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AWARDS

BROOKE WESTON BOOK BUSTERS SHADOWING GROUP

MAGAZINE

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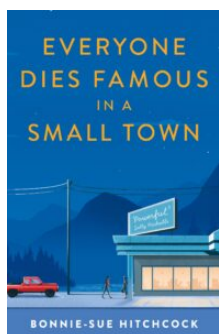
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OUR REVIEWS



“Set in Derry, Ireland 2016. Catholic Aidan and Protestant Iona, both eighteen, were born on the day of the Northern Ireland peace agreement. After a post-exam party, Aidan wanders alone across the Peace Bridge and becomes the victim of a brutal attack, witnessed by Iona who films the attack on his phone. When the two eventually meet, despite their differences their friendship grows. A Romeo and Juliet love story that highlights the impact of the ‘Troubles’ on young people in modern-day Northern Ireland.”

- Ms McCabe

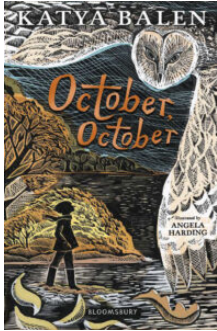


“A clever collection of short stories about the exploration of young people’s lives in small towns in rural America, showing how multiple lives are linked by the behaviours and actions of others. Characters, places and events from one story pop up in a different story often showing a different perspective, exploring some dark themes. An engaging read.”

- Ms McCabe

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OUR REVIEWS



“A beautifully written book about a young girl October, who lives ‘wild’ in the woods with her father until an accident leaves him hospitalised and October having to stay with her mother she barely knows, in London. October struggles with all the changes she has to make, including going to school and making new friends. A lyrical story about family, friendship, change and discovery. A future classic in the making!”

- Ms McCabe

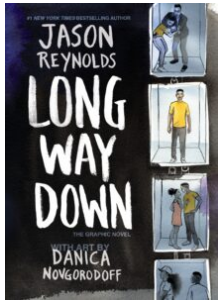


“I really enjoyed this book and I thought that the main character Joseph, who has dyslexia, added a good touch to the story. I think that Mrs F seemed a cruel person to start with but I enjoyed finding out why she was like that. It was interesting that the story had a zoo and `Adonis` the gorilla was a great addition to the story.”

- Angel

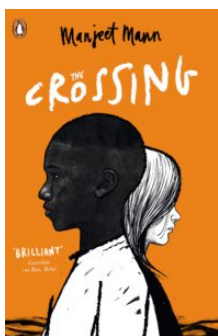
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OUR REVIEWS



“I thought "LONG WAY DOWN" was an excellent choice of book to read! I really loved it because it was a graphic novel (which is my favourite type of genre) It had a sad beginning but had a positive message at the end. Of course, I would highly recommend to anyone that likes reading Graphic Novels. It deals with the quite difficult subject of gang crime and revenge and may not be to everyone`s liking. It was a very emotional story about Will who wants to get revenge after his brother Shawn is shot and killed. Will gets into an elevator and is joined by all the other friends and family that had been killed in the past.”

- Annabelle

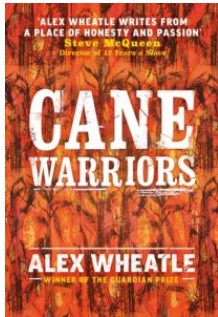


“I thought The Crossing was an enjoyable book. As soon as I had read half way through the book I knew that this would be a great book for me to read and I would highly recommend this.”

- Annabelle

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OUR REVIEWS



“I really enjoyed `Cane Warriors` and I found the story intriguing.”

- **Admira**



“I think this book is a very good book to read especially when you want to know what it feels like to live during a war.”

- **Amy**

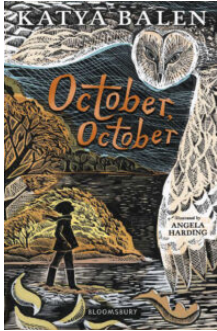


“I loved this book, it was a great piece of historical fiction and I enjoyed seeing the characters development.”

- **Phoebe**

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“This book was something else- but not in a good way. I could understand that maybe other people would enjoy this book, however it is not for me. It was too predictable and quite utterly bored me. It’s about a girl, October, who lives in the woods with her dad- but one day something dreadful happens and she has to live with the woman who left her in the city. It’s all new for October- can she handle it? I give this book a 5/10 because I could see how some people would like this book.”

- Lilly

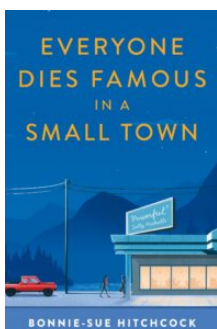
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OUR REVIEWS



“This book explores themes of anger, sorrow and racism . Amal Shahid’s life is turned around when he is convicted of a crime that he did not commit. Seen differently because of the colour of his skin, Amal has no chance at redeeming himself at court. This book manages to suck you in and keep the book in your hands. As this is written in free verse, it is an easy read and easy to understand. I really enjoyed the scenes that involved him enjoying his passions. The only thing I dislike about this book was the ending as it did end on a cliff hanger but not a very good one as it all ends very quickly, compared to the pace of the rest of the book. This book was a really good read and I would suggest someone who always likes to be on the edge of their seat for this book as it never really gets boring. If you enjoyed this book I would suggest you reading another one of Ibi Zobois books American Street.”

- Lilly

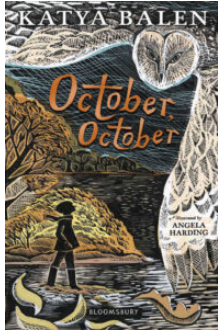


“This book does seem to have some amazing reviews from people but in my opinion I thought there were too many characters which made it harder to understand but it seems a well written book.”

- Amy

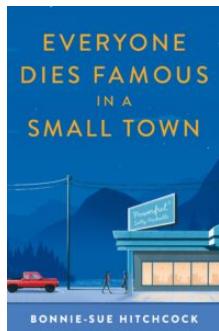
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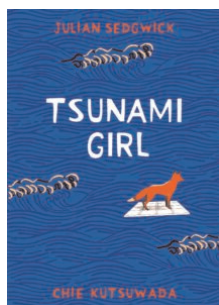
“A lovely book with an excellent plot! I love how the protagonist interacts with the world around her and would read this again”

- Phoebe



“I loved how all of these aspects linked together as the book went on. I would recommend”

- Phoebe

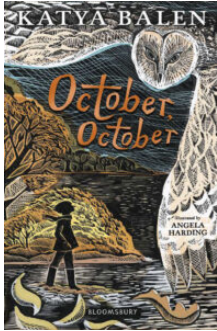


“A stunning book full of culture and stories. I loved the writing style of the the book and amazing art!”

- Phoebe

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“I enjoyed this book. It was an enjoyable read that showcased how aware the world should be of others as you do not know what someone else is going through. The main character of the story experiences themes of loss, terror and fear, yet she still remains in hope. The protagonist, October, shows the reader that change is not easy and people deal with things differently. The story exposes the world to different personalities. Overall, I really enjoyed this book but felt it was not easy to get into. 9/10”

- Imogen

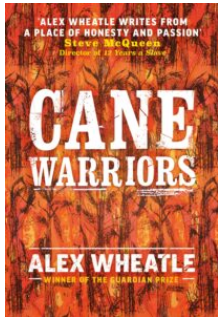


“I really enjoyed this book. It explored themes of grief and loss. It is very interesting how this book is set out as it has different texts for the two main protagonists and when it moves on to the other story the letters are in bold. Sammy is trying to get away from his war torn country with his friend- not knowing if he will make it out alive. Nat has just lost her mum to cancer and is trying to use her mums passion of swimming by completing the channel swim. But fate brings these two together, why are they feeling this way- how do they know each other? Overall I have no complaints about this book. 10/10”

- Lilly

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“An important piece of historical fiction telling the story of Tacky’s War against the British slavers in 1760’s Jamaica. The story of the rebellion is told through the eyes of 14 year old cane warrior, Moa, who plays a part in the lives of lots of the other characters and his observations of events gives a great sense of perspective in tackling what is a difficult subject matter. The dialogue is written in Jamaican patois which I did feel slightly slowed down the pace of the story for me. An informative and important read.”

- Ms McCabe



“A deeply moving, beautifully written story told in free verse about sixteen year old Amal, a young black man, who is convicted of a crime he didn’t commit and sent to prison. Amal turns to the refuge of his art and words in his fight against injustice. You get a convincing sense of Amal’s experience and feel connected to his journey throughout the story. Based on the author Yusef Salaam’s own experiences as one of the Exonerated Five it makes an emotive read. Highly recommended!”

- Ms McCabe

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“Punching the Air is an amazing book, super captivating and very emotive. I like the style of free verse as it is quick to read and a very creative style of writing. The atmosphere the book creates is very tense but the story itself includes a brave character with a sad but realistic story. This book is very intriguing and you just can't put it down.”

- Sitha

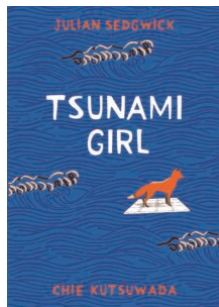


“An incredible book! It combines a beautiful plot with excellent storytelling. I would pick this book up again in a heartbeat!”

- Phoebe

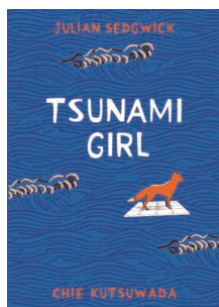
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“A powerful coming-of-age story about the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. 15 year old Yuki, who suffers from severe anxiety, is visiting her grandpa when the traumatic events unfold. Although she survives, she continues to struggle to come to terms with the aftermath and returns to the scene a year later, along with her friend Taka, to gain closure and pay her respects to her grandpa. I enjoyed learning about the Japanese culture and beliefs and the Manga artwork interspersed throughout the narrative added an extra dimension to the overall reading experience. Well-researched and respectful story telling.”

- Ms McCabe



“Tsunami girl is a heart-warming story with a Japanese manga style mixed with normal fiction. The characters are nice and also quite brave. I love the personalities and connections between the characters. It is very artistic and embraces a new style of fiction. The story is very unique and I recommend it to people looking for an adventure story.”

- Sitha

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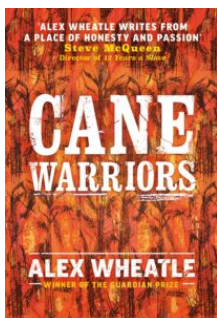
“An incredible book that is written in an amazing (though at first I found the changes in perspective confusing) style. This relates to a current issue that is important that it is resolved. It was an incredible read.”

- Phoebe



“A beautiful book written in a unique amazing way, this also relates to the stories of those in this situation who have been forgotten. I would absolutely read this again!”

- Phoebe



“An incredible book of historical fiction with an insight to the horrors enslaved people went through from the first person perspective.”

- Phoebe

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“This book explores themes of anger, sorrow and racism . Amal Shahid’s life is turned around when he is convicted of a crime that he did not commit. Seen differently because of the colour of his skin, Amal has no chance at redeeming himself at court. This book manages to suck you in and keep the book in your hands. As this is written in free verse, it is an easy read and easy to understand. I really enjoyed the scenes that involved him enjoying his passions. The only thing I dislike about this book was the ending as it did end on a cliff hanger but not a very good one as it all ends very quickly, compared to the pace of the rest of the book. This book was a really good read and I would suggest someone who always likes to be on the edge of their seat for this book as it never really gets boring. If you enjoyed this book I would suggest you read another one of Ibi Zobois books American Street.”

- Lilly

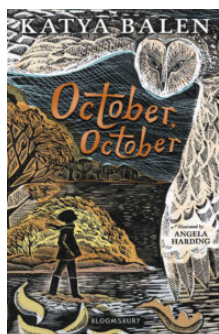
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“A powerful, thought-provoking read written in free verse about two teenagers from opposite sides of the world whose lives are interconnected. Natalie living in the UK, is struggling after the death of her mum from cancer and Sammy who lives in Eritrea, whose father was murdered by the military, plans to cross the English Channel and escape to the UK. Natalie, a keen swimmer decides to swim the English Channel to raise funds for refugees after her friend Fazel, a refugee, is attacked. I enjoyed the way that the dialogue switched between the characters with the change in font and the bold lettering for the repetition of words from each of the characters narrative. The range of difficult subject matters is dealt with sensitively and highlights how all our lives are interconnected. A relevant story of our times that will stay with you long after reading.”

- Ms McCabe

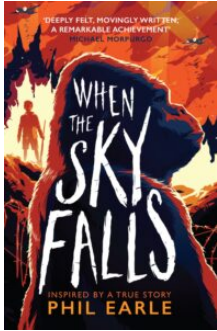


“October, October was a really good book to read. The moment that really most stuck in my memory was when October had to go London and stay with her mum and she hated it there. The story wasn't very gripping at first but once you started to read more it became quite gripping because you didn't know what was going to happen next.”

- Amy

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OUR REVIEWS



“An outstanding, beautifully written story about hope, love and friendship also covering themes of bereavement and dyslexia. Set during World War Two, Joseph is an angry young boy who is evacuated to the city. He is sent to stay with a stranger, the frosty Mrs F who appears to dislike children and who owns a zoo that houses a resident silverback gorilla, Adonis who also appears to have taken an instant dislike to Joseph when they first meet. Mrs F enrolls Joseph at the local school and we get to witness some of the frustrations and challenges that he is facing. After helping out in the zoo Joseph gradually builds a deep bond with Adonis as the two are more alike than first seems, but when the bombs get closer to the zoo, Joseph finds himself faced with the terrible prospect of having to take action if Adonis’s cage is breached. A story full of believable characters who interact convincingly with a well-constructed plot. A great read!”

- Ms McCabe

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OUR REVIEWS



“I found the book really intense and it showed me a unique point of view to culture and identity. The book was about a sixteen year old boy called Amal who was sent to prison in America for a crime he did not commit .”

- imogen