

Spooky Reads for Fall

It's the best time of year to get a book, get comfy, and get spooked! This list of titles is sure to inspire a little scare and explore some of life's deeper, darker quandaries.

All titles are available on the Waterbury Public Library catalog.



Just Like Home, by Sarah Gailey

In *Just Like Home*, true crime commentary meets the traditional haunted house tale. When Vera's mother falls ill, she is called to return to the home of her serial killer father and his most gruesome crimes. Once home, Vera begins to hear strange noises, find notes inexplicably written in her dead father's handwriting, and encounters the eccentric artist who has taken up residency in the yard's guest house.

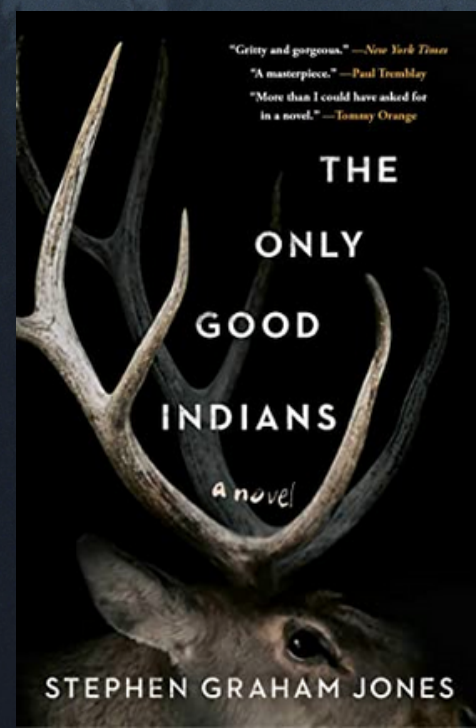
This dark and thrilling read examines the origins, the repercussions, and the very human fear of being haunted

NEW! Fiction, Gailey, S.

The Only Good Indians, by Stephen Graham Jones

This real deal horror novel explores the tension between tradition and modernity as readers witness the ripple effect of generational trauma. Following a disturbing event from their shared past, four friends find themselves hunted by an entity bent on revenge. In *The Only Good Indians*, harm restlessly lurks around every corner and our characters find themselves confined within their culture's traditions and violent past. Jones' distinct voice woven with his biting social commentary reads like an accident you can't look away from.

Fiction, Jones, S.





Nettle & Bone, by T. Kingfisher

This enthralling adventure features a buffet of refreshingly reimagined fairytale tropes! Our protagonist Marra would never call herself a hero. That is, until an evil prince murders her sister. Marra is offered the power to exact revenge, but only after completing three impossible tasks. And thus, our adventure begins. Fortunately, our heroine is not alone and she finds company in a motley crew of accomplices: the gravewitch, a fairy godmother, a fallen knight, and a demon chicken? Adventure awaits in this dark, modern, feminist tale!

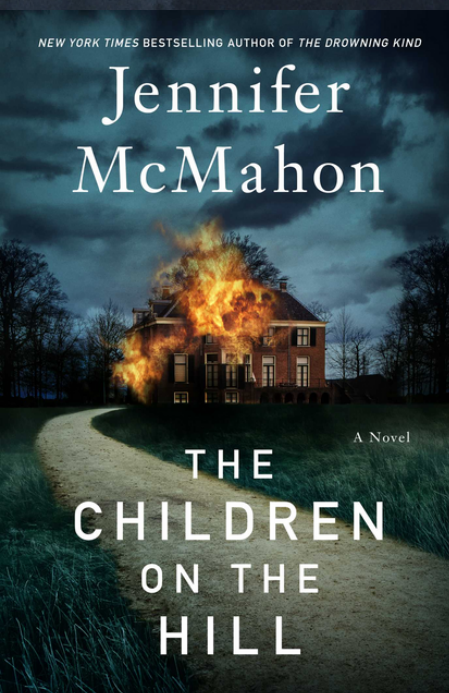
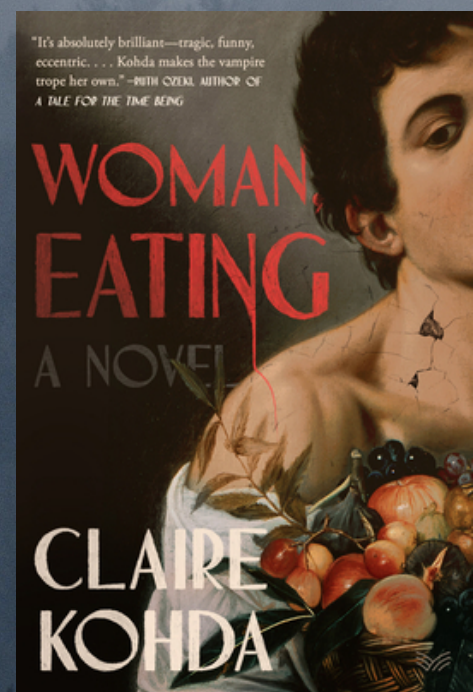
Fiction, Kingfisher, T.

Woman, Eating, by Claire Kohda

Lydia is half human, half vampire and trying to figure out how to live in the world while straddling both identities.

Having just graduated from art school, Lydia spends her days interning at a London art gallery and her nights binge-watching Buffy the Vampire Slayer and videos about food on YouTube. Blood is the only thing she can eat, and pigs have been hard to come by in the city. *Woman, Eating* invites us into Lydia's internal conflicts, her hunger, and ultimately her struggle for self-acceptance and empowerment.

NEW! Fiction, Kohda, C.



The Children on the Hill, by Jennifer McMahon

Welcome to The Hillside Inn: a Vermont holistic private hospital where our characters converge across decades. First we meet Dr. Helen Hildrieth, her two grandchildren, and a mysterious young patient named Iris that they have taken in as their own. Forty years later, we meet Lizzy Shelley who is following a lead on her years long monster hunt to the same location. Inspired by Frankenstein, McMahon weaves together the past and the present with an array of narrative voices and styles. She asks us, "who is worse: monster or creator?"

NEW! Fiction, McMahon, J.



When the Reckoning Comes, by LaTanya McQueen

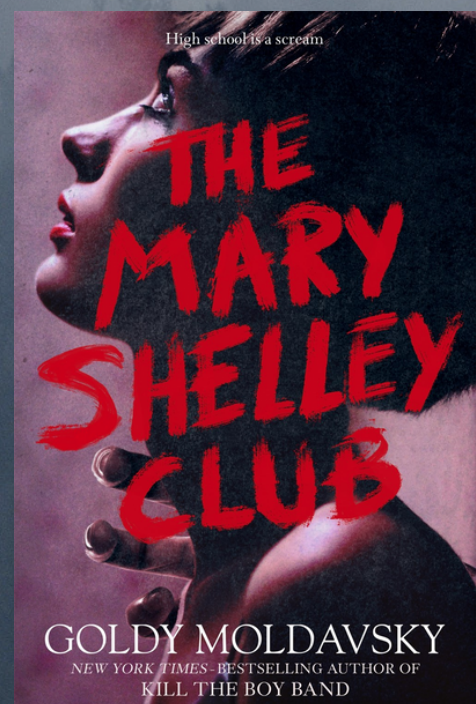
Mira left her rural hometown 10 years ago for a reason: its oppressive and segregated culture. Only the wedding of her estranged best friend Celine could call her back to the town and its supposedly haunted Woodsman Plantation: the ceremony's venue. Despite a glossing over of the location's gruesome past with themed drinks and Antebellum style decorations, Mira can sense a rising tension between the characters' own pasts and a deeply buried history attempting to make itself known.

Fiction, McQueen, L.

The Mary Shelley Club, by Goldy Moldavsky

Rachel is the new kid at Manchester Prep on Manhattan's affluent Upper East Side. There on a scholarship due to her mother's employment, she feels like an outsider. That is, until a prank gone awry leads her to meet and befriend the mysterious Mary Shelley Club. Their main objective: come up with a prank so momentous that it scares the entire school. As the pranks escalate and the group finds themselves targeted, Rachel must uncover the predator among them while confronting the darkness of her past.

YA Fiction, Moldavsky, G.



This Thing Between Us, by Gus Moreno

Haunted House? Try haunted Chicago condominium. Vera and Thiago Alvarez encounter the typical spooks: scratching noises, odd smells, and a very creepy smart speaker. Before being able to contact the space's previous owner, Vera dies in a freak accident. Thiago is left to grieve in the spotlight of loved ones, the media, and politicians who have sensationalized Vera's passing. He flees to a secluded Colorado cabin to find space, but what lies beneath his grief may be an entity set on destroying him completely.

Fiction, Moreno, G.





Old Country, by Matt Query and Harrison Query
Harry and Sasha Blakemore have decided to leave their bustling city lives for greener pastures. They move to the Teton Valley of Idaho in hopes of connecting with its wide open spaces. What they don't expect is a new and dangerous connection with something much more sinister: a malvolent spirit that haunts the valley and brings about worsening terrors with each coming season. Will the couples' persistence to embrace their new life be enough to endure, or even escape, the clutches of this new place?

Fiction, Query, M.

The Wild Hunt, by Emma Seckel

WWII has finally reached its end, and the residents of a small Scottish island are hoping to leave the destruction of the past behind. Complications arise when the Sluagh, ominous bird-like creatures of Celtic legend, swarm the island in greater numbers than ever before. Tragedy calls our protagonist Leigh Welles back home on the date of the crows annual return: Oct. 1st. When a boy goes missing, Leigh teams up with another local in an attempt to uncover the island's secrets. This striking debut unravels the knots of love, loss, and redemption.

NEW! Fiction, Seckel, E.



Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke, and Other Misfortunes, by Eric LaRocca

In this 3 story collection, Erica LaRocca pokes and plays with religious trauma, relational strife, and the danger of crossing certain boundaries. From two women in an early 2000s chat room, to a fractured couple on a desolate island, to a disgruntled neighbor who makes a strange discovery in his yard, LaRocca exposes and mocks his characters' inability to achieve what they so desperately desire: connection. Darkness swirls at the heart of these stories from one of horror's most gripping voices.

NEW! Fiction, LaRocca, E.