

THE CURRENT 2025

Electrifying reads for ages 15+
As recommended by our librarians



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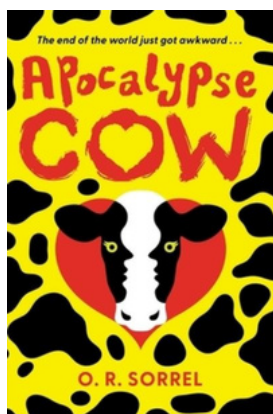
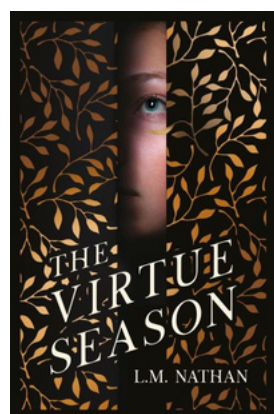
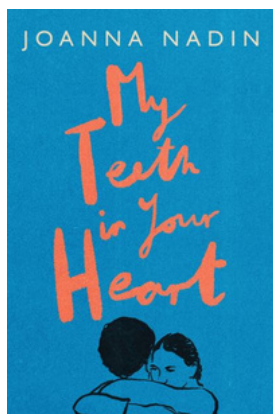
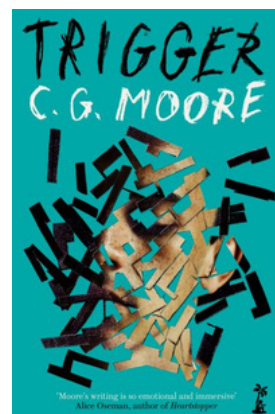
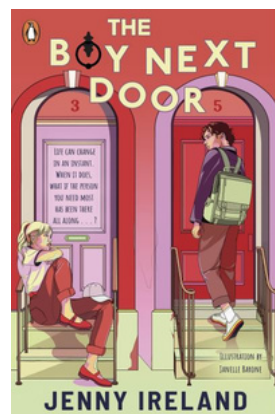
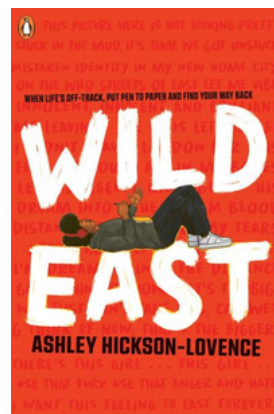
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DEMONS & DYSTOPIA



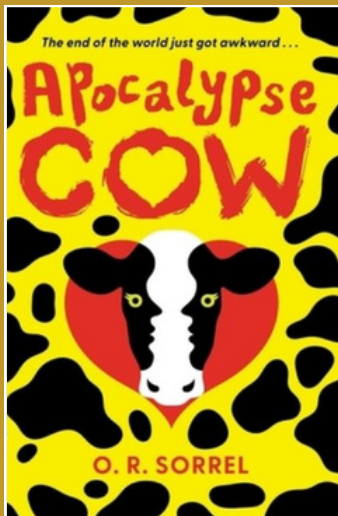
The Virtue Season L. M. Nathan

ISBN: 9780702330926

Scholastic *July 2024*



Manon Pawlak is an 18-year-old debutante entering the "Virtue Season," a ritualistic process designed to pair individuals with genetically suitable mates. However, the system is far from perfect—Manon's best friend, Agatha, has been "decommissioned" due to health issues, leaving her scarred and an outcast. As Manon navigates the complexities of the Virtue Season, she uncovers unsettling truths about her world and its oppressive systems. Themes of personal freedom, societal control, and forbidden love are woven throughout the narrative, making it both thought-provoking and emotionally gripping. The book has been described as a mix of *Bridgerton* and *The Hunger Games*, with echoes of *The Handmaid's Tale*.



Apocalypse Cow O. R. Sorrel

ISBN: 9781916558144

Guppy Books *June 2024*



Mel never imagined the apocalypse could be so awkward... When all animals on Earth mutate into venom-spewing, exploding creatures, she finds herself seeking refuge with two her least favourite people — Ella, her former best friend turned bully, and Dorian, the new boyfriend of her lifelong crush. The trio must learn to live together, while trying to survive long enough to sort out their issues. This razor-sharp and darkly humorous novel offers a refreshingly original twist on the dystopian genre, showcasing that not even the end of the world can eclipse the hilarity of teenage angst.



The Invocations Krystal Sutherland

ISBN: 9781471410949

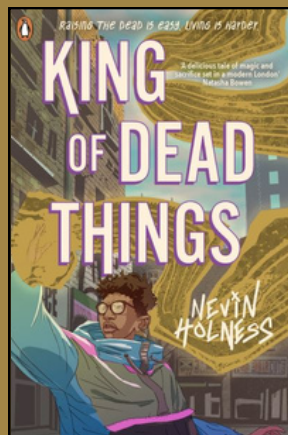
Hot Key Books *January 2024*



Zara, Jude, and Emer are three lost souls, each driven by their own ambitions: a teen determined to resurrect her murdered sister, an exiled heiress desperate to reclaim her soul from three demons, and a curse-weaving witch seeking vengeance for her slaughtered coven. As they band together and travel across the UK and Ireland to solve a series of murders, they quickly realize their fates are more deeply entwined than they ever imagined. This gripping and thrilling read masterfully blends gory horror with heartfelt moments and crackling dialogue, challenging readers' perceptions of what it truly means to be evil.



fAmILy



King of Dead Things Nevin Holness

ISBN: 9780241635452

Penguin Books *March 2024*



This fast-paced fantasy, steeped in Afro-Caribbean folklore, follows two black teens navigating the hidden magical underworld of London. Eli, who can heal wounds and manipulate magic, has no memory of his past but has found a home with his best friends in a magical sanctuary disguised as a Caribbean restaurant. Malcolm, burdened by inherited death magic and a troubled family legacy, is just trying to keep his head above water. Their paths collide when they are tasked with retrieving the fang of the leopard god Osebo, a powerful artifact capable of consuming magic and even killing a god. This new alliance will soon be tested as an ancient and malevolent power threatens to rise and their own personal demons are brought into the light.



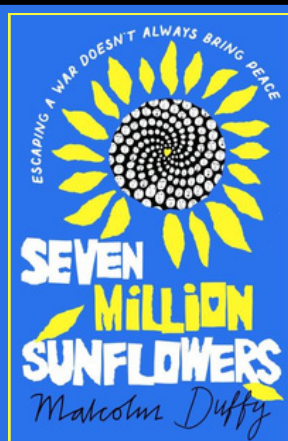
Glasgow Boys Margaret McDonald

ISBN: 9780571382972

Faber & Faber *May 2024*



This tender and insightful coming-of-age novel delves into the lives of Finlay and Banjo, two teens navigating the challenges of the care system. Once as close as brothers, Banjo and Finlay haven't spoken in years after an incident in their group care home. Now Finlay is in nursing school but, as a care-leaver with no parental guidance, he is struggling to make sense of adult life. Banjo is just trying to stay out of trouble, especially now that he has found a foster family worth sticking with. McDonald's debut is a heartfelt exploration of identity, community, and the Scottish working class.



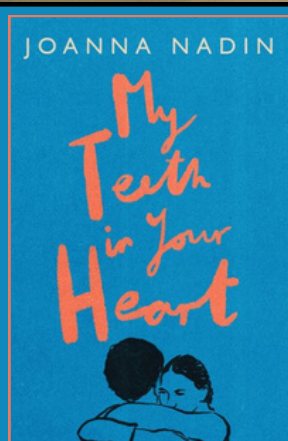
Seven Million Sunflowers Malcolm Duffy

ISBN: 9781800241732

Zephyr *February 2024*



Forced to flee the devastation of war, Kat, her mother, and her brother Marko leave Ukraine behind to start anew with a host family in the UK. While her father remains on the frontline, fighting against the Russians, Kat is haunted by the fear that she may never see him again. Slowly, the family begins to rebuild their lives in Kingston upon Thames; Kat forms a bond with her new housemate, Georgia, and meets Felix at a party—a connection that quickly blossoms into romance. But Marko, consumed by a longing to return to Ukraine and join their father in the fight, is furious to discover that Felix's stepfather is Russian. Though they've escaped the violence of war, trouble is looming, threatening to unravel the fragile peace they've found.



My Teeth in your Heart Joanna Nadin

ISBN: 9781916747142

UCLan Publishing *July 2024*

In 1974, Anna lives in Cyprus, an island simmering with political unrest. She falls for a local boy named George, but an unplanned pregnancy changes everything. Five decades later in England, Billy is struggling—grieving her grandmother's death, navigating her mother's drinking, and blaming herself for a fractured friendship. When Billy stumbles upon her grandmother's diary, she becomes immersed in Anna's tumultuous past, uncovering secrets that could upend her family. Told through two compelling perspectives, *My Teeth in Your Heart* is a heartfelt exploration of love, resilience, and the bonds that connect generations.

NO GRIT

NO PEARL

LOUISE FINCH



Iris Green, Unseen Louise Finch

ISBN: 9780702331084

Scholastic *May 2024*



"Iris Green is grey." That's the graffiti scrawled across the school bathroom stalls, a cruel reminder of how others see her—dull, boring, and undeserving of her popular boyfriend Theo Hastings. Iris feels invisible. But when she catches Theo and her best friend, Olivia, kissing, she truly becomes invisible—both figuratively and, to her shock, literally!

Struggling with anxiety, heartbreak, and her newfound invisibility, Iris retreats to the one place that feels safe: the darkroom. Photography has always been her escape, though she doubts her own talent. Then Baker enters her life, seeing more in Iris than she's ever seen in herself. Slowly but surely, he helps her step out of the shadows—learning to embrace her art and find a way back to herself.

TRIGGER
C. G. MOORE



Trigger C. G. Moore

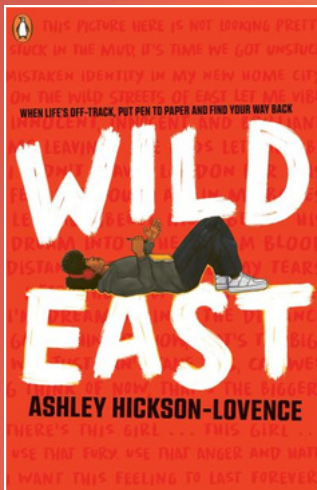
ISBN: 9781915071583

Little Island Books *March 2024*



A powerful novel in verse that confronts the harrowing realities of rape and sexual assault. When Jay wakes up in a park, his body battered and bruised, he has no memory of the night before. With the unwavering support of his best friend, Lau, he makes it to the hospital, determined to piece together the fragments of what happened.

As Jay begins to unravel the mystery, he notices unsettling clues—like his boyfriend, Jackson, suddenly flaunting a new Rolex and computer. Where did the money come from? Desperate for answers, Jay struggles to face a reality that feels both elusive and unbearable. Yearning for justice, and with the encouragement of his new friend, Rain, Jay embarks on a courageous journey to uncover the truth and reclaim his voice.



Wild East Ashley Hickson-Lovence

ISBN: 9780241645444

Penguin Books *May 2024*



After the tragic loss of his best friend in a random stabbing, Ronny's world is turned upside down. His mother, determined to keep him safe, moves the family away from London to Norwich. In this unfamiliar town, Ronny faces the challenge of starting over at a predominantly white school, far removed from everything he knows.

Despite the upheaval, Ronny begins to find his footing. His talent for English and poetry shines, earning him recognition from teachers and he starts making friends. But trouble arrives in the form of Malachi, the local bad boy determined to involve Ronny in criminal behaviour. All Ronny wants to do is hang out with his mates and write, but will Malachi leave him be? A powerful and heartwarming novel in verse.



I Shall Never Fall in Love Hari Conner

ISBN: 9781398526709

Simon & Schuster Children's *October 2024*

In 19th-century England, three teens struggle with the roles society, and their families, expect them to play. Charlotte, a talented seamstress, wants to find a practical marriage match but finds herself drawn to a young farmer. Her cousin Eleanor NEVER wants to get married, focusing instead on her sickly father and her friends. Meanwhile, George dreams of escaping their aunt, rejecting women's clothing, and finally confronting their growing feelings for Eleanor.

This heartfelt graphic novel blends themes of love, identity, and defiance, perfect for fans of Heartstopper and Jane Austen.



The Boy Next Door Jenny Ireland

ISBN: 9780241591888

Penguin Books *April 2024*

A heartwarming romance about the power of friendship when your world is falling apart. Fin and Molly used to be best friends – until Fin's mum died and they stopped talking. Years later, their paths cross again when Molly collapses at a party, and Fin instinctively steps in, saving her life. After surviving a near-death experience and undergoing brain surgery, Molly struggles to recognize herself in the mirror. Once confident and flawless, she now feels defined by her scars, patches of shaved hair, and a body she hardly recognizes. But to Fin, Molly is still beautiful. As he helps his former best friend find confidence again, their connection deepens, and together they both begin to heal.



Twenty-four Seconds from Now Jason Reynolds

ISBN: 9780571390687

Faber & Faber *October 2024*

Neon is supposed to be with his girlfriend, for their first time. Instead, he's freaking out in the bathroom. Cut to 24 seconds before, then 24 minutes before, to 24 hours before and further back in time as we uncover how Neon and Aria met, how their relationship developed and how every second was leading them to this moment. But even when moving backwards, the future looms. Aria is off to college, and Neon will stay behind, working in his dad's bingo hall and saving up to buy a camera and make his way to film school. But here, in the now, can two people find their way forward together? A story about a family, friendships, and first times.



Every Time You Hear That Song Jenna Voris

ISBN: 9780241681046

Penguin Books *April 2024*

Teenage superfan Darren embarks on a quest to solve a scavenger hunt orchestrated by her hero, the late country music icon Decklee Cassel. With the promise of unreleased music and a life-changing cash prize, Darren persuades her colleague and sort-of-friend Kendall to join her on a road trip tracing Decklee's footsteps from obscurity to stardom. The narrative seamlessly transitions between the past and present as Darren's journey is beautifully interwoven with Decklee's own story of escape and rise to fame. This gripping story masterfully blends nostalgia, ambition, romance, and the power of music, making it a truly unforgettable read.



HAUNTED

(BY GHOSTS AND/OR EMOTIONAL TRAUMA)



Compound Fracture Andrew Joseph White

ISBN: 9781837840755

Daphne Press *September 2024*



When Miles Abernathy is viciously attacked and left for dead in the woods, he becomes embroiled in a bitter, centuries-old feud that has defined the shadowy history of Twist Creek, West Virginia. A hundred years ago, a workers' rebellion was mercilessly crushed when Miles' ancestor was executed by the local sheriff—an act of brutality that cemented the dominance of the powerful Davies family. Generations later, the Abernathys have been unable to escape the grip of oppression. But Miles, a trans autistic teen with fierce socialist convictions, refuses to let history repeat itself. With the spectral guidance of his defiant great-great-grandfather and the help of a determined band of locals hungry for real change, Miles embarks on a treacherous, blood-soaked quest for justice and redemption. In Twist Creek, where old grudges fester and bitterness runs deep, he must confront not only the Davies family, but also the ghosts of the past and the fragile hope for a better future.



The Hollow and the Haunted Camilla Raines

ISBN: 9781803369976

Titan Books *October 2024*



Miles' family has a unique calling—they are psychics, guiding restless spirits to find peace. As an empath, Miles has an uncanny ability to read others' emotions, sometimes even experiencing their feelings as his own. But when a mysterious boy suddenly appears in place of Miles' reflection, blood dripping down his face, it marks the beginning of something new. Haunted by vivid visions and premonitions of death, Miles is thrust into a desperate mission to prevent Gabriel Hawthorne's murder—a future event that is inching ever closer. The Hawthornes, a rival family known for exploiting their powers for profit, are everything Miles has been taught to despise. Yet, as he works alongside Gabriel to avert the tragedy, Miles finds himself irresistibly drawn to him in ways that feel a little more than friendly. This warm-hearted queer fantasy weaves themes of love, rivalry, and redemption, making it the perfect cosy read for spooky season.



Old Wounds Logan-Ashley Kisner

ISBN: 9781835400944

Usborne Publishing Ltd *September 2024*



Longing to break free from their small-town constraints and embrace their true identities, trans teens Erin and Max set off on a covert road trip from Ohio to California. Eager to leave their past struggles behind, they are caught off guard when their car breaks down in a desolate, small town that immediately feels unsafe. Little do they know, the sinister locals harbour their own demons—demons with a voracious appetite.

This inventive twist on classic horror conventions delivers a stylish and clever thriller, brimming with tension, gore, and an unforgettable final-girl showdown that is both terrifying and unforgettable.

SECRETS & LIES



Where Sleeping Girls Lie Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

ISBN: 9781474967549

Usborne Publishing Ltd *March 2024*



At the esteemed Alfred Nobel Academy, secrets lurk around every corner, but new student, Sade, is no stranger to mystery. When her roommate, Elizabeth, vanishes under mysterious circumstances, Sade is thrust into a perilous investigation that exposes the academy's dark and sinister history—along with secrets some will go to any lengths to protect. To uncover the truth, Sade must infiltrate the inner circles of the school's privileged elite, navigating a labyrinth of entitlement, deceit, and cruelty.

As she delves deeper into the academy's hidden machinations, Sade not only unravels the chilling truths about her classmates but is forced to confront the unresolved ghosts of her own past. Gripping and masterfully paced, the tension continually rises with each new revelation.



The Bad Ones Melissa Albert

ISBN: 9780241662038

Penguin Books *February 2024*



Becca and Nora's childhood was spent crafting intricate realms in the woods, summoning Goddesses for protection and vengeance. Nora used to love these games but, after a series of tragic losses, Becca seems to be losing herself to her dark imaginings and, after a terrifying incident in the woods, the once inseparable friends haven't spoken in six months.

Now Becca is missing, along with three others from their small town of Palmetto—a place shrouded in urban legends and eerie tales of unexplained vanishings. To uncover the truth, Nora must decode the clues left by Becca and delve into Palmetto's sinister past. What if their childhood games were not just innocent fantasies, but the beginning of something far more deadly?



All the Hidden Monsters Amie Jordan

ISBN: 9781915026118

Chicken House *May 2024*



Sage, a headstrong teenage werewolf, has always dreamed of joining the Arcānum—a secretive organization devoted to solving crimes in the supernatural underbelly of Manchester. When a string of brutal attacks targets her fellow werewolves, Sage's unique perspective earns her a place on the case. However, her excitement is quickly dampened when she's partnered with Oren Rinallis, a centuries-old warlock infamous for his dark and violent history. Together with her mischievous poltergeist roommate, Pen, and haunted by the shadows of her own tragic past, Sage must navigate the mysteries of the supernatural world and learn to trust Oren. But the werewolf-hunter is closing in, and if Sage can't solve the case, she may be next...