

INSIDE

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REVIEW

'Creepy and Maud' by
Dianne Touchell

NEW BOOKS

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of our latest titles

SHORT STORY

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by Elijah Barrott-Walsh

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NEW REVIEW

We're always seeking to add new and exciting fiction titles to our catalogue. Check out some of the latest additions.

Elegy Amanda Hocking

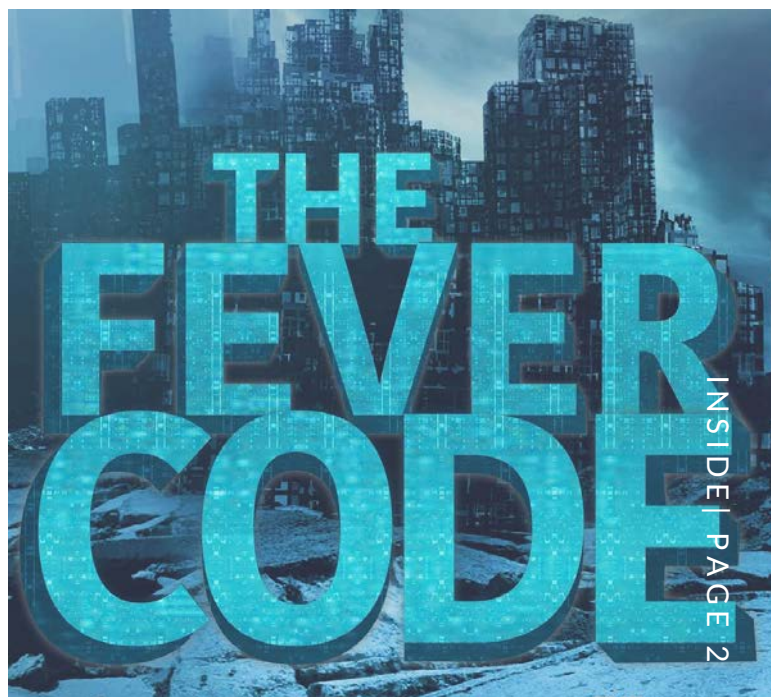
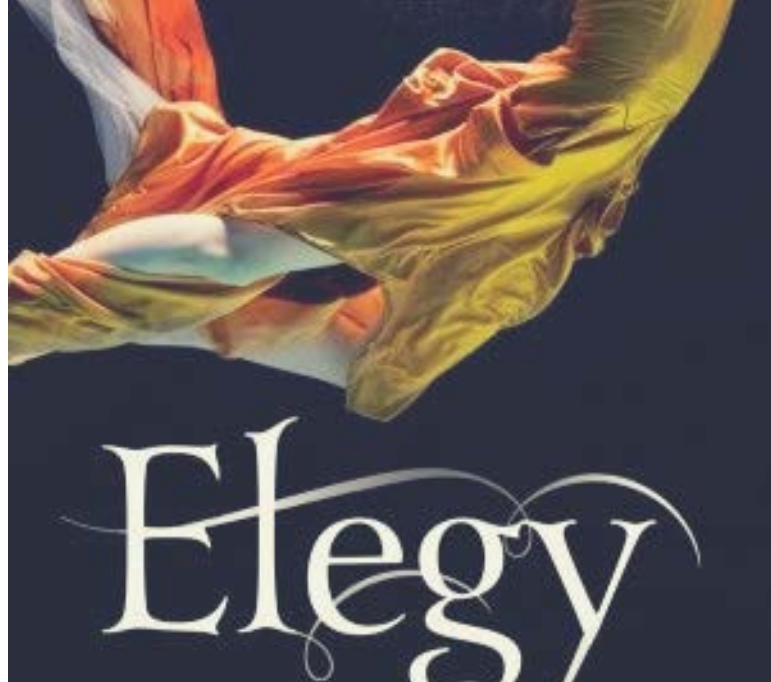
Now that Gemma holds the key to breaking the siren curse, the stakes have never been higher. At last, a future with those she loves—and a romance with Alex—is close enough to touch...but not if Penn has anything to say about it. Penn is more determined than ever to have Daniel for her own and to destroy Gemma and Harper along the way, and Penn always gets what she wants. Now a final explosive battle is about to begin, and the winner will take everything Gemma holds dear.

Unravelling Elizabeth Norris

Sixteen-year-old Janelle Tenner is used to having a lot of responsibility. She balances working as a lifeguard in San Diego with an intense academic schedule. Janelle's mother is bipolar, and her dad is a workaholic FBI agent, which means Janelle also has to look out for her younger brother, Jared.

The Fever Code James Dasher

Once there was a world's end. The forests burned, the lakes and rivers dried up, and the oceans swelled. Then came a plague, and fever spread across the globe. Families died, violence reigned, and man killed man. Next came WICKED, who were looking for an answer. And then they found the perfect boy. The boy's name was Thomas, and Thomas built a maze. Now there are secrets.



CREEPY AND MAUD

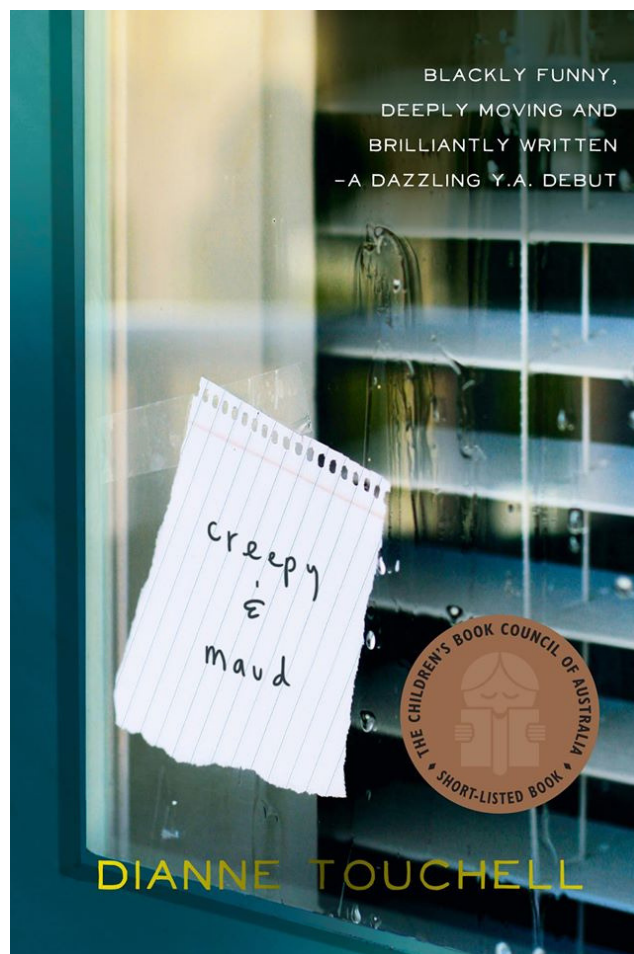
DIANNE TOUCHELL

It's a love story, but... not.

It's hard to describe Dianne Touchell's quirky debut novel 'Creepy & Maud' by comparing it to other stories. Sure, it has a bit of John Green, and there are hints of Rainbow Rowell's 'Eleanor and Park,' but ultimately, this is a completely out there story for completely out there people.

The two main characters, Creepy and Maud, live next door to each other. While they have never really met, or even spoken, they have a bizarre relationship based on observation. Creepy (named by Maud in her chapters) is constantly looking through Maud's window with binoculars. Through this, he develops his own ideas about who she is, what her thoughts and dreams are, and consequently projects a relationship between them based on his own imagination. Maud (named by Creepy in his chapters- we never learn their real names) demonstrates similar behaviour, allowing Creepy to watch her, and slowly communicating pieces of her identity to him through objects and images placed on her window. While obscure, this leads to the point where she feels that Creepy comes to know her better than her own family.

While the premise might seem odd and confronting, this is one of those eccentric novels where- because of the nature of the characters- it just works. Touchell gives insight into dysfunctional relationships, and as both sets of parents reveal the difficulty of marriage through constant fighting, manipulation and mind games, you start to realise how special and unique Creepy and Maud's relationship really is.



One of the most intriguing things about this story, is the fact that the male and female protagonist (who share the narration through split chapters) never actually meet, but rather, create an idea of each other through their own narration. Needless to say this is a completely different take on the teenage relationship, filled with humour, intrigue and- at its core- honesty.



LOVE'S BITE

ELIJAH BARROTT-WALSH

My eyelids flutter open, my head throbbing with pain. I attempt to reach up to it only to find that I can't move my arms; they're stuck by my sides. I call out for help, the aberration too much to bear, but my voice is lost in the darkness of the room. I can't tell how big or small the room is; everything's so black. I open my mouth to call out again when a door ahead of me bursts open, light suddenly flooding the room. I look around and realise the room is quite small, and all that's in it is a chair opposite the one I'm seated on. A girl, probably my age, seemingly glides into the room. The first thing I notice about her is her elegant beauty; the second is how stunning her clothes are. I open my mouth to speak but nothing comes out. The girl, blonde hair resting gracefully on her small shoulders, smiles and sits lightly on the empty chair.

The girl opens her mouth and the sweetest sounding words flow delicately out. "So, tell me about yourself." She says, her enchanting smile still occupying the room.

I open my mouth, expecting to shout at her and demand she tells me what's going on, yet my mouth stutters and quietly states, "I-I'm Cassian, Cassian Amaryllis. I turned nineteen this year, i-in March, and I was born in Spain, but I moved to London when I was six." Fear painted on my face, I open my mouth but no words will come out again. The girl giggles, her icy-blue eyes sparkling in the light. "Pleasure to meet you, Cassian! I must say, I love your name, oh, and that Spanish accent is quite... remarkable." She says dreamily, staring into my eyes. "Those green eyes of yours, too... Oh, sacrè bleu! Here I am, going off about nothing, again!" She giggles, drapes one leg over the other and rests her chin on her fist. "I better introduce myself, now that you ever so politely have."

That smile strikes again, sending a tingling sensation down my spine. "My name is Lola, Lola Gallè." She giggles and goes on to say in her received pronunciation, "I turned twenty in March but that's not too much of an age difference..." Her voice trails off as she looks into my eyes once again. "Oh, sorry, it's just those eyes of yours! Anyhow, I suppose you shall be wondering what's going on. Well, Mother and Father have set me up on a date with you, those wretched souls! They believe that I shall only be allowed to date once I have turned twenty and I shall only acquaint myself with those of whom they approve. Why, it isn't fair they must always dictate my life!" Lola pauses to take a breath and gazes once more into my eyes. "Well, I daresay Mother and Father do seem to have such brilliant taste!" Eyeing my whole body this time, Lola bites her lower lip. "You are a very handsome young man. Oh, I do hope you find me attractive! Do you think this dress compliments my eyes?" Lola stands up and does a pirouette in her chic, azure-coloured gown. It matches perfectly with her eyes, and the bright red lipstick coating her lips contrasts the blue colours magnificently. My mouth, once again, speaks for me, yet I agree what it has to say. "Y-you look really pretty..." I blush, my eyes fixed on her lips, my bomber jacket suddenly feeling quite heavy over my navy t-shirt. Lola beams with delight, sending more sensations through my body as her perfectly white teeth shine amongst her sparkling, red lipstick. "Yay! I chose this gown especially for you! I also thought the lipstick I chose would appeal to you. Anyhow, shall we go outside? Perhaps you could buy some ice cream for us to share!" She states more than asks in an amiable fashion. This time, I'm able to respond, and thus do so with alacrity, yet, all sense of fear pushed away by this sudden infatuation, I decide to say, "Yeah, let's go get some ice cream!" Lola squeals with delight, stands up, places a very posh-looking, blue hat that matches her gown on her head and twirls once again.

LOVE'S BITE

ELIJAH BARROTT-WALSH

In the 1930 heart of London, I sit at a table of two with Lola in Gelupa, the 'finest artisan gelato experience this side of the Alps', gazing into her ice-blue eyes, bright with liveliness. Her slightly parted lips stare back at mine as her elegant figure sits gracefully within her chic, splendid outfit. Bright red double decker busses flash past the window, contrasting the grey of the fog draped over the magnificent city. Lola slowly and politely eats some liquorice-flavoured ice cream off a silver teaspoon. Something about the liaison this girl seems to have with everything drives me crazy, and my lips part slightly as I stare at the heavenly figure sitting across from me. Lola giggles and takes another a spoon of ice cream. I smile, my cheeks flushing, and I eat some of the ice cream before Lola eats it all. We soon finish the ice cream, and Lola stands up, reaches for my hand and smiles.

"Come on, let's go out and wander around together! Wouldn't it be so romantic?" We both smile and I take her hand. My smile disappears as I realise her hand is freezing cold, and it sends a chill up my spine. She looks at me oddly, and then pulls me up. I smile again and we both walk outside, my hand still clasped in hers. She skips towards a small, empty alleyway, pulling me along. My back pressed against the wall, Lola holding both my hands tightly, we both close our eyes as she leans in, her pretty, red lips puckered up, ready to kiss. Her right leg kicks up, and she leans completely into me, her teeth closing in on my neck. I scream in pain and horror, realising I should never have trusted this horrific monster as the blood drains out of me. My eyes refuse to open, but I can imagine the sick image before me: fresh blood dripping from a beautiful monster's mouth, skipping away as she searches for her next victim.

My name is Elijah Barrott-Walsh and I am currently a Year 9 student in Romero house. In the first term of school, students were set their first major English assignment. This was an assessment of students' ability to recognise narrative techniques by writing a short narrative and identifying the techniques used. As a young aspiring author loving the chance to receive some feedback and assessment from someone who has previously published novels, I finally decided, after many rather curious yet incomplete attempts, to submit my 3rd draft of a story about the biting side effects of lusting over someone. I decided to write about this because I am a lover of romance and gothic fiction, although this story doesn't completely feature these genres as I was aiming to clearly portray narrative techniques.



COMMUNITY

Writing Competition



PAGES

PAGES is a weekly group that meet to discuss books, story writing, and everything in between. We meet every Tuesday at Lunchtime in the Tutorial Room. All students are welcome to attend PAGES at any time, so why not check it out!

You Review

Remember that you can submit a short review at any time, for any library book you have read and receive a complimentary CHOCOLATE. Simply visit the Library desk, collect a post it and some stars and within minutes, you'll be enjoying a sugary treat.

Speak to a staff member if you want any more information.

Get Involved

INSIDE are looking for exciting articles, book reviews and short stories to publish in our issues. If you are a writer, or interested in some publishing experience don't hesitate to contact us.

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