

Paper Cranes Don't Fly by Peter Vu

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Reviewed by: Abigail Cini

Adam Auttenberg is seventeen years old and facing the toughest challenge of his life. Diagnosed with a brain tumour that has become aggressive over the years, Adam has spent most of his life in and out of hospital. He longs to feel normal; to go to school, attend parties and not be the subject of bad news. But Adam is determined that the illness will not define him.

For Adam, the most important things in his life are his family and friends. Standing by his side are AJ and Tess, the best friends he has known since primary school. They are inseparable and their friendship was resilient to Adam attending a different high school, a situation that can test friendships. But their biggest challenge is yet to come when Adam is readmitted to hospital for another operation. It is at the hospital that he meets Rachael, a fellow patient, and the two become fast friends.

Peter Vu's powerful debut novel offers a sensitive insight into the life of patients with a terminal illness. *Paper Cranes Don't Fly* is a story about the power of unconditional love, friendship and compassion. It tells of the bonds we make that carry us through the darkest of times. An exquisite blend of humour and heart-wrenching moments will captivate any reader.