Author Laura Solomon has proved herself over the years to be an author of original and imaginative fiction. This, her latest novel, is no exception.

Told mostly in episodic form, the novel concerns the email correspondence between an elderly novelist based in London and a young mum in New Zealand. Although they are worlds apart in both a physical sense and life experience, Hilary and David are both lonely individuals.

Hilary, as a solo mum, is struggling to raise two boys - Harry who has Down Syndrome and Wyatt with ADHD. Wyatt, especially, is so badly behaved it's a wonder Hilary doesn't push him off a cliff. Highlights include shooting a staple gun in class, slashing a sofa, and kicking in a door. No wonder Hilary is close to a nervous breakdown.

"She feels fragile, skinless, a vulnerable leaf caught up in the swirl of a storm."

Yet Hilary has David's ear to confide in, which makes all the difference. It is through his support that she gets through the hard times, and works hard on a university degree.

David himself overcomes his agoraphobia, finishes his novel, makes new friends, and reunites with a long-lost son. This special correspondence helps both of them to extend and improve their own lives.

This is an absorbing novel, as intimate as a personal conversation, in which two individuals share their ups and downs.