



## Throne of Glass

Written by Sarah J. Maas  
Bloomsbury (eB) £6.99  
ISBN: 978-1408832332

This is Sarah J Maas's debut novel and I found the intriguing mixture of beauty and danger in a new fantasy

world quite irresistible and impossible to put down. Celaena Sardothien is young, beautiful and deadly. She is a trained assassin who has been betrayed by someone close, and so, when we first meet her, is enslaved in the salt mines of Endovier. She is offered her freedom if she can become the champion of the King for six years. It's an offer she feels unable to reject and so travels to the King's court to take part in the competition to choose the champion. At court she settles into a different form of captivity, training for the coming competition, eating well, wearing fine clothes and even enjoying the company of a visiting princess. *Throne of Glass* has action, adventure, fabulous gowns and a hint of romance.

*Gill McDonald*

## The Kite Runner Graphic Novel

Written by Khaled Hosseini  
Illustrated by Fabio Celoni & Mirka Andolfo  
Bloomsbury £12.99

ISBN: 976-1408815250

Hosseini has adapted his highly acclaimed text for a stunning new version of this gripping account of personal loyalties and political turmoil in war torn Afghanistan.



When Amir and Hassan decide to enter the kite-flying competition they can hardly imagine how the events of the afternoon will shatter their lives forever. Many of the key elements from the novel are here including fragments of the original dialogue. The disturbing scenes of the rape of Hassan and the stoning in the Ghazi Stadium are very sensitively handled. The skilful illustrations cleverly capture key characterisation and settings, perhaps most vibrantly in the sequence of the kite-flying tournament. This well-conceived project will please fans of the graphic genre for its vibrancy whilst bringing a potential new and younger audience to this wonderful tale.

*Elaine Chant*

## Pale

Written by Chris Wooding  
Barrington Stoke £6.99 ISBN: 978-1842999462  
Labelled as 'dyslexia friendly' on the cover, this horror story is only 69 pages long but still extremely effective. It describes a world where people can come back from the dead via a new 'Lazarus' serum. But sadly the rest of the community no longer wants them, so the 'Pales' as they are known, can only find comfort with



each other. The story starts with Jed, a normal teenager, having to adjust as a Pale after being run over. Losing his girlfriend and with his best mate out to get him, Jed learns some hard lessons quickly. Sparely but expertly

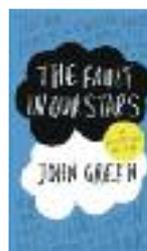
written, this is a story to interest any cohort of young readers, dyslexic or not.

*Nicholas Tucker*

## The Fault in our Stars

Written by John Green  
Puffin (eB) £12.99  
ISBN: 978-0141345635

This book should be depressing and a real tear jerker, but instead, although sad, is very moving, uplifting and funny. Hazel has terminal cancer which is kept at bay by some new drugs. She attends a support group and meets Augustus who shows her life is worth living, and being alive and in love is wonderful. Their outlook is very pragmatic and the dialogue between the youngsters is very moving and at times humorous. Although it has plenty of medical terms this does not detract from a fast moving story with plenty of action intermingled with tragedy.



*Ingrid Fox*

## Knowing me, Knowing you

Written by Helen Bailey  
Hodder (eB) £6.99  
ISBN: 978-1444900859



The angst of being a teenager is multiplied when your parents are half of an Abba tribute band. They may be good, but Chantelle can't really appreciate that. Her life revolves around school, her boyfriend Crab, and best friend Taryn. It's the summer holidays and

Taryn has gone to Patagonia with her parents, leaving Chantelle feeling lonely and bored with Crab. Unexpectedly discovering that she is adopted, Channy is determined to find out more. Thoughtless use of Facebook puts her in danger as she is drawn into a serious case of kidnapping. Things get very difficult before she finds out who she really is. This is a good story told with wit and humour. We share Channy's frustrations and identify with her quest, which makes the kidnapping episode all the more real. Current popular dialogue and lively narrative are combined with a light touch that carries the story along. There are times when the plot and some of the characters seem to veer towards the improbable, but the author manages to stay in control and weave the plot to the end without losing the reader's sympathy.

*Liz Dubber*

## This is not Forgiveness

Written by Celia Rees  
Bloomsbury (eB) £6.99  
ISBN: 978-1408817698

The idea for this brilliant contemporary drama was sparked by the 1962 film *Jules et Jim*. The narrative unfolds through the voices of the three main characters, Rob, Jamie and Caro. Rob, badly injured in Afghanistan and now discharged from the Army, is deeply traumatised by his experiences and is struggling to adapt to civilian life back in Britain. Jamie, his younger brother, is a rather naive teenager. However, being intelligent and caring, Jamie copes well with the daily complications of his family and friends, until he meets, and falls in love with, beautiful and fascinating Caro. Through her association with a group of political anarchists, Caro, fulfilling her reputation as a troublemaker, hatches a plot to violently disrupt the opening of a new school. The lives of all the characters become entwined as the plot thickens. Excitement mounts and soon all three are hurtling towards an explosive conclusion. This is a challenging book which keeps you guessing and questioning until the very end. Beautifully written, it sensitively addresses just some of the problems affecting young people in today's society.



*Pat Tate*

## Butterfly Summer

Written by Anne-Marie Conway  
Usborne (eB) £5.99 ISBN: 978-1409538592



Don't be fooled by the title as *Butterfly Summer* is full of dark secrets, tension and sorrow. When Becky and Mum move back to her home village, Becky initially worries that the summer holidays will be lonely without her friends.

Then she meets the lively and unpredictable Rosa May at the Butterfly Garden, and she begins to settle into village life. However, by contrast, her Mum sinks into depression and Becky is at a loss what to do. When Becky discovers a box containing old photos and newspaper cuttings, she realises her Mum has been keeping something from her and is determined to discover the truth. This is a book of high intrigue. There is a real sense of oppression as Becky suspects everyone except her knows her Mum's secrets and this is effectively emphasised by the vivid descriptions of the ever-increasing heat. Rosa May's changing moods and jealousy hint at danger, but is it past or present? This book does not try to lessen the impact of depression and loss, and weaves them into an incredibly moving and thrilling tale. The ending is both shocking and sad, and thoroughly satisfying. Highly recommended!

*Jane Hall*