

Book Club

In a new regular feature for Essex Life, Emma Jackson picks out some local literature that she has enjoyed and shares her favourites

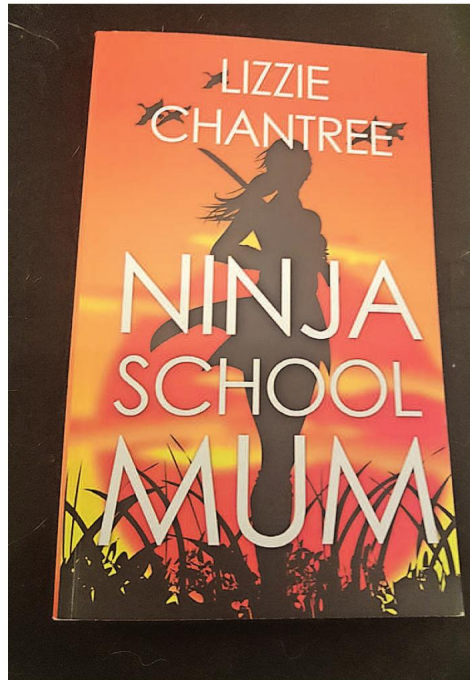
Book Review

NINJA SCHOOL MUM

I loved this book so much that the wonderful Lizzie Chantree has become one of my favourite authors and I can't wait to buy the rest of her books. To start with, the cover is bright and the title Ninja School Mum makes you wonder what on earth a school mum could do that makes her a ninja. They are a great combination and very eye catching.

The book itself is a lovely romance book, but don't be fooled, it's also a great and exciting read that has a feisty and strong woman at the centre of it. There were quite a few 'laugh out loud' moments and I found the book hard to put down.

The book is so well written, especially the main characters of Skye, Thea and Zack. You end up loving every single one of them. Skye is a spy and very secretive, trying to protect her son as well as fitting in. Thea is a single mum and looks after her niece for extra money. She's bored of her life and wonders what Skye is really about, but Thea has secrets of her own. Zack finds himself the owner of a crumbling estate in the village and also a single parent of a challenging daughter. When it came to the ending, which I wouldn't want to ruin for any of you, this was one I really wasn't expecting.



*Ninja School Mum by Lizzie Chantree
Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
Availability on Amazon £6.99 (paperback)
Kindle edition £1.99*



A BIT ABOUT EMMA

My name is Emma-Lou Keirs Jackson, I'm 30 this year and I live in Maldon. I love reading and reviewing books as well as writing myself. I have recently completed a fiction writing course and am currently studying an online children's fiction writing course through The Writers Bureau. I don't have any kids, but I have two lovely kittens.

You can read more from Emma or get in touch with her via facebook at [loulousbookpage](#)

Book Review

THE BLACK BOY

This book has been a complete eye opener and was an amazing read. Set in Danbury and its surrounding villages, this book is full of excitement, intrigue, romance and jealousy, all at a time of great risk and ultimate punishments. It's not normally my type of book to read, but I really enjoyed discovering more about Danbury and all of the surrounding villages in Essex. I think if it was my type of book it would definitely be a page-turner for me. The characters are described in a brilliant way and you can picture them all so clearly.

William Horne, son of John Horne, was a brick and tile kiln business owner in the small hamlet of Horne Row, near Danbury. In the mid 1700s he decided to

embark on a new venture and acquired The Black Boy alehouse. Like so many landlords of his day, to earn a few extra shillings, he traded in goods on the black market with help from his friend and father-in-law Matthew Rawlings, an oyster dredger from Mersea. For a while things go well for them, until one night Rueben Belbin happens upon their conversation and reports back to the infamous and evil Jeremiah Spalding, the leader of a notorious gang of cut-throat tinkers and smugglers from Tiptree Heath.

The Black Boy gives you a glimpse of what life was like back in the 1700s with tales of smuggling and the black market, highlighting the jealousy, the risks people took and the punishments they received.

*The Black Boy by Michael Dixon
Whitehead Balls
Cover Illustrated by John Durham
Publisher: Cotswold
ISBN: 9781527211933
Available at Waterstones Chelmsford and Foyles Book Shop in Chelmsford to be ordered, priced £6.49.
Paperback only.*

