

Bridge of Clay

Written by Markus Zusak

Alfred a Knopf Inc., October 2018

9780375945595, LIB, \$29.00

9781984830159, Hardcover, \$26.00

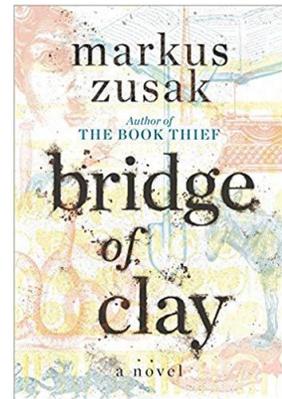
In an interview posted in May on Mashable.com, Markus Zusak noted, "...I've always tried to write a better book than the last one... that feels like the whole point." His latest book, *Bridge of Clay*, achieves this goal, and that is saying a lot, considering that *The Book Thief*, his previous book, was arguably the best book of the first ten years of the 2000s. *Bridges of Clay* is an epic family saga laced with secrets, dysfunction, mythology, fate, faith, life, death, growing, living, and love.

Upon their father's return, the five Dunbar boys, who have raised themselves since their mother's death, begin to learn family secrets, including that of fourth brother Clay, who will build a bridge for complex reasons, including his own redemption.

This book is the publishing event of the fall and is a must read for older teen and adult that enjoy rich and vivid storytelling. Libraries need to include this book in blockbuster quantities in teen and adult collections too.

Picked by Martin Warzala, Director, Collection Management & Technical Development

Teen Fiction



THE THIRD MUSHROOM

Written by Jennifer L. Holm

Random House Children's Books, September 2018

9781524719814, LIB, \$19.99

9781524719807, HRD, \$16.99

In this fantastic follow-up to *The Fourteenth Goldfish*, two-time Newbery Honor author, Jenni Holm, continues to explore themes of friendship, family, and science, in a style that *The New York Times* has recently dubbed "Warm, witty, and wise."

It's been a year since Ellie's scientist grandfather, Melvin, discovered a way to reverse the aging process using jellyfish DNA, resulting in both his becoming a teenaged boy, and an unorthodox friendship between he and Ellie. Now, the two are working on a new experiment for the science fair and, together, they uncover something

Middle Grade Fiction



that has real potential to save lives! Ellie is elated, and could use the win. Things have been weird between her and her best friend, Raj, since they went on a pseudo-date; her beloved cat is really sick; and other facets in her middle-school life are constantly evolving beyond her control. But science experiments, like life, are never full of guarantees. And soon, her scientific findings, as well as the ever-blunt, yet ever-loving advice from curmudgeon Melvin, lead Ellie to her biggest discovery yet: success—in science and in life—is a mix of hard work, experimentation, failure, and maybe even a little bit of magic.

At once sparse yet full of depth, playful yet gut-wrenchingly poignant, *The Third Mushroom* can be read as a sequel or a standalone, and is an excellent addition to Holm's repertoire and any library's middle grade collection.

Picked by Bobbie Bensusan, CATS Sales Manager- Eastern Region