

# Belonging #3

*Please note that these titles are only suggestions!*

## **Marrying Ameera by Australian Author Rosanne Hawke T/HAW**

Ameera, 16, is the daughter of an Australian mother and a Pakistani father. She doesn't realize it, but her father has made plans to marry her off to a wealthy cousin in Pakistan. When her uncle takes her passport and return ticket away, and confiscates her mobile phone, Ameera is trapped. She will have to go through with the marriage. With the help of an organisation that rescues girls in Ameera's situation, she must demonstrate strength beyond her years to escape from Pakistan and win her freedom.

## **Riding the Black Cockatoo by John Danalis T/DAN**

This is the compelling story of how the skull of an Aboriginal man, found on the banks of the Murray River over 40 years ago, came to be returned to his Wamba Wamba descendants. It is a story of awakening, atonement, forgiveness and friendship. 'It is as if a whole window into Indigenous culture has blown open, not just the window, but every door in the house,' says John Danalis. Part history, part detective story, part cultural discovery and emotional journey, this is a book for young and old, showing the transformative and healing power of true reconciliation.

## **Wave Length by A J Betts T/BET**

Oliver's world has shrunk. It's all about Year 12 finals. It's about that magic 80% average he needs to get into uni, get his dream job and get cashed up. If only he can find a quiet place to study – away from the chaos and mess of living with two small kids and his Mum's booming muffin business. A study break in a small coastal town seems just the ticket. But Sunny Haven Recreation and Leisure Centre is like some weird parallel universe. He arrives cashless, bookless, phoneless and fuming in the back of his Dad's clapped out Cortina only to find his new study space is home to an array of elderly citizens. They've each got their own opinions on Oliver's life plans and he "doesn't wanna hear it!" But gradually, with their help Oliver's universe expands.

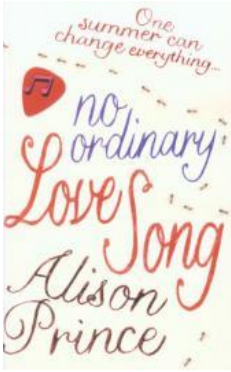
## **Moonstone Promise by Karen Wood T/WOO**

Jess untied something from around her neck and held it out to Luke. Take my moonstone. They're supposed to give you beautiful dreams. It was a pale oval-shaped stone, hung on a thin leather strap. Promise me you'll come back, she whispered. I'll see you again, Jess, Luke said. Promise. After a harsh childhood spent in foster care, Luke finally feels at home on Harry's farm, working with horses. When Harry dies and Luke has a bitter falling-out with the people around him, he does a runner, leaving everything behind. He takes off to the gulf country in search of brumbies and finds himself camped by a river with three Aboriginal elders. Can a mob of wild brumbies and three wise men help Luke discover who he is and where he belongs?

## **The Valley of Blood and Gold by Tony Palmer T/PAL**

It is 1854 and Ballarat is teeming with miners, dreamers and rebels. On the eve of the Eureka Stockade battle, Fintan Donovan is fighting private battles of his own. Torn between his Irish upbringing and his friendship with an English boy called Matthew Ward, Fintan must make a stand. Will he be dominated by the hatreds of the old world or will he find a new way to live in the new country? Vivid and powerful, The Valley of Blood and Gold evokes a moment in history that is entrenched in Australian national heritage.

### No Ordinary Love Song by Alison Prince T/PRI



Cal's long, dull summer is about to change...Cal would rather avoid reality. He hates school; his teachers are badgering him to decide on a career; his sister Jess has moved away from the Scottish island where they live, and the band they play in is falling apart. Not to mention both his parents embarking on embarrassing affairs - gross! Nothing seems to be going right and he'd rather just not bother.

Then he meets Kerry, an Australian girl new to the Island, and over the course of a long summer they begin to fall in love. When the summer draws to a close though, and Kerry finds out she's pregnant, it's time for Cal to face up to reality at last...This is a refreshingly honest - and often very funny - look at first love. It is written by a well-respected literary author, winner of the Guardian Children's Book Award and runner-up for the Smarties Prize. Set on the beautiful Isle of Arran, this novel addresses disaffected youth in a convincing and unpatronising way. It is very well written - and often wryly funny - account of first love from an award-winning author. It addresses issues of race (Kerry is part-Aboriginal), teenage pregnancy, extramarital affairs and global warming.

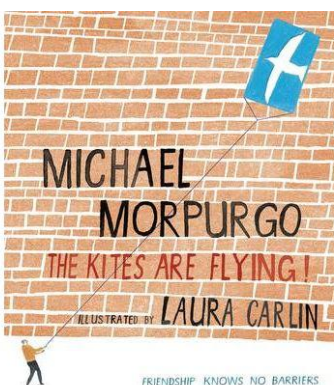
### Asylum by Rachel Anderson T/AND

*Cover: Sunday waited, as he had been told, as the lorry rumbled off the ferry. It slowed at the roundabout. He jumped down from the axle and walked casually away. As he had been told. He had no luggage, only his precious book, tucked inside his vest. He was giddy from eight hours bobbing across the North Sea.*

*All he wanted was a country that was democratic and respectful of human life. All Rosa wanted was somewhere safe. Away from the bad things of the past. With perhaps a garden, even very small, with good earth to grow things. What Sunday and Rosa got was Hawk Rise. Seventeen storeys of it. Condemned*

Set in an about-to-be-demolished high-rise block of flats, various characters have arrived from a variety of situations; their lives and their stories, interweave, change and affect each other, and travel towards deeply moving, often funny, happy and painful outcomes. At the core of the story are two asylum seekers: All fifteen-year-old Sunday wanted was a country that was democratic and respectful of human life. All eight-year-old Rosa wanted was somewhere safe, away from the bad things of the past. Through their eyes, ideas of Britain and belonging are explored. Moving, thoughtful, outstanding and unforgettable.

### The Kites Are Flying by Michael Morpurgo JF/MOR



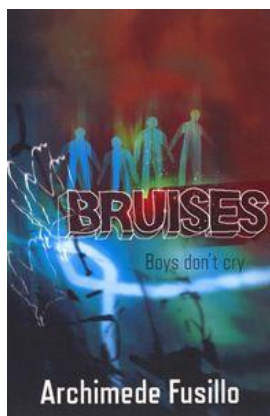
This is a most moving tale celebrating the bright light of humanity surviving even in the darkest conflict. Travelling to the West Bank to witness first hand what life is like for Palestinians and Jews living in the shadow of a dividing wall, journalist Max strikes up a friendship with an enigmatic Palestinian boy, Said. Together the two sit under an ancient olive tree while Said makes another of his kites. When Said takes Max home, the reporter learns of the terrible events in the family's past and begins to understand why Said does not speak. Told from both Max's and Said's points of view, Morpurgo has created a beautiful tale of tragedy and hope with an ending that rings with joy. With an afterword by BBC Middle East Editor, Jeremy Bowen.

### **In The Sea There Are Crocodiles by Fabio Geda JF/GED**

One night before putting him to bed, Enaiatollah's mother tells him three things: don't use drugs, don't use weapons, and don't steal. The next day he wakes up to find she isn't there. Ten-year-old Enaiatollah is left alone in Pakistan to fend for himself. In a book that takes a true story and shapes it into a beautiful piece of fiction, Italian novelist Fabio Geda describes Enaiatollah's remarkable five-year journey from Afghanistan to Italy where he finally managed to claim political asylum aged fifteen.

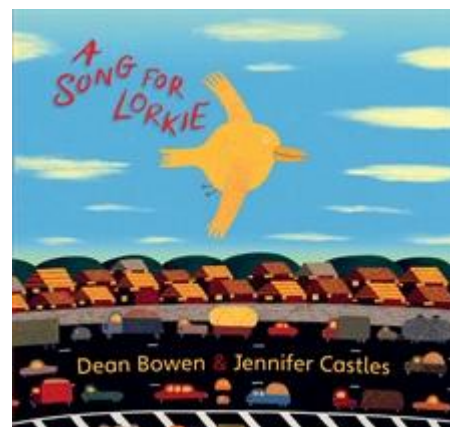
### **The Shadow Girl by Australian Author John Larkin T/LAR**

The shadow girl never imagined she'd live on the streets. After her parents disappear, life with her aunt and uncle takes a sinister turn. Terrified that the authorities will believe her uncle over her, she flees. She tricks her way into a new school and pretends to have a loving family. No one knows she sleeps in rail yards, sand dunes and abandoned houses. At school she meets the author she will call on years later. Together they piece together the story of how she survived, who helped her, and the friend she wishes she could have saved. Thrilling, profound and blackly funny.



### **Bruises - Boys don't cry by Australian author Archimede Fusillo T/FUS**

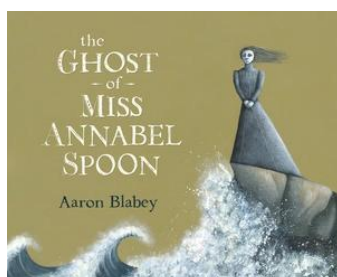
A gut-wrenching novel about a group of male adolescents and their struggle for status, for self-worth, even for life itself. Falco, a reflective and observant person, leaves his sick brother behind to go on school camp where he is appointed the reluctant leader of a small group of boys whose personalities interact dramatically and sometimes brutally.



### **A Song For Lorkie by Dean Bowen & Jennifer Castles E/BOW**

A joyful, optimistic picture book about a bird finding his place in the world and the song in his heart, featuring the distinctive, colourful world of one of Australia's finest contemporary artists.

Lorkie was a Roofbird. His best friend was Brian, and they had been friends since they were eggs. They lived in the Valley of Roofs, where every bird had a song to sing except Lorkie. Lorkie couldn't sing, until he found a new home in the middle of the Argy-Bargy roundabout. Brilliant pictures from internationally acclaimed artist Dean Bowen harmonise perfectly with Jennifer Castles' sweet and surprising text in this delightful book for children and parents to read aloud together.



### **The Ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon by Aaron Blabey JF/BLA**

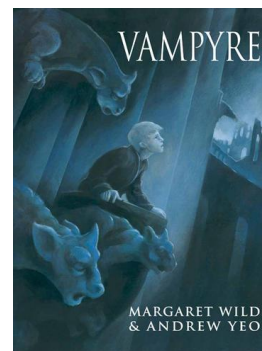
No matter what hour, she lurked looking sour, be it midnight or mid-afternoon. Her dresses were shabby, her mood always crabby. Her name was Miss Annabel Spoon.

Life is cursed for the people of the village of Twee. The ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon haunts their every waking hour and they've had enough! But then one day, the brave and practical young Herbert Kettle has the most extraordinary idea . . .

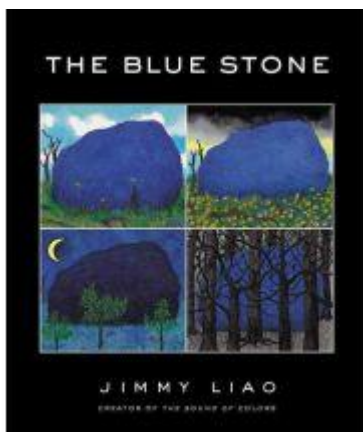
### **Vampyre by Margaret Wild & Andrew Yeo JF/WIL**

I am Vampyre. Feared. Despised. I live in darkness. I long for light.

From the dark depths of his vampyre world, a vampyre boy reflects on the joyous days of his childhood and his current life as a vampyre. Thought-provoking and atmospheric, Vampyre is a monumental picture book about identity, making choices and being true to oneself from award-winning author, Margaret Wild, with breathtaking illustrations by new illustrator, Andrew Yeo.



### **The Blue Stone by Jimmy Liao JF/LIA**

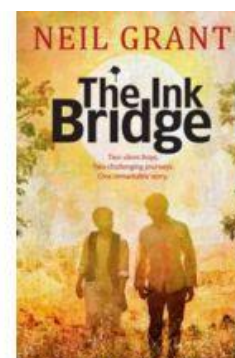


A large, beautiful blue stone is discovered in a forest. It is cut in half, and one half stays in the forest while the other starts on a long and mystical journey through many places, many owners, and many transformations. It begins as a statue of an elephant, admired by museum-goers, and then becomes a carved bird residing in an elderly woman's garden. It becomes a moon, a cat, a necklace, and more. Throughout it all, the stone longs to return home, and finally it crumbles to dust and flies with the wind back to rest with its other half in the forest. Breathtaking illustrations and a haunting story by world-renowned illustrator Jimmy Liao take readers on a magical journey around the world. Adults will marvel at the life stories revealed in this book, and children will delight at seeing the different manifestations of the blue stone. Just as with Sound of Colours, this book works on many different levels, and

ultimately is a powerful story of different life paths and possibilities, a longing for home and love.

### **The Ink Bridge by Australian Author Neil Grant T/GRA**

Omed is a boy from Afghanistan. After making an enemy of the Taliban on the day the Buddhas of Bamiyan are destroyed, he undertakes a perilous journey to seek asylum in Australia. Hector is a grieving Australian boy who has given up on school and retreated into silence. Their paths meet at a candle factory where they both find work. But secrets fester behind the monotonous routine of assembling wax and wicks - secrets with terrible consequences. And, ultimately, it is up to Hector to see how the story ends. Omed's and Hector's beautifully told and compelling journeys will grip hold of your heart and not let go.



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