



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

3 March 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Book available for purchase: 29 Locks by Nicola Garrard.

On Monday 28 February, 40 Year 9 students listened to several readings by Nicola Garrard from her new novel and heard how her real-life experience of teenage gang crime, during her time as a teacher in London, inspired her.

I am glad to say that following the visit and talk for Year 9 we have signed copies of 29 Locks by Nicola Garrard available to buy.

If your child would like a copy, these will cost £8.99 through Scopay. Please follow the link at the end of this letter.

ABOUT THE BOOK (Financial Times YA Book of the year 2022)

Growing up in Hackney with his loving but troubled single mum, fifteen-year-old Donny's life has been shaped by poverty, crime and casual violence, including grooming by a local gang. When his mum is jailed for drugs offences, Donny is fostered outside London to the Hertfordshire countryside. Life in the rural Home Counties is a bit like landing on another planet but doing work experience on the Hertford Union Canal, Donny feels like he's finally found his purpose.

When Donny's posh new friend Zoe is offered a dubious modelling audition in London, the pair decide to 'borrow' a canal barge and navigate the 29 locks down to Kings Cross. As they start out on their journey the future looks as unpromising as Zoe's fake audition. But as each lock is navigated and conquered, their adventures take on a new dimension, and life will never be the same again.

Fast-paced, tragic and tender, 29 Locks is an unflinching depiction of urban teen life.

Please make a payment of £8.99 using this link (ordering open from 7 March – 18 March).

<https://www.scopay.com/login.html>

Yours sincerely

Mrs. N. Williams
Learning Resources Centre Manager



Principal: Stuart Edwards

Midhurst Rother College
North Street
Midhurst

West Sussex GU29 9DT

t 01730 812451

f 01730 813524

e enquiries@mrc-academy.org

www.mrc-academy.org