

# GIRL DEFECTIVE BY SIMMONE HOWELL



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From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Australian author Howell brings stateside her intriguing story of a coming-of-age summer for 15-year-old Skylark Martin. The teen lives above the family record store in a small Melbourne suburb with her home-brewing, stuck-in-the-past father, and endearing younger brother, Gully, whose social issues have manifested as an obsession with being a detective and near-permanent wearing of a pig-snout mask. Sky is blunt in her depictions of them and her mother, who left the family to reinvent herself as performance artist Galaxy Strobe ("What can you say about your mother in darkness, wearing an outfit fringed with seventy thousand tampons?"). Flawed but likable Sky is drawn to the 19-year-old, enigmatic, worldly Nancy, who introduces her both to recreational drugs and underground parties. There's an element of mystery to the story, with posters around town of a girl who died and has some connection to both those parties and the record store's attractive new hire, Luke. But while Nancy is outrunning her past, and Luke seeks to make sense of his own, Sky finds a future that holds some promise. Howell's writing is engaging and well suited to the pacing of the story, and the Aussie references are part of the charm.—Amanda Mastrull, *Library Journal*

Review

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"Charming, funny, fun...a delightful journey through an Australian teenager's summer of weird and cool." (Rachel Cohn, *New York Times* bestselling co-author of *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*)

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In the tradition of High Fidelity and Empire Records, this is the literary soundtrack to Skylark Martin's strange, mysterious, and extraordinary summer.

This is the story of a wild girl and a ghost girl; a boy who knew nothing and a boy who thought he knew everything.

It's a story about Skylark Martin, who lives with her father and brother in a vintage record shop and is trying to find her place in the world. It's about ten-year-old Super Agent Gully and his case of a lifetime. And about beautiful, reckless, sharp-as-knives Nancy. It's about tragi-hot Luke, and just-plain-tragic Mia Casey. It's about the dark underbelly of a curious neighborhood. It's about summer, and weirdness, and mystery, and music.

And it's about life and death and grief and romance. All the good stuff.

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- 320 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful prose, but doesn't fully live up to it's potential.

By Lynx

Sky is trying to find her place. In the world, in her personal relationships and even in her family. Her mother left long ago, pursuing dreams of art and recognition leaving her caring but alcoholic father to raise herself and her eccentric younger brother Gully. The one constant in life has been 'The Wishing Well', their beloved vintage record shop. But with a developer sniffing around for ways to claim the property even that is on shaky ground. With her best friend Nancy drifting further away and her new crush Luke dealing with a secret

tragedy it's up to Sky to figure out a way to hold it all together, or decide to let it all go and begin anew.

This book had a lot of potential but never quite lived up to it. With one main mystery surrounding the plot line the other storylines felt at times like filler, something you want to get through quickly to get back to the real story. There are also many great side characters that I would have loved to see more of that don't get the attention they deserve. That said, Simone Howell fills the pages with beautiful prose and an intelligent heroine, making this a worthwhile read and certainly an author I'll be following in the future.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

An 'Empire Records' style book? YES!

By Sab H.

There's this movie which happens to be my favorite movie in the world called Empire Records. It is one of the most brilliant young adult portrayals of work dynamics and happens to be perfectly intertwined with music in story of a record shop and the employees that work there. It marked my youth and it marked my life and I've seen it more time than I can count. So, as an avid YA reader, when I read the words Empire Records in the blurb of a YA book, it had to be mine instantly.

Australian authors have some secrets they don't seem to share with anyone. Every Aussie book I've read has unparalleled spot-on dialogue and even if they are realistic they have a magical detached quality that seems to attach the reader that much more. This book was fantastic and yes it revived all the Empire Records feelings and that was amazing to experience.

I will update this review with more details closer to the release date.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Takes me back

By Jennifer Miller

Summary:

Sky Martin narrates her tale of dealing with those around her and growing up. Her dad owns a record shop and is an alcoholic. Her mother left them to pursue a rock career and has no interaction with them. Her younger brother fancies himself a detective and is determined to solve two mysteries that go through the book: vandalism and abduction. An older girl that Sky is friends with, and Luke the new hire. Sky relates her feelings of interactions with all of these characters intermixed with discussions of life and the crimes going on around her.

My thoughts:

I really enjoyed this movie in an 80's teen movie kind of way. The narrator has the same witty voice that you expect in those long loved movies and each character is extremely flawed without the promise of perfection. I love how this novel shows just what is without the ideal clouding everything. The all over the place writing matches with the narrator and adds more to her character. Overall, I would recommend this book to adults that want to reminisce about their teenage years, and older children that are able to handle the scatterbrained aspect.

See all 32 customer reviews...



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Yeah, reviewing a publication **Girl Defective By Simone Howell** could add your good friends checklists. This is one of the formulas for you to be successful. As understood, success does not mean that you have fantastic things. Comprehending as well as knowing greater than other will offer each success. Beside, the message as well as perception of this Girl Defective By Simone Howell can be taken and selected to act.

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