

boy swallows universe analysis

Boy Swallows Universe Analysis: A Deep Dive into Adam Silvera's Powerful Novel

Introduction:

Adam Silvera's *Boy Swallows Universe* isn't just a young adult novel; it's a visceral exploration of love, loss, grief, and the enduring power of family, all set against the vibrant backdrop of 1980s New York City. This post offers a comprehensive analysis of Silvera's masterpiece, delving into its intricate plot, complex characters, impactful themes, and the novel's overall significance in contemporary young adult literature. We'll dissect the narrative structure, examine the symbolism, and explore how Silvera crafts a story that resonates deeply with readers long after the final page is turned. Prepare to embark on a journey into the heart of a story as captivating as it is heartbreaking.

I. The Narrative Structure: A Kaleidoscope of Time and Perspective

Silvera masterfully employs a non-linear narrative structure, weaving together past and present to build suspense and deepen our understanding of the characters. The story jumps between the present-day struggles of 17-year-old Xiomara and the vibrant, tragic romance of her parents, Ray and Jorge, in their youth. This shifting timeline allows Silvera to reveal crucial details gradually, building tension and allowing the reader to fully grasp the weight of the present-day events in the context of the parents' past. The constant interplay between past and present highlights the cyclical nature of love, loss, and the enduring legacy of family. The narrative's fragmented structure mirrors the fragmented memories and emotional landscape of the characters, enhancing the overall emotional impact.

II. Character Analysis: A Tapestry of Complex Personalities

Xiomara: Xiomara, the protagonist, is a complex and relatable character grappling with the immense responsibility of caring for her ailing mother while navigating the complexities of adolescence and first love. Her strength and resilience, forged in the crucible of her family's hardships, are both admirable and heartbreaking. Her internal struggles, particularly her feelings of guilt and inadequacy, add depth and authenticity to her character.

Ray and Jorge: The love story of Ray and Jorge forms the emotional core of the novel. Their passionate romance, set against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis, is both celebratory and tragic. Silvera portrays their love with a raw honesty that is both beautiful and devastating. Their relationship serves as a powerful testament to the enduring strength of love in the face of adversity.

Supporting Characters: The supporting characters, such as Xiomara's friends and extended family, are also well-developed and contribute significantly to the overall narrative. They provide a sense of community and support that contrasts with the isolation and fear experienced by Ray and Jorge during the height of the AIDS epidemic. These supporting characters enrich the narrative and further underscore the importance of family and community.

III. Exploring the Themes: Love, Loss, and the Legacy of Family

Love in the Face of Adversity: The novel's central theme is the enduring power of love, even in the face of immense hardship and loss. The love story of Ray and Jorge serves as a powerful example of this theme, highlighting the strength and resilience of their relationship amidst the societal stigma and fear surrounding the AIDS epidemic. Their love story is both a celebration and a lament, a testament to the enduring power of human connection.

Grief and Loss: *Boy Swallows Universe* is a poignant exploration of grief and loss. The novel delves into the complex emotions associated with losing a loved one, particularly the lingering pain, guilt, and uncertainty that can accompany such loss. Silvera's portrayal of grief is realistic and unflinching, validating the reader's own experiences and offering a sense of solace.

Family and Legacy: Family, both chosen and biological, is another prominent theme. The novel highlights the importance of family support and the lasting impact of family relationships. Xiomara's strength comes from her deep love for her family and her unwavering commitment to caring for them. The enduring legacy of Ray and Jorge's love is evident in Xiomara and her deep connection to her heritage.

IV. Symbolism and Literary Devices: Unpacking the Subtext

Silvera employs powerful symbolism throughout the novel to enhance its emotional impact. The title itself, "*Boy Swallows Universe*," is a metaphor for the overwhelming nature of grief and loss. Other symbols, such as specific objects or recurring images, contribute to the overall narrative and thematic depth. The use of flashbacks and interspersed timelines also adds layers of meaning and allows for a more nuanced understanding of the characters and their motivations. The vibrant descriptions of 1980s New York City also serve as a symbolic backdrop, reflecting the energy and vitality of the time while simultaneously highlighting the social injustices and anxieties of the era.

V. The Significance of *Boy Swallows Universe* in Contemporary YA Literature

Boy Swallows Universe stands out in contemporary young adult literature for its honest and unflinching portrayal of complex themes, its diverse characters, and its powerful emotional resonance. Silvera's writing is both accessible and sophisticated, making it appealing to a broad range of readers. The novel's exploration of the AIDS epidemic, a topic often overlooked in young adult fiction, is particularly significant, providing a

valuable historical context and promoting empathy and understanding. The book's enduring popularity and critical acclaim solidify its place as a landmark work in the genre.

VI. Summary of Boy Swallows Universe

Title: Boy Swallows Universe

Outline:

Introduction: Sets the scene in 1980s New York City and introduces Xiomara and her family's complex history.

Part 1: Xiomara's Present: Focuses on Xiomara's present-day challenges and her relationship with her ailing mother.

Part 2: Ray and Jorge's Past: Details the passionate love story of Ray and Jorge, their struggles with the AIDS epidemic, and their eventual heartbreak.

Part 3: Intertwined Destinies: The narrative threads of the past and present converge, highlighting the legacy of Ray and Jorge's love and its impact on Xiomara.

Conclusion: Offers reflection on themes of love, loss, family, and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

VII. Detailed Explanation of Outline Points

Introduction: The introduction carefully sets the stage, establishing the time period (1980s New York City), introducing the main character, Xiomara, and subtly hinting at the complex family dynamics and the overarching themes of love and loss that will dominate the narrative. This establishes the emotional tone and sets reader expectations.

Part 1: Xiomara's Present: This section focuses on Xiomara's current life, showcasing her responsibilities in caring for her sick mother, her struggles with adolescence, and her emerging romantic relationships. This section builds empathy for Xiomara and establishes her as a relatable character grappling with significant challenges.

Part 2: Ray and Jorge's Past: This is a pivotal section, delving into the passionate and ultimately tragic love story of Xiomara's parents. This section vividly portrays the societal stigma and fear surrounding the AIDS crisis, highlighting the resilience and strength of their relationship despite facing overwhelming adversity.

Part 3: Intertwined Destinies: This section masterfully weaves together the past and present, showing how the events of Ray and Jorge's life directly influence Xiomara's experiences and shape her character. This section explores themes of legacy, the enduring power of love, and the impact of parental relationships on subsequent generations.

Conclusion: The conclusion provides a powerful and reflective summation of the novel's key themes. It emphasizes the enduring strength of the human spirit, the capacity for love and resilience in the face of

significant loss, and the lasting impact of family relationships. It leaves the reader with a lingering sense of hope and an understanding of the cyclical nature of life, death, and love.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main theme of *Boy Swallows Universe*? The main theme is the enduring power of love and family in the face of immense loss and adversity, specifically exploring the impact of the AIDS epidemic.
1. What is the significance of the title, "*Boy Swallows Universe*"? It's a metaphor representing the overwhelming nature of grief and the feeling of being consumed by loss.
1. What age group is *Boy Swallows Universe* intended for? It's primarily aimed at young adults (YA), but its mature themes resonate with older readers as well.
1. Is *Boy Swallows Universe* a sad book? While it deals with difficult topics and has heartbreaking moments, it also celebrates love, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit.
1. What historical context is relevant to understanding the novel? The AIDS crisis of the 1980s is crucial to understanding the challenges faced by Ray and Jorge.
1. What literary devices does Silvera use effectively? He uses non-linear storytelling, symbolism, and vivid descriptions to create a powerful emotional impact.
1. How does Xiomara's character develop throughout the novel? She grows in strength and maturity as she grapples with her family's history and her own challenges.

1. Are there any LGBTQ+ themes in the book? Yes, the love story between Ray and Jorge is central to the novel and explores LGBTQ+ relationships in the context of the AIDS epidemic.

1. Where can I buy Boy Swallows Universe? It's available at most major bookstores and online retailers.

IX. Related Articles

1. Adam Silvera's Writing Style: A Deep Dive: An analysis of Silvera's unique narrative techniques and his ability to evoke powerful emotions.

1. The Impact of the AIDS Epidemic on LGBTQ+ Communities: A historical overview of the AIDS crisis and its impact on the LGBTQ+ community.

1. Exploring Grief and Loss in Young Adult Literature: An examination of how young adult novels address the complex emotions surrounding death and loss.

1. The Power of Family in Adam Silvera's Work: A comparative analysis of family dynamics in Silvera's different novels.

1. Symbolism in Boy Swallows Universe: A Detailed Interpretation: A closer look at the various symbols and their significance within the narrative.

1. Character Development in Boy Swallows Universe: A Comparative Study: A detailed examination of

the growth and development of the novel's key characters.

1. Review of *Boy Swallows Universe*: A Critical Assessment: A comprehensive review of the novel, including both strengths and weaknesses.

1. Adam Silvera's Influence on Contemporary Young Adult Literature: An exploration of Silvera's impact on the genre and his contributions to diverse representation.

1. Comparing and Contrasting *Boy Swallows Universe* with Other YA Novels About Grief: An analysis of how *Boy Swallows Universe* compares to other works exploring similar themes.

boy swallows universe analysis: *Boy Swallows Universe* Trent Dalton, 2018-07-01 'The best Australian novel I have read in more than a decade' Sydney Morning Herald 'Astonishing, captivating ... a wild, beautiful, heart-exploding ride' Elizabeth Gilbert The bestselling novel that has taken Australia, and the world, by storm. Winner of Book of the Year at the 2019 Indie Book Awards, winner of a record four Australian Book Industry Awards in 2019, including the prestigious Book of the Year Award, and winner of the 2019 UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing, NSW Premier's Literary Awards Brisbane, 1985: A lost father, a mute brother, a junkie mum, a heroin dealer for a stepfather and a notorious crim for a babysitter. It's not as if Eli Bell's life isn't complicated enough already. He's just trying to follow his heart and understand what it means to be a good man, but fate keeps throwing obstacles in his way - not the least of which is Tytus Broz, legendary Brisbane drug dealer. But now Eli's life is going to get a whole lot more serious: he's about to meet the father he doesn't remember, break into Boggo Road Gaol on Christmas Day to rescue his mum, come face to face with the criminals who tore his world apart, and fall in love with the girl of his dreams. A story of brotherhood, true love and the most unlikely of friendships, *Boy Swallows Universe* will be the most heartbreaking, joyous and exhilarating novel you will read all year. Awards: 2019 ABIA Book of the Year Award, Winner 2019 Indie Book Award, Winner 2019 UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing, NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Winner 2019 People's Choice Award, NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Winner MUD Literary Prize 2019, Winner 2019 ABIA Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year, Winner 2019 ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year, Winner 2019 ABIA Audiobook of the Year, Winner 2019 Miles Franklin Literary Award, Longlisted 2019 Colin Roderick Award, shortlist Reviews: 'Boy Swallows Universe is a wonderful surprise: sharp as a drawer full of knives in terms of subject matter; unrepentantly joyous in its child's-eye view of the world; the best literary debut in a month of Sundays.' The Australian 'Boy Swallows Universe hypnotizes you with wonder, and then hammers you with heartbreak.' Washington Post 'This thrilling novel' New York Times Book Review 'Marvelously plot-rich ... filled with beautifully lyric prose ... At one point Eli

wonders if he is good. The answer is yes, every bit as good as this exceptional novel.' Booklist 'Dalton's splashy, stellar debut makes the typical coming-of-age novel look bland by comparison ... This is an outstanding debut.' Publisher's Weekly (starred review) 'Extraordinary and beautiful storytelling' Guardian

boy swallows universe analysis: *All Our Shimmering Skies* Trent Dalton, 2021-07-06 From the internationally bestselling and beloved author of the critically acclaimed Boy Swallows Universe, a mesmerizing, uplifting novel of adventure and unlikely friendships in World War II Australia—calling to mind *The Wizard of Oz* as directed by Baz Luhrmann. Darwin, 1942. As Japanese bombs rain down on her hometown, newly orphaned Molly Hook looks to the skies and runs for her life. Inside a duffel bag, she carries a stone heart and a map that will lead her to Longcoat Bob, the deep-country sorcerer whom she believes cursed her family. Accompanying her are the most unlikely traveling companions: Greta, a razor-tongued actress, and Yukio, a Japanese fighter pilot who's abandoned his post. With messages from the skies above to guide them towards treasure, but foes close on their trail, the trio will encounter the beauty and vastness of the Northern Territory and survive in ways they never thought possible. A story about the gifts that fall from the sky, curses we dig from the earth, and secrets we bury inside ourselves, Trent Dalton's brilliantly imagined novel is an odyssey of true love and grave danger, of darkness and light, of bones and blue heavens. It is a love letter to Australia and an ode to the art of looking up—a buoyant and magical tale, filled to the brim with warmth, wit, and wonder.

boy swallows universe analysis: *A Day for Rememberin'* Leah Henderson, 2021-05-11 A moving tribute to the little-known history behind the first Memorial Day, illustrated by Coretta Scott King Award winner Floyd Cooper Today is a special day. Eli knows it's important if he's allowed to miss one second of school, his "hard-earned right." Inspired by true events and told through the eyes of a young boy, this is the deeply moving story about what is regarded as the first Memorial Day on May 1, 1865. Eli dresses up in his best clothes, Mama gathers the mayflowers, Papa straightens his hat, and together they join the crowds filling the streets of Charleston, South Carolina, with bouquets, crosses, and wreaths. Abolitionists, missionaries, teachers, military officers, and a sea of faces Black, Brown, and White, they march as one and sing for all those who gave their lives fighting for freedom during the Civil War. With poignant prose and celebratory, powerful illustrations, *A Day for Rememberin'* shines light on the little-known history of this important holiday and reminds us never to forget the people who put their lives on the line for their country. The book is illustrated by award-winning illustrator Floyd Cooper and includes archival photos in the back matter, as well as an author's note, bibliography, timeline, and index.

boy swallows universe analysis: *Candy* Luke Davies, 2006-05-01 There were good times and bad times, but in the beginning there were more good times. When I first met Candy those were the days of juice, when everything was bountiful. Only much later did it all start to seem like sugar and blood, blood and sugar...It's like you're cruising along in a beautiful car on a pleasant country road with the breeze in your hair and the smell of eucalyptus all around you. The horizon is always up there ahead, unfolding towards you, and at first you don't notice the gradual descent, or the way the atmosphere thickens. Bit by bit the gradient gets steeper, and before you realise you have no brakes, you're going pretty fucking fast.' Candy is a love story. It is also a novel about addiction. From the heady narcissism of the narrator's first days with his new lover, Candy, and the relative innocence of their shared habit, Candy charts their decline. Candy becomes a prostitute, the narrator becomes a scam artist, and smack becomes the total and only focus of their lives. But this is not just another junkie novel: Davies is a very fine writer and Candy is confronting, painful, sexy, tender and at times darkly hilarious. A remarkable novel.

boy swallows universe analysis: *The Love Hypothesis* Ali Hazelwood, 2021-09-14 The Instant New York Times Bestseller and TikTok Sensation! As seen on THE VIEW! A BuzzFeed Best Summer Read of 2021 When a fake relationship between scientists meets the irresistible force of attraction, it throws one woman's carefully calculated theories on love into chaos. As a third-year Ph.D. candidate, Olive Smith doesn't believe in lasting romantic relationships--but her best friend does, and that's

what got her into this situation. Convincing Anh that Olive is dating and well on her way to a happily ever after was always going to take more than hand-wavy Jedi mind tricks: Scientists require proof. So, like any self-respecting biologist, Olive panics and kisses the first man she sees. That man is none other than Adam Carlsen, a young hotshot professor--and well-known ass. Which is why Olive is positively floored when Stanford's reigning lab tyrant agrees to keep her charade a secret and be her fake boyfriend. But when a big science conference goes haywire, putting Olive's career on the Bunsen burner, Adam surprises her again with his unyielding support and even more unyielding...six-pack abs. Suddenly their little experiment feels dangerously close to combustion. And Olive discovers that the only thing more complicated than a hypothesis on love is putting her own heart under the microscope.

boy swallows universe analysis: Johnno David Malouf, 2015-11-23 Despite Johnno's assertion that Brisbane was absolutely the ugliest place in the world, I had the feeling as I walked across deserted intersections, past empty parks with their tropical trees all spiked and sharp-edged in the early sunlight, that it might even be beautiful ... Johnno is a typical Australian who refuses to be typical. His disorderly presence can disturb the staleness of his home town or destroy the tranquillity of a Greek landscape. An affectionately outrageous portrait, David Malouf's first novel recreates the war-conscious forties, the pubs and brothels of the fifties, and the years away treading water overseas.

boy swallows universe analysis: The Psychology of Social Media Ciarán Mc Mahon, 2019-03-25 Are we really being ourselves on social media? Can we benefit from connecting with people we barely know online? Why do some people overshare on social networking sites? The Psychology of Social Media explores how so much of our everyday lives is played out online, and how this can impact our identity, wellbeing and relationships. It looks at how our online profiles, connections, status updates and sharing of photographs can be a way to express ourselves and form connections, but also highlights the pitfalls of social media including privacy issues. From FOMO to fraping, and from subtweeting to selfies, The Psychology of Social Media shows how social media has developed a whole new world of communication, and for better or worse is likely to continue to be an essential part of how we understand our selves.

boy swallows universe analysis: Love Stories Trent Dalton, 2021-11-01 WINNER, INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2022 BOOK OF THE YEAR Trent Dalton, Australia's best-loved writer, goes out into the world and asks a simple, direct question: 'Can you please tell me a love story?' A blind man yearns to see the face of his wife of thirty years. A divorced mother has a secret love affair with a priest. A geologist discovers a three-minute video recorded by his wife before she died. A tree lopper's heart falls in a forest. A working mum contemplates taking photographs of her late husband down from her fridge. A girl writes a last letter to the man she loves most, then sets it on fire. A palliative care nurse helps a dying woman converse with the angel at the end of her bed. A renowned 100-year-old scientist ponders the one great earthly puzzle he was never able to solve: 'What is love?' Endless stories. Human stories. Love stories. Inspired by a personal moment of profound love and generosity, Trent Dalton, bestselling author and one of Australia's finest journalists, spent two months in 2021 speaking to people from all walks of life, asking them one simple and direct question: 'Can you please tell me a love story?' The result is an immensely warm, poignant, funny and moving book about love in all its guises, including observations, reflections and stories of people falling into love, falling out of love, and never letting go of the loved ones in their hearts. A heartfelt, deep, wise and tingly tribute to the greatest thing we will never understand and the only thing we will ever really need: love. 'It's the kind of book that has some impact on the reader ... a Chaucerian endeavour, a rich caravanserai of real, living people with something important to tell.' Sydney Morning Herald

boy swallows universe analysis: A Ring of Endless Light Madeleine L'Engle, 2008-09-02 In book four of the award-winning Austin Family Chronicles young adult series from Madeleine L'Engle, author of A Wrinkle in Time, Vicky Austin experiences the difficulties and joys of growing up. This wasn't the first time that I'd come close to death, but it was the first time I'd been involved

in this part of it, this strange, terrible saying goodbye to someone you've loved. These are Vicky Austin's thoughts as she stands near Commander Rodney's grave while her grandfather, who himself is dying of cancer, recites the funeral service. Watching his condition deteriorate over that long summer is almost more than she can bear. Then, in the midst of her struggle, she finds herself the center of attention for three young men. Leo, Commander Rodney's son, turns to her as an old friend seeking comfort but longing for romance. Zachary, whose attempted suicide inadvertently caused Commander Rodney's death, sees her as the one sane and normal person who can give some meaning to his life. And Adam, a serious young student working at the nearby marine-biology station, discovers Vicky, his friend's little sister, incipient telepathic powers that can help him with his experiments in dolphin communications. Vicky finds solace and brief moments of peace in her poetry, but life goes on around her, and the strain intensifies as she confronts matters of love and of death, of dependence and of responsibility, universal concerns that we all must face. The inevitable crisis comes and Vicky must rely on openness, sensitivity, and the love of others to overcome her private grief. Once again, Madeleine L'Engle has written a story that revels in the drama of vividly portrayed characters and events of the spiritual and moral dimensions of common human experiences. *A Ring of Endless Light* is a 1981 Newbery Honor Book. Books by Madeleine L'Engle *A Wrinkle in Time* Quintet *A Wrinkle in Time* *A Wind in the Door* *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* *Many Waters* *An Acceptable Time* *A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel* by Madeleine L'Engle; adapted & illustrated by Hope Larson *Intergalactic P.S. 3* by Madeleine L'Engle; illustrated by Hope Larson: A standalone story set in the world of *A Wrinkle in Time*. The Austin Family Chronicles *Meet the Austins* (Volume 1) *The Moon by Night* (Volume 2) *The Young Unicorns* (Volume 3) *A Ring of Endless Light* (Volume 4) A Newbery Honor book! *Troubling a Star* (Volume 5) The Polly O'Keefe books *The Arm of the Starfish* *Dragons in the Waters* *A House Like a Lotus* And Both Were Young Camilla The Joys of Love

boy swallows universe analysis: The Passion According to G.H. Clarice Lispector, 2012-06-13 Lispector's most shocking novel. *The Passion According to G.H.*, Clarice Lispector's mystical novel of 1964, concerns a well-to-do Rio sculptress, G.H., who enters her maid's room, sees a cockroach crawling out of the wardrobe, and, panicking, slams the door—crushing the cockroach—and then watches it die. At the end of the novel, at the height of a spiritual crisis, comes the most famous and most genuinely shocking scene in Brazilian literature... Lispector wrote that of all her works this novel was the one that “best corresponded to her demands as a writer.”

boy swallows universe analysis: Skeleton Crew Allan Ahlberg, 2005 *Skeleton Crew* is one of the titles in Allan Ahlberg's iconic children's picture book series about skeletons, *Funnybones*. Despite being set in a dark dark house, this brightly coloured book is perfect for early readers Zzz The three skeletons enjoy a holiday on-board their little boat. But one night - Yo-ho-ho - the pirates come and put them out to sea on a tiny raft, launching them on an oceanful of new adventures. 'By far our best writer for the young' - Daily Telegraph Allan Ahlberg has published over 100 children's books and with his late wife Janet, created many award-winning children's picture books, including *Peepo*, *Each Peach Pear Plum* and the Kate Greenaway Medal winning *The Jolly Postman*. Other titles in the *Funnybones* series include *Funnybones*, *The Ghost Train*, *The Black Cat*, *The Pet Shop*, *Bumps in the Night*, *Dinosaur Dreams*, *Mystery Tour*, *Give the Dog a Bone* and *A Brilliant Bone Rattling Collection*, all of which are available from Puffin.

boy swallows universe analysis: When Things Are Alive They Hum Hannah Bent, 2021-07-28 Australian Women's Weekly Great Read Shortlisted Indie Book Awards for Debut Fiction Woman & Home Books of the Year Shortlisted MUD Literary Prize Shortlisted ABIA Award for General Fiction Shortlisted ABIA Matt Richell Award New Writer of the Year 'Hannah Bent's outstanding debut is a wise, wondrous celebration of life.' - The Australian 'Hannah Bent has created a literary heroine of such pure beauty she takes your breath away.' - Australian Women's Weekly 'Read it if you like: Your sister, anything by Trent Dalton, having a good cry, and My Sister's Keeper.' - Mamamia Marlowe and Harper share a bond deeper than most sisters, shaped by the loss of their mother in childhood. For Harper, living with what she calls the Up syndrome and gifted with

an endless capacity for wonder, Marlowe and she are connected by an invisible thread, like the hum that connects all things. For Marlowe, they are bound by her fierce determination to keep Harper, born with a congenital heart disorder, alive. Now twenty-five, Marlowe is living abroad when she receives the devastating call that Harper's heart is failing and she is being denied a transplant by the medical establishment. Marlowe rushes to her childhood home in Hong Kong to be by Harper's side and soon has to answer the question – what lengths would you go to save your sister? When *Things are Alive They Hum* poses profound questions about the nature of love and existence, the ways grief changes us, and how we confront the hand fate has dealt us. Intensely moving, exquisitely written and literally humming with wonder, it is a novel that celebrates life in all its guises, and what comes after. PRAISE FOR WHEN THINGS ARE ALIVE THEY HUM 'When literature is alive it hums, and rattles and warms and hurts and heals. Hannah Bent and her wondrous Harper and Marlowe have changed the way I've been going about my days. What a gift.' – Trent Dalton, author of *Boy Swallows Universe* and *All Our Shimmering Skies* 'A simply beautiful novel.' – Good Reading '...what stayed with me was the achingly beautiful portrayal of the love between the two sisters. If I had a sister, that is how I would like to feel.' – Nicole Abadee, *Sydney Morning Herald* 'heartbreakingly beautiful' – *Family Circle*

boy swallows universe analysis: *This Is How We Change the Ending* Vikki Wakefield, 2019-09-03 A gritty, ultimately triumphant novel from one of Australia's most loved YA writers, the author of award-winning *Friday Brown*

boy swallows universe analysis: *Patron Saints of Nothing* Randy Ribay, 2020-04-21 A NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST Brilliant, honest, and equal parts heartbreaking and soul-healing. --Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *SHOUT* A singular voice in the world of literature. --Jason Reynolds, author of *Long Way Down* A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth -- and the part he played in it. As gripping as it is lyrical, *Patron Saints of Nothing* is a page-turning portrayal of the struggle to reconcile faith, family, and immigrant identity.

boy swallows universe analysis: *The End We Start From* Megan Hunter, 2017-11-07 **NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING JODIE COMER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH, AND WRITTEN BY ALICE BIRCH (NORMAL PEOPLE)** "The End We Start From by Megan Hunter is a short, concentrated book—a shot of distilled story, like the pulp of a tale boiled to a thick spiced paste. . . . With passages from mythology interspersed with its imagined future, the book is engrossing, compelling and finally hopeful." —Naomi Alderman, author of *The Power* "The End We Start From is a beautifully spare, haunting meditation on the persistence of life after catastrophe. I loved it." —Emily St. John Mandel, author of *Station Eleven* Longlisted for the 2018 Aspen Words Literary Prize Finalist for the Barnes & Noble 2017 Discover Great New Writers Award An indelible and elemental debut—a lyrical vision of the strangeness and beauty of new motherhood, and a tale of endurance in the face of unimaginable change. In the midst of a mysterious environmental crisis, as London is submerged below flood waters, a woman gives birth to her first child, Z. Days later, the family is forced to leave their home in search of safety. As they move from place to place, shelter to shelter, their journey traces both fear and wonder as Z's small fists grasp at the things he sees, as he grows and stretches, thriving and content against all the odds. This is a story of new motherhood in a terrifying setting: a familiar world made dangerous and unstable, its people forced to become refugees. Startlingly beautiful, Megan Hunter's *The End We Start From* is a gripping novel that paints an imagined future as realistic as it is frightening. And yet, though the country is falling apart around them, this family's world—of new life and new

hope—sings with love.

boy swallows universe analysis: *Blindsight* Peter Watts, 2006-10-03 Hugo and Shirley Jackson award-winning Peter Watts stands on the cutting edge of hard SF with his acclaimed novel, *Blindsight* Two months since the stars fell... Two months of silence, while a world held its breath. Now some half-derelict space probe, sparking fitfully past Neptune's orbit, hears a whisper from the edge of the solar system: a faint signal sweeping the cosmos like a lighthouse beam. Whatever's out there isn't talking to us. It's talking to some distant star, perhaps. Or perhaps to something closer, something en route. So who do you send to force introductions with unknown and unknowable alien intellect that doesn't wish to be met? You send a linguist with multiple personalities, her brain surgically partitioned into separate, sentient processing cores. You send a biologist so radically interfaced with machinery that he sees x-rays and tastes ultrasound. You send a pacifist warrior in the faint hope she won't be needed. You send a monster to command them all, an extinct hominid predator once called vampire, recalled from the grave with the voodoo of recombinant genetics and the blood of sociopaths. And you send a synthesist—an informational topologist with half his mind gone—as an interface between here and there. Pray they can be trusted with the fate of a world. They may be more alien than the thing they've been sent to find. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

boy swallows universe analysis: *Eggshell Skull* Bri Lee, 2018-05-23 'Scorching, self-scouring: a young woman finds her steel and learns to wield it' - Helen Garner 'Brutal, brave and utterly compelling . . . I can't remember a book I devoured with such intensity, nor one that moved me so profoundly' Rebecca Starford, author of *Bad Behaviour* and co-founder of *Kill Your Darlings* EGGSHELL SKULL: A well-established legal doctrine that a defendant must 'take their victim as they find them'. If a single punch kills someone because of their thin skull, that victim's weakness cannot mitigate the seriousness of the crime. But what if it also works the other way? What if a defendant on trial for sexual crimes has to accept his 'victim' as she comes: a strong, determined accuser who knows the legal system, who will not back down until justice is done? Bri Lee began her first day of work at the Queensland District Court as a bright-eyed judge's associate. Two years later she was back as the complainant in her own case. This is the story of Bri's journey through the Australian legal system; first as the daughter of a policeman, then as a law student, and finally as a judge's associate in both metropolitan and regional Queensland-where justice can look very different, especially for women. The injustice Bri witnessed, mourned and raged over every day finally forced her to confront her own personal history, one she'd vowed never to tell. And this is how, after years of struggle, she found herself on the other side of the courtroom, telling her story. Bri Lee has written a fierce and eloquent memoir that addresses both her own reckoning with the past as well as with the stories around her, to speak the truth with wit, empathy and unflinching courage. *Eggshell Skull* is a haunting appraisal of modern Australia from a new and essential voice. 'Courageous, heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful' Liam Pieper, author of *The Toymaker* 'Sensitive and clear-eyed' Jessica Friedmann, author of *Things That Helped* 'A page-turner of a memoir, impossible to put down' Krissy Kneen, author of *An Uncertain Grace*

boy swallows universe analysis: *Seeds of Rebellion* Brandon Mull, 2012-03-13 The thrills continue in the second action-packed adventure in the #1 New York Times bestselling *Beyonders* trilogy. After the cliffhanger ending of *A World Without Heroes*, Jason is back in the world he's always known—yet for all his efforts to get home, he finds himself itching to return to Lyrian. Jason knows that the shocking truth he learned from Maldor is precious information that all of his friends in Lyrian, including Rachel, need if they have any hope of surviving and defeating the evil emperor. Meanwhile, Rachel and the others have discovered new enemies—as well as new abilities that could turn the tide of the entire quest. And as soon as Jason succeeds in crossing over to Lyrian, he's in more danger than ever. Once the group reunites, they strive to convince their most-needed ally to join the war and form a rebellion strong enough to triumph over Maldor. At the center of it all, Jason and Rachel realize what roles they're meant to play—and the answers are as surprising as they are riveting.

boy swallows universe analysis: Detention Tristan Banks, 2019-07-02 Australian author Tristan Banks has created a fictional but thoroughly researched, fast paced, suspenseful and ultimately hopeful story. - Better Reading Sima and her family are pressed to the rough, cold ground among fifty others. They lie next to the tall fence designed to keep them in. The wires are cut one by one. When they make their escape, a guard raises the alarm. Shouting, smoke bombs, people tackled to the ground. In the chaos Sima loses her parents. Dad told her to run, so she does, hiding in a school and triggering a lockdown. A boy, Dan, finds her hiding in the toilet block. What should he do? Help her? Do her in? She's breaking the law, but is it right to lock kids up? And if he helps, should Sima trust him? Or run? THIS MOMENT, THESE DECISIONS, WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES. *CBCA Book of the Year Awards - Notable Book 2020* *NSW Premier's Literary Awards - Shortlisted 2020* *ABIA Book of the Year for Older Children - Shortlisted 2020* *YABBA Children's Choice Awards Fiction for Years 7-9 - Shortlisted 2020* *Queensland Literary Awards Griffith University Children's Book Award - Shortlisted 2020* _____ A raw and authentic exploration of human connection ... gripping, insightful and compassionate. Megan Daley, Children's Books Daily This is a little book that packs a big punch! Bronwyn Eley, Booktopia As a piece of literature, this is exceptional. As a narrative about the hearts and minds of Australians in 2019, it is a masterpiece. Others Magazine _____ Also by Tristan Banks: Scar Town Two Wolves The Fall Detention Cop and Robber Ginger Meggs Nit Boy Mac Slater 1: Coolhunter Mac Slater 2: Imaginator Tom Weekly 1: My Life and Other Stuff I Made Up Tom Weekly 2: My Life and Other Stuff That Went Wrong Tom Weekly 3: My Life and Other Massive Mistakes Tom Weekly 4: My Life and Other Exploding Chickens Tom Weekly 5: My Life and Other Weaponised Muffins Tom Weekly 6: My Life and Other Failed Experiments

boy swallows universe analysis: Henry Hoey Hobson Christine Bongers, 2010-07-01 Henry Hoey Hobson is a hero to cheer for till your tonsils hang out on strings. Twelve-and-a-half-year-old Henry Hoey Hobson is drowning in the dangerous waters of Year Seven. He arrives at his sixth school in as many years, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, to discover that he is the only boy in the grade. The tiny school in inner-city Brisbane has lost most of its older boys to bigger Catholic colleges, leaving only a trio of male misfits a year below him, and in his year, an intimidating all-female line-up. Fatherless, friendless and non-Catholic, Henry earns a reputation as a vampire on his first day, when ill-fitting braces make his mouth bleed. His mum, Lydia, is no help - she's running around town, in bright red platform heels and a skirt that's too short and too tight, chasing a pot of gold at the end of a real estate rainbow. Due to a recent growth spurt, Henry towers over his tiny, doll-like mum and swings between feeling protective and angry that she has abandoned him to his fate as a Perpetual Sucker. To make matters worse, a pack of weirdos moves in next door. Manny, Vee, Caleb and Anders are creatures of the night. With their pale skin, black clothing and eerie coffin, they freak out the local kids. When they befriend Henry, they drive a stake through the heart of any chance he might have had of fitting in. Henry's only chance to redeem himself is the school swimming carnival. But first he must deal with the withdrawn and tortured Anders' attempts to overcome his own dark past and earn a place in the light, at Henry's side. Finally, Henry and his motley cheer squad must choose how they want to live their lives. Is living life at the margins enough for any of them?

boy swallows universe analysis: The Book of the Damned Charles Fort, 2020-09-28 Time travel, UFOs, mysterious planets, stigmata, rock-throwing poltergeists, huge footprints, bizarre rains of fish and frogs-nearly a century after Charles Fort's Book of the Damned was originally published, the strange phenomenon presented in this book remains largely unexplained by modern science. Through painstaking research and a witty, sarcastic style, Fort captures the imagination while exposing the flaws of popular scientific explanations. Virtually all of his material was compiled and documented from reports published in reputable journals, newspapers and periodicals because he was an avid collector. Charles Fort was somewhat of a recluse who spent most of his spare time researching these strange events and collected these reports from publications sent to him from around the globe. This was the first of a series of books he created on unusual and unexplained

events and to this day it remains the most popular. If you agree that truth is often stranger than fiction, then this book is for you--Taken from Good Reads website.

boy swallows universe analysis: Lovecraft Country Matt Ruff, 2016-02-16 Now an HBO® Series from J.J. Abrams (Executive Producer of *Westworld*), Misha Green (Creator of *Underground*) and Jordan Peele (Director of *Get Out*) The critically acclaimed cult novelist makes visceral the terrors of life in Jim Crow America and its lingering effects in this brilliant and wondrous work of the imagination that melds historical fiction, pulp noir, and Lovecraftian horror and fantasy. Chicago, 1954. When his father Montrose goes missing, 22-year-old Army veteran Atticus Turner embarks on a road trip to New England to find him, accompanied by his Uncle George—publisher of *The Safe Negro Travel Guide*—and his childhood friend Letitia. On their journey to the manor of Mr. Braithwhite—heir to the estate that owned one of Atticus’s ancestors—they encounter both mundane terrors of white America and malevolent spirits that seem straight out of the weird tales George devours. At the manor, Atticus discovers his father in chains, held prisoner by a secret cabal named the Order of the Ancient Dawn—led by Samuel Braithwhite and his son Caleb—which has gathered to orchestrate a ritual that shockingly centers on Atticus. And his one hope of salvation may be the seed of his—and the whole Turner clan’s—destruction. A chimerical blend of magic, power, hope, and freedom that stretches across time, touching diverse members of two black families, *Lovecraft Country* is a devastating kaleidoscopic portrait of racism—the terrifying specter that continues to haunt us today.

boy swallows universe analysis: Summer Bird Blue Akemi Dawn Bowman, 2020-03-10 “A lyrical novel about grief, love, and finding oneself in the wake of a tragic loss.” —Bustle “Gorgeous prose and heartbreaking storytelling.” —Paste Magazine “Grabs your heart and won’t let go.” —Book Riot A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year Three starred reviews for this stunning novel about a mixed-race teen who struggles to find her way back to her love of music in the wake of her sister’s death, from the author of the William C. Morris Award finalist *Starfish*. Rumi Seto spends a lot of time worrying she doesn’t have the answers to everything. What to eat, where to go, whom to love. But there is one thing she is absolutely sure of—she wants to spend the rest of her life writing music with her younger sister, Lea. Then Lea dies in a car accident, and her mother sends her away to live with her aunt in Hawaii while she deals with her own grief. Now thousands of miles from home, Rumi struggles to navigate the loss of her sister, being abandoned by her mother, and the absence of music in her life. With the help of the “boys next door”—a teenage surfer named Kai, who smiles too much and doesn’t take anything seriously, and an eighty-year-old named George Watanabe, who succumbed to his own grief years ago—Rumi attempts to find her way back to her music, to write the song she and Lea never had the chance to finish. Aching, powerful, and unflinchingly honest, *Summer Bird Blue* explores big truths about insurmountable grief, unconditional love, and how to forgive even when it feels impossible.

boy swallows universe analysis: Pinocchio, the Tale of a Puppet Carlo Collodi, 2011-02 *Pinocchio, The Tale of a Puppet* follows the adventures of a talking wooden puppet whose nose grew longer whenever he told a lie and who wanted more than anything else to become a real boy. As carpenter Master Antonio begins to carve a block of pinewood into a leg for his table the log shouts out, Don't strike me too hard! Frightened by the talking log, Master Cherry does not know what to do until his neighbor Geppetto drops by looking for a piece of wood to build a marionette. Antonio gives the block to Geppetto. And thus begins the life of Pinocchio, the puppet that turns into a boy. *Pinocchio, The Tale of a Puppet* is a novel for children by Carlo Collodi is about the mischievous adventures of Pinocchio, an animated marionette, and his poor father and woodcarver Geppetto. It is considered a classic of children's literature and has spawned many derivative works of art. But this is not the story we've seen in film but the original version full of harrowing adventures faced by Pinnocchio. It includes 40 illustrations.

boy swallows universe analysis: The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon Richard Zimler, 2000-03-15 International Bestseller: “A moody, tightly constructed historical thriller . . . a good mystery story and an effective evocation of a faraway time and place.” —The New York Times After Jews living in

sixteenth-century Portugal are dragged to the baptismal font and forced to convert to Christianity, many of these New Christians persevere in their Jewish prayers and rituals in secret and at great risk; the hidden, arcane practices of the kabbalists, a mystical sect of Jews, continue as well. One such secret Jew is Berekiah Zarco, an intelligent young manuscript illuminator. Inflamed by love and revenge, he searches, in the crucible of the raging pogrom, for the killer of his beloved uncle Abraham, a renowned kabbalist, discovered murdered in a hidden synagogue along with a young girl in dishabille. Risking his life in streets seething with mayhem, Berekiah tracks down answers among Christians, New Christians, Jews, and the fellow kabbalists of his uncle, whose secret language and codes by turns light and obscure the way to the truth he seeks. A marvelous story, a challenging mystery, and a telling tale of the evils of intolerance, *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon* both compels and entertains. "The story moves quickly . . . a literary and historical treat." —Library Journal
 "Remarkable . . . The fever pitch of intensity Zimler maintains is at times overwhelming but never less than appropriate to the Hieronymous Bosch-like landscape he describes. Simultaneously, though, he is able to capture, within the bedlam, quiet moments of tenderness and love." —Booklist (starred review)

boy swallows universe analysis: *The Boy Book* E. Lockhart, 2008-04-22 From E. Lockhart, author of the highly acclaimed, New York Times bestseller *We Were Liars*, which John Green called utterly unforgettable, comes *The Boy Book*, the second book in the uproarious and heartwarming Ruby Oliver novels. Here is how things stand at the beginning of newly-licensed driver Ruby Oliver's junior year at Tate Prep: • Kim: Not speaking. But far away in Tokyo. • Cricket: Not speaking. • Nora: Speaking--sort of. Chatted a couple times this summer when they bumped into each other outside of school--once shopping in the U District, and once in the Elliot Bay Bookstore. But she hadn't called Ruby, or anything. • Noel: Didn't care what anyone thinks. • Meghan: Didn't have any other friends. • Dr. Z: Speaking. • And Jackson. The big one. Not speaking. But, by Winter Break, a new job, an unlikely but satisfying friend combo, additional entries to *The Boy Book* and many difficult decisions help Ruby to see that there is, indeed, life outside the Tate Universe.

boy swallows universe analysis: *They Came Like Swallows* William Maxwell, 2011-02-15 Discover William Maxwell's classic, heart-breaking portrait of an ordinary American family struck by the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic 'A story of such engaging warmth that it would thaw the heart of any critic... Will melt many a reader to tears' TIME Elizabeth Morison is an ordinary woman. Yet, to eight-year-old Bunny, his mother is the centre of his universe. To Robert, her elder son, she is someone he must protect against the dangers of the outside world. And to her husband, James, she is the foundation on which his family rests and life without her is unimaginable. As the dark winter of 1918 dawns and the shadow of Spanish flu starts to disturb day-to-day life, a moving portrait of Elizabeth takes shape, set against the lives and fate of the Morison family. 'As you read *They Came Like Swallows*, you catch yourself from time to time being astonished at how tightly you're gripping the pages... There isn't a word that has dated. It could have been written yesterday, or tomorrow' Nicholas Lezard, Guardian

boy swallows universe analysis: *10 Days to Faster Reading* The Princeton Language Institute, Abby Marks-Beale, 2001-07-01 Jump-Start Your Reading Skills! Speed reading used to require months of training. Now you can rev up your reading in just a few minutes a day. With quizzes to determine your present reading level and exercises to introduce new skills quickly, *10 Days to Faster Reading* will improve your reading comprehension and speed as it shows you how to: * Break the Bad Habits That Slow You Down * Develop Your Powers of Concentration * Cut Your Reading Time in Half * Use Proven, Specially Designed Reading Techniques * Boost the Power of Your Peripheral Vision * Learn How to Scan and Skim a Written Report ...And All in 10 Days!

boy swallows universe analysis: *The Sparrow* Mary Doria Russell, 2008-05-27 A visionary work that combines speculative fiction with deep philosophical inquiry, *The Sparrow* tells the story of a charismatic Jesuit priest and linguist, Emilio Sandoz, who leads a scientific mission entrusted with a profound task: to make first contact with intelligent extraterrestrial life. The mission begins in faith, hope, and beauty, but a series of small misunderstandings brings it to a catastrophic end.

Praise for *The Sparrow* "A startling, engrossing, and moral work of fiction."—The New York Times Book Review "Important novels leave deep cracks in our beliefs, our prejudices, and our blinders. *The Sparrow* is one of them."—Entertainment Weekly "Powerful . . . *The Sparrow* tackles a difficult subject with grace and intelligence."—San Francisco Chronicle "Provocative, challenging . . . recalls both Arthur C. Clarke and H. G. Wells, with a dash of Ray Bradbury for good measure."—The Dallas Morning News "[Mary Doria] Russell shows herself to be a skillful storyteller who subtly and expertly builds suspense."—USA Today

boy swallows universe analysis: *The Secret of Our Success* Joseph Henrich, 2017-10-17 How our collective intelligence has helped us to evolve and prosper Humans are a puzzling species. On the one hand, we struggle to survive on our own in the wild, often failing to overcome even basic challenges, like obtaining food, building shelters, or avoiding predators. On the other hand, human groups have produced ingenious technologies, sophisticated languages, and complex institutions that have permitted us to successfully expand into a vast range of diverse environments. What has enabled us to dominate the globe, more than any other species, while remaining virtually helpless as lone individuals? This book shows that the secret of our success lies not in our innate intelligence, but in our collective brains—on the ability of human groups to socially interconnect and learn from one another over generations. Drawing insights from lost European explorers, clever chimpanzees, mobile hunter-gatherers, neuroscientific findings, ancient bones, and the human genome, Joseph Henrich demonstrates how our collective brains have propelled our species' genetic evolution and shaped our biology. Our early capacities for learning from others produced many cultural innovations, such as fire, cooking, water containers, plant knowledge, and projectile weapons, which in turn drove the expansion of our brains and altered our physiology, anatomy, and psychology in crucial ways. Later on, some collective brains generated and recombined powerful concepts, such as the lever, wheel, screw, and writing, while also creating the institutions that continue to alter our motivations and perceptions. Henrich shows how our genetics and biology are inextricably interwoven with cultural evolution, and how culture-gene interactions launched our species on an extraordinary evolutionary trajectory. Tracking clues from our ancient past to the present, *The Secret of Our Success* explores how the evolution of both our cultural and social natures produce a collective intelligence that explains both our species' immense success and the origins of human uniqueness.

boy swallows universe analysis: *The Merry-go-round in the Sea* Randolph Stow, 2008 This book is about childhood in Western Australia, and the effect of World War II on the community living there. It is semi-autobiographical.--Provided by publisher.

boy swallows universe analysis: *The Forgotten Letters of Esther Durrant* Kayte Nunn, 2020-03-03 A cache of unsent love letters from the 1950s is found in a suitcase on a remote island in this mysterious love story in the tradition of the novels by Kate Morton and Elizabeth Gilbert. 1951. Esther Durrant, a young mother, is committed to an isolated mental asylum by her husband. Run by a pioneering psychiatrist, the hospital is at first Esther's prison but soon surprisingly becomes her refuge. 2018. Free-spirited marine scientist Rachel Parker embarks on a research posting in the Isles of Scilly, off the Cornish coast. When a violent storm forces her to take shelter on a far-flung island, she discovers a collection of hidden love letters. Captivated by their passion and tenderness, Rachel determines to track down the intended recipient. But she has no idea of the far-reaching consequences her decision will bring. Meanwhile, in London, Eve is helping her grandmother, a renowned mountaineer, write her memoirs. When she is contacted by Rachel, it sets in motion a chain of events that threatens to reveal secrets kept buried for more than sixty years. With an arresting dual narrative that immediately captivates the reader, *The Forgotten Letters of Esther Durrant* is an inspirational story of the sacrifices made for love.

boy swallows universe analysis: *Race for the Iron Throne: Political and Historical Analysis of a Game of Thrones* Steven Attewell, 2018-05-16 A GAME OF THRONES How would you like to read A Game of Thrones with a PhD by your side? Steven Attewell, creator of Race for the Iron Throne (racefortheironthrone.wordpress.com), is one of the most insightful scholars in political theory and

boy swallows universe analysis: *Game Changer* Neal Shusterman, 2021-02-09 A timely, speculative thought experiment in perspective, privilege, and identity. —Kirkus The conceit behind Shusterman's latest is truly unique. While it exhibits the author's usual storytelling aplomb, it also manages to delve into more serious and timely subject matter, such as racism, sexism, and

homophobia. Despite these heavy topics, the story still moves at a lively pace and, thanks to a zany sci-fi twist, manages to pack in a few laughs as well. —Booklist All it takes is one hit on the football field, and suddenly Ash's life doesn't look quite the way he remembers it. Impossible though it seems, he's been hit into another dimension—and keeps on bouncing through worlds that are almost-but-not-really his own. The changes start small, but they quickly spiral out of control as Ash slides into universes where he has everything he's ever wanted, universes where society is stuck in the past...universes where he finds himself looking at life through entirely different eyes. And if he isn't careful, the world he's learning to see more clearly could blink out of existence... This high-concept novel from the National Book Award-winning and New York Times-bestselling author of the Arc of a Scythe series tackles the most urgent themes of our time, making this a must-buy for readers who are starting to ask big questions about their own role in the universe.

boy swallows universe analysis: Past the Shallows Favel Parrett, 2012-08-30 Shortlisted for the 2012 Miles Franklin Award, PAST THE SHALLOWS is a powerful and hauntingly beautiful novel from an extraordinary new Australian writer who is compared with Cormac McCarthy and Tim Winton. 'If you read only one book this year, make sure it's this' Sunday Times 'I loved Past the Shallows' Kevin Powers, author of The Yellow Birds Everyone loves Harry. Except his father. Joe, Miles and Harry are growing up on the remote south coast of Tasmania. The brothers' lives are shaped by their father's moods - like the ocean he fishes, he is wild and unpredictable. He is a bitter man, with a devastating secret. Miles does his best to watch out for Harry, the youngest, but he can't be there all the time. Often alone, Harry finds joy in the small treasures he discovers, in shark eggs and cuttlefish bones. In a kelpie pup, a mug of hot chocolate, and a secret friendship with a mysterious neighbour. But sometimes small treasures, or a brother's love are not enough.

boy swallows universe analysis: We Were Not Men Campbell Mattinson, 2021-06-01 A novel that punches you in the heart: the powerful, unbearably moving and ultimately uplifting story of twin brothers, Jon and Eden, as they grow up and begin to understand what it is to be men, and what it takes to knit a fractured family back together. Shortlisted for the Indie Book Awards 2022 Shortlisted for the Mud Literary Award 2022 This is a story about love. Love for nine-year-old twins Jon and Eden Hardacre is simple. Their mum, the creek that they swim in, each other - this is the love that they trust, love as clear and pure as sunlight, as honey, as water. But then there's a terrible accident. And in its wake, they develop a desperation - a yearning - to outgrow tragedy. They get older, compete with each other, fall in love with the same girl, and begin to realise that their lives - and who they love - demand something more. Something deeper. Richer. Heart-hammeringly original, intense and deeply moving, We Were Not Men is a powerhouse novel about all the various faces that love shows us and how sometimes, distracted by life, ambition or attraction, we take it for granted until it's too late - or almost too late. An unforgettable novel about the difference between getting older and growing up, from an astonishing new and original voice, pulsing with grief, hope and love. It is a revelation. 'As the author says, there is a difference between growing older and growing up, and this distinction, this tension, is at the heart of his tender, powerful debut novel... superbly intense... heartfelt.' The Australian 'Sparse, unashamedly intimate ... affecting' Books+Publishing 'A gut-punching, soul-restoring exploration of brotherhood and human bonds that bend but do not break. You'll dive in at the deep end and you won't want to stop swimming in Campbell Mattinson's words.' Trent Dalton 'Mattinson charts the rough terrain of grief with a tender, huge-hearted story of rivalry and love.' Mark Brandi

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