

# RHIZA EDGE 2023

Australian Young Adult fiction written  
by Australian creators

# Summer Change



**Sales and Media:** [sales@exislepublishing.com](mailto:sales@exislepublishing.com)

**Author Visits:** [admin@wombathriza.com.au](mailto:admin@wombathriza.com.au)

**Ebooks:** Available internationally on most titles.

**Bookstores:** Exisle Publishing | **E:** [orders@harpercollins.com.au](mailto:orders@harpercollins.com.au) |

**Ph:** 02 4998 3327 (AU) | **Ph:** +64 3 477 1615 (NZ)

**Rights:** International rights are available on many titles.

Please contact Lucyna Wawrzyniak at Exisle Publishing: [lucy@exislepublishing.com](mailto:lucy@exislepublishing.com)

Cover image from SUMMER CHANGE

[www.wombathriza.com.au](http://www.wombathriza.com.au)

## VERINDON: THE HEIR, THE CROWN, THE REIGN

Lynne Stringer

9781761111044 | RHIZA EDGE | 512pp | 180,000 words | Paperback | 14+ years | **JUL 2023** | AU \$26.99 | NZ \$28.99 | UK £14.99 | US \$19.99 | CA \$26.99

Sarah Fenhardt is living an ordinary life in high school, trying to hide her crush on Dan Bradfield, who is dating her best friend, Jillian. When tragedy strikes, her life is turned upside down. Sarah is desperate to uncover the truth, but it could take her to another galaxy and change everything she believes about who she is. Her world becomes one of royalty, assassinations and plots. Although Dan is always there to protect her, will her new life bring them closer together or tear them apart?



**Sarah Fenhardt thinks she's human, but her real home is a galaxy away.**

- The Verindon trilogy—*The Heir, The Crown and The Reign*—combined into one convenient omnibus
- An entry-level science fiction series for young adults looking for action, adventure and romance
- Female protagonist
- Book boyfriend
- Similar to *Twilight*, *Star Wars* & *The Princess Diaries*

## THE VERINDON ALLIANCE

Lynne Stringer

9781925563993 | RHIZA EDGE | 200pp | 80,000 words | Paperback | 14+ years | JAN 2020 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99



Princess Vashta of the Vendel must work with her enemy, Brandonin, the heir to the Verindal throne, as their planet battles a new danger. But can they defeat it when Vendel and Verindal refuse to work together?

**Can they defeat this deadly threat themselves or will it mean the end of life on Verindon?**

- Fast-paced story with developed and believable characters, complex relationships, and underlying lessons on diplomacy and deceit.
- A fresh new take on the sci-fi genre packed with action as royals from two warring countries must forge an alliance to save their people

## THE VERINDON CONSPIRACY

Lynne Stringer

9781761110757 | RHIZA EDGE | 200pp | 63,000 words | Paperback | 14+ years | MAY 2022 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99



Agent Misilina has finished her training at the Academy and her first assignment is guarding Lord Jolan, her childhood tormentor. But when Jolan's life is threatened, can she keep him safe?

**A new agent with big shoes to fill. Can she put aside past prejudices to save her childhood tormentor?**

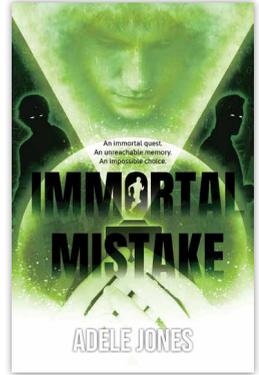
- A confident female lead, who has to protect a prince whilst navigating her own personal obstacles and conflicts.
- Teaching lessons of expectation, determination and resilience.

## IMMORTAL MISTAKE

Adele Jones

9781761110085 | RHIZA EDGE | 268pp | 60,000 words | Paperback | 13 to 18 years |  
AUG 2023 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99 | UK £10.99 | US \$14.99 | CA \$19.99

Rennie Parker's parents fight about money, life, and him being the biggest mistake of their lives. A night of domestic upheaval sees him get his long-term wish of staying with his half-brother—but not before he watches a stranger with bionic powers excavating a high-tech vault in his backyard. Investigations land him in a world of pain with a time gap he can't explain. Left with nightmares of misused children and fragmented memories, he must piece it together before—? If only he could remember.



**Aussie teenager, Rennie Parker, is thrust into a world of forced experimentation in a quest for immortality and control.**

- A young adult near-science fiction story exploring the difficult issues of domestic violence, substance abuse, bioethics, trafficking, and youth crime
- This fast-paced thriller is a journey of belonging that explores complex family relationships, acceptance, and self-worth
- Despite the gritty elements of this story, *Immortal Mistake* has a resolution that is ultimately hopeful.

## INTEGRATE (2ND EDITION)

Adele Jones

9781761110115 | RHIZA EDGE | 224pp | 55,000 words | Paperback | 13+ years |  
SEP 2023 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99 | UK £10.99 | US \$14.99 | CA \$19.99

Radical gene therapy freed Blaine Colton from his disease-afflicted body. Just when he thinks he can be a normal teen, he's told his procedure was unapproved, making him an illegal GMO. Subjected to constant testing, refused contact with his parents and deprived of life-sustaining medication, Blaine begins to suspect something, much bigger than himself, is going on. Desperate, he resolves to escape and find Professor Ramer, developer of his therapy. But Ramer's gone and time is running out.



**Trust the science—unless your life depends on it. Seventeen-year old Blaine, mitochondrial disease survivor, has finally begun a real life and now it's set to fall apart.**

- Fast-paced, character-driven, relatable, young-adult science fiction.
- Puts a face to challenging real-world issues, like terminal disease, disability, gene-therapy, and perceptions of self-worth.
- Raises questions about medical ethics and scientific integrity relevant to our time, without sacrificing plot.

## SUMMER CHANGE

Melissa Wray

9781761111211 | RHIZA EDGE | 240pp | 60,000 words | Paperback | 14 to 18 years | **OCT 2023** | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99 | UK £10.99 | US \$14.99 | CA \$18.99



A secret. A holiday. A summer like never before. Shae knows her parents are keeping something from her and is determined to find out what. But nothing can prepare her for what they are hiding. As Shae tries to uncover the mystery, she must also navigate the deteriorating relationship with her cousin Lexi, the perplexing neighbour Callen, and a mysterious letter writer. Shae is learning that relationships, deception, secrets and love can sometimes blend together and change everything.

**Shae's parents have a secret and she is determined to find out what. But nothing can prepare her for what they are hiding.**

- Significant plot line that offers mystery, intrigue, twists and a satisfying ending.
- Contemporary fiction that is relatable for the audience.
- Well developed, broad range and intricately linked cast of characters.

## GIRL RUNNING, BOY FALLING

Kate Gordon

9781925563528 | RHIZA EDGE | 236pp | 50,000 words | Paperback | 15+ years | OCT 2018 | AU \$17.99 | NZ \$21.99



Sixteen-year-old Therese lives in a small town on a small island. Her Aunt Kath calls her Tiger. Her friends call her Resey. The boy she loves calls her Champ. She's a lot of different things for a lot of different people. Therese has always had her feet on the ground. She's running through high school, but someone in her life is about to fall ... And when he does, her perfect world falls with him. For the first time in her life, Therese can't stand being on the ground.

**A raw read about a girl and boy— who are beautifully flawed.**

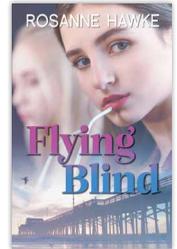
- A tender coming of age narrative of living in the wake of a suicide and the many ways in which we grieve
- A quick read encouraging thought and filled with feeling

 Notable for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2019

## FLYING BLIND

Rosanne Hawke

9781761110399 | RHIZA EDGE | 200pp | 50,000 words | Paperback | 13+ years | FEB 2022 | AU \$17.99 | NZ \$21.99



15-year-old Essie is missing her dad; her friend at school is treating her strangely and a new boy with an army of siblings moves into their coastal town from the Outback. If this isn't enough to deal with, a junior lifesaver sweeps her out of the sea after sighting a fin. It was just a dolphin, so she wasn't really in trouble. Does that mean he likes her?

**Sometimes trying to fit in will lead to blind loyalties before we can recognise our true friends.**

- A search for somewhere to belong, before remembering who your true friends are.
- Coming of age story exploring volatile relationships of gaslighting and manipulation and the effects of abusive high school friendships

# RHIZA EDGE

## MEMPHIS GRACE Catriona McKeown

*"It will empower me to tell the story,  
to use the word rape ..."*

9781925563719 | RHIZA EDGE | 240pp | 80,000 words | Paperback | 15+ years | OCT 2019 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

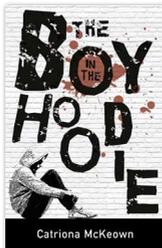
Graceland finds herself noticed by Cooper Dally. Popular boy and Mikaela's EX-BOYFRIEND. Now she's the centre of attention: big parties, new dresses and girlfriend to Cooper. Graceland is finally changing her stars. But Cooper has expectations Graceland can't meet. And when the truth behind Mikaela's leaving comes out, Graceland realises Cooper might not be the guy she thought he was. Worse, it could cost Graceland more than she's willing to give to be noticed.

- Serious issues such as rape and sexual assault dealt with a gentle yet realistic hand
- A determined main character with strong ideals about what is right and wrong but struggles with the impact of a broken family.
- A powerful story of gaining control and coming out the other side of assault and a thoughtful addition to the #MeToo movement.
- Winner of the Family Therapy Awards: Older Readers 2020



## THE BOY IN THE HOODIE Catriona McKeown

9781925563207 | RHIZA EDGE | 232pp | 65,000 words | Paperback | 13+ years | JAN 2017 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99



By protecting a friend from being expelled, good-girl Kat lands herself a term's worth of detentions. In detention, she meets a strange boy whom obsessively draws dark pictures and covers his head with a grey hoodie. An unlikely friendship forms between Kat and the boy in the hoodie. When she discovers a sinister truth he's been hiding, she feels compelled to help him—but at what cost?

**An unforgettable story about how friendships can bring healing, fade scarring and open new wounds all at the same time.**

- An insightful story about teenage friendship, peer pressure, family, and loss, while surviving the perils of high school
- A lesson on the meaning of true friendship as both teenagers battle with coming of age and doing what's right

## WITHIN THE WARD Emily Larkin

9781761110221 | RHIZA EDGE | 292pp | 80,000 words | Paperback | 15+ years | OCT 2021 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99



Paige is immersed in a dream reality called 'the Journey'. If patients finish the Journey, then they can go home. Secrets are exposed as Paige bonds with other teens who don't belong. The Journey is meant to be a cure – but Paige soon discovers dark forces within the hospital, and that the dream reality is the stuff of nightmares. Paige and her friends have limited chances to show progress, before it's too late. Can they escape the ward? And can Paige find reasons to live?

**Within the Ward deals with mental health in a dystopian future.**

- A story about overcoming hard times and finding purpose

## EVACUATION ROAD

HM Waugh

9781761110351 | RHIZA EDGE | 268pp | 70,000 words | Paperback | 13+ years | AUG 2021 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99 | UK £10.99

Eva is far from home when everything goes wrong. And then it gets even worse. Her evacuation bus leaves her behind, stranded with classmates she barely knows. The chase is on. But South America is big, and the old rules are changing quickly. This is the road trip Eva never knew she needed. This is the race for the last flight home. Readers will thoroughly enjoy following the development of the characters as they learn how important friendship becomes when you need to survive.

**BEST  
SELLER**



**Eva is far from home when everything goes terribly wrong. The chase is on. This is the race for the last flight home.**

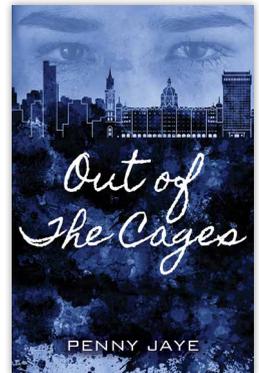
- Notable book for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2022 
- Easy-flowing narrative, perfect for young adult readers
- Slow-building romance
- Suspense will keep readers on the edge of their seat

## OUT OF THE CAGES

Penny Jaye

9781925563412 | RHIZA EDGE | 272pp | 71,000 words | Paperback | 15+ years | JAN 2018 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

Fifteen-year-old Meena has given up all hope of ever escaping the brothel. For three years she's locked away her memories – of home, of her childhood friend, of what it means to hope. But when a botched police raid offers her a chance at freedom, Meena must face the truth about her past. As she attempts to piece her life back together, the memories she has buried deep inside begin to resurface. Meena realises escaping the brothel is only the beginning of what it means to be free. Can she face the truth in her memories? Can she return to Nepal if it means returning alone? Or will she face the red-light district one last time?



*"Sometimes it's ourselves we need to trust again..."*

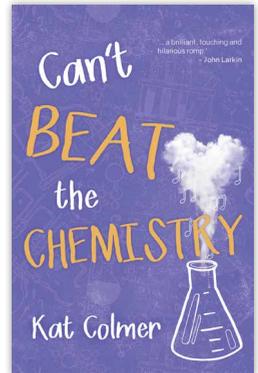
- Winner of Young Adult Fiction of the 2019 CALEB Prize 
- Powerful and moving book on the complex issue of child sex trafficking
- Told in two timelines of the present and the past to paint the picture of how Meena got there and how she recovers after her rescue
- A challenging read focussing on the emotional trauma without being too explicit

## CAN'T BEAT THE CHEMISTRY

Kat Colmer

9781925563696 | RHIZA EDGE | 260pp | 77,000 words | Paperback | 13+ years |  
APR 2019 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

Ionic and covalent bonds are a piece of cake for MJ. But human bonds are a little harder ... There are only two things MJ wants in her final year of high school: 1) Glowing grades and ... 2) to convince uber-smart, chiselled-jaw Jason they'd be a winning team outside the science lab as well as in. Tutoring deadbeat drummer, Luke, isn't part of the plan. After all, he has average intelligence, takes disorganised notes and looks like a partied-out zombie at their study sessions! Not even his taut biceps will win MJ over. But MJ learns that she could be tutored in a few life lessons too: That sometimes there's good reason to skip chemistry tutorials. That intelligence is so much more than a grade average. And that sometimes you can't beat the chemistry.



**Human bonds can be hard to create but, sometimes... you can't beat the chemistry.**

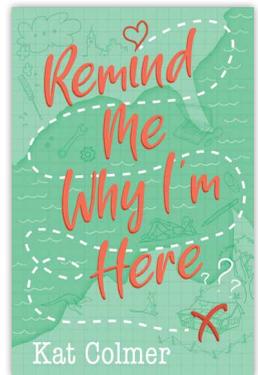
- Heart-warming story of an unlikely between two people seemingly miles apart who both need help from each other to learn how they want their lives to be
- Light-hearted, authentic, and cute, read with characters you root for a message about judging other and fighting for your dreams.
- Study-driven main character has to learn about friendship, relationships, and overcoming her inner judgements.

## REMIND ME WHY I'M HERE

Kat Colmer

9781925563924 | RHIZA EDGE | 224pp | 60,000 words | Paperback | 12+ years |  
AUG 2020 | AU \$16.99 | NZ \$20.99

18 year-old Maya leaves Chicago for a six week Australian home stay, she assumes she's heading to beautiful Barangaroo with its famous Sydney Harbour views—NOT Barangaroo Creek, a stinking hot, fly-ridden, wi-fi dead zone hours from a decent body of water. Maya is convinced she's in for six weeks of Hicksville hell. Gus has an important trip planned—a trip that does NOT include an animal-phobic girl from the States ticking off items on her Aussie "must-do" list. So he comes up with a list of his own—one guaranteed to send Maya back across the Pacific, so he can enjoy the last of his freedom before heading off to agricultural college. But when Maya doesn't scare that easily, sparks begin to fly. Sometimes it takes someone half a world away to remind you of all the reasons you're here.



**There are hidden depths to clichéd bucket-lists and secret summer trips. Sometimes you just need someone to remind you why you're here.**

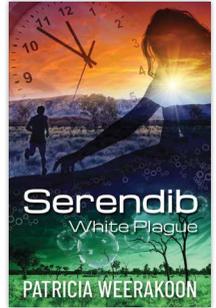
- Likeable and relatable main characters and a sweet love story.
- Adventures and a prank war using Australian wildlife

## SERENDIB: WHITE PLAGUE

Patricia Weerakoon

9781761111051 | RHIZA EDGE | 256pp | 80,000 words | Paperback | 14+ years | OCT 2022 | AU \$22.99 | NZ \$29.99

The world of 2030 teeters on the brink of disaster. A super-spreading virus is damaging the brains people of one particular race. White people. To find a cure in time to save the world, young Stephen has to accept the help of dark-skinned Ally, a telekinetic girl from 2131. But he must first show himself worthy. And this may kill him.



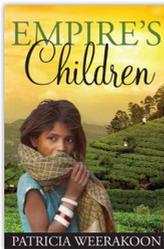
**Can a coloured girl from 2131 help a white boy in 2030 bring healing and harmony to his world divided by racial disharmony and reeling from a super-virus infecting white people only?**

- Explores how two young people separated by time, colour and character come together to solve an epic global catastrophe.
- Follows the character development of a young man from entitled arrogant teenager to self-sacrificial altruistic world leader.
- Portrays how greed and power hunger in a few could lead to darkness, disease and destruction for many.

## EMPIRE'S CHILDREN

Patricia Weerakoon

**BEST  
SELLER**



9781925139303 | RHIZA PRESS | 233pp | 90,000 words | Paperback | 15+ years | JAN 2015 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$29.99

Tragedy, grief and separation threaten Shiro and shackle Lakshmi in the bondage of class distinction. When Anthony takes over management of the plantation, he discovers the truth about his family's dealings with the locals. Can Anthony's love of justice set right the wrongs of the past?

**On the Sri Lankan tea fields in particular, the English are masters.**

- Set in the time when Britain ruled Sri Lanka and a strict hierarchy governed everyday life.
- A feisty and clever female main character growing up and bound by expectation but refusing to conform and choosing to take action in her life
- An engaging love story with unexpected turns, with themes of deceit, honour, loyalty, and forgiveness woven in with a message of chasing your dreams even when it seems impossible

## WISH ME GONE

D. J. Blackmore

9781761111051 | RHIZA EDGE | 256pp | 70,000 words | Paperback | 13+ years | SEP 2022 | AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99



Up close, the heritage listed house is nothing but a beautiful disaster, but while there are acres of orange trees to lose herself amongst, Isabella realises there's no escaping the new school. But when intolerance towards Damaska and her family—whom Isabella's family has hired to help—opens the homestead gates, the threat to both families becomes real.

**Four lives become intertwined, as they all try to find a place they call home.**

- A suspenseful read involving current issues such as romance and friendship, racial prejudice, poverty, and culture clashes.
- Authentic characters to connect with a great ending.