Altin, Vanessa  The pomegranate tree

Blanket  Pbk  9.99  9780992872892
Interest  12+  Reading age:  12+

Dilvan is a teenage Kurdish girl living in a Kurdish village in Syria. Set in the summer of 2014, the story starts with her village being attacked and Dilvan’s mother and sisters are taken. Dilvan is rescued and is determined to find out what happened to her family and rescue them. Although this is fictional, it does paint an accurate picture of life in Syria. The book is well written, gripping, and gives an excellent feel of time and place.

Brooks, Kevin  Born scared

Electric  Pbk  7.99  9781405276191
Interest  14+  Reading age:  12+

Elliot is terrified of almost everything. The only things that keep his terrors in check are the pills that he takes every day, and his mother, the one person he loves and trusts. It’s Christmas Eve and Elliot’s medication is almost gone. The phone lines are down. His mother nips out to collect his prescription - but she doesn’t come back. Exciting thriller which builds the tension throughout.

Some swearing and violence but not graphic and one character drives whilst oblivious to the fact he has taken drugs.

Bunzl, Peter  Cogheart

Usborne  Pbk  6.99  9781474915007
Interest  9+  Reading age:  9+

Lily is 13 years old and is searching for her father who mysteriously disappears after a Zeppelin crash in Victorian London. Lily is determined to hunt down the truth behind his disappearance, helped by Robert, the local clockmaker’s son, and her wily mechanical fox Malkin. Shadowy figures and treachery are lurking, along with a life-changing secret. First title in a new series. Well written Victorian adventure story with a fast moving plot.

Farrant, Natasha  Lydia

Chicken  Pbk  7.99  9781910002971
House  Interest  11+  Reading age:  11+

Story of the events told in Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, written in diary format by Lydia, the youngest of the Bennet sisters. The book describes many of the events taking place in Pride and Prejudice, and has all the main characters, but as it is told from Lydia’s point of view, it does contain elements which are unique to this title. The author has written in a style which gives a flavour of Austen, but is not old-fashioned. It is not necessary to have read the original novel.
Griffin, M.A.  
**Lifers**

Chicken Pbk 7.99 9781910002254

Interest 14+  Reading age: 12+

When Preston’s friend goes missing, his search brings him to a secret scientific institute where criminal teenagers are being sent through a machine to an underground cavern without resources or any hope of escape. Preston infiltrates the cavern to save the prisoners and bring the politician behind it all to justice. Gripping, dark, fast-paced dystopian thriller with well-written and believable central characters. Conversational swearing, violence and descriptions of injury and death, although all appropriate to the narrative.

Hitchcock, Fleur  
**Murder in midwinter**

Nosy Pbk 6.99 9780857636386

Interest 11+  Reading age: 11+

When Maya takes a photograph on her phone she unwittingly records a crime which puts her life and her family at risk. Now a vital witness to a crime, the police send Maya into hiding in rural Wales, at her aunt’s farm. In heavy snow the criminals still track her down and despite police protection around the clock she is attacked and shot at. All is resolved however; some adults are injured. An exciting page turning plot grips the reader due to main character’s dangerous plight. Easy to read.

Jarvis, Robin  
**Power of dark**

Egmont Pbk 6.99 9781405280235

Interest 11+  Reading age: 11+

When a skeleton comes crashing through Lil’s window and lands on top of her Lil is possessed by Scaur Annie, a young witch from hundreds of years ago who has a score to settle. Meanwhile, Lil’s best friend Verne finds an ancient artefact belonging to Scaur Annie’s enemy and they both become part of the battle to save Whitby. Gripping, easy to read with a few black and white illustrations by the author. First in a series.

Luurtsema, Nat  
**Girl out of water**

Walker Pbk 6.99 9781406366525

Interest 13+  Reading age: 13+

When Lou fails to qualify for Olympic training school, it leaves her without a hobby – or her best friend. As Lou tries to come to terms with this, a chance encounter finds her coaching the boy’s underwater dance team! A compelling read with some wonderful laugh out loud moments. The boys are arrested after they all break into the local aquarium to practice, and are briefly under suspicion of harming Lou. Some aspects of the plot are a little far-fetched, but the characters are lively, well-drawn and very realistic.

McAllister, Cameron  
**The demon undertaker**

Penguin Pbk 6.99 9780552574044

Interest 11+  Reading age: 11+

Thomas joins the team of detectives known as the Bow Street Runners to investigate some mysterious kidnappings using a hearse. Is the kidnapper human or a vampire? What does he do with his victims and why does he want them alive? A dark gothic style mystery which is fast paced and scary. Historically accurate descriptions of the Georgian period, using some language which evokes the feel of the time. First in a new series.
Kirby’s mum was hurt when a freak storm lashed their little fishing village and is now in a coma. Slowly he realises that the storm and a series of strange, unpleasant events are linked. He is helped by a girl called Amelia Pigeon who turns out to be a powerful witch, working for good not evil, ‘Shadowsmith’. A fast paced, very well written, dark supernatural horror adventure story.

Five children from different parts of the world are all brought to a house for different reasons. When they get there some very strange things start to happen and they are all convinced the house is haunted. But who has brought them there, and why? A striking book with a cellophane covered hole in the front cover and grey pages which look like they’ve been burnt. Download the app to find content to enhance the story. First in a series.

1919. Mama is ill. Father has taken a job abroad. Nanny Jane is too busy to pay any attention to Henrietta and the things she sees - or thinks she sees - in the shadows of their new home. All alone, with only stories for company, she discovers that the house and the wood beyond the garden is full of strange secrets. One night she ventures into the darkness of Nightingale Wood. What she finds there will change her whole world. A very well written, thought provoking book has all the elements of a future classic.

Slim Hannigan and her family are poor but happy. But things change overnight, and suddenly they find themselves facing hunger and danger so they leave their village in Ireland to journey to America where, they hope, family and fortune await them. Slim soon finds herself living a life that feels just like one of those far-fetched stories her Da has always told. Can one brave girl keep her family together no matter what is thrown at them? Although the subject matter is rather grim, the story is told from Slim’s point of view and is very easy to read and absorbing.

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