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***Fenn Halflin and the Fearzero* by Francesca Armour-Chelu**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$18.99

Fenn lives with his grandfather in the wetlands of a flooded world. He is forbidden to swim, and he's hidden away from sight.

The reason for this becomes clear when Fenn learns that he is the son of two resistance leaders, and the dreaded Terra Firma will stop at nothing to find him. When Chillstone, the Terra Firma leader, comes to the wetlands, Fenn is sent away and has to survive as best he can in a harsh world.

This is Francesca's first book and she has done a good job with the characterisation and pacing. It is an exciting read featuring well-drawn, believable characters. The world is interesting, but a little more information about it would have been good. It almost felt like reading the second book in a series, and missing out on some of the world-building. It is, however, the first of two books, and ends on a cliff-hanger.

Fenn Halflin and the Fearzero is sure to appeal to children aged ten years and up who enjoy a good adventure with plenty of danger, and don't mind some unanswered questions.

Author's website:

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Reviewed by children's librarian, Penny Guy

