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***Coming Home to Roost* by Mary-Anne Scott**

Publisher: Longacre Press

RRP \$19.99

Elliot, or Rooster as he is known to his friends, is seventeen, and back home after living for a brief time with now ex-girlfriend, Lena. With no job, and difficulties getting onto a course, his Dad sends him to work and live in Wellington with an old acquaintance, a former naval officer, whom Elliot has never met.

You made the choice to quit school and leave home and now you have to make the best of things. Every choice has a consequence, Elliot.

Although he will be away from family and friends, Elliot realises this is an opportunity to get ahead, and also an escape from Lena, or so he thinks.

Arnie specialises in surveillance and has his own business. Elliot works with him learning the electrical ropes. Arnie tends to be a bit grumpy at times, but is also full of advice which initially Elliot sees as nosiness. However, a bond gradually develops and Arnie helps Elliot confront some of the relationship problems he has to face up to.

This is a fast paced novel covering typical teenage situations, with a few insights into meeting a young girl from another culture. The characters are believable and relevant.

Snakes and Ladders, by the same author, won the 2013 young adult category of the Children's Choice award at the NZ Post Book Awards.

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Reviewed by: Retired librarian, Judy Sail

