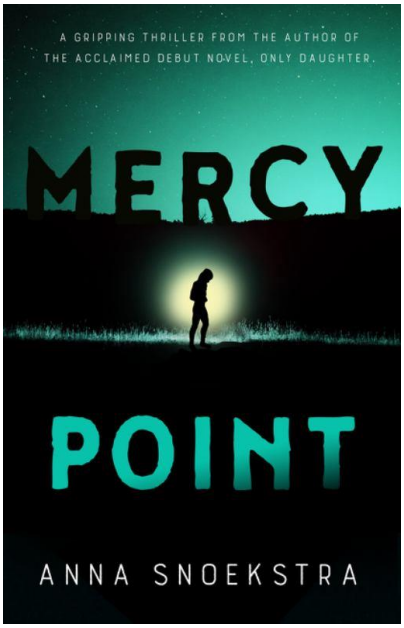
RIVERBEND STANDING ORDERS

JULY SELECTIONS 2018 | SECONDARY FICTION



Mercy Point
By: Anna Snoekstra
Published by: HarperCollins Australia
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Price: $19.99

THE BOOK

In real life, they are enemies. Emma the know-it-all, Michael the bully, Fabian the coward, Tessie the weirdo and Sam the mystery. Online they are best friends, with one big thing in common: they are all sure they are adopted. When they finally meet, they are horrified to find that the people they have been sharing their souls with are the people they hate. They decide to never speak again. But avoiding each other is difficult in a small mountain town with only one high school. It's also tough to ignore one another when they each begin to realise that what their parents are hiding is much more sinister than just adoption. The five teenagers have a choice to make. Continue to live a lie, or come together to hunt down the truth, no matter how dangerous that may be. Because the real story of their parentage is much more terrifying than they ever could have imagined. It is a secret that goes to the very heart of the town itself.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

From the very first chapter this author has created a tense and suspicious atmosphere that builds throughout the novel. This small town, seemingly like every other small town on the surface, holds some deep dark secrets; secrets that a select group of parents hold. A mining tragedy at Mercy Point some years ago has shaped the town and its secrets and overshadows all the town's residents. Five teens, each at different times, feel very different from their families and have a sense that they do not belong. This quest for answers leads them to an online chat group. Over time the five have poured out their feelings and emotions to each other not believing they will ever meet. When the opportunity comes to meet they are completely shocked to find out to whom they have been chatting. They have been airing their secrets to people they would never normally speak to or have anything in common with. Although the first meetings do not go well, each teen begins to feel sudden body changes including intermittent blindness and deafness, so they are drawn to each other for answers. It soon becomes apparent that their parents know what is going on and they are part of a much bigger ecological and social conspiracy than they first thought. This is a gripping thriller that will appeal to readers of this genre and we are looking forward to its resolution in book 2.

Suitable for 15+ - thriller, adoption, science fiction, conspiracy, bullying, racism, swearing.