

Recommended Secondary Fiction Summer Term 2023



Bell, Alex

The Lighthouse

Little Tiger	Pbk	8.99	9781788951517
Interest age:	12	Reading age:	12

Rosie and Jess are spending two weeks with their dad and his new family on an island, called Bird rock, during the school break. It's the last thing Jess wants to do but if her sister is happy and wants to go, so will she. Before they even step foot on the island they become caught in its mystery. Gannets circle and thick mist surrounds the lighthouse, hiding the secrets of a tragic past. Rosie is excited and wants to win a competition by capturing a truly haunted picture to send into a magazine to win £1000 cash prize. Jess doesn't believe in ghosts - but the trip to The Lighthouse on Bird Rock changes her mind. Nightmares haunt their dreams and there seems to be someone, or something, else with them in the lighthouse. Jess and Rosie decide to investigate.

The Lighthouse is a chilling and gripping read, a ghost story with twists and turns.

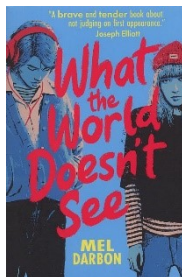


Burge, Rachel

Waking the Witch

Hot Key	Pbk	7.99	9781471411083
Interest age:	12+	Reading age:	12+

Ivy's search for her mother takes her to Bardsey, a remote Welsh island where she uncovers dark secrets about her past. An ancient and corrupted power haunts the island and the only chance of survival for herself and her friend Tom is for her to look deep within herself and address her past. As a child who has grown up in care she has suppressed her feelings for fear of rejection. Well told dark story with plenty of brooding Welsh atmosphere and Arthurian legend mixed with a modern tale of female empowerment. Set up for a sequel.



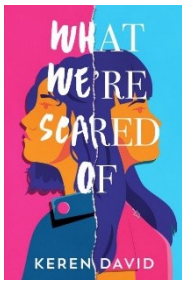
Darbon, Mel

What the World Doesn't See

Usborne	Pbk	8.99	9781474937849
Interest age:	12+	Reading age:	12+

A powerful novel with an insight into life with learning disabilities and caring for someone who has them. Maudie and Jack's mum has been struggling with grief since their dad died and one night she vanishes. When Maudie's aunt puts Jake into care Maudie decides she has to act and comes up with a plan of kidnapping Jake. Told in alternate chapters from Maudie and Jake's point of view.

A wonderful story, which is very special – a main character with learning disabilities themes of first love and an ultimately hopeful message. Wonderful characters and full of empathy.

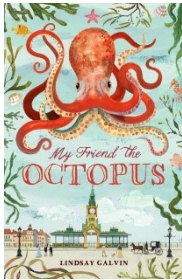


David, Keren

What We're Scared Of

Scholastic	Pbk	7.99	9781407196442
Interest age:	13+		Reading age: 13+

Evie and Lottie are twin sisters but they couldn't be more different. They go to different schools and are interested in different things. Their Jewish mother has never mentioned their family history or followed religious customs. But then Lottie becomes friends with Hannah who opens her eyes to Judaism and the casual racism of classmates. Evie's eyes are opened by Noah who is trying to act against racists. When the twins' mother gets a high-profile job on radio and is targeted by anti-semitic trolls on social media, the twins try to brush it off at first but then it gets more dangerous. In the aftermath, they attend a talk by Mala Tribich - a very real Holocaust survivor. A page-turner with short chapters, told from both twins' points of view, and engaging characters. Highlights anti-semitism today, as well as it being a story about friendships and sibling relationships.



Galvin, Lindsay

My Friend the Octopus

Chicken House	Pbk	7.99	9781913696405
Interest age:	9+		Reading age: 9+

A historical novel revolving around a giant octopus and a sinister mystery in a Victorian aquarium. Twelve-year-old Vinnie Fyfe has been taken by her milliner mother to live with her aunt. Whilst waiting for her mum to return from Paris, the arrival of a giant octopus changes Vinnie's life for ever. She soon realises she can communicate with the octopus through colour and - as a gripping mystery begins to unfold - discovers what true courage really means...

A gripping Victorian mystery with a touching connection between a young girl and an octopus at its heart.

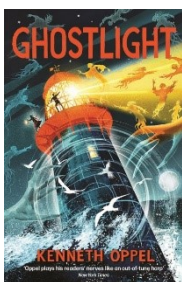


Houghton, Anna

Orla and the Wild Hunt

Chicken House	Pbk	7.99	9781912626113
Interest age:	9+		Reading age: 9+

When Orla and her younger brother Apollo go to stay with their beloved gran in Ireland, they are hoping for normality and comfort after the death of their Mother. But soon after they arrive, Gran vanishes, and Orla is confronted by the shape-shifting darkness known as the Wild Hunt. To save their gran from the Wild Hunt, they soon find themselves on a dangerous quest to bring back the magical Harp of Dagda. But the children need help in this quest, and soon are accompanied by some very unlikely, and not necessarily trustworthy creatures of myth and legend. Can they finally outwit the Wild Hunt in time to save gran?



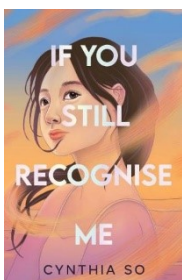
Oppel, Kenneth

Ghostlight

Guppy Books	Pbk	7.99	9781913101763
Interest age:	12+		Reading age: 12+

Rebecca Strand was just sixteen when she and her father fell to their deaths from the top of the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse in 1839. Just how they died remains a mystery. Their ghosts haunt the lighthouse to this day.... Gabe tells this story every day when he gives the ghost tour on Toronto Island. He tries to make it scary enough to satisfy the tourists, but he doesn't actually believe in ghosts—until he finds himself face to face with Rebecca Strand. The true story of her death is far more terrifying than any ghost tale Gabe has told.

An original ghost/horror story with great characters whose friendships are well described.



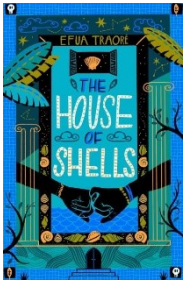
So, Cynthia

If You Still Recognise Me

Little Tiger	Pbk	8.99	9781788953443
Interest age:	14+		Reading age: 14+

Elsie has a crush on Ada, the only person in the world who truly understands her. Unfortunately, they've never met in real life and Ada lives an ocean away. But Elsie has decided it's now or never to tell Ada how she feels. That is, until her long-lost best friend Joan walks back into her life. In a summer of repairing broken connections and building surprising new ones, Elsie realises that she isn't nearly as alone as she thought. But now she has a choice to make...

Great leisure read for older teens.



Traore, Efuia

The House of Shells

Chicken House
Interest age:

Pbk
10+

7.99

9781913696719

Reading age: 10+

Kuki has moved to a coastal town in Nigeria with her mother and new stepfather. She struggles to make friends at school and becomes targeted mercilessly by the class bully Moji. To make matters worse, her new aunty is convinced that Kuki is being haunted by an Abiku (a malevolent spirit child), and she will die on her 13th birthday. One evening whilst out exploring, Kuki discovers an abandoned beach house with an overgrown garden full of scattered sea shells, and makes friends with the mysterious Enilo. As her problems at school intensify, she then makes a horrifying discovery about Enilo.

There is a strong sense of place and well described cultural detail in this narrative setting. Kuki is a very relatable character and the spooky brooding supernatural element complements the modern day setting very well.

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