

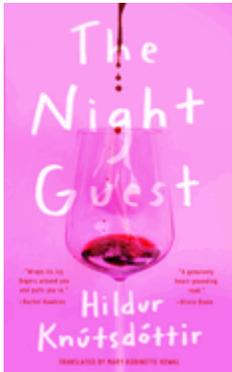


## Forthcoming Titles

### September 2024

#### Adult

***The Night Guest***  
by Hildur Knútsdóttir  
release date: 09/03/2024  
genre: Horror  
shelved in: Fiction



Iðunn is in yet another doctor's office. She knows her constant fatigue is a sign that something's not right, but practitioners dismiss her symptoms and blood tests haven't revealed any cause.

When she talks to friends and family about it, the refrain is the same -- have you tried eating better? exercising more? establishing a nighttime routine? She tries to follow their advice, buying everything from vitamins to sleeping pills to a step-counting watch. Nothing helps.

Until one night Iðunn falls asleep with the watch on, and wakes up to find she's walked over 40,000 steps in the night...

What is happening when she's asleep? Why is she waking up with increasingly disturbing injuries? And why won't anyone believe her?

*Amber's why: Is this a vampire book?! The cover looks like a vampire book. Or it could be a twelve dancing princesses sort of thing only the princesses don't know that they're dancing... with vampires! I really want this to be a vampire book. I miss vampire horror.*

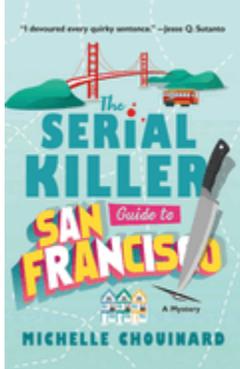
## ***The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco***

by Michelle Chouinard

release date: 09/24/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective, romance

shelved in: Mystery



### ***Welcome to San Francisco, a city with killer charm.***

The chill of a San Francisco summer can be deadly. No one knows this better than Capri Sanzio, who makes her living giving serial killer tours of the city. Capri has been interested in the topic since she was a kid, when she discovered she's the granddaughter of serial killer William 'Overkill Bill' Sanzio. She's always believed in his innocence, though she's never taken the leap to fully dive into the case.

But now an Overkill Bill copycat has struck in San Francisco. And Capri's former mother-in-law, Sylvia, just cut off Capri's daughter's tuition payments. Needing cash, Capri wonders if this is the time to exonerate her grandfather. The case is back in the news and the police will be looking to understand the past to catch a present-day killer. Capri could finally uncover the truth about Overkill Bill--documenting the process with a podcast and a book--and hopefully earn some money.

Before Capri can get very far, the cops discover the copycat's latest victim: Sylvia. Capri soon finds herself at the heart of the police's investigation for an entirely different reason. She and her daughter are prime suspects.

*Amber's why: I mean, this just looks fun. It's giving me Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers vibes but younger.*

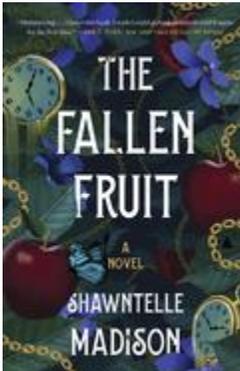
## ***The Fallen Fruit***

by Shawntelle Madison

release date: 09/03/2024

genre: Science Fiction, time travel, African American & Black

shelved in: Science Fiction



On a rainy day in May 1964, history professor Cecily Bridge-Davis begins to search for the sixty-five acres of land she inherited from her father's family. The quest leads her to uncover a dark secret: In every generation, one offspring from each Bridge family unit vanishes--and is mysteriously whisked back in time. Rules have been established that must be followed to prevent dire consequences:

- Never interfere with past events.
- Always carry your free Negro papers.
- Search for the survival family packs in the orchard and surrounding forest. The ribbon on the pack designates the decade the pack was made to orient you in time.
- Do not speak to strangers unless absolutely necessary.

With only a family Bible and a map marked with the locations of mysterious containers to aid her, Cecily heads to the library, hoping to discover the truth of how this curse began, and how it might be ended. As she moves through time, she encounters a circle of ancestors, including Sabrina Humbles, a free Black woman who must find the courage to seize an opportunity--or lose her heart; Luke Bridge, who traverses battlefields, slavery, and time itself to reunite with his family; Rebecca Bridge, a mother tested by an ominous threat; and Amelia Bridge, a young woman burdened with survivor's guilt who will face the challenge of a lifetime--and change Cecily's life forever. It is a race through time and against the clock to find the answers that will free her family forever.

*Amber's why: This sounds really, really intense and very, very cool.*

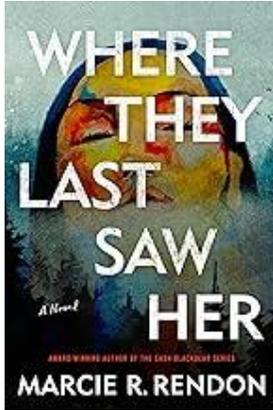
## ***Where They Last Saw Her***

**by Marcie R Rendon**

release date: 09/03/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective, Indigenous, women sleuths

shelved in: Mystery



### ***All they heard was her scream.***

Quill has lived on the Red Pine reservation in Minnesota her whole life. She knows what happens to women who look like her. Just a girl when Jimmy Sky jumped off the railway bridge and she ran for help, Quill realizes now that she's never stopped running. As she trains for the Boston Marathon early one morning out in the woods, she hears a scream. When she returns to search the area, all she finds are tire tracks and a single beaded earring.

Things are different now for Quill than when she was a lonely girl. Her friends Punk and Gaylyn are two women who don't know what it means to quit; her loving husband, Crow, and their two beautiful children challenge her to be better every day. So when she hears a second woman has been stolen, she is determined to do something about it--starting with investigating the group of men working the pipeline construction just north of their homes.

As Quill closes in on the truth about the missing women, someone else disappears. In her quest to find justice for all of the women of the reservation, she is confronted with the hard truths of their home and the people who purport to serve them. When will she stop losing neighbors, friends, family? As Quill puts everything on the line to make a difference, the novel asks searing questions about bystander culture, the reverberations of even one act of crime, and the long-lasting trauma of being considered invisible.

*Amber's why: I think this sounds like a very compelling mystery and the reviews I've read have backed me up on that impression.*

## ***The Vampire of Kings Street***

**by Asha Greyling**

release date: 09/17/2024

genre: Fantasy, historical, legal

shelved in: Science Fiction



Having a resident vampire is just the thing for upper-class New Yorkers--besides being a status symbol, they make excellent butlers or housekeepers. The only thing they require in return is a drop or two of blood and a casket to shut out the dawn's early light.

Tolerated by society only if they follow a strict set of rules, vampires are seen as "less than"--and as the daughter of immigrants, Radhika knows firsthand how this feels. Accused of murder, her undead client Mr. Evelyn More, knows that the cards are stacked against him.

With the help of a journalist friend and a diminutive detective inspector, Miss Dhingra sets out to prove her client's innocence and win his freedom. Failure will mean Mr. More's death, the end of her dreams of becoming a successful attorney, and the loss of the vampire Miss Dhingra has begun to call her friend.

*Amber's why: Vampires! This strikes me as more of a Tayna Huff's Blood Books sort of book, kind of a cross between supernatural and investigative literature, but there's nothing wrong with that.*

***Bright I Burn***  
**by Molly Aitken**

release date: 09/10/2024

genre: Dystopian, literary, women

shelved in: Fiction



***In thirteenth-century Ireland, a woman with power is a woman to be feared.***

Alice, the daughter of a wealthy innkeeper in Kilkenny, grows up watching her mother wither under the constraints of family responsibilities--and she vows that she will never suffer the same fate. In time, she discovers she has a flair for making money, and takes her father's flourishing business to new heights. But as her riches and stature grow, so too do rumors about her private life. By the time she marries her fourth husband--the three earlier are dead--a storm of local gossip and resentment culminates in a life-threatening accusation . . .

***Amber's why: This is inspired by the true story of the first woman to be condemned as a witch in Ireland! Historically, there were not a lot of witch hunts or witch trials in Ireland, but the very first one in Europe was held there where, in 1324, Bishop Richard Ledrede accused Dame Alice Kyteler (a wealthy merchant and moneylender) of "leading a viperous sect of sorceresses, gaining her considerable power from a demon lover, sacrificing cockerels at the crossroads, chanting over skulls filled with herbs, entrails, and dead men's nails, along with other demonic shenanigans."***

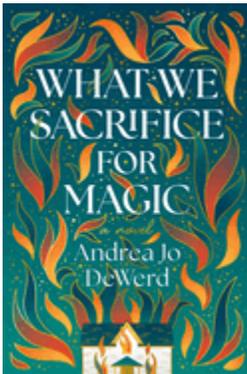
***What We Sacrifice for Magic***

**by Andrea Jo Dewerd**

release date: 09/24/2024

genre: Fantasy, occult & supernatural, romance

shelved in: Science Fiction



It's 1968, and the Watry-Ridder family is feared and respected in equal measure. The local farmers seek out their water charms, and the teenagers, their love spells. The family's charms and spells, passed down through generations of witches descending from the Black Forest, have long served the small town of Friedrich, Minnesota.

Eldest daughter Elisabeth has just graduated high school--she is expected to hone her supernatural abilities to take over for her grandmother, the indomitable Magda. She's also expected to marry her high school sweetheart and live the rest of her life in Friedrich. But all she can ask is, why her? Why is her path set in stone, and what else might be out there for her?

She soon discovers that magic isn't the only thing inherited in her family. That magic also comes with a great price--and a big family secret. The more she digs, the more questions she has, and the less she trusts the grandmother she thought she knew. Who is Elisabeth without her family? She must ultimately decide what she's willing to sacrifice for her family, for their secrets and their magic, or risk it all to pave her own way.

***Amber's why: I'm down with witches. And secrets.***

## ***The Village Library Demon-Hunting Society***

by C M Waggoner

release date: 09/24/2024

genre: Fantasy, mystery & detective

shelved in: Science Fiction



Librarian Sherry Pinkwhistle keeps finding bodies--and solving murders. But she's concerned by just how many killers she's had to track down in her quaint village. None of her neighbors seem surprised by the rising body count...but Sherry is becoming convinced that whatever has been causing these deaths is unnatural.

When someone close to Sherry ends up dead, and her cat, Lord Thomas Crowell, becomes possessed by what seems to be an ancient demon, Sherry begins to think she's going to need to become an exorcist as well as an amateur sleuth. With the help of her town's new priest, and an assortment of friends who dub themselves the "Demon-Hunting Society," Sherry will have to solve the murder and get rid of a demon.

This riotous mix of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Murder, She Wrote* is a lesson for demons and murderers alike: Never mess with a librarian.

*Amber's why: I mean, a librarian fighting demons? You can't keep me away from this book.*

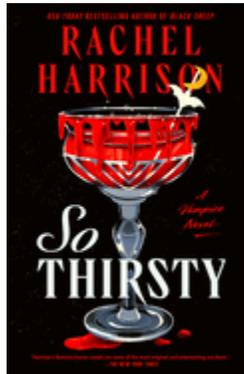
## ***So Thirsty***

by Rachel Harrison

release date: 09/10/2024

genre: Horror, occult & supernatural, friendship

shelved in: Fiction



Sloane Parker is dreading her birthday. She doesn't need a reminder she's getting older, or that she's feeling indifferent about her own life. Her husband surprises her with a birthday-weekend getaway--not with him, but with Sloane's longtime best friend, troublemaker extraordinaire Naomi. Sloane anticipates a weekend of wine tastings and cozy robes and strategic avoidance of issues she'd rather not confront, like her husband's repeated infidelity.

But when they arrive at their rental cottage, it becomes clear Naomi has something else in mind. She wants Sloane to stop letting things happen to her, for Sloane to really *live*. So Naomi orchestrates a wild night out with a group of mysterious strangers, only for it to take a horrifying turn that changes Sloane's and Naomi's lives literally forever. The friends are forced to come to terms with some pretty eternal consequences in this bloody, seductive novel about how it's never too late to find satisfaction, even though it might

taste different than expected.

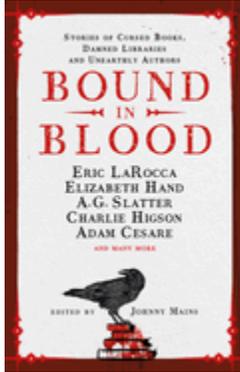
*Amber's why: Vampires! Horror vampires! Horror vampires who are best friends! I swear I didn't plan this with that first book.*

***Bound in Blood: Stories of Cursed Books, Damned Libraries and Unearthly Authors***  
edited by Johnny Mains

release date: 09/10/2024

genre: Horror, anthologies, fairy tales, folktales, legends & mythology

shelved in: Fiction



You find it hidden in the dark corner of the bookstore; tucked away in a box in the attic, desperate to be read; lurking on your bookshelf, never seen before. Crack the spine, feel the ancient pages. Read it aloud, if you dare.

This anthology brings together horror's best and brightest to delve into the pages of cursed books, Eldritch tomes and haunted bookstores.

Featuring stories from:

Adam Cesare  
Eric LaRocca  
Isy Suttie  
Charlie Higson  
A. G. Slatter  
Priya Sharma  
Lucie McKnight Hardy  
Alison Moore  
Kim Newman  
And many more!

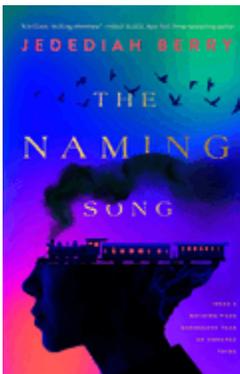
*Amber's why: I love a good spooky anthology. Also, I'm a librarian, of course I want to read about cursed books, damned libraries, and unearthly authors.*

***The Naming Song***  
by Jedediah Berry

release date: 09/24/2024

genre: Fantasy, epic

shelved in: Science Fiction



**There's nothing more dangerous than an unnamed thing**

When the words went away, the world changed.

All meaning was lost, and every border fell. Monsters slipped from dreams to haunt the waking while ghosts wandered the land in futile reveries. Only with the rise of the committees of the named--Maps, Ghosts, Dreams, and Names--could the people stand against the terrors of the nameless wilds. They built borders around their world and within their minds, shackled ghosts and hunted monsters, and went to war against the unknown.

For one unnamed courier of the Names Committee, the task of delivering new words preserves her place in a world that fears her. But after a series of monstrous attacks on the named, she is forced to flee her committee and seek her long-lost sister. Accompanied by a patchwork ghost, a fretful monster, and a nameless animal who prowls the shadows,

her search for the truth of her past opens the door to a revolutionary future--for the words she carries will reshape the world.

*Amber's why: Names have meaning. Plus, I just like reading about monsters. It's spooky season after all.*

## Teen

### **Compound Fracture**

by **Andrew Joseph White**

release date: 09/03/2024

genre: Thrillers & Suspense, LGBTQ+, social themes, paranormal

shelved in: Teen Fiction



On the night Miles Abernathy--sixteen-year-old socialist and proud West Virginian--comes out as trans to his parents, he sneaks off to a party, carrying evidence that may finally turn the tide of the blood feud plaguing Twist Creek: Photos that prove the county's Sheriff Davies was responsible for the so-called "accident" that injured his dad, killed others, and crushed their grassroots efforts to unseat him.

The feud began a hundred years ago when Miles's great-great-grandfather, Saint Abernathy, incited a miners' rebellion that ended with a public execution at the hands of law enforcement. Now, Miles becomes the feud's latest victim as the sheriff's son and his friends sniff out the evidence, follow him through the woods, and beat him nearly to death.

In the hospital, the ghost of a soot-covered man hovers over Miles's bedside while Sheriff Davies threatens Miles into silence. But when Miles accidentally kills one of the boys who hurt him, he learns of other folks in Twist Creek who want out from under the sheriff's heel. To free their families from this cycle of cruelty, they're willing to put everything on the line--is Miles?

*Amber's why: This has all the markings of a good thriller. It sounds intense and unique yet familiar. Like the stories your family passes down about how your great-grandfather ran so many obvious cons that at one point he was running from the law, gangsters, and debtors and moving around so much that his 8-year-old daughter had a nervous breakdown. You know what I mean?*

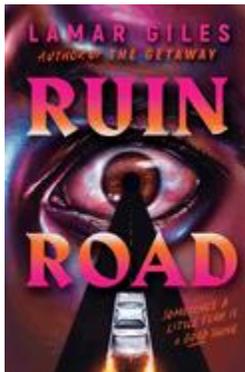
### **Ruin Road**

by **Lamar Giles**

release date: 09/17/2024

genre: Horror, thrillers & suspense, supernatural

shelved in: Teen Horror



**Sometimes a little fear is a good thing...**

Cade Webster lives between worlds. He's a standout football star at the right school but lives in the wrong neighborhood--if you let his classmates tell it. Everywhere but home, people are afraid of him for one reason or another. Afraid he's too big, too fast, too ambitious, too Black.

Then one fateful night, to avoid a dangerous encounter with the police, he ducks into a pawn shop. An impulse purchase and misspoken desire change everything when Cade tells the shopkeeper he wishes people would stop acting so scared around him, and the wish is granted...

At first, it feels like things have taken a turn for the better. But it's not just Cade that people no longer fear--it's everything. With Cade spreading this newfound "courage" wherever he goes, anything can happen. Fearless acts of violence begin to escalate in both his neighborhood and at school. With the right moves, and brave friends, Cade might have one -- and only one -- chance to save all he loves. But at what cost? After all, the devil's in the details.

*Amber's why: Okay, so do you think the objects in the pawnshop are cursed or that the shopkeeper is some kind of deal-making crossroads demon? Or both?*

## **Old Wounds**

by Logan-Ashley Kisner

release date: 09/10/2024

genre: Thrillers & Suspense, action & adventure, LGBTQ+

shelved in: Teen Fiction



Erin and Max are two transgender teens trying to get to California. Max is desperate to finally transition, and Erin is longing to understand why she's on this trip to begin with. The last she spoke to Max was when he suddenly broke up with her two years ago.

But when they find themselves stranded in the middle of the woods in a small Kentucky town, they realize they have much bigger problems. The locals need a female sacrifice for the monster that lives in the woods--according to them, the sun won't come up again until the monster eats a girl . . . and it only eats what it kills. Fighting back is futile; no one selected as the offering has ever survived the night.

When the two strangers show up, the locals believe they have the perfect candidate. The irony of the situation is almost too much to fathom.

The thing is, the locals don't know who they just trapped as their sacrifice. They don't know Erin's and Max's secrets, which could be a death sentence on a good day. And the monster that lives in their woods has never faced prey who have already fought so hard to live.

*Amber's why: Honestly, I picked this for the cover. Of course I did! The story looks good too. I like stories where the "victim" is grossly underestimated.*

## **Songlight**

by Moira Buffini

release date: 09/03/2024

genre: Science Fiction, dystopian, action & adventure

shelved in: Teen Science Fiction



***We're two songs joined. And there's a word for that. A harmony.***

Elsa is used to hiding the most important parts of herself--her feelings for Rye, her distaste for a world ruled by men, and, most crucially, her gift of songlight. She buries that secret deep inside. In Brightland, those with songlight are called Unhumans and are abhorred. Rye is the only other person Elsa has known with songlight, and their shared bond has brought them together.

Elsa's world begins to fall apart one desperate, heart-wrenching day and she doesn't know where to turn until a girl appears before her. But the girl isn't really there--her songlight has been drawn to Elsa's frantic grief.

Elsa lives in a remote seaside village; Nightingale, her new friend, lives in a city hundreds of miles away with her father, a government official responsible for rooting out Unhumans. The two never expected to connect via songlight. But when they do, and when they realize the extent of their power, they'll be thrust in the middle of a war that threatens their very existence.

*Amber's why:*

## ***Aisle Nine***

**by Ian X Cho**

release date: 09/24/2024

genre: Dystopian, action & adventure, coming of age

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



### **It's Black Friday--and the apocalypse is on sale!**

Ever since the world filled with portals to hell and bloodthirsty demons started popping out on the reg, Jasper's life has gotten worse and worse. A teenage nobody with no friends or family, he is plagued by the life he can't remember and the person he's sure he's supposed to be.

Jasper spends his days working as a checkout clerk at the Here for You discount mart, where a hell portal in aisle nine means danger every shift. But at least here he can be near the girl he's crushing on--Kyle Kuan, a junior member of the monster-fighting Vanguard--who seems to hate Jasper for reasons he can't remember or understand.

But when Jasper and Kyle learn they both share a frightening vision of the impending apocalypse, they're forced to team up and uncover the uncomfortable truth about the hell portals and the demons that haunt the world. Because the true monsters are not always what they seem, the past is not always what we wish, and like it or not, on Black Friday, all hell will break loose, starting in aisle nine.

*Amber's why: This has got kind of an Ash vs the Evil Dead vibe and I'm so here for it. It sounds sweet and funny and maybe more than a bit terrifying.*

## ***The Lies We Conjure***

**by Sarah Henning**

release date: 09/17/2024

genre: Fantasy, thrillers & suspense, mystery & detective stories

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



Ruby and her sister, Wren, are normal, middle-class Colorado high school students working a summer job at the local Renaissance Fest to supplement their meager college savings.

So when an eccentric old lady asks them to impersonate her long-absent grandchildren at a fancy dinner party at the jaw-dropping rate of two grand--each--for a single night... Wren insists it's a no-brainer. Make some cash, have some fun, do a good deed.

But less than an hour into the evening at the mysterious Hegemony Manor, Ruby is sure she must have *lost her mind* to have agreed to this.

The hostess is dead, the gates are locked, and a magical curse ensures no one can leave until they solve both her murder and the riddles she left behind--in just three days. Because everyone else at this party is a powerful witch. And if the witches realize Ruby and Wren are imposters? The sisters won't make it out of Hegemony Manor alive.

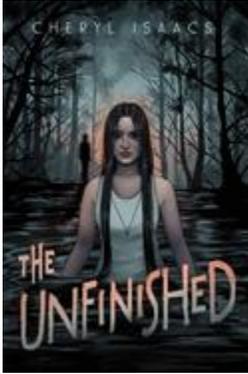
*Amber's why: Okay, I love witches, right? Love 'em. But this is how you get yourself eaten. When an old lady asks you to pretend to be her grandchild for a fancy dinner party, I feel like it's always good policy to politely decline no matter how much she promises to pay.*

***The Unfinished***  
**by Cheryl Isaacs**

release date: 09/10/2024

genre: Horror, Native American, monsters, thrillers & suspense

shelved in: Teen Horror



When small-town athlete Avery's morning run leads her to a strange pond in the middle of the forest, she awakens a horror the townspeople of Crook's Falls have long forgotten.

The black water has been waiting. Watching. Hungry for the souls it needs to survive.

Avery can smell the water, see it flooding everywhere; she thinks she's losing her mind. And as the black water haunts Avery--taking a new form each time--people in town begin to go missing.

Though Avery had heard whispers of monsters from her Kanien'kéha: ka (Mohawk) relatives, she has never really connected to her Indigenous culture or understood the stories. But the Elders she has distanced herself from now may have the answers she needs.

When Key, her best friend and longtime crush, is the next to disappear, Avery is faced with a choice: listen to the Kanien'kéha: ka and save the town but lose her friend forever...or listen to her heart and risk everything to get Key back.

*Amber's why:* Spooky-spooky water, spooky-spooky water. It's not your fault it wanted to wake.

***The Loss of the Burying Ground***

**by J Anderson Coats**

release date: 09/03/2024

genre: Fantasy, action & adventure, survival stories

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



When the *Burying Ground* goes down in neutral waters, it sends the delegations from two warring nations--and the peace treaty they were about to sign--to the bottom of the ocean. The only survivors are a pair of teen girls: Cora, daughter of a Duran newspaper man, and Vivienne, lady's maid to an Ariminthian princess. Neither has known a time when war between their two countries did not rage, but now they must learn to trust each other if they are to find sustenance, avoid dangerous pirates, and have any hope of rescue from the remote island they washed up on. However, in the midst of a conflict steeped in fierce national identity, propaganda, disinformation, and radicalization, finding a common path forward seems nearly impossible, for both Cora and Vivienne and their respective countries. But when the teens' politically charged rescue seems likely to extend the war, Cora and Vivienne realize they do have a shared purpose: peace. If only it isn't too late.

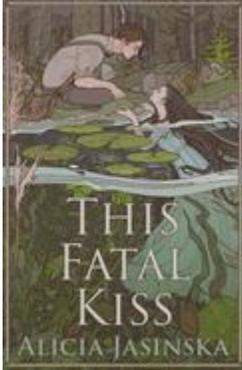
*Amber's why:* Survival on the high seas! Also, teens must end a generations-long war! Also, PIRATES! (I hope the pirates are heavily featured).

***This Fatal Kiss***  
**by Alicia Jasinska**

release date: 09/10/2024

genre: Fantasy, romance, paranormal, LGBTQ+

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



Cursed to haunt the river running through the magical spa town where she drowned, Gisela is a water nymph who dreams of returning to the living world and the family she left behind. All it takes to regain her humanity is a kiss from a mortal...but everyone sees her as a monster.

And then there's Kazik, the brooding, interfering, spirit-hunting grandson of a local witch. He's determined to rid the world of unholy creatures like Gisela. After Kazik botches Gisela's exorcism, she strikes up a deal. She won't tell the other spirits that he's losing his magic, if he agrees to play matchmaker and helps her get a kiss. But Gisela's plan goes awry when Kazik also falls for the devilishly handsome young man that she sets her heart on--someone who could be linked to Gisela's troubled past.

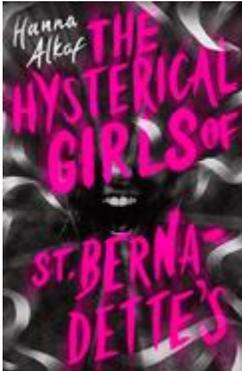
*Amber's why: Oh, romance! Of course, the witch's son would also fall in love with boy the water nymph is determined to seduce. What is life without a triangle or two?*

***The Hysterical Girls of St. Bernadette's***  
**by Hanna Alkaf**

release date: 09/24/2024

genre: Thrillers & Suspense, supernatural, mystery & detective stories

shelved in: Teen Mystery



For over a hundred years, girls have fought to attend St. Bernadette's, with its reputation for shaping only the best and brightest young women.

Unfortunately, there is also the screaming.

When a student begins to scream in the middle of class, a chain reaction starts that impacts the entire school. By the end of the day, seventeen girls are affected--along with St. Bernadette's stellar reputation.

Khadijah's got her own scars to tend to, and watching her friends succumb to hysteria only rips apart wounds she'd rather keep closed. But when her sister falls to the screams, Khadijah knows she's the only one who can save her.

Rachel has always been far too occupied trying to reconcile her overbearing mother's expectations with her own secret ambitions to pay attention to school antics. But just as Rachel finds her voice, it turns into screams.

Together, the two girls find themselves digging deeper into the school's dark history, hunting for the truth. Little do they know that a specter lurks in the darkness, watching, waiting, and hungry for its next victim...

*Amber's why: There's something about boarding school mysteries that just... hook me.*

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<sup>1</sup> Boyce, Niamh. (31 October 2023) "Trial by fire: Remembering Ireland's witchcraft trials—and their victims." The Irish Examiner. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/spotlight/arid-41257942.html>