



Forthcoming Titles

August 2024

Adult

The House Hunt

by C. M. Ewan

release date: 08/27/2024

genre: Thrillers

shelved in: Fiction



For two years Lucy and Sam renovated their beautiful Victorian home but spiraling debts are forcing them to sell. The agreement with their real estate agent is that they won't be home for viewings, but when Lucy gets a voicemail saying the Agent is running late, she realizes she will have to show the prospective buyer around herself.

Suffering from extreme anxiety and claustrophobia, Lucy watches the stranger on their doorstep waiting to be let in; she wants to hide and pretend she's not home, but then she thinks of Sam working at all hours to cover their bills, of how much they need this sale, and opens the door.

Lucy takes a breath and begins to show their house. He is well dressed, polite, and despite her unease everything goes well, until he starts acting strangely. Why is he asking increasingly intrusive questions about her and Sam's relationship? Why is he trying to take photographs of her? And why does he disappear into the basement and then not answer her when she calls?

There is something very wrong with this stranger, and now he is refusing to leave...

Amber's why: This sounds so creepy. An absolute terror to read.

The Enchanted Lies of Céleste Artois

by Ryan Graudin

release date: 08/27/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



Once, Céleste Artois had dreams of being an artist. But when the creative elite of Paris dashed those plans, she turned her talents to forgery and cons. She and the Enchantresses--her two fellow thieves and best friends--see Paris as a rich hunting ground for marks. Yet even though their hideout in Peré Lachaise cemetery is bursting with francs, Céleste cannot rest. There is always more to take. And the blood she has begun to cough into her handkerchief means her time is running out.

But everything changes when she encounters Rafe, a mysterious and beautiful stranger who leads her to an enchanted salon--a place where artists can bring wondrous imaginations to life. Céleste is captivated by this establishment, and learns of the existence of magical Paris, hidden in the pockets and alleys of the ordinary world, if one only knows where to look.

Rafe offers Céleste an irresistible deal: the gift of time in exchange for lending him and his benefactor her forging talents. But one must be careful making deals with devils, and there's more to this hidden world than meets the eye. Shadows have begun to circle Paris. And soon, the Enchantresses will find that true magic is far more powerful, and deadly, than they ever imagined.

Amber's why: I mean, I can't say no to a book featuring thieves, forgers, con artists, and magic. In what world would I ever not want to read such a book? Not this one.

Asunder

by Kerstin Hall

release date: 08/20/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



We choose our own gods here.

Karys Eska is a deathspeaker, locked into an irrevocable compact with Sabaster, a terrifying eldritch being--three-faced, hundred-winged, unforgiving--who has granted her the ability to communicate with the newly departed. She pays the rent by using her abilities to investigate suspicious deaths around the troubled city she calls home. When a job goes sideways and connects her to a dying stranger with some very dangerous secrets, her entire world is upended.

Ferain is willing to pay a ludicrous sum of money for her help. To save him, Karys inadvertently binds him to her shadow, an act that may doom them both. If they want to survive, they will need to learn to trust one another. Together, they must journey to the heart of a faded empire, all the while haunted by arcane horrors, and the unquiet ghosts

of their pasts.

And all too soon, Karys knows her debts will come due.

Amber's why: Ghost, ghosts, horrors, and eldritch monstrosities!

Everything We Never Knew

by Julianne Hough & Ellen Goodlett

release date: 08/13/2024

genre: Magical Realism

shelved in: Fiction



When the stars align, anything can happen.

On stage at an awards banquet is the last place Lexi Cole expected to drown. But as she accepts the award for top-seller at her realty firm, something unusual catches Lexi's eye: a man surrounded by a dark haze. Then she hears a woman screaming for help, and the taste of saltwater overwhelms her. Just as Lexi's throat begins to close, the man leaves the room and the sensation of drowning abruptly stops. Later that night, the man dies of an overdose, and Lexi learns about the traumatic boating accident that killed his sons and tore his family apart.

Lexi wants to believe it's a bizarre coincidence. Any other explanation would disrupt the normal, comfortable life she's worked so hard to build. Lexi is an expert at denial, a pro at fitting in. But as more strange events unfold, Lexi can't deny the truth: something is changing inside her. She feels other people's emotions, sometimes even glimpses their private memories.

By embracing her new abilities, Lexi can help heal people--though not until she confronts the past she's spent a lifetime burying. But when a vision reveals her husband is in danger, Lexi must decide: face her inner demons or lose the person she loves most.

Amber's why: Sudden onset super empathy upends woman's life.

Mistress of Lies (Age of Blood #1)

by K. M. Enright

release date: 08/13/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



Fate is a cruel mistress.

The daughter of a powerful but disgraced Blood Worker, Shan LeC laire has spent her entire life perfecting her blood magic, building her network of spies, and gathering every scrap of power she could. Now, to protect her brother, she assassinates their father and takes her place at the head of the family. And that is only the start of her revenge.

Samuel Hutchinson is a bastard with a terrible gift. When he stumbles upon the first victim of a magical serial killer, he's drawn into the world of magic and intrigue he's worked so hard to avoid - and is pulled deeply into the ravenous and bloodthirsty court of the vampire king.

Tasked by the Eternal King to discover the identity of the killer cutting a bloody swath through the city, Samuel, Shan and mysterious Royal Blood Worker Isaac find themselves growing ever closer to each other. But Shan's plans are treacherous, and as she lures Samuel into her complicated web of desire, treason and vengeance, he must decide if the good of their nation is worth the cost of his soul.

Amber's why: There's a magical serial killer, a vengeance plot, and vampires!

The Girl in the Bog

by Keith Donohue

release date: 08/13/2024

genre: Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, Legends & Mythology; thrillers; fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



Everybody is after the girl in the bog.

One morning in a field in Connemara, a farmer unearths the body of a young woman, two thousand years old, preserved under layers of peat. Later that evening, she awakens in unfamiliar modern Ireland, ripping a hole through space and time and setting awl old animosities and long-held grudges.

Shadowy figures follow her from the pagan past, and each emerges with a claim on the girl from the bog. With help from a trio of wannabe teenage witches, she goes on the run. Joining in the chase is an American archaeologist who wants to keep the discovery for herself and two befuddled farmers trapped in the plot. Hosts of fairies out for the night work their magic and mischief, and in the blue hour before sunrise, the saga unfolds in a battle for the ages.

Amber's why: Now, this may sound like a gender-swapped Encino Man coupled with The Craft, sprinkled with a bit of A Midsummer Night's Dream, and set in Ireland, but... I don't know. That—that is what it sounds like, isn't it?

Hollow Bones

by Erica Wright

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective

shelved in: Mystery



An eerie Appalachian town. A fatal fire. Three women whose fates intertwine . . .

Essa Montgomery and her brother Clyde were brought up in New Hope, a serpent-handling church in Vintera, West Virginia, until the shocking deaths of both their parents closed the church down. Now twenty, reclusive Essa lives alone in her childhood home in the shadow of New Hope, which to her horror has been taken over by a new charismatic, unsettling pastor who continues the dangerous practice. So when the church burns down, she's glad - until she learns that two people died in the blaze, and her brother's the prime suspect . . .

Life has made Juliet Usher, who scratches a living as a psychic medium, both assertive and ruthless. With a baby on the way, it's the worst possible time for her partner Clyde to be arrested. She'll do anything to survive and keep him out of prison - no matter what it

takes!

Merrit Callahan has always been ambitious. A striving news reporter, she's willing to go the extra mile and break the rules to get the big scoop. And in small-town Vintera, she thinks she might have found the story that will be the making of her career.

Amber's why: Apparently, this is a contemporary retelling of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure. I have a feeling that it's going to be darker.

House of Bone and Rain

by Gabino Iglesias

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective, horror

shelved in: Mystery



For childhood friends Gabe, Xavier, Tavo, Paul, and Bimbo, death has always been close. Hurricanes. Car accidents. Gang violence. Suicide. *Estamos rodeados de fantasmas* was Gabe's grandmother's refrain. We are surrounded by ghosts. But this time is different. Bimbo's mom has been shot dead. *We're gonna kill the guys who killed her* Bimbo swears. And they all agree.

Feral with grief, Bimbo has become unrecognizable, taking no prisoners in his search for names. Soon, they learn Maria was gunned down by guys working for the drug kingpin of Puerto Rico. No one has ever gone up against him and survived. As the boys strategize, a storm gathers far from the coast. Hurricanes are known to carry evil spirits in their currents and bring them ashore, spirits which impose their own order.

Amber's why: Iglesias imbues his writing with this sense of wrongness, this dark uncanny, that transforms the crime thriller into something more... unnatural and terrifying.

After Oz

by Gordon McAlpine

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective, thrillers

shelved in: Mystery



Kansas, 1896. After a tornado destroys the Gale family farm, eleven-year-old Dorothy goes missing. As the days pass, the Gales are increasingly terrified the worst has happened. But when the girl turns up unharmed four days later, the townsfolk breathe a sigh of relief. That is, until Dorothy herself relates her account of the events that took place during her disappearance.

In vivid detail, Dorothy describes a fantastical land and its magical inhabitants: a scarecrow, a tin man, a cowardly lion, a wizard, a witch. Her recollections are not only regarded as delusional, but also as pagan and diabolical in nature, especially when the body of a local spinster is found matching Dorothy's description of a witch she claims to have killed. Authorities find incriminating evidence tying Dorothy to the real murder, and they sentence Dorothy to the Topeka Insane Asylum.

When twenty-eight-year-old psychologist Dr. Evelyn Grace Wilford arrives at the asylum to interview Dorothy, she begins to wonder if Dorothy truly committed the crime or if something unfathomable has really occurred.

In a small town full of insidious secrets, Evelyn sets out to save Dorothy from her terrible circumstances but can't help but fear whether something menacing may be lurking just out of sight.

Amber's why: Anyone see the wickedly disturbing Return to Oz? It starts off with Dorothy in a sanatorium where they're going to give her electroshock therapy or lobotomize her or something and she escapes, falls in a river, wakes up in Oz with a face-stealing witch after her? I imagine this is what would have happened had she not escaped. And if, you know, Almira Gulch's mutilated corpse had been found.

A Mask of Flies
by Matthew Lyons

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Horror, thrillers

shelved in: Fiction



In the grisly aftermath of a botched bank heist, career criminal Anne Heller has no choice but to return to her family's cabin - a secluded shack in Colorado's San Luis Valley, and the site of her mother's untimely death.

Along for the ride are Jessup, Anne's badly wounded partner, and Dutch, the police officer she's taken hostage. As they wait for help, Anne discovers strange relics from her mother's past and begins to unfold the mystery of her childhood at the cabin.

Then Jessup goes missing, only to turn up dead. Anne and Dutch bury her friend, but that night, he comes back and knocks at the cabin door.

Not a dream, not a hallucination, but not exactly Jessup, either. Something else. Something wearing her friend's face. Something hungry...

Amber's why: And this is why I don't heist. Were I to heist it would probably end up just like this: my partner dead and a demon wearing his face darkening my doorstep. I know my luck. Also, it's just a good rule of thumb not to let a person you know is dead into your house.

Nine Tailed (Realm of Four Kingdoms #1)
by Jayci Lee

release date: 08/01/2024

genre: Romance, Fantasy

shelved in: Romance



Sunny Cho aspires to be the dullest, least interesting person in any given room, which can be challenging for a nine-tailed fox spirit. So she drifts from city to city--staying clear of any and all attachment--and keeps her fox buried deep inside her. It is better this way. She would rather live as half of herself than risk losing control of her terrible powers.

Ethan Lee, a friend she left behind eight years ago, is a brilliant and distractingly hot PI. When he tracks her down and asks her to help him find his brother's murderer, Sunny knows her uneventful life is about to be turned upside down.

Traversing the mortal realm and the world of gods, Sunny and Ethan discover their quest is much more dire than mere vengeance, and their friendship might be...more. An ancient evil is stirring, and Sunny is faced with an impossible choice: save the worlds from annihilation or claim the love fated by the heavens.

Amber's why: I've spoken before about my love of fox mythology, yes? I especially enjoy the nine-tailed foxes found in East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) mythology. I'll devour any media that features these spirits. This one is a romantic suspense featuring an attractive private investigator and a fox who's desperately searching for "normal."

Teen

One House Left

by Vincent Ralph

release date: 08/27/2024

genre: Horror, thrillers & suspense

shelved in: Teen Horror



"Ready or not. Whatever you do. The Hiding Boy is coming for you."

Sixteen-year-old Nate Campbell grew up in the shadow of Murder Road - a street cursed by the vengeful spirit of the Hiding Boy.

Every few years, for nearly six decades, a different house on that street has been the scene of a tragedy.

Nate and his family move to a new town as they try to outrun the curse once and for all. But, when he is pulled into his new friends' urban legend club, new ghost stories merge with old until there is nowhere left to run.

Amber's why: Wouldn't that suck?! You escape one murder-curse just to get caught up in another? This is why you don't move to Elm Street and if you do move to Elm Street you don't move off. That's how curses spread.

Come Out, Come Out

by Natalie C Parker

release date: 08/27/2024

genre: Horror

shelved in: Teen Horror



It's never been safe for Fern, Jaq, or Mallory to come out to their families. As kids their emerging identities drove them into friendship but also forced them into the woods to hide in an old, abandoned house when they needed safety. But one night when the girls sought refuge, Mallory never made it back home. Fern and Jaq did, but neither survivor remembered what happened or the secrets they were so desperate to keep.

Five years later, Fern and Jaq are seniors on the verge of graduation, seemingly happy in their straight, cisgender lives--until a spirit who looks like Mallory begins to appear, seeking revenge for her death, and the part Fern and Jaq played in it. As they're haunted, something begins to shift inside them.

They remember who they are.

Who they want to love.

And the truth about the vicious secrets hiding in their woods.

Amber's why: What kind of entity can steal life and identity? And which of yours would you rather disappear?

The Maid and the Crocodile

by Jordan Ifueko

release date: 08/13/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



The smallest spark can bind two hearts . . . or start a revolution.

In the magic-soaked capital city of Oluwan, Small Sade needs a job--preferably as a maid, with employers who don't mind her unique appearance and unlucky foot. But before she can be hired, she accidentally binds herself to a powerful being known only as the Crocodile, a god rumored to devour pretty girls. Small Sade entrances the Crocodile with her secret: she is a Curse Eater, gifted with the ability to alter people's fates by cleaning their houses.

The handsome god warns that their fates are bound, but Small Sade evades him, launching herself into a new career as the Curse Eater of a swanky inn. She is determined to impress the wealthy inhabitants and earn her place in Oluwan City . . . assuming her secret-filled past--and the revolutionary ambitions of the Crocodile God--don't catch up

with her.

But maybe there is more to Small Sade. And maybe everyone in Oluwan City deserves more, too, from the maids all the way to the Anointed Ones.

Amber's why: I haven't read the Raybearer series and this takes place in that world – though it is a standalone – but the whole concept of this book intrigues me from Curse Eater to Crocodile to the alteration of the fate of a city. I think it's going to be fun and probably make me read the series.

The Dark We Know

by Wen-Yi Lee

release date: 08/13/2024

genre: Horror, monsters, LGBTQ+

shelved in: Teen Horror



Growing up in Slater, Isadora Chang never felt at ease in the repressive small town, even before she realized she was bisexual--but after the deaths of two childhood friends, Slater went from feeling claustrophobic to suffocating. So, Isa took off before the town could swallow her, too. Even though it meant leaving everything she knew behind, including her last surviving friend, Mason.

When Isa's abusive father dies, however, she agrees to come back from art school just long enough to collect the inheritance. But then Mason turns up at the cemetery with a revelation and a plea: their friends were murdered by an evil that haunts the town, and he needs Isa to help stop it--before it takes anyone else.

When Isa begins to hear strange songs on the wind, and eerie artwork fills her sketchbook that she can't recall drawing, she's forced to stop running and confront her past. Because something is waiting in the shadows of Slater's valleys, something that feeds on the pain and heartbreak of its children. Whatever it is, it knows Isa's back . . . and it won't let her escape again.

Amber's why: I will read this while maniacally cackling, won't I?

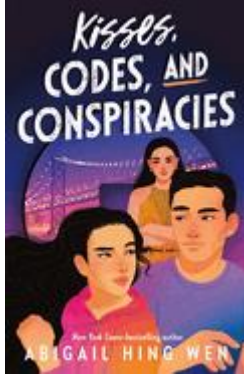
Kisses, Codes, and Conspiracies

by Abigail Hing Wen

release date: 08/13/2024

genre: Romance

shelved in: Teen Fiction



After a magical kiss at Prom, best friends Tan Lee and Winter Woo agree to cool it off, a plan that goes awry when their parents jointly head off to Hawaii and leave Tan and Winter to babysit Tan's sister Sana together. If that isn't complicated enough, Tan's ex-girlfriend from Shanghai arrives on his doorstep with money stolen from her billionaire father and thugs on her heels.

Tan soon finds himself on the run through the San Francisco Bay Area, trying to out-manuever international hackers and protect his friends, family and sister--and his own heart.

Amber's why: Action-adventure, drama, and teen romance! It sounds so silly, but silly can be fun and there's nothing wrong with that!

The Empire Wars (Empire Wars #1)

by Akana Phenix

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Fantasy, dystopian

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



Coa, who was born feral in the North Transatlantic wilds, has been captured. Now, Coa is subject to public humiliation and execution in a gruesome spectacle known as the Great Hunt.

If participators die in the Great Hunt, their entire families will be executed--in front of everyone. The nationalist regime known as the Allied Force will not rest until all foreigners are exterminated. Coa's best hope of survival might be Princess Ife--born of privilege but newly married into the authoritarian lineage.

Her riskier choice is an alliance with a gorgeous, cunning fellow participator, marked as a traitor to his militarized nation. Coa entangles herself with the captivating young man but soon finds he could be her ultimate downfall...

Amber's why: This could be something I really don't like, or I could absolutely love it. I do like books where people are hunted like animals, but I am a bit sick of dystopias. Sometimes stories featuring series of alliances and betrayals get really old really fast, but other times they're brilliant. It's a gamble.

Here Lies a Vengeful Bitch

by Codie Crowley

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Thrillers & Suspense

shelved in: Mystery



Murdered bad girl Annie Lane is back from the grave and hellbent on revenge . . . she just has to figure out who killed her.

Between her careless mom, her cheating ex-boyfriend, and her rotten reputation around town, Annie Lane is used to being left behind. But she's never been left for *dead* before--until she wakes up to find her body's been dumped on a mountain rumored to raise the dead.

Annie can't remember who killed her, but she'll stop at nothing to figure it out and make them pay. Because girls like her don't get justice unless they take it for themselves.

Amber's why: I seem to be very attracted to stories about people solving their own murders for some reason. What do you think that says about me? Do you think that subconsciously I think that's a skill I may someday need?

The Girl with No Reflection

by Keshe Chow

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Fairy Tales & Folklore, horror, fantasy

shelved in: Teen Horror



Princess Ying Yue believed in love...once upon a time.

Yet when she's chosen to wed the crown prince, Ying's dreams of a fairy tale marriage quickly fall apart. Her husband-to-be is cold and indifferent, confining Ying to her room for reasons he won't explain. Worse still are the rumors that swirl around the imperial palace: whispers of seven other royal brides who, after their own weddings, mysteriously disappeared.

Left alone with only her own reflection for company, Ying begins to see things. *Strange* things. Movements in the corners of her mirror. Colorful lights upon its surface. And when, on the eve of her wedding, she unwittingly tears open a gateway, she is pulled into a mirror world.

This realm is full of sentient reflections, including the enigmatic Mirror Prince. Unlike his real-world counterpart, the Mirror Prince is kind and compassionate, and before long Ying falls in love--the kind of love she always dreamed of.

But there is darkness in this new world, too.

It turns out the two worlds have a long and blood-soaked history, and Ying has a part to play in the future of them both. And the brides who came before Ying? By the time they discovered what their role was, it was already too late.

Amber's why: Bluebeard meets Alice in Wonderland?

Medici Heist

by Caitlin Schneiderhan

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Historical, thrillers & suspense, crime

shelved in: Teen Mystery



Welcome to Florence, 1517, a world of intrigue and opulence, murder and betrayal. Seventeen-year-old conwoman Rosa Cellini arrives in the city the same day that the Medici Pope, Leo X, returns to take up the reins of power. This is not a coincidence. The new Pope is extorting a mountain of indulgence money from the people of Florence to bolster his power and standing, and Rosa has a plan to take it back.

To pull off the Renaissance's greatest robbery, she'll recruit a team of specially-chosen, highly-skilled misfits: Sarra the tinkerer, Khalid the fighter, and Giacomo, the irrepressible master of disguise. To top it all off, and to smooth their entrance into the fortress-like Palazzo Medici, Rosa even enlists the reluctant help of the famed artist Michelangelo.

But as the authorities draw closer and the Medici's noose pulls tighter around the land, old secrets resurface and tensions in the group start to flare. What began as a robbery could be the key to saving the city itself--if Rosa and company don't destroy each other first.

Amber's why: A heist! A 14th Century Ocean's Eleven!

Better Left Buried

by Mary E Roach

release date: 08/06/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective Stories, thrillers & suspense, LGBTQ+

shelved in: Teen Mystery



Lucy Preston just wants to go on vacation. But being the daughter of a famous private detective means that sometimes, your beach vacay goes off the rails a bit. Think: a clandestine meeting at an abandoned amusement park--except instead of a meeting, Lucy and her mom find a body. Because of course they do.

As Lucy's mom is swept into top-secret detective stuff, Lucy sets out to investigate her mom's mysterious connection with this town. Lucy's snooping sets her on a collision course with Audrey Nelson, the mysterious girl on the motorcycle who was there the night they found the body. Lucy has questions, and Audrey has answers, but there's this tiny problem: Lucy's mom is investigating Audrey's mom . . . for murder.

Everyone has something to hide, and if Lucy and Audrey can't work together to uncover secrets that go back generations, there will likely be another body found at the base of the old roller coaster. And this time it might just be Lucy's.

Amber's why: Maybe I'm just chasing Veronica Mars but a spunky teenaged snooper with a private detective parent and a love interest with a complicated family in a small seaside town filled with secrets sounds super fun to me.