

The yoto 
Carnegies

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP MAGAZINE

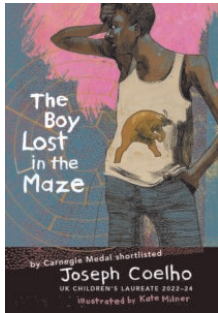
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ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



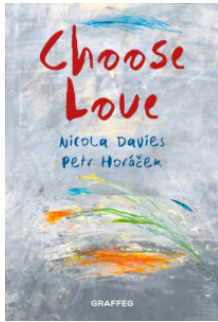
“The book is about a boy on a personal journey of development - he is trying to find his father, whilst also uncovering past secrets. When reading this book, I really liked the pictures and found the chapter length made the book easy to access, with a writing structure that helped with this as well.

However, I did find some of the poems a bit `weird` (such as page 225) and I think the cover art could put some people off reading the book, with a blurb that is not particularly informative. Overall, I thought this book was okay and would award it three stars out of five.”

- Hasher

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



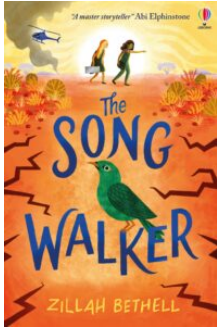
“The book is about love and disorder. This is a story structured around a series of poems the author has written. To be honest, the only thing I liked about this book was some of the uses of rhyme shown in some of the poems.

I did not really like how the book ended and some of the poems were not as good as others in the book. Overall, I thought this book was fine, but not the best of the entries this year (Two stars out of five).”

- Subhan

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“When a young girl wakes up in the middle of the desert, she has no idea who she is. She has lost her memory of everything she knows. She meets Tarni, who is on a quest to find her missing sister and be reunited with her. These two strangers join forces to work together and complete the journey they are on.

When reading this book, I loved the way the story was told, it illustrated exactly what you would expect, yet still held surprises when you turned the page. I particularly loved the ending - with its` wonderful showing of strange friendship built upon discovery and courage.

My only areas for improvement were the beginning, which I wish was a bit more thought out, as well as some of the extra characters near the end of the book, as they seemed to lack development. Overall, I thought it was an amazing book and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys mystery or adventure novels (FIVE STARS).”

- Habiba

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OUR REVIEWS



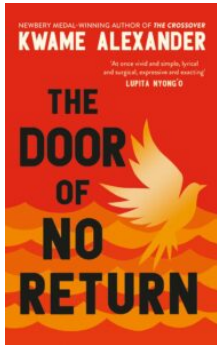
“Shaun is ready to win an important rap-battle competition, but when a livestream goes especially wrong, his `dirty laundry` is exposed (literally!) - achieving his dream of going viral, but not in a good way. Now he is a joke at school, his chances of winning the competition is zero and the Council are threatening to evict his family from their London home!

I really liked the plot and characters of this story, it really engaged me, although I did find the way the narrator told the story confusing at times (sometimes unsure which character was speaking), but I would recommend this book to others and give it four stars out of five.”

- Isha

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OUR REVIEWS



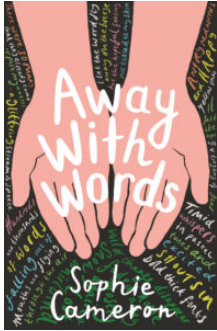
“The book is about an eleven year old boy, named Kofi. He and Ama, a girl he likes, are constantly being picked on by Koffi’s cousin, Ebo. When they meet at the river, they get their revenge on Ebo - not realizing that there is a secret lurking in the water...”

Overall, I thought this book was `average` - I am not really a fan of `teen` books, so I was not particularly motivated by the story, although I liked some of the dramatic aspects of the plot (how they kept secrets in the story and how Koffi stood up to Ebo), although I found the way that some of the sentences were written did not make sense for me and I didn’t think the writing was very descriptive. (2 stars out of 5).”

- Nadirah

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OUR REVIEWS



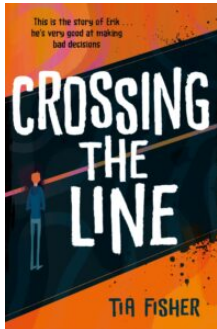
“The story is about how Gala and her dad have moved countries and Gala starts to feel lonely. She meets a girl called Natalie and she learns how to communicate with her, as she has selective mutism.

Overall, I enjoyed the ending and how detailed everything was, but I didn't understand some parts of the plot and I found some of the storyline to be quite boring in places - but perhaps this is because it was not the sort of book I would normally choose. (Two stars).”

- Romeesa

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OUR REVIEWS



“Crossing the Line is about a young boy named Erik and how his world changes following a family tragedy. School does not feel important to him anymore when a gang find him and Erik is pulled into a dangerous world...

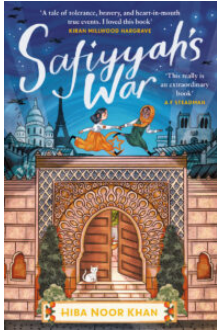
When reading the book, I enjoyed how it is sort-of based on events and places from real life. This gives the reader the message of the book - to think beforehand, rather than going straight into a situation you don't fully understand and to always be careful in anyway possible.

Although I really enjoyed this book, I was not overly keen of the way it was structured using poems - but it did not stop me from enjoying the story and I would recommend this book to everyone. I loved it! Five stars out of five.”

- Aleena

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a girl named Safiyyah and, when war comes to the streets of Paris, how her life is changed forever - her best friend and her friends` family have fled and Safiyyah is afraid to leave the mosque, where she lives.

What I liked about this book is how Safiyyah and her teacher have a very close relationship with each other. It shows in the book how kind and loving they are to each other.

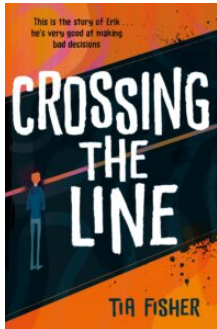
In relation to the setting, I found how they had to evacuate their home and country to be very sad (as a reader, I wanted them to be able to stay) - it really showed the impact of war.

I found this to be a good book and would give it three stars out of five.”

- Aleena

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about an 11-year-old called Eric, who is starting secondary school when the global pandemic strikes, which directly impacts Eric’s family life. Life at school is not much better either, with bullies and bad behavior leading to crime and issues with gangs. All the while, Eric is trying to find a way out.

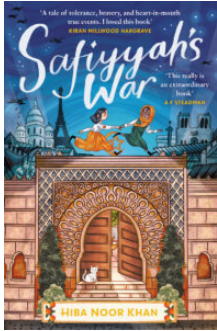
For me, this has got to be one of the best books I’ve read. It’s based upon a true story, which really shows how much of an ongoing issue ‘country lines’ is. The research alone to accurately portray the lives of these victims must also be acknowledged. The ending was perfect.

By the end, I thought this was a powerful and moving book and I would recommend it to others - top marks! (***** Five stars).”

- Bahja

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a girl named Safiyyah and she is helping Jewish people, because there is a war on and she doesn't want to leave where she lives (in Paris).

I liked how she was helping the Jewish people, showing that she is really kind-hearted and she did not want to leave her mosque, which I thought was really sad.

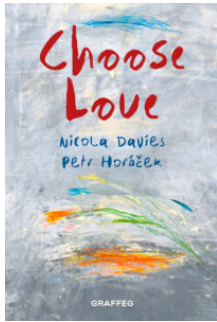
I did not like how (*SPOILER*) Safiyyah had to leave her mosque and evacuate at the end, because of the war that is happening, which is really sad, because of the innocent lives that are being lost.

I thought this was an amazing book - three stars out of five.”

- Aleena

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OUR REVIEWS



“I felt that the main point of this book was to raise awareness for the humanitarian crisis in Syria. It is structured in the form of a stream of poems, all flowing together to create this masterpiece. It shares stories in the form of poems of those who have experienced those atrocities - which no-one should have dies over.

I really liked the way the book was written and illustrated, creating a clear image of what was being said, painting an idea that shows just how bizarre these experiences where - of what many had gone through. It has the perfect balance of detail and colour.

I did not like how some topics were not taken as seriously, I felt, as they could have been handled - although I felt that it did display the true brutality of the situation in Syria. I would also not recommend this book for younger readers.

Overall, I thought it was an amazing book - short and easy to read. (four starts out of five).”

- Habiba

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OUR REVIEWS



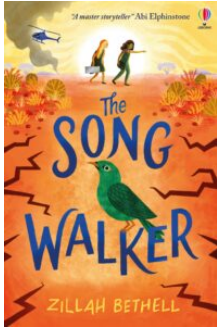
“The engaging plot the book follows is about a boy called Shawn - also known as ‘MC Growls’, a wannabe rapper trying to win over the girl he has a crush on. Shawn is ready to win Raptology, but when a livestream goes wrong he finally achieves his dream of going viral - but not in a good way. Now, he’s a joke at school.

I really liked the humour of this book and how it tackles important themes, although I thought the plotline seemed fairly predictable at times. Overall, I thought it was a good book and very funny (4 stars out of 5).”

- Hafida

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a young girl, who wakes up in the middle of the desert and she doesn't know who she is. She meets Tarni, and they walk on in the desert - but Tarni knows something that the girl does not...

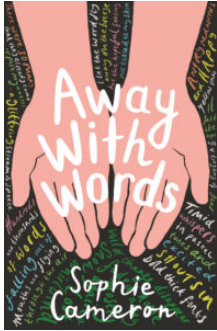
I thought this book was amazing and very interesting, I loved the big plot twist of when the girl found out who she was (*SPOILER*) with my favorite part being when Tarni would show the girl survival skills. I also liked how the girl slowly began to remember who she was.

I did find the first few chapters dragged a little bit, as there was little change at the beginning, but once the plot began to twist the story became more exciting. Overall, I thought this was an amazing book and would give it five stars (out of five).”

- Romeesa

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OUR REVIEWS



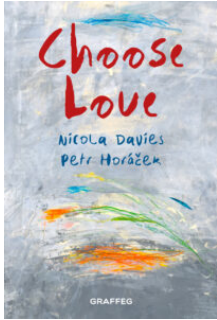
“The story is about a girl named Gala, who moves to Scotland from Spain with her dad Jordi, to live with his boyfriend. Gala feels lost, but then meets a new friend - Natalie, a girl with selective mutism. They find their own way to communicate, until an anonymous classmate threatens to take it all away.

I enjoyed how the author used emotive language to exaggerate the scenes to engage the reader more into the book, but I didn't really enjoy the storyline - but perhaps this is because it was not a genre that really appeals to me. Despite this, it was an okay book and I would recommend it, if it was a genre that appeals to you (three stars out of five).”

- Aleena

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OUR REVIEWS



“This book is a collection of poems telling a story about a refugee seeking asylum in another country and the challenges they face because of it.

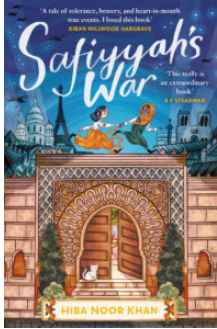
I thought that Horacek`s illustrations were rather nice and the message the book is conveying is very powerful and some of the use of rhyme was very effective and funny in places.

Overall though, I am not much of a fan of poetry, which made it hard to follow the narrative in places and was quite vague in some ways (which made it difficult to hold my interest). I would give it one star out of five (too abstract).”

- Bahja

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about Safiyyah, a young girl in Paris during the war. When her brother goes to fight and people begin leaving the city, Safiyyah is determined to save her best friend.

One of the main things I really liked about this story is how Safiyyah really likes books and her dedication to her friendship - her bravery to protect that friendship. I found it made her character quite relatable.

I think the writer did a good job of making the war relatable to the reader, it helped me to understand the past - making it an interesting book. (4 stars out of five).”

- Romeela

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a young boy, called Shaun, who is trying to start a career in rapping, but when a livestream goes wrong and his family receive an eviction notice from the council, his only hope to save his home and his dream is to perform at the Raptology competition. To do so, he must face his fears and step up to the mic` and do what he does best.

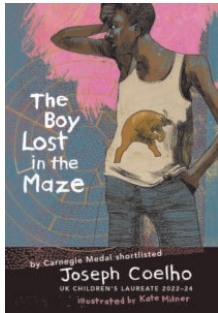
In reading the book, I loved it when he faced his fears - in general, I thought he was quite a good main character. I also liked the character of Siobhan, who was introduced half way through. She added an energy to the second half, which I think was lacking from the first half.

I found the book quite difficult to visualize at first, making it difficult to understand some parts of the story (perhaps some pictures could have helped here?) It was also difficult to tell who was speaking at some points and I think the conclusion to the storyline involving Siobhan`s mum and her disability could have been developed further. Overall, I thought it was an amazing book - four stars out of five.”

- Habiba

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OUR REVIEWS



“The book is about two boys lost in the maze - they hope to be men, separated from their father. Stuck in the maze - hoping to find their way out.

I liked how the author uses rhymes to describe how the characters travel through the labyrinth, battling monsters - like the Minotaur (although I found the description of this creature to be quite hideous and ugly).

Overall, I thought the book was okay - I would give it 2 stars out of 5.”

- Subhan

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OUR REVIEWS



“Erik’s life at home hasn’t been the same ever since his father died. He is finding that getting good grades and following school rules is difficult, as he deals with his grief.

What I liked about this book is that it is relatable to kids and it has a lot of drama in the story, which I found quite gripping.

What I was not too keen on was the use of strong language, and some of the books themes (gang violence and drugs) - I think these were a little distressing.

Overall, I thought it was a good book for older readers. (Three stars out of five).”

- Hafida

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OUR REVIEWS



“The book is about a young boy called ‘Growls’ (aka: Shaun), who dreams of making it big as a ‘rap-artist’, until a livestream ‘stunt’ with his best friend backfires and makes them a laughing stock. This leaves Growls to re-think his life and rebuild his relationships.

When reading the book, I was very impressed with the authors’ use of wordplay (‘Malapropisms’) to create humour and the final act is a very effective pay-off (with some good use of social commentary, regarding issues like homelessness and home-assisted care).

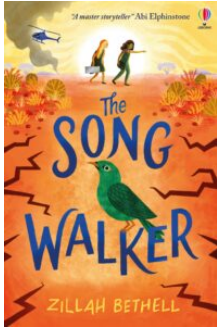
However, the tone frequently and somewhat unevenly switches between humour and drama, especially in the first half of the book, with the humour undercutting the drama or appearing to mock the protagonist, which, because of the challenges he faces, occasionally feel inappropriate to the tone and context of the scene.

Overall, I felt the book got better as it went on, with a strong third act and good social commentary, but the first half of the book nearly put me off getting to this point - it was an enjoyable read by the end (Two stars out of five).”

- Mr. Robinson

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OUR REVIEWS



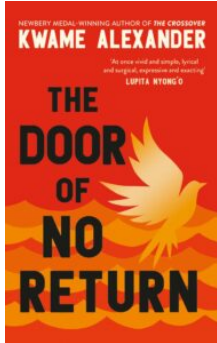
“The story is about a young girl who randomly wakes up in the middle of the desert. She herself does not know who she is. She is wearing one shoe and a simple black dress, while holding a strange heavy case - pretty mysterious, right? She meets another girl (Tarni) who helps her.

When reading the book, I really enjoyed the relationship between Tarni and the mysterious girl - as they both hide secrets from each other, which were exciting to discover as a reader. However, I do wish it had been more suspenseful at times, as some of the information came way too quickly. But overall, I thought the book was amazing (three stars).”

- Eiman

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OUR REVIEWS



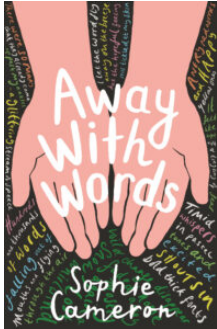
“The story is about an 11-year-old boy in a village called Kofi. A sudden death happens, which takes the boy on a journey to face his fears.

When reading the book, I liked it when Kofi was brave enough to save his cousin when the ship was sinking and I felt the book had a strong message about freedom and the rights of children . I felt like the book took me on a good journey and I would recommend it to others to read - three stars (out of five stars).”

- Romeela

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The book is about a girl named Gala and her dad, Jordi, who have just moved to Scotland from Spain to live with her dad’s new boyfriend, Ryan. However, Gala has been blackmailed. Will Gala be able to show everyone who she really is?”

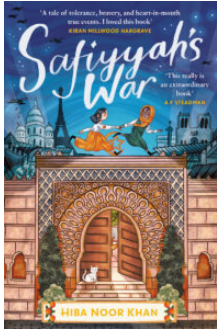
I found this story really interesting, as it shows the trouble caused by blackmailing and how it affects people both mentally and emotionally, as well as exploring the theme of learning difficulties.

Overall, I found the story interesting, I wasn’t particularly hooked by the way it was written and became a little bored halfway through - I felt it needed a faster pace, as the way the story progressed made it feel rather long. (Three stars out of five).”

- Maryam

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a girl named Safiyyah, who lives in Paris. Suddenly, Paris is being bombed and her father is arrested by the Nazis. Now she needs to find a way to lead people to safety.

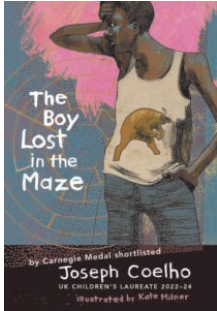
When reading, I think this book connected with me, as a Muslim girl myself, I really liked the message near the end; "whoever saves a single life, it is as if they have saved all of humanity". I really like this, because it creates a sense of peace for me. I also like how the book represents Muslims and Jews together.

The only area in which I think this book could be improved is perhaps with some pictures because, as a reader, I found it hard to visualize some of the scenes. However, overall, I think this book was excellent and I would recommend it to others (Five Stars).”

- Nusaybah

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a boy who has decided to take a journey to find his father, who left him when he was young. He goes through many difficult challenges, taking on any risk just to be able to see his dad.

When reading the book, I liked how it gave me choices for what the main character should do when in a situation. It made the book really exciting and fun for me to be able to choose which decision is right or wrong.

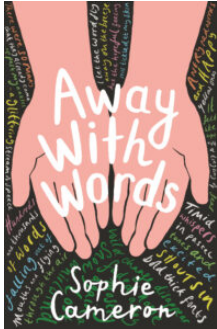
However, I did not like how the book was overly using formal language, there was too much of `show, not tell` and I really couldn't understand some of it.

Rating: three stars out of five.”

- Romeesa

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“In this book, Gala and Jordi have just moved to Scotland from Spain, to live with Jordi’s boyfriend Ryan. Gala feels lost and alone and unable to be herself, until she befriends Natalie, a girl with selective mutism.

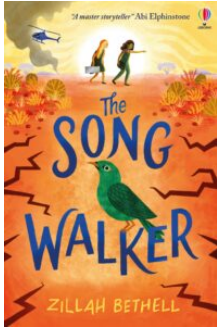
One of the strengths of this books was that it demonstrated that no matter what happens or where you are, you can always find hope and move forward. Although, at times, I did find the book repetitive, particularly in the way that it used some of the same words multiple times.

Overall, I would recommend this book and give this book 3 stars out of 5.”

- Isha

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“A young girl wakes up in the desert. She doesn't know who she is. This is the beginning of an exciting adventure that only gets more and more exciting with each page.

Our protagonist meets Tarni, a girl struggling with a mystery of her own. They both go together to find answers - not knowing that they are both hiding secrets.

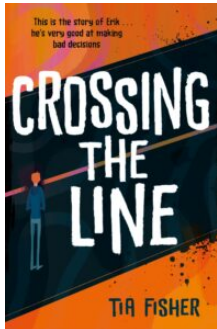
Overall, I really like this book, particularly the character of Tarni - who was strong and confident about herself. I really liked how they worked together to find the answers they are looking for.

I would give this book FIVE STARS! (Amazing and fun to read).”

- Romeela

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OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about how Erik’s life goes wrong as he makes the wrong decisions for money. He stops following rules and he doesn’t get good grades. His life becomes a struggle as he tries to get away with everything by lying.

I really liked how realistic this story was, showing how a normal person can go from being a `good` person to a `bad` person for money. The emotive language used in this book really allowed me to imagine everything that was taking place in the story.

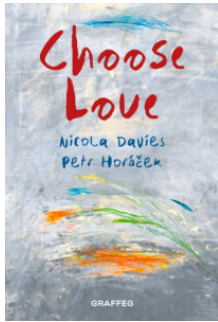
However, I did find some of the chapters dragged on with the same topic and became a bit boring (perhaps these could have been edited?) although I wish the story as a whole had been longer.

Overall, this book was great and I would read it again (four out of five stars).”

- Romeesa

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“This book is a moving sequence of poems, with the text superbly combining with the evocative illustrations to provide insight into real-life experiences of refugees forced to leave their homes.

I liked how it has a powerful theme and the poems inspired by human crisis brings attention to the real stories of these people who need our help.

Although the artwork has a rawness that can be quite authentic, some people may find the images somewhat lacking. Overall, I would give this book 4 stars (out of 5).”

- Hafida