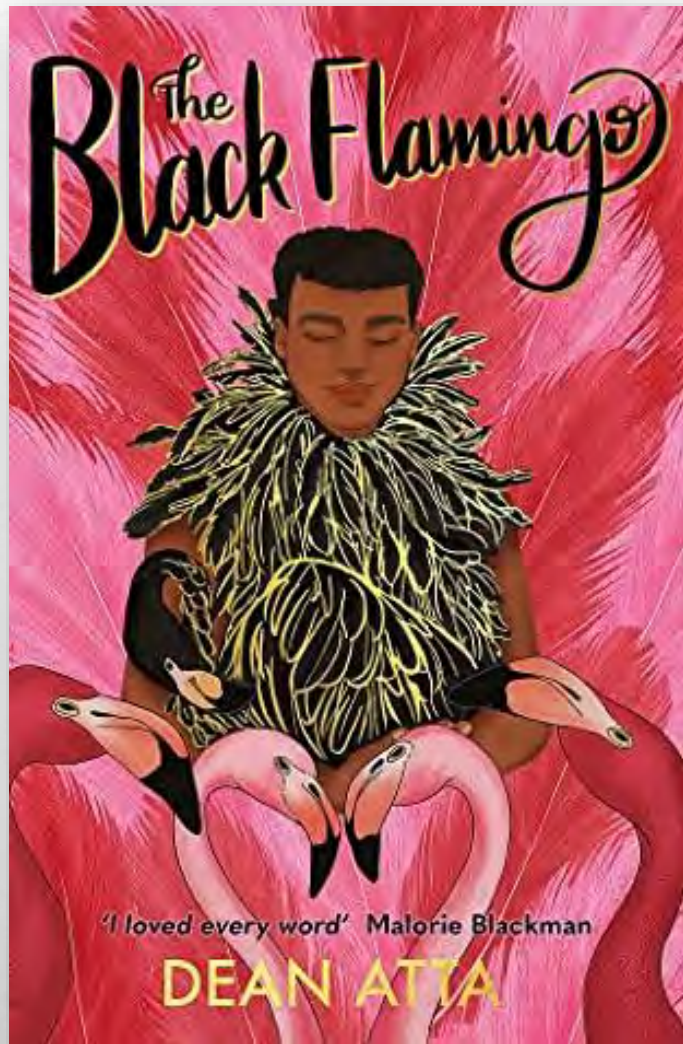
Al was talented.

Al was full of passion and light...so why did he do it?

Convinced that his brother was in trouble, Nathan begins to retrace his footsteps. And along the way, he meets Megan. Al's former classmate, who burns with the same fire and hope, who is determined to keep Al's memory alive.

But when Nathan learns the horrifying truth behind his brother's suicide, one question remains – how do you survive, when you're growing up in the age of social media?

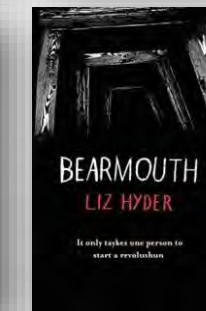
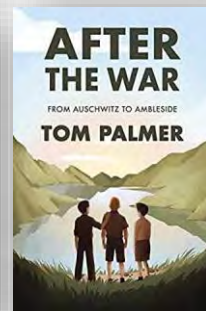
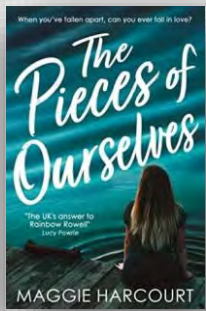
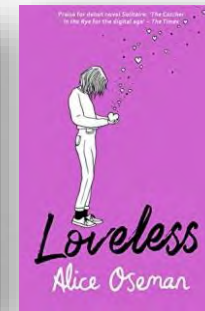
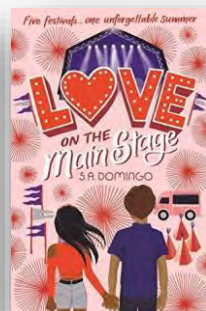
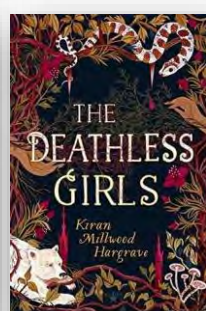
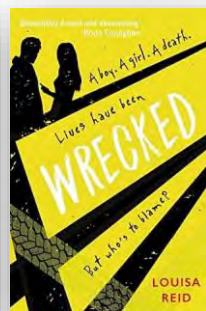
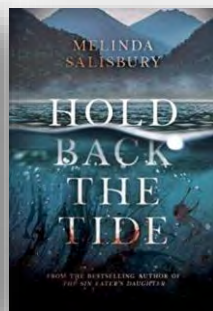
#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



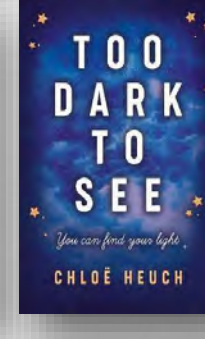
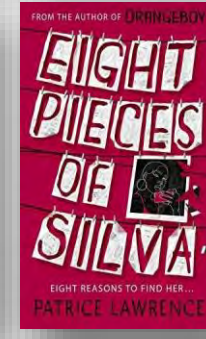
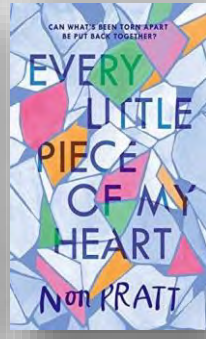
A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, The Black Flamingo.

A bold story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour.

#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!



Vote for your
2021 fav's from
22nd February



#ABA2021 Long LONG list contenders!

WHAT CAUGHT YOUR EYE?

We need **YOUR** votes to help to choose the Official Shortlist that all 30+ schools will read over the next few months.

Watch out for the polls on our Social Media to use your votes from 15th February for #ABA2020 and from 22nd February for #ABA2021

The Shortlist will be will be announced on Thursday 4th March!



Join us online for the awards event on Friday 18th June!