



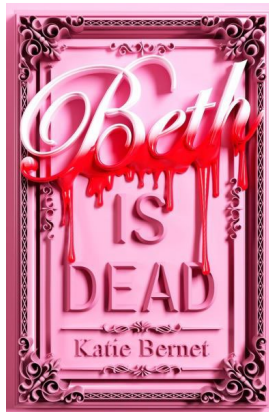
Recommended Secondary Fiction Summer Term 2026



Abdel-Magied Yassmin **Yumna And The Golden Horse**

Hachette Pbk 7.99 9781444934625
Interest 11+ Reading age: 10+
age:

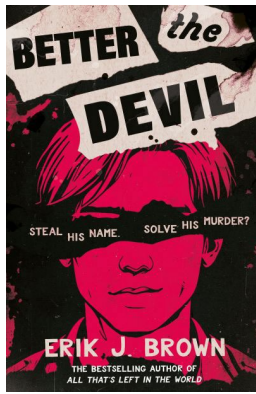
Yumna lives in a sleepy village where nothing ever happens. So when her friends start sneaking into the woods at night, she follows. There, she discovers something unbelievable. Kareem can turn into a golden horse. Sami can touch fire without burning. Even her cousin Nafisa has a strange new power. Everyone's changing, except Yumna. But when Kareem vanishes and a mysterious new family, the Maidstones, seem to be hiding something, Yumna is the only one asking the right questions. As secrets unravel and danger creeps closer, it's up to Yumna to rally her friends and uncover the truth. First in the Silver Brook fantasy adventure, with relatable characters and an intriguing plot. Good short leisure read.



Bernet, Katie **Beth Is Dead**

Scholastic Pbk 9780702343445
Interest 14+ Reading age: 12+
age:

After a wild New Years Eve party, Beth March is found dead in the woods. All the March sisters see Beth's body and wonder how - and who - could have killed their sweet little sister. And what was their motive? The March sisters have always been close, but will Beth's murder bring them closer together, or further apart? As each of the girls' motives are uncovered, the March sisters might not be quite as sweet as they seem. Dark twisty thriller based on the "Little women" classic tale, with strong language, references to sex and drinking alcohol. Explores themes of grief, trust and the darker side of teenage life. Told through shifting perspectives and timelines it keeps you guessing until the very end.



Brown, Erik J Better The Devil

Hachette Pbk 9.99 9781444973556
 Interest 14+ Reading age: 13+
 age:

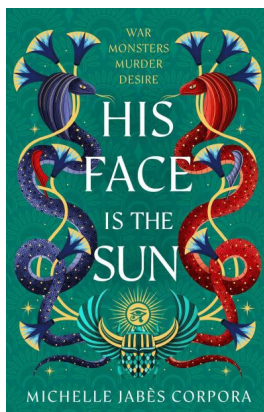
Desperate to escape conversion therapy, Nate a queer sixteen-year-old runaway steals the identity of a missing boy. But when his family come to take him home, he is trapped in a web of lies. Then he meets Miles - the cute, clever and true-crime-obsessed boy next-door - and his cover is blown. Rather than turn him in, Miles agrees to help 'Nate' in exchange for exposing the truth about what happened to his childhood friend. But as their investigation turns dangerous and their feelings turn real, time is running out to discover why Nathaniel Beaumont disappeared....and who might want to keep it that way. A real page turner for older teens, lots of twists and turns and full of intrigue, great for Holly Jackson fans.



Cole, Steve New You For Ever

Barrington Pbk 9780008735371
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 Interest 11+ Reading age: 8+
 age:

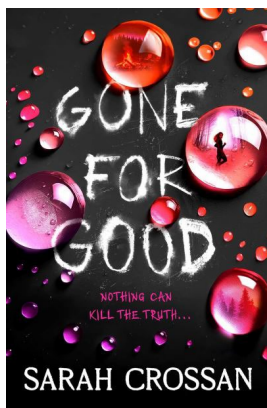
A young journalist discovers a dark truth in a future world where people can create a robot replica body to plug their brain into to prolong their lives. The New You Foundation's unique solution to the climate crisis is the chance to upload your memories and personality into a Pleeka - a replica of your own body that can live for ever without needing food or creating waste. Millions are taking up the offer at an ever younger age, but are New You's promises too good to be true? A chance meeting with eco-influencer Tera Helstrom leads trainee journalist Anders Jones to the dark truth behind the New You Foundation's expensive marketing campaigns, but is it already too late for those who have made the choice to turn Pleeka ...? A thought provoking ,tense and thrilling Sci-Fi which raises a lot of issues to discuss.



Corpora, Michelle Jabes His Face Is The Sun

Hachette Pbk 9781444977400
 Interest 14+ Reading age: 14+
 age:

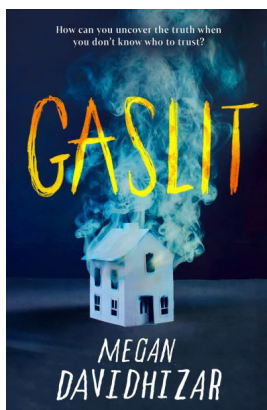
The lives of six young people converge as a royal dynasty vies for power when the ailing Pharaoh dies. The kingdom of Khetara awaits an uncertain future. As the gilded royal court revels in decadence, turning a blind eye to the civil unrest threatening to overflow In the rural southern lands, an inescapable storm of change is brewing. The pharaoh is dying and fate will come for them all. In the golden capital, the royal princess, Sitamun, is caught in a web of sensuality, deceit and murder as her older brother, Meryamun, lusts for power and excess. Meanwhile their younger brother, Bakenamun, rejects his royal heritage to find refuge in the sacred temple and the ancient knowledge it holds. Unbeknown to the royal heirs, Neff, a young girl haunted by prophetic blood-drenched dreams, holds the key to their destinies. Engrossing historical fantasy, not too much romance. The characters are drawn out well as the plot develops. The story is left on a cliff hanger leaving readers keen for the next installment.



Crossan, Sarah Gone For Good

Simon and Schuster
Pbk 9781398549029
Interest 14+ Reading age: 12+
age:

Connie is taken from her home in the middle of the night and finds herself at Silver Lake Academy, a remote high security facility for troubled teens. There is a missing girl, Belle, Connie is determined to find out the truth. Gradually she unravels the mystery a chilling web of secrets and lies. Very accessible, told in verse which flows well and is easy to understand. Deals with complex issues surrounding family, friendships, truth and lies.



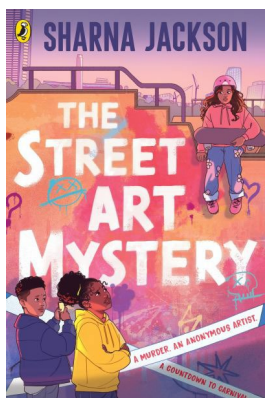
Davidhizar, Megan Gaslit

Harper Collins
Pbk 8.99 9780008617035
Interest 13+ Reading age: 12+
age:

Ella wishes that she could do something more fun on New Year's Eve than babysit, but lately her life has taken a scary turn with a diagnosis that she is trying her best to ignore. After she barely recovers from another paralyzing migraine, Ella arrives late to her aunt's house for babysitting. But when nobody answers the door, she knows something isn't right. Breaking in, she finds her cousins unconscious on the floor. And Aunt Julie is dead. Ella is barely able to rescue them from the house before she collapses into the snow.

When investigators discover that the cause of death was from a gas leak, a small voice in the back of her head keeps reminding Ella that it could have been her - not Aunt Julie - inside that house. Ella is determined to find out what really happened to her aunt, but her family is so sure it was an accident. After all, Ella's paranoia must just be a side effect of her diagnosis - a diagnosis that makes everyone tiptoe around her. As deadly lies begin to seep through the cracks of the investigation, Ella gets the feeling that the gas leak might not have been an accident - and that someone might be out to kill her next.

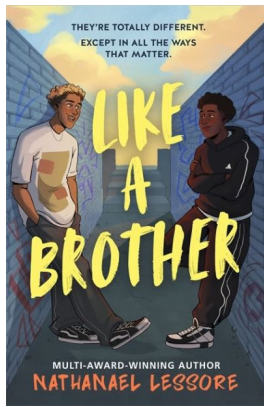
An engaging read, the story has so many twists and turns it will have you guessing right until the end. The characters are powerfully drawn and grow throughout. The added dimension of the main character living with a brain tumour adds another fascinating dimension.



Jackson, Sharna The Street Art Mystery

Penguin
Pbk 8.99 9780241523636
Interest 11+ Reading age: 10+
age:

Margot, Wesley and Josephine have got an awesome weekend mapped out for the end of the holidays before they start high school - and they don't want anything to stand in the way of their BIG plans in London. But when they are staying with Margot's mum and her new boyfriend Teddy in Notting Hill, something happens that they just can't ignore. Join the kids as they follow the case across wild West London, following the trail of a super creative murderer as well as some epic street art. From skate parks, tower blocks and canal towpaths they end up on a float at the colourful Notting Hill carnival - the biggest party of the year! How will they piece together the evidence to solve the mystery at the heart of London's coolest sights? Relatable characters, this is a fast paced narrative full of twists and turns, with friendship, teamwork and problem solving at the core. Great for fans of detective and crime solving stories.



**Lessor,
Nathanael**

Like A Brother

Hot Key Pbk 9781471418235
Books
Interest 11+ Reading age: 10+
age:

A story of family, friends and modern life, set in London. They're totally different. Except in all ways that matter. Owais lives a chill life. He's well liked, funny and everything's a breeze - until his estranged cousin shows up. Loud, unpredictable and one bad decision away from serious trouble, Abass crashes into Owais' laidback world like a hurricane: picking fights, ruining parties, disappearing without explanation and clogging toilets in places he absolutely shouldn't. But as the Boys get to know each other their bond deepens... A book that is inspired by Nate's own life and relationships, very well written in his usual laid back, humorous and engaging style. The characters are extremely well drawn, engaging and funny. There are some big themes dealt with including homophobia and bigotry. There is some criminality and gang related activity but it isn't condoned, and the character realises he has made a mistake.