

My Last Summer with Cass

Author: [Mark Crilley](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

Genre: YA, graphic novel

RRP \$19.99

Megan and Cass grew up joined at the brush. Every year, their families vacationed together in Michigan, where the girls relaxed by the lake and created art - from scribbles as toddlers to sophisticated portraits in their teenage years. Megan was always cautious, and Cass was always rebellious. But together, each summer, they grew as artists and friends. The summer after her junior year of high school, Megan arranges to stay with Cass and her mother at their apartment in New York City. Suddenly Megan's world explodes into colour. The girls begin collaborating on a piece that pushes both of their artistic boundaries, one that will be showcased in a local gallery show.

But when a secret comes to light and one of them crosses a line, will their friendship be able to survive?

Why you need it?

- THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN meets THIS ONE SUMMER
- From the author of Mastering Manga
- A beautiful coming-of-age story about art and friendship
- Recommended for graphic novel and YA readers

The Infinity Files

Author: [S. M. Wilson](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

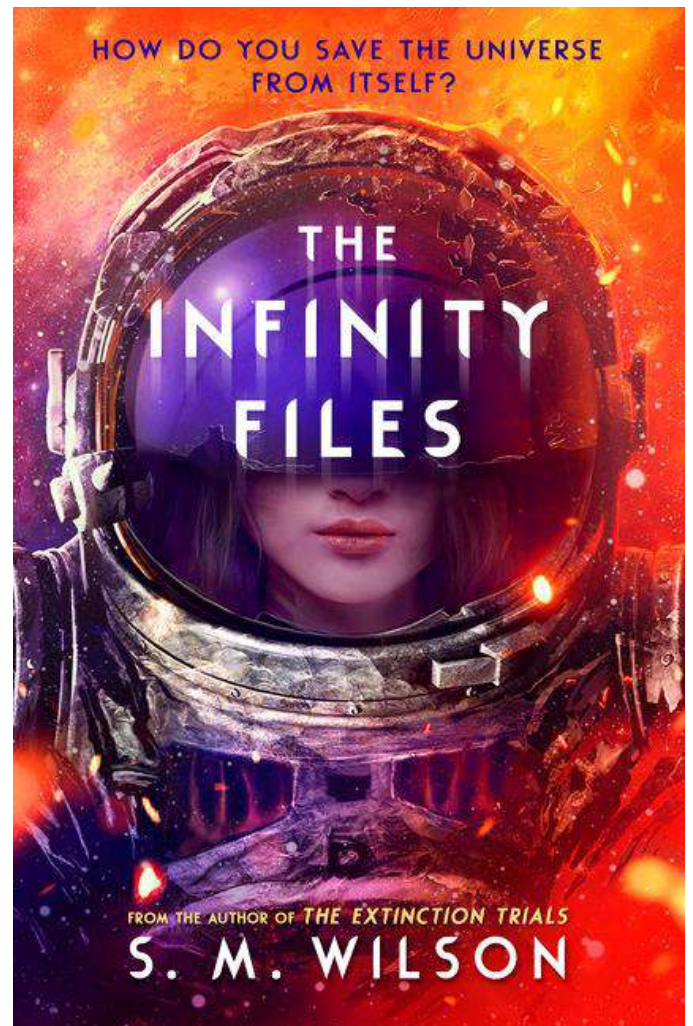
Genre: Fantasy & magical realism

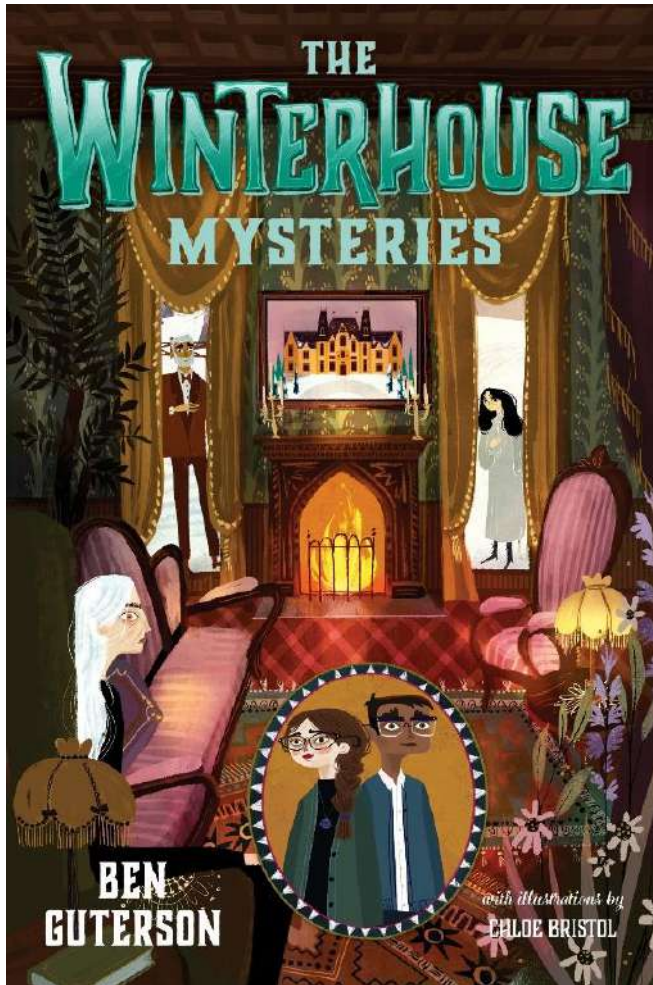
RRP \$16.99

Failed starfighter pilot Ash Yang has landed the most important job in the universe - travelling the galaxies to steal and return mysterious artefacts for a secret facility known as the Library. Under Ash's control they have the power to stop wars - or start them. But when her home planet is threatened, will her new powers be enough to save it?

Why you need it?

- A well-written and extremely exciting science fiction novel
- Female fighter pilot lead character
- Topical with current Space X exploration of inter planetary travel
- Edge of your seat ending!





The Winterhouse Mysteries

Author: [Ben Guterson](#)

Published: Late April 2021 Paperback release

Age: Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction

Genre: Fantasy & magical realism

RRP \$17.99

As spring arrives at Winterhouse, Elizabeth settles into the joyful chaos of her new home. But it isn't long before she and Freddy are drawn into an ominous new mystery. Guests at the hotel start behaving oddly, and Elizabeth's powers manifest in thrilling—sometimes frightening—new ways. As unnatural tremors shake the foundations of Winterhouse, Elizabeth hears cries for help from Gracella Winters—an enemy she'd thought dead and buried for good. The discovery of a rare book containing secrets of an ancient ritual leads to a tragic realization: Someone at Winterhouse is trying to help Gracella rise again.

Why you need it?

- Danger, intrigue, and the power of family combine in The Winterhouse Mysteries
- Gorgeous scattered illustrations throughout
- The mystery starts off focused on puzzles and code-breaking
- Perfect for escapist readers

You Have a Match

Author: [Emma Lord](#)

Published: Late April 2021

Age: Junior Fiction + reluctant readers

Genre: Children's Fiction

RRP \$19.99

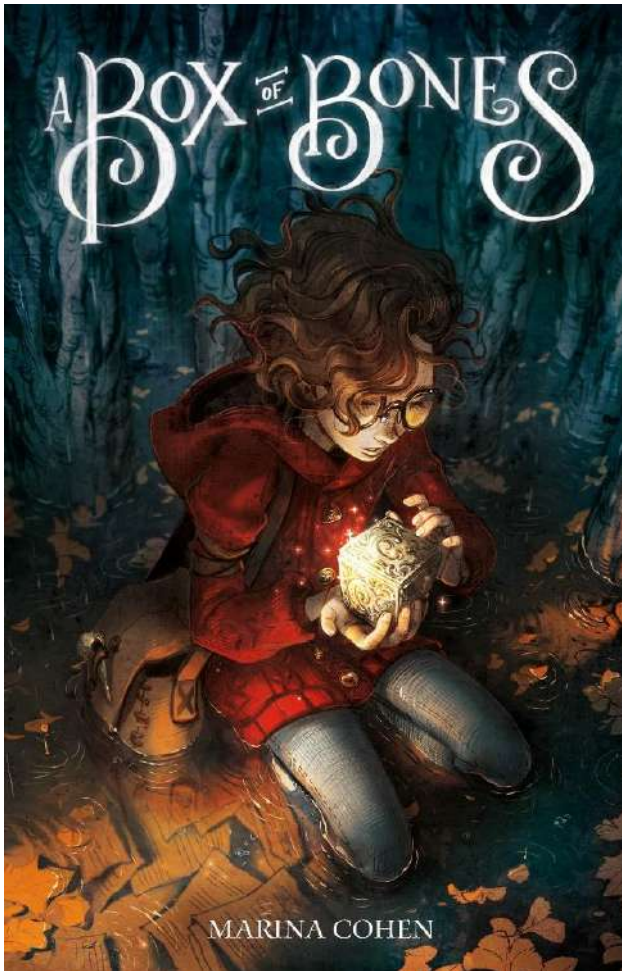
A new love, a secret sister, and a summer she'll never forget.

When Abby signs up for a DNA service, it's mainly to give her friend and secret love interest, Leo, a nudge. After all, she knows who she is already: Avid photographer. Injury-prone tree climber. Best friend to Leo and Connie... although ever since the B.E.I. (Big Embarrassing Incident) with Leo, things have been awkward on that front. But she didn't know she's a younger sister. When the DNA service reveals Abby has a secret sister, shimmery-haired Instagram star Savannah Tully, it's hard to believe they're from the same planet, never mind the same parents—especially considering Savannah, queen of green smoothies, is only a year and a half older than Abby herself. The logical course of action? Meet up at summer camp (obviously) and figure out why Abby's parents gave Savvy up for adoption. But there are complications: Savvy is a rigid rule-follower and total narc. Leo is the camp's co-chef, putting Abby's growing feelings for him on blast. And her parents have a secret that threatens to unravel everything. But part of life is showing up, leaning in, and learning to fit all your awkward pieces together. Because sometimes, the hardest things can also be the best ones.

Why you need it?

- From the beloved author of *Tweet Cute* comes a novel of family, friendship, romance and sisterhood
- Family-focused YA will fill you with positivity and hope
- Light-hearted story with relatable and likable characters, a modern day Parent Trap
- Themes of found family, adoption, friendship, social media, positive family relationships, and first love





A Box of Bones

Author: [Marina Cohen](#)

Published: Late Feb 2021 (Late distribution)

Age: Reluctant Readers + Junior Fiction

Genre: Horror & ghost stories

RRP: \$14.99

Twelve-year-old Kallie despises nonsense. She believes there's a rational explanation for everything, despite the good-natured prodding of her Grandpa Jess, who takes her to frivolous wastes of time like their town's local Festival of Fools. There, Kallie meets a faceless man (must be some kind of mask) who gives her an odd wooden puzzle box (must be some kind of gimmick). Intrigued, Kallie sets to work on unlocking its secrets and lets something out. From here Kallie's life begins to entangle with another world, a world where Liah, a young bone carver, journeys with her master to sell wares to a wicked Queen.

The sights, sounds, and spells of Liah's world are beginning to leak into Kallie's, and if Kallie can't decipher the meaning of her own story, "the end" might be far from happy.

Why you need it?

- A dark, propulsive, junior fiction tale about a trick box, two worlds entwined, and a mystery that may be best left unsolved
- Written by a master storyteller, A Box of Bones is all about truth, lies, and the stories we tell each other in order to survive
- Illustrations by Yana Bogatch enhance the mood of dark fantasy

Pop!
**Fizzy drinks. A trillion dollars. The adventure
that ends with a bang.**

Author: [Mitch Johnson](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction

Genre: Adventure

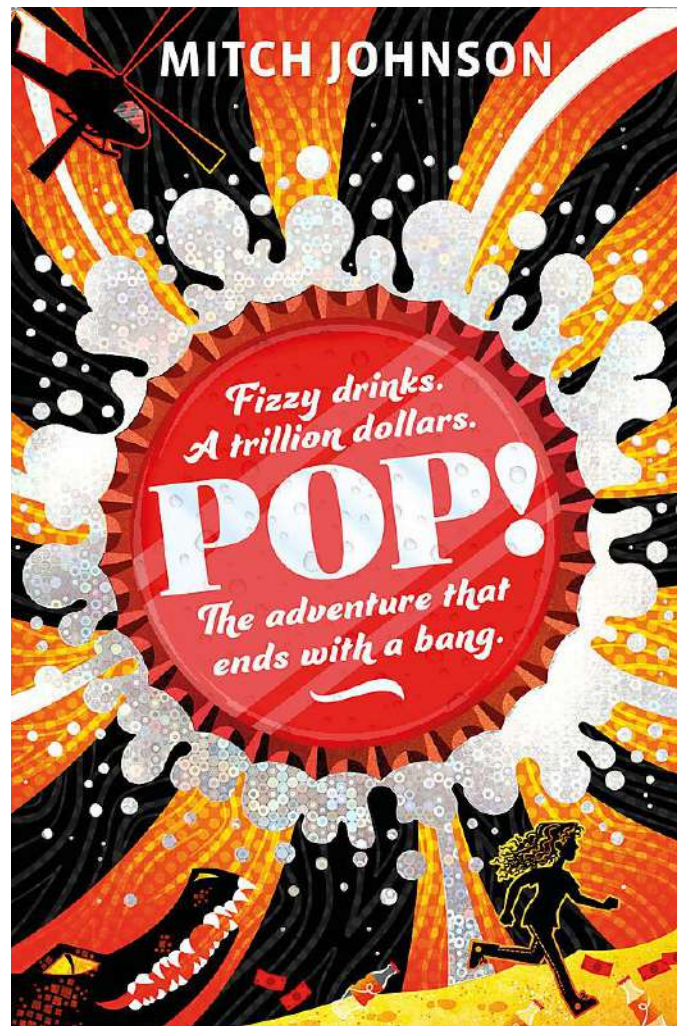
RRP \$15.99

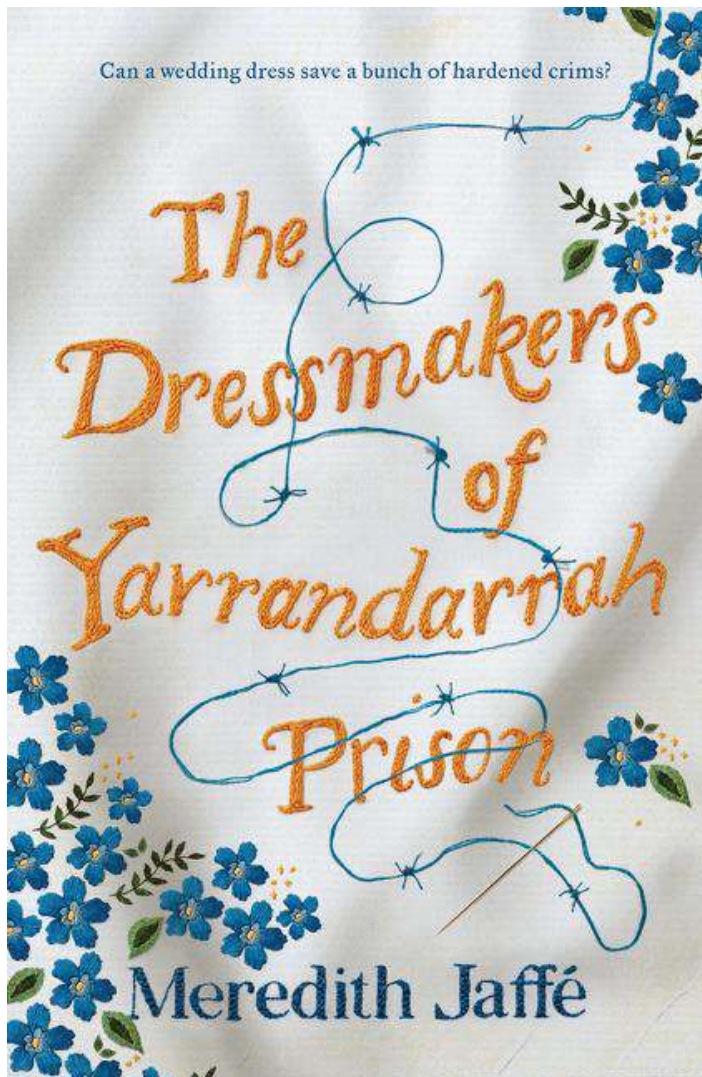
An outrageous theft. A huge reward. Two friends on the run.
An uproariously funny, action-packed new adventure about the
power of courage, standing up for what's right, and fizzy drinks.

Queenie stares out at the ocean and dreams of a world beyond
her small-town. She's about to get her wish... When the
priceless recipe to the world's most popular drink - thought to
be lost forever - washes up at her feet, Queenie's life instantly
changes.

Why you need it?

- 'Pop! is an explosive and unforgettable adventure with defiant heroes, devious villains, deadly corporate secrets all told with Johnson's brilliant humour
- 'A bonkers Willy-Wonka nightmare designed to get children thinking about the effects of everything they buy'
- Both funny and thought-provoking
- Major issues such as caring for our planet, being responsible for our actions and standing up for what is right are interwoven so beautifully throughout this book





The Dressmakers of Yarrandarra Prison

Author: [Meredith Jaffe](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Senior Fiction

Genre: YA Fiction

RRP \$32.99

Can a wedding dress save a bunch of hardened crims? Derek's daughter, Debbie, is getting married. He's desperate to be there, but he's banged up in Yarrandarra Correctional Centre for embezzling funds from the golf club, and, thanks to his ex-wife, Lorraine, he hasn't spoken to Debbie in years. He wants to make a grand gesture - to show her how much he loves her. Inspiration strikes while he's embroidering a cushion at his weekly prison sewing circle - he'll make her a wedding dress. His fellow stitchers rally around and soon this motley gang of crims is immersed in a joyous whirl of silks, satins and covered buttons. But as time runs out and tensions rise both inside and outside the prison, the wedding dress project takes on greater significance. With lives at stake, Derek feels his chance to reconcile with Debbie is slipping through his fingers ...

Why you need it?

- A funny, dark and moving novel about finding humanity, friendship and redemption in unexpected places
- Australian setting and author
- Exploration of the purpose of imprisonment – punishment verses rehabilitation

A Glasshouse of Stars

Author: [Shirley Marr](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Middle Fiction

Genre: Fiction / True Stories / Social Issues

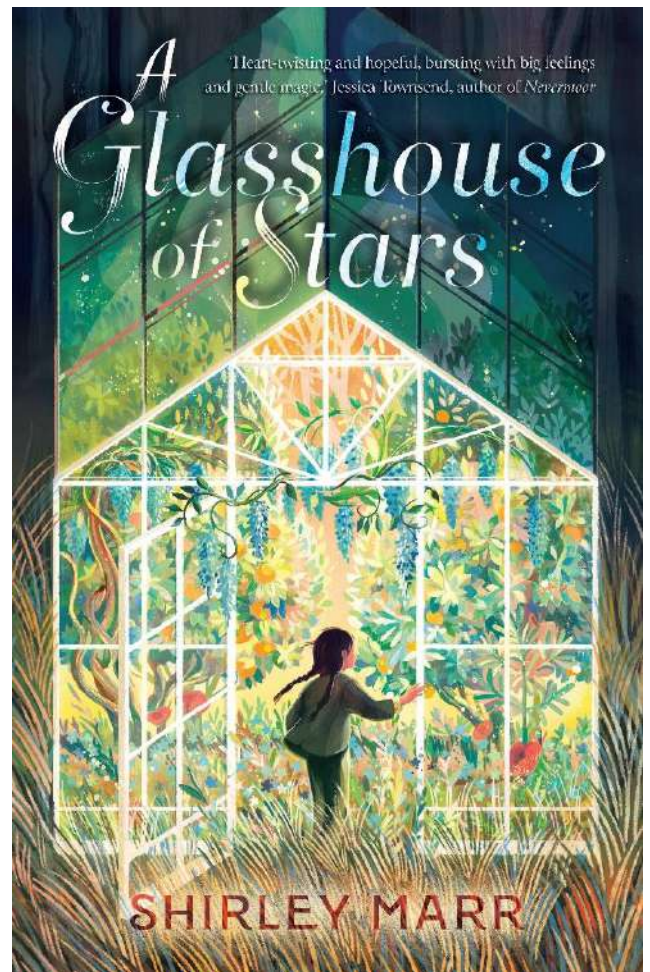
RRP: \$16.99

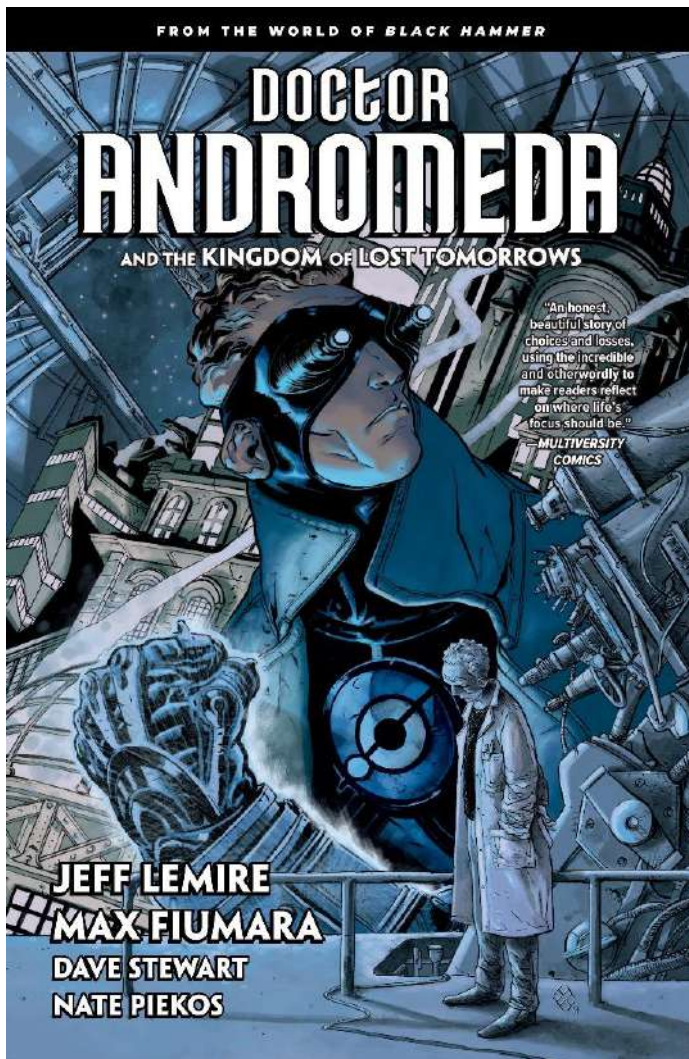
Meixing Lim and her family have arrived at the New House in the New Land, inherited from First Uncle who died tragically and unexpectedly while picking oranges in the backyard. Everything is vast and unknown to Meixing and not in a good way, including the house she has dubbed Big Scary. She is embarrassed by the second-hand shoes given to her by the kind neighbours, has trouble understanding the language at school, and with fitting in and making new friends. Her solace is a glasshouse in the garden that inexplicably holds the sun and the moon and all the secrets of her memory and imagination.

Her fragile universe is rocked when tragedy strikes and Ma Ma refuses to face the world outside. Meixing finds herself trapped within the shrinking walls of Big Scary. Her parents said this would be a better life for them all, but it feels like the worst and most heart-breaking experience of Meixing's entire existence. Surviving will take all the resilience and inner belief of this brave girl to turn their world around.

Why you need it?

- An exquisite, heartbreakingly beautiful gem of a novel for anyone who loved *Wonder*, *Lenny's Book of Everything* or *A Monster Calls*
- Heart-twisting and hopeful, bursting with big feelings and gentle magic. This is a special book from a powerful, compassionate new voice in children's literature, destined to be read and loved for generations and held close in many hearts.' - Jessica Townsend, *New York Times*
- Shirley Marr is a first-generation Chinese-Australian living in Perth
- Book Club Questions [Here](#)
- Teacher Notes [Here](#)
- 9 June – Interview on ABC Melbourne's Afternoons program
- 13 July – Interview on Words and Nerds podcast





Doctor Andromeda and the Kingdom of Lost Tomorrows: From the World of Black Hammer

Author: Jeff Lemire
Published: May 2021
Age: Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction
Genre: Graphic Novel
RRP \$32.99

This dual-narrative story set in the world of the Eisner Award-winning Black Hammer series chronicles the legacy of a Golden-Age superhero.

An aged crime fighter desperately wants to reconnect with his estranged son, who he hoped would one day take the mantle of Doctor Andromeda. Over the course of the story, we learn his World War II-era origin, how he got his powers, his exciting astral adventures, the formation of some of Black Hammer's greatest heroes, and more in this heartbreaking superhero tale about fathers and sons.

Why you need it?

- For fans of graphics novels
- While set in the world of Black Hammer, this is a completely stand-alone story unconnected to the larger story
- Exploration of father/son relationships
- "Wow, this was the most heart-felt graphic novel I have ever read... Had to shed some tears"

The School

Author: [Brendan James Murray](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Senior

Genre: Non Fiction

RRP \$34.99

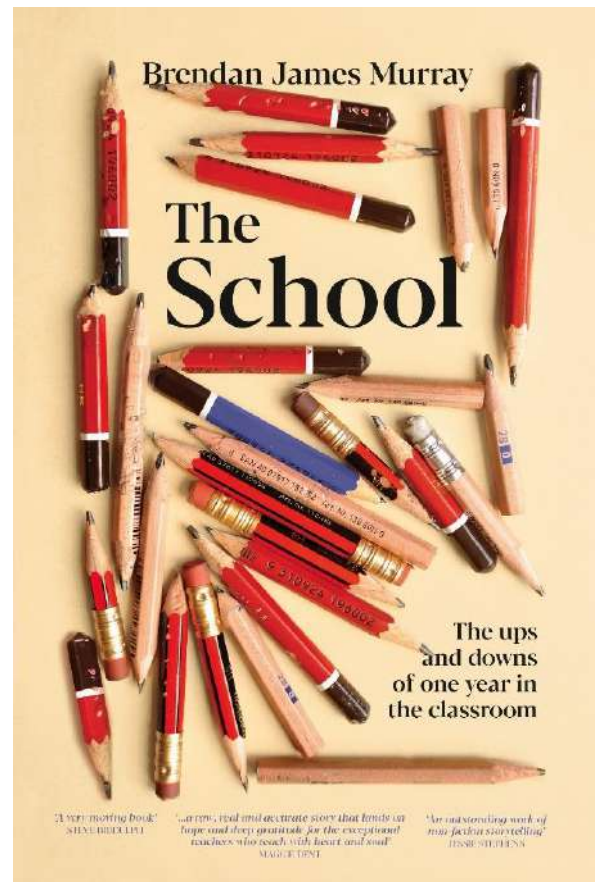
One teacher. One school. One year.

Brendan James Murray has been a secondary school teacher for more than ten years. In that time he has seen hundreds of kids move through his classes - troubled, brilliant, funny, passionate, struggling: every single one brings unique qualities or circumstances into school with them, every day.

In this astonishingly powerful portrait of a single school year, Brendan James Murray shows the ups and downs of school for teachers and students: the dedication of colleagues, the bureaucracy of the curriculum, the passion and fire he tries to light in his students, and their responses hilarious, heartbreaking and true.

Why you need it?

- Very poignant after the year we have had in 2020
- The School is a heartfelt, behind-the-scenes picture of modern education, and a timeless story of a class and their teacher
- Brendan James Murray is also the award-winning author of two previous books, *Venom* and *The Drowned Man*. He lives in the Mornington Peninsula
- "I immediately want to give this book to every teacher I know. An outstanding work of non-fiction storytelling"





Toyko Ever After

Author: [Emiko Jean](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction

Genre: Romance

RRP \$18.99

Who, me? Princess?

Izumi Tanaka has lived an uneventful seventeen years in her small, mostly white, northern California town, keenly aware of all the ways in which her family is different from most of her classmates'. But then Izumi discovers a clue to her previously unknown father's identity . . . and he's none other than the Crown Prince of Japan. Which means outspoken, irreverent, can-burp-the-alphabet Izzy is literally a princess. Soon she's traveling overseas to meet the father she never knew and discover the country she's only dreamed of. But being a princess isn't all ball gowns and tiaras. There are conniving cousins, a hungry press, a scowling but handsome bodyguard who just might be her soulmate, and thousands of years of tradition and customs to learn practically overnight. Izzy soon finds herself caught between worlds, and between versions of herself.

Will Izumi crumble under the weight of the crown, or will she live out her fairy-tale, happily ever after?

Why you need it?

- THE PRINCESS DIARIES meets CRAZY RICH ASIANS
- "Despite the swoon-worthy love interest and glittering palaces, Tokyo Ever After is not your typical princess story. Izumi is a spunky, irreverent, lovable narrator who struggles to reconcile her American upbringing with her Japanese heritage. A fresh and distinctly modern fairy tale"
- For readers who love a bodyguard/royal romance
- For readers who love something a little silly and doesn't take itself too seriously
- For readers looking for a cosy and feel - good story