

Thunderstorm Thrillers: A Booklist

Compiled by Jannaya Jensen

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Looking for a dark and stormy read to select or recommend? How about tales of secrecy, adventure, survival, and danger? Suspense and tension abound in these fast-paced titles—a mix of mystery and dystopia, with a dash of fantasy!



Abrahams, P. (2009). *Reality check*. New York: HarperTeen.

When his ex-girlfriend Clea disappears, Cody, a high school dropout and ex-football star, travels to Vermont to find her. As he investigates her disappearance, town secrets and potential suspects begin to surface. Who can Cody trust? What happened to Clea and how can he find her? This fast-paced sleuth story of love and loyalty offers wide appeal and believable characters that are sure to keep you turning the page. (*Mystery, 12+*)

Aguirre, A. (2011). *Enclave*. New York: Square Fish.

Life expectancy is reduced to 20-some years in post-apocalyptic New York City and people are living in underground enclaves. Upon turning 15, Deuce becomes a Huntress and must bring back food for the community while evading or fighting off “Freaks”—the zombielike monsters within the caves. She is paired with a brooding and fascinating Hunter, Fade. They discover that the Freaks are becoming more organized. Although the pair warns the Elders of this threat, no one seems to take them seriously, and the duo must survive in daylight amidst these growing dangers. A gritty, thrilling and intense first installment in the *Razorland Trilogy* involving zombies, survival and a touch of young love. (*Dystopia, 13+*)

Bacigalupi, P. (2010). *Ship breaker*. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Set against a grim backdrop of environmental wreckage, *Ship Breaker* details the life of Nailor, a teenage scavenger who spends his days stripping metal from deserted ships. Living with an abusive father, Nailor is simply trying to endure both the elements and a population who will literally kill to survive. As luck would have it, Nailor discovers a boat shipwrecked by a recent hurricane. Inside is a beautiful and wealthy girl, Nailor’s key to a better life. He must decide whether to abandon her for the jewels aboard or return her to her family, putting his own life at risk as he faces off against kidnapers and killers. The first in the *Ship Breaker* series, this

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Printz award-winning novel is action-packed and gritty. It will appeal to fans of both *The Hunger Games* [Suzanne Collins] and *The Maze Runner* [James Dashner]. (*Dystopia*, 13+)

Ferguson, A. (2009). *The dying breath: A forensic mystery*. New York: Viking.

Cameryn Mahoney is back in the fourth installment of Alane Ferguson's *Forensic Mysteries*. Still acting as an assistant for her coroner father, Cameryn becomes concerned when she receives a message from her ex-boyfriend – carved into a corpse. Having failed to fulfill his plans to murder Cameryn in *Angel of Death*, Kyle O'Neil is back and he's out for Cameryn's blood. And while the whole town is determined to protect her, Cameryn knows the only way to stop her killer ex is to confront him herself. This puzzling and frightening story will keep you on the edge of your seat. (*Mystery*, 14+)

Goodman, A. (2009). *Eon: Dragoneye reborn*. Toronto: Puffin Canada.

For the past four years, sixteen-year-old Eona (Dragoneye) has disguised herself as Eon with the hope of becoming a Dragoneye apprentice—a conduit for dragons' energies. Women are forbidden to practice Dragon Magic, and if Eona's secret is discovered, she will be put to death. In this fast-paced, action-packed fantasy, Eona finds herself at the centre of a conspiracy that poses to threaten the future of her country. Suspenseful and issue-driven, this tale is a must-read for fans of high fantasy. (*Fantasy*, 13+)

Lu, M. (2011). *Legend*. New York: Putnam.

"My mother thinks I'm dead. Obviously I'm *not* dead, but it's safer for her to think so" (Penguin Group excerpt, 2011, p. 1). Set during a futuristic civil war, fifteen-year-old Day, born into the poor and violent slums of future Los Angeles, is the nations' most wanted criminal. June, a military prodigy, was born into one of the wealthiest and most elite families in the nation. Forming an unlikely partnership after the murder of June's brother, Day and June must battle disease, betrayal, and distrust in order to uncover a series of deadly governmental plots. A *New York Times* Bestseller and the first installment of the *Legend Trilogy*, *Legend* is an action-packed suspense thriller that will leave readers wanting more. (*Dystopia*, 13+)

McMann, L. (2011). *Cryer's cross*. New York: Simon Pulse/Simon & Schuster.

17-year-old Kendall loves her small hometown of Cryer's Cross, Montana. She also loves her boyfriend, Nico. Yet she longs for more from life and has big plans to travel to New York, leaving Cryer's Cross and Nico behind. Her plans are changed when the town is rocked by tragedy. Now Kendall must push her dreams aside and dig up secrets which have long been hidden in order to save her missing friends—all while dealing with her Obsessive Compulsive

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Disorder. But she's about to discover how far the residents of Cryer's Cross are willing to go to keep the history in the past. This read will thrill fans of suspense and supernatural mysteries. (*Mystery, 14+*)

Pullman, P. (1996). *The golden compass*. New York: Knopf.

In this first installment in the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, Pullman brings you into a world not quite like our own; a world where animal companions, called daemons, walk with their humans as friends and confidants. Orphaned and left to be raised by scholars at Jordan College, Lyra Belacqua and her daemon Pantalaimon feel the pull of an unexplored world riddled with mystery and adventure. When her best friend Roger disappears and a mysterious plot to murder her Uncle Asriel surfaces, Lyra embarks on a dangerous journey. Unexpectedly, her quest uproots a terrifying truth about the very powers that control her world. (*Fantasy, 12+*)

Roth, V. (2011). *Divergent*. New York: Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins.

In the first novel of the *Divergent Trilogy*, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior—Tris—must choose from among five factions: Candor (the Honest), Abnegation (the Selfless), Dauntless (the Brave), Amity (the Peaceful), and Erudite (the Intelligent). Her choice will determine her companions, her lifestyle, her identity, and her destiny. As she makes her choice and competes to become accepted as a new initiate in her chosen faction, life is made more complicated by an intriguing boy, dangerous enemies, and a secret she must keep from everyone. Beneath the smooth exterior of her society, conflict grows and begins to surface. In the midst of this Tris must figure out who is on her side, the truth about her society, and what she must do to save the people she loves. (*Dystopia, 14+*)