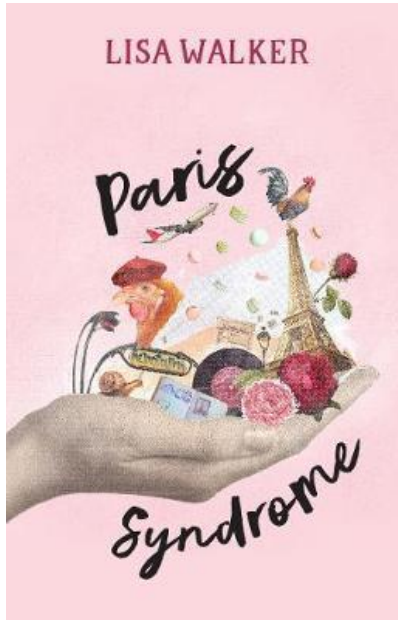




# RIVERBEND STANDING ORDERS

## APRIL SELECTIONS 2018 | SECONDARY FICTION



### *Paris Syndrome*

By: Lisa Walker

Publisher: HarperCollins  
Publishers Australia

ISBN: 9781460755242

Price: \$19.99

### THE BOOK

Can romance only be found in Paris, the city of love? For fans of John Green, this funny and poignant coming-of-age story is about that crazy thing called love. And how it can be found anywhere. Happiness (Happy) Glass has been a loner since moving to Brisbane and yet still dreams about living in Paris with her best friend Rosie after they finish Year Twelve. But Rosie hasn't been terribly reliable lately. When Happy wins a French essay competition, her social life starts looking up. She meets the eccentric Professor Tanaka and her girl-gardener Alex who recruit Happy in their fight against Paris Syndrome - an ailment that afflicts some visitors to Paris. Their quest for a cure gives Happy an excellent excuse to pursue a good-looking French tourism intern, also called Alex. To save confusion she names the boy Alex One and the girl Alex Two. As Happy pursues her love of all things French, Alex Two introduces Happy to her xylophone-playing chickens whose languishing Facebook page Happy sponsors. Confusingly, Happy ends up kissing both of the Alexes. Soon neither of them is speaking to her and she has gone from two Alex's to none.

### WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

This is a quirky, affectionate read that will have teens laughing one minute and tearing up the next. Happy is a terrific narrator - self-deprecating, searching for friendship, generous and kind. Her genuine and warm fumbles with both genders allow her to consider her identity. We loved the familiarity of the Brisbane locations specifically West End and Toowong, and of course, we loved the French connection and the idea of loving a place so much expectations become unrealistic. It will appeal to would-be and travellers alike, and challenge ideas about how young people should best live their youth--By being daring and bold with risky experiences? Or by planning and working and being safe and protected? These big questions follow teens around all the time, and *Paris Syndrome* offers a light-hearted and fresh approach to them.

It's not all light and fluffy, however, and when Happy's regret and despair come to light, the book achieves a more nuanced and sharp-edged tone that will remind readers that no matter how they choose to experience life, they should gather up their memories and grab hold of the ones they love, and be appreciative of all the good things they have, because they don't always last.

Suitable for 15+: some sexual references and mild language.



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