



## Here's a real YA gem from Aussie author

BOOK REVIEW by Mark Holgate - Little Red Gem by D L Richardson

AUSSIE author D L Richardson's fourth offering into the Young Adult fiction market hits the right mix of the paranormal and romance to provide a quality offering to teenagers, that isn't filled with blood and gore.

On the back of the success of previous efforts in *Bird With A Broken Wing* and *Feedback*, the former Sydney author, who now lives in Batemans Bay has taken her craft in the direction of young adult romance, with what looks to be great success.

So what's *Little Red Gem* actually about, here's the wrap of the story:

*With the aid of bad advice from a ghost who is trapped by a curse, a little bit of magic courtesy of her unsuspecting half-sister, and a televised music talent show coming to town to hold auditions, Ruby makes more of a mess in death than she ever did in life.*

*Love can make you do crazy things as Ruby Parker discovers when she dies and returns from the grave to unearth how much Leo Culver loved her.*

*With the aid of bad advice from a ghost*

*who is trapped by a curse, a little bit of magic courtesy of her unsuspecting half-sister, and a televised music talent show coming to town to hold auditions, Ruby makes more of a mess in death than she ever did in life.*

*Can she fix everything before it's too late? Or will she spend eternity as a ghost, haunted by the unknown depths of Leo's love? Either way, one thing Ruby learns is that while love can make you do crazy things, it can make you do amazing things too. But at what cost?*

With an unexpected end to this ghostly story that will surprise even the most ardent reader of young adult fiction, this book offers plenty to hold onto throughout the story.

Older readers too will find this a quick and easy book to get into, with not only the paranormal aspects of the novel, but a great link to the music within the story, and more particularly the role lyrics can play in telling a story.

The author, a former musician who once fronted well known Sydney bands *Siren* and *ScreamWorld*, has even recorded some of the tracks featured within the story, and put them on You Tube for readers to listen to.

## Newcastle author gets published

MEAL breaks for most shift workers are usually spent relaxing, idling about or even taking short naps. Not Newcastle author Mat-



■ Newcastle author Matthew Keegan with his book *A Darker Green*.

## REC

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### Ingredients:

6 eggs  
2 tbs thicken  
2-3 tbs good-  
30g unsalted  
2 slices of but  
Leg ham off th  
Basil leaves (t

### Method:

Step 1 - Us  
beat the eggs an  
salt and pepper  
to combine.

Step 2 - Melt  
stick fry pan o  
Add the egg mix  
ring, for 3-4 mi  
is scrambled int  
on toast with  
with basil leaves

## Is you off th

CALLING al tiredness, fatig blood pressure, l problems limit