

SOUTH SHORE TEEN

Book Buzz

October 2020 | Spooky Stories

Featured books, book recommendations by teens, and bonus book picks!

- **All Your Twisted Secrets by Diana Urban** - What do the queen bee, star athlete, valedictorian, stoner, loner, and music geek all have in common? They were all invited to a scholarship dinner, only to discover it's a trap. Someone has locked them into a room with a bomb, a syringe filled with poison, and a note saying they have an hour to pick someone to kill...or else everyone dies. As they retrace the events over the past year that might have triggered their captor's ultimatum, it becomes clear that everyone is hiding something. With the clock ticking down, who will they choose to die?
→ Pick this if you love psychological thrillers, plot twists, and detailed backstories
- **Anna Dressed in Blood by Kendare Blake** - For three years, seventeen-year-old Cas Lowood has carried on his father's work of dispatching the murderous dead, traveling with his kitchen-witch mother and their spirit-sniffing cat, but everything changes when he meets Anna, a girl unlike any ghost he has faced before.
→ Pick this if you love suspense, creepy ghost stories, and quick reads
- **The Babysitters Coven by Kate Williams** - After new student Cassandra Heaven joins seventeen-year-old Esme Pearl's babysitters club, the girls learn that being a babysitter means a heroic lineage of superpowers, magic rituals, and saving the innocent from evil.
→ Pick this if you love witty writing, female friendships, and witches
- **Clown in a Cornfield by Adam Cesare** - Quinn Maybrook and her father have moved to tiny, boring Kettle Springs, to find a fresh start. But what they don't know is that ever since the Baypen Corn Syrup Factory shut down, Kettle Springs has dark secrets of its own. Then Frendo the clown, the Baypen mascot, goes homicidal and decides that the only way for Kettle Springs to go back to what it once was is to cull the rotten crop of kids who live there now.
→ Pick this if you love retro slasher films, gore, and subtle social commentary
- **The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein by Kiersten White** - The events of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein unfold from the perspective of Elizabeth Lavenza, who is adopted as a child by the Frankensteins as a companion for their volatile son Victor.
→ Pick this if you love gothic stories, retellings, gore, and character-driven stories

- **Dead House by Dawn Kurtagitch** - Told through journal entries, a psychotherapist's notes, court records, and more, relates the tale of Carly, a teen who was institutionalized after her parents' death but released to Elmbrige High School, where she is believed to have a second personality or soul named Kaitlyn, and/or be possessed by a demon.
→ Pick this if you love epistolary stories, demons, and supernatural mysteries
- **Deathless Divide by Justina Ireland** - Part two of the Dread Nation duology. The first book follows Jane McKeene, who was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania--derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever. As a teenager, Jane is studying at Miss Preston's School of Combat for Negro Girls in Baltimore. But when people start going missing, Jane is caught in the middle of a conspiracy, one that finds her in a desperate fight for her life against powerful enemies. And the restless dead, it would seem, are the least of her problem.
→ Pick this if you love zombies, steampunk, and plenty of fighting and action
- **The Girl In the White Van by April Henry** - When Savannah disappears soon after arguing with her mom's boyfriend, everyone assumes she's run away. The truth is much worse. She's been kidnapped by a man in a white van who locks her in an old trailer home, far from prying eyes. And worse yet, Savannah's not alone: ten months earlier, Jenny met the same fate and nearly died trying to escape. Now as the two girls wonder if he will hold them captive forever or kill them, they must join forces to break out--even if it means they die trying.
→ Pick this if you love crime TV, multiple perspectives, and quick reads
- **The King of Crows by Libba Bray** - This is the fourth and final installment in The Diviners saga. Set in 1920s New York City, it's the bee's knees! The first story starts with seventeen-year-old Evie O'Neill who leaves small-town Ohio to stay with her uncle, the curator of The Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult. Soon, Evie discovers she isn't the only one gifted with supernatural powers. With the help of her new friends, Evie and her uncle must solve a series of mysterious occult-based murders. In the following books, Evie and her friends--the Diviners--face more deadly and chilling foes that lead up to this final installment and tie into the much larger, more sinister plot with earth-shattering consequences.
→ Pick this if you love ghost stories, large casts of characters, and historical fiction
- **Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgwick** - The first of seven interconnected stories opens in 2073 with Eric Seven, a reporter on assignment to the tiny island of Blessed, so far north that the sun never sets in summer. Merle, the plucky, pretty local girl who stole Eric's heart at first sight, saves his life while also freeing up memories of lives once lived. And soon Eric and Merle are about to die for the seventh and final time. Six more vignettes follow, going back in time and weaving with the others that came before, and coloring in the coincidences that never fail to lead Eirikr and Melle back together.
→ Pick this if you love unique stories, time travel, and intricately plotted stories
- **The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud** - The first book in the Lockwood & Co. series... An alternate-future London has been affected by a horrifying epidemic of ghosts. Lucy Carlyle, a talented young agent, finds herself joining the smallest most ramshackle ghost-fighting agency in the city, run by the charismatic Anthony Lockwood.

When one of their cases goes horribly wrong, Lockwood and Co. must spend the night in one of the most haunted houses in England, and try to escape alive.

→ Pick this if you love suspense, humor, and creepy ghost stories

- **The Shining by Stephen King** - Jack Torrance becomes winter caretaker at the isolated Overlook Hotel in Colorado, hoping to cure his writer's block. He settles in along with his wife, Wendy, and his son, Danny, who is plagued by psychic premonitions. As Jack's writing goes nowhere and Danny's visions become more disturbing, Jack discovers the hotel's dark secrets and begins to unravel into a homicidal maniac hell-bent on terrorizing his family.
→ Pick this if you love haunted houses, suspense, and books with movie adaptations
- **Slasher Girls & Monster Boys edited by April Genevieve Tucholke** - A host of the sharpest young adult authors come together in this collection of terrifying tales and psychological thrillers. Each author draws from a mix of literature, film, television, and music to create something new and fresh and unsettling. Clever readers will love teasing out the references and can satisfy their curiosity at the end of each tale, where the inspiration is revealed. There are no superficial scares here; these are stories that will make you think even as they keep you on the edge of your seat. From blood horror, to the supernatural, to unsettling, all-too-possible realism, this collection has something for anyone looking for an absolute thrill.
→ Pick this if you love spinoffs, short stories, and all things horror and thriller
- **Wilder Girls by Rory Power** - It's been eighteen months since the Raxter School for Girls was put under quarantine. It started slow. First the teachers died one by one. Then it began to infect the students, turning their bodies strange and foreign. Now, cut off from the rest of the world and left to fend for themselves on their island home, the girls don't dare wander outside the school's fence, where the woods are wild and dangerous. But when Byatt goes missing, Hetty will do anything to find her, even if it means breaking quarantine and braving the horrors that lie beyond the fence. And when she does, Hetty learns that there's more to their story than she could have ever thought true.
→ Pick this if you love thrillers, apocalyptic pandemic stories, and lush & gritty settings