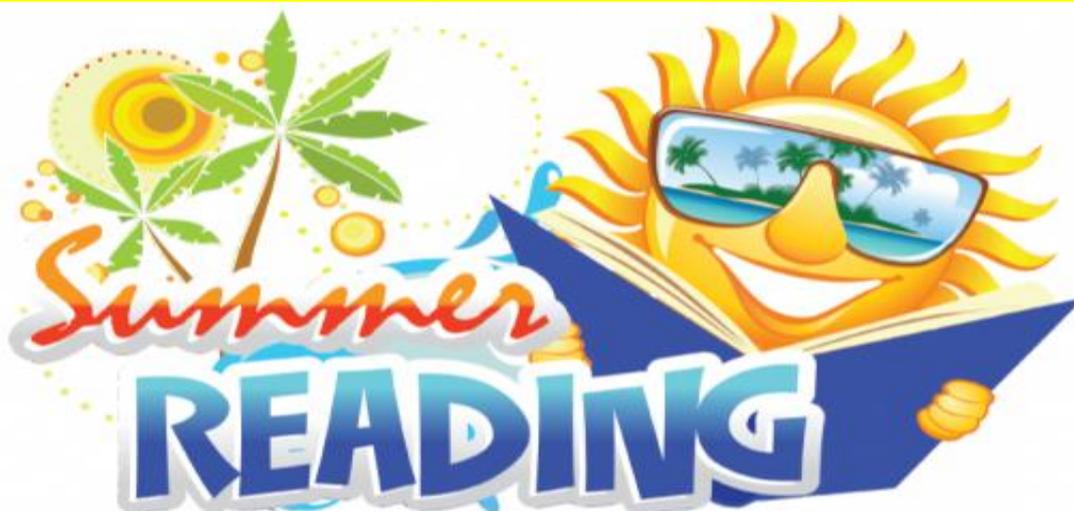


August



*Holidaying and trips to the beach are back on the agenda, which calls for one thing: a summer reading list. While many of us have had plenty of time on our hands over recent weeks to get some reading time in, it's often the last thing we think about. But, if you're relaxing on the beach or poolside, there's no better time to get stuck into a good book.*

*While of course a great summer read is down to personal preference, to give you a little bit of inspiration for your next trip, the Learning Curve have looked back through our previous book lists and picked a few from each genre, that will suit every taste. From page-turning thrillers to romantic classics, consider your reading list sorted. All of the books listed below can be borrowed from the library using our Click & Collect Service.*

*Happy reading during your summer break!*

### **The Liar's House**

By Carla Kovach  
Genre: Crime

Samantha stumbled out of the party and on to a busy street only ten minutes away from her home. But she never made it home. Seven years after Samantha's disappearance, on what would have been her thirty-fifth birthday, her best friend Diane is shocked to find a letter addressed to Samantha on her doorstep.

Opening the envelope, Diane pulls out a birthday card and a finger nail painted in dusky pink nail polish. The same shade Samantha always wore. The same shade she was wearing the night she went missing. When police analyse the nail, they don't get the result they expected. Instead of linking them to Samantha, the nail belongs to another woman, Jade Ashmore. Jade was murdered the night before the envelope was delivered....



THE LIE  
CYBIL KOVACH

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### V For Vendetta

By Alan Moore

Genre: Dystopia

A frightening and powerful tale of the loss of freedom and identity in a chillingly believable totalitarian world, V for Vendetta stands as one of the highest achievements of the comics' medium and a defining work for creators Alan Moore and David Lloyd.

Set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism, this ground-breaking story captures both the suffocating nature of life in an authoritarian police state and the redemptive power of the human spirit which rebels against it. Crafted with sterling clarity and intelligence, V for Vendetta brings an unequalled depth of characterization and verisimilitude to its unflinching account of oppression and resistance.

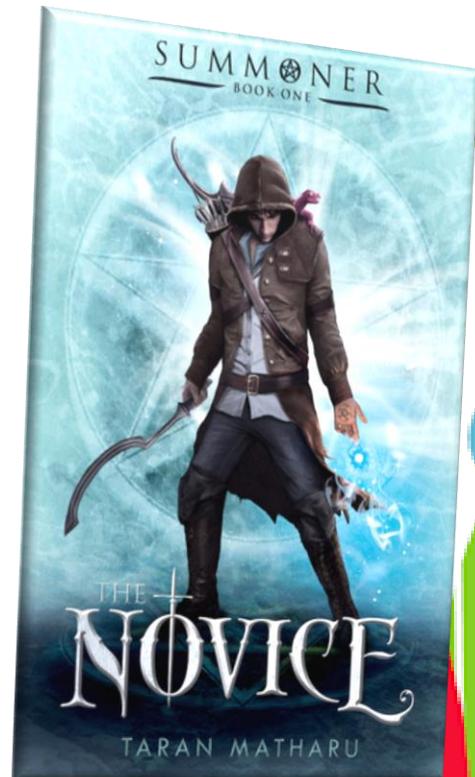
### The Novice

By Taran Matharu

Genre: Fantasy

When blacksmith apprentice Fletcher discovers that he has the ability to summon demons from another world, he travels to Adept Military Academy. There the gifted are trained in the art of summoning. Fletcher is put through gruelling training as a battlemage to fight in the Hominum Empire's war against orcs. He must tread carefully while training alongside children of powerful nobles. The power hungry, those seeking alliances, and the fear of betrayal surround him. Fletcher finds himself caught in the middle of powerful forces, with only his demon Ignatius for help.

As the pieces on the board manoeuvre for supremacy, Fletcher must decide where his loyalties lie. The fate of an empire is in his hands. The Novice is the first in a trilogy about Fletcher, his demon Ignatius, and the war against the Orcs.



August



### House of Skin

By Jonathan Janz

Genre: Horror

Myles Carver is dead. But his estate, Watermere, lives on, waiting for a new Carver to move in. Myles's wife, Annabel, is dead too, but she is also waiting, lying in her grave in the woods. For nearly half a century she was responsible for a nightmarish reign of terror, and she's not prepared to stop now. She is hungry to live again... and her unsuspecting nephew, Paul, will be the key.

Julia Merrow has a secret almost as dark as Watermere's. But when she and Paul fall in love they think their problems might be over. How can they know what Fate - and Annabel - have in store for them? Who could imagine that what was once a moldering corpse in a forest grave is growing stronger every day, eager to take her rightful place amongst the horrors of Watermere?

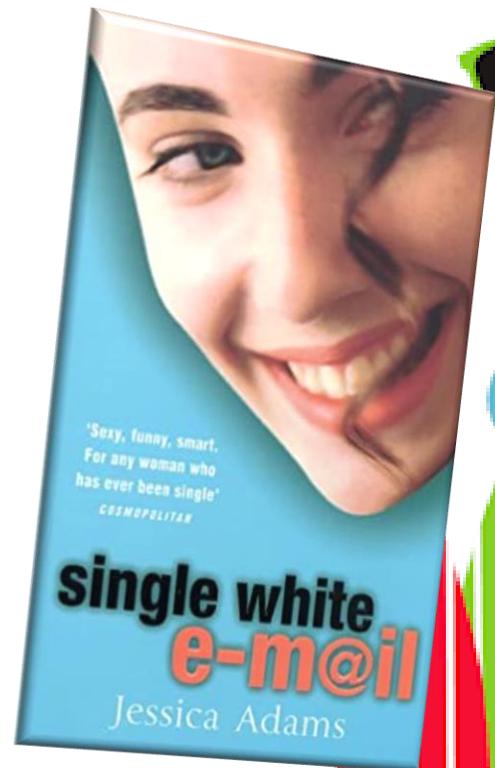
### Single White E-Mail

By Jessica Adams

Genre: Romance

Saturday night is a nightmare when you're single. Saturday night is for couples and everyone knows it.

Victoria 'Total Bloody Relationships Disaster' Shepworth is single and knows all about Saturday nights alone. A broken relationship with the guy she thought was 'the one' has led to a string of disastrous dates. Now she's fed-up with being on her own and is once again in search of the man of her dreams. But life begins to look decidedly more interesting when she becomes involved in an internet romance with glamorous Frenchman, Pierre Dubois. Little does she know he could be closer than she thinks...



August



### Annihilation

By Jeff Vandermeer  
Genre: Science-Fiction

'A contemporary masterpiece' Guardian  
The first volume of the extraordinary southern reach trilogy – now a major motion picture written and directed by Alex Garland (ex Machina) and starring Natalie Portman and Oscar Isaac

For thirty years, Area X has remained mysterious and remote behind its intangible border – an environmental disaster zone, though to all appearances an abundant wilderness.

The Southern Reach, a secretive government agency, has sent eleven expeditions to investigate Area X. One has ended in mass suicide, another in a hail of gunfire, the eleventh in a fatal cancer epidemic.

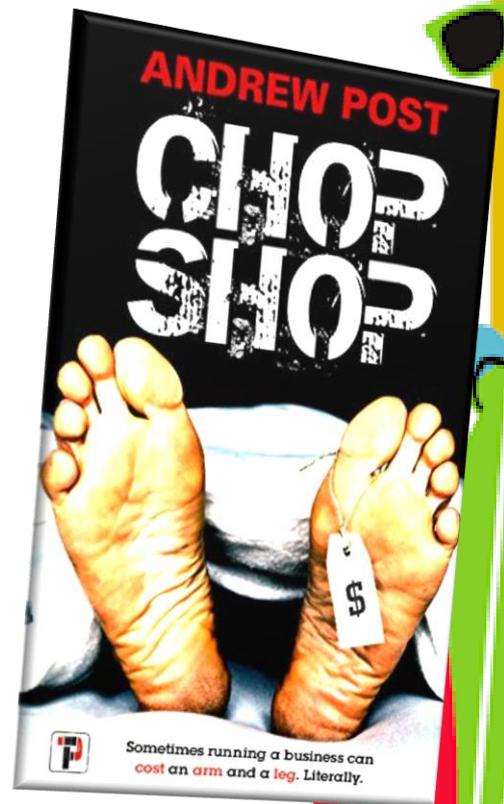
Now four women embark on the twelfth expedition into the unknown.

### Chop Shop

By Andrew Post  
Genre: Crime

Amber Hawthorne and Jolene Morris, business partners and roommates at the Hawthorne Funeral Home, are drowning in debt. People are complaining about the makeup jobs they're giving deceased loved ones--the word clownish has been used--and both young women have a little trouble keeping their partying habits in line.

When they start selling body parts on the black market to keep their business alive (Jolene much more reluctantly than Amber), their new buyers seem friendly and trustworthy enough at first. That is until the dead gangster they've recently parted up turns out to have been full of disease. Now Amber and Jolene's buyers want something else to make up for lost profits, leaving the two undertakers to learn sometimes running your own business can cost you an arm and a leg. Literally.



August



### Ready Player One

By Ernest Cline

Genre: Dystopia

IN THE YEAR 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines, puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

### The Amber Spyglass

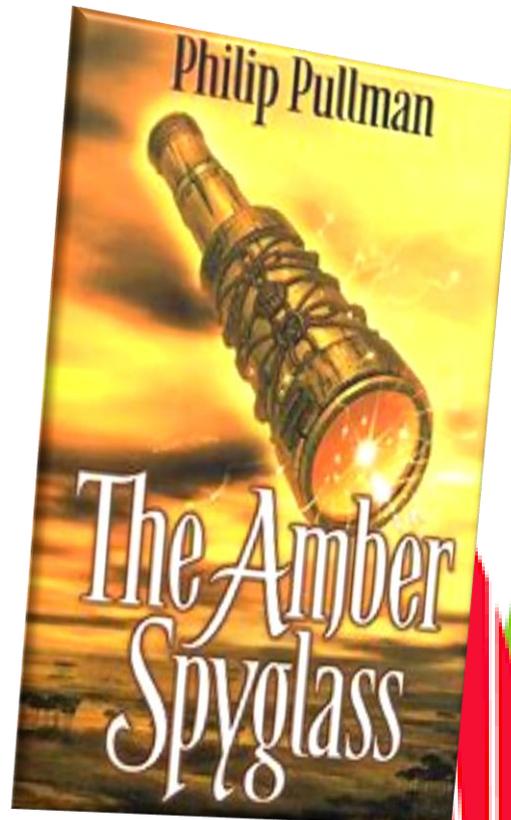
By Philip Pullman

Genre: Fantasy

Will is the bearer of the knife. Now, accompanied by angels, his task is to deliver that powerful, dangerous weapon to Lord Asriel - by the command of his dying father.

But how can he go looking for Lord Asriel when Lyra is gone? Only with her help can he fathom the myriad plots and intrigues that beset him.

The two great powers of the many worlds are lining up for war, and Will must find Lyra, for together they are on their way to battle, an inevitable journey that will even take them to the world of the dead...



August



### The Woman in Black

By Susan Hill

Genre: Horror

Set on the obligatory English moor, on an isolated causeway, the story has as its hero Arthur Kipps, an up-and-coming young solicitor who has come north from London to attend the funeral and settle the affairs of Mrs. Alice Drablow of Eel Marsh House. The routine formalities he anticipates give way to a tumble of events and secrets more sinister and terrifying than any nightmare: the rocking chair in the deserted nursery, the eerie sound of a pony and trap, a child's scream in the fog, and most dreadfully--and for Kipps most tragically--The Woman In Black.

The Woman in Black is both a brilliant exercise in atmosphere and controlled horror and a delicious spine-tingler--proof positive that this neglected genre, the ghost story, isn't dead after all.

### Everything, Everything

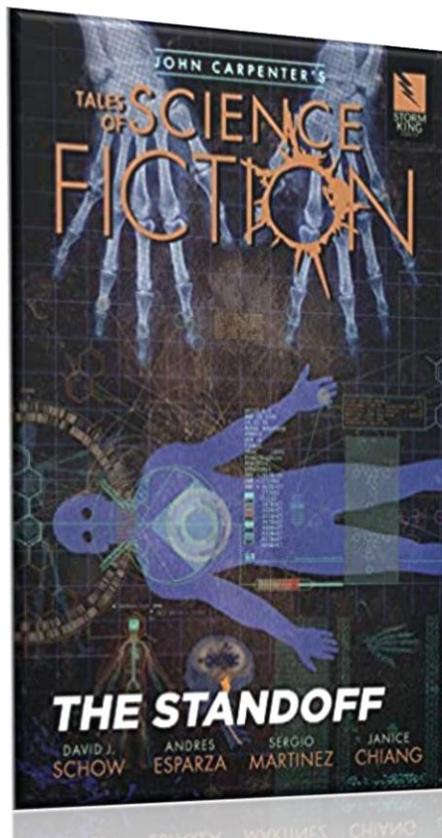
By Nicola Yoon

Genre: Romance

My disease is as rare as it is famous. It's a form of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, but basically, I'm allergic to the world. I don't leave my house, have not left my house in fifteen years. The only people I ever see are my mom and my nurse, Carla.

But then one day, a moving truck arrives. New next door neighbours. I look out the window, and I see him. He's tall, lean and wearing all black—black t-shirt, black jeans, black sneakers and a black knit cap that covers his hair completely. He catches me looking and stares at me. I stare right back. His name is Olly. I want to learn everything about him, and I do. I learn that he is funny and fierce. I learn that his eyes are Atlantic Ocean-blue and that his vice is stealing silverware. I learn that when I talk to him, my whole world opens up, and I feel myself starting to change—starting to want things. To want out of my bubble. To want everything, everything the world has to offer.





### **Tales of Science Fiction: The Standoff**

By John Carpenter

Genre: Science-Fiction

At Tattersall Prison, a max-lock for the baddest of the bad, sleepless nights are the norm... until a fireball from the sky turns the night shift into a nightmare — trapping guards and cons on the inside, cops on the outside, and escapees in-between... all of them threatened by a hideous alien invader which needs nice, warm human bodies in which to incubate. From the outside, it looks like a replay of Waco, but from the inside, it's more like Dante's first draft of the Inferno. Psychotic Fraiser Bonner leads an army of convicts with a grudge against lead guard Wayne Jessup, whose crew is marooned inside with no means of exit. Black ops spook Elaine Farris tries to call the shots as captive guards get executed by Bonner. Farris dreads the moment she will have to call in her "expert," Conrad Gant, whose life she destroyed six years earlier. Why? Because Gant knows about the alien interlopers, who use the human form as a chrysalis and shed the envelope of flesh to produce Earth-compatible conquerors... and Gant was hounded into silence by Elaine and her fixers. Now the clock is ticking and there's an invasion to be stopped, as minute by minute, guards perish and alien numbers grow stronger, with the aim of spilling out of the prison cordon and into the rest of the world. It's a hostage situation. It's a battle between species. It's Earth's most serious Standoff.