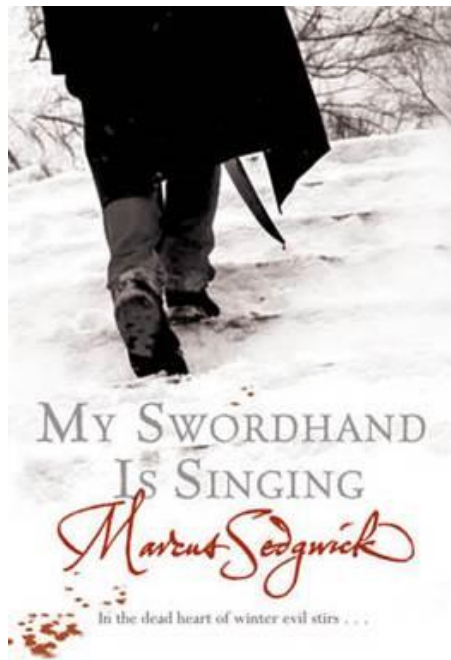
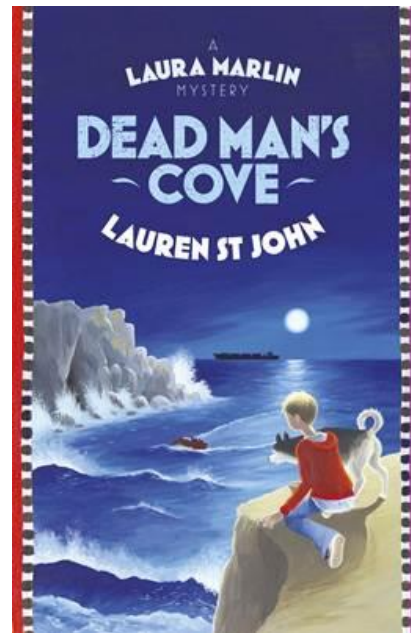


Reading for pleasure: Some wintery reads for Christmas.

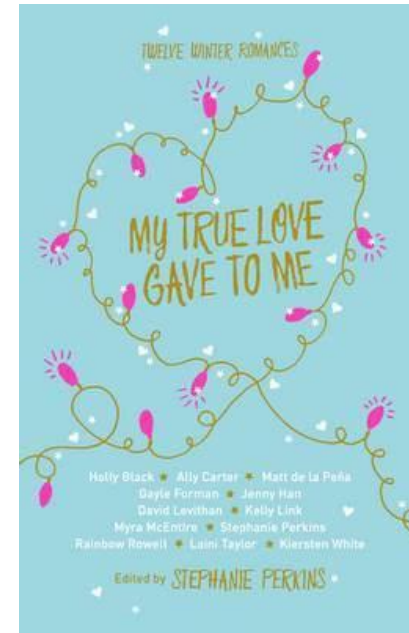
Always remember to read the blurb of a text to make sure it is appropriate for you/your child as some texts deal with challenging issues and may not always be appropriate.



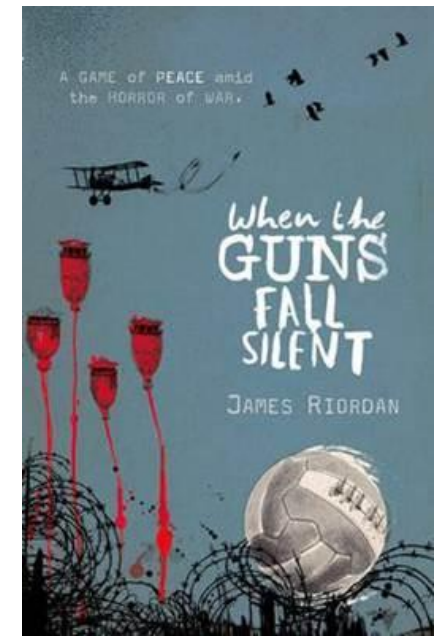
Woodcutters Peter and his father Tomas arrive in the lonely village of Chust. Peter doesn't understand why his father carries a long wooden box around with him, or why he has dug a deep ditch around their hut. But he is increasingly aware of malevolence about the place. Menacing shadows, villagers missing and people murdered only to reappear. Set in the seventeenth century amid the bleakness of winter in Eastern Europe, and inspired by vampire folklore, this is a superbly crafted, dark and menacing tale. A sense of hardship, bitter cold and fear penetrates the text, resulting in a chilling page-turner.



When mysterious uncle Calvin rescues Laura Marlin from her gloomy life in an orphanage, she can't believe her luck! Sipping hot chocolates by the sea with gulls wheeling through the air, Laura feels enchanted by her new life in Cornwall. But she soon realises that her Cornish paradise is full of mysteries. Laura's cunning sense of observation and her love of amateur investigation soon set her on a mission to discover the truth. Adventures are in store for our intrepid young heroine, when she uncovers the secret world of shady uncle Calvin and why she is forbidden to go to Dead Man's Cove. With stunning depictions of the craggy Cornish coastline and a completely compelling plot this is the perfect book to curl up with this winter.



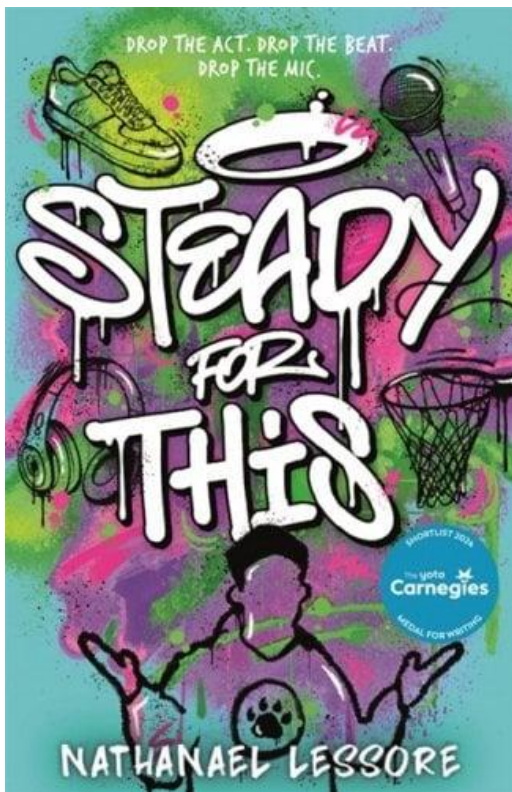
A collection of Christmas-themed romantic short stories, one for each of the 'twelve days', by some of the best known American YA authors: Holly Black, Ally Carter, Matt de la Peña, Gayle Forman, Jenny Han, David Levithan, Kelly Link, Myra McEntire, Stephanie Perkins, Rainbow Rowell, Laini Taylor, and Kiersten White. Anthologies have the advantage of providing a variety of styles and subject material, so within the very girly cover readers should find something to enjoy. The tales range over varied geographical settings and cultural backgrounds, encompassing different winter traditions, and include some supernatural events and fantasy settings. Although the winter holiday provides the settings, some are more closely related to the theme than others, but throughout the romantic theme dominates.



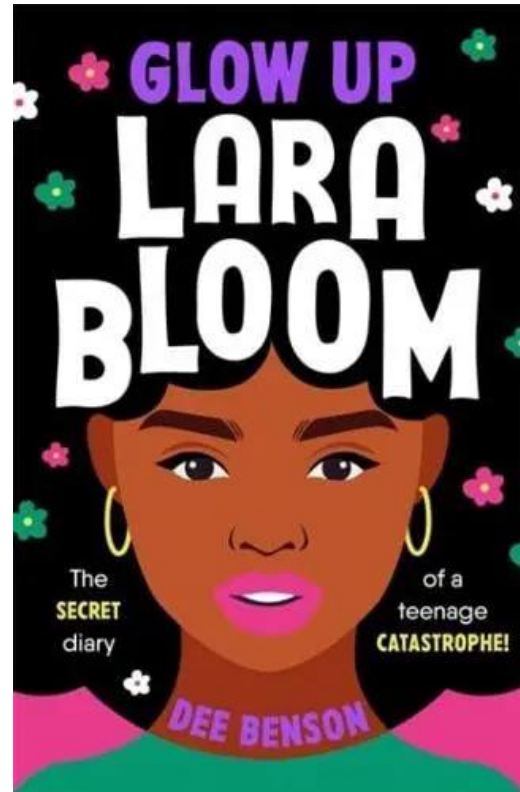
Published to mark the centenary of the First World War this short novel from James Riordan tells the story of the Christmas day truce in No Man's Land, as a boy and his grandfather visit Flanders fields. Young Perry's impression of his grandfather as a heroic man who slayed the evil Germans is overturned with the realisation that these are memories of a time he would rather forget. A chance encounter and a snapshot of a friendly football match bring up old memories. The grandfather recalls stories of his school master declaring the country at war, of playing football for Pompey when the team were called to duty, and of his own time in the trenches and that crisp Christmas day when the guns momentarily stopped.

Reading for pleasure: Some more books to read over Christmas that are not so wintry.

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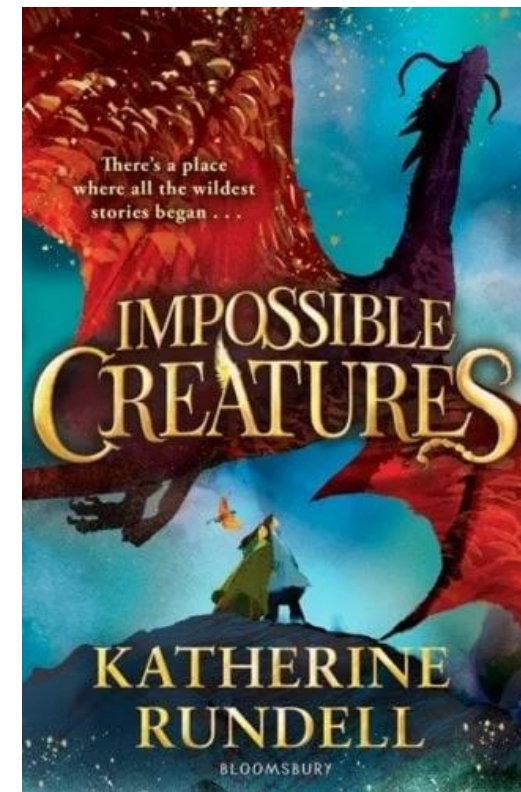
Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to drop his best bars and smash the competition at Raptology. That way, he's convinced Tanisha, his crush, will finally give him a chance. But when a livestream practice goes epically wrong, Growls's dirty laundry is literally exposed. He's finally achieved his dreams of going viral - not in the good way. Now Tanisha won't look at him, he's the joke of the school and there's no way he can show his face at the competition. Will he ever catch a break? Then a new girl on the block appears who might be just the friend Growls needs. Especially when she points out that Raptology could be the answer to his problems after all. . .



When Lara meets super-cute newboy Caiden, she begins to think that the way to his heart is to give herself a glow up. But her friends are not impressed. You should never glow up for a boy, only for yourself! As Lara and her friends embark on their project of empowerment and self-love, Lara shares her innermost thoughts with her online journal. How can she keep her hair under control when she's playing football? Why is she so fast on the pitch yet so uncoordinated off it? And how will she ever convince Caiden to take an interest in her? With her worries safely locked in her top-secret journal, Lara is on track to unlock the glow-up of her dreams. Surely nothing could possibly go wrong . . . ?!



The year is 1904. Luki has lived a tribal life in the mountains of the Philippines. Now she's growing up, she is expected to become a wife and a mother, but Luki isn't ready to give up her dream to become a warrior. When her tribe are offered a journey to America to be part of the St. Louis World's Fair, Luki will discover that the land of opportunity does not share its possibilities equally . . .



Christopher is stunned when he discovers a passage to the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures of myth still live and breed and thrive in their thousands. There he meets Mal: a girl from the islands, who is in possession of a flying coat and a baby griffin, and who is being pursued by a killer. Together they embark on an urgent quest to discover why the creatures are suddenly perishing, voyaging across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, in a bid to save both the islands and the world beyond them from a rising evil – before it's too late.