

Sasha Masha

Author: [Agnes Borinsky](#)

Published: February 2022

Age: Middle Fiction

Genre: LGBTQ Romance and Relationships

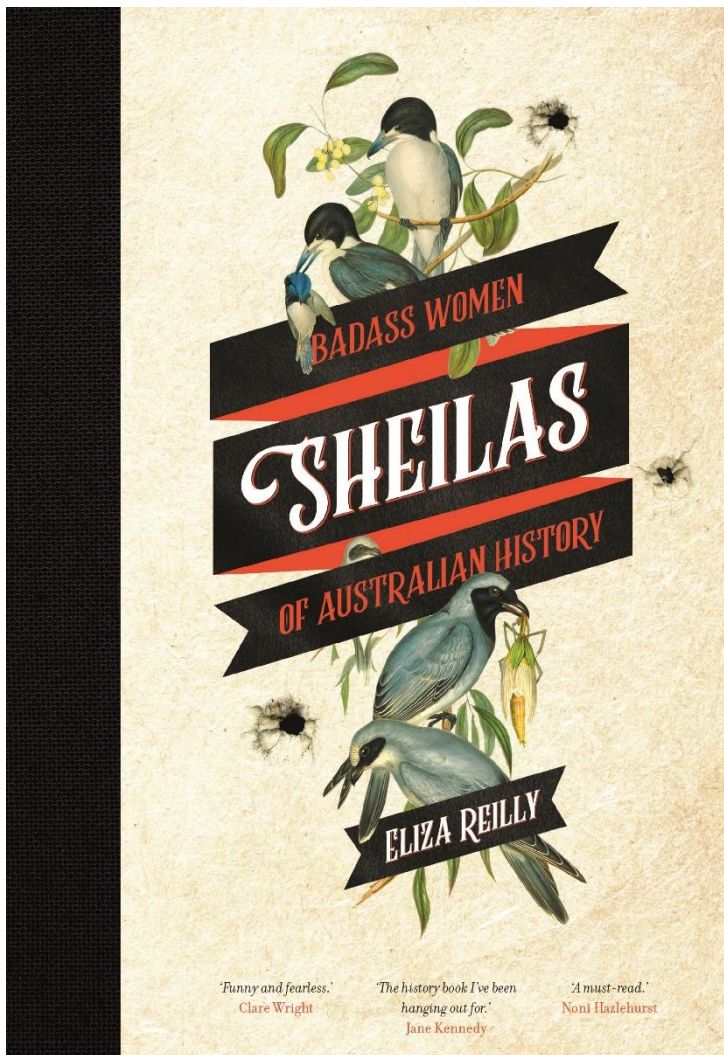
RRP: \$39.99

Transgender author Agnes Borinsky deftly explores gender identity and queer romance in this heart-wrenching debut novel.

Alex feels like he is in the wrong body. His skin feels strange against his bones. And then comes Tracy, who thinks he's adorably awkward, who wants to kiss him, who makes him feel like a Real Boy. But it is not quite enough. Something is missing. As Alex grapples with his identity, he finds himself trying on dresses and swiping on lipstick in the quiet of his bedroom. He meets Andre, a gay boy who is beautiful and unafraid to be who he is. Slowly, Alex begins to realise: maybe his name isn't Alex at all. Maybe it's Sasha Masha.

Why you need it?

- An #OwnVoices LGBTQ young adult debut
- A quick and engaging read
- A beautiful tale about figuring out who you are



Sheilas Badass Women of Australian History

Author: [Eliza Reilly](#)

Published: Late Feb 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Non-Fiction

Genre: History

RRP: \$34.99

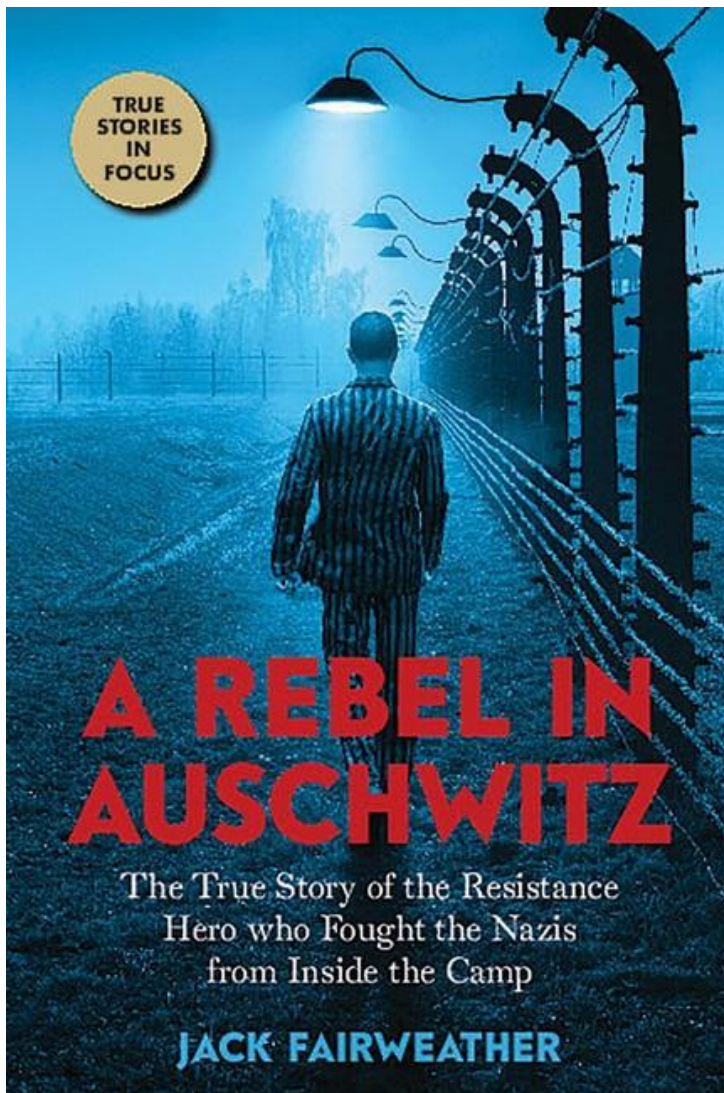
It's been said that 'well-behaved women seldom make history', but the handful of white boys who wrote our history books conveniently left most of them out. Whoops! To rectify this situation, Eliza Reilly is setting out to revive the forgotten stories of the badass Sheilas of Australian history.

Chain yourself to pub counters with the determined Merle Thornton, fight for Indigenous rights alongside Faith Bandler, and lure forlorn sailors with swimmer-slash-mermaid Annette Kellerman. Deceive cranky soldiers with bushranger Mary Ann Bugg, infiltrate Nazi strongholds on the back of Nancy Wake's bike - and much, much more.

'Eliza highlights an array of awesome, innovative, determined and defiant Australian women with meticulous research and a wicked sense of humour. This is the history book I've been hanging out for.' - Jane Kennedy

Why you need it?

- A much-needed re-examination of the status quo, for those who love Australian history
- Informative and hugely enjoyable
- Topical; a must read



A Rebel in Auschwitz

Author: [Jack Fairweather](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Fiction

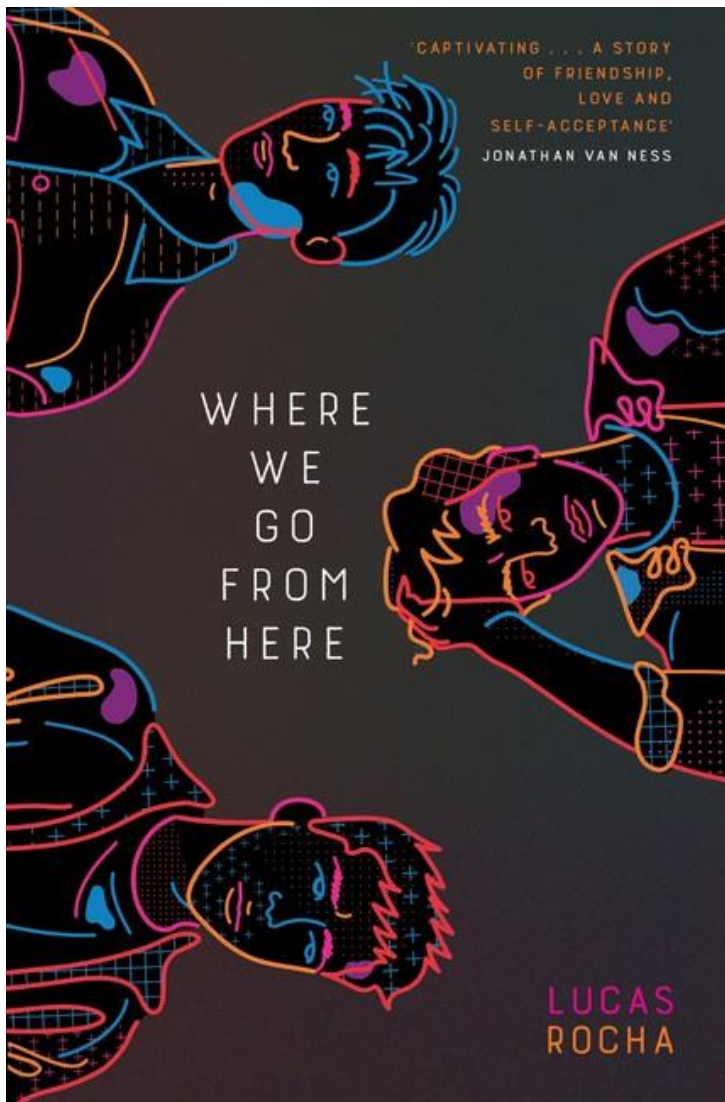
Genre: Historical Fiction

RRP: \$24.99

A portrait of a remarkable man who volunteered to face the unknown in the name of truth and country. In 1940, Witold Pilecki volunteered to assume a false identity and deliberately get himself sent to the camp. Its name was Auschwitz. Over the next two and half years, and under the cruellest conditions, Pilecki worked to forge an underground army to sabotage camp facilities and foment rebellion. He pieced together the horrifying truth and realized he would have to risk his men and even his life to smuggle out evidence and warn the West, and thus stop the horror before all was lost. To do so meant attempting the impossible: an escape from Auschwitz itself

Why you need it?

- For those who have a passion for WW2 era history
- A definitive look at one of the first outsiders to bear witness to the horrors of the Holocaust
- Informative, chilling and necessary



Where We Go From Here

Author: [Lucas Rocha](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Fiction

Genre: LGBTQI Fiction

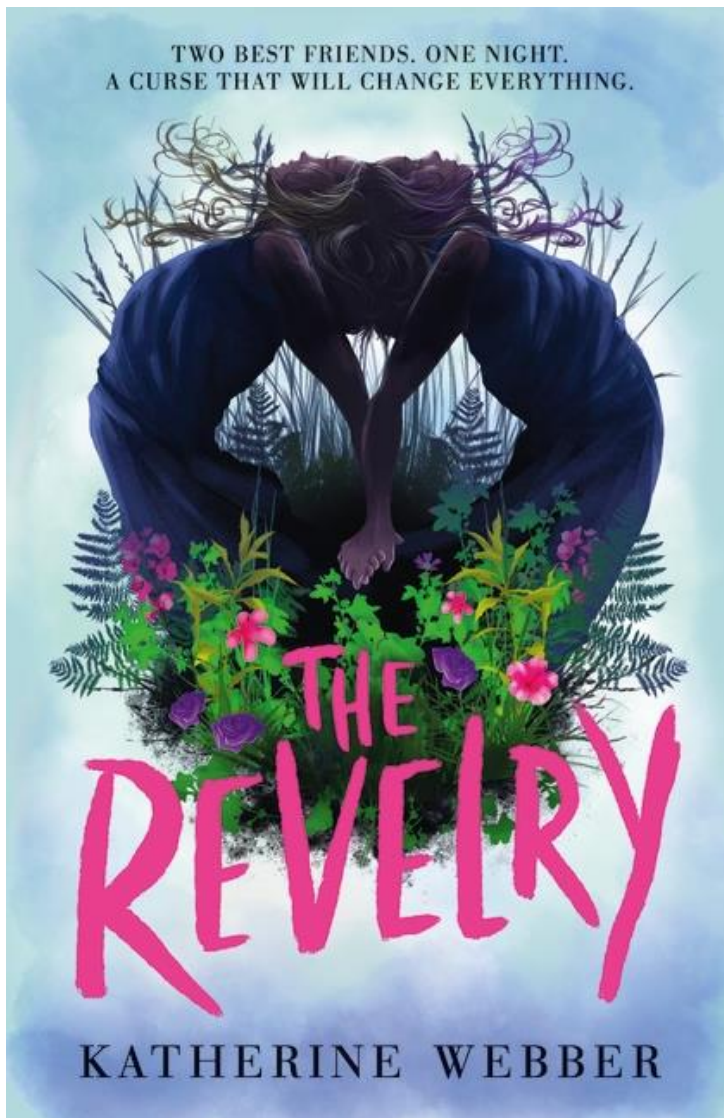
RRP: \$24.99

Ian has just been diagnosed with HIV. Victor, to his relief, has just tested negative. Henrique has been living with HIV for three years. Their worlds collide ... **Where We Go From Here** is an honest and compulsive novel which unveils the common misconceptions and prejudices surrounding HIV in the twenty-first century, showing how far we've come while shining a light on just how far we have to go. Heart-breaking, heart-warming and ultimately hopeful, it is a desperately needed and powerful piece of fiction

Lucas Rocha, 28 is a Brazilian writer in São Paulo. By day, he's librarian who works at a public library. He says "This is definitely a happy book! A story about love and friendship regarding HIV positive people. A funny book about realizing that you can have a fulfilling life even with all the challenges and unexpected things that might happen. There's a passage in my book when one of the characters says: "Fear is not a fifty-foot-tall monster I have to bow to" and that's my motto for life.'

Why you need it?

- A much-needed story about an important issue that has dropped from the headlines in recent years
- Positive, powerful and enjoyable
- An exciting new writer in the LGBTQ+ fiction world



The Revelry

Author: [Katherine Webber](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Junior and Middle Fiction

Genre: Supernatural Fiction

RRP: \$18.99

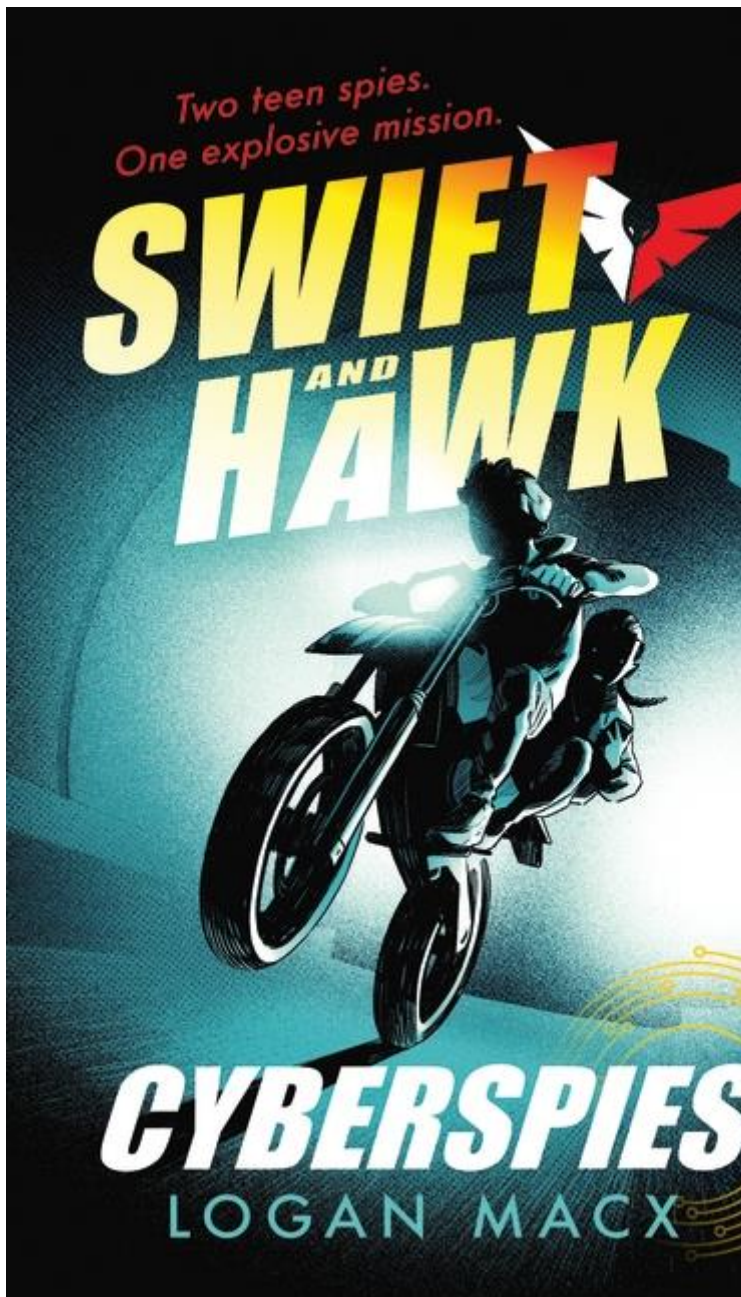
A story of best friends, bad luck and the consequences of breaking the rules in a town built on secrets and superstitions.

I am girl of Ember Grove, and these are my woods... Growing up in Ember Grove, Bitsy Clark knows better than to mess with the long-held traditions of her hometown. Until her best friend, Amy, persuades her to sneak into the Revelry – the end of school party in the woods, to which only those leaving are invited. When she wakes the next day, Bitsy can't remember anything from the night before. Weirder still, whenever she tries to speak about the Revelry, Bitsy chokes on the words. But this is just the beginning, and what starts out as a run of bad luck starts to feel like a curse. As Bitsy's life goes from bad to worse, things only get better and better for her best friend. It's as if there's only so much luck to go round and Amy's getting all of it...

Download the [discussion guide](#)

Why you need it?

- A story about friendship, jealousy, belonging and secrets
- Katherine is a key influencer in children's books, hosting many high-profile author events, and has over 10,000 followers on Twitter and nearly 4,000 followers on Instagram.
- For lovers of the supernatural



Swift and Hawk

Author: [Logan Macx](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Fiction

Genre: Science Fiction, thriller

RRP: \$18.99

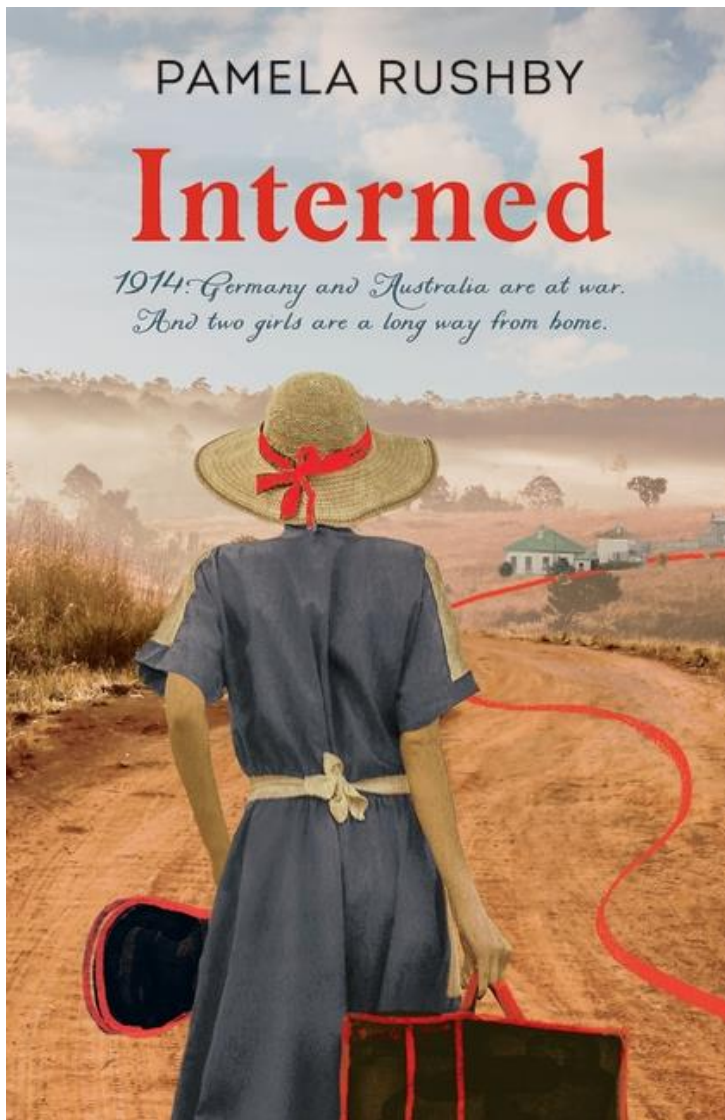
An addictive new spy series for Alex Rider fans who love breathless plot, cutting-edge tech and action-packed adventure. Two teen spies. One explosive mission. When their families mysteriously disappear, Swift and Hawk, teen experts in AI and robotics, are recruited by the top-secret Möbius Programme. Plunged into a life-and-death rescue mission, Swift and Hawk must race from hidden tunnels beneath London to the sinister island of Spøkelsøy, straight into the hands of a deadly enemy...

"**Smart, tense and exciting**, *Swift and Hawk* swept me away into a world of cyber espionage, robots and gadgets that would make even Q envious! **A brilliant, breathless thriller.**" Jennifer Bell.

Logan Macx is the pseudonym of **Edward Docx**, a best-selling novelist and journalist, and **Matthew Plampin**, author of four acclaimed historical novels.

Why you need it?

- A cornucopia of coding and tech to keep young readers riveted
- An addictive new spy series for Alex Rider fans who love breathless plot, cutting-edge tech and action-packed adventure
- May appeal to reluctant readers who need edge-of-your-seat levels of excitement to keep them engaged



Interned

Author: [Pamela Rushby](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Junior and Middle Fiction

Genre: Historical fiction

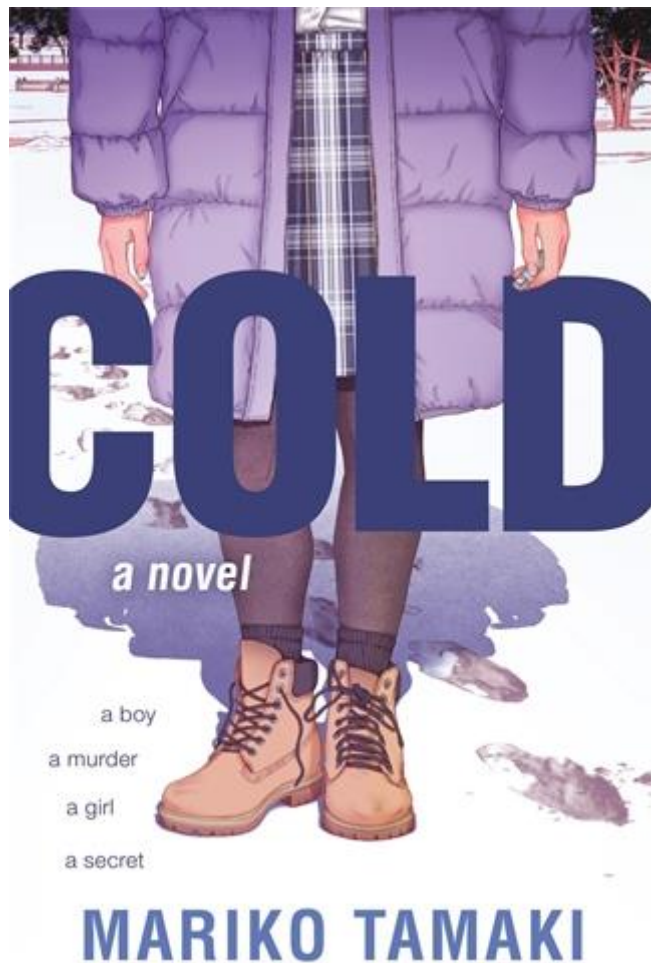
RRP: \$17.99

It's 1914. Gretta lives a privileged life in Singapore, the daughter of a businessman; Tilly lives a modest life in Brisbane, the daughter of a baker. When war breaks out and both countries turn on their families for being German, the two girls find themselves taken from their homes, interned at a camp in rural New South Wales. Far away from everything they have ever known, Gretta and Tilly are forced to face prejudice, overcome adversity and to make their own community.

Download the [Classroom Ideas](#) for *Interned*.

Why you need it?

- Based on true events and highlights an often- forgotten part of Australian History
- A well-researched and evocative historical fiction novel
- Will spark an interest in Australian History for younger teen readers
- Australian author, Pamela Rushby, has written over 200 books and has won several awards, including the NSW Premiers Ethel Turner Prize & five CBCA Notable Books



Cold: A Novel

Author: [Mariko Tamaki](#)

Published: Late Feb 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Fiction

Genre: Crime & Mystery fiction

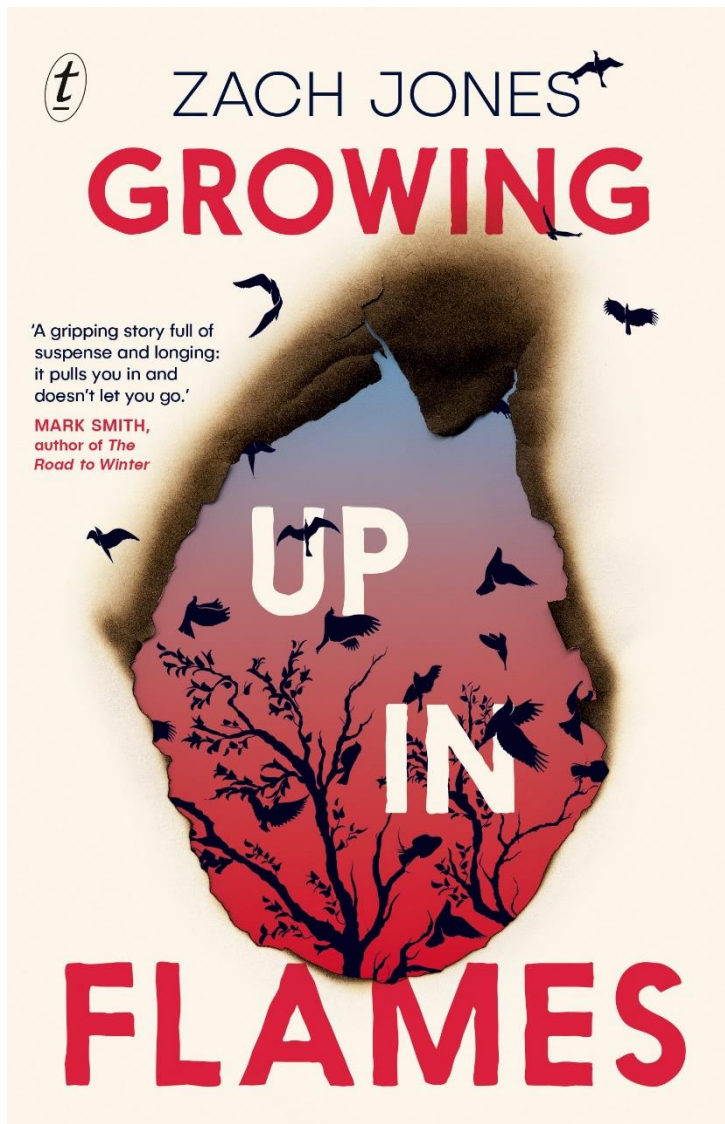
RRP: \$19.99

This is the story of a boy who died-and a girl who wants to know why. Todd Mayer is dead. Now he's some sort of ghost, hovering over his body, which has just been found in the town park, naked and frozen in the snow. As detectives investigate Todd's homicide, talking to the very people who are responsible for how he died, Todd replays the events that lead him to his end in the park.

Georgia didn't know Todd. But she can't stop thinking about him. Maybe because they're both outcasts at their school, or because they're both queer. It might also be because Georgia has a feeling she's seen Todd somewhere before, somewhere he wasn't supposed to be.

Why you need it?

- A sensitive handling themes such as friendship, sexual awakening, peer pressure, bullying and identity
- Mariko is a writer for both Marvel and DC Comics.
- An easy but worthwhile read



Growing Up in Flames

Author: [Zach Jones](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Fiction

Genre: Family and home stories

RRP: \$19.99

This contemporary YA novel is perfect for fans of Mark Smith and Vikki Wakefield, and tackles grief, belonging and mental illness.

I've heard of Noah the way you hear about car accidents. A series of whispers, theories and rumours...

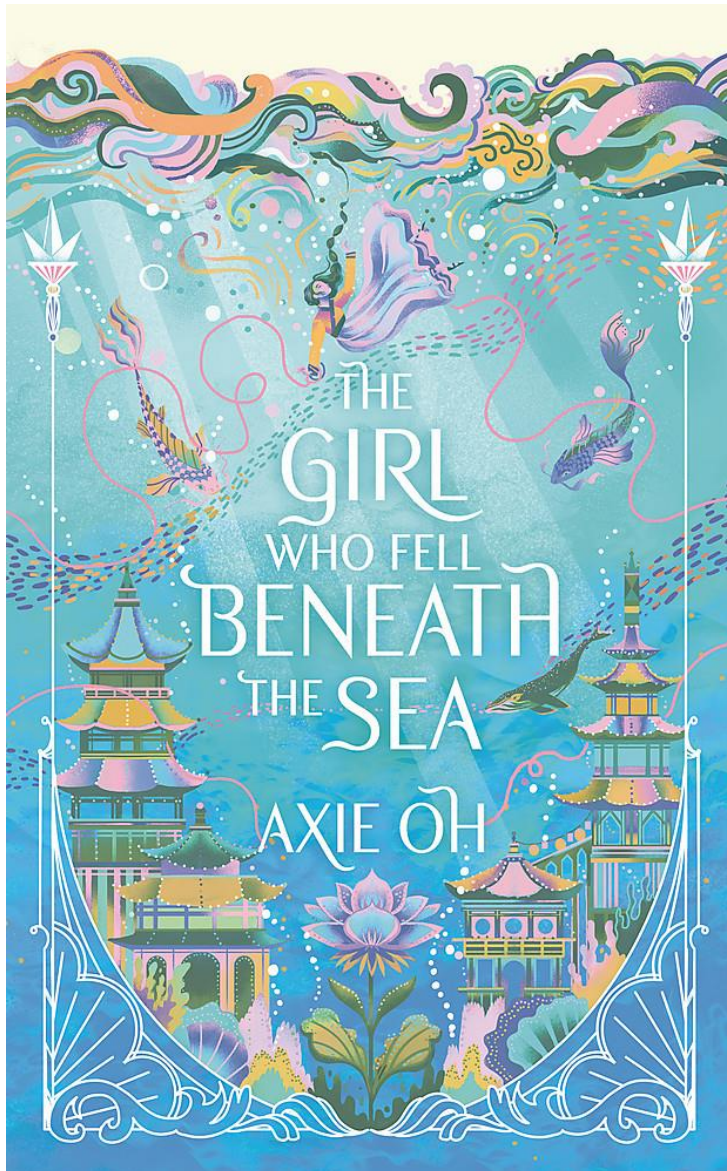
Kenna's mother Ava was killed in a bushfire not long ago. Now Kenna's living with her uncle and his young family in the small town where Ava grew up, and she feels like an intruder. Noah's mother has a mental illness that makes him both carer and jailer-constantly watchful, keeping things on an even keel. One night Kenna sees the general store on fire, and a boy standing watching as it burns. It takes her a while to notice he's holding a petrol can, but then things move fast. She's tackled him and run off with his bag before she even knows what's happened. The bag belongs to Noah, and he really wants it back. Kenna wants something too. To make someone else burn the way her mum did. And there's something she doesn't know- how Noah can help her find out the truth about her family.

Zach Jones has been an acrobat and a psychologist, and teaches Shakespeare in prisons. He completed his doctorate in Creative Writing at the University of the Sunshine Coast, and now lives on the North Coast of NSW. This is his first novel.

Download the [Teaching Notes](#) for Growing up in Flames.

Why you need it?

- Explores themes including intergenerational trauma, child abuse, sexual assault, violence and revenge
- Voiced by 4 characters via diary excerpts, text messages, Instagram threads and first-person narratives
- This contemporary YA novel is perfect for fans of Mark Smith and Vikki Wakefield and tackles grief, belonging and mental illness



The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea

Author: [Axie Oh](#)

Published: Late Feb 2022

Age: Junior and Middle Fiction

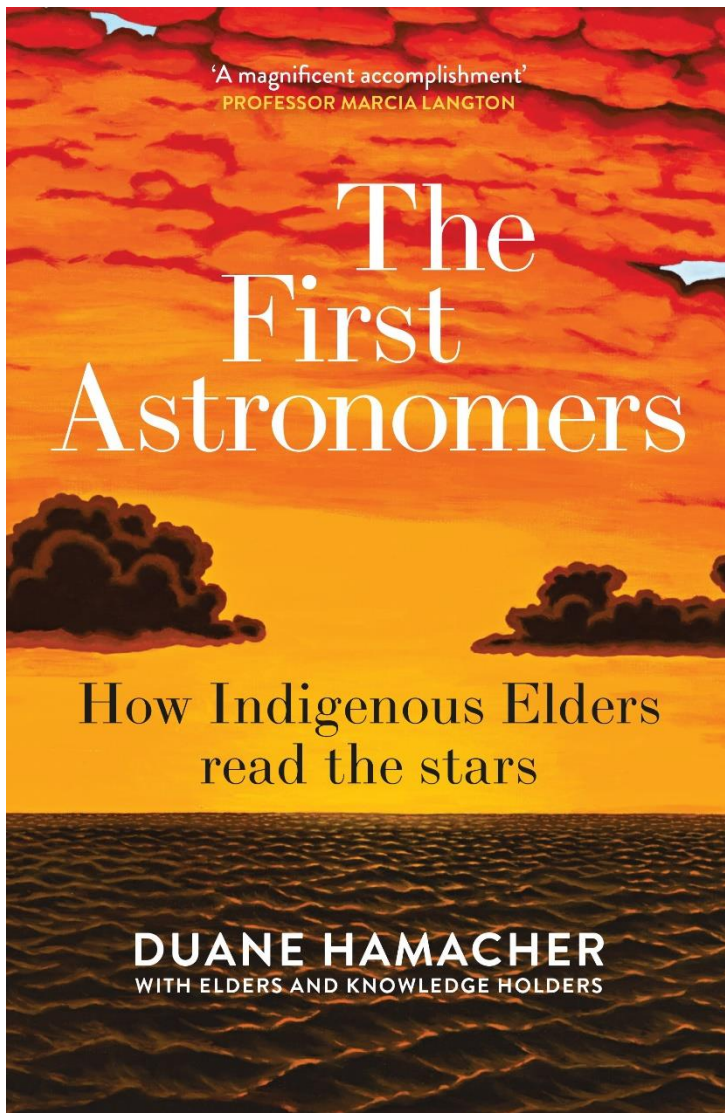
Genre: Fantasy and magical realism

RRP: \$22.99

Deadly storms. An ancient curse. Will her sacrifice save them all? For generations, deadly storms have ravaged Mina's homeland. Her people believe the Sea God, once their protector, now curse them with death and despair. To appease him, each year a maiden is thrown into the sea, in the hopes that one day the 'true bride' will be chosen and end the suffering. Many believe Shim Cheong - Mina's brother's beloved - to be the legendary true bride. But on the night Cheong is sacrificed, Mina's brother follows her, even knowing that to interfere is a death sentence. To save her brother, Mina throws herself into the water in Cheong's stead. Swept away to the Spirit Realm, a magical city of lesser gods and mythical beasts, Mina finds the Sea God, trapped in an enchanted sleep. With the help of a mysterious young man and a motley crew of demons, gods and spirits, Mina sets out to wake him and bring an end to the storms once and for all. But she doesn't have much time: a human cannot live long in the land of the spirits. And there are those who would do anything to keep the Sea God from waking.

Why you need it?

- An enthralling feminist retelling of the classic Korean Folklore "Tale of Sim Cheong"
- Perfect for fans of Wintersong, Uprooted, and Miyazaki's Spirited Away
- Clever, creative and exquisitely written



The First Astronomers **How Indigenous Elders read the stars**

Author: [Duane Hamacher](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Junior, Middle and Senior Non-Fiction

Genre: Popular Science

RRP: \$34.99

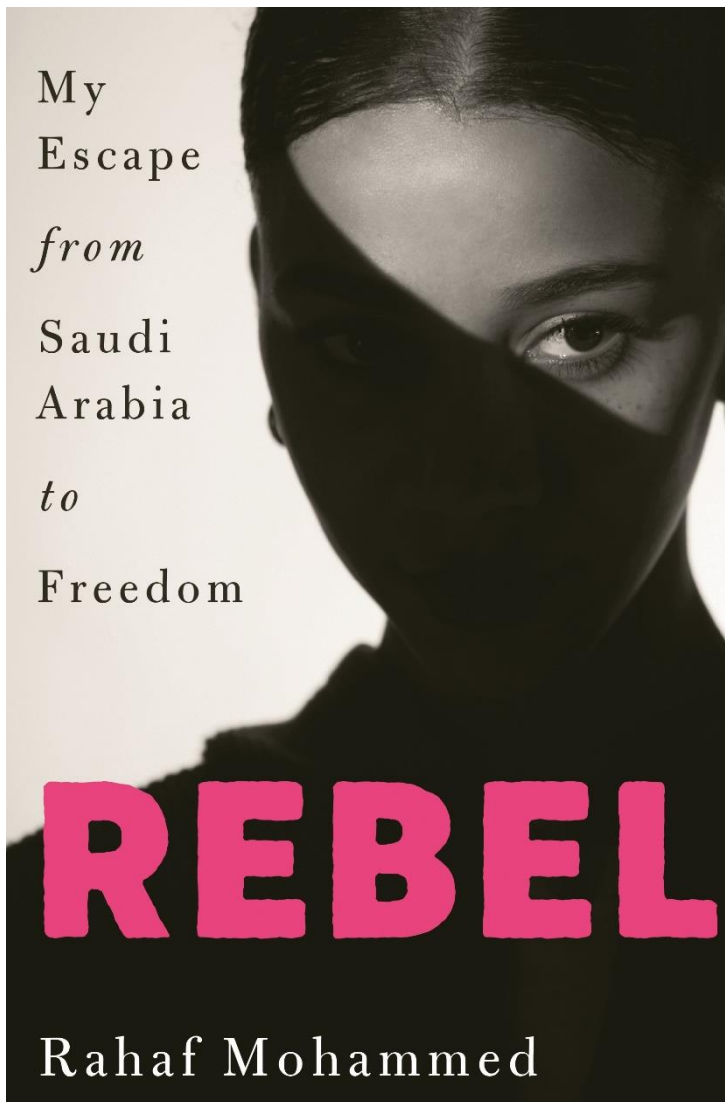
Our eyes have been drawn away from the skies to our screens. We no longer look to the stars to forecast the weather, predict the seasons or plant our gardens. Most of us cannot even see the Milky Way. But First Nations Elders around the world still maintain this knowledge, and there is much we can learn from them. Guided by six First Nations Elders, Duane Hamacher takes us on a journey across space and time to reveal the wisdom of the first astronomers. These living systems of knowledge challenge conventional ideas about the nature of science and the longevity of oral tradition. Indigenous science is dynamic, adapting to changes in the skies and on Earth, pointing the way for a world facing the profound disruptions of climate change.

'This book marks a profound paradigm shift in our understanding of Indigenous scientific traditions, how they are transmitted, and their relevance to life today.' - Professor Marcia Langton, University of Melbourne

For more details about the Elders and Knowledge Holders www.thefirstastronomers.com

Why you need it?

- A glimpse into Indigenous ways of reading landscapes reflected in the night sky
- The First Astronomers is the first book to reveal the rich knowledge of the stars and the planets held by First Peoples around the world.
- Forges a deeper understanding of our place in the Universe
- Duane Hamacher is Associate Professor of Cultural Astronomy in the School of Physics at the University of Melbourne



Rebel My escape from Saudi Arabia

Author: [Rahaf Mohammed](#)

Published: March 2022

Age: Middle and Senior Non-Fiction

Genre: Autobiography

RRP: \$34.99

In January 2019, then 18-year-old Saudi woman Rahaf Mohammed escaped from her family while holidaying in Kuwait. She was fleeing systematic abuse of her human rights as a woman growing up in Saudi Arabia and, specifically, her family's threats to kill her because she desired the freedoms Western women take for granted. Rebel is a passionate story by a woman who refused to allow a system to define who she was and what she could be. It shines a light on the rampant and dangerous inequalities that persist in Saudi society, and inspires women everywhere to dream of a better future for themselves, and their daughters.

"An inspiring read that will leave you shaking with fury, and then cheering in solidarity." - Sophie McNeill, Human Rights Watch

Why you need it?

- Simple, clear and effective story telling
- A voice for the many more who cannot speak or rise above their circumstances
- A daring tale of escape
- Watch Rahaf's Four Corners interview [here](#)