

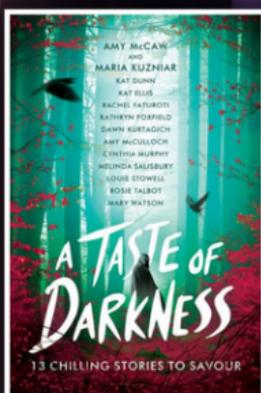
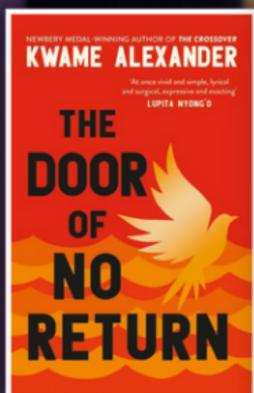


Hampshire  
County Council

School Library  
Service

# Relax and Read

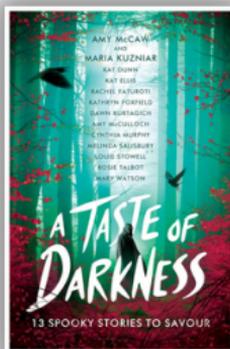
Great books to read while relaxing



## A Taste of Darkness

A collection of 13 spine-chilling horror stories. From ghosts and vampires to disturbing crime thrillers, this short story collection from well-known authors is dark, sometimes brutal and not for the faint-hearted.

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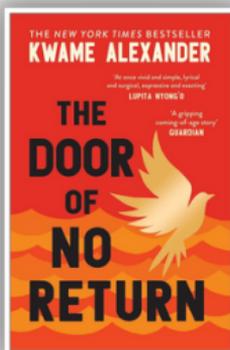


## ALEXANDER, KWAME

### The Door of No Return

Written in verse, this is a gripping tale set in 19th century Ghana. Kofi loves his life, his family and his village - and swimming. However, an incident in the village results in Kofi fighting for survival.

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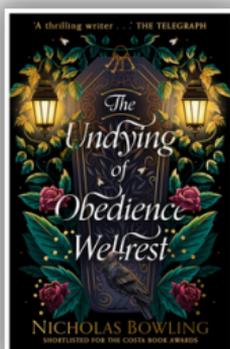


## BOWLING, NICHOLAS

### The Undying of Obedience Wellrest

Gravediggers, resurrection and mysterious noises in the night! Meet Obedience (or Bede) and Ned who must work together to discover whether a long-lost relative did indeed find the answer to cheating death itself.

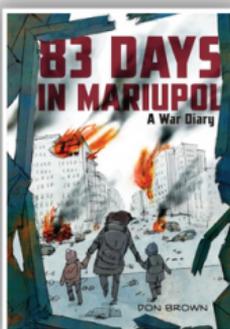
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## BROWN, DON

### 83 Days in Mariupol : a War Diary

A poignant graphic novel that focuses on the siege of Mariupol in 2022 to explore the complexities of the war in Ukraine. This compassionate account reminds us that horror and bravery are not confined to the past while considering both the impact on individuals and the wider effects on global politics.

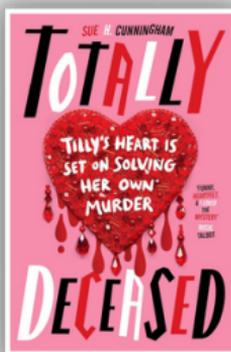


## CUNNINGHAM, SUE H

### Totally Deceased

Waking up after a heart transplant, Jess is haunted by the heart's previous owner. Tilly believes she was murdered and wants Jess to help find the truth. Can the girls from such different backgrounds solve the mystery of Tilly's death in this funny novel?

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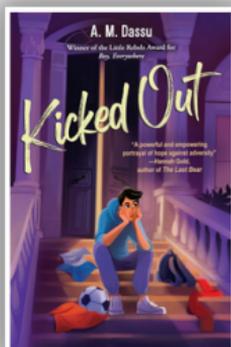


## DASSU, A M

### Kicked Out

Ali and Sami are looking forward to the best summer. However, they find themselves kicked out of their friend Mark's house when another friend, Aadam, is accused of theft. Ali and Sami decide to hold a football competition to help Aadam and have some unexpected help to boost their funds. Can the friends survive all that is being thrown at them and can they make a difference?

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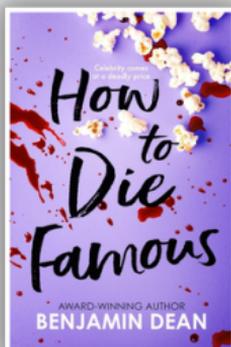


## DEAN, BENJAMIN

### How to Die Famous

Abel, a new British actor, has been cast in a reboot of an American high school drama which is said to be cursed – but secretly he is there to find the truth about the death of his brother who worked on a previous series. This mystery/thriller looks at the dark side of fame through the eyes of multiple characters as the plot twists and turns to an unexpected conclusion.

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## EPDS, OMAR

### Nubia : The Awakening

In the not-too-distant future, Nubian refugees have lost much of their culture and identity, struggling as they live in the slums of New York, beneath the rich living in the sky above them. With themes of poverty, climate change, corruption, racism and oppression combined with magic and superpowers, this is a gripping dystopian thriller. First in a series, and a great audiobook too.

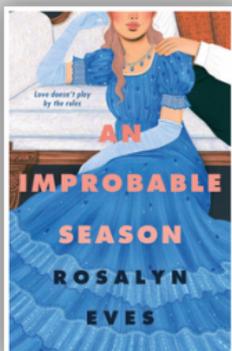


## EVES, ROSALYN

### An Improbable Season

Like Jane Austen? Then you will love this regency-style romance. Three girls all set out for their first London season - where things don't quite go to plan.

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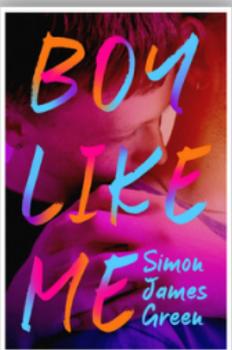


## GREEN, SIMON JAMES

### Boy Like Me

It's 1994 and under Section 28, there can be no mention of gay relationships in UK schools. When a kind librarian lends Jamie a disguised novel that reflects his own confused feelings towards boys, he sees that he's not the only one who has borrowed the book. Will Jamie be able to identify the other reader? A timeless story of forbidden love.

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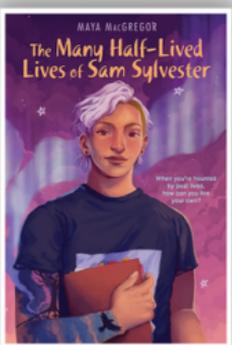


## MACGREGOR, MAYA

### The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester

Sam is a non-binary queer autistic teen with a special interest in children who died before they reached the age of 19. When they move to a new town after experiencing traumatic bullying and a near-death experience themselves, Sam discovers Billy, one of the teens in their book, died in the very bedroom Sam has moved into. While trying to settle in to a new school, Sam starts to investigate - was Billy's death accident or murder?

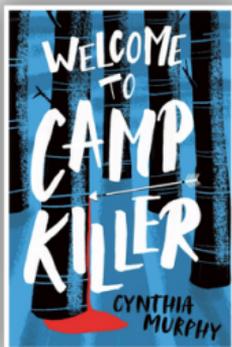
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## MURPHY, CYNTHIA

### Welcome to Camp Killer

A short novel set in the grounds of an English stately home where an American-style summer camp is set up. The teenage leaders are ready and waiting when strange things start to happen. Are these just tragic accidents?



## NAZEMIAN, ABDI

### Only This Beautiful Moment

Brought together by the impending death of Baba, three generations of an Iranian family discover they have more in common than they thought as secrets unfold and connections are realised, forcing them to deal with their grief, regret and loss. Touching on racism, homophobia, and relations between the USA and Iran, this tale explores the beautiful moments that make us who we are.

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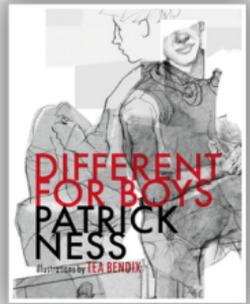


## NESS, PATRICK

### Different for Boys

A thoughtful book about boys liking boys, sexuality, masculinity, friendship and betrayal. Ant is confused about his relationship with best friend Charlie but it's not something they can talk about, ever. A different type of graphic novel with content censored by using blacked out text.

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## PALMER, LUKE

### Play

Follow the lives of four boys growing up in small town England. As they negotiate friendship, school, and family, each is desperate to get out and find freedom. To break the boredom they play games, scoring points off each other. But one game will have dangerous consequences for them all.

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## POWARS, PAGE

### The Borrow a Boyfriend Club

A feel-good, coming-of-age rom-com following trans teen Noah as he tries to fit in at a new school by joining the boyfriend-borrowing service masquerading as an Italian Club. But whilst trying to prove that he's one of the guys, Noah must come to terms with his growing feelings for club president Asher.



## RAI, BALI

### A Sudden Storm

It's Arjan's 16th birthday but while out celebrating with his friends, events spiral into violence when racist thugs abuse him for the colour of his skin and for wearing a turban. A short but powerful true story about racism faced by British Sikhs.

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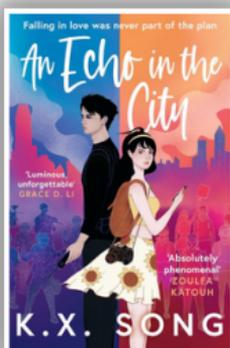


## SONG, K. X

### An Echo in the City

Set in Hong Kong during the 2019 protests, two people meet and fall in love. They are from opposing sides of the dispute, and one is not who they claim - can their love survive the lie between them?

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## WALLMAN, SUE

### Every Word a Lie

Amy and Stan hatch a plan to get revenge on their friend Hollie for signing them up for a litter pick by catfishing her crush. Things take a sinister turn when Hollie ends up dead and they start receiving threatening messages from the murderer. A thrilling mystery which challenges you to identify the killer.

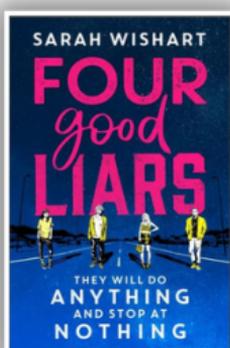
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## WISHART, SARAH

### Four Good Liars

When four teenagers survive a school bus crash and find a bag full of money, they have a moral dilemma. Do they keep the money or not? Do they trust each other? Or are they all just good liars?



Here are just a few ideas of the great books to read while relaxing.

Many of these books will be available in your school library or you can borrow them, free of charge, from your local public library. Click the book cover or title to see the availability of each.

For information about your nearest public library, go to:

[www.hants.gov.uk/library](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library)

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