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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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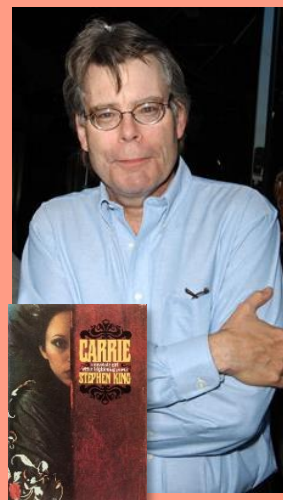
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On This Day in History... Stephen King's First Novel, *Carrie*, is Published, 5th April 1974

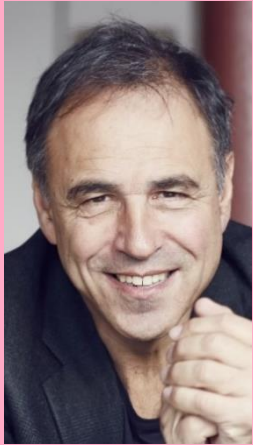
Stephen King's debut novel, *Carrie*, was published 51 years ago and is a must-read for fans of supernatural horror. The story follows 16-year-old Carrie White, who faces relentless bullying at school and abuse from her overtly religious mother. The book uses a mix of third-person narrative and future perspectives and includes manuscripts and newspaper articles to provide background on the characters. *Carrie* explores themes of alienation, revenge and the consequences of actions. The book not only launched King's successful career as a horror writer but is known for being one of the most frequently banned books in the US school system due to its disturbing content. In 1976, a film adaptation of the book was released, starring Sissy Spacek. King found that the film lacked some of the novel's depth and commentary on the societal issues focused in on the book; especially the way women are treated by their peers and those that should be looking after and protecting children. *Carrie* is continuously recommended to both longtime fans of Stephen King and newcomers to his work. It is thanks to King's wife Tabitha that the book exists at all: dissatisfied with his work, King initially threw the first few pages of *Carrie* in the bin. Tabitha fished it out and encouraged him to keep writing. Thanks to the Kings we now have the infamous twisted tale of a high school girl who doesn't fit in, and the lengths she will go to, to wreak revenge on those who have harmed her.



Carrie by Stephen King
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Carrie White is no ordinary girl. Carrie White has the gift of telekinesis. To be invited to Prom Night by Tommy Ross is a dream come true for Carrie - the first step towards social acceptance by her high school colleagues. But events will take a decidedly macabre turn on that horrifying and endless night as she is forced to exercise her terrible gift on the town that mocks and loathes her...

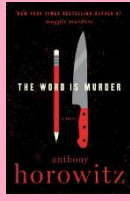
On This Day in History... The Birth of Anthony Horowitz, 5th April 1955



Anthony Horowitz is a British author and screenwriter, born April 5th, 1955, in Middlesex, England. He is best known for his exciting young adult fiction, but he also writes for adults and has created popular TV shows in the UK. From a young age, Horowitz wanted to be a writer. He studied English Literature and art history at the University of York and published his first book in 1979; a children's adventure called *The Sinister Secret of Frederick K. Bower*. He then created the *Diamond Brothers* series which featured humorous detective stories aimed at young readers. Some of Horowitz's other notable works include *The Falcon's Malteser* and *Groosham Grange*, which is about a teenage witch attending boarding school. In the early 2000s, Horowitz launched the *Alex Rider* series, which follows a 14-year-old boy who becomes a spy for MI6. The first *Alex Rider* book, *Stormbreaker*, was adapted into a film. He also penned the *Power of Five* series, which features five teens trying to save the world from supernatural threats. Horowitz continues to write with a focus on adult fiction. In 2011, Arthur Conan Doyle's estate granted Horowitz permission to write the first official Sherlock Holmes story in 125 years. Similarly, in 2015, the estate of Ian Fleming granted him permission to write novels featuring the character of James Bond. Horowitz has since published 2 *Sherlock Holmes* novels, and 3 *James Bond* novels.

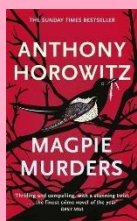
The Word is Murder by Anthony Horowitz
(Recommended for Older Readers)

She planned her own funeral. But did she arrange her own murder? A woman is strangled six hours after organising her own funeral. Did she know she was going to die? Did she recognise her killer? Daniel Hawthorne, a recalcitrant detective with secrets of his own, is on the case, together with his reluctant side-kick – a man completely unaccustomed to the world of crime. But even Hawthorne isn't prepared for the twists and turns in store – as unexpected as they are bloody...



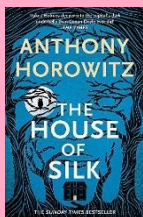
Maggie Murders by Anthony Horowitz
(Recommended for Older Readers)

When editor Susan Ryeland is given the tattered manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has little idea it will change her life. She's worked with the revered crime writer for years and his detective, Atticus Pund, is renowned for solving crimes in the sleepy English villages of the 1950s. As Susan knows only too well, vintage crime sells handsomely. It's just a shame that it means dealing with an author like Alan Conway... But Conway's latest tale of murder at Pye Hall is not quite what it seems. Yes, there are dead bodies and a host of intriguing suspects but hidden in the pages of the manuscript there lies another story: a tale written between the very words on the page, telling of real-life jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition and murder.



Horowitz's Holmes #1: The House of Silk by Anthony Horowitz
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Once again, the game's afoot... London, 1890. 221B Baker St. A fine art dealer named Edmund Carstairs visits Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson to beg for their help. He is being menaced by a strange man in a flat cap – a wanted criminal who seems to have followed him all the way from America. In the days that follow, his home is robbed, his family is threatened. And then the first murder takes place. Almost unwillingly, Holmes and Watson find themselves being drawn ever deeper into an international conspiracy connected to the teeming criminal underworld of Boston, the gaslit streets of London, opium dens and much, much more. And as they dig, they begin to hear the whispered phrase - the House of Silk - a mysterious entity that connects the highest levels of government to the deepest depths of criminality. Holmes begins to fear that he has uncovered a conspiracy that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of society.



Alex Rider #1: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

They told him his uncle died in an accident. He wasn't wearing his seatbelt, they said. But when fourteen-year-old Alex finds his uncle's windshield riddled with bullet holes, he knows it was no accident. What he doesn't know yet is that his uncle was killed while on a top-secret mission. But he is about to, and once he does, there is no turning back. Finding himself in the middle of terrorists, Alex must outsmart the people who want him dead. The government has given him the technology, but only he can provide the courage. Should he fail, every child in England will be murdered in cold blood.

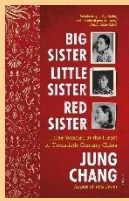


"If people can just love each other a little bit, they can be so happy." – Émile Zola

NEW

Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister: Three Women at the Heart of Twentieth Century China by Jung Chang

Meet the three women who helped shape the course of modern Chinese history; a gripping story of sisterhood and betrayal from the bestselling author of *Wild Swans*. They were the most famous sisters in China. As the country battled seismic transformations these three women left an indelible mark on history. *Red Sister* rose to be Mao's vice-chair. *Little Sister* became first lady of pre-Communist Nationalist China. *Big Sister* made herself one of the country's richest women. *Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister* takes us on a sweeping journey from exiles' quarters in Japan and Berlin to secret meeting rooms in Moscow, and from the compounds of the Communist elite in Beijing to the corridors of power in democratic Taiwan. By turns intimate and epic, *Jung Chang* reveals the lives of three extraordinary women who helped shape twentieth-century China.



Duty of Care: One NHS Doctor's Story of the COVID-19 Crisis by Dominic Pimenta

On the 8th of February, Dr. Dominic Pimenta encountered his first suspected case of coronavirus. Within a week, he began wearing a mask on the tube and within a month, he was moved over to the Intensive Care Unit to help fight this virus. *'Duty Of Care'* is the first book to tell the full story of the COVID-19 pandemic from someone on the frontline, working in one of NHS's hardest hit areas.

From the initial whispers coming out of China and the collective hesitation to class this as a pandemic to full lockdown and the continued battle to treat whoever came through the doors. Dr. Pimenta tells the heroic stories of how the entire system shifted to tackle this outbreak and how, ultimately, the staff managed to save lives.



The Good Thieves by Katherine Rundell

From award-winning author Katherine Rundell comes a fast-paced and utterly thrilling adventure driven by the loyalty and love between a grandfather and his granddaughter. When Vita's grandfather's mansion is taken from him by a powerful real estate tycoon, Vita knows it's up to her to make things right. With the help of a pickpocket and her new circus friends, Vita creates the plan: Break into the mansion. Steal back what's rightfully her grandfather's. Expose the real estate tycoon for the crook he truly is. But 1920s Manhattan is ever-changing and full of secrets. It might take more than Vita's ragtag gang of misfits to outsmart the city that never sleeps.

Red Rising #3: Morning Star by Pierce Brown
(Recommended for Older Readers)

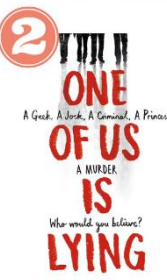
Darrow would have lived in peace, but his enemies brought him war. The Gold overlords demanded his obedience, hanged his wife, and enslaved his people. But Darrow is determined to fight back. Risking everything to transform himself and breach Gold society, Darrow has battled to survive the cutthroat rivalries that breed Society's mightiest warriors, climbed the ranks, and waited patiently to unleash the revolution that will tear the hierarchy apart from within. Finally, the time has come. But devotion to honour and hunger for vengeance run deep on both sides. Darrow and his comrades-in-arms face powerful enemies without scruple or mercy. Among them are some Darrow once considered friends. To win, Darrow will need to inspire those shackled in darkness to break their chains, unmake the world their cruel masters have built, and claim a destiny too long denied—and too glorious to surrender.



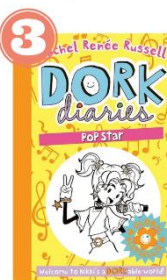
March's MOST POPULAR BOOKS



Demon Slayer
Volume 1 by Koyoharu Gotouge



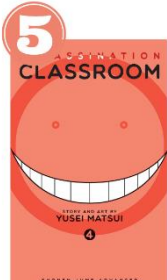
One of Us is Lying
by Karen M McManus



Dork Diaries: Pop Star
by Rachel Renée Russell



Komi Can't Communicate
Vol. 1 by Tomohito Oda



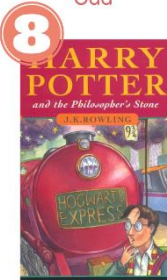
Assassination Classroom
Volume 4 by Yusei Matsui



Toilet-Bound Hanako-Kun
Volume 8 by Aldaro



Wuthering Heights
by Emily Brontë



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
by J.K. Rowling

STAR BORROWERS OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight star borrowers: students that have borrowed 5 or more books within that month. These students will receive an achievement point.

Year 7

Eleanor 7N
Aaradhya 7N
Hayley 7N
Myrah 7N
Zaram 7N
Ireen 7N
Zara 7N
Cynthia 7N
Rithu 7W
Avisha 7W
Deetya 7W

Wenjun 7N
Bade 7S
Elana 7S
Kayley 7S
Aadya 7F
Shonaya 7F
Naisha 7F
Kabista 7F
Magathy 7F
Rosie 7G
Letty 7G
Saaya 7G
Shreya 7G

Alice 7P
Elsie 7P
Harmani 7P
Nyra 7P
Greta 7P
Krishna 7P
Saatvika 7P
Manha 7P
Rowan 7P
Isabelle 7P

Year 8

Iris 8N
Neev 8N
Aarya 8N
Ruzena 8N
Florence 1 8N
Khushi 8N
Riya 8W
Hannah 8W
Nidhi 8W
Nilacia 8S
Amy 8S

Charis 8S
April 8F
Merisha 8F
Tripti 8F
Dia 8F
Mehr 8G
Rebecca 8P
Sophie 8P
Elizabeth 8P
Mariam 8P
Aahana 8P
Mia 8P
Angelina 8P

Year 9

Jess J 9N
Ipin 9N
Nafeesa 9N
Veda 9N
Azkadellia 9N
Zara 9W
Farrah 9W
Hibah 9W
Aleisha 9W
Madeleine 9W
Anoushka 9S

Year 10

Charlotte 9S
Reika 9S
Angel 9S
Aamna 9S
Isla T 9S
Senumi 9S
Imaan 9F
Avni 9F
Annika 9F
Aisha 9F
Sara 9F
Caroline 9G
Nethra 9P

Year 11

Taara 9P
Ketki 9P

Year 12

Nadia 10N
Celia 10S
Eunice 10S
Aashvi 10G
Christina B 10G

Year 13

Pavla 11F
Lucy 11P

Year 13

Trevor 13W
Vivia 13W
Lucy 13P



New Stamp Set May Indicate UK Folklore Resurgence



This month, Royal Mail have released a limited run of stamps featuring creatures from UK folklore. The stamps are designed by London-based artist Adam Simpson and include characters such as the Loch Ness Monster, Cornish piskies, and Beowulf and Grendel. One of the stamps features a grindylow (right) which readers of the *Harry Potter* series may be familiar with. Though the cryptid was popularised in recent times by *Harry Potter*, its folkloric roots are far older. The grindylow is said to be a small, horned water demon with pointed fangs that stretches out its long spindly arms to grab children from the edge of pools. Also known as Jenny Greenteeth or Peg Prowler, the creature is first thought to have appeared in

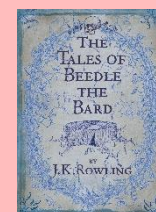
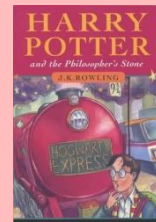
antiquity in folklore tales across Lancashire and Yorkshire with the purpose of encouraging children across the North to brush their teeth or stay away from deep water. David Clarke, project lead for the National Folklore Survey, said of the tales' cautionary origins, "You can see how parents would pass these tales on to children as an educational warning for them not to go near stagnant water... What better way to ingrain into children that they're dangerous." Willow Winsham, co-author of the *Treasury of Folklore* series, says of Simpson's grindylow illustration, "While recent books and films have reimagined the grindylow, the stamp illustration remains faithful to traditional folklore." Folklore refers to 'the traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth'. Dr Clarke believes that "in England, we're almost embarrassed by our folklore," pointing out that contrastingly, in Scotland, residents are proud to be associated with the legend of the Loch Ness Monster. Though Clarke does feel that the new stamp collection potentially marks a folklore revival in the UK. Further, in 2024, the UK government adopted Unesco's convention on safeguarding "intangible cultural heritage", which covers stories passed down orally through generations and therefore inherently includes folkloric tales. Click [here](#) to read the original BBC article.

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald - The Original Screenplay by J.K. Rowling

At the end of *Fantastic Beasts* and *Where to Find Them*, the powerful Dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald was captured in New York with the help of Newt Scamander. But, making good on his threat, Grindelwald escapes custody and sets about gathering followers, most unsuspecting of his true to raise pure-blood wizards up to rule over all non-magical beings. In an effort to thwart Grindelwald's plans, Albus Dumbledore enlists Newt, his former Hogwarts student, who agrees to help once again, unaware of the dangers that lie ahead. Lines are drawn as love and loyalty are tested, even among the truest friends and family, in an increasingly divided wizarding world.



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling
Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in green ink on yellowish parchment with a purple seal, they are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: *Harry Potter* is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin. J.K. Rowling's enduringly popular *Harry Potter* books continue to captivate new generations of readers. Harry's first adventure alongside his friends, Ron and Hermione, will whisk you away to Hogwarts, an enchanted, turreted castle filled with disappearing staircases, pearly-white ghosts and magical paintings that flit from frame to frame.



The Tales of Beedle the Bard by J.K. Rowling
The *Tales of Beedle the Bard* have been favourite bedtime reading in wizarding households for centuries. Full of magic and trickery, these classic tales both entertain and instruct, and remain as captivating to young wizards today as they were when Beedle first put quill to parchment in the fifteenth century. There are five tales in all: 'The Tale of the Three Brothers' *Harry Potter* fans will know from *Harry Potter* and the Deathly Hallows; 'The Fountain of Fair Fortune', 'The Warlock's Hairy Heart', 'The Wizard and the Hopping Pot' and 'Babbitty Rabbitty and her Cackling Stump' complete the collection. These narrative gems are accompanied by explanatory notes by Professor Albus Dumbledore (included by kind permission of the *Hogwarts* Headmaster's archive). His illuminating thoughts reveal the stories to be much more than just simple moral tales, and are sure to make Babbitty Rabbitty and the slug-belching Hopping Pot as familiar to Muggles as Snow White and Cinderella.