

Please select one of the following synopses from the 2010 edition of *Undiscovered Voices*. If you require the full body of the story as it appears in *Undiscovered Voices* email me.

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ANNE M LEONE

Adèle

SYNOPSIS

My 9-12 ghost story, *Adèle*, is about shy 13-year-old Jaynie. She's escaped her pushy parents, siblings and teachers to spend the summer in Michigan with her great aunt. It's supposed to be the best summer of her life. But when a ghostly face appears in the window, Jaynie begins to discover her aunt's home hides a dark past of slavery, abuse and maybe even murder. Jaynie wants to help the ghost, but all memories and mementoes of the ghost's entire life will be erased unless Jaynie can find the courage to speak up for both of them.

DAVE COUSINS

Fifteen Days without a Head

SYNOPSIS

Fifteen-year-old Laurence Roach just wants a normal life, but it's not easy when your mum is a depressed alcoholic, and your six-year-old brother thinks he's a dog.

When Mum goes missing, Laurence tells nobody, afraid the boys will be taken into care. After two weeks avoiding discovery and surviving on little food or money, Laurence finally finds out what happened to his mother. And that's when the trouble really starts ...

NICK CROSS

Back from the Dead

SYNOPSIS

Thirteen-year-old Griff Lawford might have woken up with no memory, but at least he's not a zombie any more. Even better, the virus outbreak hasn't caused the end of the world. But before he can celebrate, Griff's luck and the zombie cure start to wear off. Losing control of his body and mind, Griff must battle to find his parents, search for a permanent cure and try very, very hard not to eat his friends.

EMILY GEORGE

From Darkness

SYNOPSIS

'From Darkness' tells the story of a decaying city. People are being Taken in their sleep by a Shadow. Sera searches for her mother and meets Leon, a boy with no past, but with a strange connection to this Shadow. They travel to a parallel world that underpins ours, where darkness is gaining strength. Here,

Leon must choose to accept his birthright, or allow Sera to accept it in his place.

JANE McLOUGHLIN

At Yellow Lake

SYNOPSIS

In *At Yellow Lake* three young strangers—Etta, David and English runaway Peter—take shelter in a North American lake cabin. Etta's escaped the clutches of her mother's dangerous boyfriend, Kyle; David's living out his Native Indian heritage; grieving Peter's there to bury a lock of his American mum's hair. When their sanctuary is shattered by the arrival of Kyle's gang, the teenagers must overcome their differences and their demons to stay alive.

CLAIRE O'BRIEN

Not Just the Blues

SYNOPSIS

One day I, Cordelia Codd, will be the greatest costume designer in the history of cinema. Meanwhile, my life is a steaming ELEPHANT DUMP. I wake Mum up, take out the rubbish, clean the bathroom, iron my school stuff, vacuum everywhere and do the shopping. Try juggling all that lot AND the agonies of year seven: impossible homework, treacherous boys and bitchy ex-best friends.

Dad has GOT to come back home and help me out.

PAULA RAWSTHORNE

The Truth About Celia Frost

SYNOPSIS

Celia is a friendless, freaky kid because of a disorder that leaves her in constant fear of bleeding to death. However, when she is the victim of a knife attack, Celia realises that her life has been based on a lie. Convinced that her mother is mad, she seeks freedom and finds friendship, but shocking secrets are uncovered and danger closes in as *The Truth About Celia Frost* begins to unravel with devastating effects.

LAUREN SABEL

Vivian Divine and the Days of the Dead

Vivian Divine and the Days of the Dead begins when Vivian Divine, teenage movie star, receives a DVD of her own death. She flees to Mexico hiding a terrible secret: she knows what happened to her mother the day she died. Soon Vivian is trapped between the worlds of the dead and the living, and discovers she's not who she thinks she is, and the truth about her mother is worse than she ever imagined.

LISA JOY SMITH

Slugs in the Toilet

SYNOPSIS

At Alvin's new school the teachers really do have eyes in the back of their heads: they're aliens, and so are the children. Alvin wonders if he'll ever fit in and stay out of trouble, but there's a bigger shock waiting - he's half alien too! Can Alvin find out what sort of an alien his dad is, and why it's such a secret? And where are all the slugs invading the school coming from?

ABBIE TODD

Blinding Darkness

SYNOPSIS

My novel is a fantasy adventure for teenagers. It's set in a future dominated by an elitist race called The Alaimsir who are obsessed with beauty. Amber's people are separated: moving from island to island as each is destroyed.

When Amber's home is invaded she loses her father and sister in the chaotic escape. Travelling with another family, she evades Alaimsir attacks and begins a quest to be reunited with her family.

YONA WISEMAN

Becoming Invisible

SYNOPSIS

Becoming Invisible is a work of young adult fiction inspired by the kids I worked with in Peru:

Lima's streets are littered with strays. Diego and his friends pay them little heed, stepping over them as they do the rubbish. They refer to them as the invisibles and treat them as such.

Until the day Diego becomes one.

The journals of Diego and his friends tell the stories of their quest to find him and his quest for survival in a darkly twisted underworld where he is far from invisible.

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