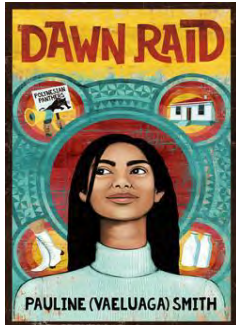


Storylines Christmas booklist 2018

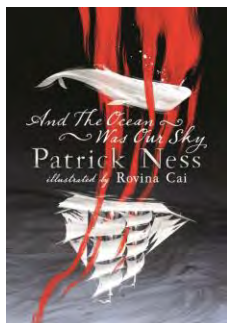
Young Adult



My New Zealand Story: Dawn Raid
by Pauline (Vaeluaga)
Scholastic New Zealand

Dawn Raid is a vividly drawn snapshot of the 1970s, packed full of laugh-out-loud Pasifika humour. From the quest to find white 'go-go' boots that fit, to experiences on the milk run and avoiding boiled cabbage, Sofia navigates life with style. Issues of Pasifika identity and activism run throughout this book but are lightly woven into the story. Sofia's growing political awareness of the dawn raids and their injustice and impact are sensitively told. This is a great story, and hugely relevant in our current geo-political climate. It will help children understand how political decisions about immigration that appear to only affect one group of people can have far-reaching implications for all our communities.

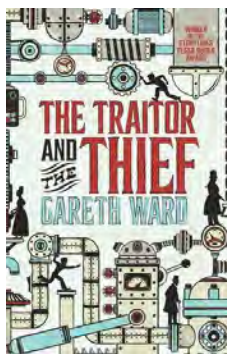
Ages: 12+



And the Ocean was our Sky
by Patrick Ness, illustrated by Rovina Cai
Walker Books

Take a beloved classic tale and turn it on its head ... quite literally. That is what award-winning author Patrick Ness has done by telling the tale of Moby Dick from the point of view of the whales, in this case Bathsheba. It may take you a couple of chapters to get your head around which way is up but it is beautiful, powerful and haunting as the whale pod goes on the hunt for the mythical Toby Wick.

Ages 12+



The Traitor and the Thief
by Gareth Ward
Walker Books

A smart, exciting debut from Ward, this inventive steampunk novel follows fourteen year old pickpocket Sin as his fortunes change from street urchin to spy in training. Who can he trust, who is the traitor and can orphan Sin discover the truth about his origins. A terrific read with a sequel soon to follow.

Ages 12 +



The Anger of Angels

by Sherryl Jordan

Walker Books

Award-winner Sherryl Jordan is back, after many years, with a wonderful historical fantasy set in Renaissance Italy. A beloved jester's daughter finds herself defending her father's risky public outburst against injustice – and into conflict with powerful political and princely forces. Brave, vulnerable and determined, Giovanna is a marvellous creation absolutely in tune with our times.

Ages 12+



Ash Arising (Ash #2)

by Mandy Hager

Penguin Australia

This is the gripping sequel to the prize-winning thriller *The Nature of Ash*. Ash McCarthy thought he had done enough by broadcasting his story to the world, exposing the corruption and lies of Prime Minister Chandler and his cronies. With his small band of friends and family on a remote campsite in the backcountry, he awaits the international community to answer his call for action. But the public response is not what he had hoped for and the fallout from his revelations will lead him and his companions into even more danger. Can Ash withstand the new challenges that confront him? And what of Mikey – can he survive in this increasingly merciless world? Chilling and page-turning, this compelling novel crackles with political intrigue, fast-paced action, unexpected twists and lots of heart.

Ages: 13+



Rainfall

by Ella West

Allen & Unwin Australia

Kiwi YA author Ella West doesn't disappoint with this thriller for early secondary readers, set on New Zealand's west coast, one of the world's wettest areas. As the Buller River rises and dropping coal production threatens the town's fragile economy, 15-year-old Annie is drawn into a murder investigation. A born storyteller, Ella West explores Annie's awakening to the realities of small-town community life, rites of passage and coping with change.

Ages 12+



Gone
by Michael Grant
Harper Collins

In a split second, all the adults disappear. The town is ringed by a strange opaque force field. No-one gets in, no-one gets out. Kids begin developing strange powers. And so begins the Gone series. Warning – this is ‘Stephen King for kids’. The story is fast paced, action packed and the body count is high. Those who are into scary thriller/supernatural stories will enjoy these books.

Ages 13+



Small Spaces
Sarah Epstein
Books

by
Walker

Tash is forever traumatised by a crime that occurred in her childhood, which everyone tells her she imagined. She’s in therapy and trying to get on with her life. But when the victim of the crime moves back to town it all starts to unravel.

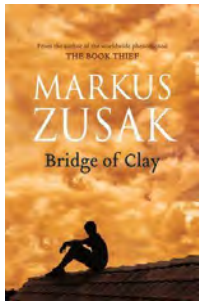
Ages 13+



In the Dark Spaces
by Cally Black
Hardie Grant Publishing

Before this novel won the Young Adult division of the 2018 New Zealand Book awards it had already won the Ampersand prize for an unpublished manuscript and the Aurealis Award for Best Young Adult novel. It is a compelling sci-fi story told by 14-year-old Tamara, an orphan living as a stowaway on a space freighter and looking after her baby cousin whose mother is one of the crew. She survives when the ship is attacked by the ferocious Crow People, hides the baby, and is taken prisoner by the aliens. Tamara tells a traumatic and violent story but she gradually comes to understand the very different culture of her captors and never gives up hope that her little cousin survives somewhere.

Ages 14+



Bridge of Clay
By Markus Zusak
Picador

Every so often there's a book that stands apart and begs to be read time and again. Zusak wrangled with this for many years, particularly as it followed his extraordinary successful *The Book Thief* but I'm sure it has been worth the agony. The five Dunbar brothers are struggling following the death of their mother and the abandonment of their father. Their story, focussing on introspective Clay, is told by the oldest son Matthew. *Bridge of Clay* dips and dives through the family's history. The extraordinary quality of the writing, the emotional depth and turn of phrase is to be savoured.

Ages 14+



Catch Me When You Fall
By Eileen Merriman
Penguin Random House NZ

Seventeen-year-old Alex Byrd is facing her worst fears when she learns that her leukaemia has returned. A friendship develops with Jamie Orange who she met when they were both waiting for blood tests, and they soon find that they have much in common. The familiar setting of Christchurch, the medical realities that challenge the pair, and the confident writing by Eileen Merriman, a haematology specialist who does not gloss over the medical realities, make this a compelling read.

Ages 12+