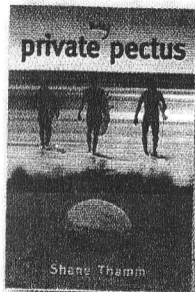


## My Private Pectus

Shane Thamm



This is a superb, humorous and at times painful view of the culture of young men. At times confronting, it is a candid view of the struggles faced by teenage boys on their

journey to adulthood. It focuses on Jack, whose frailties are fuelled by his pectus excavatum, a deformity of the chest.

This condition cultivates a negative belief in himself, especially when compared with his best mate Gez, who is perfect and popular. Jack lives alone with his controlling father, a former army man, who tries to recreate his failed life by moulding Jack to his measure.

Jack's agony increases when he becomes interested in Sam, a stocky

girl with a unique presence whom he finds attractive regardless of the brutally degrading talk dished out by his raunchy mates regarding her behaviour. He dares to go for it, accepting all the ridicule and insecurities that accompany his attempt. He also finds the courage to stand up for what he wants in life, regardless of the outcomes.

★★★★ Ford St \$19.95

*Reviewed by Anastasia Gonis*

*Age guide 16+*