

Pool



by Justin D'Ath
 Ford St Publishing
 ISBN: 978-1-876462-51-2
 RRP: \$19.95

Pool is an exciting new novel for young adults set in the fictional town of New Lourdes in country Victoria. Central to the story is the town's public swimming pool, the water of which is reputed to have curative powers. When sixteen year old Wolfgang Mulqueen takes a summer job at the pool, he meets Audrey, nineteen, a blind girl who claims she sees angels. With the discovery of a butterfly unknown to science and an unusual request from Audrey's father, Wolfgang finds himself drawn into an old mystery, the tragic resolution of which will change his life forever.

Pool is an engaging mix of socio-realism and fantasy set in contemporary Australia. It can be read as a fantasy, a mystery, a romance or a coming-of-age story, and is open to study and interpretation on a number of levels.

This is a thoroughly absorbing piece of teen literature with issues handled realistically and sensitively. It's suitable for both boys and girls and well deserving of its listing as a CBCA notable book for 2008.

Author Justin D'Ath was born in New Zealand but has lived in Australia since 1971. He has written one adult novel, *The Initiate* (Collins 1989), which won 3 awards, and 21 books for children and young adults.

Into white silence



by Anthony Eaton
 Woolshed Press
 ISBN: 978 174 166 3259
 RRP: \$23.95

This book is absolutely intriguing. From the first page, it entices the reader to keep reading, and reading, and reading.

During the winter of 1922, the Exploration Vessel RAVEN became trapped in the Antarctic icepack, entombing 28 men aboard it through the dark polar night. *Into white silence* tells their story—a story of a lost past, of a tragic future, of ice, ambition and madness. It captures the terrible, fascinating beauty of Antarctica, both as it was then and as it is today, and is a journey into the mind of every person who has ever set foot upon those ice-bound shores.

Language is used well and expression is clear. The pace of the narrative flows well and due to Eaton's time based at Casey Station in Antarctica, the setting is realistic and at times hypnotic. Like so many Australian writers, Eaton uses setting as another character within the tale and the atmosphere that he creates stays with the reader.

Love you two



by Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli
 Random House
 ISBN: 978 174 166 0715
 RRP: \$18.95

Love you two is a coming of age story of a young Italian-Australian girl. Written in first person it tells the story of Pina; it follows her as she discovers the meanings of family and love. *Love you two* initially appears to be a generic young adult story. However, as the story unfolds, it becomes apparent that there are many layers that make up the fabric of Pina's family.

For many teenagers, this novel would be a great asset, illustrating that just because their family may not fit into the picture of the traditional nuclear family stereotype, it does not mean that they do not have a family.

A senior lecturer in the school of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, the author found inspiration for her narrative from her community work and academic research. A gentle read for the older teen.

Fiona Edwards
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Brisingr



by Christopher Paolini
 Random House
 ISBN: 9780385613859
 RRP: \$34.95

Brisingr is the third book in the *Inheritance* series written by Christopher Paolini. It has all the ingredients of a standard fantasy novel: grumpy dwarves, serious, arrogant elves, an evil King, and a normal boy whose life is changed by circumstances beyond his control, and who is forced to become the conquering hero.

At first glance, *Brisingr* appears to be a very generic book, with little to differentiate it from the masses of other fantasy series. However, although some parts may not be highly original, other parts show that a lot of thought, imagination and time was put into developing the plot. For example, there are highly detailed explanations as to how magic works, religion and atheism are looked at, and races, which are generally portrayed as nothing but mindless animals, are given more depth. The semi-complex characters are (mainly) likeable, and Paolini's writing style has considerably improved since the first book.

Despite some weak points—plot twists that do not surprise or engage the reader, some characters that are underdeveloped, and a few character deaths that were anticlimactic and disappointing, it's a solid fantasy in a genre that is full of mediocre and even awful books. Highly recommended for fans of the genre.

As reviewed by avid teen reader, Jessie Krippner



While moored to a new world Quentaris is approached by another sky-city. The traders on board seem friendly and generous, offering the Quentarans food and gems, but are they setting a trap for Quentaris?

RRP \$15.95



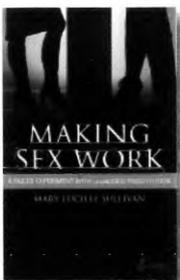
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Making sex work: a failed experiment with legalised prostitution



by Mary Lucille Sullivan
Spinifex press
ISBN: 9781876756604
RRP: \$29.95

Human trafficking is a growth industry across the globe and this book gives an insight into how this has been allowed to develop, as well as offering an insight into a society where women and children have become just another consumer item.

Mary Lucille Sullivan looks at the evidence of Victoria's experience of legalising the sex industry, and asks whether the concept of sex work as 'a job like any other' matches the reality. Covering issues such as violence, organised crime, women's health, and mainstream businesses' involvement in the sex trade, *Making sex work* is a compelling read.

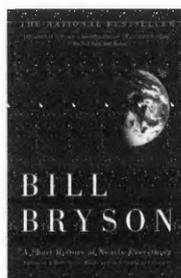
This book may appeal to academics, politicians, historians, lawyers, as well as feminists and it certainly is a good base from which to begin the debate on whether legalisation provides any kind of solution to the issue of people smuggling.

This book is an academic argument and should be read as such. However the text is easily accessible and informative.

Mary Lucille Sullivan has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Melbourne. She has toured the US, Britain and Norway discussing the impact of legalised prostitution.

Ideas for Christmas

A really short history of nearly everything



by Bill Bryson
Random House
ISBN: 978 03856 14801
RRP: \$39.95

This is a new edition of the bestselling title that has been abridged and adapted for children. Bryson's story-telling abilities make his journey into the world of scientific discovery both entertaining and accessible for all ages. In this book he covers the mysteries of time and space, the bizarre and obsessive scientist, the crackpot theories, accidental discoveries.

This book would be a great gift for the over 8s. The large format book is in full colour and even adult readers will find that it is a real treat to flick through.

Purple snow



written and illustrated by Eric Lobbecke
Random House
ISBN: 978 174 1662 450
RRP: \$24.95

Cockatoo has traveled all the way from Australia to Polar Bear's home to see the white snow. But when he gets there it is not what he expects. Lobbecke takes an iconic Australian creature and translates it into a tale that incorporates important modern environmental themes as well as friendship and travel. The illustrations are simply gorgeous.

Fiona Edwards
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The elephant in the playroom: ordinary parents write intimately and honestly about the extraordinary highs and heartbreaking lows of raising kids with special needs

by Denise Brodey
Hudson Street Press, NY, 2007
ISBN: 9781594630354

RRP: \$40.99

Full of touching stories from American parents who are raising children with special needs, including autism, ADHD, ADD, deafness, cerebral palsy, mutism, sensory disorders and depression, this book is an eye opener into the private worlds of families with special needs children.

'I broke all the rules today' is one story from this collection that I found most touching. It's about a mother and her three year old autistic son, who showed her in his own special way that he loved and understood her on one of her worst days.

I highly recommend this book for people wishing to get an insight into what special needs parents and families experience. These dedicated parents are advocates for their special needs children in a world where there doesn't seem to be enough resources to cater for them. It's easy to read and wonderfully written. It certainly educated me about the heart-wrenching situations parents experience on a daily basis. I felt the pain, loss, confusion, grief and physical exhaustion of the families involved, along with the tremendous joy they felt when their kids excelled in something

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Making Sex Work: A Failed Experiment With Legalised Prostitution
by Mary Lucille Sullivan

Mary Lucille Sullivan looks at the evidence of legalised prostitution, and asks whether the concept of sex work as 'a job like any other' matches the reality. Discussing the practicalities of brothels as regular businesses, the author unearths astounding facts about both the legal and illegal sectors. Covering issues such as violence, organised crime, women's health, and mainstream businesses' involvement in the sex trade, *Making Sex Work* is a compelling read.

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