



18 HORROR BOOKS TO SCARE THE BLEEP OUT OF YOU THIS HALLOWEEN

Selene Angier | Textbooks.com | Published October 18, 2016

Ghosts & goblins. Doomsday devils & blood-sucking vampires. Stone-cold killers & killer computers. If these are your kind of fright-night friends, then you're going to make a lot of new pals with this delightful, frightful roundup of horror books, scary stories, and ghostly novellas.

From modern-day bestsellers like Stephen King and Clive Barker to classic literature influencers such as Henry James and Ambrose Bierce, these 18 chilling picks are perfect for a night of spooky Halloween reading. Just remember, before you tuck in for the night: don't look under the bed.

1. [Books of Blood](#) by Clive Barker

Meet the collection of visceral, terror-filled short stories that launched Clive Barker's career.

2. [Dreams in the Witch House](#) by H. P. Lovecraft

A math student discovers a space-time portal – and a warlock and rat spirit – in the attic. What could go wrong?

3. [I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream](#) by Harlan Ellison

A supercomputer takes over Earth, killing everyone except a lucky five people trapped and tortured for eternity. Makes Hal look like a cakewalk.

4. [The Stand](#) by Stephen King

Obsessed with the daily Ebola headlines? Grab this 1,400-page monster about a government-created superflu that offs 99% of the world's population.

5. [Song of Kali](#) by Dan Simmons

The occult and fantasy collide in this horror story about a writer who moves his family to Calcutta to investigate a long-lost poet.

6. [Hell House](#) by Richard Matheson

Stephen King has said this is “the scariest haunted house novel ever written.” What higher praise do you need?

7. [The Loved Dead](#) by C. M. Eddy

A creepy tale of necrophilia. As if there are other kinds of necrophilia?

8. [Something Wicked This Way Comes](#) by Ray Bradbury

A carnival – led by the fully tatted and aptly named Mr. Dark – comes to town the week before Halloween. Fancy a carousel ride?

9. [The Raven](#) by Edgar Allan Poe

The opening line “once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary” probably jostles your cobwebbed memories, but if you haven't read it since high school, now is the time.

10. [The King In Yellow](#) by Robert Chambers

“True Detective” obsessives may know this supernatural book-within-a-book tale about a play that drives its readers insane. Yay!

11. [Turn of the Screw](#) by Henry James

An atmospheric gothic novella about a governess, two orphaned kids, and are-they-or-aren't-they ghosts. (Let us know if you figure it out.)

12. [The Great God Pan](#) by Arthur Machen

After reading this most twisted of horror books about a demented doctor and human-monster hybrid, you will likely be delaying any planned surgeries.

13. [The Killer Inside Me](#) by Jim Thompson

A nice-guy sheriff is hiding something in this depraved noir. Like, a few dead bodies and the fact that he's a stone-cold psychopath.

14. [Ghost and Horror Stories](#) by Ambrose Bierce

An influence on everyone from H.P. Lovecraft to J.J. Abrams, highlights of this supernatural collection include “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” and “An Inhabitant of Carcosa.”

15. [Dracula](#) by Bram Stoker

Prince of the Night. Lord of the Damned. King of the Vampires. Whatever you call him, you need a visit with the original bloodsucker at least once in your reading career.

16. [Frankenstein](#) by Mary Shelley

Almost 200 years old, this gothic monster story still packs a punch. PS: You have a year until the James McAvoy and Daniel Radcliffe retelling comes out.

17. [Ghost Stories of an Antiquary](#) by M. R. James

Creepy otherworldliness set against an Edwardian-era backdrop? Delightful, indeed!

18. [The House on the Borderland](#) by William Hope Hodgson

Let's just go and enjoy a little fishing vacation at this haunted house in remote Ireland. What could go wrong?

What are your favorite horror books? Do you have any Halloween reading musts? Join us on [Facebook](#) - if you dare!