

Year 8 Suggested Reading

Ghosts and Horror

Scroll through the list to view a few of the titles suggested by our Librarians here in school for your year group.

The Dead of Winter by Chris Priestly

An orphaned boy, a desolate house, and a poltergeist with a terrible itch for revenge...

After Michael's parents die, he is invited to stay with his guardian in a desolate country house. He begins to suspect something is not quite right on the day he arrives when he spots a mysterious woman out in the frozen mists. But little can prepare him for the solitude of the house itself. His guardian is rarely seen, and there's a malevolent force lurking in an old hallway mirror.

As the chilling suspense builds, Michael realizes that the house and its grounds harbor many more secrets-both dead and alive.



Bracelet of Bones Kevin Crossley-Holland

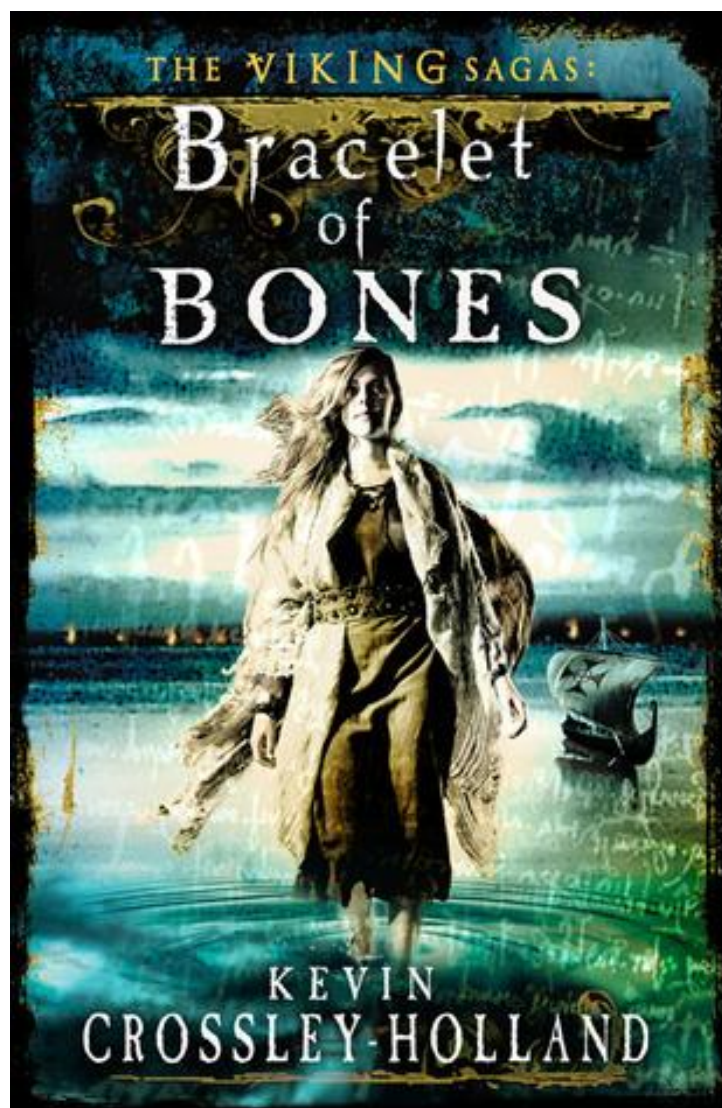
It is 1036. Halfdan is a Viking mercenary who is determined to travel to Constantinople and become one of the Viking Guard serving Empress Zoe. He promises to take his daughter, but one morning Solveig wakes up to find him gone.

Setting off in her own tiny boat, she is determined to make the journey from Norway to the breathtaking city. Her boat is washed up, but Solveig is undeterred. What awaits Solveig as she continues on her summer journey across the world? She finds passage with Viking traders, witnesses the immolation of a young slave girl and learns to fight. She sees the clashes between those who praise her Norse Gods and the new Christians.

In this perilous and exciting world, a young girl alone could be quickly endangered or made a slave. Will Solveig live to see her father again, and if she survives, will she remain free?

A glittering novel that explores friendship and betrayal, the father-daughter relationship, the clash of religions and the journey from childhood to adulthood.

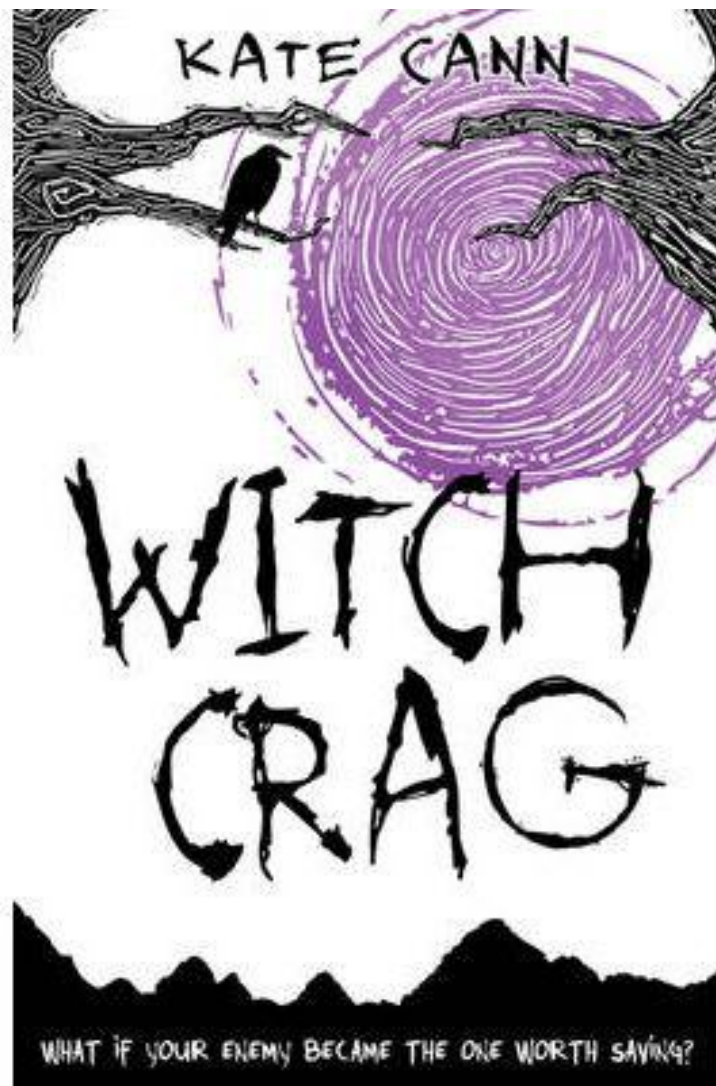
<http://www.kevincrossley-holland.com/>



Witch Crag by Kate Cann

Kita must make a choice. Survive in a life she will hate forever, or run away and almost certainly die. Death is a risk she's willing to take. But there's more to it than that. Soon, Kita will find herself fighting for the very enemy she was trying to escape.

<http://www.katecann.com/books.asp>

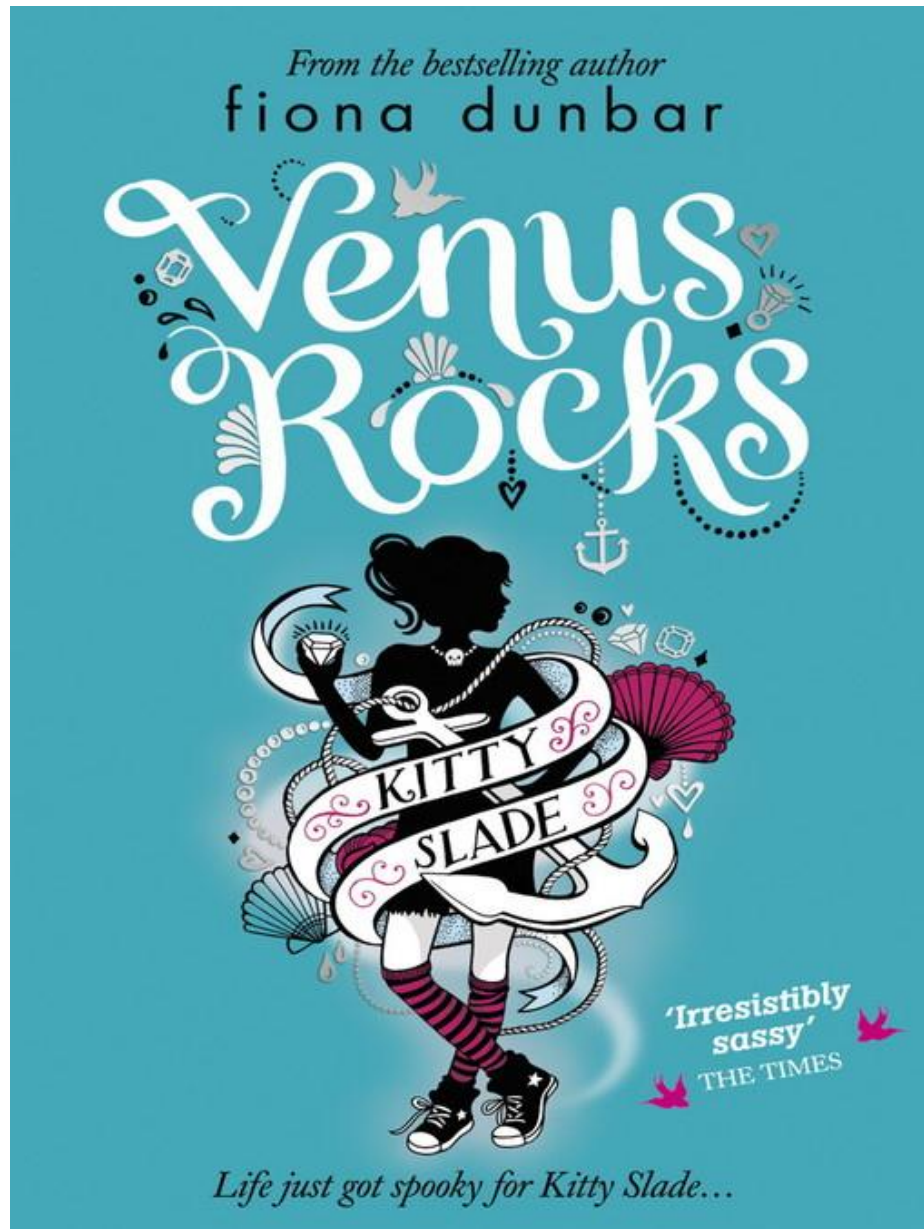


Venus Rocks Fiona Dunbar

“Hey, Kitty Slade here. Just hanging out, doing ordinary things. You know, like seeing ghosts. It’s been happening for a while now, but this time – this time is different”...

When Kitty sees a ghost ship, she knows her spooky powers are growing stronger. Plunged into a dark mystery from long ago, she soon encounters Beth, a lost soul who drowned on board. Kitty must uncover the secrets buried at the bottom of the sea – before it’s too late

<http://www.fionadunbar.com/>



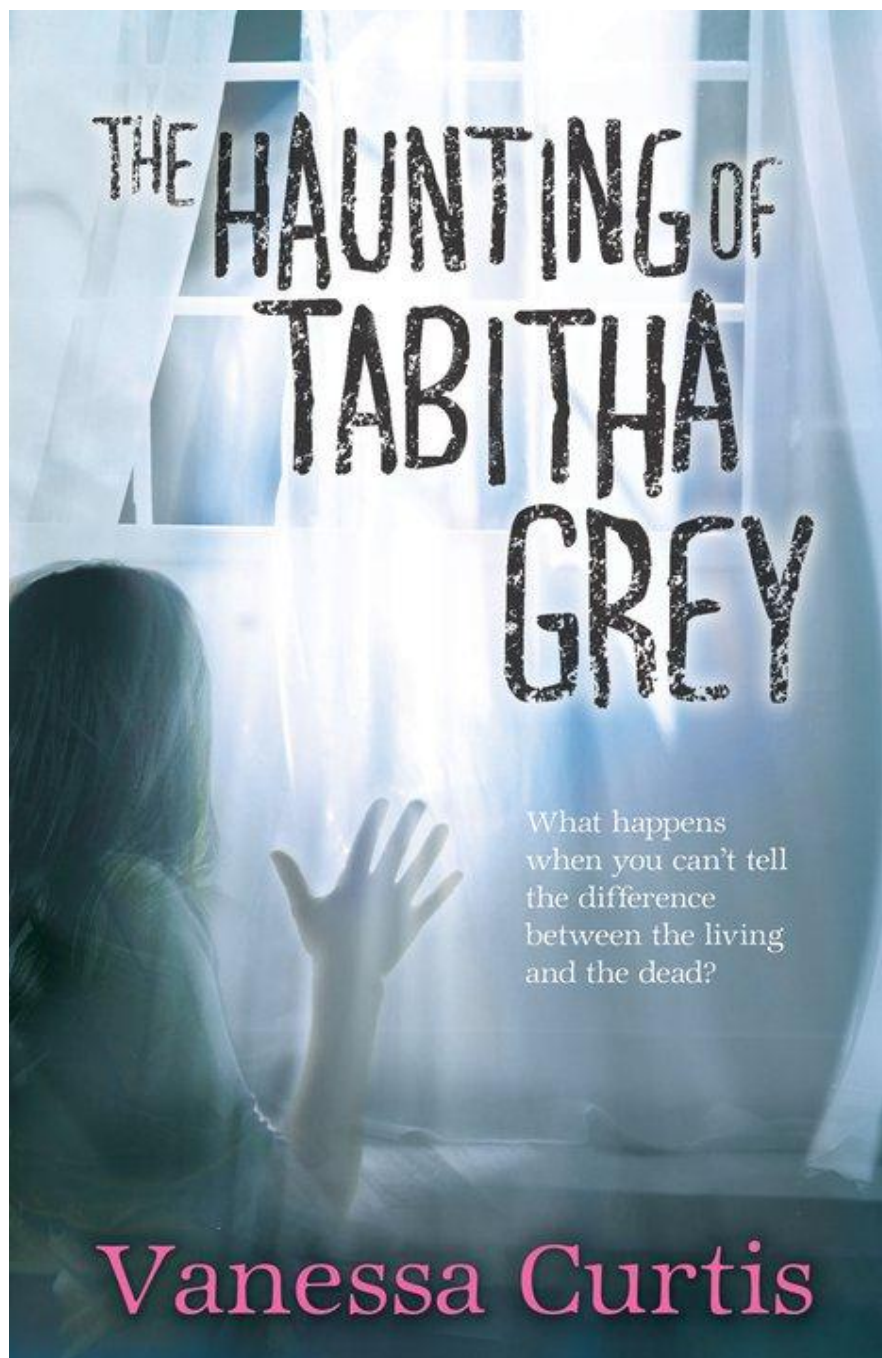
The Haunting of Tabitha Grey

by Vanessa Curtis

Set in a sprawling Victorian manor, a classic ghost story with a stunning twist

Tabitha is used to changing schools and moving to different houses. But when her family moves into Weston Manor, something is different. It's as if the house has been waiting for her. There are lavender smells which come from nowhere, the old servants' bells ring in the night, and she can hear crying in empty rooms. Tabitha's always been imaginative. Even her best friend Gemma knows that. But this time, could she actually be telling the truth

<http://www.vanessacurtis.com/page2.htm>



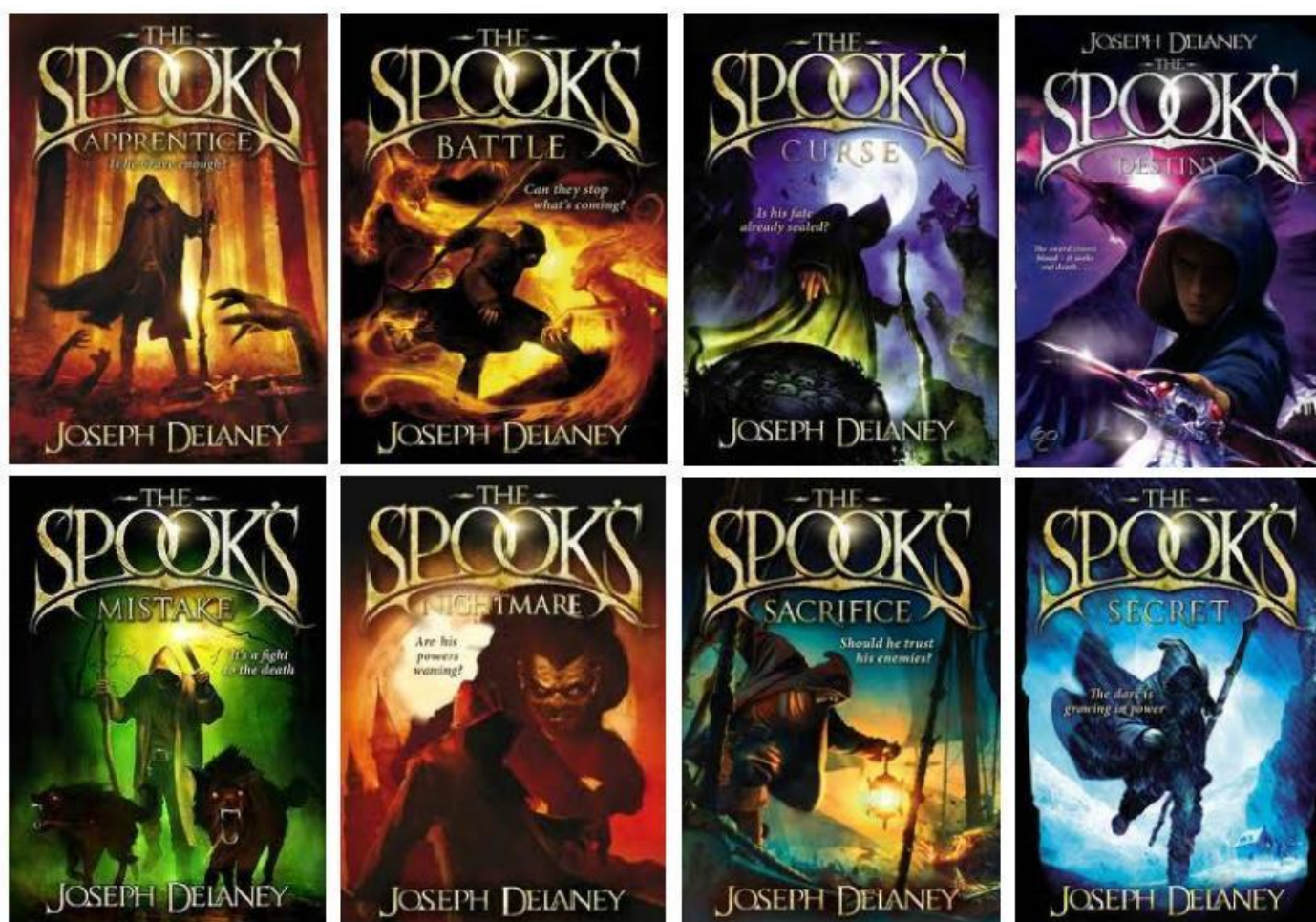
Wardstone Chronicles by Joseph Delaney

The Wardstone Chronicles are a series of young adult fantasy novels, written by Joseph Delaney. The story revolves around Thomas J. Ward, a seventh son of a seventh son who can see creatures of the Dark others cannot even glimpse.

In order to learn how to deal with his gift, he is trained as a "Spook".

The Wardstone Chronicles mixes fantasy, supernatural, folklore and mythology to produce a series of exceptional scope and imagination.

<http://www.spooksbooks.com/>

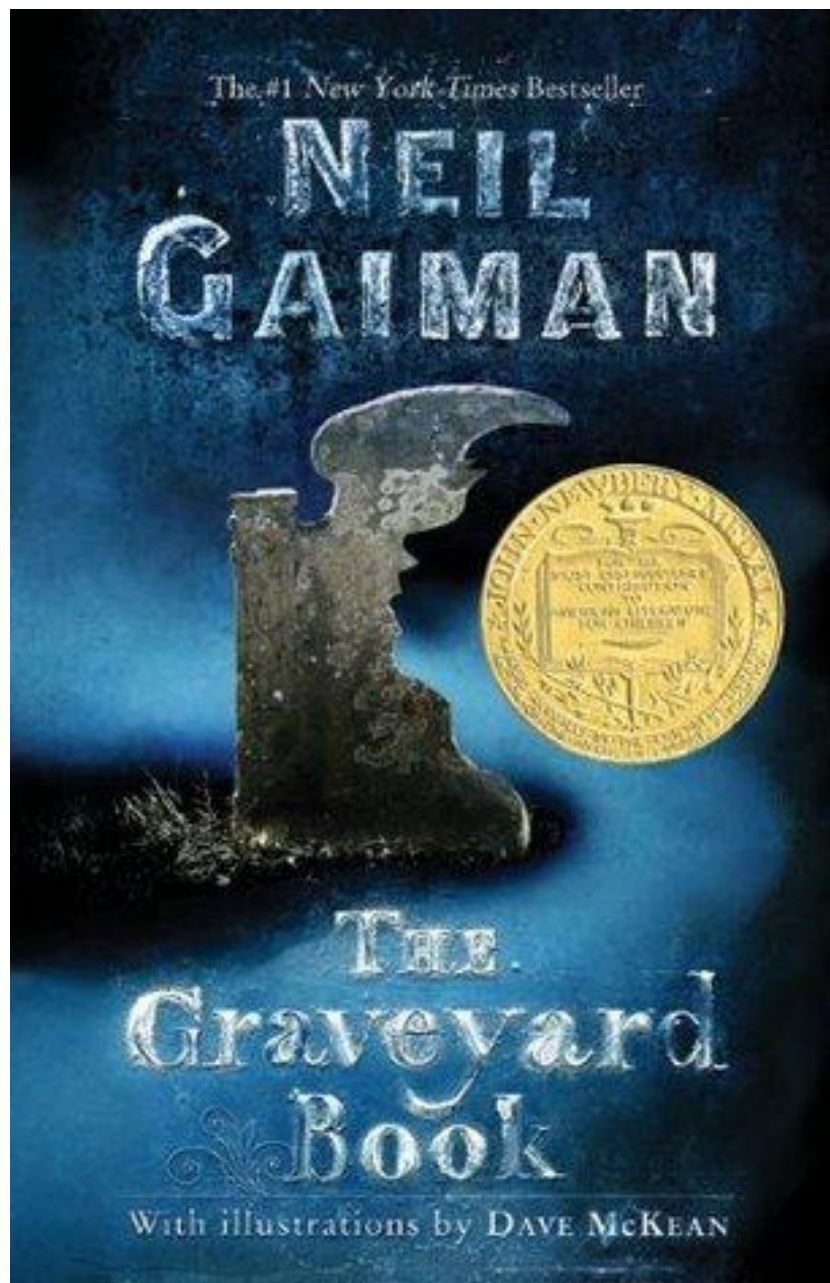


The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family . . .

<http://www.neilgaiman.com/>



The Vanishing of Katherina Linden

by Helen Grant

It isn't ten-year-old Pia's fault that her grandmother dies in a freak accident. But tell that to the citizens of Pia's little German hometown of Bad Münstereifel, or to the classmates who shun her. The only one who still wants to be her friend is StinkStefan, the most unpopular child in school.

But then something else captures the community's attention: the vanishing of Katharina Linden. Katharina was last seen on a float in a parade, dressed as Snow White. Then, like a character in a Grimm's fairy tale, she disappears. But, this being real life, she doesn't return.

Pia and Stefan suspect that Katharina has been spirited away by the supernatural. Their investigation is inspired by the instructive—and cautionary—local legends told to them by their elderly friend Herr Schiller, tales such as that of Unshockable Hans, visited by witches in the form of cats, or of the knight whose son is doomed to hunt forever.

Then another girl disappears, and Pia is plunged into a new and unnerving place, one far away from fairy tales—and perilously close to adulthood.

<http://www.helengrantbooks.com/vanishing-katharina-linden.php>



The Enemy Series by Charlie Higson

Best-selling author Charlie Higson launches a slick and scary adventure series with The Enemy. Only a small group of children have survived a terrible sickness that has turned adults into zombies and they are now fighting to survive in a hostile and threatening landscape. Can they find a place of safety and defy the odds that are stacked against them?

<http://www.the-enemy.co.uk/home>



The Power of Five by Anthony Horowitz

Raven's Gate ... Matt has always known he has unusual powers. Raised in foster care, he is sent to Yorkshire on a rehabilitation programme, only to find himself in the midst of sinister goings-on. Matt investigates and uncovers a terrible secret - eight guardians are protecting the world from the evil ones, beings banished long ago by five children. But devil worshippers want to let the evil ones back in...

Evil Star ... After his experiences at Raven's Gate, fourteen-year-old Matt Freeman thinks his days of battling evil are over. But soon he is pulled into another horrifying adventure when he discovers a second gate exists. Matt and his friend Richard travel to Peru and, assisted by a secret organization known as the Nexus, follow a series of clues to the gate's whereabouts.

Night Rise ... The battle with the Old Ones continues in the third exciting volume of the bestselling Power of Five series, from the creator of Alex Rider.

Fourteen-year-old twins Scott and Jamie Tyler have never known who they are or where they came from, but they have always known that they possess extraordinary powers. When Scott is kidnapped by the sinister Nightrise Corporation and Jamie is framed for murder, they realise that they must use those powers if they are going to survive.

Necropolis ... The battle with the Old Ones continues in the fourth exciting volume of the bestselling Power of Five series, from the creator of Alex Rider.

The outlook for the future of mankind has never been bleaker. The sinister corporation known as Nightrise is gathering strength and the long suppressed Old Ones are poised to unleash their dark powers on an unsuspecting world. Matt and his fellow Gatekeepers have no choice but to commit themselves to a dangerous path, knowing that their course might save the planet – or spell their doom...

Oblivion ... We find the Five scattered in a hostile and dangerous world and struggling to re-group. The earth has almost been destroyed by the forces of darkness. Those who have survived are barely human, drifting in a world ruled by famine, terrorism and war. Any last hope now rests with five extraordinary teenagers: the Gatekeepers. The Five must find each other and make a final stand against Chaos, King of the Old Ones ... but Chaos is everywhere. He calls to them from Antarctica, where he is gathering his forces, preparing for a last battle in the frozen wasteland of Oblivion. And one of the Five has turned traitor. The others know that without him they cannot win...

<http://www.anthonhorowitz.com/poweroffive/>

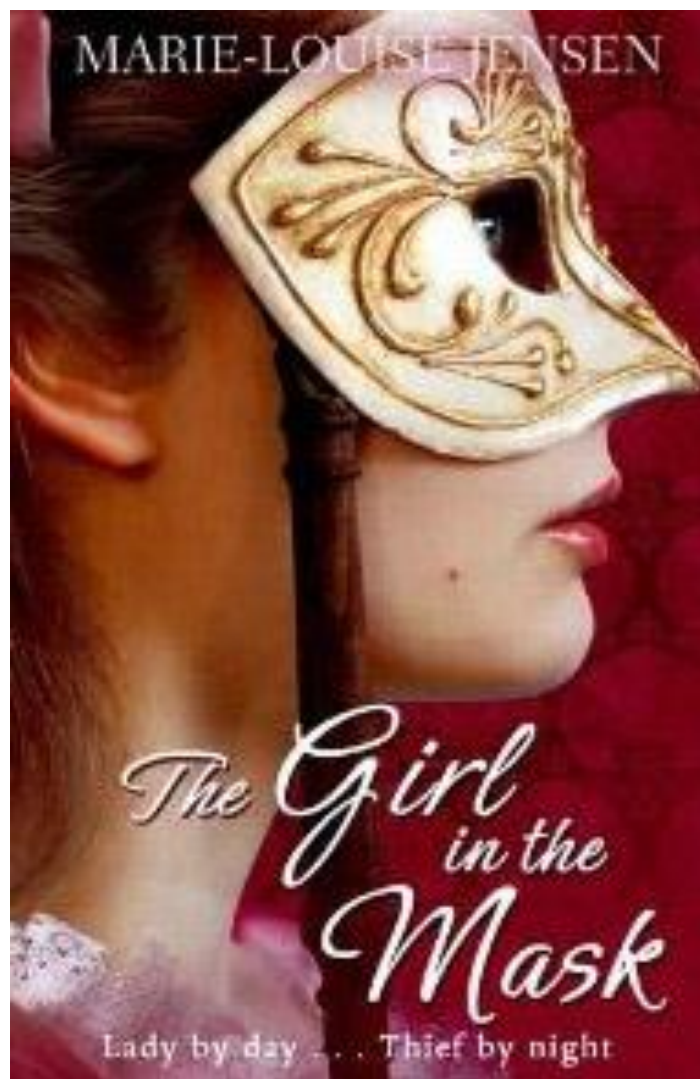


The Girl in the Mask

by Marie-Louise Jensen

Set in Georgian England, fifteen-year-old Sophia is trapped by the limitations of living in a man's world. Forced by her father to give up everything she loves, Sophia is ordered to make a new life in Bath. By day, she is trapped in the social whirl of balls and masquerades. By night, she secretly swaps her ball gowns for breeches, and turns to highway robbery to get her revenge . . . When one man begins to take a keen interest in her, Sophia must keep her distance, or risk unmasking her secret life.

http://www.marie-louisejensen.com/books_girlinthemask.htm



Skulduggery Pleasant series

by Derek Landy

“Who is Skulduggery Pleasant? He's a wise-cracking detective, powerful magician, master of dirty tricks and burglary (in the name of the greater good, of course). As well as ally, protector and mentor of Stephanie Edgley, a very unusual and darkly talented twelve-year old. And, oh yeah- he's dead.”

<http://www.skulduggerypleasant.co.uk/>



City of Ghosts by Bali Rai

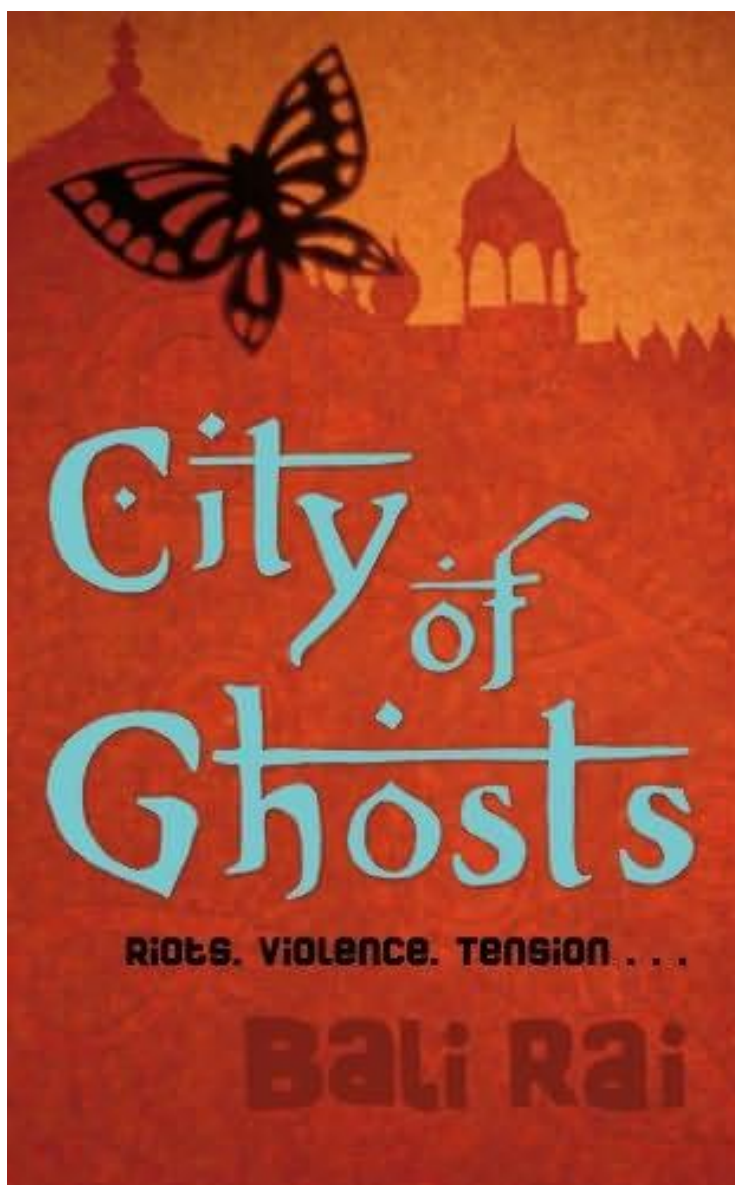
It's 1919 and Amritsar is a city on the brink of rebellion. Riots, violence and tension spill onto the streets . . .

Bissen Singh fought bravely for the British Empire during World War One. Now he waits patiently for news from England. Gurdial, a young orphan, is desperate to marry Sohni, the daughter of a rich and evil man. And Jeevan, Gurdial's oldest friend, is swept up in the revolution and changing beyond all recognition.

Bissen, Gurdial and Jeevan are looking to the future whilst trying to escape ghosts from the past. But as the fight for Amritsar reaches a terrifying climax, their lives will be changed for ever.

An epic story of love and life, war and death from multi-award-winning author Bali Rai.

www.balirai.co.uk



Zom-B series by Darren Shan

When news reports start appearing of a zombie outbreak in Ireland, B Smith's racist father thinks it's a joke-- but even if it isn't, he figures, it's ok to lose a few Irish. B doesn't fully buy into Dad's racism, but figures it's easier to go along with it than to risk the fights and abuse that will surely follow sticking up for Muslims, blacks, or immigrants. But when zombies attack B's school, B is forced on a mad dash through the serpentine corridors, making allegiances with anyone with enough guts to fight off their pursuers.

<http://www.darrenshan.com/books/details/zom-b/>



The Saga of Darren Shan by Darren Shan

Darren Shan's an ordinary schoolboy, until he and his best friend Steve get tickets to the Cirque Du Freak. When they encounter a vampire among the performers, their lives are changed forever, and Darren is reborn as a creature of the night... Click on the thumbnail covers below for plot outlines and exclusive author notes about the creation of the books.

<http://www.darrenshan.com/>

