

# SAD BOOKS

If you're happy to cry, have a sniff at these... ..

## ***One would think the Deep***

*By Claire Zorn*

Sam has always had things going on in his head that no-one else understands, and then his Mum dies, now it's worse than ever. Sam goes to live with the strangers his mum cut ties with seven years ago. As the days slowly meld into one another and ghosts from the past reappear, Sam has to make the ultimate decision.

## ***Looking for Alaska*** ♥

*by John Green*

If people were rain, I was drizzle and she was a hurricane. Miles Halter's whole life has been one big non-event, until he meets Alaska Young. Gorgeous, clever and undoubtedly screwed-up, Alaska draws Miles into her reckless world and irrevocably steals his heart. For Miles, nothing can ever be the same again

## ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***

*by Stephen Chbosky*

Charlie is shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward. He is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie is attempting to navigate his way through uncharted territory: the world of first dates, family dramas and new friends.

## ***Shadow Girl***

*by Sally Nichols*

Clare knows she's at least partly to blame for her problems at school, but she's learned that it hurts to make friends when you're a foster kid and you'll just be moved on again. It's a relief to meet Maddy, who knows exactly what it's like to be in the system. But then Maddy disappears. Clare has opened her heart at last, and she can't let it go - will she find her friend?

## ***The Weight of Water***

*by Sarah Crossan*

When Kasienka starts her new school in her new country, she is lonely and unhappy; everything is strange and her halting English sets her apart from the other students. Her mother is obsessed with finding Kasienka's father who has deserted them. Eventually, Kasienka discovers something that she excels at and the good life begins again.

## ***Remind Me How This Ends*** ♥

*by Gabrielle Tozer*

Milo and Layla run into each other after an extended separation. As kids, they shared everything, but five years apart has taken their lives in different directions. Layla is dealing with the death of her mother, and Milo is feeling trapped, his life on hold since he finished year 12. Deals with the decisions that people make about their relationships, and the directions their lives will take. A moving, powerful story.

## ***Dove Song***

*by Kristine Franklin*

A story of friendship, anguish and family problems, set during the Vietnam War.

## ***Inkdeath***

*by Cornelia Funke*

Life in the Inkworld has been far from easy. With Dustfinger dead and the evil Adderhead now in control, the story in which they are all caught has taken an unhappy turn. Even Elinor, left alone in the real world, believes her family to be lost between the covers of a book.

## ***Fearless*** ✨

*by Tim Lott*

Little Fearless has eyes both different colour and she tells the hidden girls stories to encourage them to hope, like she does... action with tears.

## ***The Visconti House*** 🧡♥

*by Elsbeth Edgar*

As Laura and Leon discover, the old house holds many mysteries, and a sad story of romance.

## ***Letters to Leonardo*** ♣

*by Dee White.*

A shock. Leonardo's world rips apart when he receives a letter from his mother on his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## ***The Lovely Bones*** ♣

*by Alice Sebold*

This is the story of a family devastated by a gruesome murder -- a murder recounted by the teenage victim.

## ***Eleanor & Park***

*by Rainbow Rowell*

This is a novel about two misfits finding love in the most unexpected places. When Park first meets Eleanor, he thinks she is weird. It is hate at first sight. But as they suffer each other's company in silence on the bus rides from and to home every day, Eleanor and Park realise that first impressions can be deceiving.

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***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* ♣**  
by Mark Haddon

Caught in his own world with his own way of seeing things, unable to give or receive affection, Christopher is consumed with the death of a neighbour's dog.

***The Running Man* ♣☺**  
by Michael Gerard Bauer

A story about facing fears, breaking free, and taking the time to understand others, particularly those damaged by tragedy.

***My Sister's Keeper***  
by Jodi Picoult

This is the story of one family's struggle for survival. Anna is beginning to question who she really is, but she has always been defined in terms of her sister. So Anna makes a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

***Dear Nobody* ♣**  
by Berlie Doherty

17 year-old, pregnant Helen, frightened and confused, writes heartbreaking letters to her unborn baby.

***Everything for a Dog***  
by Ann M Martin

In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.

***Bridge to Terabithia* ☺\***  
by Katherine Paterson

Jesse and his best friend Lesley have their own special place, but when Jesse is left alone, it takes him a long time to accept what has happened.

***Fat Boy Saves the World* ♣**  
by Ian Bone

Brian is grossly fat and hasn't spoken for 8 years. His sister Susan is mad with her parents, and the world, but has a soft spot for Fat Boy.

***Goodnight Mister Tom* ☺**  
by Michelle Magorian

Sonya Hartnett has written a number of gentle, sad books including:

- *Ghost's Child*
- *Of a Boy* \*
- *Sleeping Dogs*

***Michael Rosen's Sad Book* \***

by Michael Rosen and Quentin Blake

A very personal story about the loss of a loved one. It speaks to everyone whether they have experienced grief or not. \* **PIC 152.4 ROS**

***Housekeeping***

by Marilynne Robinson

The story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up under the care of various family members. They live in a town on a glacial lake, the same lake where their grandfather died in a spectacular train wreck, and their mother drove off a cliff to her death. It's the story of their struggle and survival of growing with their losses.

***Surfing Mr. Petrovic***

by Colin Bowles

While this story appears to be about the activities of a rebellious boy, there are underlying themes of anger and sadness over the break-up of a family.

***Dare Devils* ☺☺\***

by Bill Condon

He knows he has a heart condition and is a 'dead man walking' at 16 so Thorns makes a list of things he wants to do before he dies..

***Fireshadow* ♣**

by Anthony Eaton

Traumatized by the death of his sister who was incinerated when her car crashes, guilty that he got out alive, Vinnie takes off, unable to face his father.

***By the River* \***

by Stephen Herrick

A melancholy verse novel. (a poem in the Australian section – A821.3 HER)

***My Girragundji* ♣\***

by Meme McDonald and Boori Pryor

A young Aboriginal boy, troubled by bullying at school and fighting at home.....

## KEY

- \* quicker reads
- ♥ romance
- ☺ friendship
- ♣ identity & family
- ☺ humour