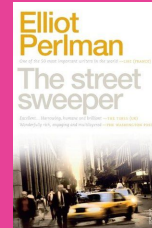
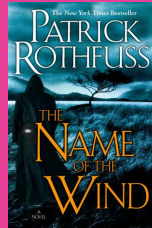
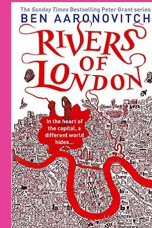
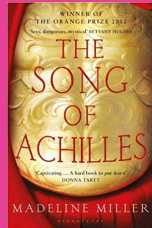
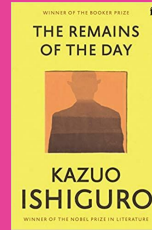
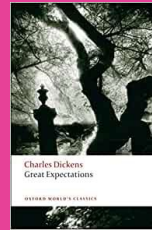
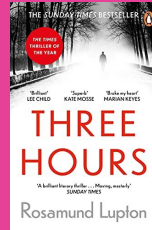
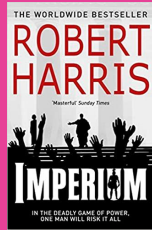
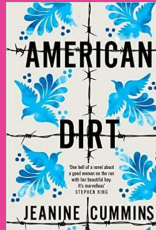
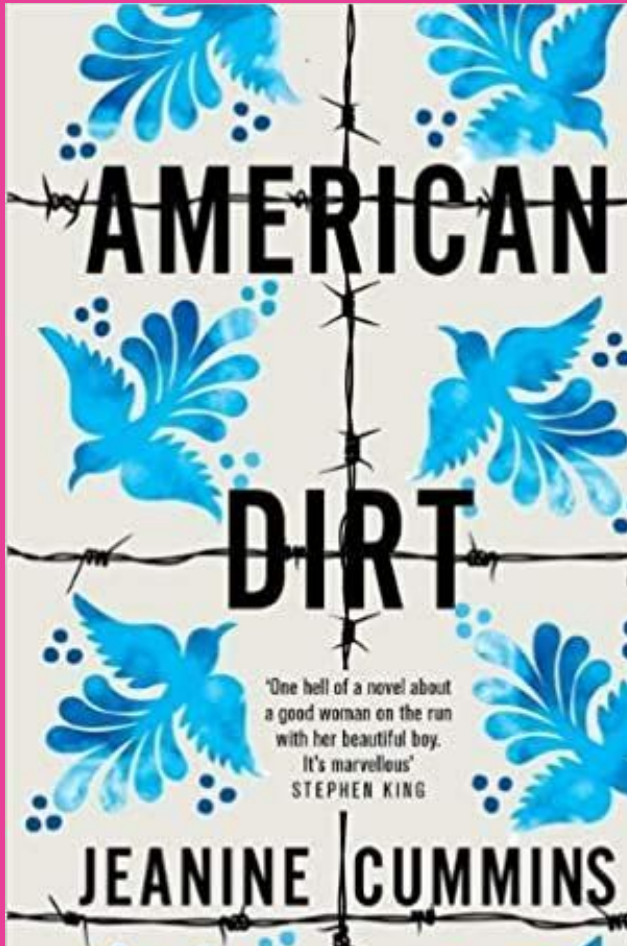


Books worth second looks

Sixth Form - Summer 2021



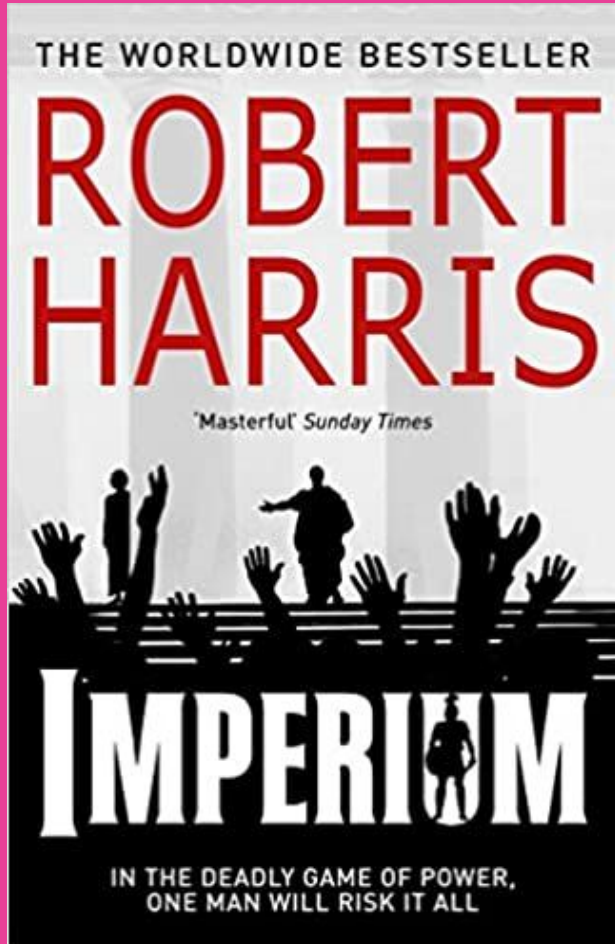


Yesterday, she had a bookshop. Yesterday, she was married to a journalist. Yesterday, she was with everyone she loved most in the world.

Today, her eight-year-old son is all she has left. For him, she will carry a machete strapped to her leg. For him, she will leap onto the roof of a high speed train. For him, she will find the strength to keep running.

Variously praised to the heavens and damned to hell, *American Dirt* is one of the most debated books of the past few years.

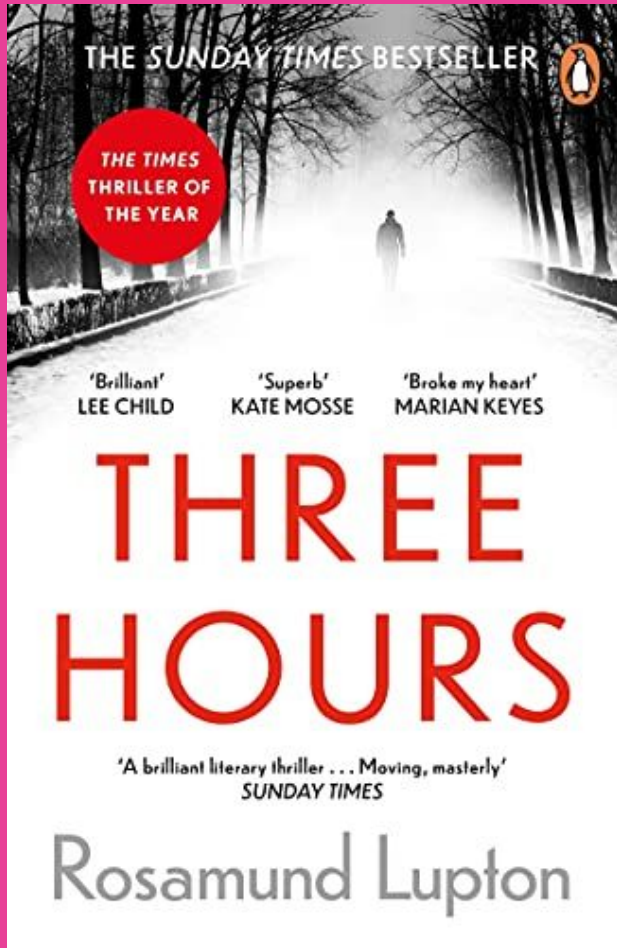
Find out what all the fuss is about, and make up your own mind.



Imperium takes us into the violent world of Roman politics, and the quest of one man to reach the top.

When Tiro, the confidential secretary of a Roman senator, opens the door to a terrified stranger on a cold November morning, he sets in motion a chain of events which will eventually propel his master into one of the most famous courtroom dramas in history.

The stranger is a Sicilian, a victim of the island's corrupt Roman governor, Verres. The senator is Cicero, a brilliant young lawyer and spellbinding orator, determined to attain supreme power - imperium.

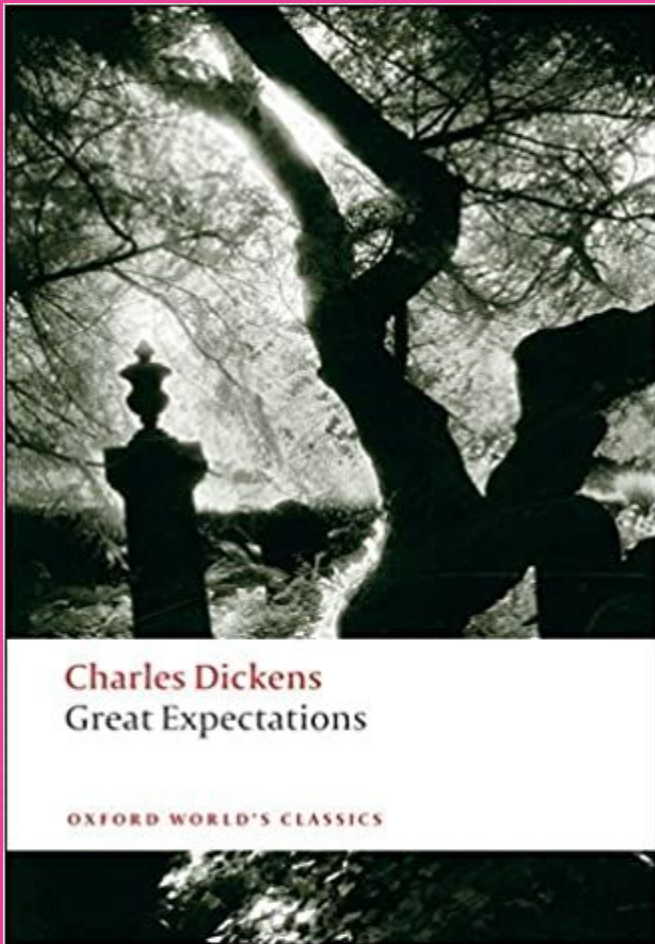


In rural Somerset in the middle of a blizzard, the unthinkable happens: a school comes under siege from armed gunmen.

Pupils and teachers barricade themselves into classrooms, the library, the theatre. The headmaster lies wounded, critically injured, unable to help his trapped students and staff.

Outside, the police work desperately to identify the gunmen, while parents gather desperate for news.

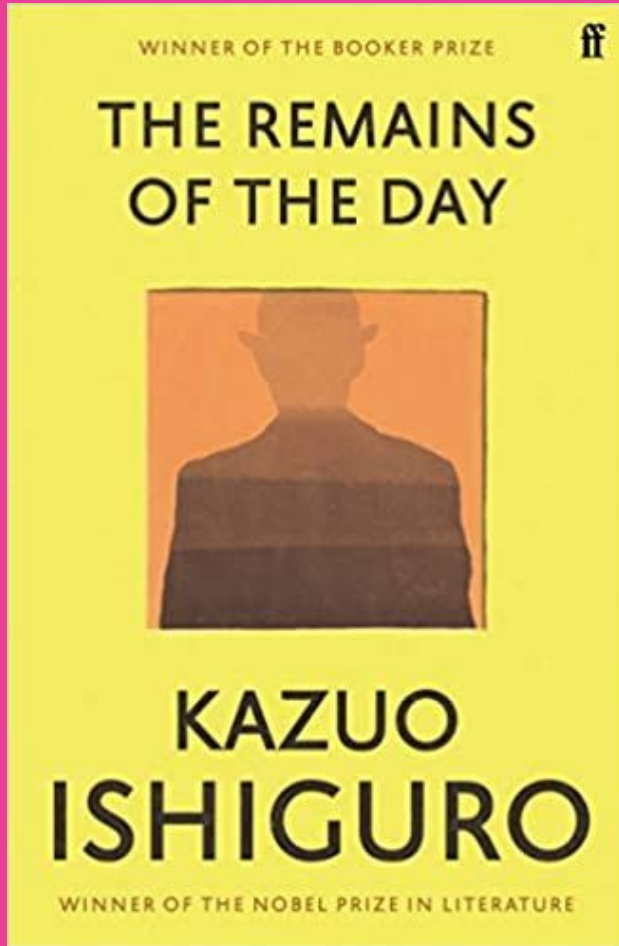
In three intense hours, all must find the courage to stand up to evil and save the people they love.



'It was now too late and too far to go back, and I went on. And the mists had all solemnly risen now, and the world lay spread before me.'

A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard... A demand to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and the beautiful, cold-hearted Estella... The sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor...

A series of strange events are set to change the life of an orphan boy, as he abandons his humble origins to set out on a new life as a “gentleman”.



Stevens is proud of being the perfect English butler, a man who has spent the best part of his working life in service at Darlington Hall. As the years pass, he draws closer to the housekeeper, Miss Kenton but never admits his feelings for her.

Meanwhile, as the Second World War approaches, Lord Darlington's wish to avert catastrophe leads him to become involved with influential politicians sympathetic to the Nazi cause.

Looking back over his life, Stevens increasingly questions his loyalty to his job over his care for his elderly father; over his suppressed feelings for Miss Kenton; and over his judgment in relation to Lord Darlington's treacherous politics.

TIMUR VERMES



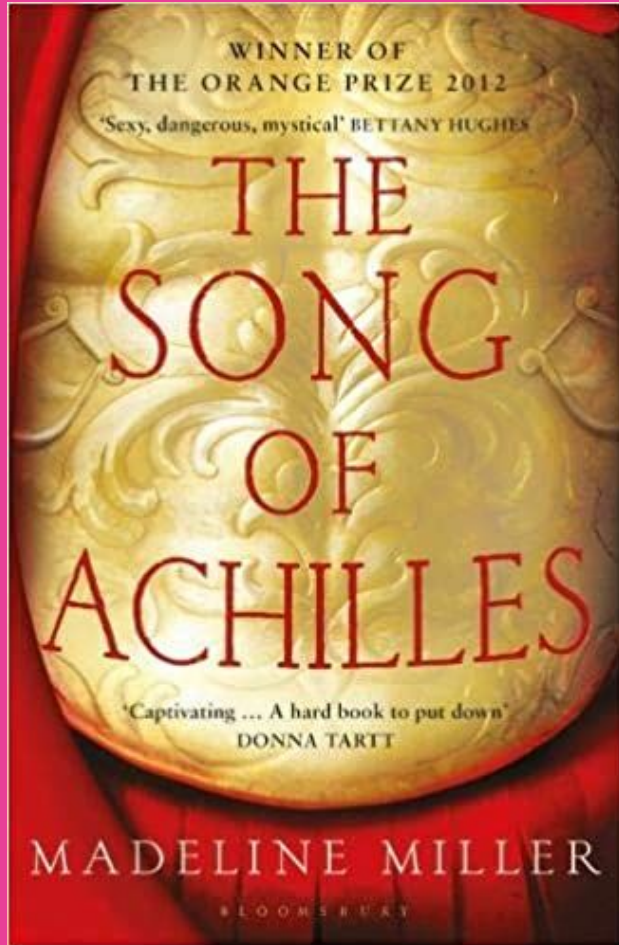
LOOK
WHO'S BACK

"Be warned. This book is funny. Very funny"
REBECCA K MORRISON, *Independent*

Berlin, Summer, 2011. Adolf Hitler wakes up on a patch of waste ground, alive and well. Things have changed - no Eva Braun, no Nazi party, no war. He barely recognises his beloved Germany, filled with immigrants and run by a woman.

People certainly recognise him, but think he's a brilliant impersonator refusing to break character. Then the unthinkable - but also the inevitable - happens: the ranting Hitler goes viral, becomes a YouTube star and gets his own TV programme. People begin to listen.

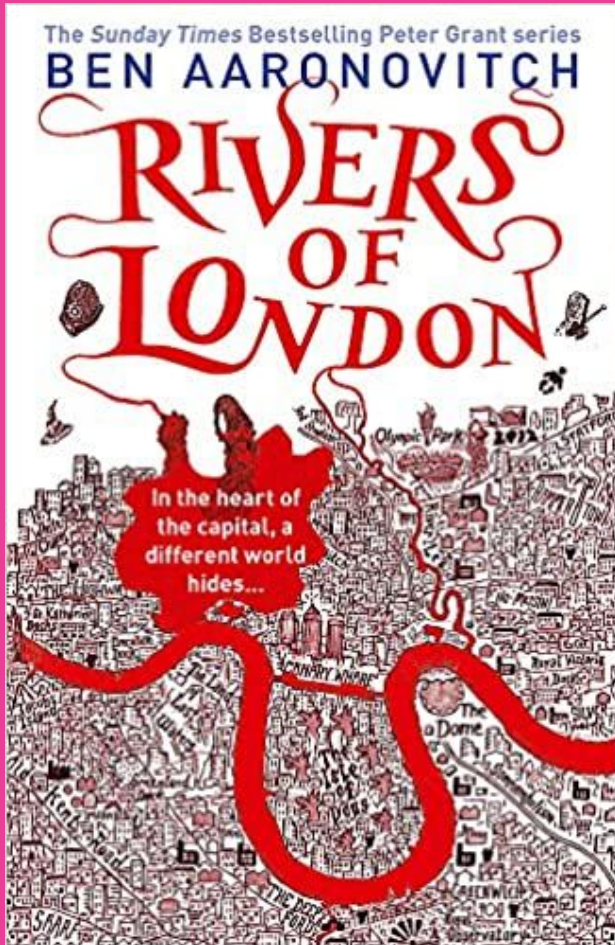
But the Führer has another programme, one with even greater ambition - to set the Fatherland he finds a shambles back to rights...



Greece in the age of gods and heroes. Patroclus, an awkward young prince, has been exiled to the court of King Peleus and his perfect son Achilles. Despite their differences, Achilles befriends the shamed prince.

As they grow into young men skilled in the arts of war and medicine, their bond deepens to love - much to the displeasure of Achilles's mother Thetis, a cruel sea goddess.

Then comes word that Helen of Sparta has been kidnapped. To fulfill his destiny, Achilles goes to war in distant Troy. Patroclus, torn between fear and love for Achilles, goes with him. The years that follow will test everything they hold dear.

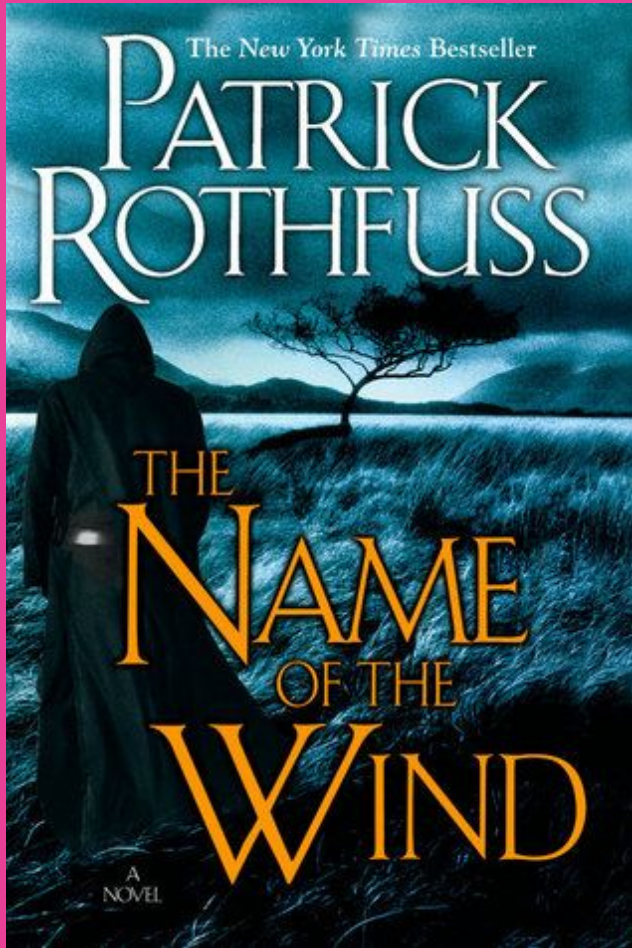


What if Harry Potter joined the Old Bill?

Until recently, Peter Grant was concerned only with avoiding police paperwork and attracting the attentions of WPC Leslie May. Then he tries to take a witness statement from someone who is dead but disturbingly voluble...

Now he finds himself tackling nests of vampires in Purley, digging up graves in Covent Garden and negotiating a truce between the warring god and goddess of the Thames. Oh, and he's become the first trainee wizard for fifty years...

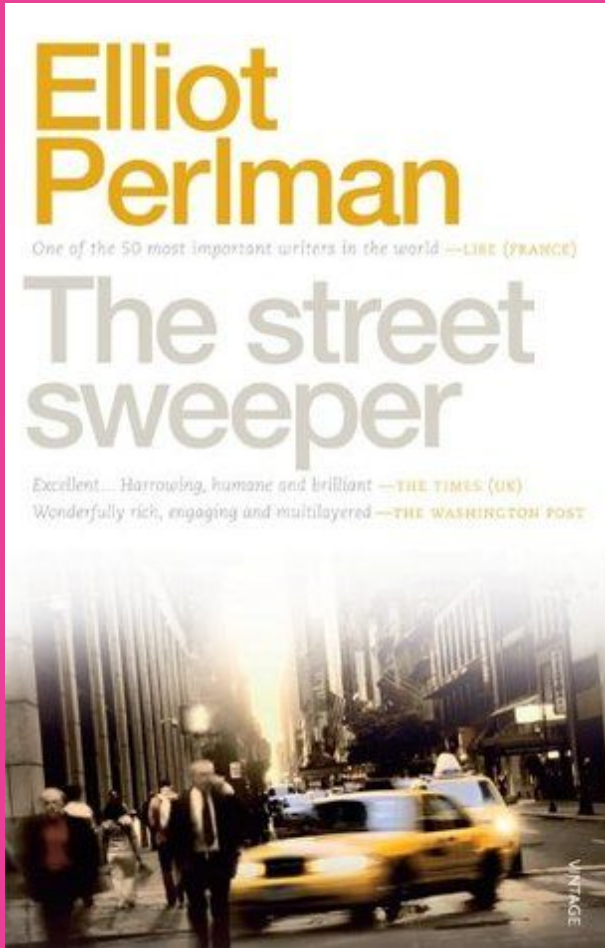
So when a vengeful spirit starts wreaking havoc, it's down to Peter to save the day, or die trying.



'I burned down the town of Trebon. I have spent the night with Felurian and left with both my sanity and my life. I was expelled from the University at a younger age than most people are allowed in. I tread paths by moonlight that others fear to speak of during day. I have talked to Gods, loved women, and written songs that make the minstrels weep.

My name is Kvothe. You may have heard of me'

So begins the tale of Kvothe, from his childhood in a troupe of traveling players, through his years spent as a near-feral orphan in a crime-riddled city, to his daringly brazen yet successful bid to enter a difficult and dangerous school of magic.



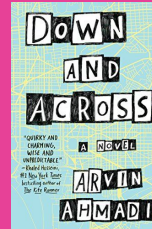
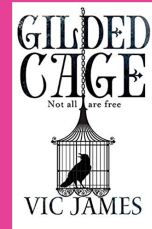
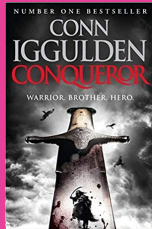
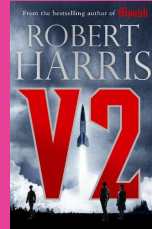
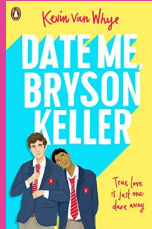
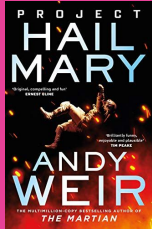
An unlikely friendship, between a hospital janitor, just out of prison, and an elderly Jewish Holocaust survivor who starts to talk about his extraordinary past.

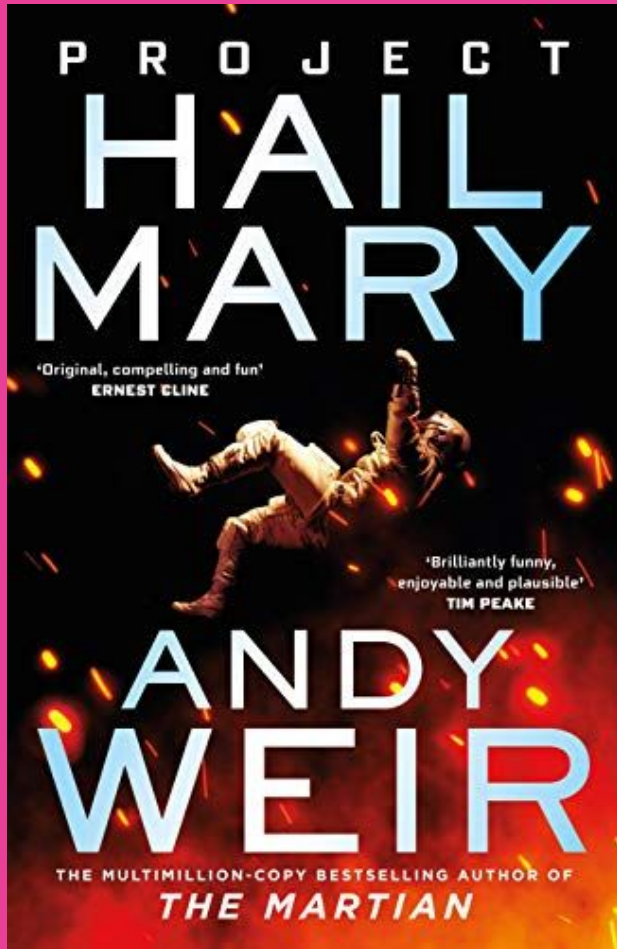
A personal crisis: the son of a prominent Jewish civil rights lawyer, is facing the end of both his long-term relationship and his academic career. Then one of his late father's closest friends suggests a promising research topic that offers the possibility of redemption.

Spanning over fifty years, and ranging from New York to Melbourne, Chicago, Warsaw and Auschwitz, these two very different paths lead to one much greater story.

Books worth second looks

4th and 5th Year - Summer 2021

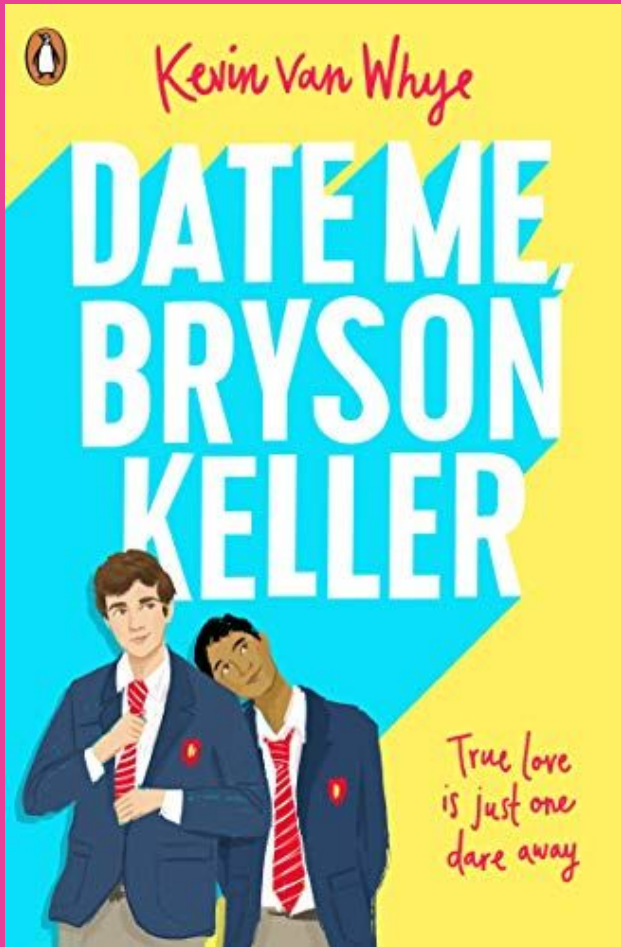




Ryland is on a desperate, last-chance mission. If he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish.

But right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company.

Hurling through space on a tiny ship, the rest of the crew dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery - and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

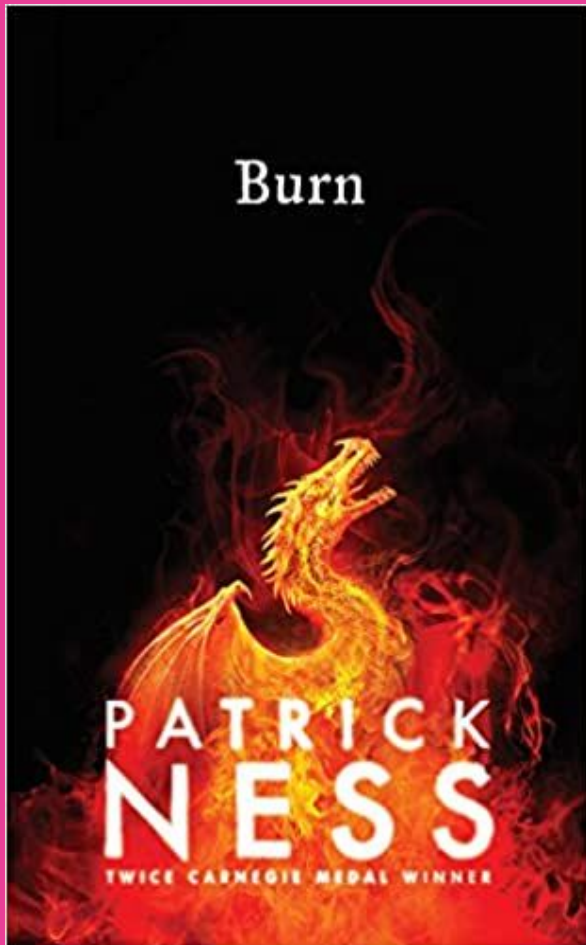


Everyone at Fairvale Academy knows Bryson Keller, the super-hot soccer captain who doesn't believe in long-term relationships. They also know about the dare Bryson accepted - each week he has to date the first person who asks him out.

All anyone gets is a single school week. No exceptions. None whatsoever.

Until one boy risks everything.

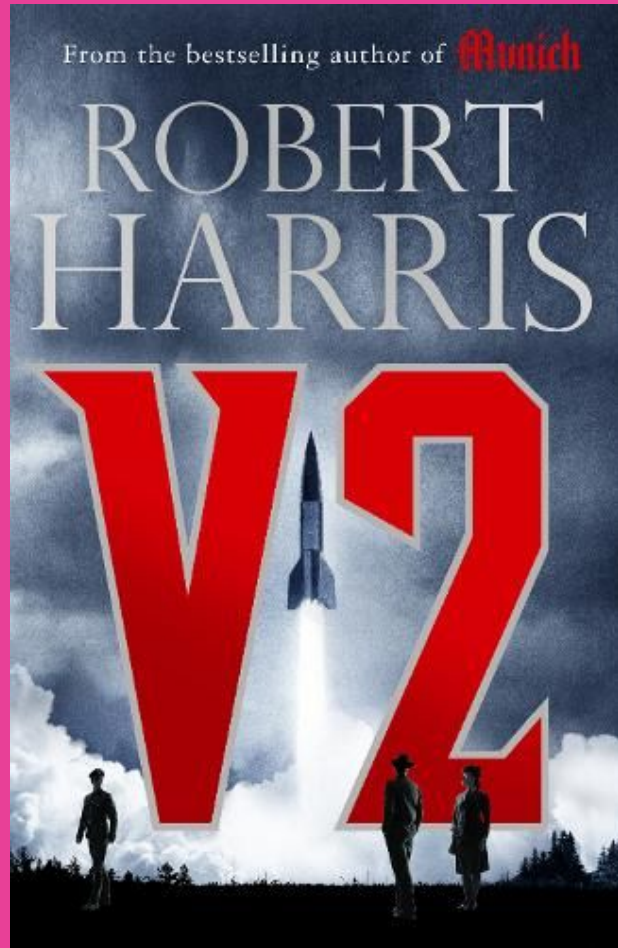
Because brilliant Bryson Keller forgot one thing. When he accepted the dare, he never said it could only be girls...



“On a cold Sunday evening in early 1957, Sarah Dewhurst waited with her father in the parking lot of the Chevron Gas Station for the dragon he’d hired to help on the farm.”

This dragon, Kazimir, has more to him than meets the eye. Dragons, supposedly, don’t have souls, yet Kazimir is seemingly intent on keeping her safe from the brutal attentions of Deputy Sheriff Emmett Kelby.

Kazimir knows something she doesn’t. He has arrived at the farm because of a prophecy. A prophecy that involves a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon worshippers, two FBI agents – and somehow, Sarah Dewhurst herself.

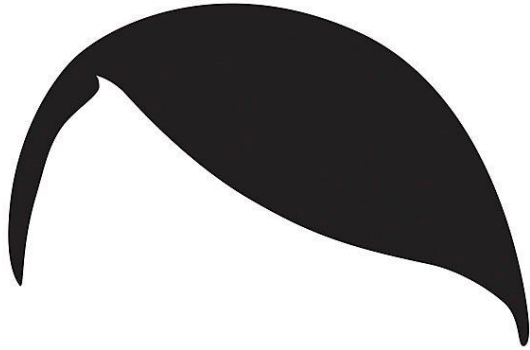


Rudi Graf has helped create the world's most sophisticated missile: the V2, capable of delivering a one-ton warhead at three times the speed of sound. Now he's tasked with firing these lethal weapons at London.

Kay Caton-Walsh is an officer in a unit of WAFs on a mission to newly liberated Belgium, attempting to locate and destroy the V2 launch sites.

But at this stage in the war it's hard to know who, if anyone, you can trust. As the death toll soars, Graf and Kay fight their grim, invisible war - until one final explosion of violence causes their destinies to collide.

TIMUR VERMES



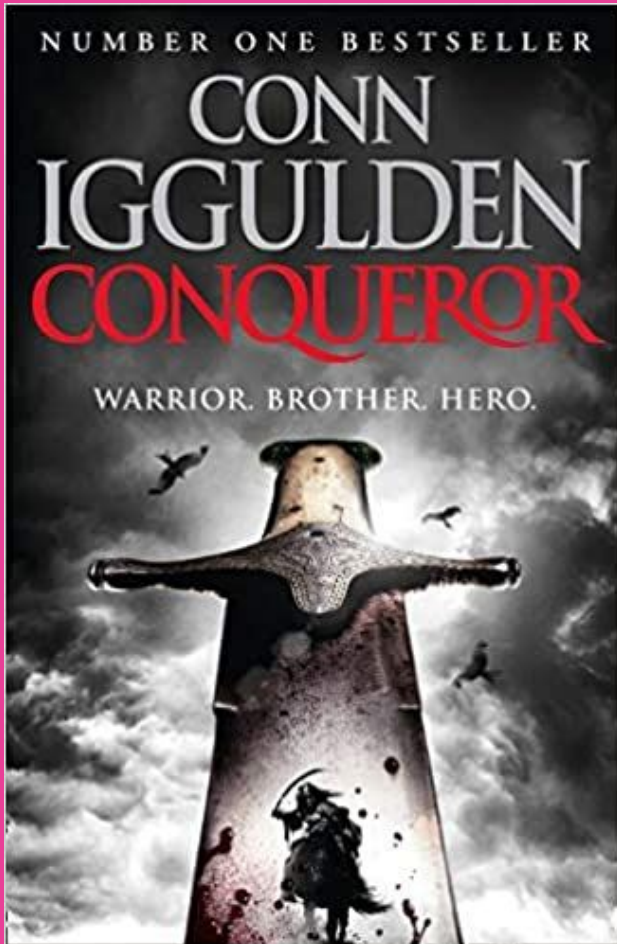
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But the Führer has another programme, one with even greater ambition - to set the Fatherland he finds a shambles back to rights...



A scholar who conquered an empire larger than those of Alexander or Caesar. A warrior who would rule a fifth of the world. A man who betrayed a brother to protect a nation.

From a young academic to one of history's most powerful warriors, this is the story of Kublai Khan – an extraordinary man who ranks alongside the greatest leaders in history.

He dreams of an empire stretching from sea to sea. But to see it built, he must first learn the art of war. He must take his nation's warriors to the ends of the known world. And when he is weary, when he is wounded, he must face his own brothers in a bloody civil war.

GILDED CAGE

Not all are free

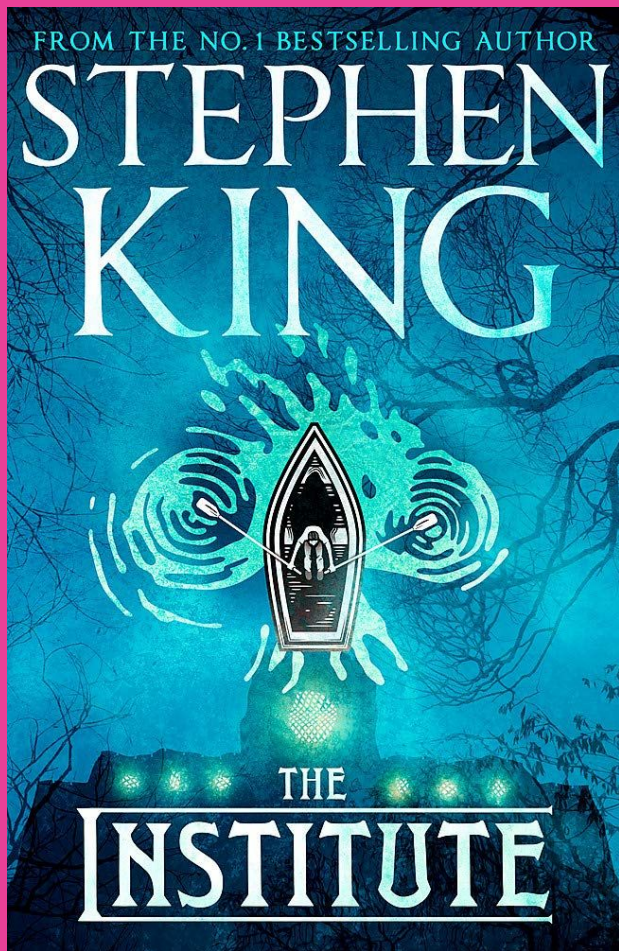


VIC JAMES

In an alternative modern-day Britain, those who have magic control everything: wealth, politics, power - and you. If you're not one of the magical elite you owe them ten years of service. Do those years when you're old, and you'll never get through them. Do them young, and you'll never get over them.

The all-powerful Jardines and the everyday Hadleys have only one thing in common: each family has three children. But their destinies entwine when one family enters the service of the other. They will all discover whether any magic is more powerful than the human spirit.

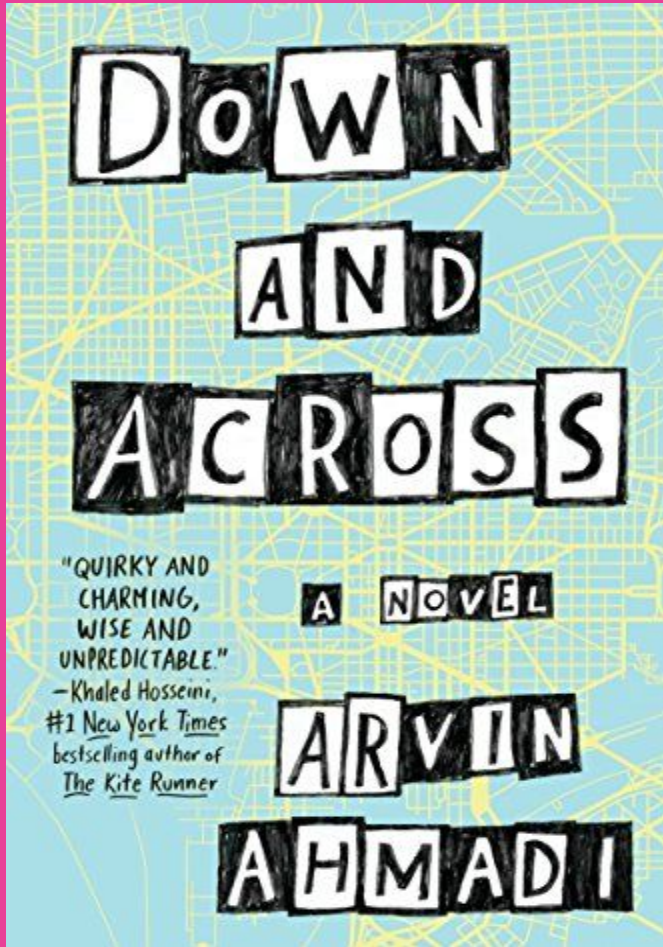
Have a quick ten years. . . .



Luke Ellis, a super-smart twelve-year-old with an exceptional gift, is abducted and taken to a secret government facility, hidden deep in the forests of Maine. Here, kids with special talents - telekinesis and telepathy - like Luke's new friends Kalisha, Nick and Iris, are used to wage a secret war.

No-one even dreams of escape. Until the arrival of a younger boy, with even greater powers.

Meanwhile, in a small town not so far away from The Institute, former policeman Tim Jamieson has taken a job working for the local sheriff. He's looking for a quiet life. He doesn't know he's about to take on the biggest case of his career...

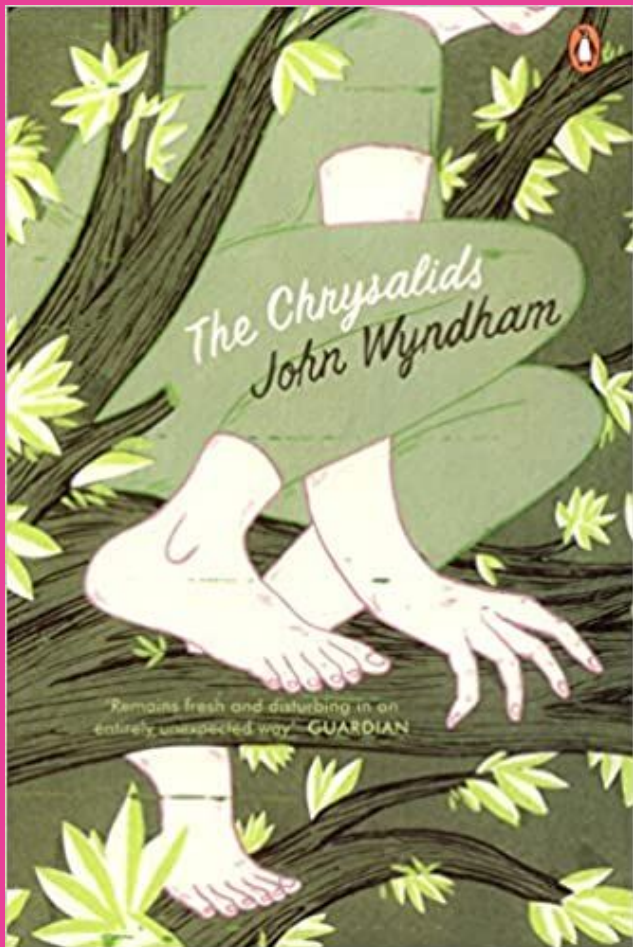


His friends know exactly what they want out of life, but Scott Ferdowski can hardly commit to a breakfast cereal, let alone a passion.

Faced with college applications and pushy parents, Scott heads off to Washington, DC, seeking guidance from a psychologist who claims to know the secret to success.

What should be a short, uneventful trip quickly spirals into anything but. Scott finds himself caught up in a high-speed chase, sneaking into bars and picking up girls.

As his life gets wilder, he finally starts to realise who he is and what he wants to be...



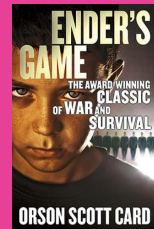
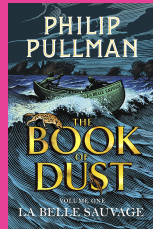
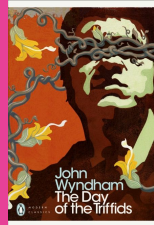
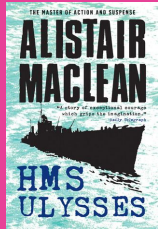
David lives in fear of discovery, part of a group of children who are able to communicate with each other by transferring thought-shapes into each other's minds.

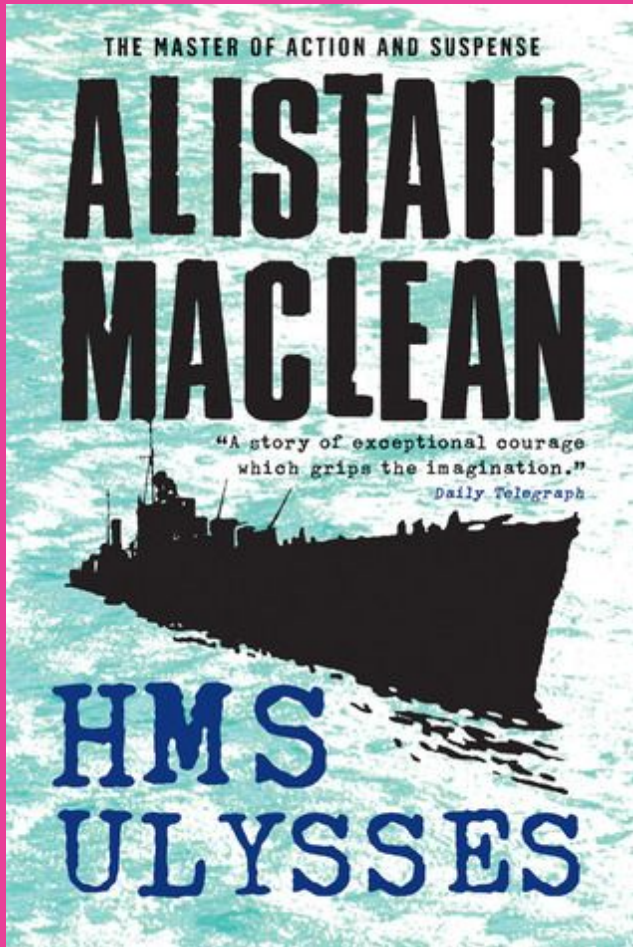
Nuclear war has left the world devastated, and species subject to a host of genetic mutations. In the bleak society that has emerged from the ruins, any sign of deviation, no matter how small, is ruthlessly rooted out and destroyed.

As the children grow older, they feel more and more at risk and isolated. Then one of them marries a 'norm', with terrifying consequences. Forced to flee, David and the others head for what might just be a source of salvation...

Books worth second looks

Third Year - Summer 2021

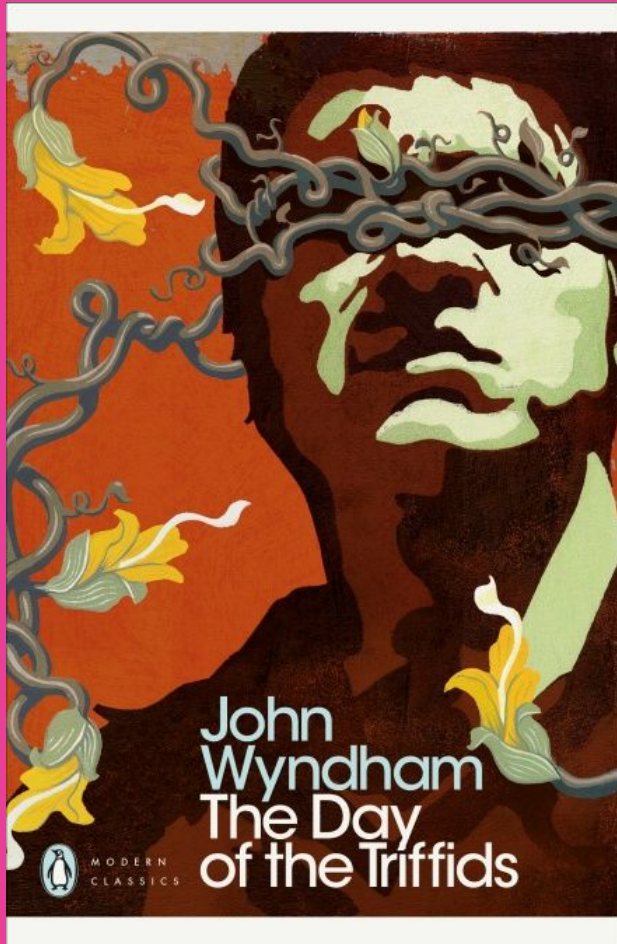




It's World War II. Wearied and bloodied, the the crew of the HMS Ulysses are putting to sea yet again, this time to escort a vital supply convoy heading for the Russian port of Murmansk.

As they head deep into the frozen waters they are faced not only with the fierce arctic weather, but also airborne attacks, German ships, and the feared U-boats, all hellbent on destroying the convoy. Soon the journey becomes a tense and deadly game of cat and mouse between the crippled cruiser and her silent pursuers.

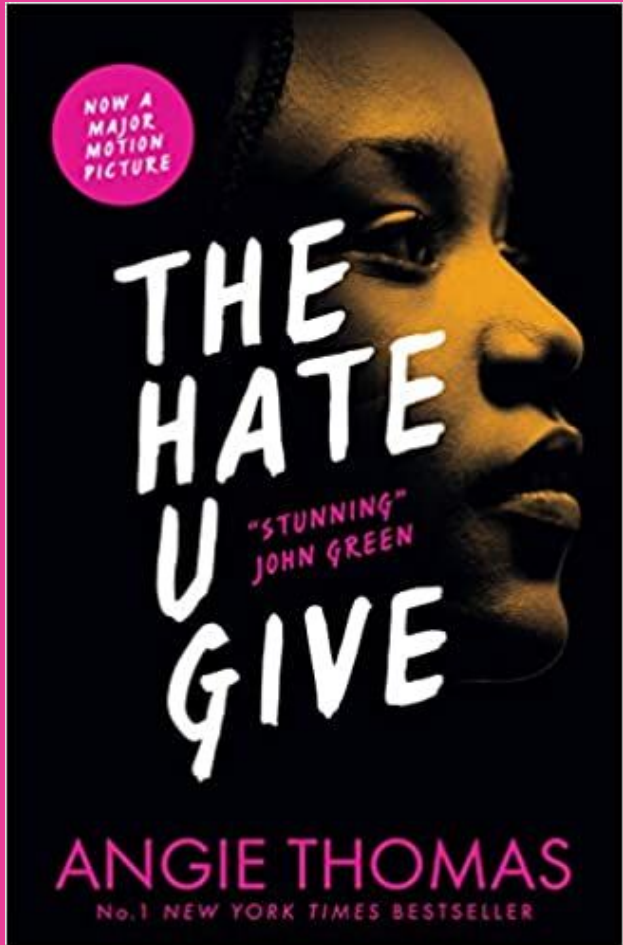
As losses mount, the men of the Ulysses, do all that they can to protect the ships in their care, going to the limits of endurance - and beyond.



When a freak cosmic event renders most of the Earth's population blind, the human race first stumbles, then begins to fall...

Bill Masen is one of the lucky few to keep his sight. Journeying through a London jammed with sightless mobs who prey on those who can still see, he aims to find refuge for himself and others. But another menace stalks blind and sighted alike.

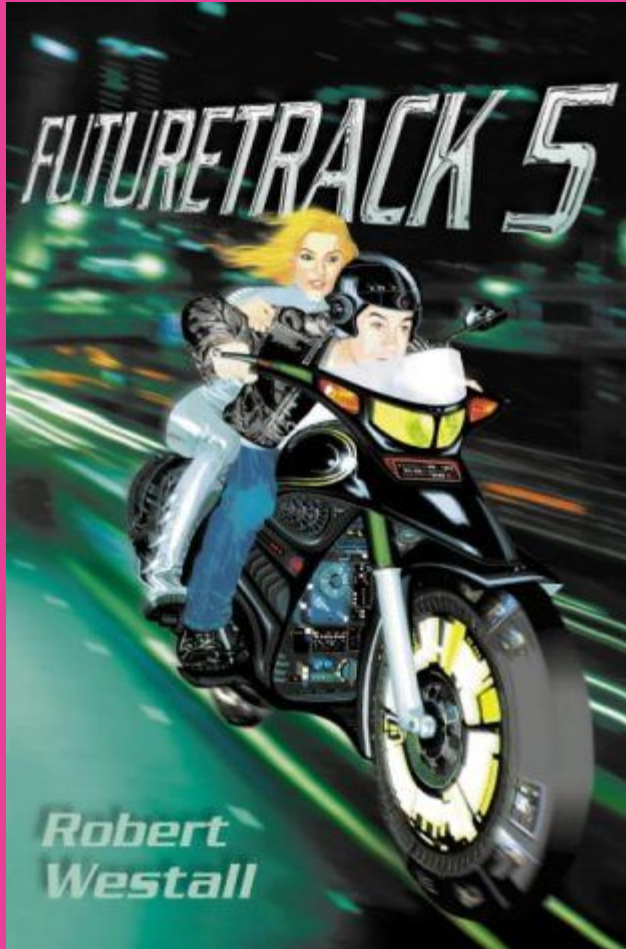
Enter the Triffids: giant, mobile plants with lethal stingers and a craving for human flesh. As both bodies and betrayals mount, Bill finds that he is prepared to do almost anything to survive - even at the cost of his own humanity...



Sixteen-year-old Starr occupies two worlds. One is the neighbourhood where she was born and raised: poor, marred by gangs and violence, and predominantly black. The other is her high school in the suburbs: rich, peaceful and predominantly white.

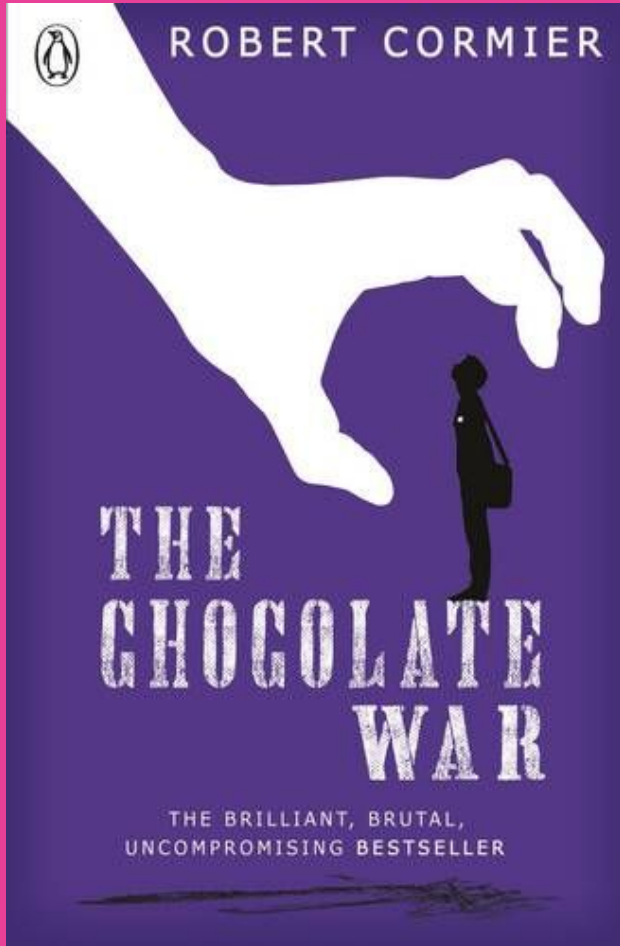
Her attempts to maintain the uneasy balance between them are shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her best friend by a police officer.

What Starr does next could help bring justice - or destroy her community. It could also get her killed. Only she can decide which world she wants to live in - if either...



It's the near future. Britain is divided into rigid zones and castes. Where you end up depends on how well you perform in the dreaded 'E Levels'. Score too low, you'll be exiled to the Unnem Zones, at the mercy of desperate and dangerous proles. Score just right, you can join the pampered Ests, enjoying a comfortable life in the comfortable suburbs. Score 100%, you'll become a tech, managing the machines which run this not-so-brave new world.

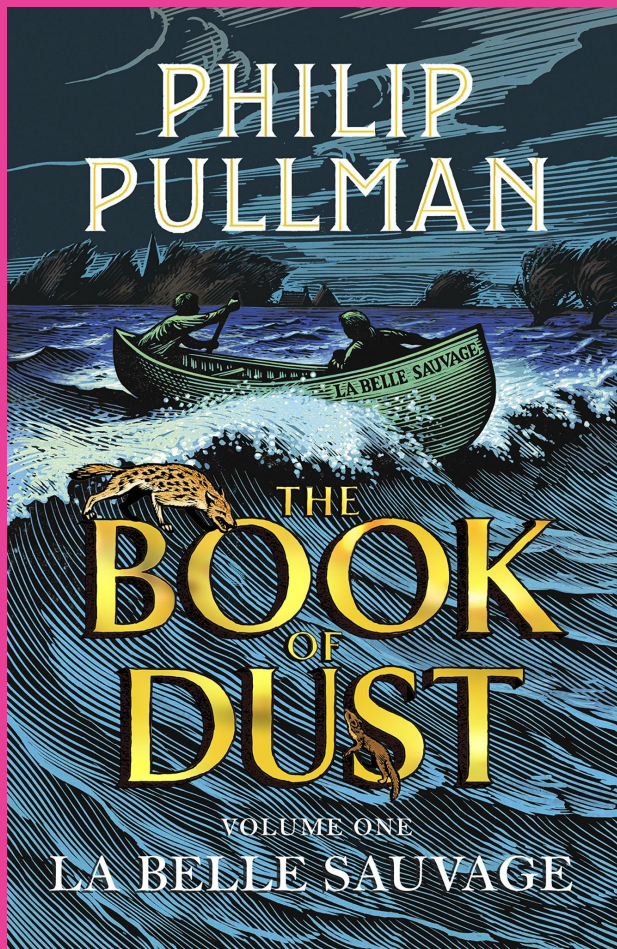
Then 19-year-old Henry Kitson, propelled into the world of the techs, decides on a different course of action: getting to the heart of the conspiracy at the heart of government, and bringing the whole rotten system down.



The corrupt headmaster of Trinity College, an elite private school, needs to urgently replace the school funds he has gambled away. He asks Archie Costello, leader of the Vigils, a secret society that rules the school, to help ensure that every student participates in an effort to raise funds by selling 20,000 boxes of chocolates. Archie is glad to help, recognising the chance of adding to his power.

Every student says 'yes' - except the one boy who says 'no', not realising that in this case it's not an acceptable option.

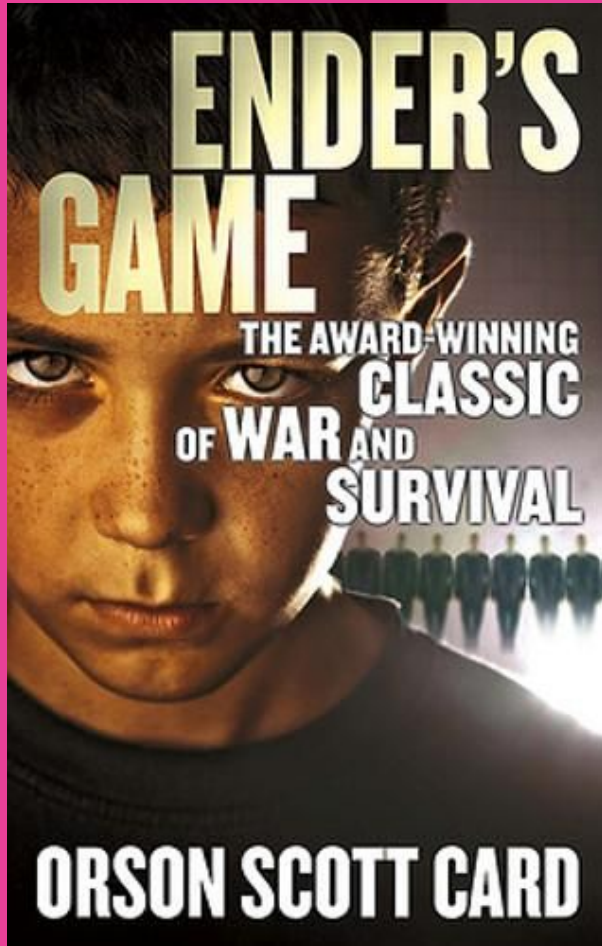
It's a classic tale of David vs Goliath. Except that this time, David is not going to win.



It's eleven years before the events of *Northern Lights*.

Malcolm Polstead lives an ordinary life in Oxford. He's happiest playing with his daemon, Asta, in their canoe, *La Belle Sauvage*. But now as the rain falls and the river rises, his world is set to become far from ordinary.

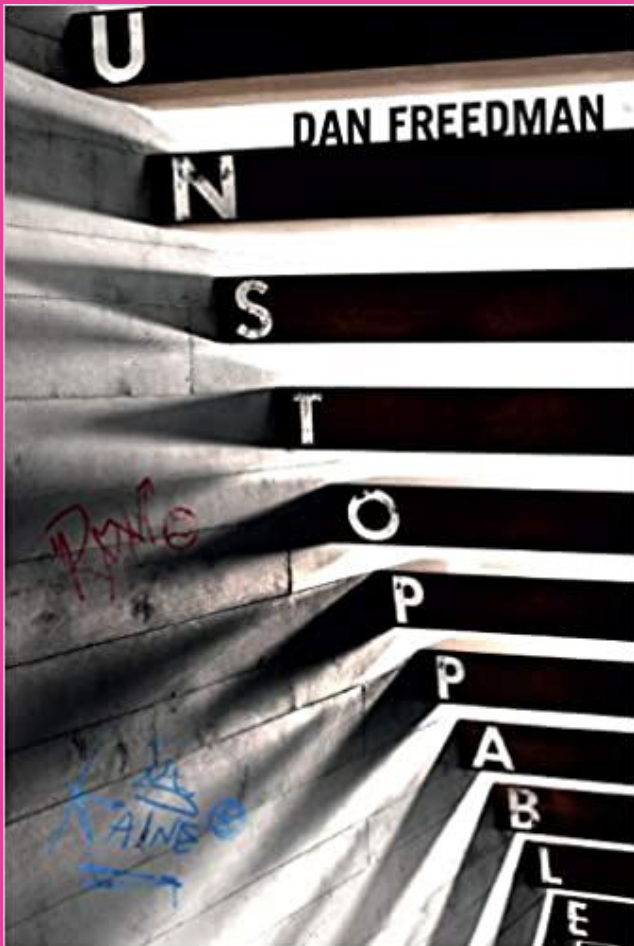
At the height of the most violent storm in living memory, Malcolm finds himself responsible for the life of a six-month-old baby, Lyra Belacqua. Forced to flee from the men hunting her down, Malcolm is forced to undertake the challenge of his life and to make a dangerous journey that will change him and Lyra for ever...



The human race faces annihilation. An alien threat is on the horizon, ready to strike. If the earth is to stand a chance, it needs to find the greatest military commander in history.

Humanity's last hope is Ender Wiggin: young, brave and brilliant. To prove that he can be the leader of all leaders, he must survive a brutal training programme, with challenges ranging from simulated battles in zero gravity to mind games against sentient AIs.

As his successes mount and he proceeds to Battle School, it seems that Ender is the one they're all looking for. But at what cost? Is he becoming a hero - or a monster?

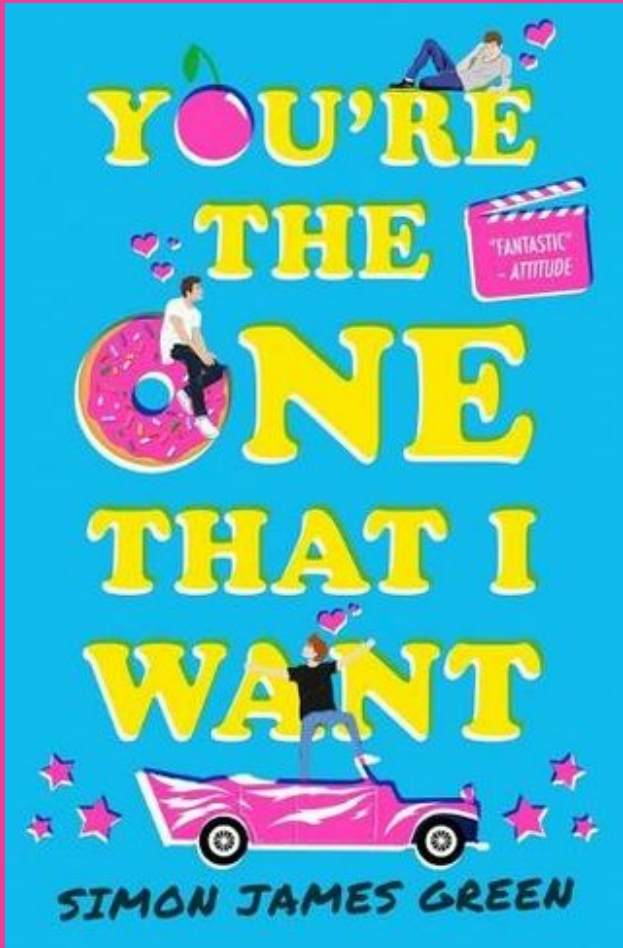


Fourteen-year-old Kaine, a brilliant footballer, used to be close to his twin, Roxy. Now they can hardly bear to be in the same room.

Kaine despises his supposedly perfect sister for claiming all of their parents attention in her ambition to reach Wimbledon.

Roxy hates the way her brother behaves – he's always in trouble and seems determined to tear the family apart.

Now they're also hiding dangerous secrets - secrets that could destroy everything they're striving for. Can they escape before it's too late for both of them?

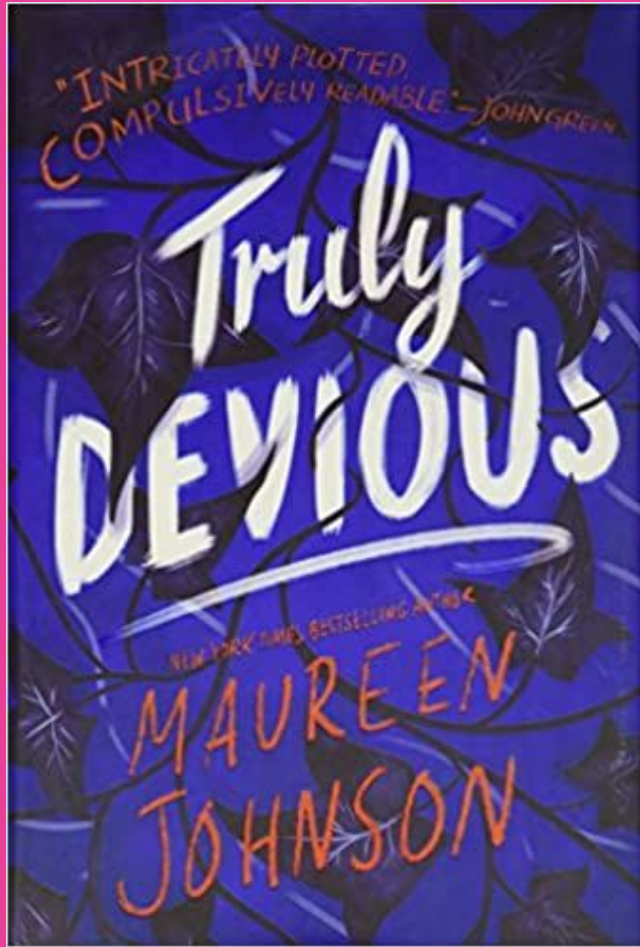


Freddie doesn't stand out in any way. Teachers and fellow students keep forgetting who he is. Even his mum thinks he's a disappointment.

After a particularly bad night of embarrassment, Freddie decides to follow a new philosophy that will transform his social and romantic life: saying 'yes' to every opportunity. Amazingly, it works.

He wins a role in the school musical, actually gets invited to parties, and flirts with hot new boy Zach! He's becoming a whole new Freddie.

But as he discovers, life is not that simple. Maybe getting things wrong is actually an important part of figuring out what - and who - he really wants...



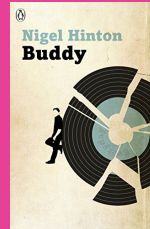
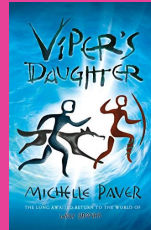
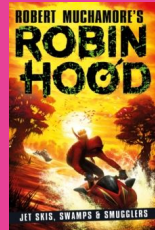
Would-be detective Stevie Bell is beginning her first year at Ellingham Academy, a remote private school for the truly gifted. Her aim is to solve one of the greatest cold cases in History: the disappearance of the wife and daughter of the school's billionaire founder. The only clue is a mocking letter, signed 'Truly devious'.

But as Stevie investigates, and gets to know her new teachers and classmates, it seems that she's disturbed something that might have been better left alone.

Death revisits Ellingham Academy. The past is crawling out of its grave. And someone is once again getting away with murder...

Books worth second looks

Lower School - Summer 2021

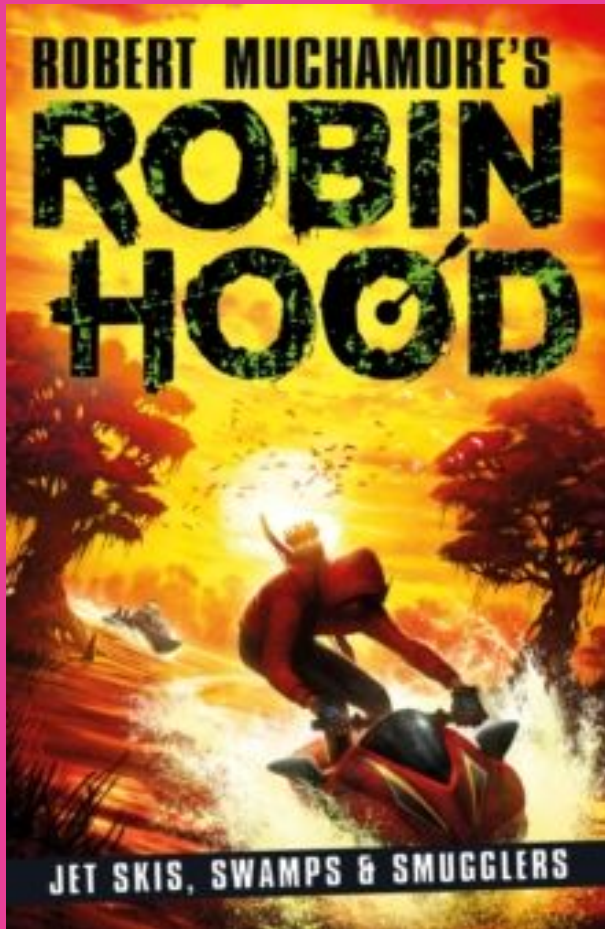




When a stranger saves her from a violent attack, Genna Adams believes it's luck that their paths crossed. When, a week later, the same boy saves her from being kidnapped, Genna realises this is no coincidence.

Then her rescuer tells her that an ancient enemy has tracked her across lifetimes to lay claim to Genna's very soul...

As the hunters close in, Genna has no choice but to trust her mysterious protector. Soon she is swept into a deadly adventure, racing across time to save herself and, ultimately, the human race.

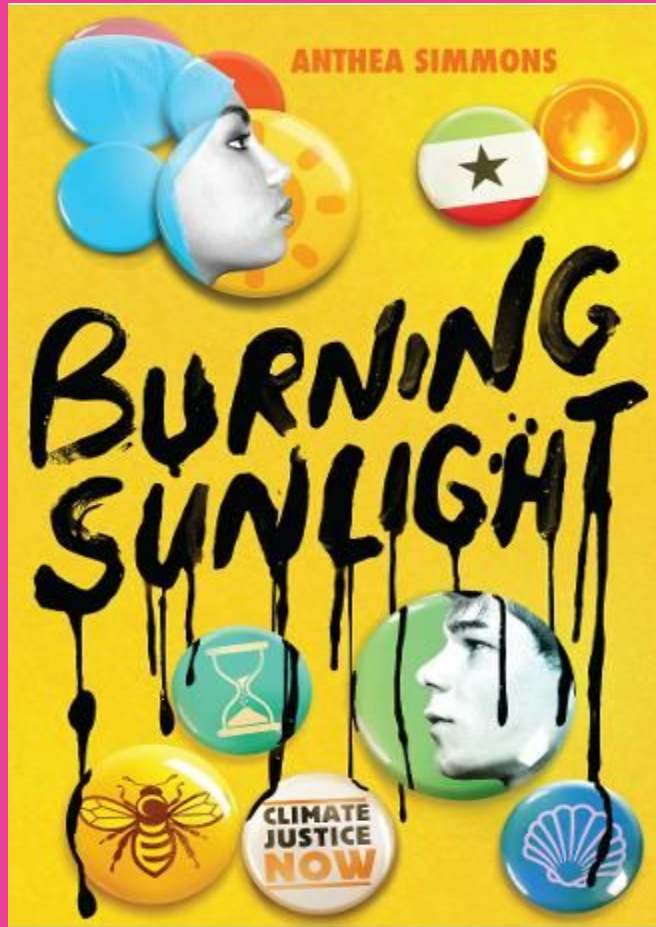


The third thrilling tale of a very modern outlaw.

With a very large price on his head, Robin is in hiding, but still attracting trouble.

While helping refugees and evading Customs and Immigration officials, Robin and Marion uncover a people-smuggling operation, bringing desperate people into the country to work as slaves. They're determined to find out who's behind it.

Soon Robin is once again making headlines with spectacular raids on the rich and powerful. But with a gang of merciless mercenaries determined to track him down, headlines are the last thing he wants or needs...

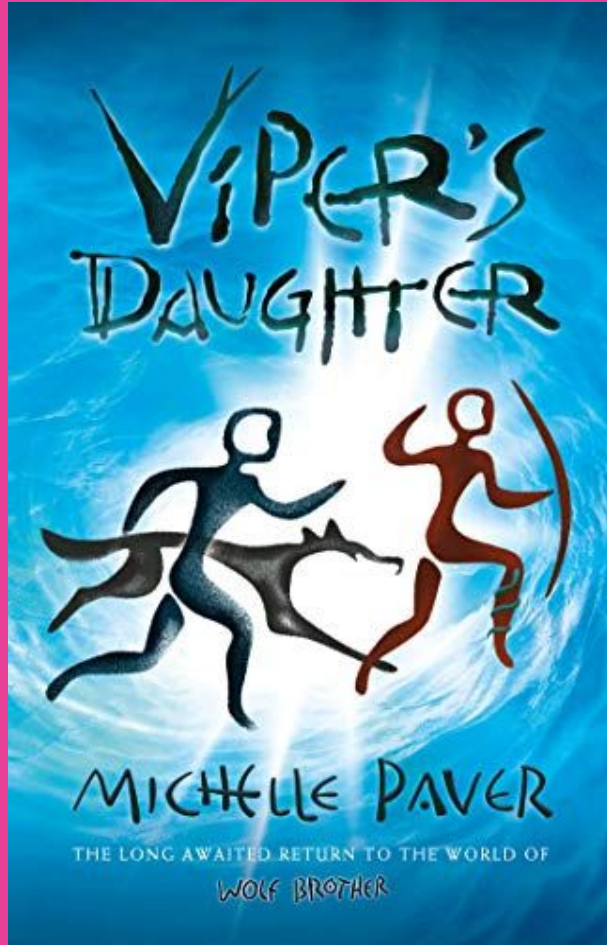


Zaynab is from a country devastated by war. Lucas is from rural Devon, which might as well be a world away. When they meet, they discover a common cause: the climate crisis.

Together they overcome their differences to build a campaign group at their school and make a real impact on the local community.

Then Zaynab uncovers a plot which could the lives of the people she left behind. She will stop at nothing to expose it.

Now both Zaynab and Lucas are in danger, leaving Lucas having to grapple with divided loyalties and the true cost of friendship.....



A boy. A wolf. The legend lives on...

It is the age of stone - and a time of spirits and demons.

When his friend Renn mysteriously disappears, Torak and Wolf travel to the Far North in search.

At the mercy of the Sea Mother and haunted by ravenous ice bears, their quest leads them to the Edge of the World. There they must face an enemy more evil than any they've encountered.

This is the long-awaited seventh book in the Wolf Brother series. Like all of the books, it can be read as a standalone story.



It's far in the future. Britain has been radically changed by a series of catastrophes: large cities have disappeared; London is now a lagoon. The surviving population lives in fortified towns, while strangely evolved beasts - and people - prowl the wilderness beyond.

Safety comes at a price: anyone showing signs of mutation risks exile, death - or worse. Those who fall foul of rigid rules are persecuted.

Only the brave - or the foolish - would try to make it alone. It would take extreme courage - or stupidity - to fight back. Enter two teenage outlaws, Scarlett McCain and Albert Browne, whose audacity and talent quickly turn them into legends...



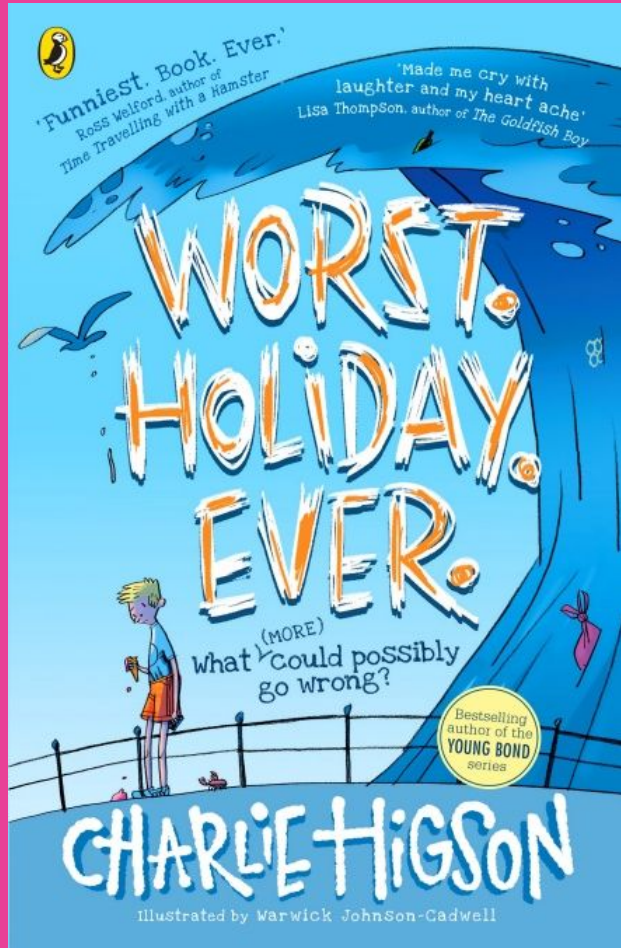
An unlikely friendship. A dangerous voyage. A story about what it means to be human.

The human race went extinct thirty years ago. Now the world is ruled by machines.

Twelve-year-old robot XR_935 likes his life. No humans around means no war, no pollution, no crime. Every member of society has a purpose. Everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

Until the day XR discovers something that should be impossible: a twelve-year-old human being.

Forced to examine everything they've believed, XR_395's life suddenly stops being so simple...



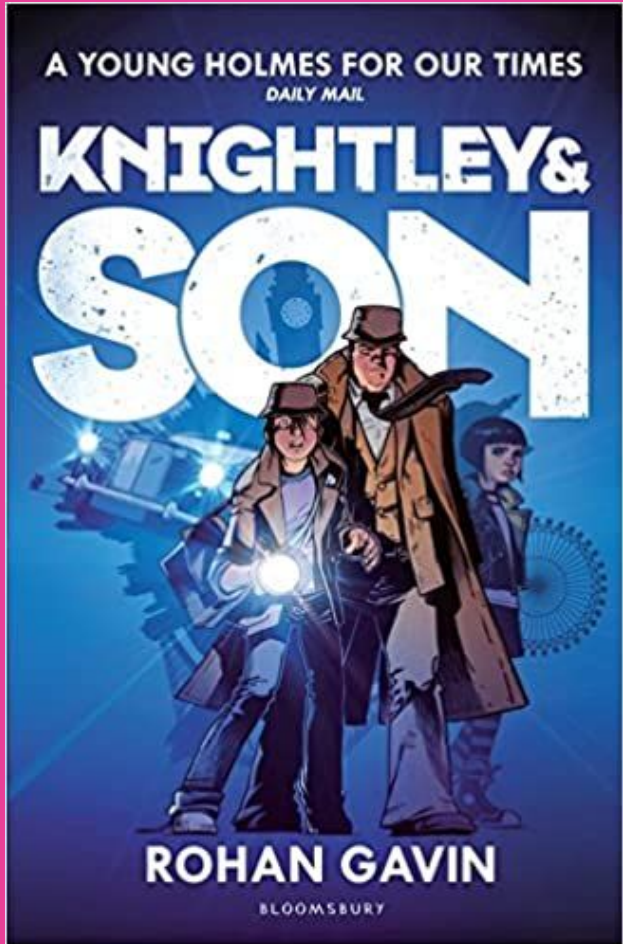
Stan is going on holiday to Italy with his (fifth) best friend Felix and a load of strangers.

Stan is absolutely terrified.

Luckily, his mum's given him an emergency list that includes how to survive a shark attack, and what to do if he gets kidnapped.

Stan thinks that a better list would include how to cope with odd food, and what to do if he accidentally calls Felix's mum 'mum' in front of everybody.

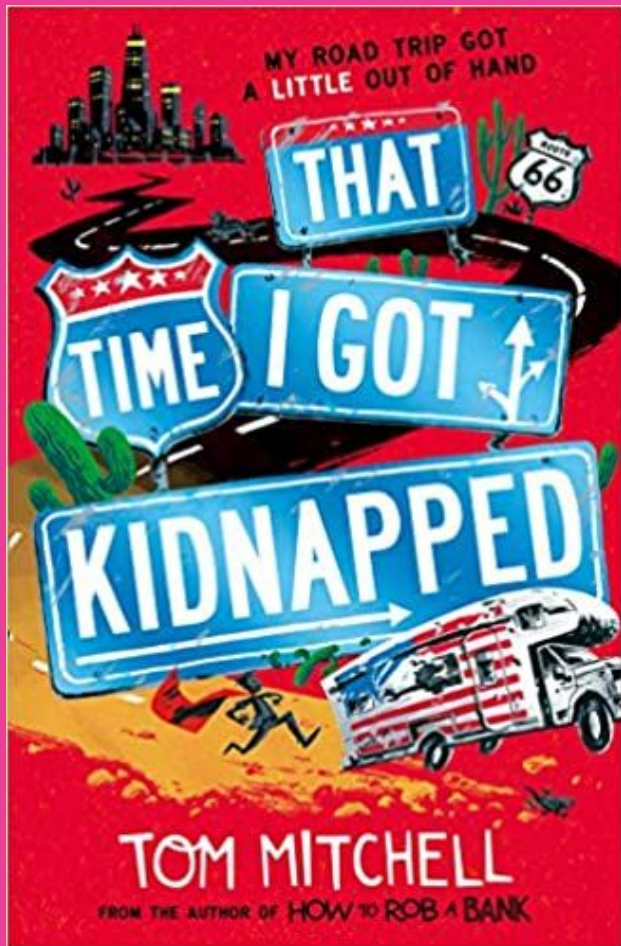
And it soon turns out Italy is full of dangers and things that can go horribly wrong...



Detective Alan Knightley has just woken up after mysteriously being asleep for four years. In that time his son, Darkus, has examined all his dad's old cases and learned a lot about the art of detection. It's a good thing too...

Suddenly father and son are caught up in a crazy conspiracy that involves a group of villainous masterminds, high-speed car chases and a bestselling book with the power to make people do terrible, terrible things.

But because Alan is still suffering the effects of his coma, he tends to, well, fall asleep at the worst possible moments, So Darkus might just have to solve this mystery all by himself.



Fourteen-year-old Jacob is thrilled when he wins the chance to feature in the next Marvel movie, shooting in Hollywood. But after missing his connecting flight in Chicago, he tries to complete the journey by Greyhound bus – and there he meets Jennifer.

Jennifer is an American teenager on the run with a mysterious package she's guarding with her life – and an enigmatic (not to say terrifying) figure known only as 'the Cowboy' is hot on her heels..

Jacob soon finds himself on the road-trip of a lifetime as Jennifer's unwitting partner in crime, with all manner of people in pursuit. Will he make it to LA in time – and in one piece?



Nigel Hinton
Buddy



A classic from the 1980s: old but still gold...

Thirteen-year-old Buddy is struggling. His mum and dad argue constantly. Usually the arguments are about his dad, an ageing rocker, interested only in Elvis Presley and motorbikes, working the fringes of the criminal underworld.

When Buddy's mum walks out, he and his dad manage to forge a better relationship, helped by Buddy's interest in forming a band. Then Buddy finds out that his dad is involved in something that could get him into serious trouble.

Along with two friends, he tries to help, but ends up putting them all into even worse danger...