

4-2017

## And Then There Were Four

Maggie Mason Smith

Clemson University, [mason5@clemson.edu](mailto:mason5@clemson.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib\\_pubs](https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "And Then There Were Four" (2017). *Publications*. 152.

[https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib\\_pubs/152](https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs/152)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact [kokeefe@clemson.edu](mailto:kokeefe@clemson.edu).

growth and her interactions with the cast of interesting characters and the hints of her future romantic relationships. **VERDICT** A must for *Verity* fans and a good read for those who enjoy mystery with a touch of romance.—*Janet Hilburn, University of North Texas, Denton*

**WERLIN, Nancy. *And Then There Were Four*.** 416p. Dial. Jun. 2017. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9780803740723.

**Gr 8 Up**—When Saralinda, Antoine, Evangeline, Kenyon, and Caleb barely escape from beneath the collapsed roof of a dilapidated Rockland Academy campus building, the teens are understandably shaken. But when one of the group is killed in a second accident not long after, the other four begin to think that someone wants them dead. Reluctant friendships start to form, along with a theory, but Saralinda is sure that theory is wrong—her mother would never agree to a plot to kill her. Readers learn about the various elements that complicate the group's chances of survival, including Saralinda's protective mother, club foot, and diabetes, as well as the “monster” that is Caleb's dissociative identity disorder and the famous father who diagnosed him. The chapters are short and distinct, shifting between Saralinda's stream-of-consciousness first-person narrative and Caleb's sound but fear-driven second-person perspective to drive the plot. A few aspects of the story line, such as Saralinda's naïveté and Caleb's distrust of himself, are a little heavy-handed, and both budding romances are a bit lacking in originality, but the characters are diverse, each with their own stake in the story, and focusing on the mystery of *why* someone wants them dead, rather than *who*, is an interesting twist. **VERDICT** A good choice for reluctant readers and fans of the author's previous work.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University, SC*

**WHITE, Kiersten. *Now I Rise*.** 480p. Delacorte. Jun. 2017. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9780553522358.

**Gr 10 Up**—In this sequel to *And I Darken*, White continues to weave a dramatic tapestry of espionage, passion, and conquest. Lada returns to her homeland after her long exile among the Ottomans, but without allies she struggles to become the *vaivode*, or prince, of Wallachia. The young sultan Mehmed seeks to establish his legacy and looks to conquer Constantinople and make it his capital. Lada's brother, Radu, is dispatched on a secret mission to the besieged city and, as he fights alongside those whom he will ultimately betray, becomes immersed in the horrors of war. The author crafts a compelling story that also asks important questions about the

lengths to which people can and should go to achieve their destinies and defend their god. The pace of this volume is perfect for its setting, and the language is evocative, making the hefty tome eminently readable. The subject matter has become even more mature as this lush and ominous retelling of the Vlad Dracul legend continues, but teens will be entranced. **VERDICT** This chilling and thrilling new episode in the historical fiction trilogy is highly recommended for all high school collections.—*Kelly Kingrey-Edwards, Blinn Junior College, Brenham, TX*

**WILLIAMS, Nicole. *Trusting You & Other Lies*.** 304p. Crown. Jun. 2017. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780553498776.

**Gr 8 Up**—As this story begins, 17-year-old Phoenix is seated in the back of the family car with her brother, 10-year-old Harry, as they speed from Santa Monica, CA, to Camp Kismet, in Arizona. Phoenix is highly skeptical that a summer at a “family camp” owned by her parents' hippie friend Ben will have any effect on the past two years' history of parental fighting since her father lost his lucrative job. She longs to spend her last summer before senior year with her friends on the beach but instead is resigned to enforced labor as a counselor for 12 long weeks. As Phoenix and her family settle into their free cabin for the summer, the teen meets 18-year-old Callum, the good-looking, confident head counselor. She is initially thrilled when he is assigned to be her supervisor, but as she makes several poor work decisions, tensions threaten to derail their budding relationship. Phoenix and Callum are attracted to each other but make erroneous assumptions. What elevates this novel above the usual formulaic plot is the witty and realistic dialogue and excellent character development. **VERDICT** Most libraries serving teens will find this to be a highly circulating and popular romantic coming-of-age novel with relatable situations and believable characters.—*Susan Riley, Maroneck Public Library, NY*

## YA Graphic Novels

**OSBORNE, Melissa Jane. *The Wendy Project*.** illus. by Veronica Fish. 96p. Papercutz/Super Genius. Jul. 2017. pap. \$12.99. ISBN 9781629917696.

**Gr 7 Up**—This poignant modern retelling of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* is heavy on magic and teen angst. Wendy is a typical adolescent until she accidentally drives off a bridge with her brothers in the backseat. When they're rescued, Wendy is told that although John has survived, her youngest brother Michael's body cannot be found.

He's presumed dead, but the teen knows he can't be, because she saw him flying off into the sky holding someone's hand. While her family members grieve around her, Wendy is committed to finding out where Michael went. And somehow she knows that his disappearance has something to do with Eben Peters, the enigmatic hunk who attends her school. Concerned by Wendy's insistence that Michael is alive somewhere, her parents send her to a therapist, who encourages her to draw her feelings (the result of her art therapy is the book itself). Fish's expressive illustrations are gorgeous watercolor auras that show Wendy's hopeful glimpses of magic among the otherwise banal gray of grief. Osborne's story and dialogue are well written, deftly conveying Wendy's feelings of confusion, love, unhappiness, and guilt. **VERDICT** This clever and touching adaptation of the classic tale will appeal to the angriest of teens and the most fervent believers in magic.—*Anna Murphy, Berkeley Carroll School, Brooklyn*

**SHINN, Sharon. *Shattered Warrior*.** illus. by Molly Knox Ostertag. 256p. First Second. May 2017. pap. \$17.99. ISBN 9781626720893.

**Gr 8 Up**—A tale of love, loss, loyalty, and resilience set in a high-tech world of poverty and oppression. On Colleen's planet, humans are exploited by an alien race called the Derichets. Strong young male humans are sent to work in the mines, while females and older males work in a production facility to extract Kallium, an energy source for Derichet weaponry. Meanwhile, factions of violent gangs struggle for turf and resources. Colleen, the daughter of a formerly wealthy and powerful family, has been reduced to working in one of the Derichet-run production plants. She continues to live on her deteriorating estate and tries to remain unnoticed, but her life changes when she unexpectedly reunites with her niece and meets a gang member who captures her heart. The Derichets have large noses or pointed ears, often with markings on their bodies. The humans are fairly diverse, with different skin tones and eye colors represented. Ostertag's art supports Shinn's storytelling beautifully. The muted hues of the art set the tone of despair and are punctuated with red panels that accentuate the violence of Colleen's world. Librarians should note that there is an intimate scene that contains brief nudity. **VERDICT** This is a strong choice for sci-fi graphic novel collections, especially those seeking representation in genre fiction, and an excellent option for more mature fans of *Star Wars* or *Mad Max*.—*Jodeana Kruse, R.A. Long High School, Longview, WA*

Copyright of School Library Journal is the property of Media Source, Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.