Thrillers and Horror

Books to keep you up at night. Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are less than 300 pages long.

*What She Found in the Woods by Josephine Angelini | YA ANG
A privileged girl grapples with trauma and mental health—while bodies turn up in the woods. (from Kirkus)

*Alone by Cyn Balog | YA BAL
Seda, sixteen, feels her invisible childhood nemesis, Sawyer, growing stronger just as a group of stranded teens takes shelter from a blizzard in the dilapidated mansion Seda’s mother inherited.

*Draw the Dark by Ilsa J. Bick | YA BIC
Seventeen-year-old Christian is a loner at school—which is what tends to happen when you live in a small town with a hidden history, your parents have disappeared, you hear voices in your head from “the sideways place,” and you can draw people to death. (from Publishers Weekly)

*Whisper in the Dark by Joseph Bruchac | YA BRU
An ancient and terrifying Narragansett native-American legend begins to come true for a teenage long-distance runner, whose recovery from the accident that killed her parents has stunned everyone, including her guardian aunt...

Clown in a Cornfield by Adam Cesare | YA CES
A group of teens find themselves under siege by killer clowns in a tiny Midwestern town. (from Kirkus)

*The Girl From the Well by Rin Chupeco | YA CHU
Okiku has wandered the world for centuries, freeing the innocent ghosts of the murdered-dead and taking the lives of killers with the vengeance they are due, but when she meets Tark she knows the moody teen with the series of intricate tattoos is not a monster and needs to be freed from the demonic malevolence that clings to him.

*The Wrong Train by Jeremy De Quidt | YA DEQ
This slim, eerie volume opens with an unnamed boy who has boarded the wrong train home. It's nighttime, his phone is dead, and no one else is on board. When he gets off at the first stop, prepared to catch the next train back, he finds a small, deserted station. It's creepy enough on its own, but when an old man shows up, toting a lantern, a bag of dead flowers, and a little dog, things only get stranger. (from The Horn Book)

*The Taking of Jake Livingston by Ryan Douglass | YA DOU
Eleventh grader Jake Livingston fights for survival when the ghost of a school shooter starts to haunt him. (from Kirkus)
The Glare by Margot Harrison | YA HAR
Moving to her father's home in California after a decade at her mother's isolated ranch, a teen who has been taught to fear technology reunites with friends and family members before experiencing nightmares about a dark-web video game that poses life-threatening dangers. (from Kirkus)

*Into the Grey by Celine Kiernan | YA KIE
When 15-year-old twins Dominick and Patrick lose their home to a fire, their family moves to the seaside cottage where they usually spend their summers. Everything seems run of the mill, until the twins start having vivid dreams about a bad man coming to take them, and when they wake they're filled with a ravenous, mindless hunger. (from Booklist Online)

A Taste for Monsters by Matthew J. Kirby | YA KIR
The mesmerizing story of a young woman in Victorian London, who, haunted by the ghosts of Jack the Ripper's victims, is set on a terrifying path to salvation.

Sawkill Girls by Claire LeGrand | YA LEG
On Sawkill Rock, girls disappear. Not that many, and it's not that strange; the island, with its slick cliffs and dark waters, can be treacherous. Still, the people of Sawkill tell campfire stories about a hungry monster, a monster that, for three girls, is about to become sharply real. (from Booklist Online)

I Hunt Killers by Barry Lyga | YA LYG
Seventeen-year-old Jazz learned all about being a serial killer from his notorious "Dear Old Dad," but believes he has a conscience that will help fight his own urges and right some of his father's wrongs, so he secretly helps the police apprehend the town's newest murderer, "The Impressionist."

*Damselfly by Chandra Prasad | YA PRA
Indian-American teenager Samantha Mishra, her best friend Mel Sharpe, and the other members of the Drake Rosemont Academy fencing team are on their way to Tokyo when their plane crashes on a jungle-choked island, so while they hope for rescue, the teens will need to use all their ingenuity to survive the jungle, the old man who is stalking them--and each other.

House of Furies by Madeleine Roux | YA ROU
Escaping from her harsh school before finding work as a maid in an English boarding house, Louisa realizes that her mysterious employer and his staff execute cruel judgments on the guests.

Deadfall by Stephen Wallenfels | YA WAL
Troubled twin brothers go from the frying pan into the fire when they encounter a girl who needs their help in the cold wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. (from Kirkus)

Unless otherwise noted, all plot descriptions are from our online catalog.