

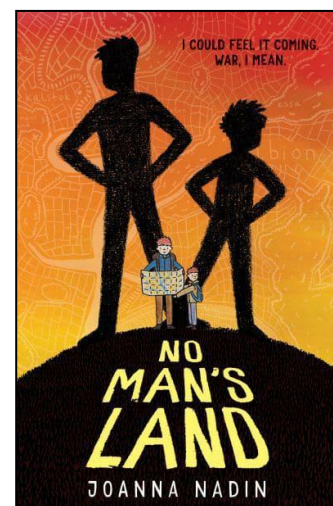
## Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

# No Man's Land

by **Joanna Nadin**  
uclanpublishing

Albion (formerly England) is a far right country on the brink of war with Europe. There are curfews; supporters brandish their AAA tattoos (Albion-American-Alliance); traitors are imprisoned; girls are chaperoned; people from minority groups leave or are 'disappeared'. For their own safety, Dad sends 10-year-old Alan and his little brother to No-Man's Land, a neutral territory run by women. Can they build a sanctuary?

**Shortlisted for the 2022 Little Rebels Book Award**



**Social Justice Themes: War; Inequality; Freedom; Refugees**

### Things to talk about

- No Man's Land has been described as a dystopian imagining of post-Brexit Britain. What do you think that means?
- At the beginning of the novel, on the surface, life in Albion seems normal, but there are clues that this is not the case. What are they?
- Alan and his brother are sent to Kernow for safety. What is Kernow and why does it exist?
- Alan remembers, "What Maggie had said. That there were different ways to resist. I saw them then. The women in the kitchen, whispering, drinking, planning. Not bad things. But not nothing either" (p244/5). How are the women of Kernow showing resistance?
- "I used to think I knew about heroes...It turns out not all heroes wear capes. And not all heroes carry guns." What do you think Alan learns about heroes by the end of the novel?

### Activities

Joanna Nadin has said that she wrote No Man's Land because she "had a terrible sense of where the world might be heading" and although she didn't feel she had a lot of power to change things, she did have words: "Words can and have changed the world" Imagine that you are a journalist in Albion. Write an article that you think might have the power to change things for the better.

### Extended

- What is Political Resistance? Research times when resistance has changed history.

**For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit [littlerebels.org](http://littlerebels.org)**