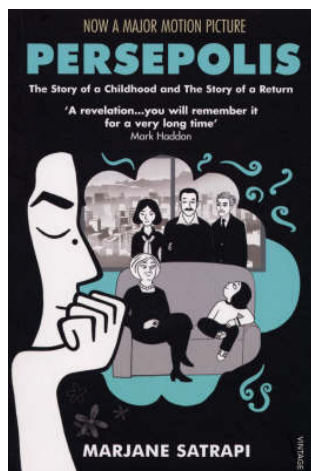


Recommended reading for Years 11 to 13, with an emphasis on Reading for Pleasure, for the 2026/27 academic year.



Persepolis I and II

Author: Marjane Satrapi **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/03/2008

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. March 2012 Guest Editor Sally Nicholls says: "I am a big fan of books which write about dark subjects with lightness and humour. Marjane Satrapi's story of growing up in Iran after the Iranian Revolution is funny, wise, and very real. The child Marjane is an admirable character, and the humour in her story makes the events surrounding it all the more horrifying."



Beloved

Author: Toni Morrison **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/12/2007

Sharon Dogar, April 2011 Guest Editor: "I read this as we drove across the US in 1991. As the American landscape unfolded in front of me, a particular part of its history, that of slavery, unfolded within the narrative of this novel. I love the mysteriousness of the girl with the 'tree' on her back, I love the inventiveness of the plotting, the sheer poetry of the language, and the heartbreaking beauty of its telling. This book is a work of genius, and has that rare quality of a timeless telling." For more books on this theme head over to our sister site, LoveReading4Schools topic list - The Slave Trade

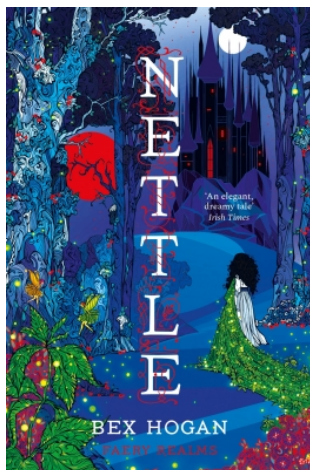


Beautiful Broken Things

Author: Sara Barnard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/04/2021

Shortlisted for YA Book Prize 2017 | One of our Books of the Year 2016 | February 2016 Debut of the Month 16-year-old Brightonians Caddy and Rosie have been best friends all their lives, their relationship enduring even when Caddy's aspirational parents send her to a private school. But when an enigmatic new girl arrives at Rosie's comprehensive, Caddy's longing for "something of some significance to happen" in her "hopelessly average" life is set in motion, along with a shift in the dynamic of her relationship with Rosie. While Caddy is initially terrified that the beautiful, impulsive Suzanne will replace her, the three of them form a deep friendship. As Suzanne's self-destructiveness escalates, it emerges that she's struggling to cope with

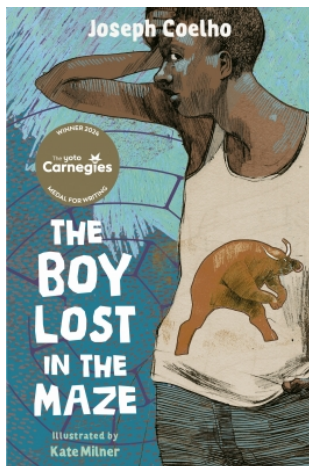
the ordeal of having suffered physical abuse at the hands of her stepfather, and Caddy finds herself laying everything on the line to save her downward spiraling friend. This powerful, punch-packing debut is an utterly compelling, authentic portrait of the intricate ebbs and flows of friendship, and of a young adult trying to navigate the tempestuous waters of past traumas. Accessible and profoundly moving, Caddy, Rosie and Suzanne's story is sure to resonate with many a young woman - a phenomenal feat for any writer, let alone a first-time novelist.



Nettle

Author: Bex Hogan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/07/2025

Timeless and poetic, Nettle's haunting magic is cast with the kind of wand that will also captivate readers who are impatient for action, for Nettle isn't only lusciously lyrical — it's driven by a race-against-time quest that sees its marvellous protagonist compelled to complete three seemingly impossible tasks. Bravo to Bex Hogan for crafting a sublime story of faery magic, love and courage that will cast a hex on many a reader. "Once there was a girl called Nettle. She was all things wild with a sting to boot... She was all things dangerous and laced with magic". So begins this wondrous novel that sees Nettle fall through a portal after promising to do anything to save her beloved grandma's life. On finding herself in the faery realm, Nettle strikes a deal with the king — after completing three tasks, he will save her grandmother. Here she also finds a friend in Conor, who's trapped in the kingdom as a result of being set his own impossible task, and meets Ellion, a shadow faery who was once sent to the human world in exchange for a mortal. Against the odds, Nettle completes her first task — she's the first human to do so — and embarks on the second. Though she knows "nothing here can be trusted", Nettle's impulse to complete the tasks leads her along perilous paths. In response to her circumventing all manner of traps, one inhabitant suggests Nettle "would be wise to consider why she is an exception". Resilient and resourceful, intuitive and empathetic, Nettle is a character many readers will respond to. The same goes for Conor's loving kindnesses, and Ellion's honesty. There are also powerful representations of loyalty and betrayal, trickery and truth, rising to a heart-swelling ending as Nettle's true identity comes to light. With tremendous appeal for readers who love magical worlds and quest-driven stories of bravery and love, Nettle also comes recommended as a wonderful book to share aloud. No-one is too old for the joy of being read to, and Nettle is ideal for reigniting the pleasure of listening in 12+-year-olds.



The Boy Lost in the Maze

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/06/2025

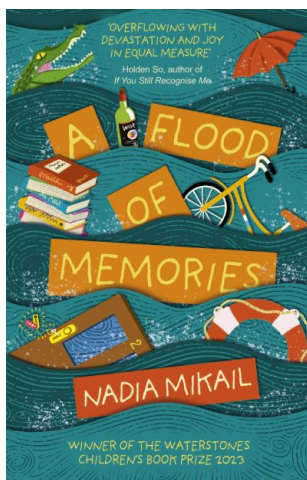
June 2025 Book of the Month | Winner of Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024 Using the much-interpreted legend of Theseus and the Minotaur – a journey full of dangers and threat, as well as a search for a father as a basis Coelho then weaves around it the story of Theo – also on a journey to find his father. Each is off on a maze-like quest to find their roots, their inheritance with each facing dangers and problems along the way. Not only is this an intricate mix of two stories with echoes of each other, but in places is given over to the reader to control the story arc by choosing which way Theseus would respond, much in the way as the ‘pick your adventure’ stories do. It is heartening to see some of the choices to Theseus age old problems - and note the better responses chosen. Both of our main characters face choices, dilemmas, doubts, difficulties, and danger on their journeys but each responds in the most effective way for themselves! There are countless different poetic forms exhibited here – a sestina is even explained in one of the poems as if it were a lesson in Theo’s school. Our former Children’s Laureate has created another powerful, enthralling story in verse form. Kate Milner has supported these with beautiful black and white illustrations ranging from pieces that look as if they may be ancient Greek illustrations to wonderfully detailed modern depictions. Once you pick it up you won’t want to put it down!

Glasgow Boys

Author: Margaret McDonald **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2024

June 2024 Debut of the Month Finlay and Banjo have both grown up in care, once as close as brothers, now they don’t speak at all. Finlay has recently aged out of the care system and has just started a nursing degree; but without a safety net and completely alone in the world, writing essays comes second to keeping his head above water. Banjo has just been placed with yet another set of foster parents and is starting yet another new school, unsurprisingly he’s full of anger and fear. As both boys struggle with impending adulthood and uncertain futures, will the hope of new friends, the pain of past trauma and the possibility of future love, help them find each other again? Raw and unflinchingly honest, Glasgow Boys will make you fall in love with its vulnerable main characters, and make you want to scream at the injustices some young people face. McDonald writes with authenticity and a beauty that is startlingly, especially for a debut author. Her nuanced depiction of the care system and the reality of a life without foundations is a lesson in empathy building. The powerful impact that a hug has on boys starved of physical affection is heartbreaking to read, whilst Banjo’s delight at having a photo of himself for the first time makes you want to weep for all he deserves but has never had. This is the type of skilful character development that will have you laughing

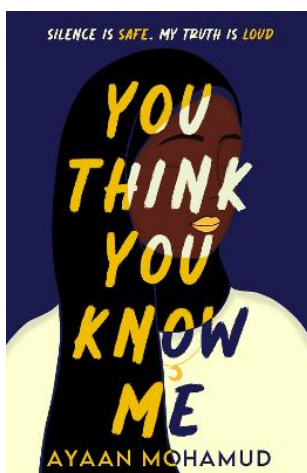
one minute and crying the next. As readers we are occasionally lucky enough to read a book that is not just good, or even great, but so strikingly beautiful that it irreversibly slightly changes who we are and will live on forever in our hearts. *Glasgow Boys* is one such book. Right now, I'm deeply envious of all those readers who still have the pleasure of meeting Finlay and Banjo for the first time, and bracing my heart for my own imminent reread. Exceptional in every way, this is a book that you want to consume whole, but also linger over. I predict great things and many accolades for *Glasgow Boys*. Perfect for fans of Brian Conaghan and resolutely not to be missed.



A Flood of Memories

Author: Nadia Mikail **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/06/2026

September 2026 Book of the Month Set in Malaysia, *A Flood of Memories*, brilliantly shows the real and lasting impact of climate change. As flood warnings grow A-Level student Leila returns to her family home in Kuching to help her mother protect the family home. As the flood waters rise tension mounts as Leila is forced to confront painful memories of a childhood ruled by an angry, alcoholic father. Mikail powerfully evokes the fear and hopelessness of facing an incoming natural disaster, whilst capturing the more personal damage wrought by an unpredictable and abusive parent. A slow-burn romance adds an additional layer to the story, and provides a light, hopefulness in the face of destruction. Ideal for readers looking to experience other lives and places through the pages of a book, *A Flood of Memories* is a well-paced, character-led novel that is a great choice for sparking book club or classroom discussions about global impacts of climate change. Whilst the main character is an A-Level student, this is ideal for readers aged 13+.



You Think You Know Me

Author: Ayaan Mohamud **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/02/2023

February 2023 Debut of the Month | Shortlisted for The Branford Boase Award 2024 Masterfully exposing the brutal realities of Islamophobia in Britain, Ayaan Mohamud's *You Think You Know Me* debut is a moving, stirring triumph that sees a quiet, hardworking teenager journey through horrendous Islamophobic abuse to find a courageous voice and, in her words, "optimism and dreams and faith". Informed by the author's experiences, the novel shares the story of Hanan, who lost her father as she and her family fled civil war in Somalia. Now living in London with her mum, grandmother, twin brother and little sisters, Hanan is a model student, dedicated to her loving family, and to the memory of her beloved dad. Though Hanan has a close friendship group, her school life is marred by institutional racism and bigoted bullying. And she bears great pressure, too: "it

sometimes felt like...I needed to be so perfect to secure my family's future." What's more, she carries her "dad's legacy; my parents' sacrifices; my family's hopes for a good life against the undercurrents of racism in a place where people are surprised I succeeded." When the school caretaker is murdered (someone who'd shown Hanan tremendous kindness), shockwaves shudder through the community. The perpetrator happened to be Muslim, and now all Muslims are under scrutiny, no thanks to wildly inaccurate, Islamophobic newspaper headlines: "School caretaker murder declared 'full-blown jihadi' by close sources". Add to this a terrifying, close-to-home attack, and school proposing a ban on headscarves in the name of "achieving integration", and Hanan finds the strength to break free from being the quiet girl people think they know. She stands up and speaks out with words that'll leave readers reeling with rage at the racism she's endured, and inspired by her strength and courage. If that wasn't enough, this novel is also brilliant on family love, grief, and the complexities of friendship, loyalty and forgiveness.



The Fault in Our Stars

Author: John Green **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/04/2014

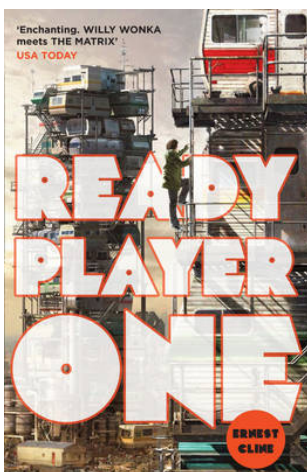
Deservedly No 1 on the New York Times best seller list, this heart-catching novel is fuelled by the rawest emotions deftly handled but never falsely diluted. The role a book plays in their lives lies at the heart of the burgeoning relationship between Hazel and Augustus, teenagers who meet at a cancer support group. Hazel's cancer is incurable: she is 'managing' her situation; Augustus has already lost a leg to his but he has an 80% chance of survival. But cancer does not rule them; here are two teens being as normal as they can be while carrying the grisly physical side effects of their treatments and in the complicated face of an uncertain future. The result is a touching, questioning, funny and insightful novel that can't be put down. The movie of The Fault in Our Stars was released in June 2014 - read the book before you see the film!



1984

Author: George Orwell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2021

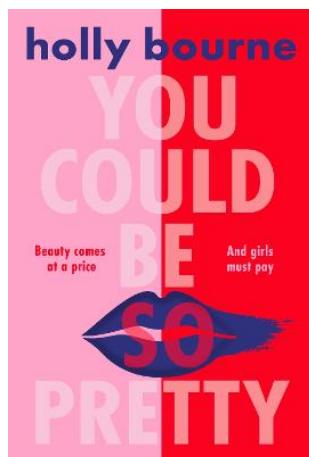
One of the most renowned classics of all time was brought to us by George Orwell in 1949. A compelling, striking nightmarish vision of a dystopian world, this remains one of the most chilling yet favourite books I've ever read and one of the best openings of a book ever: "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen" So much of it has entered our language, becoming an integrated part of our common cultural inheritance, that I'm sure many people don't even realise their beginnings. It is the year 1984 and the world is divided into three superstates each at war with each other. Britain is Airstrip One ruled by the Party and led by Big Brother, the symbolic face of totalitarianism. Even love is considered subversive and we follow the story of Winston Smith who works in the Ministry of Truth where his job is to rewrite the past to fit the present. Depicting everyman, Winston begins to subtly rebel by writing a secret diary, a deadly thought crime in a society where the actions and thoughts of the people are strictly controlled through propaganda, secrecy, constant surveillance, and harsh punishment. Where will it end? This book will stay with you, and will never be forgotten.



Ready Player One

Author: Ernest Cline **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/04/2012

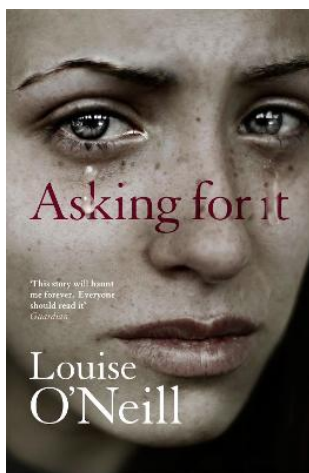
Matt Dickinson, our Guest Editor for January 2013 - This is an excellent new thriller for teenage/YA readers. I discovered it recently and devoured it in a few days. The story is set in the future, and features a bunch of teen characters on both sides of a 'virtual reality' game called OASIS that has become the universe's most popular entertainment. We see their seedy, poverty-stricken, real worlds and the glamorous 'virtual' world of possibility that they can access through VR suits whenever they choose. At the heart of the story is Wade Watts, a boy who might—JUST—have the skill (and knowledge of obscure 80's cultural references) to win a competition which will make him the richest person in the universe—and the most powerful to boot! Of course there are evil forces out to stop him and this provides a most gripping climax to the tale. A perfect book for any teenager or young adult obsessed with games and game culture—or parents with fond memories of Dungeons and Dragons etc., from a misspent youth!



You Could Be So Pretty

Author: Holly Bourne **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/09/2023

Belle and Joni live in a society firmly controlled by the Doctrine; Belle is a loyal follower, Joni is not. Belle is the most successful Pretty in school, a Chosen One and soon to be crowned winner of The Ceremony – she Has It All. Joni is Objectionable, she is hated by everyone for her repulsive looks and opposition to the Doctrine. The Doctrine insists that the Bad Times are over, that True Equality has been achieved and every woman has a choice how they live. But when a woman's worth is judged solely on appearance, how much choice does she really have? This is a scathing comment on modern image-obsessed society, which holds a mirror up to much of the ridiculous expectations and controls placed on women of all ages. With hugely impressive skill, Bourne has created a world that is undoubtedly familiar, but distant enough to allow objective consideration of the societal norms and illusion of choice that Belle and Joni exist under. Language is played with to present familiar objects and concepts in new lights, making the reader consider not only the story presented, but their own lives and society. This is one of those rarest of reading experiences – a book that you consume rather than simply read, a book that will change the reader forever. It will make you both angry and tearful for what women and girls smilingly endure. It belongs in the hands of every teenager and everybody who cares about them.



Asking For It

Author: Louise O'Neill **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/07/2016

Irish Book Awards 2015 Book of the Year A courageous, unflinching and emotionally challenging novel, focusing on sexual consent and the issues surrounding social media commentary and uprisings. Covering two time periods, a year apart, a vivid picture emerges of Emma. Emma is a fascinating character, bright and beautiful, she loves to be the centre of attention, however she is manipulative and able to use her looks to her advantage. Beneath the surface, there is much more to discover, and as her story is written in the first person, a fuller picture of Emma starts to emerge. Louise O'Neill describes the events that occur with consideration, yet most importantly with a frank honesty, meaning at times this is not only an uncomfortable but also achingly difficult read. Distressing, bleak yet compelling, this is a significant novel that will encourage contemplation and discussion, about a painful and challenging subject. This title is recommended for older teens due to the content.

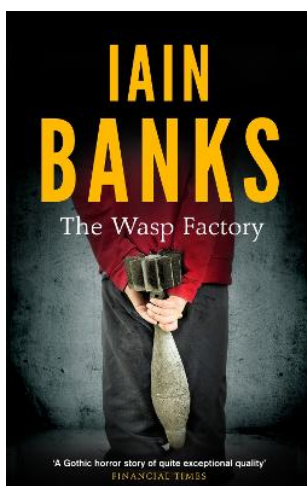


The Great Godden

Author: Meg Rosoff **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/06/2021

Shortlisted for the YA Book Prize 2021 | Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award 2020 | July 2020 Book of the Month

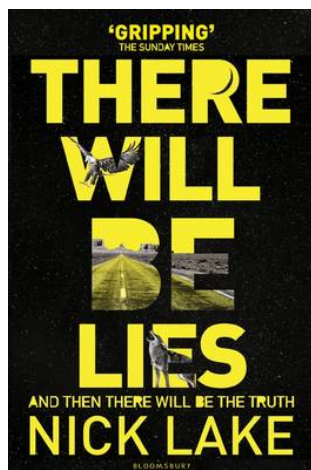
With characteristic vision and grace Meg Rosoff has done it again in this exquisite novel that merits a place alongside *I Capture the Castle*, *Bonjour Tristesse* and *The Lost Estate* (Le Grand Meaulnes) for its coming-of-age, loss-of-innocence excellence. Though contemporary, it feels timeless and elementally affecting, much like the *Great Godden*'s impact on the family whose story it tells. With an idyllic seaside summer stretching ahead, the tingling anticipation of *The Great Godden*'s unnamed teenage narrator is deliciously palpable: "This year is going to be the best ever: the best weather, the best food, the best fun. The actors assembled, the summer begins." But there are still two more actors to take to the stage - enter the Godden brothers in a shiny black car. The narrator's older sister Mattie is immediately smitten by magnetic, handsome, self-assured Kit: "She was desperate to lose her virginity, and what sort of person would say no to Mattie? Surely not some movie star's kid, fresh off the plane?" Though Mattie is certainly attractive, it's obvious that charmer Kit has the upper hand of any situation, but might he also be a trouble-maker, as his curt, less-of-a-looker brother warns? Such wonderings underpin some of this novel's essence. With the stage fully set and summer speeding towards the climax of a wedding, it poses fundamental questions about motivation, and the nature of agency, of lust, of the desire to be seen for who you are. Quivering with unease, passion and paranoia, it also reveals how past experiences engrave themselves upon us, creating fault-lines that may crack and cause future ructions. Sophisticated, seductive and smoothly readable, this is a summer story par excellence, and a coming-of-age tale for all times. Find out more about the YA Book Prize including all the shortlisted titles.



The Wasp Factory

Author: Iain Banks **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/06/2013

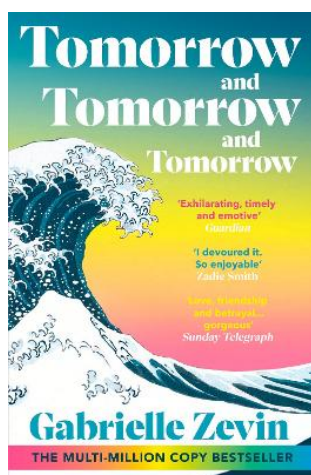
The Wasp Factory is a bizarre, imaginative, disturbing, and darkly comic look into the mind of a child psychopath - one of the most infamous of contemporary Scottish novels. 'Two years after I killed Blyth I murdered my young brother Paul, for quite different reasons than I'd disposed of Blyth, and then a year after that I did for my young cousin Esmerelda, more or less on a whim. That's my score to date. Three. I haven't killed anybody for years, and don't intend to ever again. It was just a stage I was going through.' Enter - if you can bear it - the extraordinary private world of Frank, just sixteen, and unconventional, to say the least.



There Will be Lies

Author: Nick Lake **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2015

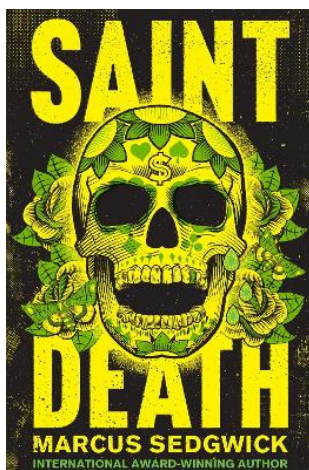
Award-winning Nick Lake tells a complex story fusing two strands of narrative into a richly woven single thread. Seventeen-year-old Shelby Cooper has always been very protected by her mother; she guesses it is partly because she is deaf, partly because her dad is dead and partly she had a terrible accident when she was a baby. But when she is knocked over by a car, her life takes a whole new turn. Suddenly she and her Mom are on the run and everything that she has known about her life before is suddenly questioned. What is the truth? And will she ever discover it? As her life unravels, Shelby retreats into a fantasy world of the Dreaming a place infused with old, old Mythology. Part-adventure, part-mystery and part a teenager's journey of self-discovery, There Will Be Lies is dramatic and unexpected in equal measure.



Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

Author: Gabrielle Zevin **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 29/06/2023

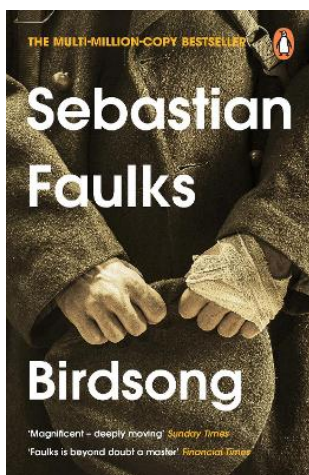
What a beautiful, heart-wrenching story from a writer with exceptional talent for delivering extraordinary story contexts with so much humanity. Gabrielle Zevin's Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow is a devastating, nourishing novel that unlocks truths about love, life, and bone-deep bonds of a lifetime. Refreshingly, the novel also explores the power of work and play - "To allow yourself to play with another person is no small risk. It means allowing yourself to be open, to be exposed, to be hurt...To play requires trust and love." As one of the main characters remarks, commenting in his capacity as a creator of visionary video games: "There is no more intimate act than play, even sex." In 1987, it was through play that Sam and Sadie struck up a close friendship in childhood when she was the only person he'd talk to in hospital after surviving a terrible car accident. After a falling out, they encounter each other again by chance when she's a student at MIT and he's at Harvard. She gives him a disk of a computer game she's working on, Solution, which pushes gamers' ethics to the limits. Together they create a game, and form a soulful bond, with Ichigo, their game and its Sam-like protagonist, very much their baby. After commercial success in their early twenties, Sadie and Sam fall-out over what to create next, with Sam imploring Sadie to make a third Ichigo: "You can't abandon our child in a shitty sequel". As they become luminaries of the gaming world, with old college friend Marx at the business helm, the imperfections of the real world infringe on the thought-provoking worlds Sam and Sadie have devoted their lives to creating. There's painful tragedy and failure alongside the money and glory, with the needs, flaws, and complexities of each character incredibly evoked. As Sadie remarks, "How strange and beautiful human beings are. And how fragile". This novel, too, is strange and beautiful, and presents a powerful presentation of human fragility.



Saint Death

Author: Marcus Sedgwick **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2017

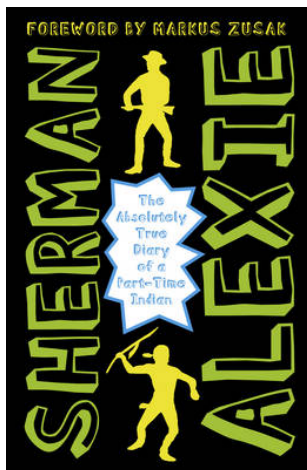
A thought-fuelling thriller set in a gang-run neighbourhood near the border of Mexico and El Norte (America). The writing is poetically punchy. Exquisitely formed sentences are fired-off in smarting succession, and the juxtaposition of contemporary totems like Burger King buildings with the likes of folk saint shrines is smartly done. This is a richly layered novel in which important socio-political issues (gangs, poverty, corruption, migration, social divisions and dissonance) are made potentially real through Arturo and Faustino's predicaments. And alongside the enlightening Mexico-specific context, there's much that is universal: friendship, loyalty, and searching for a sense of purpose. As paternal figure Siggy tells Arturo, "You just have to find out what it is you're looking for." Pacey and passionate, this truly exceptional book tells a tale that truly needs to be heard.



Birdsong

Author: Sebastian Faulks **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/06/2023

In the heat of the French summer of 1910, young Englishman Stephen Wraysford arrives in Amiens to stay with the Azair family. But soon a secret passion emerges that threatens to destroy the household. Six years later, Stephen finds himself on the Western Front with civilization itself in the balance. And in a maze of tunnels under the trenches he will fight for everything he has known and loved. An epic of love, death and redemption, *Birdsong* has moved millions of readers all over the world to become a contemporary classic.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Author: Sherman Alexie **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 29/01/2015

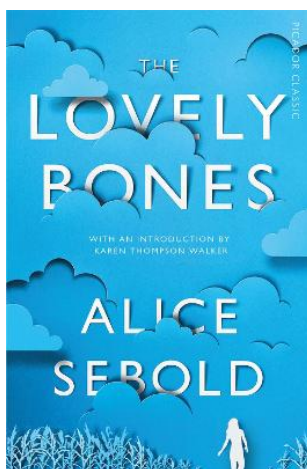
A remarkable and heart warming story of survival that avoids sadness or sentimentality because of its original story telling and brilliant black humour. Junior relates the complicated journey of his life travelling from the poverty and lack of opportunity on a reservation to a new life with different problems a shrewd eye, compassion and exceptional understanding. A fantastic journey of discovery for all readers. Jenny Downham, YA author - "This is a book I discovered only recently. It made me jealous because the writing is so acute and the writer so talented! It delighted me for the very same reasons. This is the funniest, wisest book I've read in a long time. A complex story of identity. Truly beautiful."



Monsters

Author: Emerald Fennell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015

A book about two appalling twelve year olds which is definitely not for children! Featuring a sinister seaside holiday and a spate of murders, it is astonishingly, almost gleefully dark, as you might expect from the screenwriter of Killing Eve!

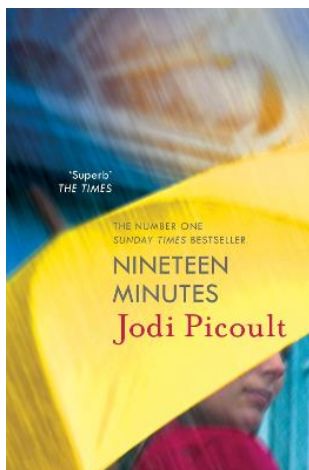


The Lovely Bones

Author: Alice Sebold **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/01/2015

The internationally bestselling novel that inspired the acclaimed film directed by Peter Jackson. With an introduction by Karen Thompson Walker, author of The Age of Miracles. My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973. In heaven, Susie Salmon can have whatever she wishes for – except what she most wants, which is to be back with the people she loved on earth. In the wake of her murder, Susie watches as her happy suburban family is torn apart by grief; as her friends grow up, fall in love, and do all the things she never had the chance to do herself. But as Susie will come to realize, even in death, life is not quite out of reach . . . A luminous, astonishing novel about life and death, memory

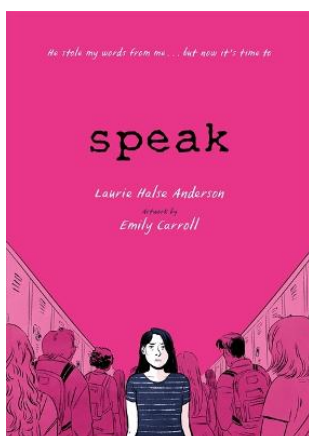
and forgetting, and finding light in the darkest places, Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* became an instant classic when it was first published. There are now over ten million copies in print. It inspired the film starring Mark Wahlberg, Rachel Weisz, Susan Sarandon and Saoirse Ronan.



Nineteen Minutes

Author: Jodi Picoult **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/08/2013

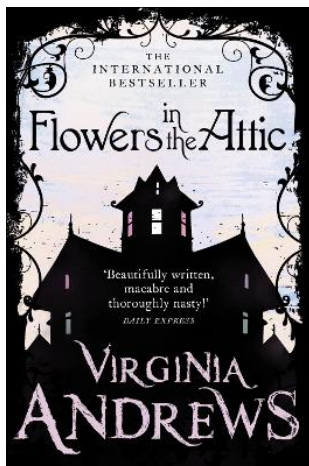
Examining the aftermath of a school shooting in a small American town, this is an unflinching novel that asks difficult and important questions.



Speak

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/08/2019

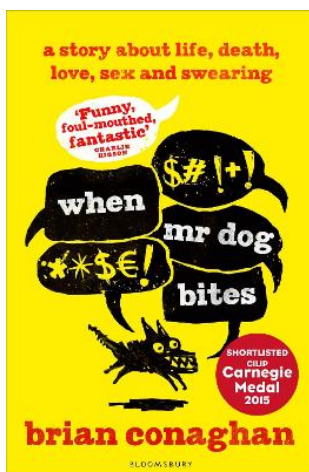
From the 2023 winner of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, this is a powerful and enduringly relevant story of sexual assault.



Flowers in the Attic

Author: Virginia Andrews **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2011

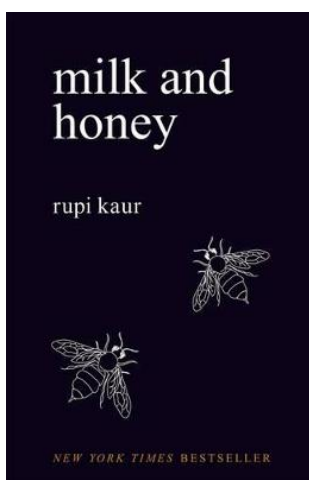
The cult classic gothic tale of forbidden love, family secrets and destructive greed. A macabre yet compelling novel that has been enjoyed and deservedly talked about in hushed whispers for decades.



When Mr Dog Bites

Author: Brian Conaghan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/03/2015

This is the poignant and hilarious story of Dylan Mint, a teenage boy with Tourette's syndrome. Controversial yet full of compassion and warmth. Brian Conaghan makes you travel every step of the way in Dylan's shoes, laughing and crying – often at the same time – as Dylan faces the twists and turns of an unfair world with glorious optimism and wit, raising important questions of inclusion, marginalisation and neurodiversity with sensitivity and insight. This barnstorming debut was shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie Medal, and Brian has gone on to write many stunning, award-winning novels for teens and younger readers, including the Costa-winning *The Bombs that Brought Us Together*.



Milk and Honey

Author: Rupi Kaur **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/11/2015

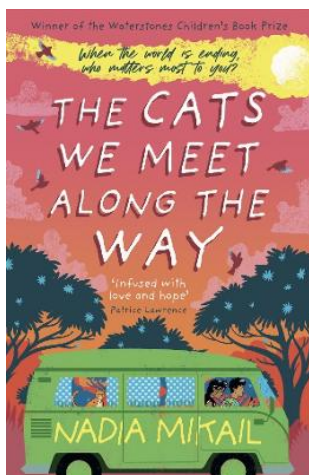
The Sunday Times bestselling poetry collection for modern young women. Relatable and honest, these poems lead the reader from despair to hope. A collection to devour.



Promise Boys

Author: Nick Brooks **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/02/2023

Brilliantly told from multiple points of view, including secondary sources and media reports as well as narrative voices, this is an intensely gripping and powerful story that really highlights how young people of colour are failed by the education and law enforcement systems that should be protecting them. Trey, J.B and Ramón are three very different characters with different aspirations attending Urban Promise Prep School, which was set up to give disadvantaged kids a second chance. Principal Kenneth Moore runs the place with strict rules and brutal discipline and when he is shot dead while the three are in detention, they become the immediate suspects in his death and they have to join forces to prove their innocence. These characters are extremely well drawn and all the additional sources really build a picture of their community and the challenges they face. Needless to say media reports are biased against the boys from the start, because of their colour and where they are from and it is fascinating to see how the boys are perceived by others and how they see themselves. This is a nuanced and wholly authentic look at societal injustice but wrapped up in a page turning and nail biting mystery which will keep readers gripped and engaged. The author's screen writing background really shows in the vivid scene setting and economy of language. This is an absolute must have for school libraries and a richly rewarding text for classroom study.

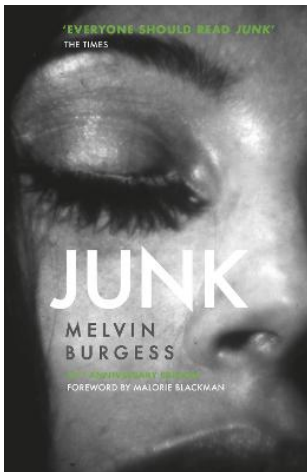


The Cats We Meet Along the Way

Author: Nadia Mikail **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/02/2022

February 2022 Debut of the Month | Winner of the Waterstones Childrens Prize 2023 | Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2023 | Shortlisted for the YA Book Prize 2023 When dynamic independent children's publisher Guppy Books put out a call for submissions from unpublished, un-agented writers in 2020, Nadia Mikail answered with *The Cats We Meet Along the Way* - a poignant debut with a punch-packing, end-of-the-world set-up, and unconditional love at its heart. Through its deeply endearing characters, this tells a stirring story of family finding a way through loss, loneliness and feeling abandoned to embrace what's really important. Until the Announcement "Aisha had been a seventeen-year-old student, who treasured her lie-ins and whose mother shouted about breakfast to wake her up. Now time was precious". And the Announcement? Nothing less than the imminent end of Earth, with predictions of "the world wreathed in fire and smoke" in the fatal wake of an asteroid collision. How's that for a mind-blowing set-up? But that's not all Aisha has to deal with. Three years ago, before the Announcement, her older sister, June, left home and hasn't been seen since: "she had chosen to disappear from their lives without a trace, and had chosen not to come back". Now, mere months before the world will end, Aisha and her mother Esah want to find June, so they embark on an emotional road-trip across Malaysia with Aisha's adorable boyfriend, his

compassionate parents, and Fleabag the cat. Though the scenario is urgent, the author has a powerfully steady style, as seen in her measured, bone-deep evocations of memories, and characters' mourning of memories that will never be made - their sorrow and grief is profoundly palpable. Then there's Aisha and Esah's deep-rooted connection to the place they were born, where they hope to find June, and an unleashing of pent-up anger, grief and guilt before a love-filled sense that light may be found through even the darkest of days.



Junk 25th Anniversary Edition

Author: Melvin Burgess **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021

Bold and brutally, brilliantly honest, Melvin Burgess's multi-award-winning (and multi-layered) *Junk* presents the definitively frank account of why young people might head down a drug-taking path - and remain there. A love triangle, of sorts, between its two main characters and their addiction to heroin, once read *Junk* is never forgotten. It strikes deep with unflinching power, never shirking from truths that need to be told, which it does from multiple compelling viewpoints, and with incredible empathy. Smart and thoughtful Tar has been blighted by abuse at the hands of his parents. In contrast, middle class Gemma has attentive parents, which has driven them to strictness, and drives her to leave home. Both on the streets of Bristol, Tar and Gemma fall in together, and fall in love, though it's not long before they tumble into a spiral of drug-related devastation. In a novel packed with agonising episodes, perhaps most poignant of all is witnessing Tar and Lily convince themselves they're in control of their heroin addiction, but since it's exactly that - an addiction - they are not, and their story will cut to your soul.



A Clockwork Orange

Author: Anthony Burgess **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/12/2013

Restored Edition The fully restored fiftieth anniversary edition foreword by Martin Amis first published by William Heinemann in 1962, *A Clockwork Orange* is widely acknowledged as one of the most influential books of the twentieth century. This special edition, compiled and edited by Andrew Biswell, Burgess' biographer, restores the text of the novel as Burgess originally wrote it, and includes a selection of interviews, articles, reviews and other previously unpublished material.



Little Bang

Author: Kelly McCaughrain **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/01/2024

January 2024 Book of the Month I am sure many readers will be stunned to discover that abortions were illegal in Northern Ireland as recently as 2018 and are still more difficult there than the rest of the UK. This is a story that needs to be told and the authenticity and sensitivity with which it is told, bears witness to the award-winning author's direct experience in schools and the stories she has heard from young people. The shy science-nerd Mel and Sid the slacker songwriter, are immediately convincing and the dialogue throughout is laced with brilliantly black Northern Irish humour. But their predicament, falling pregnant after their first inexperienced fumbles, is far from funny. They are from different sectarian communities and watching them struggle with the different societal pressures and family reactions is heartbreaking. They are trying to do the right thing- they both step up to the plate - prepared to accept responsibility, but gradually what dawns on Mel is that this is her decision alone and nobody, even Sid, has the right to tell her what to do. What is so powerful is how the author gives space and voice to the different opinions on abortion and does not dictate how the reader should feel. This is by no means a polemical, issues led book. The characters are so nuanced, and the situations so realistically portrayed that the reader lives this experience with them and is given space to feel for both protagonists and to make up their own mind about the issues. Moving, compassionate and beautifully told this is an essential and important taboo- breaking book for young people to read.

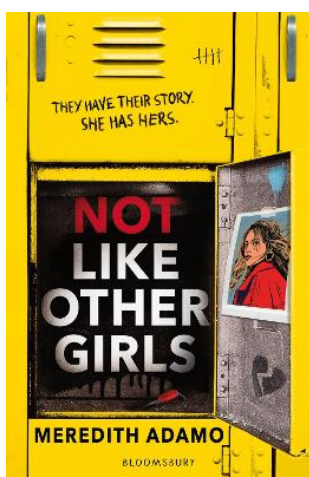


The Things We Leave Behind

Author: Clare Furniss **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/03/2024

April 2024 Book of the Month London teenager Clem enjoys her 15th birthday surrounded by friends, family, and glorious sunshine – a perfect day. The world is changing though, and soon everyone and everything she knows, and loves, will be in danger. Set in a not-so-distant future, England is ruled by a racist far-right authoritarian government, as civil unrest grows Clem must flee London with her younger sister, Billie. Safety lies in newly independent Scotland, but to get there the sisters must face unknown danger, suspicious bigots, and a terrifying small boat. This was a gut-wrenching read; the concept was so believable and the writing so powerful that I felt sick on more than one occasion whilst reading it, but I couldn't put it down. Whilst it might technically be described as a dystopia, really it is a modern horror story that could occur tomorrow. Putting a white, British teenager firmly at the centre of a modern refugee crisis, Furniss skilfully blends in events and ideologies of contemporary Britain. Making the reader question themselves and the world we live in. The story is told through a mix of flashbacks, therapy sessions and fairy tales. Our main character Clem is a gloriously

unreliable narrator and keeps the reader guessing until the end. A gentle romance creates further tension, but never detracts from the main story. The cast of secondary characters all leap from the page, they are all perfectly drawn and contain a sense that they too have a story to tell. Bleak and scary *The Things We Leave Behind* reveals the worst that humanity does to each other, but is also full of love, hope and the best of humanity. A moving and thought-provoking must read.



Not Like Other Girls

Author: Meredith Adamo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/04/2024

June 2024 Debut of the Month This complex and twisty thriller has real psychological and emotional depth, with very authentic, relatable characters who simply leap off the page. Vividly voiced by Jo, a high school student, ostracized and slut shamed after stolen private photos of her are leaked to her classmates, she is unable to focus on schoolwork, consequently on academic probation and her parents completely fail to see her struggles. What starts as an investigation into the disappearance of her one-time best friend Maddie, becomes a determination to reveal some much darker conspiracies and secrets and in the process to come to recognise what had been done to her. This is a testament to resilience and a heartfelt exploration of identity and self-acceptance that will undoubtedly strike a chord with young women grappling with what it's like to be a girl in today's world. The book is a page-turning read, but doesn't shy from honestly and realistically exploring important subjects such as toxic relationships, consent, trauma, misogyny, emotional abuse and the pain of broken friendships. Even the enjoyable romantic subplot sensitively explores the challenges of forming any sort of relationship after surviving sexual assault. An extraordinary debut novel, this is both thought provoking and highly readable.



Young Gothic

Author: M.A. Bennett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/07/2024

July 2024 Book of the Month This book from the bestselling author of the S.T.A.G.S series, is an absolute gift to English teachers and to literature students studying Gothic novels. It takes core elements from the classic set texts and weaves them into a thoroughly modern and enjoyable metatextual analysis of the horror genre across all media. We have four intriguing young people, telling their own stories in wonderfully crafted unique voices, giving subtly different perspectives on the unfolding horror story. They withhold secrets from each other, but not from the reader, who gets the full impact of the building tension and developing relationships. They have been brought together having applied for and won a place on the Young Gothic programme offered by the mysterious Diodati Foundation. They are transported to the same

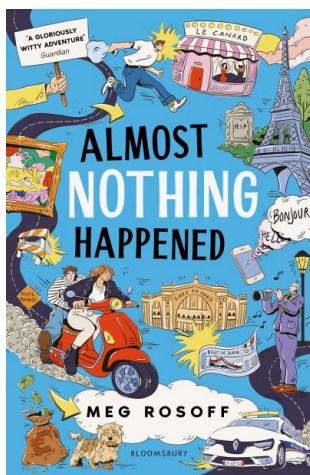
Villa Diodati where four young creatives, Byron, Percy and Mary Shelley and John William Polidori gathered two centuries before. Hal, Griffin, Eve and Ren are each talented in the literary or performing arts and all are obsessed with horror. Their task is apparently to discover the monsters of this modern age. As the characters bond and get to know each other, they themselves discuss horror archetypes and rules whilst subverting them at the same time. The way the plot weaves historical detail into the modern day is exquisite. Events rise to a truly horrible climax when, on the proverbial dark and stormy night, a body is found. Who indeed are the monsters now? As per the meta-analysis of the genre, the sequel hook is there and I for one cannot wait to scare myself rigid with the next instalment of this dark and haunting series.



Twenty-Four Seconds from Now

Author: Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/10/2024

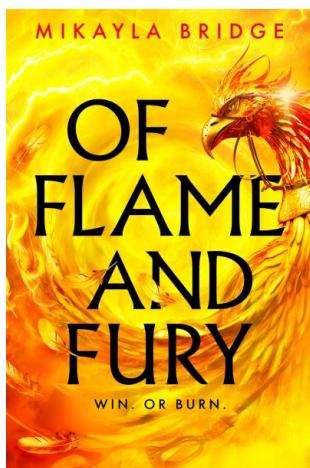
November 2024 Book of the Month In 24 seconds Neon will have sex for the first time with his girlfriend Aria, right now he's in the toilet trying to calm his nerves. 24 minutes ago he was knocking on Aria's front door, full of love and anticipation. 24 hours before that he was working on his school year book project and receiving romance advice from his big sister. *Twenty-Four Seconds From Now* continues in this unique style, moving back through Neon's story in increments of 24. Hours, days, weeks and months. As we travel back through his life we learn not only the story of his relationship with Aria, but also the stories of his friends, family and community. With Jason Reynolds's unique gift for conjuring up with only a few words the very essence of a character, Neon's world and history is laid before us. From Aria's pushy parents to Neon's grandparents's own love story, Reynolds once again shows that he can say more in a couple of lines than most authors can in numerous chapters. In his acknowledgements Reynolds states that Black boys deserve love stories too, and wow has he delivered. Full of all the tender hopes and fears of first love, Neon's story is honest, authentic and beautifully. A welcome antidote to toxic masculinity, here we have a main character who cries when others cry, and loves without embarrassment. Whilst the friends and family who surround him are equally well-developed, not least his hilariously direct Mum and full-of-wisdom Gammy. At one point Neon's Grandy ponders "But I don't know if you can really be great if you can't... do... romance." If romance is a qualification for greatness, rest assured Reynolds is one of the greatest writers for young people we have. A must read.



Almost Nothing Happened

Author: Meg Rosoff **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/07/2025

July 2025 Book of the Month With an incredible talent for conjuring voice, Meg Rosoff is an outstanding writer whose work is always 100% authentic, and utterly free from cliché and the clutter of well-trod YA paths. This is joyously apparent in *Almost Nothing Happened*, which transforms a classic scenario (a life-changing summer) into a fabulously fresh and funny story of a teenager's unforgettable 48 hours in Paris. A rash decision to not board his Eurostar back to London after a lonesome summer exchange programme in rural France leads Callum to one hell of an experience in Paris. Callum's bizarre adventure is largely sparked by a missing oboe, and then a missing Matisse as a result of him meeting Lilou, a free-spirited French activist who scoots him around the streets in pursuit of the thief of the missing items. Namely, Lilou's stepbrother Arnaud, "an aristocratic violin-playing climate activist, thief and pimp", as Callum describes him. "This wasn't the sort of person I'd had much exposure to previously", he remarks. Callum's experiences are as sizzlingly hot as Paris' August streets, and, as he finds himself compelled to embrace a vive la change philosophy, he winds up enjoying true joie de vivre: "I'd fallen in love with a girl and a painting and my life for the first time, fallen in love with adventure, and with France". To paraphrase how Callum sums up his time in Paris, *Almost Nothing Happened* is thrilling, sexy, astonishing, glorious, unexpected and, quite possibly, life-changing. It's also delectably funny.

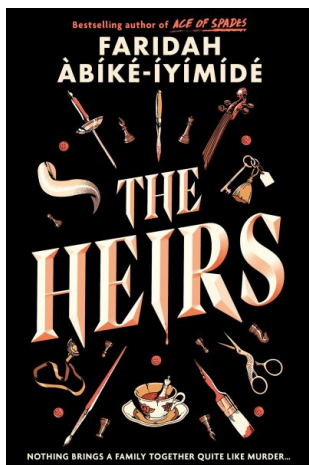


Of Flame and Fury

Author: Mikayla Bridge **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 17/07/2025

What a debut! 400 pages packed with everything a fantasy fan will love. Really well thought through world building with a new mythical creature to love - there are no dragons here! There is a fascinating, well-developed cast of characters with developing romantic connections, including the classic rivals to lovers trope. There is loyalty, betrayal, adventure, danger, death and mystery. It may sound as if too much is going on, but the author keeps as tight a hold on her story, as does Kelyn Varra on her beloved phoenix Savita. Kel is trying to keep her family's farm and phoenix aviary afloat. As a phoenix tamer, she looks after and trains the phoenixes for their racing team, the Crimson Howlers, but the tragic death of their rider forces them into teaming up with her most arrogant rival, Coup and his business manager brother Bekn. Infuriatingly, Coup is able to bond with Savita and rides her to an astonishing victory, which gains the attention of a billionaire tech boss who wants to buy the team. But Kel soon comes to suspect that he may have darker motives and that Savita and all phoenixes are in danger from Christo. It is an absolutely fascinating world that has been created, with all the elements of Phoenix lore and the presence of a deadly disease that might be cured by phoenix regeneration. The dramatic

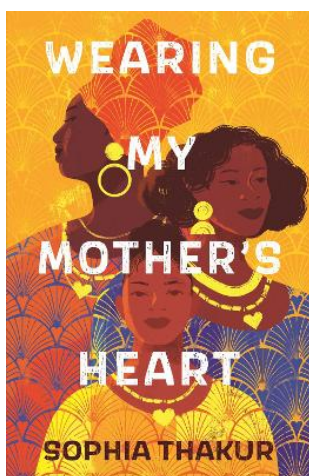
tension of the terrifying races and the unfolding mystery, together with the romantic tension developing between Kel and Coup will keep the reader entirely gripped and desperate to find out what happens next!



The Heirs

Author: Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/07/2026

July 2026 Book of the Month Boasting a killer concept and exquisitely-executed plot, Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé's *The Heirs* is a whodunnit of the highest order. While its cast of fabulously-evoked prodigious characters provide plenty of entertainment and intrigue, the suspenseful story plays out like the masterful chess match the novel is structured around. Think Agatha Christie meets *The Inheritance Games* meets *Knives Out* the movie. The Heirs in question are the adopted children of billionaire Leontes Button. Founder of an "internationally renowned games and merchandising company", Button's focus has shifted to "a controversial experiment" through which he's exploring "what it takes to make a child genius", which is how he came to adopt and mould the lives of five children: Octavius the musical maestro, Fola the scientist, Bilal the Olympian, Perdita the artist, and Romeo, deemed a failure as a result of failing to manifest any signs of genius, in a conventional sense, at least. When Button senior is murdered on a yacht in the Hamptons on the occasion of the tenth annual Prodigy Ball, fingers are pointed, suspicions sizzle, and questions arise through an ingeniously-plotted, puzzle-packed murder mystery that sees a succession of shocking secrets come to light, and rise to a truly unexpected finale. Though set in the contemporary world, the witty style and setting evoke the Gatsby-esque glamour and intrigue of classic golden age mysteries, which makes *The Heirs* an immensely satisfying, brilliantly-written novel that straddles the YA/adult murder mystery boundary.

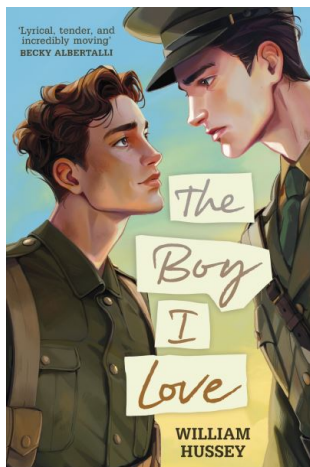


Wearing My Mother's Heart

Author: Sophia Thakur **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/11/2022

The award-winning performance poet's second anthology for teenagers to be published by Walker, really establishes her as one of the foremost poets of her generation, with a powerful and inclusive message for all readers. While steeped in Black culture and heritage, the universal truths about the debt every young woman owes to the pioneers that went before her and the truths that every woman inherits from her mother and grandmother, will speak to all audiences. There are poems specifically on topics such as religion, identity, race, politics, relationships, mental health and self-love. The experience of love and being loved is seen through all stages from first love to breakup. What comes through most intensely from this beautifully written collection is

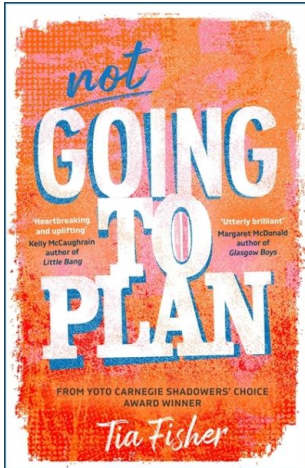
a real sense of family and family history and yet also the liberating effect of a strong self-belief. That the next generation can think differently without diminishing the love. "If only for a moment/ I could borrow my mother's eyes/ and see myself as she does/love myself as she does/ believe in myself with the same certainty as she does,/as if all I can do is prosper" A wonderful affirmative message for young women as they approach the joys and pain of adulthood and have to learn to navigate life. Highly recommended.



The Boy I Love

Author: William Hussey **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/01/2025

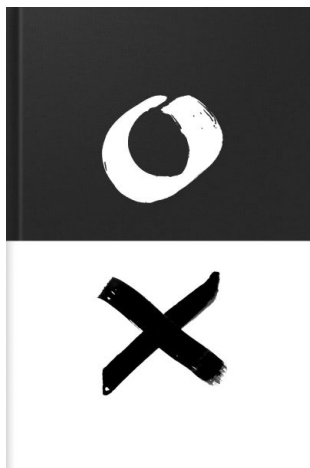
January 2025 Book of the Month This is so much more than the love story proclaimed by the title, it is also a remarkable work of historical fiction and a valuable addition to the canon of World War One novels and from an author that we are more used to producing fantasy, dystopia or crime stories. But it is certainly a compelling, lyrical, tender and important queer love story because it depicts so vividly the added dangers that forbidden love brought to the trauma of warfare and life in the trenches. The story is told by 19 year old Lieutenant Stephen Wraxall and set in the summer of 1916 leading up to the Battle of Somme and centring on the dangers and utter stupidity of The Big Push. Returning to the front after recovering from a crippling injury and following the devastating heartbreak of discovering that his childhood friend and first love, Michael has been killed, only to have the irrepressible 18-year-old Private Danny McCormick installed as his soldier-servant. Stephen is determined to preserve the life and innocence of Danny where he could not save Michael and the developing chemistry between the two of them is so vividly drawn that the reader is kept in a state of almost unbearable tension as they face both death and discovery. The author does not flinch from portraying the brutality of war and the dedication of his research can be judged by the extensive bibliography and useful glossary at the end of the book, but the research never overwhelms the writing and the superb characterisation. In his acknowledgements the author states he wanted the story to be a testament to those men who lived and died 'defending a country that for the most part despised them.' This he has most memorably and poignantly achieved in magnificent fashion.



Not Going to Plan

Author: Tia Fisher **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/08/2025

I have no doubt that following a Carnegie Shadower's Choice and UKLA Book Awards win with your debut novel, *Crossing the Line*, must be hard, but Tia Fisher has also talked about what a personal struggle this book has been for her, with her new central character Marnie being 'a lot like the girl I once was'. But the fact that this is a story that really matters to its author, is absolutely palpable in the reading, lending urgency and authenticity to the tale of a life so very nearly wrecked and which is a brilliant exploration of the physical, emotional and moral ramifications of teenage pregnancy. Once again, the author is demonstrating her mastery of the verse novel with her trademark playful creativity with layout on the page, but what I was not expecting was the dual narrative to be laid out side by side on the same page. This lent a real immediacy to the narrative. In real life we do not have one voice filling the space, politely followed by the other; they are inevitably layered upon each other, and this strategy enables us to get inside each character's head and mainline their emotions while getting a 360 perspective on the scene. I was also not expecting the male voice to be anything other than the father of the child, but instead it is of a new friend with his own problems. Marnie has been expelled from her exclusive school, and now finds herself seated next to Zed, the class loner who hates physical contact and is a socially - anxious, sexually - questioning, physics-obsessed nerd. Their unlikely friendship forms as they help each other prepare for their GCSEs, trading each other's talents. This friendship is severely tested when Marnie drunkenly sleeps with a boy who only pretends to wear a condom and falls pregnant. Zed functions as an everyman for the reader as he struggles to grasp the issues associated with this and we all maybe understand for the first time what is like to arrange and experience an abortion, and that stealthing (non-consensual condom removal) is a form of rape which is a criminal offence under UK law. These are important messages for all readers of any gender. But this is by no means a single-issue novel, it is a nuanced and utterly believable slice of a reality familiar to many and one which includes poverty, misogyny, homophobia and bullying and all the characters we meet are fully fleshed and developed. I might have thought the superlative *Crossing the Line* would be a hard act to follow, but this powerful and hugely readable novel surpasses all expectations. Mention should also be made of the very helpful list of resources and sources of help at the end of the book. This is an author who cares deeply about her readers too.



Noughts & Crosses

Author: Malorie Blackman **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 19/03/2026

"Speculative fiction at its very best, this book redefined what children's books can do and be." ~ Elle McNicoll, Guest Editor February 2023 "A book that dared to go where no one thought you could with young audiences because it raises tough stuff to do with race." Michael Rosen LoveReading4Kids Review: It takes a brave author such as Malorie Blackman to consider a sequence of the like of Noughts and Crosses and to pull it off with utmost aplomb. Award-winning author Blackman has tackled the issues of racism and prejudice in a world set in an alternate historical reality. Although 11 year olds will take great joy and learn much from reading this first one in the sequence, adults will devour it with equal enthusiasm. The contrast of the two main protagonists makes the novel totally compelling and the writing style is both original and superbly paced. The plot unravels at the pace of a thriller and as a consequence it's a book that is almost impossible to put down. Books in the Noughts & Crosses Series: 1. Noughts & Crosses 2. Knife Edge 3. Checkmate 4. Double Cross 5. Crossfire



Last One To Die

Author: Cynthia Murphy **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2021

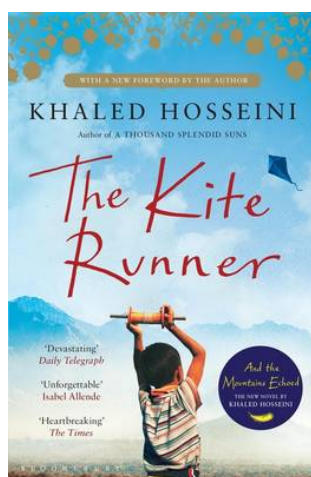
Selected for The Book Box by LoveReading4Kids This pacey page-turner teems with tension, twists and terror from the moment Irish girl Niamh arrives in London for a drama course and finds herself in a storm of vicious attacks on fellow students. Accelerating the fear factor, the victims look like Niamh, and bear marks reminiscent of those made by Spring Heeled Jack, a Victorian folklore figure who was said to slash his victims with metal claws. Amidst this terror, Niamh takes up her placement in a Victorian museum, where she plays the role of a factory owner's daughter who died a gruesome and untimely death. No wonder, then, that Niamh is glad to befriend Jess, a self-proclaimed "history nerd" who's thrilled to visit the museum's parlour that was once used by "the infamous Madame Josephine... Fortune teller, hypnotist, and mistress of the occult." Then there's creepy Will who works there, and gorgeous Tommy who sets Niamh's heart a-pounding. Entertaining and menacing in equal measure, and loaded with cliff-hangers and red herrings, this accomplished debut brings old school Point Horror novels to mind.



Day of Now

Author: Miranda Reason **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 12/02/2026

February 2026 Debut of the Month Dystopian adventures are back with a bang it seems, and increasingly relevant sadly, their ruined futures feeling much closer than they once did. In Miranda Reason's clever debut, in a baking near future, weeds carry spores that spread a deadly rabies-like disease infecting animals and humans alike. Human society has been reduced to individuals or small communities who scavenge for food and whatever else they can find in empty buildings, keeping a wary distance from anyone they don't know. Dayna and her younger brother Pax live with their father, just the three of them, the children experts in growing their own food, and in self-defence. When their father is bitten by an infected rat however, they decide to look for adult help, Dayna responding to messages picked up on an old radio. She's desperate to find people they can trust, but the adults they come across are - mostly - exactly the kind her father has warned them against. When their father is captured by a ruthless gang, they determine to rescue him and prove tough and quick-thinking enough to hold their own against their elders, though they still find themselves in unsettling situations, Dayna particularly at risk as an adolescent girl. Each encounter brings new dangers and their father's advice to trust absolutely no-one turns out to be horribly, heartbreakingly true. It makes for tense, compelling reading - readers will find their heart in their mouth at frequent points in the young people's journey. As well as being a terrific adventure story, like all the best dystopia, this novel also puts current society and human nature in the frame and sets readers thinking about what makes the best of us, the best of society.



The Kite Runner

Author: Khaled Hosseini **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/09/2011

This book seemed to come out of nowhere. It was the first Afghan novel to be written in English and it became a word-of-mouth bestseller in no time at all. Telling a tragic story of childhood jealousy and fear, it covers a bitter part of Afghan history in a painful tale that truly pulls at the heartstrings. A brilliant book. Voted 2nd in the Books of the Decade by LoveReading readers. Voted as the Penguin/Orange Reading Group Book of the Year 2006 and 2007. Richard Charkin, Executive Director of Publisher Bloomsbury, said: "We're delighted that The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini has been selected by LoveReading as the number two title of the last Decade. We're so pleased it continues to resonate with today's readers and hope it will continue to do so for many decades to come."



On the Road by Jack Kerouac is the exhilarating novel that defined the Beat Generation and is a 2012 major motion picture starring Kristen Stewart, Kirsten Dunst and Sam Riley, beautifully repackaged as part of the Penguin Essentials range. 'What's your road, man? - holyboy road, madman road, rainbow road, guppy road, any road. It's an anywhere road for anybody anyhow.' Sal Paradise, young and innocent, joins the slightly crazed Dean Moriarty on a breathless, exuberant ride back and forth across the United States. Their hedonistic search for release or fulfilment through drink, sex, drugs and jazz becomes an exploration of personal freedom, a test of the limits of the American Dream.



Teenagers Rufus and Mateo meet on their last day on earth. Via an app called the Last Friend they select each other and embark upon one final adventure together. They're very different, in very different places and looking to make a friend for very different reasons but they connect and they have one day to cram it all in. Adam Silvera so brilliantly captures the highs, the lows, the trials and tribulations of young people, young love and friendships in this story of interconnectedness. It's absolutely brilliant and you won't be able to put it down as you journey with them to find out what happens as they try to make their final day count.