



***Dirt Bomb* – Fleur Beale**

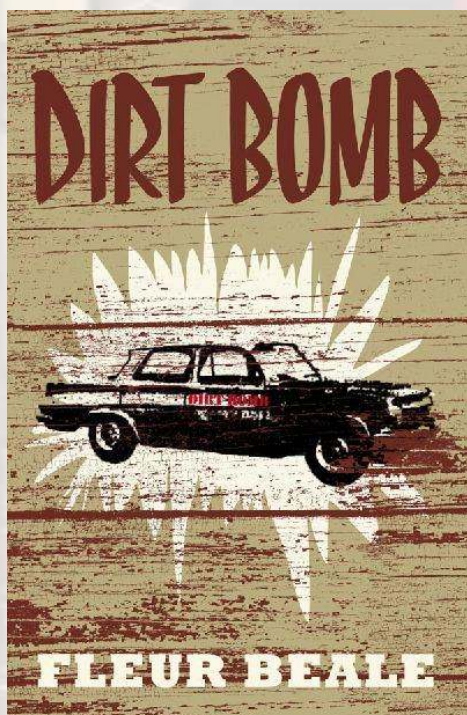
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On the way home from the beach teenage friends Jake, Buzz, and Robbie find an abandoned car in a ditch and Robbie comes up with an awesome plan; a paddock basher. The three mates decided to split the repairs three-ways or not at all. Not a problem if you have an income to pay for it. But Jake doesn't and is not keen on getting a job. Why should he keep sponging off the others to pay for the car parts and gas?

As the weeks go by, with the help of his Grandad, Jake finally comes around to the idea of getting a job, but what sort? Buzz talks him into helping out do some relief milking. A light goes on in Jake's head... good money, enough to pay off a fine, and to pay for the car parts and gas. Maybe he could save to get his learners license too.

The kiwi language, the subtle teen boy jokes, and the descriptions that are used in the story are excellent. The reader can smell and hear the New Zealand countryside, and imagine the faces of these boys as the story went along. A fabulous read for teenage boys 12 years and over - they won't be able to put this down. *Dirt Bomb* brought back many childhood memories for me, and is a priceless piece of kiwiana in a book.

Reviewed by Amanda-Jane McFadden RLIANZA, Children and Teenager's Librarian, Tauranga City Libraries.



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