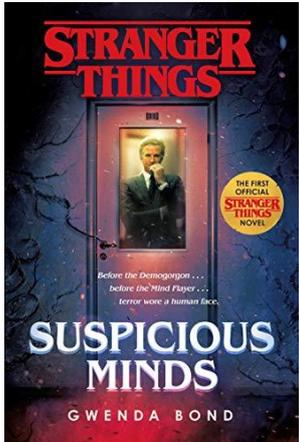


You should read the *Stranger Things* books to get a deeper insight into beloved characters (like Hopper, Robin, and Max). You can explore backstories not shown in the series (like Eleven's origins in *Suspicious Minds* or Eddie's in *Flight of Icarus*, experience events from different perspectives (like Max's struggles in *Runaway Max*), and enjoy new adventures that expand the rich world and lore of Hawkins between seasons, all while enjoying the show's signature 80s nostalgia and horror. All of these books and more are available in the school library.

There's something for everyone from official novels, to graphic novels for young adults, to *Stranger Things: Heroes and Monsters* (suitable for reading ages 7-12). There are even scripts and storyboards available. The Duffer brothers have said that Season 5 and their ideas for *Stranger Things* were influenced by Madeleine L Engle's 1962 science fiction: *A Wrinkle in Time*. Maybe this book might just inspire you too...

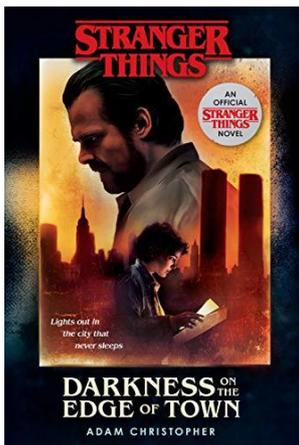




The first of the *Stranger Things* novels, *Stranger Things: Suspicious Minds* takes place in the summer of 1969. According to the summary from [Penguin Random House](#), it follows an Indiana college student named Terry Ives—aka Eleven's mom—as she signs up to be a test subject in a government experiment codenamed MKULTRA. (Why sign up, Terry?! Have you ever seen a sci-fi movie? Codenamed government experiments NEVER go well for the test subjects. But we digress.)

"The remote lab, deep in the woods, contains a mystery Terry is determined to uncover," the summary continues. "Behind the walls of Hawkins National Laboratory—and the piercing gaze of its director, Dr. Martin Brenner—lurks a conspiracy greater than Terry could have ever imagined. To face it, she'll need the help of her fellow test subjects, including a young girl with unexplainable superhuman powers and a number instead of a name: 008.

"Amid the rising tensions of the new decade, Terry Ives and Martin Brenner have begun a different kind of war—one where the human mind is the battlefield."

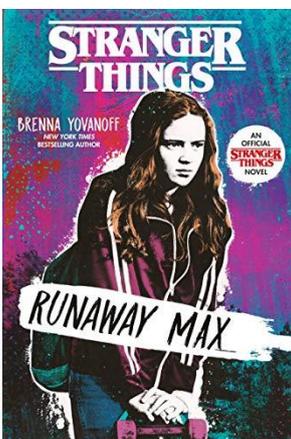


If you love Hopper, this is the *Stranger Things* book for you. It starts in 1984, with Eleven discovering a box marked "New York" in Hopper's basement...which leads Hopper to confront the past he tried to leave behind him.

"Although he'd rather face a horde of demogorgons than talk about his own past, Hopper knows that he can't deny the truth any longer," the [Penguin Random House](#) summary says. "And so begins the story of the incident in New York—the last big case before everything changed..."

"Summer, New York City, 1977. Hopper is starting over after returning home from Vietnam. A young daughter, a caring wife, and a new beat as an NYPD detective make it easy to slip back into life as a civilian. But after shadowy federal agents suddenly show up and seize the files about a series of brutal, unsolved murders, Hopper takes matters into his own hands, risking everything to discover the truth.

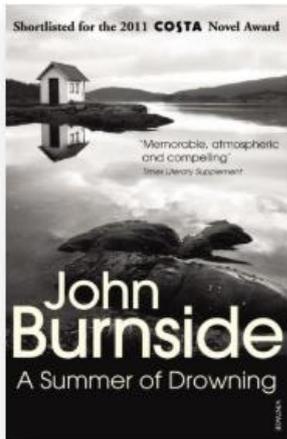
"Soon Hopper is undercover among New York's notorious street gangs. But just as he's about to crack the case, a blackout rolls across the boroughs, plunging Hopper into a darkness deeper than any he's faced before."



Max was a new addition to *Stranger Things* when season 2 premiered in 2018. The latest *Stranger Things* prequel from Penguin Random House, *Runaway Max* tells the story of how Max Mayfield ended up in Hawkins, Indiana.

"This must-read novel, based on the hit Netflix series, *Stranger Things*, explores Max's past—the good and the bad—as well as how she came to find her newfound sense of home in Hawkins, Indiana," the [Penguin Random House](#) summary says.

## What to read once you've finished *Stranger Things*

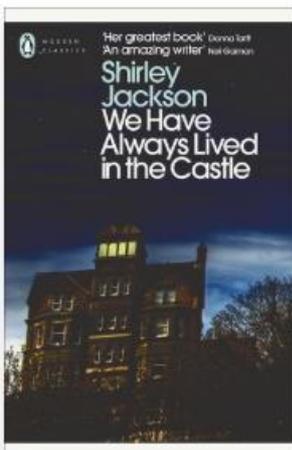


### **A Summer of Drowning**

John Burnside

### **A Summer of Drowning by John Burnside (2011)**

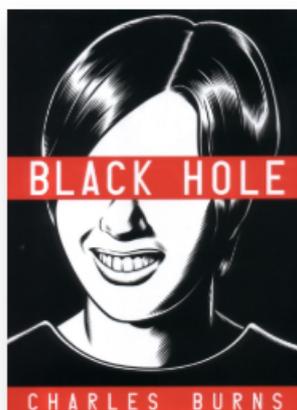
This haunting novel begins with twenty-something Liv reminiscing about the events of a strange summer a decade ago. Filled with teenage angst, a tense plot and strange Norwegian folk tales, *A Summer of Drowning* straddles a line somewhere between mystery, suspense and horror.



### **We Have Always Lived in the Castle**

### **We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson (1962)**

If you enjoy the creeping sense of dread in *Stranger Things*, pick up this masterful example of small-town horror. Starting with a crime that shocks and ripples through this tiny town, you won't regret stepping into Jackson's unsettling world in a book that's packed with atmosphere and more than a hint of black comedy.

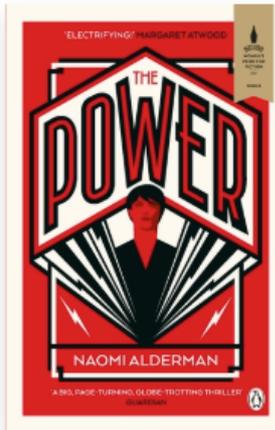


### **Black Hole**

Charles Burns

### **Black Hole by Charles Burns (2005)**

Set in mid-70s suburban Seattle, *Black Hole* is a genre-transcending graphic novel that deals with suburban malaise, teenage alienation, the relentless anxiety and the longing to escape. Illustrated in incredible detail, this graphic novel explores a specific moment of flux in American culture, as well as the kids caught up in it.



### **The Power**

Naomi Alderman

### **The Power by Naomi Alderman (2017)**

If you've ever wondered what it might be like to have Eleven's powers, *The Power* is the book to pick up. The story begins with women all over the world discovering that they suddenly have the power to inflict great pain with a flick of their fingers...



### **A Wrinkle In Time**

Madeleine L'Engle

### **A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (1962)**

A children's classic that lives up to re-reading as an adult, the heroes of this book travel through time and space to bring a kidnapped loved one back home from somewhere beyond this world – a theme that should be very familiar to fans of *Stranger Things*.



### **Ready Player One**

Ernest Cline

### **Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (2011)**

Lose yourself in a virtual reality treasure hunt filled with 70s and 80s sci-fi references. While there may not be any plot similarities between Cline's breakthrough debut novel and *Stranger Things*, *Ready Player One* is filled with nostalgia. You can now see the book brought to life in a Steven Spielberg-directed blockbuster film adaptation starring Tye Sheridan and Olivia Cooke.



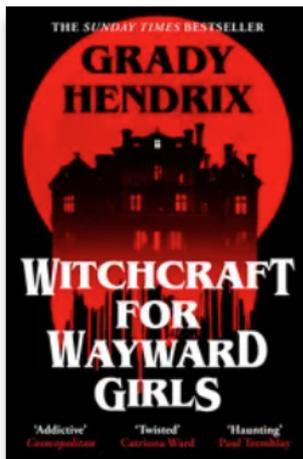
## **A Skinful of Shadows**

by [Frances Hardinge](#)

**Why read this:** Perfect for fans of *Eleven*, [Frances Hardinge](#)'s brilliant YA novel stars a courageous girl with a mysterious past. Makepeace spends every night defending herself from ghosts trying to possess her. When a terrible event causes her to drop her guard, a wild, brutish spirit takes their chance. Makepeace is horrified, but soon learns that the ghost may be her only defence in a time of dark suspicion and fear. As the English Civil War erupts, she must decide which is worse: possession – or death.

**If you're looking for:** [Historical fiction](#), fantasy, supernatural, strong female main characters.

**What the experts think:** 'Makepeace is a vital and engaging presence amid a cast of extraordinary and villainous characters, and she had my heart from the first. It's rare to find a book which is every bit as intelligent and stylish as it is riveting – I was enthralled.' Sarah Perry, author of *The Essex Serpent*



## **Witchcraft for Wayward Girls**

by [Grady Hendrix](#)

**Why read this:** This is the latest twisted, unforgettable horror novel from bestseller Grady Hendrix (author of *My Best Friend's Exorcism*, also often suggested as a great read for *Stranger Things* fans). Travel back even further than the '80s, to St. Augustine, Florida, in 1970. Fifteen-year-old Fern has just arrived at Wellwood House, a 'home' for unwed mothers. Every second of her and the other teenagers' days is rigidly controlled by adults who claim to know what's best. Then Fern is given a book about witchcraft, and the balance of power suddenly shifts. But such gifts always come with a price. And it's usually paid in blood.

**If you're looking for:** Witches, an entry read to the [horror](#) genre, female rage, Southern Gothic.

**What the experts think:** 'A morally complex and genuinely haunting and moving tale. I couldn't put it down once I started' – Paul Tremblay, author of *The Cabin at the End of the World*.



*The Sinclair's Mysteries #1*

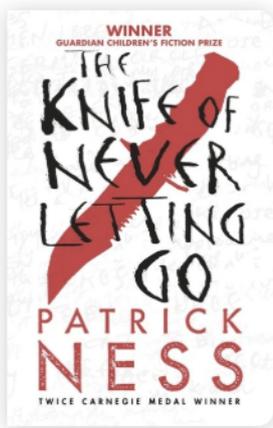
## The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow

Katherine Woodfine

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 3.99 6,348 ratings · 797 reviews

You are cordially invited to attend the Grand Opening of Sinclair's department store!

Enter a world of bonbons, hats, perfumes and MYSTERIES around every corner. WONDER at the daring theft of the priceless CLOCKWORK SPARROW! TREMBLE as the most DASTARDLY criminals in London enact their wicked plans! GASP as our bold heroines, Miss Sophie Taylor and Miss Lilian Rose, CRACK CODES, DEVOUR ICED BUNS and vow to bring the villains to justice...



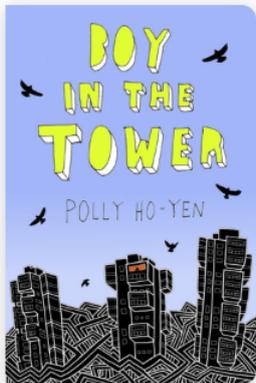
*Chaos Walking #1*

## The Knife of Never Letting Go

Patrick Ness

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 3.98 204,132 ratings · 21,781 reviews

Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him – something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Propelled by Todd's gritty narration, readers are in for a white-knuckle journey in which a boy on the cusp of manhood must unlearn everything he knows in order to figure out who he truly is.



## Boy in the Tower

Polly Ho-Yen

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.17 2,036 ratings · 238 reviews

*When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way.*

Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him.

His mum doesn't really like looking outside - but it's going outside that she hates.

She's happier sleeping all day inside their tower, where it's safe.

But one day, other tower blocks on the estate start falling down around them and strange, menacing plants begin to appear.

Now their tower isn't safe anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there's no way out . . .