



Yes – Deborah Burnside

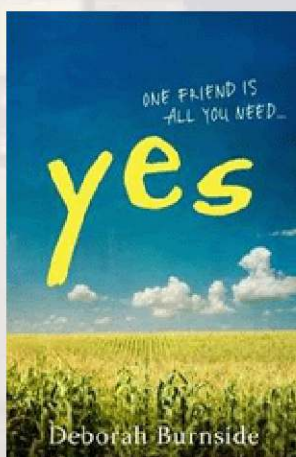
Published by HarperCollins Publishers (New Zealand), RRP \$22.99

Teenager Marty, or M&M as his mates call him, lives his life referring to the flashcards that his mother made him memorise as a child. Marty is different to other teens; he has trouble reading people, organising things, or pleasing his father. At school his mate Luke (or Legless, due to having only one and a half legs) attempts to involve him in another crazy venture and Marty decides it is futile to resist Luke's charms.

Luke believes that YES, the Young Enterprise Scheme, will make them rich and popular at school, as well as getting the girl of his dreams. But getting students to help with the project is harder than they realise, and then coming up with a winning project seems near on impossible. However, even as his school work suffers, Marty, with his interesting ways and ideas, comes up with a fail proof idea that changes their lives.

Set in a popular art deco city in New Zealand this is a delightful and pacey novel that deals with the life of a teenager who is on the Autistic spectrum. Dealing with issues of learning, school, love and a mother who is finding herself; Yes hooked me from the first page. The novel is beautifully written, using gentle yet sensitive language that leads to a well told story. Highly recommended for teens over 14 years.

Reviewed by Tauranga Teenage Services Librarian Amanda McFadden.



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