Boecker, Virginia

Witch hunter

Orchard Pbk £7.99 9781408335222
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 13

16 year old Elizabeth is one of the best witch hunters in Anglia. However, one day she is framed as a witch and sentenced to death. In agreeing to help a powerful wizard, Elizabeth slowly learns more about herself and the people in power and has to re-evaluate her relationships and beliefs. An exciting, action packed fantasy novel which hits the ground running from the first page. Some grisly descriptions.

Campbell, Alex

Cloud 9

Hot Key Pbk £6.99 9781471403545
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 12

16-year-old Hope has been taking "Leata" for years, just like most of the population. Her father is the lawyer for the drug company that makes this wonder drug that keeps you feeling happy. When her friend Tom’s journalist father dies unexpectedly, Hope helps him to find out the reason for his death. Together they discover that "Leata" has serious side effects and the conspiracy goes to the highest level. Can they work together to uncover the secrets? Builds to a fast moving thriller.

Collins, Tim

Mr Perfect

Badger Learning Pbk £5.99 9781784643256 9781784643256
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 7

Rachel’s father makes robots. Rachel finds out that he is going to test a new model on her when she goes to stay with her uncle and she is determined not to be fooled by one of her dad's creations. She assumes the robot is the boy who helps out in the garden as he has all the same interests as her and she likes him a lot. But is he? Hi-lo title for reluctant girl readers.
Nolan leaves school one day to discover that his mum has dyed her hair bright green, sold everything they own, and they’re going on a road trip in a camper van following a rock band. He meets Feather, the adopted daughter of a famous rock star. This mismatched pair discover an escaped wild cat. But the band’s manager wants it too... Exciting tale which would appeal to both boys and girls, with the narrative told from their different points of view, which aids in the very believable characterisation.

When Olivia opens the bathroom door, she finds her best friend Nicola giving birth on the floor. At its heart the story is about teen pregnancy, but as the narratives split into the voices of the main five teenage characters we also get a range of other experiences, including relationship abuse, bullying, friendship, parenthood and sexuality. A quick, enjoyable and compelling debut novel. There is an unexpected twist at the end. Contains sexual references.

Set in Poland in 1945 the Second World War has officially ended, but the streets are still a battleground - for food, for shelter, for protection. Felix is in hiding with an orphaned infant which has been left in his care and he will do everything he can to protect the child, in the way a few incredible people did for him during the Holocaust. The fifth in this moving series, which Gleitzman says can be read in any order. It follows the story told in "After." Not for the faint hearted.

Faith's scientist and cleric father has been found dead, and as she is searching through his belongings she discovers a strange tree. The tree only bears fruit if you whisper a lie to it. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, will deliver a hidden truth to the person who consumes it. Faith realizes that the tree might hold the key to her father's murder. Challenging and original thriller with a fantasy element. Strong sense of the Victorian period as seen through the eyes of an intelligent young woman.
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Adam Stone wants to escape Blackwater, the dust-bowl desert town he grew up in. To win a one-way ticket to Sky-Base and a life of luxury he will ride the Blackwater Trail in a brutal race that will test him and his friends and only the strongest will survive. Dystopian novel featuring lots of motorbikes with a feel of the “Hunger Games”. Good characters but includes scenes of death, torture, mild drug taking and swearing. Enjoyable read but for older teens.

When 16 year old Luke's father dies suddenly, he leaves his son a dark inheritance - a ghost collection and a book of black magic. However Luke has had no training, and the ghosts want him dead so they can be free. Luke has until Halloween to try and understand the book and save the lives of everyone in his town. Superb debut novel and a gripping thriller with plenty of humour and excellent characterisation which would appeal to both boys and girls. Some conversational swearing, smoking and drinking.

12 year old Jack Mattingly is a genius. He has an IQ of 170. He speaks fluent Mandarin and Latin. He can calculate the square root of 1,673,549 in his head but he longs for a bit of excitement from his mother’s exacting parenting. When Jack’s parents’ car is hi-jacked with him inside it, for once he’s clueless. Exciting fast moving adventure with likeable characters and lots of plot twists.

Minny is desperate for some space in a house spilling over with family and hangers-on. She has to contend with her autistic sister Aisling’s school bullies, whilst trying to keep her self-absorbed BFF, Penny, happy, and looking normal in front of new boy Franklin. And on top of this, now Dad has announced that he’s returning to London - with his new girlfriend! Very funny in places this is a quality read about family life with excellent characters. Probably one for the girls.
Owen, a twelve year old boy, has to live with his cruel aunt in a seaside guest house. He meets a mysterious guest, who appears to make his ventriloquist’s dummy speak, even in his sleep. Soon Owen realises that the dummy, Mr Sparks, has a dark past when he smothers his current owner, looking for a younger puppet master... A compelling read, yet quite long at 340 pages. There are some violent scenes but nothing really graphic or out of context.

Becket Ramsay's dad, still grieving from the death of their mother, has run away with him and his brother Billy in the middle of the night. Becket has no idea what's going on. So with the help of Billy and a snail called Brian, Becket sets out on a journey of discovery. A wonderful and moving story about a boy's lack of understanding of his father’s relationships and his troubled younger brother, told with great empathy. There is the odd swear word but great easy reading.

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