



# One Would Think the Deep

*Claire Zorn*

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## **One Would Think the Deep** Claire Zorn

It's 1997 and seventeen-year-old Sam is mourning the sudden loss of his mum ...

Sam has always had things going on in his head that no one else understands, even his mum. And now she's dead, it's worse than ever.

With nothing but his skateboard and a few belongings in a garbage bag, Sam goes to live with the strangers his mum cut ties with seven years ago: Auntie Lorraine and his cousins Shane and Minty.

Despite the suspicion and hostility emanating from their fibro shack, Sam reverts to his childhood habit of following Minty around and is soon surfing with Minty to cut through the static fuzz in his head. But as the days slowly meld into one another, and ghosts from the past reappear, Sam has to make the ultimate decision ... will he sink or will he swim.

## **One Would Think the Deep Details**

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Author : Claire Zorn

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# From Reader Review One Would Think the Deep for online ebook

## Dimity Powell says

Accomplished and artful. Brimming with emotion in every shade. Beautifully rendered, this moved me from all angles. Look out for my full review on Boomerang Books Blog, here:

<http://blog.boomerangbooks.com.au/rev...>

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## Bill says

Claire Zorn writes about surfers as though she's locked into their hearts and souls, riding every wave and rush with them.

She writes dialogue like she's been secretly taping the warts and all conversations of real people. Her magic tape recorder also finds its way into their thoughts and feelings, so we get to know them, truly. And most importantly, we care about them.

This is a beautifully crafted novel about love lost and regained, about families and the secrets that tear them apart, and which finally hold them together.

Great story. Great characters. Great writer.

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## Amanda says

*One Would Think the Deep* is Claire Zorn's third novel. Set in a fictional town between Sydney and Wollongong, we meet sixteen year old Sam Hudson. His mum has just died and he turns to the family he used to know, Aunty Lorraine, and her sons, Minty and Shane.

It was easy to feel for Sam, he and his mum have always been together, and he has fond memories of time spent with his grandparents, and with Minty. But his nan went missing one year, followed by the death of his granddad, and then his mum told him the rest of the family moved away and they no longer saw them. After watching his mum die on New Year's Eve, he gets in contact with his aunt, and she reluctantly comes to Sydney to fetch him.

Sam and Minty pick up their brotherly relationship as if there was never a seven year absence between them. And while Shane is less than welcoming, Lorraine doesn't seem to be put out, as long as Sam stays out of trouble - something he'd been struggling with in Sydney, and something that continues to plague him. Sam's family situation is complicated, and also harbours a secret, something he must discover. He also has to decide whether to forgive his nan who reenters his life.

Sam is so lost and lonely, his whole life seems to have changed course. He joins Minty in the surf daily, one

thing he starts to look forward to, as well as random sightings of local girl, Gretchen. He also finds solace in music, constantly listening to the radio and to tapes he's made.

This story was a beautiful ode to the Australian coast and to the 90s, I loved all the music references, they made me very nostalgic. The descriptions of Sam's time in the ocean were evocative, and it was beautiful to see him gain confidence and some purpose.

I adored the secondary characters too; Minty was a little charmer, Ruby was so beautiful and strong, and Gretchen was sweet and patient. All of them provided Sam with support, whether he was ready for it or not.

*One Would Think the Deep* is a sombre and moving story of loss, love, and family. Fans of Claire Zorn's writing will not be disappointed with the gorgeous Australian story.

Thank you to UQP for my review copy.

\*\*\*\*\* Earlier in 2016...

New Claire Zorn! Can it please be May now?

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### **Tehani says**

Another excellent read from Claire Zorn. I didn't love this quite as much as her first two books (which blew me away), but I certainly enjoyed it. I do wonder about the little trend in Aussie YA to set books in the 1990s - seems a bit too much nostalgia for the author and not far enough away from daggy for the reader! Still good though (well, I AM a teen of the '90s!), and made me cry - par for the Zorn course!

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### **Bonni says**

Claire Zorn does it again!

I loved being in a new world of hers, and after knowing the accuracy of her previous books, I completely fell into this one with trust.

The heartache never stops though, right from start to finish, I wanted to cry so many times, and finally did at the end when it was all too much!

I couldn't predict a single thing in this book, especially at the end, I did not see that coming until the paragraph before! I'm so happy I bought this and put it ahead of everything I had to read because it was every bit worth it! I'm in love with this book!

Also set in 1997, I appreciated the techno back step! So many times I thought "just drop a text" and realized that wasn't a thing yet! Which makes you think about situations a little more.

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## **Rosanne Hawke says**

Claire Zorn has done it again. *One Would Think the Deep* is set in a NSW coastal town in the surfing scene. Sam loses his mum, doesn't know his father and has to live with his estranged aunt and cousins. None of it is easy for Sam: the grief, the relationships or the direction of his life. My heart broke for him. I wished I was there, but he wouldn't have wanted my help. What could I have said? Better to just love him. These characters are so real. You'd think Sam's blond surfing cousin would be a stereotype, but there are no stereotypes in this novel, just real hurting people trying to get it together. It reminded me of Tim Winton--there's heart stopping tension and I didn't know how it would go for Sam. Like Winton and Flannery O'Connor, Zorn shows human nature with all its spits and blots of reality, but there is hope too. Grief is a self-absorbed time where life is distorted and crap. *One Would Think the Deep* bravely plunged into it all, dumping the reader with Sam's death waves.

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## **Trisha says**

So much goodness here.

Update: This book comes out today. I whipped up a longer review for Megan's blog and it's now posted . Megan made my words pretty with some surfing pictures.

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## **Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says**

This review appears on Happy Indulgence! Check it out for more reviews.

I'm so disappointed that I didn't enjoy *One Would Think The Deep*. I have given 5 stars to Claire Zorn's other novels, but this one just felt so different to her other novels.

Set in a small surfing town, the characters talk like "ridin' waves brah" or "epic ay!". It was difficult to get into because of the language and subject matter, as it really delves deep into hitting the waves and the music culture of the 90s.

I didn't realise until halfway through (funnily enough, when they mentioned playing Goldeneye on the N64 which gives me childhood nostalgia) that it was set in the 90s – mostly due to my own ignorance of not reading the blurb. When talk of Spice Girls and the Red Hot Chilli Peppers arose, you can tell the author is really trying to capture a heyday gone past.

As *The Protected* dealt so realistically with the sense of grief after losing a loved one, *One Would Think the Deep* brushed upon Sam struggling to fit into this new town after losing his mother. While he had to find his place in the novel, sadly I found the surfing talk and the music culture really distracting and I struggled to connect to him as a character. I didn't really feel much for him per se, which is unfortunate for a book that I picked up due to its moving subject matter.

The book focuses on the relationships that Sam has with his cousin Minty, his extended family and a brief

romance with Gretchen. It was great to see the brotherly relationship that the boys developed, and how there were some deep topics touched upon (in amongst all of the surfing lingo) like being true to yourself. I'm not sure why he pursued the relationship with Gretchen though, being in incredible self doubt at the start and also not being sure that he could end up with a girl like her. He definitely wasn't being fair to her, and I thought it was important for him to be honest about his feelings and coping with grief. He does come around, in the end though.

While Sam clearly deals with some darker feelings, he doesn't show it outwardly. He's quite reserved and reluctant to build new relationships, and there's a lot to forgive his family for. Unfortunately, his development is limited over the course of the novel which left me quite disappointed at the end.

The character I was invested in however was Ruby, who is adopted and suspected to be from an Aboriginal family. She's incredibly talented and it's obvious that Minty has feelings for her, and it was interesting seeing their best friend dynamic.

As someone who isn't interested in surfing culture or reliving the music of the 90's, I struggled to get into *One Would Think the Deep*. It all feels very dudebro, if you will, and I didn't know who the novel was targeted towards – adults who wanted to relive the 90s, surfing fans or males with all talk of balls and bums. None which fit my demographic.

Sadly, it's the first Claire Zorn book I haven't enjoyed, so if you're looking at hard hitting Aussie YA novels, I recommend *Sky So Heavy* or *The Protected*.

*I received a review copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **C.G. Drews says**

You know that moment when you read a good book and you just sit back and go, "YEAH I'M GONNA HUG THIS ONE AND PERHAPS SMILE WIDELY AND THEN SHRIEK ONCE OR TWICE AND NOD ENTHUSIASTICALLY"? Because I just had that feeling. **I really liked this book!** I mean, *duh*. I'm flapping about enthusiastically with my feelings for it.

I do have a small surfboard full of quibbles, but the facts of the day are:

- a) I couldn't put it down
- b) I loved Sam
- c) g'day Aussieness, mate

**The thing that got me is: THE WRITING.** It's so dang relatable and real. Now, I did find the dialogue a little insufferable at times because....it was realistic. So I'm sitting there going "USE YOUR WORDS, YOU SMALL MUTE GRAPES" but in reality? The conversations are basically how things would go down IRL. And it **all sounded so Australian!** Ahhh excuse me but that makes me happy! (AKA: this Aussie human reads too many American books clearly.)

I mean, look at this for just absolute Teenage Boy Australian speak:

"Yeah. He was always dodge, ay. Like, he'd disappear for weeks and if we asked Mum where he was she'd go crook at us. I mean, he didn't work much, so he musta been getting money from somewhere, ay. We were little, but. Didn't know any different. Looking back on it now,

though," Minty pulled his head back and widened his eyes. "It's like, shiiiiit, ay."

Okay, granted Minty is what we call a "bogan" meaning he has very small brains but somehow people like him still. And Sam, the actual narrator, is a little more put-together with his sentences. BUT ANYWAY. I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY REALISTIC.

**But let's talk about Sam because that's 10000% the reason I loved this book.**

Saaaam, oh what a tortured darling. So his mother just died of a brain aneurysm. One minute she's dancing, the next minute she's dead. IT'S REALLY HEART WRENCHING. **Sam's grief was so realistically portrayed omg.** I really felt it. And that's coming from the Vulcan, yo. And Sam is A HOT MESS. He's got a tendency to hit things + he has no idea what to do with his life + he's basically drowning in emotions he can't handle + he feels unwanted by relatives who are forced to take him in + he's super quiet+ HE'S A TRAGIC CINNAMON ROLL AND I LOVED HIM. **He is also awful at times, but I think he really matured over the book.** Character development = amazing.

**And the writing was FANTASTIC.**

How do I know? It was *addictive*. Humans are like "Caaaaait, come do This Thing." And I am like "THIS BOOK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW". (Unless they're calling me for dinner. Then I go. Because #priorities) And also **it nearly made me cry at the end** so there's that.

**I also appreciated that it tackled some big issues.**

- **Sexism** -- Sam's cousin, Minty, is horrible sexist as are all his friends. He treats and refers to women as objects. Sam kind of is a shallow fish and doesn't combat this at the beginning, but at the end he IS speaking up and IS telling Minty to stow it.
- **Men Can't Cry** -- absolute tripe, of course, but at one point Sam is just furious because he wants to cry over his mum but, as a boy, he feels like he can't. I *hate* that society even thinks this way and I'm glad the book mentioned it AND, later, let Sam cry.
- **Who You Are Is Defined By Other People:** this is...an interest topic because it IS true. People do make you. Sam's mother was his everything; moral compass, encourager, motivator. And with her gone, who was he? One of the secondary characters, Ruby, is an adopted Aboriginal but doesn't know her people. She wants to know if knowing would define her. Sam's aunt and cousins were horribly domestically abused and this totally shapes how they live and react to life.
- **Humanity Cannot Live on Chips Alone:** I mean, this sucks. How dare this be a reality. But apparently *no*, you can't just live on deep fried potatoes and DO NEED OTHER FOOD GROUPS AND THIS WAS HARD TO HANDLE but I appreciate the author tackling such heavy topics.

**OKAY BUT I DO HAVE SOME QUIBBLES.**

Um, rather large ones. Mainly (1) **I was pretty freaking bored over the surfing...** I mean, it was just all the description of the waves???? And the surfer lingo???? And like??? Mate, I don't care. I found myself skimming those parts. And then (2) **all the 90s music went WHOOSHT over my head.** I don't have a single small CLUE who the artists they were all talking about where, and they talked IN GREAT DETAIL ABOUT THEM. So unless you care about 90s music...there are a lot of sections to make you snooze there. I skimmed them too. #oops **And it confuses me why I loved the book so much when I really couldn't care less about two huge aspects?? MUST BE THE GOOD WRITING.** And Sam. Because tragic violent cinnamon roll.

**This was a definite "OMG GOOD SURPRISE!" read for me!**

I loved Claire Zorn's *The Protected* and *The Sky So Heavy*, but I think this is my favourite of all she's written

so far. AND CHECK OUT THAT COVER. TRIPPY, MAN. I loved how homey and Australian it felt and the writing and characters just totally sucked me in. And the beaches! BEACH BEACH I LOVE THE BEACH! Although I also crave chips now, dangit. If I had to retitle this book, it would be *One Would Think The Chip*. Because yum.

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## **rachel says**

Although I did struggle with Zorn's debut, *The Sky So Heavy*, earlier this year and the mixed reviews were a little bit intimidating, I knew that I would have to give this story a chance... and I'm so glad I did! *One Would Think the Deep* was such an unexpectedly complex and gritty story which reduced me to a sobbing wreck. Narrated by the blessed little tragic cinnamon roll that is Sam, I loved how Zorn explored so many important themes within in such an engaging storyline. There is no doubt in my heart that this book is going to worm its way into Australian classic literature in the future.

What really made me adore this story was Zorn's writing style. It was just so goddamn beautiful! I don't know how she managed to weave her gorgeous prose into a story with such a bogan setting but somehow, the contrast just worked. I loved how her descriptives brought the town to life and also managed to capture the characters perfectly. It was so rich and emotive, bringing the grief and sadness of Sam's story to the forefront of the reader's minds without making the overarching plot seem bleak. I cannot believe this is the same author who penned *The Sky So Heavy*!

I also adored how Zorn made this story so goddamn Aussie. For non-Australians readers, I have a feeling the language - particularly Minty's dialogue - is going to be a bit challenging. It holds literally nothing back and references so many Australians things. It was just fantastic. I guess it has gotten to the point where I am so used to not knowing what American (or occasionally British) words mean - and having to Google them - that it was nice to sit back and revel in the extreme Aussie-ness of the story. Minty honestly made me laugh so many times because I know a couple of mates that talk just like that and I couldn't help but think of them the whole time. I just really appreciate how authentic it was.

The characterisation was also on point. I adored Sam from the very depths of my soul. He was troubled and chaotic but also strangely relatable? You could tell that he had was just a genuinely good person going through a rough patch and I just wanted to reach into the pages and give him a big bear hug... or slap a little of sense into him so he'd stop underestimating himself and realise that he was brilliant and kind-hearted. His grief was so accurate and touching that I honestly lost wept a few times. The way Zorn created a flawed but redeemable protagonist and allowed us to delve into his development across the story was simply brilliant. I could have asked for a more well-written character!

However, Sam was not the only well-written character. All of the secondary characters were complex and gritty with the perfect amount of attention spent on developing them as well. Ruby was probably my favourite character. She was so feisty and spirited! I loved that she held back no punches and didn't let anyone else tell her what do or how to act. The fact that Minty and Shane, Aunt Lorraine, and Nana were all simultaneously unlikable, realistic and redeemable made me so happy. I love that Zorn made sure her supposed 'antagonists' - even Shane - had complex motivations and backstories so we were able to understand and even empathise with their situation. Getting to see the characters' relationships with Sam foster really made the story shine.

Something else that will please a lot of readers is that the minor romance which takes place is barely even a



romance. It was more of an exploration of Sam's growing relationship with Gretchen if that makes sense. I loved, loved, loved that it was not in the slightest bit sappy or over-the-top. It was more about how these two characters formed this supportive friendship and let it help each of them grow as individuals.

The feminist themes and discussions that were intertwined within the story were brilliant. How they made my heart sing with joy! This story truly revolves around Sam's grief and there are multiple discussions/presentations of how society pressured him to respond to this tragedy in specific ways. I loved that it touched on the idea that crying was considered an effeminate trait and how Sam really struggled with this. Ruby's characters also brought attention to the sexism present in the surfing industry during the 90s. I loved that none of it was glossed over. We got to see Shane and Minty with their obvious misogynistic viewpoint presents their side of the issue and we also saw how it affected the female surfers like Ruby. It was cleverly and seamlessly woven into the story without seeming at all preachy.

The thing which let this story down - and you could probably tell that this was heading towards a five-star read for me - was the ending. Oh God, it was awful! I love a good open ending. When most of the story is wrapped up or there is heavy indication of how the story will end past the final page, then an open ending is great for leaving readers with a bit of hope. However, this story did not wrap *anything* up. It just... ended. It was so abrupt! I hated being left in the dark and not knowing exactly what was going to happen to my beautiful little Sam. I am still so furious about this and it really brought my overall enjoyment down a notch.

### **Overall?**

This was such a beautifully written story. If you couldn't tell already, I adored it a whole lot. I thought Sam was an incredibly complex and well-written protagonist. I loved seeing his development across the story and the writing style truly captured his grief without making the story too depressing as a whole. The secondary characters, the setting, the themes - they were all done so well. I definitely recommend this book if you enjoy Australian contemporaries and you aren't afraid of a few tears.

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### **Emily O'Beirne says**

Lovely, lovely writing.

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### **Emily Mead says**

Claire Zorn can seriously do no wrong.

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### **Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says**

One Would Think The Deep is an honest and unflinching account of Australia and it's often backwater culture. Sam is an intelligent young man whose passion for music is only surpassed by his love of meteorology. Until his mother dies suddenly and leaves Sam stranded with his estranged aunt. Sam is a multilayered and complex young man, he feels the loss of his mother so deeply but rather than grieve, he uses the water as an escape. My heart ached for Sam. Losing his only parent and now having moved into a testosterone filled home with virtual strangers. Sam is from an era where boys are seen as effeminate and

their sexuality challenged when showing emotional weakness, it's the harden up mentality that is still instilled in young men around the country today.

As children, Sam and Minty were inseparable and although seven years has passed, their friendship remains effortless and steadfast. Minty is a character that on the surface, is jovial and carefree but feels the pressure of entering the professional surfing circuit and the expectations placed upon him by older brother Shane. Minty spends his days looking for the next big wave, while spending his nights in the company of local girls often at the expense of best friend Ruby's feelings. As much as I enjoyed Minty's character, he and Shane's attitude towards females was often deplorable.

'That her? Shit. Let me know when you're finished.'

The guys talked about every girl that walked past. Whether they'd do her with the lights on or off, that kind of thing. Minty wouldn't join in exactly, but he'd laugh. He'd call Shane a dirty bastard as if it were endearing to reduce girls you'd been with to bits of meat.

Sadly the male pack mentality also extended to Sam, who may not have engaged in crude comments but enabled those around him by staying silent. Sadly it reminded me of my own experiences as a teen, where casual sexism and misogyny were applauded by teens males.

I adored Ruby's character. Adopted by a local family, she's Minty's best friend who pines for more but refuses to become just another sexual devotee. Ruby is also struggling with her sense of self, feeling as she doesn't quite belong. She's a strong and determined young woman who wants to make something of her life beyond the sleepy coastal town.

Sam's love interest Gretchen was lovely. It's clear that she and Sam are attracted to one another, but Sam is struggling with his grief and is heading down the path of self destruction, refusing to hurt Gretchen in the process. He begins to find fulfillment in violence, the one condition that his aunt Lorraine will not stand for and has places boundaries upon his stay.

Not being a fan of the surf culture, I could still relate to Sam's struggle and how he depended on the water as a means of escape. I loved the musical references, especially being a long time fan of the late Jeff Buckley and remembering his death during the nineties when *One Would Think The Deep* takes place. His crooning often soothed the restless souls of teens all over the world with his poignant lyrics, myself included. I could vividly imagine Sam laying on his camp bed in Lorraine's spare room. Through music, it allowed me to connect with Sam's character on a deeper level.

Claire Zorn is an incredible author who isn't afraid delve into the Australian cultural landscape, creating realistic and remarkable characters. *One Would Think The Deep* will provide readers with a sense of nostalgia of a nonchalant era that was often brutal and politically incorrect. Sam's story is heartbreaking and incredibly poignant, ensuring a beautiful and introspective read.

<http://www.divabooknerd.com/2016/06/o...>

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## Lily says

*'You want something, you gotta get it for yourself. Sit around and expect to get handed it all on a silver platter,' she shook her head, 'you're in for a rude shock. I reckon you have a choice: you can listen to the radio and think Jeff fuckin' Buckley is singin' about you or you can listen and know that he's not and he never will be and the chances of anyone ever singing about you are tiny and the chances of your song being*

*played on the radio are smaller still'*

Honestly this book right here is what I love about Australian literature. There is something so powerful and unique about Australian authors and the Australian publishing industry; year after year we are consistently delivered books like 'One Would Think the Deep' by Claire Zorn, so beautiful and courageous and heartbreaking. This is a novel set to join an already long list of impressive home-grown young adult contemporaries including *When Dogs Cry* by Markus Zusak, *Pieces of Sky* by Trinity Doyle, *Yellow* by Megan Jacobson and *Thunderwith* by Libby Hathorn, a book that will undoubtedly appeal to lovers of the genre. This is, perhaps, a timely reminder about what makes the Australian voice so great. And let's be honest, young adult and contemporary fiction is something that Australian authors do, on the whole, really bloody well.

'One Would Think the Deep' is no exception to this rule. This is such a quintessential Aussie book, capturing the vibe of coastal life and days spent salty and sunburnt in the surf. The story follows seventeen year old Sam who moves from Sydney to the coast to live with his estranged relatives after the sudden death of his mother. Sam struggles to adjust to life in a family torn apart by past abuse, unspoken secrets and years of hostility and resentment as well as his own personal demons. Sam finds a steady solace in his renewed relationship with his surfing prodigy cousin, Minty, a bond that has survived their fractured families unscathed, as well as long days spent in the ocean, learning to ride the waves and keep his head above water.

I really loved this book. I feel like I've had such a good run with contemporary novels lately. I'm not sure whether I'm just in a place where books about grief and finding your way resonate with me a lot or whether I'm genuinely turning into a contemporary lover, but either way there was just something so quietly poignant and heart wrenching about this story, the characters and their journey.

Zorn masterfully explores a complex range of ideas, painting a vivid and thoughtful picture about what it means to grieve, the complexities of family secrets and familial bonds, domestic violence, belonging and identity, sexism, honesty and betrayal, psychological displacement and mental illness as well as dealing with the consequences of one's actions, all set against the late 90's Australian cultural landscape. This book is definitely a slow burn, contemplative and emotionally nuanced, it is set apart by its almost reflective quality and temperate pace which provides plenty of space between the words on the page to consider how the scars of the past can shape the present, the importance of your heritage in determining who you are as a person as well as what it means to choose who you want to become and what paths you will take in life. For readers who enjoy thought provoking novels and are unafraid of exploring tougher concepts this will undoubtedly become a favourite. It is a powerful and compelling book rich in ideas and delivered with a vulnerability and sensitivity that hits straight for the heart.

Sam is a refreshingly honest and real character, flawed but incredibly human, fighting an intense mental battle and weighed down by the past. He is lost and searching and making mistakes but also trying very hard to become a decent person, a person with a future and a person that would make his mother proud, despite the odds stacked against him and a life that has rapidly spiralled out of his control. There is something very emotionally compelling about his journey. In fact, every single character in this book felt so well actualised and realistic, each person strong and weak and interesting and *surviving* in different ways, shaped by their world but also defined by their choices. There is an almost confronting honesty and ugliness to Zorn's characters and her portrayal of the darker side of humanity, but also a truthful beauty in her ability to make these people ultimately likeable and redemptive. Zorn is clearly an author who understands people, is able to write characters that are inherently complex and incredibly layered with both authenticity and sensitivity, evoking a deep sympathy in the mind of the reader for the struggles each person is facing.

The tone and atmosphere of this novel are also perfectly crafted, raw and engaging, intense and unafraid to tackle aching and angry and crushing emotional depths. It is at times almost hard and ugly, a gritty take on the emotions of adolescence and the intensity of just trying to work out who you are meant to be. There is a harrowing honesty in Sam's descent into violence and depression, but also ultimately an uplifting quality as he pieces himself back together. The writing is descriptive and evocative, layered and thoughtful but not overly ornate. Zorn uses emotion and imagery to tell her story, keeping the language almost colloquial so as not to detract from these elements which then rise to the fore. The use of surfing and the ocean as a metaphor within this story is also used to powerful effect.

My only criticism is that I wanted more from Sam's character growth and his journey. I wanted to have that shining moment where everything just clicks into place and the entire book sort of realigns and comes together and you feel that sense of *rightness* in the story. I didn't quite get that in this book, and I so badly wanted that satisfying conclusion and sense of finality. Although, really, perhaps this was more realistic. A journey of ebbs and flows, big swells and receding tides, a story of taking the waves as they come and surviving the falls, trying not to drown and never giving up. Perhaps that is just life, there is no point where the story feels done and it all clicks, there's just the next wave and your willingness to tackle it and keep trying to be better, to keep your feet or, at the very least, get back up after you've been dumped off yet again.

4.5 stars, recommended to lovers of young adult contemporaries and fans of Australian literature.

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Maggie says**

Claire Zorn quickly became one of my auto buy authors. I devour her books -- in one sitting, no less! I cannot wait to read this.

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