



READING FOR PLEASURE



NEWSLETTER

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOK 1



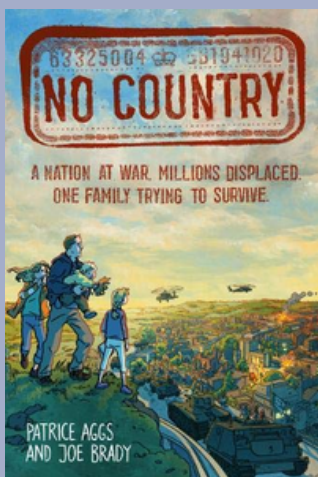
3-6 Years
*Luna Loves
Art* written
by Joseph
Coelho

BOOK 2



7-10
Years
*Stars With
Flaming
Tails*
written
by
Valerie
Bloom.

BOOK 3

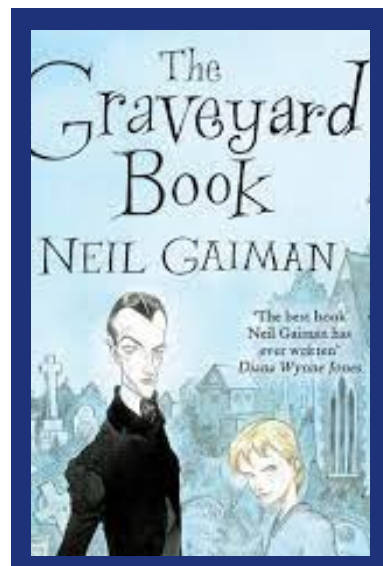


11-14
Years
*No
Country*
written
by Joe
Brady

BOOK REVIEW

BY CHRISTOPHER WORRALL

The Graveyard Book is one I have revisited recently and its suspense, twists and turns certainly make this a exciting yet haunting read! It all starts with the murder of Bod's



family when he is just a young child. He immediately toddles away from danger to meet none other than the resident ghosts in the nearby cemetery. They argue and argue before agreeing on allowing the Owens family, an elderly couple long dead, to raise him as one of their own. He learns the ways of a ghost and picks up some rather odd powers along the way, given to him by the local residents. He suffers many problems growing up that a normal boy of his age would. However, he has the knowledge and stories of the dead to help him along the way!

This book is one to cherish! Tackling sensitive topics of loss, growing up and genuine right and wrongs through a fascinating and gripping adventure story. It will leave you and your children wanting to get out and do something; whether that is a new experience or something more!

AUTHOR CORNER

PHIL HICKES

Favourite Books

My favourite books tend to change from week to week. Some classics include Emma by Jane Austen, A Christmas Carol by Dickens and anything by M R James. If forced to name a current contemporary read, today I'll say it's The Apparition Phase by Will McClean. Having read so many horror and ghost books it takes a lot to frighten me, and this genuinely raised the hackles. The Terror by Dan Simmons is also up there.

As far as children's books go, I'll name two. Long Lankin by Lindsey Barraclough is genuinely creepy and draws upon old folklore which I love. I also recently read a wartime story called The Valley of Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr and it's full of heart and intrigue.

Reading for Pleasure

What this means to me is primarily comfort and escape. Being lost in a book takes you away from one's worldly cares for a while. It's a haven. Your own little world. My favourite time to read is in bed. I like nothing better than cuddling up with a scary book while the rain patters on the window and the wind howls. It's also a great way to help ease yourself into sleep mode.

Fondest Memory

I have very fond memories of being read to as a child by my mum, in our cold and dark house in Rochdale. I vividly remember the disappointment when the chapter would end on a cliffhanger, and we had to go to bed. In terms of writing, I was lucky enough to go on a writing retreat a year ago, during January. I had six glorious days in the wilds of Oregon, with a large log cabin all to myself. I would go hiking in the mornings and think about plot lines and suchlike. Then I would write through the afternoon and into the evening. I normally struggle to write and hit a lot of dead ends. This was one rare occasion when everything just seemed to flow. It was magical. I wanted to yodel my joy from the mountaintops.

Things to Come

I'm still working on the edits for the third Aveline book, The Vanishing. I'm very excited about it and can't wait to see it published around Autumn this year. I'm also working on two new books which I'm also very excited about. They're only at the development stage, but I think I have the possible makings of two really good stories. I just have to iron out what exactly happens, which is easier said than done!



QR CODE

Scan the QR code for recommendations or write your own review.



TWEET OF THE MONTH



Andersen Press
@AndersenPress

Phil Earle's 'When The Sky Falls' is The Times' Childrens Book of The Year



"A wonderful story of hurt, kindness and what it means to be human in an inhumane world."



@philearle @aoconnell
@TheTimesBooks

Phil Hickes has written "The Haunting of Aveline Jones" and "The Bewitching of Aveline Jones". I have just finished the first book and it is fantastic! I cannot wait to read the sequel. We are delighted he is a part of our third publication. Thank you Phil!

Twitter: @Hickesy