

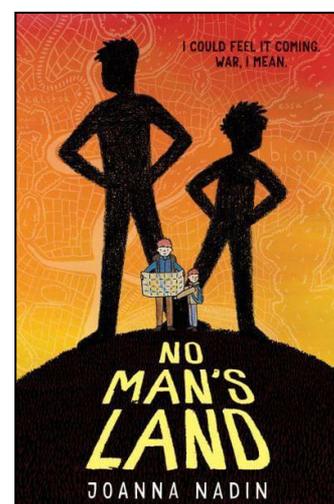
Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

No Man's Land

by **Joanna Nadin**
uclanpublishing

Albion (formerly England) is a far right country on the brink of war with Europe. There are curfews; supporters brandish their AAA tattoos (Albion-American-Alliance); traitors are imprisoned; girls are chaperoned; people from minority groups leave or are 'disappeared'. For their own safety, Dad sends 10-year-old Alan and his little brother to No-Man's Land, a neutral territory run by women. Can they build a sanctuary?

Shortlisted for the 2022 Little Rebels Book Award



Social Justice Themes: War; Inequality; Freedom; Refugees

Things to talk about

- No Man's Land has been described as a dystopian imagining of post-Brexit Britain. What do you think that means?
- At the beginning of the novel, on the surface, life in Albion seems normal, but there are clues that this is not the case. What are they?
- Alan and his brother are sent to Kernow for safety. What is Kernow and why does it exist?
- Alan remembers, "What Maggie had said. That there were different ways to resist. I saw them then. The women in the kitchen, whispering, drinking, planning. Not bad things. But not nothing either" (p244/5). How are the women of Kernow showing resistance?
- "I used to think I knew about heroes...It turns out not all heroes wear capes. And not all heroes carry guns." What do you think Alan learns about heroes by the end of the novel?

Activities

Joanna Nadin has said that she wrote No Man's Land because she "had a terrible sense of where the world might be heading" and although she didn't feel she had a lot of power to change things, she did have words: "Words can and have changed the world" Imagine that you are a journalist in Albion. Write an article that you think might have the power to change things for the better.

Extended

- What is Political Resistance? Research times when resistance has changed history.

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org