

Suggested reading for KS4

The following is a suggested reading list, given in no particular order. I've tried to be as inclusive and wide-ranging as possible, but it's inevitably influenced by my own opinions, and is not exhaustive. I hope you find something on it to pique your interest. If you think I've missed something important, or you'd like to see more suggestions for a certain genre, please come and tell me!

Ms Tudway.

Young Adult Books



- **'The Hunger Games' – Suzanne Collins**

Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called *The Hunger Games*. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.

If you haven't read these yet – why not? They are as good as people say, among my favourites. First in a trilogy, now with a very good prequel as well.

- **'Half Bad' – Sally Green**

Meet Nathan Byrn...

He's half White Witch, half Black Witch.

His mother was a healer, his father is a killer.

He's been kept in a cage since he was fourteen.

But if White Witches are good and Black Witches are evil, what happens if you are both?

These are very dark, but very good. Following Nathan who is half black witch and half white, accepted by neither side in what amounts to a war. Increasingly persecuted and abused, something has to change. First in a trilogy.

- **‘Twilight’ – Stephenie Meyer**

When 17 year old Isabella Swan moves to Forks, Washington to live with her father she expects that her new life will be as dull as the town. But in spite of her awkward manner and low expectations, she finds that her new classmates are drawn to this pale, dark-haired new girl in town. But not, it seems, the Cullen family. These five adopted brothers and sisters obviously prefer their own company and will make no exception for Bella. Bella is convinced that Edward Cullen in particular hates her, but she feels a strange attraction to him, although his hostility makes her feel almost physically ill. He seems determined to push her away - until, that is, he saves her life from an out of control car.

Bella will soon discover that there is a very good reason for Edward's coldness. He, and his family, are vampires - and he knows how dangerous it is for others to get too close.

These got some bad press in the wake of the films and they're not entirely unproblematic. However they are excellent fantasy romance escapism, very readable. First in a series.

- **‘Wicked Lovely’ – Melissa Marr**

Rule #3: Don't stare at invisible faeries. Aislinn has always seen faeries. Powerful and dangerous, they walk hidden in mortal world. Aislinn fears their cruelty--especially if they learn of her Sight--and wishes she were as blind to their presence as other teens.

Rule #2: Don't speak to invisible faeries. Now faeries are stalking her. One of them, Keenan, who is equal parts terrifying and alluring, is trying to talk to her, asking questions Aislinn is afraid to answer.

Rule #1: Don't ever attract their attention. But it's too late. Keenan is the Summer King who has sought his queen for nine centuries. Without her, summer itself will perish. He is determined that Aislinn will become the Summer Queen at any cost--regardless of her plans or desires. Suddenly none of the rules that have kept Aislinn safe are working anymore, and everything is on the line: her freedom, her best friend Seth, her life--*everything*.

These really deserve to be better known. Very dark urban fairy tales. A brilliant modern interpretation of the fey as they are in old myths, dangerous, alluring, *other*. First in a series.

- **‘A Little Love Song’ – Michelle Magorian**

A classic love story from the award-winning author of Goodnight, Mister Tom. It is the summer of 1943 and war continues to rage. For Rose and her sister Diana, it's a time of independence and self-discovery as they find first loves. But when Rose uncovers an extraordinary love story from another war, she is forced to question that love. Rose is

about to discover a secret that will change everything. Michelle Magorian combines her rich style with a refreshing take on wartime women in this classic coming of age story.

A love story set in the war, dealing with teenage pregnancy, first love, and being yourself even when no-one seems to want you to be. Much more fun than it sounds. I read it as a teenager and it was passed round all my friends.

- **‘The Dark Lord of Derkholm’ and ‘Year of the Griffin’ – Diana Wynne Jones**

A hilarious adventure about a fantasy world in danger of destruction from that most vile of threats... tourism.

In a world next door to ours, the tourist industry is devastating the population by its desire to experience all the fantasy cliches - Dark Lords, impoverished villages, dragons etc.

The Head of the University resolves to shut the tours down; the only problem being the ruthless tour-master - and his all-powerful demons. To save them all, the incompetent wizard Derk is appointed as Dark Lord in the hope that he will ruin the tours, and sure enough proceeds to fail at everything due to his general uselessness. But can failing at everything lead to a win this time?

I thoroughly enjoy Diana Wynne Jones’ books for children, but she did write two YA novels as well. The sequel, **‘Year of the Griffin’**, which can be read as a standalone, follows a group of misfit students as they start magical university.

- **‘The Secret Countess’ – Eva Ibbotson**

Anna, a young countess, has lived in the glittering city of St Petersburg all her life in an ice-blue palace overlooking the River Neva. But when revolution tears Russia apart, her now-penniless family is forced to flee to England. Armed with an out-of-date book on housekeeping, Anna determines to become a housemaid and she finds work at the Earl of Westerholme’s crumbling but magnificent mansion. The staff and the family are sure there is something not quite right about their new maid -- but she soon wins them over with her warmth and dedication. Then the young Earl returns home from the war -- and Anna falls hopelessly in love. But they can never be together: Rupert is engaged to the snobbish and awful Muriel -- and anyway, Anna is only a servant. Or so everybody thinks.

A young Russian countess is forced to flee the Russian revolution and arriving in England with nothing she takes a job as a housemaid. Which sounds ridiculous, but it’s a charming book, with characters you really care about, a satisfyingly horrible villain, a developing love story, humour and heart. If you enjoy it, look up Eva Ibbotson’s other YA books.

- **‘His Dark Materials’ – Philip Pullman**

It begins with a girl and her daemon. The girl is Lyra Belacqua, an orphan who lives in a place like (and yet unlike) Oxford, in a parallel universe in which science, theology and magic are bound together in a sometimes dark union.

In the opening volume **‘Northern Lights’**, Lyra finds herself bound up in a daring game of cat-and-mouse that will see her on the run from the highest authorities, hunting for the secret that lies behind the kidnapping of children. It is a hunt that will take her far from Oxford, to high-society London and the home of the mysterious and beautiful Mrs Coulter. Beyond, the journey will take Lyra to the home of the witches and the kingdom of the ice bears where the aurora awaits. And at the end of everything, there is the Dust.

The first book is a thrilling adventure, by the end of the trilogy we’ve also had a generous helping of philosophy and theology, all wrapped up in a really good story. Justly famous. The TV series was good, but the books are far better. **‘His Dark Materials’** is a trilogy, there are also three novellas, and so far two books of a second trilogy

- **‘Mortal Instruments 1: City of Bones’ – Cassandra Clare**

Love. Blood. Betrayal. Demons.

Irresistibly drawn towards a group of demon hunters, Clary encounters the dark side of New York City and the dangers of forbidden love.

Read all the sensational books in The Shadowhunter Chronicles: The Mortal Instruments, The Infernal Devices, Tales from the Shadowhunter Academy, The Bane Chronicles, The Dark Artifices, The Last Hours and The Shadowhunter's Codex.

This is the first in a trilogy which spawned a huge, and hugely popular, series of books. Start here.

- **‘Uglies’ – Scott Westerfeld**

In Tally Youngblood's world, looks matter. At sixteen everyone undergoes a transformation from "Ugly" to "Pretty" and is catapulted into a high-tech paradise where the only thing that matters is having a great time and you never have to worry or think for yourself. Tally can't wait.

But then, with just weeks to go to Tally's birthday, her friend Shay runs away and the ugly truth about the world of the Pretties starts to reveal itself. What if the beauty of the Pretties utopia really is just skin deep?

A really good, sometimes dark, story. One of the earlier ‘teen dystopia’ books, unfairly overshadowed by more recent titles. First of a series of four.

- **‘The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue’ – Mackenzi Lee**

A young bisexual British lord embarks on an unforgettable Grand Tour of Europe with his best friend/secret crush. An 18th-century romantic adventure for the modern age, an irresistible romp that explores the undeniably fine lines between friendship and love.

Henry "Monty" Montague doesn't care that his roguish passions are far from suitable for the gentleman he was born to be. But as Monty embarks on his grand tour of Europe, his quests for pleasure and vice are in danger of coming to an end. Not only does his father expect him to take over the family's estate upon his return, but Monty is also nursing an impossible crush on his best friend and traveling companion, Percy.

So Monty vows to make this yearlong escapade one last hedonistic hurrah and flirt with Percy from Paris to Rome. But when one of Monty's reckless decisions turns their trip abroad into a harrowing manhunt, it calls into question everything he knows, including his relationship with the boy he adores.

First in a trilogy, with an additional novella.

- **'The Knife of Never Letting Go' – Patrick Ness**

Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. And you can hear everything they think. And they can hear everything you think. Imagine you don't fit in with their plans...Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run...

A very popular author, and this book won several prizes when it first came out.

- **'Children of Blood and Bone' – Tomi Adeyemi**

Once an enchanted land, Orïsha's magic vanished without trace, leaving those who wielded it enslaved to a ruthless king. But now magic is returning and one girl has the chance to turn the tide...

The daughter of a great maji, Zélie Adebola remembers a time when magic flowed through the land and through the bones of the summoners. With her white hair, the mark of the gods, she is marked as one of the ibawi – the divine - those with the potential for power.

When a chance encounter brings her face to face with a rogue princess escaping from the palace with an object of immense significance, Zélie finds herself on a mission to restore what was stolen from her people and claim her birth right.

As Zélie journeys across Orïsha, she discovers a land full of unforeseen dangers: snow leoponaires, avenging spirits and the threat of the crown prince, who will stop at nothing to rid the land of enchantment once and for all.

Similar to **'The Hunger Games'** but slightly more fantastical, with an African-inspired setting and cultural references. First in a series, so far only two have been published.

- **'The Hate U Give' – Angie Thomas**

'My parents didn't raise me to fear the police, just to be smart around them. They told me it's not smart to move whilst a cop has his back to you. Khalil does.'

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful, gripping and piercingly relevant YA novel about inequality, police violence, 21st century prejudice and one girl's struggle for justice.

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is

shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer.

Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

- **‘Six of Crows’ – Leigh Bardugo**

Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams - but he can't pull it off alone.

A convict with a thirst for revenge.

A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager.

A runaway with a privileged past.

A spy known as the Wraith.

A Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums.

A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes.

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist.

Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction - if they don't kill each other first.

Leigh Bardugo is another author who has created a complex and engrossing world explored across a lot of books. So far the Grishaverse comprises one trilogy, two duologies, and two companion books. Probably best to start with either **‘Six of Crows’** or **‘Shadow and Bone’**.

- **‘Wranglestone’ – Darren Charlton**

Merging a beautifully judged gay love story with a terrifying post-apocalyptic zombie thriller, Charlton's scintillating debut is as rich in characterisation as it is in scares.

In a post-apocalyptic America, a community survives in a national park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay. But when winter comes, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice.

Then homebody Peter puts the camp in danger by naively allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community of Wranglestone. Now he must help rancher Cooper, the boy he's always watched from afar, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past. One that forces the pair to question everything they've ever known.

This is a well-deserved prize winner, looks set to be very popular.

- **‘A Court of Thorns and Roses’ – Sarah J. Maas**

Feyre is a huntress. And when she sees a deer in the forest being pursued by a wolf, she kills the predator and takes its prey to feed herself and her family. But the wolf was not what it seemed, and Feyre cannot predict the high price she will have to pay for its death...

Dragged away from her family for the murder of a faerie, Feyre discovers that her captor, his face obscured by a jewelled mask, is hiding even more than his piercing green eyes suggest.

As Feyre's feelings for Tamlin turn from hostility to passion, she learns that the faerie lands are a far more dangerous place than she realized. And Feyre must fight to break an ancient curse, or she will lose him forever.

The first in a long series. If you enjoy the writing you might also enjoy **'Throne of Glass'**, first in an equally long, and equally popular, series.

Adult Books

- **'The Handmaid's Tale' – Margaret Atwood**

Utterly compelling and terrifyingly real, **'The Handmaid's Tale'** is a classic work of feminist fiction and a vivid dystopia that speaks afresh to every new generation of readers.

Offred lives in The Republic of Gilead. To some, it is a utopian vision of the future, a place of safety, a place where everyone has a purpose, a function. But The Republic of Gilead offers Offred only one function: to breed.

If she deviates, she will, like dissenters, be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire - neither Offred's nor that of the two men on which her future hangs.

This is not an easy read, but reading it has become a teenage rite of passage, for good reason. Now with a sequel.

- **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' – Mark Haddon**

Christopher is 15 and lives in Swindon with his father. He has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. He is obsessed with maths, science and Sherlock Holmes but finds it hard to understand other people. When he discovers a dead dog on a neighbour's lawn he decides to solve the mystery and write a detective thriller about it. As in all good detective stories, however, the more he unearths, the deeper the mystery gets - for both Christopher and the rest of his family.

- **'These Old Shades' – Georgette Heyer**

Justin Alastair, the Duke of Avon, is a reprehensible rake with an axe to grind. Decades ago the Comte de Saint-Vire did something unforgivable and ever since Justin has been lying in wait to settle the score.

When Justin meets Leon, a street urchin with a striking resemblance to his nemesis, he aims to use him as a pawn in his plans for revenge on the Comte. Except Leon is in fact

Leonie, a beautiful young ingenue who may just steal Justin's heart.
Can Leonie win the Duke's affection, or will his need for revenge overcome them both?

With celebrity fans from Stephen Fry to Germaine Greer to the Queen, Georgette Heyer has been read and loved by millions. She writes predominantly regency romances, and she does it better than anyone else, with the exception perhaps of Jane Austen. She avoids the traps the genre so often falls into, she has engaging characters, intriguing plotlines, humour, romance, and exceptional historical knowledge and detail. Some of her best are **'These Old Shades'** (actually Georgian, rather than regency), **'Devil's Cub'**, **'Frederica'** and **'Sylvester'**.

- **'Temeraire' – Naomi Novik**

Captain Will Laurence has been at sea since he was just twelve years old; finding a warmer berth in Nelson's navy than any he enjoyed as the youngest, least important son of Lord Allendale. Rising on merit to captain his own vessel, Laurence has earned himself a beautiful fiancée, society's esteem and a golden future. But the war is not going well. It seems Britain can only wait as Napoleon plans to overrun her shores.

After a skirmish with a French ship, Laurence finds himself in charge of a rare cargo: a dragon egg bound for the Emperor himself. Dragons are much prized: properly trained, they can mount a fearsome attack from the skies. One of Laurence's men must take the beast in hand and join the aviators' cause, thus relinquishing all hope of a normal life. But when the newly-hatched dragon ignores the young midshipman Laurence chose as its keeper and decides to imprint itself on the horrified captain instead, Laurence's world falls apart. Gone is his golden future: gone his social standing, and soon his beautiful fiancée, as he is consigned to be the constant companion and trainer of the fighting dragon Temeraire...

Fast-paced and unputdownable, this is a fantastic take on dragons.

- **'Going Postal' – Terry Pratchett**

Moist von Lipwig is a con artist and a fraud and a man faced with a life choice: be hanged, or put the ailing postal service of Ankh-Morpork - the Discworld's city-state - back on its feet.

It's a tough decision.

The post is a creaking old institution, overshadowed by new technology. But there are people who still believe in it, and Moist must become one of them if he's going to see that the mail gets through, come rain, hail, sleet, dogs, the Post Office Workers Friendly and Benevolent Society, an evil chairman . . . and a midnight killer.

Getting a date with Adora Bell Dearheart would be nice, too.

Perhaps there's a shot at redemption in the mad world of the mail, waiting for a man who's prepared to push the envelope . . .

It's very hard to explain the Discworld series, but it is justly beloved by legions of fans. Terry Pratchett is a gifted writer, fantastically funny, but never sacrificing characters or plot. The series can be read in any order, but I'd recommend starting with **'Going Postal'** or **'Wyrd Sisters'**.

- **'The Song of Achilles' – Madeline Miller**

Greece in the age of 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, and as they grow into young men skilled in the arts of war and medicine, their bond blossoms into something deeper - despite the displeasure of Achilles's mother Thetis, a cruel sea goddess.

But when word comes that Helen of Sparta has been kidnapped, Achilles must go to war in distant Troy and fulfill his destiny.

Torn between love and fear for his friend, Patroclus goes with him, little knowing that the years that follow will test everything they hold dear.

A beautiful re-telling of **'The Iliad'**.

- **'Interview with a Vampire' – Anne Rice**

In a darkened room a young man sits telling the macabre and eerie story of his life - the story of a vampire, gifted with eternal life, cursed with an exquisite craving for human blood.

A cornerstone of the vampire genre, Rice's stunningly accomplished spine-chiller finds a tormented vampire recounting his tragic, immortal existence. Character driven and emotionally intelligent, *Interview with the Vampire* elevated the vampire story to literary credibility whilst retaining the gothic thrills and melodrama so beloved of the form.

This is a long, dark and heavy read. It is only recommended for keen readers who enjoy dark gothic fantasy. Those who do will love it.

- **'Tooth and Claw' – Jo Walton**

A family of dragons gathers on the occasion of the death of their father, the elder Bon Agornin. As is custom, they must eat the body. But even as Bon's last remains are polished off, his sons and daughters must all jostle for a position in the new hierarchy. While the youngest son seeks greedy remuneration through the courts of law, the eldest son - a dragon of the cloth - agonises over his father's deathbed confession. While one daughter is caught between loyalty to her family by blood and her family by marriage, another daughter follows her heart - only to discover the great cost of true love...

Here is a Victorian story of political intrigue, family ties and political intrigue, set in a world of dragons - a world, quite literally, red in tooth and claw. Full of fiery wit, this is a novel unlike any other.

It's like Jane Austen or Anthony Trollope, but all the characters are dragons.

Classics

There is a wide and wonderful world of 'classic' fiction. I've classified books this way based on age, I'm not making judgements about quality or importance. Some people find it hard to get started with classics, the old-fashioned writing style can be off-putting. I've tried to pick ones that offer a relatively easy entry, as well as a good read.

- **'Pride and Prejudice' – Jane Austen**

With the arrival of eligible young men in their neighbourhood, the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet and their five daughters are turned inside out and upside down. Pride encounters prejudice, upward-mobility confronts social disdain, and quick-wittedness challenges sagacity. Misconceptions and hasty judgements bring heartache and scandal, but eventually lead to true understanding, self-knowledge, and love. It's almost impossible to open *Pride and Prejudice* without feeling the pressure of so many readers having known and loved this novel already. Will you fail the test - or will you love it too? As a story that celebrates more unflinchingly than any of Austen's other novels the happy meeting-of-true-minds, and one that has attracted the most fans over the centuries, *Pride and Prejudice* sets up an echo chamber of good feelings in which romantic love and the love of reading amplify each other.

Jane Austen is easier to read than a lot of Victorian writers, and a lot of fun too.

- **'The Hound of the Baskervilles' – Arthur Conan Doyle**

"Mr Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

The terrible spectacle of the beast, the fog of the moor, the discovery of a body: this classic horror story pits detective against dog, rationalism against the supernatural, good against evil. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead on the wild Devon moorland with the footprints of a giant hound nearby, the blame is placed on a family curse. It is left to Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson to solve the mystery of the legend of the phantom hound before Sir Charles' heir comes to an equally gruesome end. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* gripped readers when it was first serialised and has continued to hold its place in the popular imagination.

The Sherlock Holmes books can be read in any order, there are four full length novels and many short stories.

- **'Animal Farm' – George Orwell**

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. Soon the animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought, and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another. As

systems are replaced and half-truths are retold, a new hierarchy emerges . . . Orwell's tale of propaganda, power and greed has never felt more pertinent.

Orwell is a great writer, and this is probably his most accessible and arguably his best novel. Moving, terrifying and with a fair amount of very dark humour.

- **‘Jane Eyre’ – Charlotte Bronte**

Charlotte Bronte’s strikingly modern gothic romance continues to weave its spell over millions of readers, with the central relationship between the eponymous heroine and the brooding Mr. Rochester forming a cornerstone of Victorian fiction. Exquisitely written and fascinating in its sexual politics, *Jane Eyre* endures as a darkly twinkling literary jewel.

Charlotte Bronte tells the story of orphaned Jane Eyre, who grows up in the home of her heartless aunt, enduring loneliness and cruelty. This troubled childhood strengthens Jane's natural independence and spirit - which prove necessary when she finds employment as a governess to the young ward of Byronic, brooding Mr Rochester. As her feelings for Rochester develop, Jane gradually uncovers Thornfield Hall's terrible secret, forcing her to make a choice. Should she stay with Rochester and live with the consequences, or follow her convictions - even if it means leaving the man she loves?

Required reading for gothic or romantically inclined teenagers.

- **‘Wuthering Heights’ – Emily Bronte**

Emily Bronte's novel of impossible desires, violence and transgression is a masterpiece of intense, unsettling power. It begins in a snowstorm, when Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter at Wuthering Heights. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before: the intense passion between the foundling Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, her betrayal of him and the bitter vengeance he now wreaks on the innocent heirs of the past.

Detailing Cathy and Heathcliff’s self-destructive relationship amidst the wild, feral atmosphere of the Yorkshire moors, Emily Bronte’s sole published novel evokes the violence of doomed romance like no other work of literature.

The darker and even more intense counterpart to **‘Jane Eyre’**.

- **‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’ – Oscar Wilde**

When Dorian Gray has his portrait painted, he is captivated by his own beauty. Tempted by his world-weary, decadent friend Lord Henry Wotton, he wishes to stay forever young, and pledges his very soul to keep his good looks. Set in fin-de-siecle London, the novel traces a path from the studio of painter Basil Hallward to the opium dens of the East End. As Dorian's slide into crime and cruelty progresses he stays magically youthful, while his beautiful portrait changes, revealing the hideous corruption of moral decay. Ever since its

first publication in 1890 Wilde's only novel has remained the subject of critical controversy. Acclaimed by some as an instructive moral tale, it has been denounced by others for its implicit immorality. Combining elements of the supernatural, aestheticism, and the Gothic, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is an unclassifiable and uniquely unsettling work of fiction.

Beautifully written, fascinating and disturbing.

- **‘Ghost Stories’ – M. R. James**

Considered by many to be the most terrifying writer in English, M. R. James was an eminent scholar who spent his entire adult life in the academic surroundings of Eton and Cambridge. His classic supernatural tales draw on the terrors of the everyday, in which documents and objects unleash terrible forces, often in closed rooms and night-time settings where imagination runs riot. Lonely country houses, remote inns, ancient churches or the manuscript collections of great libraries provide settings for unbearable menace, from creatures seeking retribution and harm. These stories have lost none of their power to unsettle and disturb.

These short stories are now usually published under the title **‘Ghost Stories’**, and are full of suspense and properly scary. They’re also brilliant of examples of short stories.

- **‘Rebecca’ – Daphne Du Maurier**

‘Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again...’

With these words a reader is swept up into a world of secrets and lies; one of the most passionate, psychologically twisting and complex stories of all-time.

Working as a lady's companion, the orphaned heroine of Rebecca learns her place. Life begins to look very bleak until, on a trip to the South of France, she meets Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower whose sudden proposal of marriage takes her by surprise. Whisked from glamorous Monte Carlo to his brooding estate, Manderley, on the Cornish Coast, the new Mrs de Winter finds Max a changed man. And the memory of his dead wife Rebecca is forever kept alive by the forbidding Mrs Danvers . . .

There are a number of very good Daphne Du Maurier’s, so chose the one that most appeals. I’d also mention **‘Jamaica Inn’** and **‘My Cousin Rachel’**.