**BOOK**

**THE FIX-IT MAN**
By Bretti Bresnahan and Nicky Johnston
Reviewed by Sandy Fussell
sandyfussell.com

The Fix It Man is a thoughtful, caring picture book story exploring how grief and loss affect a young child. Usaama is searching for a man, very hands-on with a needle and thread, who can patch up his old toys. Usaama’s always on the move. “Don’t worry, I can fix it!” says Dad. “It’s what dads do.”

There’s a man who can’t fix it. His peach and honey lama makes him feel better but even his own size inside the patch. When the only thing that happens to him is to throw it without her, everything feels broken. Even Dad, although he doesn’t have any cracks or holes, something is wrong.

Usaama finds a sign for an advertisement. Sticks and tape don’t help so Dad finds his needle and thread again. Something about Usaama, too.

This is an important book, it’s hard to discuss grief and loss with a young child. The Fix It Man provides a way to do that. For ages 3 to 7.

**BOOK**

**THE BLUE CAT**
By Ursula Dubosarsky
Reviewed by Sandy Fussell
sandyfussell.com

The war was a long way away, but it’s creeping closer. Story is about a young boy, Tom, who is growing up in a Japan-influenced Australia. Sniping sounds and air raid sirens are heard around the town. The war threatens to change everything.

Tom is a young boy and things happen. He is sent to Germany to find his sister, Ida, who is attending the same school, and there they experience theheiro and the history of war. The war is a reality of life for Tom and his family.

Throughout the book, historical photographs of documents and objects help tell the story of the war. Before Ida arrives, Tom receives a government notice about refuges and families.

This is an unusual work of fiction that seamlessly blends narrative and primary sources. Informative, emotional, and thought-provoking. Almost always at times. For ages 10 to 14.

**FRICTION WINNERS**

Tim Wilks, S. Broderick
Lucy G.; S., Alister Park
Barbara K., L. C., Carlingill

**FUNDAY TELEGRAPH**

**FUN ZONE**

**THE PHANTOM**

**THE JUNGLE BOOK**

**TORDAK**

**FUNDAY TELEGRAPH**

**THE PHANTOM**

**THE JUNGLE BOOK**

**TORDAK**