



SPRING

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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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"There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self." – Ernest Hemingway

NEW



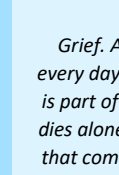
Glamorama by Bret Easton Ellis
(Recommended for Older Readers)
Set in 90s Manhattan, Victor Ward, a model with perfect abs and all the right friends, is seen and photographed everywhere, even in places he hasn't been and with people he doesn't know. He's living with one beautiful model and having an affair with another on the eve of opening the trendiest nightclub in New York City history. And now it's time to move to the next stage. But the future he gets is not the one he had in mind.



The Infernal Devices #1: Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare
In a time when Shadowhunters are barely winning the fight against the forces of darkness, one battle will change the course of history forever. Welcome to the Infernal Devices trilogy, a stunning and dangerous prequel to the New York Times bestselling Mortal Instruments series. The year is 1878. Tessa Gray descends into London's dark supernatural underworld in search of her missing brother. She soon discovers that her only allies are the demon-slaying Shadowhunters—including Will and Jem, the mysterious boys she is attracted to. Soon they find themselves up against the Pandemonium Club, a secret organization of vampires, demons, warlocks, and humans. Equipped with a magical army of unstoppable clockwork creatures, the Club is out to rule the British Empire, and only Tessa and her allies can stop them...



Where Sleeping Girls Lie by Faridah Àbiké-Iyímíde
Sade Hussein is starting her third year of high school, this time at the prestigious Alfred Nobel Academy boarding school. After being home-schooled all her life and feeling like a magnet for misfortune, she's not sure what will happen. What she doesn't expect though is for her roommate Elizabeth to disappear after Sade's first night. Or for people to think she had something to do with it. With rumours swirling around her, Sade catches the attention of the most popular girls in school – collectively known as the 'Unholy Trinity' – and they bring her into their fold. Between learning more about them – especially Persephone, who Sade finds herself drawn to – playing catch-up in class, and trying to figure out what happened to Elizabeth, Sade has a lot on her plate. It doesn't help that she's already dealing with grief from the many tragedies in her family. And then a student is found dead. The more Sade investigates, the more she realizes there's more to Alfred Nobel Academy and its students than she realized. Secrets lurk around every corner and beneath every surface... secrets that rival even her own.



Seven Signs of Life: Stories from an Intensive Care Doctor by Aoife Abbey
Grief. Anger. Joy. Fear. Distraction. Disgust. Hope. All emotions we expect to encounter over our lifetime. But what if this was every day? And what if your ability to manage them was the difference between life and death? For a doctor in Intensive Care this is part of the job. Fear in the eyes of a terminally ill patient who pleads with you to not let them die. Grief when an elderly person dies alone. Disgust at having to care for a convicted rapist. But there's also the hope found in the resilience of a family and the joy that comes with a meaningful connection with a patient, however fleeting it may be. These real stories reveal what a doctor sees of humanity as it comes through the revolving door of the hospital. Told through seven emotions that we can all empathise with, this book from the British Medical Association's own Secret Doctor gives us a unique window onto the other side of a hospital experience, showing us how it feels to care for a living.



Dork Diaries #14: Spectacular Superstar by Rachel Renée Russell
Nikki Maxwell's summer is packed with drama in this fourteenth installment of the bestselling Dork Diaries series - now with over 45 million books in print worldwide! Nikki and her bandmates are looking forward to an AWESOME summer on tour as the opening act for the world famous Bad Boys! Nikki is a little worried when her frenemy, MacKenzie Hollister, weasels her way on to the tour. But she has a total MELTDOWN when she learns that MacKenzie is her new roommate! Will Nikki survive her dream tour turning into a nightmare?!

The Infernal Devices #2: Clockwork Prince by Cassandra Clare
In the magical underworld of Victorian London, Tessa Gray has at last found safety with the Shadowhunters. But that safety proves fleeting when rogue forces in the Clave plot to see her protector, Charlotte, replaced as head of the Institute. If Charlotte loses her position, Tessa will be out on the street—and easy prey for the mysterious Magister, who wants to use Tessa's powers for his own dark ends.

The Infernal Devices #3: Clockwork Princess by Cassandra Clare
A net of shadows begins to tighten around the Shadowhunters of the London Institute. Mortmain plans to use his Infernal Devices, an army of pitiless automatons, to destroy the Shadowhunters. He needs only one last item to complete his plan: he needs Tessa Gray. Charlotte Branwell, head of the London Institute, is desperate to find Mortmain before he strikes. But when Mortmain abducts Tessa, the boys who lay equal claim to her heart, Jem and Will, will do anything to save her. For though Tessa and Jem are now engaged, Will is as much in love with her as ever. As those who love Tessa rally to rescue her from Mortmain's clutches, Tessa realizes that the only person who can save her is herself. But can a single girl, even one who can command the power of angels, face down an entire army?

Wish List Spotlight:

Abroad in Japan by Chris Broad



When Englishman Chris Broad landed in a rural village in northern Japan he wondered if he'd made a huge mistake. With no knowledge of the language and zero teaching experience, was he about to be the most quickly fired English teacher in Japan's history? *Abroad in Japan* charts a decade of living in a foreign land and the chaos and culture clash that came with it. Packed with hilarious and fascinating stories, this book seeks out to unravel one of the world's most complex cultures.

Spanning ten years and all forty-seven prefectures, Chris takes us from the lush rice fields of the countryside to the frenetic neon-lit streets of Tokyo. With blockbuster moments such as a terrifying North Korean missile incident, a mortifying experience at a love hotel and a week spent with Japan's biggest movie star, *Abroad in Japan* is an extraordinary and informative journey through the Land of the Rising Sun.

April's MOST POPULAR BOOKS

1 The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins	2 One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus	3 A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking	4 Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell
5 Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron	6 King Lear by William Shakespeare	7 The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood	8 The Universe is Expanding and So Am I by Carolyn Mackler

STAR BORROWERS OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight star borrowers - those that have borrowed 5 or more books. Two weeks of April were taken up by the Easter holidays, so an extra big well done to anyone who managed to borrow 5 books or more last month.

Year 7

Neevh 7N
Juliet 7N
Electra 7W
Simran 7W
Amy 7S
Triti 7F
Dia 7F
Rebecca 7P

Sophie 7P
Elizabeth 7P
Mariam 7P
Aahana 7P
Naomi 7P
Mia 7P

Year 8

Charlotte 8S
Angel 8S
Yasmin 8S
Imaan 8F
Dhiviyaa 8G
Thuwara 8G
Aksha 8P

Year 9

Eunice 9S
Arielle 9S
Eniola 9F

Year 10

Oluwatoni 10W
Anthiya 10P

Year 11

Vyshally 11S

Year 12

Lauren 12N
Naomi 12N
Frances 12N
Fran 12W
Vivia 12W
Julia 12S
Niamh 12G
Lucy 12P

External Competition: Martha Mills Writing Prize Open for Entries



The Martha Mills Prize for writing was set up in memory of Martha, the daughter of Merope Mills (editor of the *Guardian's Saturday Magazine*) and Paul Laity (an editor at the London Review of Books), who tragically passed away in 2021, aged 13. Martha was a keen reader and writer, and the prize seeks to give young people a chance to explore new themes in their writing in her honour.

The competition, now in its second year, invites 11–14-year-olds living in the UK to submit up to 500 words of any kind of prose e.g., a fictional story, a piece of schoolwork, a diary entry, based on a theme. This year's theme is 'a secret'. Three winners will receive £200 each, as well as a selection of books, a 'special souvenir', and an expenses-paid trip to a ceremony at the London Review Bookshop. A selection of entries, including the three winners', will be published in a pamphlet. The closing date for entries is the 19th of July.

The judging panel says of entries: "we are looking for writing that is lively, unusual or otherwise original... it doesn't have to be perfect or finished – we want to see the work that you're most proud of or most excited about. Don't worry if you haven't written much before or don't know if you're a 'writer'." This year, the judging panel includes bestselling author Philip Pullman, one of Martha's favourite writers.

For details on how to enter the competition click [here](#).

International Nurses Day is observed on the 12th of May each year to coincide with the birth of Crimean War nurse, Florence Nightingale. Since 1988, the day has been assigned a theme by the International Council of Nurses (ICN). This year's theme is 'the economic power of care.' Dr Pamela Cipriano, president of the ICN, explained that the theme was chosen to 'highlight the need for nursing to be seen as an investment, instead of a cost, and to "reshape" perceptions of nursing's economic and societal benefits.' Nursing has historically been a profession in which employees feel undervalued and underpaid (source), a fact which highlights the importance of celebrating the crucial, lifesaving work undertaken by our nurses every day.



Facts About Nursing:

- Nurses walk 4-5 miles every shift – this fact was discovered by a study that fitted hospital nurses with pedometers.
- The symbol of nursing is an oil lamp – the inspiration for the symbol was Florence Nightingale, arguably the most famous nurse in history. She was also known as The Lady with the Lamp as she would make her rounds to tend wounded soldiers during the Crimean war with an oil lamp.
- As of March 2023, there are 731,058 registered nurses in the UK.
- The biggest age demographic of UK registered nurses is 21-40.
- 11% of UK nurses identify as male, 89% identify as female.
- Nursing is the 'most trusted' profession – according to the 2022 Gallup poll of honesty and ethical standards, nurses are trusted more than any other profession by the public.

A Nurse's Story: My Life in A&E During the Covid Crisis by Louise Curtis and Sarah Johnson

Newly qualified as an advanced clinical physician, thirty-two-year-old Louise Curtis was very much looking forward to going back to work in A&E in her Midlands hospital. What she did not expect was to be confronted with the most horrific frontline scenario a nurse could ever imagine. Moved into a newly created Intensive Care Unit for Covid patients, Louise was brought face to face with death and suffering on an unimaginable scale. A Nurse's Story is the nail-biting story of what she found there, how she tried to cope with it and the price she has had to pay for doing so. It is a heart-breaking and heart-warming account of what NHS staff are going through on a daily basis. It is a story of tears, bravery, self-sacrifice but also of hope and great kindness, of people pulling together and triumphing against daunting odds.



2024 Branford Boase Award Shortlist Announced

The shortlist for the 2024 Branford Boase Award, given annually to the author and editor of the year's outstanding debut novel for children, has been announced. Founded in 2000 to commemorate prize-winning author Henrietta Branford and influential Walker Books editor Wendy Boase, the Branford Boase Award is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The award has a reputation for choosing authors who will go on to be big names in the literary world at the start of their career. Previous winners include Meg Rosoff, Katya Balen, Philip Reeve, Francis Hardinge, Patrick Ness, and more. Of this year's shortlist, we have one book currently in the library, and two coming to the library very soon as they have also been nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal and are therefore being read at the moment by our year 7 Carnegie shadowing group. View the full Branford Boase Award shortlist [here](#).

The First Move by Jenny Ireland

Juliet believes girls like her – girls with arthritis – don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'. Ronan is the new kid: good looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother Ciaran. Chesslife is his escape; never, he's not just 'the boy with the brother'. Juliet thinks Ronan thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her – and she wouldn't want him to be anyway because he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else. Whereas, Ronan thinks life is already too complicated for dating and just wants to keep his head down at school.



Coming Soon to the Library: Steady by Nathanael Lessore

Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to drop his best bars and smash the competition at Raptology. That way, he's convinced Tanisha, his crush, will finally give him a chance. But when a livestream practice goes epically wrong, Growls's dirty laundry is literally exposed. He's finally achieved his dreams of going viral – not in the good way. Now Tanisha won't look at him, he's the joke of the school and there's no way he can show his face at the competition. Will he ever catch a break? Then a new girl on the block appears who might be just the friend Growls needs. Especially when she points out that Raptology could be the answer to his problems after all...



Coming Soon to the Library: Safiyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan

Inspired by the true story of how the Grand Mosque of Paris saved the lives of hundreds of Jews during World War II, Hiba Noor Khan weaves a breath-taking tale of suspense, compassion, and courage, starring an extraordinary young heroine readers will never forget. Safiyah loathes the brutal Nazi occupation of Paris, even though her Muslim identity keeps her safe—or, at least, safer than her Jewish neighbours. Violence lurks in the streets, her best friend has fled, and even her place of refuge—the library—has turned shadowy and confusing, as the invaders fear the power of books. Safiyah longs to fight back and hates feeling powerless to help her Jewish friends. Worse yet, her father—who taught her to always do the right thing—is acting strangely and doing nothing to help them either. Or is he? Unravelling the mystery of her father's odd behavior draws Safiyah deep in the heart of the perilous underground resistance to the Nazis, where her bravery is put to the ultimate test...

On This Day in History... The Birth of Dodie Smith, 3rd May 1896

Dodie Smith was an English novelist and playwright, best known for her novels *I Capture the Castle* (1948) and *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* (1956). Over her career, she wrote 9 novels, 11 plays, and 2 screenplays, as well as a 4-volume autobiography. Smith was inspired to write plays at a young age by her grandfather – an avid theatregoer and Shakespeare enthusiast, her uncle Harold – an amateur actor, and her mother – an aspiring actor. Smith wrote her first play at the age of 10 and began acting in minor roles during her teens.



Though it seems that Dodie Smith's passion was for playwrighting, her novels are what made her famous. *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* was adapted into an animated film in 1961, and a live action film in 1996, both produced by Disney. The 1961 adaptation became the first animated feature to earn over \$10 million during its initial release, and when adjusted for inflation, is the second highest-grossing animated film globally. Smith loved dogs and at one point had 9 dalmatians as pets – her first Dalmatian was named Pongo, which later became the name she used for her novel's protagonist. *I Capture the Castle* was voted 'one of the nation's 100 best-loved novels' by the British public as part of the BBC's The Big Read in 2003 and was adapted for film in the same year.

Smith passed away in 1990 in Uttlesford, North Essex.

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

Through six turbulent months of 1934, 17-year-old Cassandra Mortmain keeps a journal, filling three notebooks with sharply funny yet poignant entries about her home, a ruined Suffolk castle, and her eccentric and penniless family. By the time the last diary shuts, there have been great changes in the Mortmain household, not the least of which is that Cassandra is deeply, hopelessly, in love.

The One Hundred and One Dalmatians and The Starlight Barking by Dodie Smith
The One Hundred and One Dalmatians: Pongo and Missis have fifteen delightful dalmatian puppies, who mysteriously disappear. The alert Pongo suspects a sinister neighbour, Cruella de Vil, and with Missis he sets out to find his family...

The Starlight Barking: Pongo and Missis are now living happily at Hell Hall with most of their puppies. One summer day a 'mysterious sleeping' begins, affecting all humans and creatures except dogs. Something tremendous seems about to happen – but will it be good or bad?

