

Anytime Book Club

Scary Stories

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

By Alvin Schwartz

Traditional and modern-day tales and "jump" stories of ghosts, witches, vampires, haunts, superstitions, monsters and horrible scary things.

Books of Blood

By Clive Barker

With the publication of Books of Blood, Clive Barker became an overnight literary sensation. His tour de force collection of brilliantly disturbing tales demonstrated a genius for dark invention that rivaled Poe and Sade. He was hailed by Stephen King as "the future of horror," and won both the British and World Fantasy Awards.

Carrie

By Stephen King

Carrie White may be picked on by her classmates, but she has a gift. She can move things with her mind. Doors lock. Candles fall. This is her power and her problem. Then, an act of kindness, as spontaneous as the vicious taunts of her classmates, offers Carrie a chance to be a normal...until an unexpected cruelty turns her gift into a weapon of horror and destruction that no one will ever forget.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon

By Stephen King

During a six-mile hike on the Maine-New Hampshire branch of the Appalachian Trail, nine-year-old Trisha McFarland quickly tires of the constant bickering between her older brother and her recently divorced mother. But when she wanders off by herself, she becomes lost in a wilderness maze full of peril and terror.

Cabin at the End of the World

By Paul Trembly

Seven-year-old Wen and her parents, Eric and Andrew, are vacationing at a remote cabin on a quiet New Hampshire lake. Their closest neighbors are more than two miles in either direction along a rutted dirt road.

One afternoon, as Wen catches grasshoppers in the front yard, a stranger unexpectedly appears in the driveway. Leonard is the largest man Wen has ever seen but he is young, friendly, and he

wins her over almost instantly. Leonard and Wen talk and play until Leonard abruptly apologizes and tells Wen, "None of what's going to happen is your fault". Three more strangers then arrive at the cabin carrying unidentifiable, menacing objects. As Wen sprints inside to warn her parents, Leonard calls out: "Your dads won't want to let us in, Wen. But they have to. We need your help to save the world."

Thus begins an unbearably tense, gripping tale of paranoia, sacrifice, apocalypse, and survival that escalates to a shattering conclusion, one in which the fate of a loving family and quite possibly all of humanity are entwined. *The Cabin at the End of the World* is a masterpiece of terror and suspense from the fantastically fertile imagination of Paul Tremblay.

[Horrorstor](#)

By Grady Hendrix

After strange things start happening at the Orsk furniture superstore in Cleveland, three employees volunteer to work an overnight shift to investigate, but what they discover is more horrifying than they could have imagined.

[Alice Isn't Dead](#)

By Joseph Fink

Spotting her late wife in news-report backgrounds, truck driver Keisha Taylor stumbles into an otherworldly conflict on the nation's highway systems.

[The Awesome](#)

By Eva Darrows

Maggie Cunningham, who wants to enter in the family business of monster hunting, can't get her license until she loses her virginity, but finding a normal boy proves to be more difficult than she thought.

[Imaginary Friend](#)

By Stephen Chbosky

Single mother Kate Reese is on the run. Determined to improve life for her and her son, Christopher, she flees an abusive relationship in the middle of the night with Christopher at her side. Together, they find themselves drawn to the tight-knit community of Mill Grove, Pennsylvania. It's as far off the beaten track as they can get. Just one highway in, one highway out. At first, it seems like the perfect place to finally settle down. Then Christopher vanishes. For six awful days, no one can find him. Until Christopher emerges from the woods at the edge of town, unharmed but not unchanged. He returns with a voice in his head only he can hear, with a mission only he can complete: Build a tree house in the woods by Christmas, or his mother and everyone in the town will never be the same again.

[Dark Harvest](#)

by Norman Partridge

The year is 1963. In a small Midwestern town, a savage ritual is played out where the town's youths are given crude weapons and told to hunt and kill The October Boy. Our protagonist is

Pete, who not only must confront the truth about his town's horrific ritual, but his own abusive father. Partridge keeps a breakneck pace and surrounds the reader with the sounds, smells and atmosphere of the fall season... only, you know... darker.

(Note from librarian Michael: Please ignore the first edition's terrible cover art!)

Haunted

by Chuck Palahniuk

Only for readers with strong stomachs. Be warned: there is some stuff in this collection that once read, cannot be unread.

In Palaniuk's world, people are more terrifying than any werewolf or vampire. A group of artists gather for what they believe is a workshop retreat only to soon find themselves locked in an old theater and their mysterious host dead. As each person slowly succumbs to madness and murder, they share their individual stories, each more horrifying than the next.

Universal Harvester

by John Darnielle

This is definitely not a "horror" story or even a "scary" story in the traditional sense, but Darnielle pulls off some plot twists that sent shivers down my spine and had be audibly saying, "Oh wow! That's creepy!" In the late 1990s, in the town of Nevada, IA, Jeremy is working a dead-end job at a video store (the kind with VHS cassettes! No DVD yet!) when he discovers someone is splicing in strange bits of black and white footage into the videos. As Jeremy tracks down the origins of the footage, he uncovers a surreal mystery; it does not end where you think it will.

Devolution: a firsthand account of the Rainier Sasquatch massacre

By Max Brooks

"As the ash and chaos from Mount Rainier's eruption swirled and finally settled, the story of the Greenloop massacre has passed unnoticed, unexamined, until now. But the journals of resident Kate Holland, recovered from the town's bloody wreckage, capture a tale too harrowing and too earth-shattering in its implications, to be forgotten. Because if what Kate Holland saw in those days is real, then we must accept the impossible. We must accept that the creature known as Bigfoot walks among us, and that it is a beast of terrible strength and ferocity."