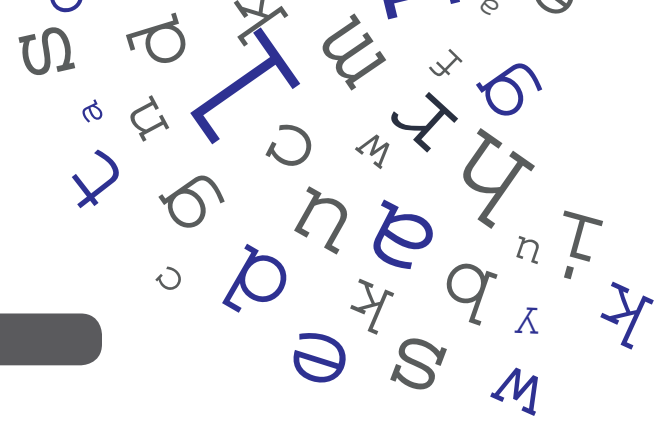


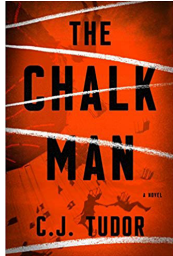


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Neil Arsenault, Brampton Public Library



THE CHALK MAN by C.J. Tudor

Young Eddie and his friends spent a lot of time together in their English village, back in 1986. Unfortunately for them, that was a year littered with a series of tragic events. As a result, the group and their friendship is never quite the same. Flash forward to 2016 and the friends reunite, the tragic events from 1986 start to resurface, leaving Eddie desperate to piece together who or what the Chalk man is and what it all means. This debut novel has just enough thrills, mystery, and horror to keep you turning the pages. For readalikes try Stephen King's **It**, and watch **Stand by Me** and **It** if you haven't already.



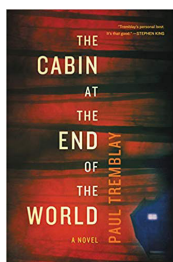
THE HUNGER by Alma Katsu

This historical tale tells the "true" story of the misfortune that plagued the Donner Party as they set out West on their settlement expedition in 1846. The novel has a large cast of characters and enough side stories to weave together a fast-paced historical narrative, packed with suspense, tragedy, and horror. Hitch a ride with the Donner party as they face off against the elements, starvation, and a force of evil that has been stalking them every step of the way. If you enjoy the blend of historical fiction and horror, check out **Terror** by Dan Simmons and **In the House in the Dark of the Woods** by Laird Hunt.



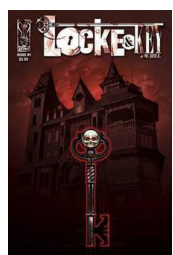
BABY TEETH by Zoje Stage

Sometimes parents think their children have it in for them, no matter how hard the parents try to please them. That's the premise of this story, where non-verbal, seven-year-old Hanna really does want her mother, Suzette, hurt, gone, and dead, by any means necessary. This disturbing novel pits a dangerously intelligent daughter against her ill mother, and shows how far a mother's love will go to win over a manipulative and deceptive child. If you're looking for similar reads, try **The Bad Seed** by William March, and for something more recent try, **We Need to Talk about Kevin** by Lionel Shriver. Both novels have been made into feature films of the same name and are worth a watch.



CABIN AT THE END OF THE WORLD by Paul Tremblay

Seven-year-old Wen and her parents, Eric and Andrew, are enjoying a relaxing vacation in a remote cabin, completely cut off from the rest of the world. Unfortunately, that feeling of comfort is soon lost as a group of strangers descend upon their cabin and set in motion events that have horrific consequences. If you're comfortable feeling very uncomfortable and are looking for similar reads, try **Bird Box** by Josh Malerman and **The Road** by Cormac McCarthy. These novels have also been made into popular feature films of the same name and are worth checking out.



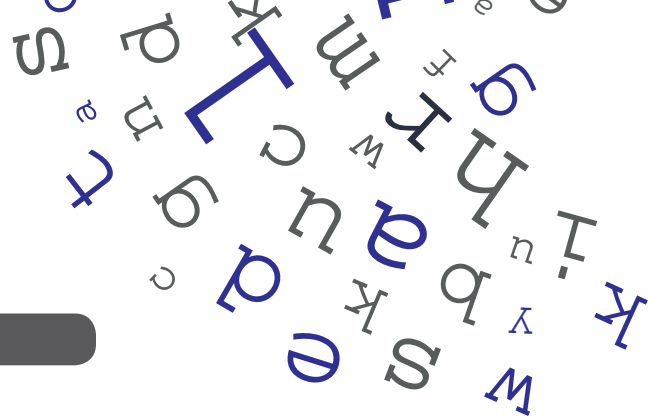
LOCKE & KEY by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez (GRAPHIC NOVEL SERIES)

The Locke family has moved back to Lovecraft, Massachusetts, to live in the historic family home of their father, who tragically passed away after a recent home invasion. They soon learn that Key house offers up much more than just family history as they are immersed in a haunting world of magic, mystery, and adventure. If you are up for more visual tales of horror, dark fantasy, and adventure, try reading the graphic novels series **The Sandman** by Neil Gaiman and **Fables** by Bill Willingham. Locke and Key is also currently in production as a series for Netflix, so expect to hear more about it in the near future.



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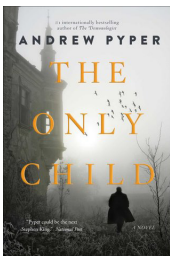


Charmaine Atrooshi, Ottawa Public Library



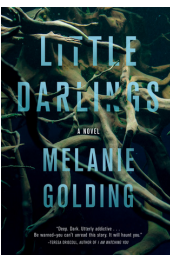
WATCH THE GIRLS by Jennifer Wolfe

Liv Hendricks, teen star, abruptly quits acting when her sister goes missing at a Hollywood party. Fifteen years later, she is back via a crowdfunded detective web series. After receiving a generous offer from an anonymous donor, Liv becomes embroiled in the search for several missing women in a town made famous for its horror movies. Soon Liv is receiving ominous clues and becomes ensnared in a cat-and-mouse game that is dark, disturbing, and dangerous. It hits close to home, too close. For similar stories, try Riley Sager's **The Last Time I Lied** and **All the Missing Girls** by Megan Miranda.



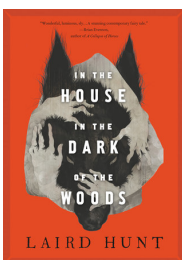
THE ONLY CHILD by Andrew Pyper

Client 46874-A has no name and insists he is centuries old (and the inspiration behind the monsters in classic literature). He committed a horrible crime in order to become a patient of Lily's and claims to be her father. When he escapes, Lily follows him to Eastern Europe, unaware that someone else is close behind. She is determined to find out the truth about this man and about her mother's death years past, putting her life in danger in the process. For readalikes, try **Mr. X** by Peter Straub and **Midnight** by Dean R. Koontz.



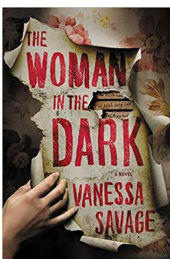
LITTLE DARLINGS by Melanie Golding

One night, in her hospital room, Lauren sees an unkempt woman who tries to steal her twin babies, Morgan and Riley, and replace them with her with two "creatures." Those around her tell her she is just overly tired and that she is imagining things. However, the woman soon returns, and this time Lauren is convinced she has swapped the babies. Is Lauren suffering from puerperal psychosis (as the doctor originally thought) or are these babies actually changelings? Lauren is determined to get her baby boys back at any cost. For similar stories, try **The Changeling** by Victor LaValle, and **The Replacement** by Brenna Yovanoff.



IN THE HOUSE IN THE DARK OF THE WOODS by Laird Hunt

In colonial New England, a woman referred to only as Goody gets lost in the woods while picking berries for her family. As she searches for her way back home, she meets some interesting characters, including Captain Jane, who takes her to meet Eliza who helps to treat her wounds. Goody soon discovers that there is more than meets the eye with these women, and that her unusual story is just beginning.... A dark fairy tale of witches, betrayal, THE hunt... For more horror involving witchcraft, try **The Night Strangers** by Chris Bohjalian and **Ring** by Koji Suzuki.



THE WOMAN IN THE DARK by Vanessa Savage

Sarah and Patrick move their family into Patrick's childhood home, aka "Murder House," searching for a fresh start. However, his childhood home isn't quite the same as it used to be—15 years earlier a family was brutally murdered in it. Sarah is worried someone is watching, and the locals are convinced the house is haunted. Will Sarah uncover the mystery of this house before it is too late? For more stories involving haunted houses try **American Horror Story, Season One (Murder House)** or **The Amityville Horror** by Jay Anson.

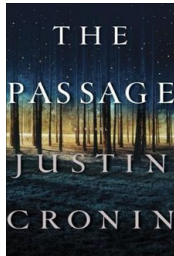


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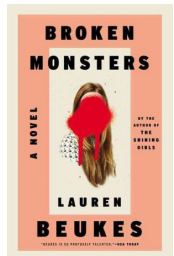


Kristen Caschera, London Public Library



THE PASSAGE by Justin Cronin

At a secret government facility, an attempt to create a new drug has gone awry. A monstrous virus has created a new race of half-human, half-vampire creatures. Nearly a century later, an isolated colony believes they're protected from "the virals," but the walls around their settlement are crumbling. At the centre of it all is Amy, a little girl who might just be the key to saving the world. Now a TV miniseries, this book will appeal to readers who enjoy apocalyptic settings and expansive novels. Looking for more books featuring bands of survivors? Try Cormac McCarthy's **The Road** or Stephen King's **The Stand**.



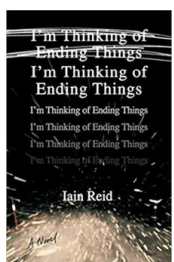
BROKEN MONSTERS by Lauren Beukes

In broken down, post-crash Detroit, a body is discovered. But not just your average dead body—a gruesome half-boy, half-deer hybrid, created by what can only be the sickest of minds. Detective Gabi Versado works overtime searching for the culprit. Her daughter Lailya plays vigilante online. A wannabe YouTube star tries to get the exclusive on the case. And a heroic homeless man seeks to protect his street family from the murderer. Alternating narrators and multiple perspectives make this a fast-paced page-turner that will appeal to fans of TV's **True Detective** or books by S.J. Bolton.



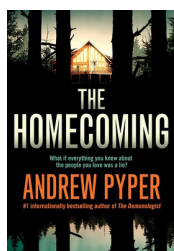
THE THREE by Sarah Lotz

Four planes crash on four different continents within hours of each other. Somehow, improbably, a single child is the sole survivor in three of the four crashes. Dubbed "The Three," these children quickly become the subject of intense public scrutiny, even as their behaviour becomes increasingly bizarre. As global panic reaches a fever pitch, those closest to "The Three" begin to realize that perhaps they weren't meant to survive those crashes after all.... **The Three** features multiple narrators and an intricately written plot. Looking for something else with creepy, chilling youngsters? Try Gillian Anderson's **A Vision of Fire**, or the movie **Insidious**.



I'M THINKING OF ENDING THINGS by Iain Reid

This book opens on a couple on a road trip. The unnamed female protagonist is on her way to meet her boyfriend's parents. An unexpected detour leaves her alone and stranded in an abandoned high school, wandering the halls searching for escape. A book that defies categorization, **I'm Thinking of Ending Things** is part thriller, part horror, part mystery, and will keep you guessing long after you've finished. It will appeal to readers who enjoy complex plots and unreliable narrators. Watch for the Netflix series for this book coming soon, and in the meantime, pick up **Looker** by Laura Sims.



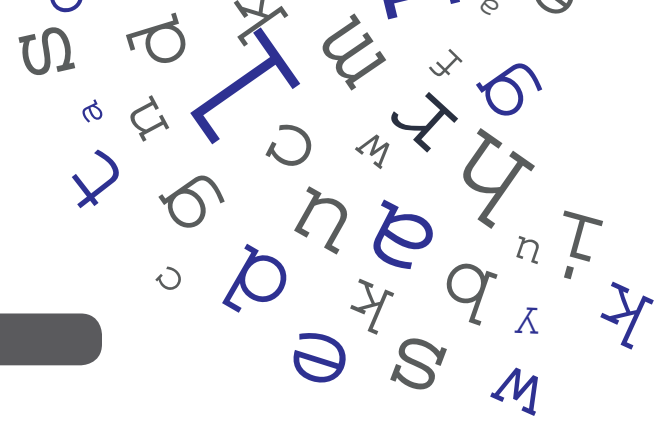
THE HOMECOMING by Andrew Pyper

Raymond Quinlan, an enigma while he was alive, is no less mysterious after his death. His wife and children are shocked to learn they must remain at his secret estate, Belfontaine, for thirty days to receive their substantial inheritance. But the longer the family stays, the stranger and more disturbing things become. Will the family survive the thirty days, or will Belfontaine consume them all? This suspenseful read is perfect for readers who like creepy, atmospheric settings and books about dark family secrets. For a similar read, try **The Haunting of Hill House** by Shirley Jackson or its Netflix adaptation.



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Jeff Dodge, Vaughan Public Library



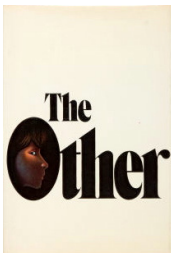
FROM HELL by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell

When considering books about psychopaths, it never hurts to refer to some original source material. Moore's words and Campbell's art take on Jack the Ripper and it's dense, dark, erudite and all-round creepy. Another famous fictional psychopath is Norman Bates in Robert Bloch's classic **Psycho**. By now, every reader will know "Mother" isn't quite what she seems, but that won't stop you from frantically turning the pages till the very end. Other options are Ryu Murakami's **Audition** and scary thrillers such as Thomas Harris's **Red Dragon** and Natsuo Kirino's **Out**. The first five titles are movies of the same name.



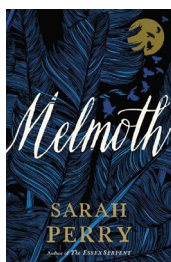
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN by John Ajvide Lindqvist

It's Sweden, 1981, and 12-year-old Oskar meets the new girl who moves next door. She seems a little odd and only comes out at night, but she provides some welcome relief from the bullies and the boredom. And then the bodies start piling up. It turns out not all vampires are partial to formal evening wear and hail from Transylvania. Other vampire books are: the excellent **'Salem's Lot** (Stephen King), **The Hunger** (Whitley Strieber), **The Historian** (Elizabeth Kostova) and **The Fledgling** (Octavia Butler). The first three have been made into films.



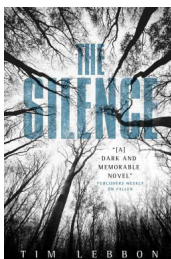
THE OTHER by Thomas Tryon

Set in the pastoral Pennsylvania countryside during the Vietnam War, it is a quiet story of a working-class family whose close ties to the land help sustain them during loss and longing. Understated and meditative, it looks at the high price of war, the power of forgiveness, and the value of kindness. Other authors who bear witness to the rich inner lives and the quiet rhythms of life beyond the cities' bright lights are **Kent Haruf** and **Alice Munro**.



MELMOTH by Sarah Perry

When looking for a gothic setting you could do worse than the cobblestoned streets Prague at night. A mysterious old letter found in a library begins this story about Melmoth, a lonely wanderer often warned of in folklore. Shrouded in black and hiding in shadows, she doesn't want to be alone anymore and is looking for company. Is she really just a legend? For classic gothic tales try **Ann Radcliffe** or **The Monk** (Matthew Lewis). Newer work with gothic touches are these spooky titles: **Classics of the Macabre** (Daphne Du Maurier), **We Have Always Lived in the Castle** (Shirley Jackson) and **Ghost Story** (Peter Straub)



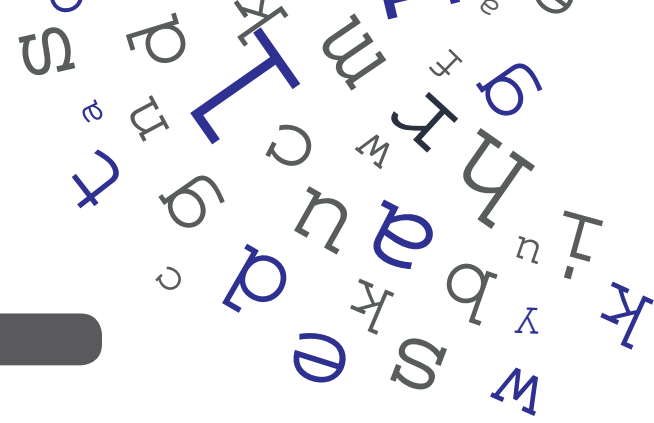
THE SILENCE by Tim Lebbon

From the broad "You're not from around here are you?" files comes this story about a hungry, invasive species that uses sound to locate their prey (i.e. us). If this sounds familiar, it was made into a movie, albeit in a much-altered form, called **A Quiet Place**. Other novels where otherworldly types try to climb to the top of the food chain are **The Ruins** (Scott Smith), **Cold Skin** (Albert Sanchez Pinol), **Who Goes There?** (John W. Campbell), **The Day of the Triffids** (John Wyndham), and **The Deep** (Nick Cutter). For related Weird Fiction, there is of course much of H.P. Lovecraft's and Robert E. Howard's works as well as **The Fisherman** (John Langan)

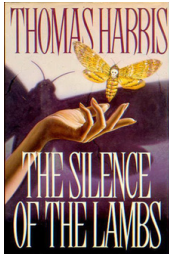


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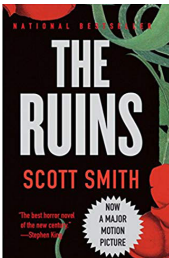


Jennifer Green, Oshawa Public Library



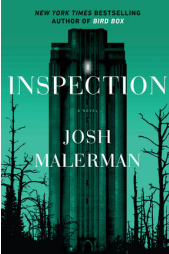
SILENCE OF THE LAMBS by Thomas Harris

Agent-in-training Clarice Starling starts a high-profile case that brings her together with the brilliant Dr. Hannibal Lecter. In prison for heinous murders, Lecter loves to play games and manipulate those around him. Although written 30 years ago, the book still manages to build incredible suspense and tension. Lecter isn't the only thing of nightmares, though, as Buffalo Bill remains one of the creepiest killers in literature (at least for me). The film **Silence of the Lambs** is excellent and it's hard to separate it from the book. Also, check out the more recent **Hannibal** television series.



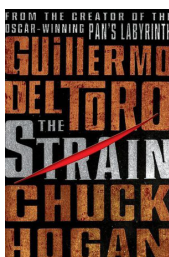
THE RUINS by Scott Smith

Who wouldn't want to explore some hidden ruins in Mexico? That's what a group of friends do on a fun trip south, but what should be a daytrip, turns into a nightmare. Something will not let them leave this secluded spot, but staying will surely kill them. How do you fight an enemy you can't see? Very atmospheric with lots of tension. For another chilling story set on vacation, check out Alex Garland's **The Beach**, and try the films for both books for comparison.



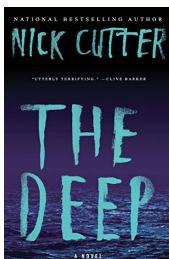
INSPECTION by Josh Malerman

A solitary tower houses 26 boys, each named after a letter of the alphabet. Unbeknownst to them, girls don't exist and they're being raised to be exceptional. Life in the tower is all they know. But J believes something more is going on. As he digs to find the truth, his world is turned upside down when he encounters K, a girl from another isolated tower who's asking the same questions. Try watching **The Handmaid's Tale** or **Get Out!** for similar slow-building tension and horror.



THE STRAIN by Guillermo Del Toro and Chuck Hogan

New York City has been infected by an unknown virus, which turns people into bloodthirsty, vampiric creatures a bit different from your stereotypical vampires. Holocaust survivor Abraham Setrakian is all-too familiar with these creatures and knows a war is coming. **The Strain** is a creepy, fast-paced horror that showcases Del Toro's signature imagination and is one you'll want to read with the lights on! This is the first book in a three-part series. If you're looking for movies or television with a similar tone, try **The Walking Dead** or the televised version of **The Strain**.



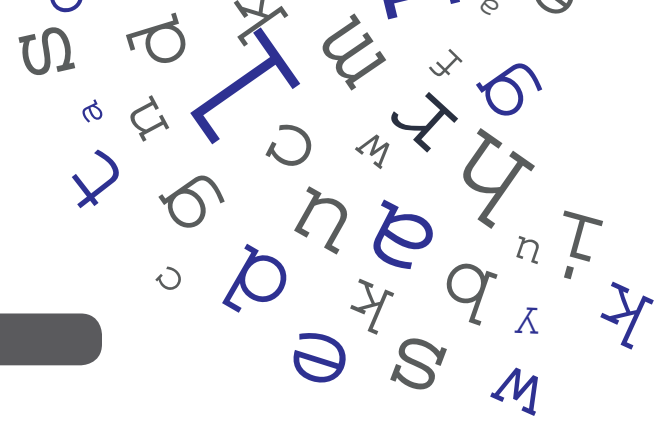
THE DEEP by Nick Cutter

A mysterious plague starts to make people forgetful to the point they simply don't remember how to function. But far below the Pacific, a group of scientists have discovered a possible cure called "ambrosia." When the research centre starts to break down, Luke Nelson travels into the deep after receiving a distress message from his brilliant brother and scientist Clayton. What transpires below is horrific and mind-bending. For books with similar claustrophobic, frightening plots, try Michael Crichton's **Sphere** or Mira Grant's **Into the Drowning Deep**.

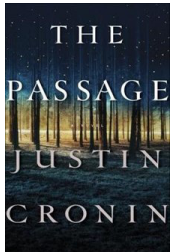


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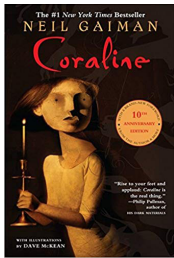


Laura Peacock, Waterloo Public Library



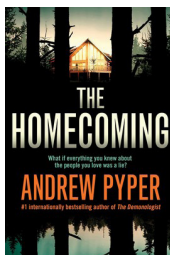
THE PASSAGE by Justin Cronin

It's hard to bring something fresh and terrifying to a vampire story. But with a powerful virus and its unexpected effects after a death row inmate drug trial, Cronin tweaks our expectation of vampire lore. What could be worse than an already violent and blood-thirsty person gaining speed, intelligence, and indestructibility? The realness of the premise builds dread, but don't expect to be scared silly by every page. Edward Hermann's narration of the audiobook helps build a feeling of suspense. For lighter pulpy monster stories try **The Other Stories** podcast, or for more vampire stories try **Enter Night** by Michael Rowe or **The Moth Diaries** by Rachel Klein.



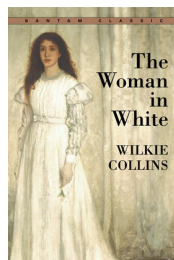
CORALINE by Neil Gaiman

A modern classic, Coraline has been spooking children and adults alike for nearly twenty years. Through a doorway in her flat, Coraline discovers a world with an "other" mother and "other" father. Other mother makes the foods she likes and spends more time with Coraline. But in this "other" world, Coraline is confronted by the ghosts of other mother's previous children. Then her parents disappear in the real world. Maybe something more sinister than Coraline realized is afoot in the "other" world. For just a touch of spook, but a lot of great storytelling, try another classic stop-motion, **The Nightmare Before Christmas**, or **A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L'Engle (also with an "other" world parent rescue!)



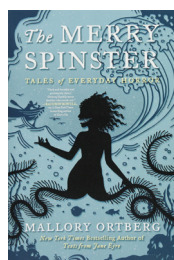
THE HOMECOMING by Andrew Pyper

After the death of their father, the Quinlans assemble in the Pacific Northwest for the reading of his will. All are shocked to discover just how much they are to inherit if they live at the family estate without outside communication for thirty days. Cue the stuff of nightmares. Full of ghost story-esque lore and moments that will have you jumping out of your seat, expect not only scares but an emotional depth that makes the scares more impactful. Try **The Apex & The Abyss** podcast for real life/ realistic scares, or rewatch **The Cabin in the Woods** for more isolation freakiness.



THE WOMAN IN WHITE by Wilkie Collins

After encountering an eerie woman dressed entirely in white, Walter Hartright is consumed by the mystery of discovering who she is. Part mystery, part Gothic horror, **The Woman in White's** influence on the horror, mystery, and psychological fiction genres cannot be ignored. While not necessarily a horror by today's standards, there are enough spine-tingling descriptions to keep a horror reader satisfied. For more classic influencers, try **The Monk** by Matthew Lewis or Collins's **The Moonstone**. The **Lore** podcast is also full of more "could happen in real life" thrilling stories.



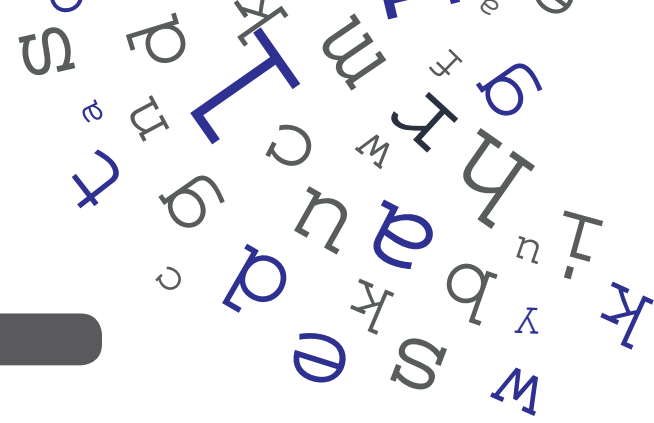
MERRY SPINSTER by Mallory Ortberg

Disney-fied versions are a far cry from the original Grimm fairy tales, but Ortberg's collection of retellings takes the Grimm brothers horror an extra step further. Not every story is as spooky or well constructed as the ones that are gems, but in these short bedtime story-sized tales you're sure to have some scares. Some of the thought-provoking commentaries infused within the stories might also keep percolating throughout the night. For fans of action-packed dramas like **Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters** or modernized fairy tale writings like **The Bloody Chamber** by Angela Carter.

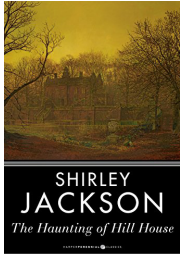


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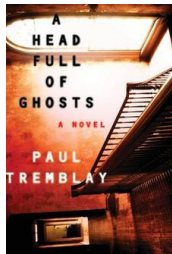


Emma Primeau, Burlington Public Library



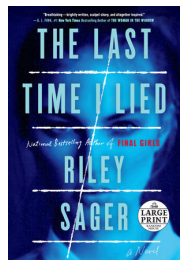
THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE by Shirley Jackson

This classic horror tale, originally published in 1959, stands the test of time on all accounts. Through a skillfully developed plot, rich character development and beautiful writing style, Jackson draws readers into the minds of the four unlikely characters who come to spend a haunted summer on the Hill House compound. The Netflix series based on the book is modelled reverently on Jackson's classic, but is also a departure in many ways. Similar reads include **The Widow's House** by Carol Goodman and **Kill Creek** by Scott Thomas or try the podcast **Knock Once for Yes**.



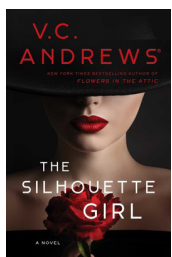
A HEAD FULL OF GHOSTS by Paul Tremblay

Perfect for fans of **The Exorcist**, this dark and disturbing psychological horror revolves around the Barratt family and the complicated circumstances surrounding the troubling behavior of fourteen year old Marjorie. When struggling finances add to despair, the Barratts find themselves the centre of a reality television show called The Possession, culminating in Marjorie's exorcism. Check out readalikes **The Dark Net** by Benjamin Percy, **Night After Night** by Philip Rickman or the podcast **Inside the Exorcist**.



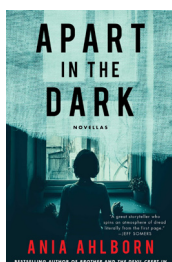
THE LAST TIME I LIED by Riley Sager

Playing "two truths and a lie" was a summer tradition among the girls at remote Camp Nightingale. For Emma, the game is a haunting memory of the last time she saw her three cabin-mates before they disappeared forever. Mirroring the tropes of an '80s horror movie, **The Last Time I Lied** is an atmospheric and suspenseful thriller with unexpected plot twists, turns and surprises. Enjoy similar appeal in **Picnic at Hanging Rock** by Joan Lindsay, **Grist Mill Road** by Christopher Yates or the podcast **Jim Harold's Campfire**.



THE SILHOUETTE GIRL by V.C. Andrews

If you're looking for a quick fix of psychological horror punctuated with gothic tone and atmospheric appeal, **The Silhouette Girl** is it. The story unfolds as a dual narrative of perspectives between protagonists Pru and Scarlett. Each chapter slowly unravels their mysterious connection. Readalikes include *The Cabin at the End of the World* by Paul Tremblay, **The Woman in the Dark** by Vanessa Savage or the podcast **PseudoPod**.



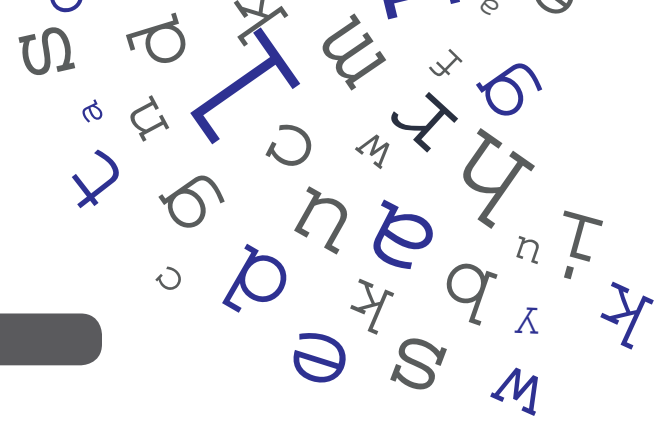
APART IN THE DARK: NOVELLAS by Ania Ahlborn

Apart in the Dark presents two equally dark novellas featuring female protagonists. **The Pretty Ones** is a psychological thriller that takes place in 1977 New York during the Son of Sam serial murders. **I Call Upon Thee** is a modern haunted house, classic horror story built on atmosphere, suspense, and the fear of the unknown. For a similar reading experience, try **The Train Now Departing** by Martha Grimes and **We Should Have Left Well Enough Alone: Selected Stories** by Ronald Malfi or listen to **The NoSleep Podcast**.

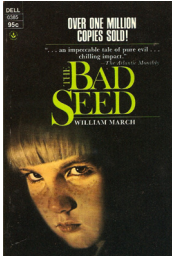


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BEST BETS 2019

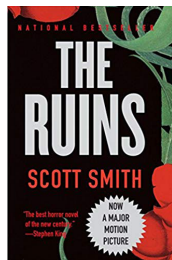


Julie Wendland, County of Lennox & Addington



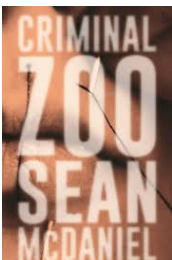
THE BAD SEED by William March

Take the rhyme of “girls are made of sugar, spice, and everything nice” and throw it out the window as you are reading this 1954 classic. Rhoda is a seemingly nice little girl to everyone around her, but do not stand in her way if she wants something. This book will definitely send chills up your spine as she gets everything she wants with little regard for anyone other than herself. WATCHALIKE: **The Good Son** (1993), READALIKE: **Baby Teeth** by Zoje Stage



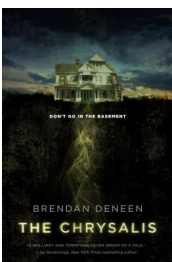
THE RUINS by Scott Smith

Adventure seeking and the search for a lost brother leads a group of ill-prepared travellers into the Mayan jungle to a ruins that has devastating effects. If you are reading this at a sunny beach resort, you may want to cancel any off-resort excursions. WATCHALIKE: **The Descent**, READALIKE: **Castaways** by Brian Keene



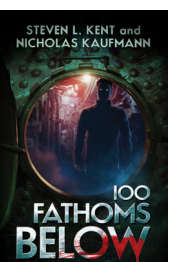
CRIMINAL ZOO by Sean McDaniel

Delusions of grandeur and horrific acts abound in this book. Criminal Zoo is a place where criminals are placed on display for the paying public to view, but if you pay enough, you can deliver the same punishment to the criminal that they did to their victims. This book has plenty of twists and turns that will have you tearing through the book to the end. WATCHALIKE: **Maniac** (2012), READALIKE: **Wasp Factory** by Iain Banks



CHRYSALIS by Brendan Deneen

When a couple's rent goes sky high, they move to the suburbs to a house that seems perfect for them. They have no regrets as great things begin happening to them once they are settled. However, their lives take a twist when they learn of the tragedy that befell the previous owners and things start falling apart for them. For those that like gore and psychological terror, this is the book for you. WATCHALIKE: **The Fly** (1986), READALIKE: **Glimpse** by Jonathan Maberry



100 FATHOMS BELOW by Steven L. Kent and Nicholas Kaufmann

Fear of drowning, closed in spaces, trying to avoid being detected by Soviet submarines while an unknown entity is killing off your colleagues—this book has it all. The authors build the suspense perfectly as the crew has to take time out from their covert mission during the Cold War in Russian waters to battle a different sort of enemy that has taken over their nuclear submarine. You just never know what will be lurking in the deep. WATCHALIKE: **Below** (2002), READALIKE: **The Deep** by Nick Cutter